

DRAFT #4 (23 October 2001)

Joint Work Programme between the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the years 2002-2003

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ramsar and CMS in February 1997

The following actions are organised according to the major headings included in the MoU under the section called 'Areas of cooperation'. While the major headings and contents thereunder remain substantially the same, some amendments have been introduced to take account of developments since the conclusion of the MoU in 1997. The following are recognised by the secretariats as the priority actions to be pursued jointly in the years 2002-2003.

- I. Joint promotion.** Each secretariat will make efforts, in the course of its own promotional activities, to promote recruitment of additional Contracting Parties to the other instrument and, in the course of work to implement its own instrument's obligations, to facilitate implementation of the other instrument by existing Contracting Parties.

Actions to be taken:

In general, the secretariats acknowledge that increasing membership of Ramsar, CMS and AEWA is an important aspect of furthering their respective aims and objectives. Every effort will be made during the course of staff missions, as well as at global and regional meetings of the respective instruments, to promote the interests of the other instrument and to demonstrate their complementarity. This promotion may include the distribution or information materials, and making time available in agendas for presentations by secretariat staff or other representatives.

II. Institutional cooperation

The secretariats:

- a) will investigate and actively pursue cross-representation between the organs of their respective instruments, notably: Conferences/Meetings of the Parties; regional meetings; the CMS Scientific Council, AEWA Technical Committee and the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel. They will ensure that the need for, and scope of cooperation between Ramsar, CMS and AEWA is clearly reflected in their respective Strategic Plans.
- b) will keep under review how far the mechanisms and methodologies already developed are complementary, and advise their respective Conferences/ Meetings of the Parties on the adoption of joint standards, criteria and methodologies. They will ensure that work on future guidelines (e.g., those proposed by Ramsar on environmental impact assessment, or the AEWA Conservation Guidelines) is coordinated, and that, if possible, any new guidelines that are applicable to all three instruments are adopted by their respective decision-making bodies.

Actions to be taken:

To further assist with institutional cooperation and linkages at all levels, the following will be undertaken:

The secretariats:

- will exchange their annual work plans, and the annual Joint Work Programmes between them will form an integral part of these.
- will advise one another, well in advance, of planned or proposed regional or sub-regional meetings with the intention of seeking opportunities for joint-hosting of such meetings (see below under Joint Conservation Action).
- exchange advice on their national Administrative Authorities and Focal Points, members of Standing Committees¹, and scientific bodies and take measures to encourage working partnership between these personnel/agencies etc to promote integrated approaches to implementation of Ramsar, CMS and AEWA.
- exchange advice on project initiatives they are undertaking on a regular basis, including the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004, the CMS Information Management and Strategic Plans, the MedWet Initiative, the Evian Project and the proposed Participatory Management Advisory Service of Ramsar.
- will provide materials/stories/information for inclusion in their respective newsletters/bulletins and websites.
- will assist one another, as appropriate, with the identification of suitable permanent staff and interns by sharing advice on highly rated candidates.

Scientific/Technical Bodies:

- The secretariats will facilitate the application of existing arrangements that allow for the scientific/technical bodies of each instrument to have official observer status in the other's counterpart body (ie. CMS Scientific Council, AEWA Technical Committee, and Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)).
- The secretariats will ensure that their counterparts receive regular advice regarding the operations and activities of their respective technical/scientific bodies, including the exchange of agendas, minutes/reports etc

Standing Committees (incl. AEWA Technical Committee):

- The secretariats will provide to the other details of the agendas of the upcoming meetings of their Standing Committees as well as copies of the minutes resulting from these. As appropriate, the Standing Committee Chairs and/or secretariats of Ramsar, CMS and AEWA may be invited to participate as Observers at the Standing Committee meetings of the other.

Conferences (Meetings) of the Contracting Parties:

- The practice of inviting the secretariats to attend the respective COPs/MOPs of Ramsar, CMS and AEWA will continue, and as appropriate, include invitations to the Ramsar Bureau (secretariat) to attend the Meetings of Parties of other relevant CMS Agreements.

III. Joint conservation action.

The secretariats will seek:

- a) to identify key sites of significance for migratory species which might be designated as such under CMS and/or its related Agreements, and form part of a coherent network.
- b) to identify key wetlands of significance for migratory species which might be designated for Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance by Ramsar Contracting Parties;
- c) to elaborate further possibilities for pilot projects e.g. on invasive species, phasing out lead shot, the use of agrochemicals in Africa, marine fisheries, traditional knowledge on management of wetlands in Africa, etc., that could be carried out under the auspices of CMS, AEWA and Ramsar, including making joint requests for funding.
- d) to elaborate possibilities to synchronize the Joint Work programmes of CBD/RAMSAR and CBD/CMS.

Actions to be taken:**Site designations and networks:**

- Wetlands International, through its contract with the Ramsar Bureau for maintaining the Ramsar sites database, will increasingly offer expert advice for Contracting Parties to implement the Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Resolution VII.11). This includes

¹ Including the AEWA Technical Committee

advice for achieving appropriate site networks for migratory species – either as part of single species action plans or broader agreements to be proposed for adoption under the framework of CMS. The CMS Secretariat and Parties to CMS will benefit from and have access to this advice to assist with developing site networks. The Ramsar Bureau will encourage the Ramsar Parties to enthusiastically pursue the designation of these sites under the Ramsar Convention.

