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CMS-CITES JOINT WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2025

Introduction

The CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021–2025 comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities. They are organized around five themes:

- A. Harmonization of species-specific information
- B. Joint activities addressing shared species
- C. Joint activities on issues of common interest
- D. Implementation and fundraising
- E. Outreach and capacity building

A. Harmonization of species-specific information

Joint activities in this area relate to (i) updating the species-specific information for species listed in the Appendices of the two Conventions, and the relevant species databases of the two Conventions, and (ii) aligning as much as possible nomenclature and taxonomy in the Appendices to ensure compatibility.

Description of envisaged joint activities
<p><u>Harmonization of species-specific information contained in related databases</u></p> <p>A1. Harmonize and link databases with species-specific information (such as taxonomy, nomenclature, species common names, distribution, range States, conservation status and legal status), taking into account the respective requirements and provisions of the two Conventions.</p>
<p><u>Harmonize nomenclature</u></p> <p>A2. Pursue efforts to harmonize as much as possible the nomenclature in the Appendices of the two Conventions, with the long-term aim of complete alignment across all taxa.</p> <p>A3. Seek exchanges on nomenclature expertise between both Conventions and promote mutual consultations prior to the adoption of new nomenclature at CoPs/COPs.</p>

B. Joint activities addressing shared species

The Secretariats will, as appropriate, jointly address species conservation and management issues of common interest, such as encouraging international collaboration for the conservation of shared species that are listed on the CMS and CITES Appendices, community-based management of wildlife, non-detrimental trade and use, encouraging best conservation and sustainable use practices for such species, habitat conservation and restoration as well as ensuring connectivity, and monitoring emerging threats such as climate change and zoonotic diseases.

Shared species of particular attention include:

- African and Asian elephant (Elephantidae)
- African-Eurasian vultures [with particular emphasis on West Africa and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), whitebacked vulture (*Gyps africanus*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*) and lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*)]
- Anguillid eels (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*)
- Big cats [snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*)]
- Great apes (Hominidae)
- Marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae)
- Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.)
- Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*)
- Sharks and rays (Chondrichthyes)

The Secretariats will act upon recommendations, resolutions and decisions agreed by Parties or Signatories that are directed to both Secretariats, or pertain to joint CITES/CMS work, including those resulting from the implementation of CMS instruments (e.g. MoUs). Activities shall not be limited to those indicated below.

Description of envisaged joint activities
<p>B1. Ensure collaboration on the conservation and management of shared species of particular attention by the regular exchange of technical and other information, attendance at each other's meetings or workshops and, where appropriate, joint capacity-building, the development of project proposals, fundraising, and collective reach-out to range States.</p>
<p><u>Elephants</u></p> <p>B2. Maximize synergies between CMS and the CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme on elephant conservation in Africa, recognizing the particular role that CMS can play with regard to managing and conserving transboundary populations, and promoting connectivity between populations.</p> <p>B3. Jointly support the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan and take part as <i>ex officio</i> members in the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee.</p> <p>B4. Collaborate on conservation activities relating to Asian elephants, <i>inter alia</i> in the context of the CITES MIKE programme and the CMS Concerted Action on Asian Elephant.</p>
<p><u>African-Eurasian vultures</u></p> <p>B5. Collaborate on the implementation of the CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vultures MsAP), specifically on activities to address key gaps in knowledge pertaining to biological and trade issues, with initial attention focused on West Africa and the six species mentioned in relevant CITES Decisions.</p> <p>B6. Collaborate by reporting to the respective Conferences of the Parties about the Vulture MsAP and propose aligned or complementary actions within respective fields of competence, where needed.</p>
<p><u>Anguillid eels</u></p> <p>B7. Maximise the synergies between CMS and CITES in the implementation of their respective decisions regarding <i>Anguilla</i> spp., and in the possible development of a CMS Action Plan for <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>.</p>

