

**Latin America Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 11th
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species
(CMS)
& training in the Roles and Responsibilities of CMS Family National
Focal Points**

13-15 August, 2014

**Santiago de Chile Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
CHILE**



WORKSHOP REPORT

**Francisco Rilla
August 2014**

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1. Workshop introduction

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, successfully completed the preparatory workshop for the 11th Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP 11) in Santiago, Chile from 11-13 August 2014.

The workshop was an excellent training opportunity for delegates from CMS countries throughout Latin America. It offered effective preparation in view of the discussions and negotiations to be held during the upcoming COP11 taking place in Quito, Ecuador.

Over 20 participants from different CMS Parties and non-Parties in Latin America debated the main aspects of the COP11 agenda and, in particular, documents relevant to the region. The main documents discussed during the workshop were: the proposed addition of species to Appendices I and II of CMS, the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the proposed restructuring of the Scientific Council, the roadmap for flyways, and the budget plan for the next three years, among others.

The workshop methodology was mainly based on general dynamic presentations, group work, negotiation and simulation of the COP.

At the same time, the other objectives of the workshop were to provide the participants with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the training tool prepared by the CMS Secretariat: The Manual for the National Focal Points of CMS and their instruments.

In addition, a special tribute was given during an evening reception to the conservation of rays and sharks that are at the brink of extinction in order to promote the suggested inclusion of species in the CMS Appendices and to endorse the draft resolution on the conservation of sharks and rays.

The workshop was made possible by funds raised through the ENRTP project (Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy).

According to the capacity building need assessments conducted amongst the National Focal Points (NFPs) for CMS and its instruments (referred to as CMS Family NFPs), NFPs still lacked knowledge on their roles and responsibilities, hence limiting their efficient involvement in the coordinated conservation of migratory species. One of the actions aimed at addressing these capacity building needs was the development of a Manual on the roles and responsibilities of the CMS Family NFPs (referred to as the CMS Family Manual).

This workshop aimed to introduce the new manual to the Latin America region and ensure that NFPs understood the manual and could put it into action.

2. Workshop venue and programme

The workshop was held at the *Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile*, Santiago. The workshop started at 8:30 on Monday 11 August, and ended at 18:00 on Wednesday 13th August, following the programme agenda in Annex 1 and more detailed Session plans (Annex 2).

3. Workshop participants

Participants comprised CMS NFPs, representatives from non-Party Range States, observers and partners active in the region. A full participant list is given in Annex 3.

4. Workshop resume

The workshop opened with a prayer and words of welcome from Nancy Cespedes on behalf of the Director of Marine Affairs of the *Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile*. Then Francisco Rilla (UNEP/CMS) presented the aims of the workshop for the participant and made an introduction to the workshop programme and the use of the UNEP/CMS Family Manual. After this, training sessions were held following the chapters of the manual in a largely chronological order, whilst linking this closely to preparation for CMS COP11.

The workshop included a Shark Side Event with cocktail in the evening of 12th August and an invitation dinner hosted by UNEP/CMS in the evening of 13th August, when there was an informal closing session and participants were handed their certificates. A group photo was taken after the workshop opening session.

All the presentations are available under <http://www.cms.int/pre-cop11-lac>

5. Workshop account

5.1 Introduction

The purpose, outline, contents and scope of the manual were introduced by Francisco Rilla linked to UNEP/CMS COP11 through a PowerPoint presentation. The format of the workshop then followed the individual chapters of the manual, and all sessions referred back to the manual. There was also a lecture on the Terms of Reference of National Focal Points, helping to define this important role.



Participants during the workshop.

5.2 Background Information

All NFPs need to have a good understanding about migratory species and the rationale for protecting them. This message was delivered first through an interactive lecture by Francisco Rilla on 'Migration, the rationale for protecting migratory species and the role of CMS.

This focused especially on the numerous threats faced by migratory species, such as barriers to migration, habitat loss & degradation, by-catch, underwater noise, illegal hunting & fishing, pollution, marine debris, disturbance and climate change. The role of CMS in supporting countries to improve the conservation status of migratory species and to help mitigate these threats was also presented by Francisco Rilla.

This was followed by a group exercise 'Draw a Migratory Route'. Three groups were formed, and each was required to draw the migratory route of a different migratory species and then present their findings. The species chosen were the Andean Flamingo, Green Turtle, and Sperm Whale. It was clear from the resulting maps and discussion that, although these species live in or pass through the Latin American region, most participants were not really aware of their migration routes or behaviours. This was partly due to genuine knowledge gaps in the life cycles of these marine and terrestrial species. It is important that NFPs have a good general understanding of such routes to enable them to participate effectively in decisions made about global conservation for migratory species.