- CMS, through its ongoing work on marine turtles (with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, among others), will share information with Wetlands International and the Ramsar Bureau regarding the designation of sites of importance for marine turtle conservation and the possible development of site networks under CMS and its related Agreements for this purpose.
- CMS will provide to Wetlands International and the Ramsar Bureau copies of all relevant species review reports and, when available, the report from its Global Register of Migratory Species, in order to further assist with the identification and creation of site networks.

African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement:

- In accordance to the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2000-2004, activities are foreseen regarding invasive species of aquatic weeds, use of agrochemicals in Africa, exchange of know-how on traditional approaches to wetland and waterbird management in Africa and phasing out the use of lead shot in wetlands. The secretariats will combine their efforts on these issues to gain synergies. Furthermore in particular the Ramsar Bureau and the AEWA Secretariat will work closely together in the African-Eurasian Flyway project to enable Wetland International-Africa, Europe and Middle East to submit by the end of 2001 a proposal for a full-size GEF project. Both secretariats will do their utmost to secure the required level of matching funds for this project.

Cooperation in the area of training:

- The Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariat will collaborate with Wetlands International, and other appropriate organisations and partners, to develop a funding proposal to establish a global training initiative, as foreshadowed in Ramsar's Work Plan 2000-2002 (Action 4.2.3).

Support for Small Grants Fund (SGF) projects:

- Each year the Ramsar Bureau will provide details to the CMS and AEWA Secretariats of those projects assessed as suitable for funding under the SGF. As appropriate, CMS and AEWA will give consideration to supporting projects which are high priority to its programme of work or offer advice on other potential sources of funds.
- Each year the CMS Secretariat will provide details to the Ramsar Bureau of those projects assessed as suitable for support under its small-scale project fund. As appropriate, Ramsar will give consideration to supporting projects which are high priority to its programme of work or offer advice on other potential sources of funds.

Development of 'demonstration' sites:

- Building onwards on the experiences gained by the AEWA GEF demonstration projects, the Ramsar Bureau and CMS Secretariats possibly in collaboration with UNEP and other partners will work together to identify in 2002 one or more sites in the Western Hemisphere or in the Asia-Pacific area of global importance for both Conventions which also offers the opportunity for demonstrating, through tangible management actions, the on-ground and integrated implementation of both Conventions. Once a site has been identified, the secretariats will work with the relevant authorities to prepare a project proposal to seek the resources for implementing the activities proposed.

Synchronizing input in the Joint Work Programmes with CBD

- Before submitting their Joint Work Programme with CBD Secretariat each Secretariat will consult the other Secretariats to try to synchronize these work programmes to avoid any overlap.

IV. Data collection, storage and analysis.

The secretariats:

- a) will examine the possibilities of using standardized, mutually compatible methodologies for collection of data and establishment of databases;
- b) will facilitate exchange of data between their respective instruments;
- c) will consider a possible common approach between CMS/AEWA and Ramsar to contribute to and facilitate ongoing efforts to harmonize reporting on implementation of their respective instruments;
- d) will seek to coordinate their use of scientific or legal data provided by partner organizations such as IUCN or Wetlands International, through reciprocal exchange of information

The bodies of Agreements concluded under CMS will be invited to join these harmonization efforts.

Actions to be taken:

The secretariats will jointly pursue appropriate followup actions to the report of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on harmonising the information management of the biodiversity-related conventions, in the first instance in collaboration with Wetlands International. This will be considered by a meeting to be hosted by the Ramsar Bureau in the first half of 2000 to consider the issues of taxonomy, inventory standards, site descriptions and national reporting.

V. New agreements on migratory species, including endangered migratory species and species with an unfavourable conservation status.

The secretariats:

- a) will investigate ways of cooperating with respect to endangered migratory species, notably those on the CMS Appendix I, especially in relation to species for which Memoranda of Understanding exist (e.g., Siberian Crane and Slender-billed Curlew) or which could be concluded under CMS. Such instruments should take account of and promote the designation as Ramsar sites of key habitats for the endangered species concerned, as well as their effective management;
- b) will cooperate in the identification, development and implementation of future CMS Agreements with respect to migratory species included in CMS Appendix II, particularly those that are entirely or mainly dependant on wetlands and that have an unfavourable conservation status. Such cooperation could involve concluding Agreements under CMS which would provide for, *inter alia*, the designation of key wetlands as Ramsar sites. At the same time, Range States shall be encouraged to take measures for these species in national wetland policies.

Actions to be taken:

(1) Cooperation in Central Asia:

- The secretariats will work together with respect to promoting their respective missions in Central Asia, through the follow-up to the Central Asian Flyway workshop and the Central Asian outreach workshop of the AEWA GEF project, held in August 2001 in Uzbekistan. This co-operation will include progressing membership of both Conventions, the development of an Agreement for migratory waterbirds in the Central Asian-Indian Flyway and other matters of mutual interest.