

**52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee**

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**ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY  
SPECIES 2015-2023 AND OPTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

**Summary:**

This document summarizes progress in the implementation of COP13 CMS/Decisions 13.1-5 concerning assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS 2015-2023) and the development of options for follow up.

The Standing Committee is recommended to take note of progress, and advise the Secretariat on further work on assessment of implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023 and for the development of proposals for follow up to SPMS 2015-2023.

## ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES 2015-2023 AND OPTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP

### Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP11, Quito, 2014) adopted the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023 (Annex 1 to CMS/[Resolution 11.2<sup>1</sup>](#)). Through the same resolution the Conference of the Parties decided to keep the implementation of the SPMS under review at its regular meetings.
2. A progress report on the implementation of the SPMS was submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP13, Gandhinagar, 2020) (Annex 2 to document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.14.1). COP13 took note of the report, and gave instructions and guidance towards the further assessment of the implementation of the SPMS through CMS/Decisions 13.1 to 13.3 - *Progress in the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*:

#### **13.1 Decision directed to:** Secretariat

*The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to:*

- a) *further develop indicators identified in the Strategic Plan that are not yet operable, notably the composite indicators recommended for assessing progress towards Targets 6 and 7;*
- b) *identify data gaps which are hindering assessment of progress in relation to indicators, and support filling of those gaps;*
- c) *identify appropriate case studies and single assessment studies relevant to those indicators in the Strategic Plan expected to be based on such studies, and support their undertaking;*
- d) *undertake a full assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 in time for the Standing Committee's consideration of available options for a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting;*
- e) *report to the Standing Committee at its intersessional meetings on progress in implementing this Decision.*

#### **13.2 Decision directed to:** Parties, IGOs & NGOs

*Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, notably in relation to the activities foreseen in Decision 13.1 (a) - (c).*

#### **13.3 Decision directed to:** Standing Committee

*The Standing Committee is requested to:*

- a) *consider the reports on progress in implementing this Decision submitted by the Secretariat;*
- b) *provide guidance to the Secretariat as appropriate.*

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<sup>1</sup> Superseded by CMS/Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12)

3. COP13 also provided for the development of options for possible follow up to the SPMS for the period after 2023 in CMS/Decisions 13.4 and 13.5:

**13.4 Decision directed to: Secretariat**

*The Secretariat is requested to:*

- a) *undertake an analysis of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework once adopted, aimed at assessing its relevance for the mandates of CMS and identifying those aspects of it in which the CMS Family could play a role;*
- b) *compile information on approaches adopted by other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in defining strategic objectives and strategic planning and in considering the implications for them of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;*
- c) *compile information on lessons learned from experience in implementing, monitoring and assessing previous strategic plans and, in particular, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023;*
- d) *based on the information and analysis from paragraphs (a) - (c) above, provide recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration.*

**13.5 Decision directed to: Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee is requested to:*

- a) *consider the analysis and compilations prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to Decisions 13.4 (a) - (c);*
- b) *consider, taking into account the experiences for the development of the current Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, available options for a follow up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 and take a decision on next steps.*

Implementation of CMS/Decisions 13.1-3 on the assessment of the implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023

4. Since COP13, no significant progress could be made in undertaking the activities foreseen by CMS/Decision 13.1 (a) – (c) due to a lack of resources. The Secretariat will continue efforts to raise resources for delivery of a proper assessment of the implementation of SPMS 2015-2023 to COP14. It should be noted, however, that the implementation of some of the objectives foreseen by CMS/Decision 13.1 (a) – (c), such as the further development of indicators identified in the Strategic Plan that are not yet operable, or the undertaking of case studies and single assessment studies, might no longer be realistic at this stage. The Secretariat would therefore suggest focusing any further efforts on components of Dec. 13.1 still achievable, such as assessment of indicators which are already fully operable, and identification of already available case studies.