Andrea Brusco (ROALC UNEP) shows the group work results for migration.

The most relevant CMS Family Instruments to the Latin America were then presented:

- ACAP in the Region by Marcel Calvar (Uruguay)
- Sharks by Gina Cuza & Julia Cordero (Ecuador y Costa Rica)
- Andean Flamingos by Rosa Ventos (Peru)

The Programme of Work (POW) on Flyways was introduced by Francisco as a plenary interactive exercise focused on the *Tryngytes subfricollis*, a migratory wader that breeds in Canada then spends the northern winter in the Patagonia and Pampas in South America.

The POW on Flyways was then presented, and the 'challenge' within this programme of filling significant information gaps for the Western Hemispheric.

5.3 NFP ToRs and regional preparation for CMS COP11

Francisco Rilla covered the 'NFP Terms of Reference and responsibilities' through a PowerPoint presentation, along with an introduction to the appointment of NFPs and other representatives and experts. Some participants informed the group of issues relating to carrying out ToRs and appointments in their country. Nancy Cespedes (Chile) then related her experiences of the UNEP/CMS Standing Committee, in which she acted as a regional representative.

Francisco Rilla CMS gave a useful overview of the key outcomes of the joint MEA workshop held the previous week, which noted the following:

- Importance of synergies between the biodiversity related MEAs and effective coordination amongst the MEAs.
- Importance of values for biodiversity and ecosystems services and the need to ensure that NBSAPs are coasted and their implementation factored into national accounting through resource mobilization plans.
- The NBSAP is an overarching document and should engage NFPs and other stakeholders in its development, implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- Importance of private sector partnership and local community members.
- The level of commitment shown by the region through declaration of large sanctuaries to protect threatened migratory species and habitats and to ensure the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of local communities.
- Strong focus on threats to biodiversity in the region, including invasive species, marine debris, climate change, underwater noise, habitat loss and degradation, pollution and poisoning & illegal fishing.
- Wealth of technical capacity and initiatives available through the various Conventions, e.g. CMS MoU Technical Advisory Groups.
- Urgent need for dedicated support to NFPs for simplifying administration, implementation and reporting on multiple biodiversity MEAs.
- Need for better cooperation across range states including private sector and continued community engagement in migratory species conservation.
- The economic valuation of biodiversity is an important tool to inform decision-making and needs to reflect social and cultural values.

Following this, Francisco Rilla and Laura Cerasi addressed the audience to consider ways to boost Latin America visibility at CMS COP11, including the following options through the Western hemispheric voyage campaign:

- Regional Side Event: aim, speakers, funds, resources , marketing, preparation
- Latin America exhibition booth: any resources for display
- Latina America media campaign: raising the profile – nationally & during COP11
- Regional visibility and marketing: take island wear and keep island identity.

Francisco Rilla then presented the **agenda for COP11**, when key issues for Latin America were agreed (Annex 4) and focal points identified for these as follows:

- Regional brief: Nancy Cespedes (Chile)
- Climate change: Gina Cuza (Costa Rica)
- Sharks & rays resolution: Julia Cordero (Ecuador)
- Species proposals: Julia Cordero & Gina Cuza
- Flyways: Marcel Calvar & Rodolfo Sanchez (Argentina)

The day ended with sharks, starting with a presentation by Gina Cuza on the **draft resolution for the conservation of sharks and rays**, which included the following recommendations:

- Imposing regulations that sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached
- Continued research, monitoring and information exchange
- Increasing the membership of the CMS Sharks MOU
- Enhancing cooperation with other organizations relevant for shark conservation



This was followed by a Shark side event and informal cocktail hosted by the Pew Charitable Trusts, during which Maximilian Bello gave a presentation of key shark conservation issues and the need for countries to implement conservation action. The cocktail provided a good setting for participants to relax and discuss among themselves, whilst also highlighting the region's global importance for sharks and rays, and the threats they face.

5.4 Participation in CMS COP11 and key documents for the region

Day 2 started off with a presentation by Francisco on preparation for COP11, covering some of the logistics and planning issues, followed by an introduction of some of the general documents, including the budget. Next there was regional consultation group work, with two groups, one focused on invasive alien species, the other on sharks/rays. Each group was invited to present a proposal for a CMS Small Grant Fund for an imaginary \$20,000. These proposals were presented to a 'panel' (Laura Cerasi, Charif Tala and Max Bello), and a discussion was had on the merit of each proposal and the way they were presented.

