



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON SPECIES UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)

Summary

The 17th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bergen, 17-18 November 2011) recommended that the CMS Secretariat undertake a review of the impact of invasive alien species (IAS) on species listed under CMS and explore potential future work of CMS on IAS. The review was commissioned to the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and is presented as document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.32

The summary of the findings of the review is presented as an annex to this cover note. The other annex includes a draft resolution on future CMS activities related to invasive alien species. The 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014) recommended the submission of this draft resolution to COP.

These documents are in line with the Strategic Plan 2006-2014, and specifically with Target 2.6, which foresees actions to mitigate the threats to migratory species posed by invasive species. They are also in line with the new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON SPECIES UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

1. The 17th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bergen, 17-18 November 2011) requested a review of the impacts of invasive alien species on migratory species and measures to mitigate that impact. In 2012 the Secretariat undertook a competitive process and selected the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group through the University of Auckland (New Zealand) to elaborate such a review, which was made possible thanks to a voluntary contribution from Italy.
2. In April 2013 the review, together with a draft resolution, was delivered to the CMS Secretariat and was subsequently circulated to the CMS Family secretariats for comments and posted on the Scientific Council Workspace for wider consultation.
3. The 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014) had the opportunity to discuss the review and the draft resolution and recommended the submission of both documents to COP.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- (a) Take note of **the “Review of the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Species Protected under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)”** (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.32).
- (b) Review and adopt the draft Resolution on invasive alien species annexed to this cover note.
- (c) Provide relevant information on IAS that may pose a threat to migratory species, taking into account the potential changes to ecosystems from the effects of global climate change.
- (d) Provide relevant information on cases of good practice in mitigating the impact of IAS and the efficiency of the measures taken.

ANNEX 1**IMPACT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON SPECIES UNDER THE
CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

(Prepared by the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group)

This study undertook an assessment of the impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on migratory species that are protected under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Appendix I and II with the aim of:

- Identifying those migratory populations that are most threatened by IAS;
- Specifically assessing the impact of IAS on migratory species on islands;
- Identifying those CMS-listed species that are known to be invasive;
- Evaluating how the threat of IAS on migratory species is likely to develop in the light of climate change and identifying those CMS-listed species that will be most severely affected as a result;
- Identifying gaps in the international regulatory framework where CMS could play a role in relation to IAS; and
- Identifying synergies with other organizations that are already working on IAS management and where CMS could benefit from initiatives already underway.

This report is divided into two parts, PART I, which assesses the impact of IAS on CMS-listed species and PART II, which evaluates the gaps in the international regulatory framework in relation to the management of IAS and identifies synergies between organizations that address this threat so as to promote collaboration.

PART I

Extent of the impact of IAS

Key findings of this assessment on the extent of the impact of IAS on migratory species globally and especially on island ecosystems are as follows:

- Just over one third of species protected under CMS Appendix I and II are under some level of threat from IAS.
- Most of these migratory species upon which IAS are having an impact occur in the terrestrial/marine biome followed by those in the terrestrial and terrestrial/freshwater biome.
- Seabird and marine turtle populations in their breeding/nesting grounds on island ecosystems are most under the threat of IAS.
- Predominant threat mechanisms are predation, habitat loss, disease transmission, competition and interspecific hybridization.

Migratory species that are known IAS

An assessment was undertaken of those CMS-listed species that are known to be invasive in their introduced range. Only two species on the CMS Appendix I and II are well known IAS. They include introduced populations of aoudad (*Ammotragus lervia*) and the Sacred ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*).

An additional initial analysis was undertaken of comparing all migratory species names listed in the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) with lists of known IAS in the two global resources of IAS information – the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group’s Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) and the CAB International’s Invasive Species Compendium (ISC). Ninety-one migratory species, most of them migratory fish species are known IAS. The introductions of a majority of these fish species have been intentional, either through the aquaculture trade or through the aquarium trade.

Impacts of IAS on CMS listed species in light of climate change

Biological invasions and climate change are both drivers of biodiversity loss. A warming globe and predicted impacts such as changes in precipitation, increased weather events such as tropical cyclones and hurricanes, flooding and coastal erosion, shift in species ranges and species phenology, decline in species richness, sea level rise, ocean acidification etc. are likely to exacerbate the IAS threat. This preliminary review indicates that all CMS-listed migrants that are currently under risk by IAS will continue to be vulnerable with climate change disturbances providing more opportunities to the IAS for establishment and impacts. Climate change predicted changes may also enable novel pathways of introduction and spread thus increasing the risk to newer migrant populations.