Implementation of CMS/Decisions 13.4-5 on options for follow up to the SPMS 2015-2023

5. As set forth in CMS/Decisions 13.4, COP13 requested the Secretariat to develop options for defining strategic objectives and strategic planning, in light of, *inter alia*, the anticipated adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (post-2020 GBF), the approaches to strategic planning used in other biodiversity-related agreements, and an analysis of the lessons learned from previous strategic plans including the SPMS 2015-2023.
6. The Secretariat is planning to initiate an analysis of the approaches to strategic planning used in other biodiversity-related agreements, as well as other relevant entities such as other MEAs. The assessment on implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023 will also provide important information for consideration of possible options for follow up.

7. A key element for considering possible follow up to the SPMS will be an analysis of the post-2020 GBF aimed at assessing its relevance for the mandates of CMS and identifying those aspects of it in which the CMS Family could play a role. The GBF was originally slated to be finalized and adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the CBD COP in Kunming, China, in October 2020. The dates of CBD COP15 have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, it is envisioned that CBD COP15 will be convened in 2022, though no firm dates have been announced. In addition, an additional preparatory meeting is planned in early 2022 in Switzerland which will contribute to the COP15. The CMS Secretariat has been closely following and engaging in this process. Details about CMS engagement are provided to this meeting in document UNEP/CMS/StC52/Doc.15.
8. The [Gandhinagar Declaration](#) adopted at CMS COP13 set forth CMS priorities for the post-2020 GBF, including ecological connectivity, conservation of migratory species and their habitats, and the need for international cooperation in implementing the post-2020 GBF. It also calls for the inclusion in the post-2020 GBF of the role of the various biodiversity-related Conventions as well as other relevant MEAs, for effective implementation, monitoring, and review of the post-2020 GBF. It also recommends that the post-2020 GBF call for the inclusion in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) Parties' priorities regarding the protection of migratory animals and conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity of ecosystems needed to support such species' movements on land, in the air and at sea, and encouraged Parties to include in their NBSAPs appropriate reference to other biodiversity-related conventions to which they are also Parties.
9. The role of biodiversity-related MEAs in the implementation and monitoring of the post-2020 GBF was the focus of two dedicated meetings (Bern I and Bern II), which were convened respectively in June 2019 and January 2021. The third meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation, 3 May – 13 June 2021, considered a number of elements of the post-2020 GBF including implementation and monitoring.
10. The [first draft](#) of the post-2020 GBF and draft elements of a possible Decision operationalizing it were released on 12 July 2021, and are expected to be negotiated at the (on-line) Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the GBF (OEWG3), 23 August -3 September 2021. The outcomes of OEWG3 are expected to be available by the time of StC52.
11. In addition to the post-2020 GBF, a number of other processes and developments will be relevant in considering possible follow up to the SPMS. These include major assessments, such as the 2019 IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, emerging issues such as zoonotic diseases, and developments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Other ongoing developments of relevance include the GEF8 replenishment discussions, which are considering an integrated programme on wildlife.
12. Significant developments have also taken place under CMS since the adoption of the SPMS 2015-2023 that will be relevant. COP13 called for the development of a report on the conservation status of migratory species, to be delivered to COP14. Some significant resources have already been raised for the preparations of the report. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5, 28 June – 9 July 2021) have reviewed progress, and considered and finalized a framework, criteria and methodologies for the implementation of the activities associated to the development of the report. This report will contribute to identifying priorities for conservation under the Convention. Other assessments undertaken in the context of the Convention will also provide information on threats such as plastic pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, consumptive use, and energy and linear infrastructure.

13. Finally, numerous efforts are ongoing to “mainstream” the consideration of biodiversity into the policies and decisions of sectors that are drivers of threats to biodiversity. Such efforts will provide important consideration for options for follow up to the SPMS.
14. The Secretariat is developing a timeline for this work which it will make available to the meeting to aid in its discussions.

Recommended actions

15. The Standing Committee is recommended to:
  - a) take note of this document;
  - b) confirm the approach proposed by the Secretariat for further work in relation to the assessment of the implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023;
  - c) encouraged Parties to provide financial and technical support for the assessment of the implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023, and the develop of options for follow up to the SPMS 2015-2023;
  - d) provide advice to the Secretariat on the development of options for follow up to the SPMS 2015-2023 and their submission to COP14 for consideration.