Description of envisaged joint activities
<p><u>Argali</u></p> <p>B8. Coordinate and jointly fundraise for the joint implementation and revision of the Argali Action Plan, focusing on species management and sustainable trade components.</p>
<p><u>Big cats</u></p> <p>B9. Collaborate on the development and deployment of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, including the development of a Joint Programme of Work, organization of regular range State meetings and the establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism.</p> <p>B10. Collaborate on the conservation of jaguar, taking into account existing mandates, and ongoing efforts and initiatives in the region.</p> <p>B11. Assess whether and how outcomes of the CITES Big Cats Task Force can inform the work related to the species covered by both Conventions.</p>
<p><u>Great apes</u></p> <p>B12. Strengthen collaboration and develop synergies between the Secretariats in relation to the conservation of great apes.</p>
<p><u>Marine turtles</u></p> <p>B13. Maximize synergies between CMS and CITES on the conservation and management of marine turtles, including within the framework of the CMS turtle instruments, as appropriate.</p> <p>B14. Collaborate in the implementation of CITES and CMS decisions on marine turtles directed to both Conventions.</p>
<p><u>Saiga antelope</u></p> <p>B15. Collaborate on the implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the Saiga MOU and its revisions, including regular exchange of technical and other relevant information, coordinated reporting, capacity-building, outreach activities aimed at range States, where appropriate, dialogue between consumer and range States, and population restoration and conservation efforts.</p> <p>B16. Collaborate on, and jointly fundraise for the organization of meetings of the signatories of the Saiga MOU, including for expert participation at these meetings.</p>
<p><u>Saker falcon</u></p> <p>B17. Collaborate on the implementation of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP), specifically on activities relating to the management and sustainable use of the species, including application of the non-detriment finding protocol, and by exchanging information concerning legal and, where known, illegal trade in Saker falcons.</p>
<p><u>Sharks and rays</u></p> <p>B18. Maintain close collaboration between the Secretariats to improve coordination and synergies regarding sharks and rays.</p> <p>B19. Encourage Parties that are member of CITES and CMS to improve coordination between their respective national focal points, where appropriate, and work through both Conventions to strengthen research, training and data collection.</p>
<p><u>Other species issues</u></p> <p>B20. Explore opportunities to transfer lessons learned from the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI).</p>

C. Joint activities on issues of common interest

Description of envisaged joint activities
C1. Collaborate on addressing illegal trade in migratory birds, <i>inter alia</i> in the context of activities of CMS Intergovernmental Task Forces.
C2. Collaborate on the revision and update of CITES Resolution Conf. 13.3 on <i>Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)</i> and explore the potential and value of developing a similar Resolution for CMS.
C3. Provide comments to the other Secretariat, as requested, on proposals to list species of common concern.
C4. Collaborate to implement relevant CITES Decisions on songbird trade and conservation management (Passeriformes).
C5. Cooperate in the development of a list of species included both in CMS Appendix I and CITES Appendices.

D. Implementation and fundraising

Joint activities in this area relate to implementing, coordinating and updating the work programme and matters of mutual interest, such as by exchanging experience and information. The Secretariats will cooperate in seeking opportunities for the development and funding of joint projects of mutual interest, where applicable.

Description of envisaged joint activities
<p><u>Secretariat coordination meetings</u></p> <p>D1. Organize an annual coordination meeting between the two Secretariats, as well as teleconference calls as required, to discuss the implementation of the joint work programme, and for ensuring continued cooperation and organization of joint activities.</p>
<p><u>Exchange information</u></p> <p>D2. Facilitate the exchange of information among the Secretariats, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendars of meetings; • Meeting invitations; • Draft documents that refer to the other Convention in advance of Convention meetings; and • Details of developments regarding the administration of the Conventions;
<p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>D3. Engage inter-Secretariat staff loans at key moments and when feasible to optimize support to respective Parties and build respective staff skills.</p>
<p><u>Supporting implementation</u></p> <p>D4. When appropriate, jointly explore ways to support the implementation of this Programme of Work by developing proposals and other materials and identifying and approaching donors for relevant project activities.</p> <p>D5. Promote inclusion of activities of this joint work programme in the formulation of elements of advice for funding national priorities in the context of the development of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth and ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund (GEF-8 and GEF-9).</p>

E. Outreach and capacity building

Joint activities in this area relate for example to: representation of one Secretariat by the other at events of mutual interest to save participation costs; development of common positions of the respective Convention Parties to promote synergy; following up on work undertaken by inter-agency liaison groups; and sharing of information and know-how on capacity-building strategies and tools, including the enhanced interoperability of online resources, for example through the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA).

Description of envisaged joint activities
<p><u>Joint outreach</u></p> <p>E1. Work collaboratively in the organization of outreach opportunities related to joint activities in B above and other events of mutual interest, as appropriate.</p> <p>E2. Promote the dissemination and use of relevant information and CMS and CITES capacity-building tools amongst CITES Authorities and CMS Focal Points.</p>
<p><u>Participation in meetings</u></p> <p>E3. Coordinate attendance, or represent the other Secretariat, at meetings of mutual interest, including those listed below to reduce costs and promote synergies; prepare joint presentations and/or jointly approved statements and press releases; collaborate with the follow-up to such meetings and actions as required; and encourage such groups to support the implementation of CMS and CITES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG); • Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) processes; • Environment Management Group (EMG) and the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity (IMG4); • Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW); and • Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and related consultative fora.
<p><u>Capacity-building</u></p> <p>E4. Identify capacity-building opportunities relating to the implementation of this joint Programme of Work and undertake relevant activities as appropriate.</p>