PART II

Gaps in international regulatory framework related to IAS

In recognition of the urgent need to address the impact of IAS on biodiversity, several global conventions and agreements have developed policies to address this issue. An analysis of the state of current policy in relation to IAS was undertaken through a dedicated desk review. Additionally an analysis was undertaken to identify gaps as well as synergies. It is apparent that the inadequate action related to the management of IAS is not a result of gaps in international policy but rather it is caused by inadequate implementation of existing international provisions at national level.

Synergies between organizations working on IAS management

An important development at the international level is the increase in inter-sectoral cooperation on IAS issues between institutions and organizations. In this context, systematic cooperation between different global conventions and multilateral environmental agreements can definitely provide greater and more effective opportunities to address biodiversity issues, including those related to the management of IAS.

With the aim of further developing and strengthening the relevant IAS policy within CMS and other MEAs, a draft Resolution including recommendations has been proposed.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

FUTURE CMS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Considering that Article III of the Convention requests Parties to prevent, reduce and/or strictly control the introduction of exotic species, and to control and/or eliminate those already introduced;

Aware that invasive alien species (IAS) have an impact on migratory species through predation, competition and genetic changes caused by hybridization, as well as through the transmission of diseases, impairment of breeding and by causing loss of habitat and resources crucial for migratory species;

Noting that the impact of IAS may result in local extinction or decline in population numbers of certain species as well as changes to migration patterns, and that the natural behaviour of migratory species may lead to negative interactions with IAS not only in their breeding, stopover and wintering grounds, but also during migrations, which can result in cumulative impacts from IAS;

Stressing the need to encourage continued research and collection of data on impacts on migratory species posed by IAS, and also the importance of ensuring that future management of migratory species and their habitats adequately takes into account consequent impacts and risks posed by IAS;

Noting that IAS issues are explicitly covered by CMS and related instruments concluded under its auspices, including the updated CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014 (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.22) and the new CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023 where IAS are considered as one of the threats to migratory species, requiring specific measures to be dealt with, within the specificities of CMS;

Remarking that the inclusion of provisions to prevent and/or control IAS is already ensured by the Convention, where needed, e.g. within the International Single Species Action Plans (SSAP) for endangered species included in Appendix I developed in cooperation with the Convention's daughter instruments and other partner organizations, as it is the case of the CMS/AEWA SSAP for the White-headed duck, supported by the EU and the Bern Convention;

Appreciating that a number of CMS Agreements have already made progress towards tackling the threats posed by IAS to species listed on Appendix II, e.g. the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in 2006 adopted Guidelines on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-Native Waterbird Species;

Noting with satisfaction the important contribution of specific initiatives such as the adoption by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) of conservation guidelines aiming at assisting with the development of plans for the eradication of introduced vertebrates from breeding sites of ACAP species (particularly seabirds on islands);

Welcoming initiatives such as the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 adopted by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, which supports the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea as well as the Trilateral Sea Cooperation, which foresees intensified support and efforts to harmonize approaches to the prevention, management and monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial IAS;

Recognizing the collaborative effort required at global, regional and local levels to deal with IAS, especially through prevention, early detection and rapid response, and that such efforts require collaboration among governments, economic sectors and non-governmental and international organizations;

Appreciating the important developments in the growth of inter-sectoral cooperation on IAS issues between different institutions and organizations and stressing that systematic cooperation between different conventions and agreements would provide greater and more effective opportunities to address issues related to IAS;

Recognizing that the CBD Guiding Principles adopted in CBD Decision VI/23 continue to provide relevant guidance for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species;

Aware of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 adopted at COP10 by the Convention for Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010) including Target 9 the aims of which are: “invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Welcoming the 5th CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, for 2011-2020, through which Ramsar delivers its leading role for implementing CBD programmes of work related to wetlands, including on inland waters, marine and coastal biodiversity and protected areas, as well as the revised CMS/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, as flexible frameworks for collaboration with CBD, CMS and its wetland-relevant Agreements and Memoranda (see Ramsar Resolution XI.6);