All NFPs need to represent their countries in various meetings of the CMS Family decision-making bodies. Participants were reminded of the steps that NFPs should take in preparing for a meeting. A CMS COP11 simulation was then staged, with Andrea Brusco UNEP ROALC, Laura Cerasi (CMS) and Francisco Rilla at the head table, in which two documents were up for discussion – the Sharks and Rays (rays) species proposal and climate change.

The main learning outcomes were that participants needed to prepare their positions well and be able to present clear concise arguments during a plenary debate. Some participants afterwards indicated that they had felt 'uncomfortable' and under pressure during the exercise, and felt committed to prepare well for COP11 so that they would be better prepared.

The day ended with a presentation by Laura Cerasi and Francisco Rilla of three key documents, followed by group work on each: Budget Scenarios for the next triennium (2015-2017) restructure of the Scientific Council of CMS and Proposal of Synergies for CMS Family

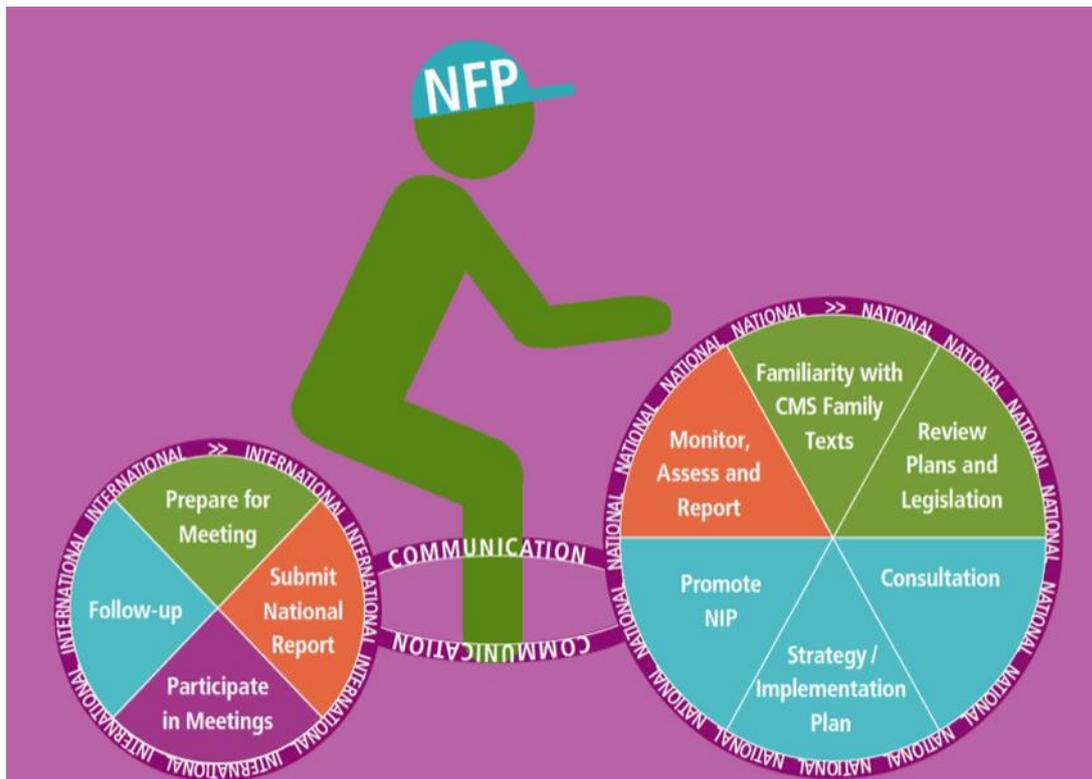


Participants during the exercise of simulation

The groups were charged with identifying key negotiation points for each document, confirming their position on the document and highlighting any regional priorities.

5.5 Implementation

'The Implementation Cycle & National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan vs National Implementation Plans' was presented through an interactive lecture by Francisco Rilla, highlighting the role of NFPs, as illustrated by the figure below.



This was followed by an enlightening presentation by Nancy Cespedes on the **implementation of CMS in Chile**. This can present issues of communication, e.g. when the Secretariat communicates with the NFP, messages don't always reach the scientific councillor, who is technically responsible for implementing the convention. The online reporting system does however provide a challenge, especially in engaging other stakeholders to review reports and lack of internet (e.g. at offices).

Francisco Rilla then presented '**A Natural Affiliation: developing the role of NGOs in the CMS Family**', noting that NGOs play a crucial role in implementing the convention and family instruments. Strong support from the Latina America region was encouraged for the COP11 resolution 'Enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society'. A discussion followed, highlighting some of the existing government-NGO partnerships in the region.

After a break, Andrea Brusco (UNEP-ROALC) gave the presentation 'Regional implementation and support mechanisms', which highlighted support options, notably via the UNEP ROALC whose biodiversity strategy included components on protected areas, invasive alien species and marine species (among others).



Laura Cerasi (CMS), Charif Tala (Chile) and Max Bello (PEW)

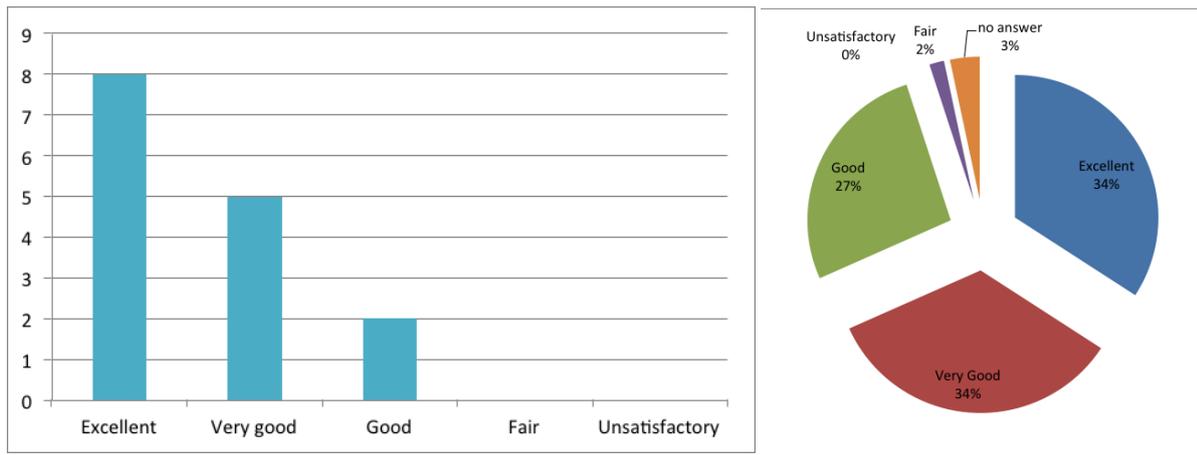
5.6 National Reporting

The final working session focused on national reporting. After a brief introduction by Francisco Rilla, national reporting was discussed in plenary, when some of the key issues concerning national reporting were raised. Clearly, it is important for NFPs to ensure the timely delivery of national reports, but it is also important that the process of reporting is as easy as possible. Constraints identified were:

- Technical issues (unfamiliarity with reporting format)
- Online issues (not always easy to get online, especially at work; difficult to share with other stakeholders, especially those who cannot get online)
- NFP issues (password, NFP in different agency etc.)
- The burden of reporting requirements, especially for those NFPs who were also focal points for other conventions, as well as meeting various national and project reporting needs; this issue was especially relevant in Latin America. Reports also should be concise and in a format that is practical and useful.

6. Evaluation

All participants found that their expectations (collected during the initial participant introductions) had been met. The analysis of evaluation questions revealed that knowledge/understanding of the CMS Family Manual had significantly increased; indeed most participants had not used it before. The workshop approach (with interactive sessions) was also considered very suitable (see graph, below).



The overall workshop content received a very positive rating, as shown in the diagram (above right). Sessions with particularly positive feedback included those on preparation for COP11 and boosting Latina America visibility at COP11, the regional consultation group work and interviews, and the COP11 meeting simulation/role play.

Additional comments relating to the workshop included the following:

- A productive and useful workshop, which has allowed participants to share ideas / discuss issues and prepare for the upcoming CMS COP11.
- The role-playing, interactive lessons, and group work has been very exciting and is an excellent way of getting participants to interact and provide ideas.
- It was nice to have non-Parties engaged. (Guatemala)
- Include more training on the online reporting system.
- An excellent workshop, especially for promoting a leadership role for Bolivia, Panama, Ecuador and Peru at the forthcoming COP; building the confidence of the region participants; providing inspiration and guidance for Parties; and introducing new NGO colleagues.

Further details are available in the internal CMS report 'Analysis of Participant Feedback: Regional capacity building workshop for the Americas' report.

Annexes