Noting CMS Resolution 10.21 which welcomed the revised CMS/Ramsar Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Work Plan as a flexible framework for collaboration with the CMS and its wetland-relevant sister Agreements and Memoranda;

Further noting CITES Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on “Trade in alien invasive species” recommending that the Parties consider the opportunities for synergy with CBD and explore appropriate cooperation and collaboration on the issue of introductions of alien species that are potentially invasive;

Taking note of the Review of the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Species under CMS (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.32) undertaken by the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) and thanking the government of Italy for funding this Review;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Calls on* Parties and non-Parties to address threats from IAS and particularly to undertake concrete dedicated actions aimed at preventing and mitigating the negative impact of IAS on migratory species, with a focus on CMS-listed species, including the elaboration of national lists of species for which restrictions might apply, development and further implementation of specific and/or thematic action plans and management plans for species and pathways of greater concern, focusing on Best Practices for Addressing Risks to Biodiversity including preventing the introduction of listed species, and where IAS threats have established eradicating priority IAS from priority sites, or controlling priority IAS threats (where eradication isn't feasible) also at priority sites;
2. *Requests* the Scientific Council to ensure that the following are addressed: the improvement of understanding of interactions between IAS and threatened migratory species; the development of priorities for intervention; and the improvement in international cooperation and development of adaptable management strategies when discussing topics for which IAS might be relevant;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue to streamline activities focusing on IAS issues within the CMS Family Secretariats, whenever feasible and relevant and within the mandates given by their Parties/Signatories, in order to enhance the effective delivery of concrete conservation action (including active management of IAS and the threatened CMS species) and awareness-raising;
4. *Invites* Parties and non-Parties to take into account the risk of migratory species to become invasive themselves if translocated and/or introduced outside their natural range, by undertaking dedicated risk assessments for any movement of animals, including measures related to conservation actions targeting endangered species;
5. *Further invites* Parties and non-Parties to take into account the risk of facilitating the spread of IAS while implementing any climate change mitigation measures;
6. *Instructs* the Secretariat to encourage Parties and non-Parties: (i) to ensure at national level, effective collaboration in relation to issues concerning IAS among national authorities and focal points that deal with the CBD, the CITES, Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention, IMO, IPPC, OIE and other organizations as appropriate (ii) to address threats from IAS (iii) to enter into arrangements for enhanced regional cooperation in order to achieve the objectives of prevention, early detection and management more effectively and (iv) as appropriate, to make full use of existing guidelines in addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species;
7. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to identify potential strategic partners and engage with them when developing information campaigns and other outreach activities and *encourages* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to these initiatives;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of CBD and of other relevant MEAs to consider and advise on ways and means of more coherently addressing the IAS issues in CBD processes, including in relation to the implementation by biodiversity-related conventions of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets,

particularly Target 9 on IAS; and *further requests* the Secretariat to report on progress to the Scientific Council and COP12;

9. *Urges* the Scientific Council to address at its future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, policy coherence and implementation with regard to work on IAS, e.g. through the establishment of a permanent system to liaise with the other MEAs, in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes, e.g. by establishing a dedicated expert group on IAS with a formal mandate, and by joint participation at relevant meetings;

10. *Instructs* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to participate in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, established by decision IX/4 of CBD to address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework on the IAS issue;

11. *Encourages* closer collaboration with other MEAs to harmonize efforts to further address the issue of IAS, including by developing and improving international standards, guidelines and recommendations, analyzing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species that are a potential threat to biodiversity, and taking note that the risks associated with the introduction of alien species may include impacts on ecosystem functioning and biodiversity at the ecosystem, species and gene levels, in order to support measures to regulate trade in and/or movement of the most harmful species and prevent their introduction;

12. *Encourages* Parties, non-Parties and donors to provide financial support to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Secretariat to allow partnerships to be developed and strengthened;

13. *Requests* Parties, non-Parties and donors to avoid funding policies and initiatives that either limit the use of effective measures to eradicate or control IAS threatening migratory species or facilitate the introduction and further spread of IAS which represent or might present a threat to migratory species; and

14. *Instructs* the Secretariat to develop closer consultative relationships with a number of environment funding organizations, including but not limited to financial institutions such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), bilateral funds for the global environment, regional development banks, bilateral donors and other institutions, such as the European Commission and its relevant divisions for environment and biodiversity funding, with a view to mobilizing resources for the implementation of the measures directed at dealing with IAS issues.