



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 14 - 15 October 2015

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### COOPERATION BETWEEN CMS AND RAMSAR

#### Summary

This document consists of a cover note and an Annex including an updated Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2015-2017 for the CMS and Ramsar Secretariats. This new version of the JWP is very similar to the previous JWP 2012-2014 with some additions to reflect new resolutions and activities adopted at CMS COP 11 and Ramsar COP 12. The updated JWP is organized in six sections: national policies; regional agreements and initiatives; management of species populations and wetland ecosystems; monitoring and assessments; global science and policy; information, outreach and capacity building. The new JWP is submitted to the Standing Committee for its endorsement.

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## COOPERATION BETWEEN CMS AND RAMSAR

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

### INTRODUCTION

1. In 2012 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the CMS and Ramsar Secretariats and subsequently a Joint Work Plan 2012-2014 was prepared. Both documents were endorsed by the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee that took place in Bonn 7-8 November 2012;
2. Following discussions between the CMS and Ramsar Secretariats in 2014, it was agreed that the Memorandum of Cooperation was still in force and provided an adequate framework of cooperation for both Conventions, and therefore an update was not necessary for the time being. It was also agreed to update the Joint Work Plan once the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of CMS (Quito, Ecuador, November 2014) and the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of Ramsar (Punta del Este, Uruguay, June 2015) had passed, in order to take stock of both important events;
3. In July 2015 there have been consultations between both Secretariats and a new version of the Joint Work Plan 2015-2017 has been agreed. This new document will pave the way for further cooperation and will ensure that the work of the two Secretariats is aligned on a number of key issues such as: national policies; regional agreements and initiatives; management of species populations and wetland ecosystems; monitoring and assessments; global science and policy; information, outreach and capacity building.
4. On information and outreach, the annual World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day campaigns will also continue to benefit from the mutual support of both partners.
5. The updated Joint Work Plan is attached to this cover note as Annex 1.

### **Action requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Endorse the new CMS-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2015-2017;
- b. Provide any comments and suggestions to guide the Secretariat in its overall cooperation with the Ramsar Convention in the inter-sessional period until COP12.

## Annex 1

**Joint Work Plan 2015-2017****Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**

This plan identifies a non-exhaustive list of activities on which the Ramsar Convention and CMS Secretariats agree to cooperate within the framework of their Memorandum of Cooperation.

**1. National policies**

<b>Activities</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>
1.1	To support national policy initiatives for coordinated implementation of the CMS and Ramsar Conventions, including consultation among relevant national focal points, cross-representation on relevant national implementation committees and working groups, streamlining and harmonization of reporting processes, and adequate reflection of Ramsar and CMS interests in the updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and in initiatives of other relevant biodiversity-related conventions.	2015-2017
1.2	Encourage regular communication between CMS and Ramsar focal points at national level.	2015-2017

**2. Regional agreements and initiatives**

<b>Activities</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>
2.1	To take opportunities for facilitating mutual participation in relevant meetings under either Convention, including those organized at regional level in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and its Regional Initiatives, those organized under CMS auspices in relation to individual Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other instruments, and workshops on technical topics of mutual interest.	2015-2017

**3. Management of species populations and wetland ecosystems**

<b>Activities</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>
3.1	To develop policy and management approaches in furtherance of the most recent scientific knowledge and best practice thinking concerning ecological networks in relation to migratory species and wetlands.	2015-2017
3.2	To continue to develop joint intelligence, research and response mechanisms in relation to wildlife diseases.	2015-2017
3.3	To explore the scope for synergy in responding to other emergencies (such as mass die-offs), in follow-up to Ramsar Resolution COP IX.9 and CMS COP Resolution 10.2.	2015-2017
3.4	To collaborate in research, management, information and outreach activities related to the sites that are listed by Ramsar and at the same time are included in Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles of the	2015-2017

Activities		Timeframe
	Indian Ocean South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding.	
3.5	To collaborate in the implementation of the GEF project on Dugong and Seagrass in the Indian Ocean & Western Pacific (resources permitting).	2015-2017
3.6	To collaborate in the implementation of the Ramsar Strategy for High Andean Wetlands and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on High Andean Flamingos.	2015-2017
3.7	To collaborate in the implementation of the various regional Ramsar initiatives covering mangroves and coral reef ecosystems, and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on Migratory Sharks, having a particular focus on the conservation of CMS listed sharks, sawfishes and rays.	2015-2017
3.8	To continue to enhance the identification of overlaps between the interests of migratory species and wetlands of importance, and to seek appropriate coherence between attention to “critical sites” for migratory pathways and strategic objectives for networks of protected wetlands.	2015-2017
3.9	To undertake specific advisory missions on a joint basis in cases where the interests of both Conventions may be involved (resources permitting).	as required

#### 4. Monitoring and assessment

Activities		Timeframe
4.1	To define and operate (monitor, assess, report on) relevant biodiversity indicators to evaluate effectiveness of Convention implementation, and as a contribution to wider collective efforts concerning assessments of progress towards the global Aichi Targets, <i>inter alia</i> through the expert consultative processes established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.	2015-2017

#### 5. Global science and policy

Activities		Timeframe
5.1	To consider collaboration, resources permitting, on the production of synthesis products focused on water, wetlands and migratory species interests in respect of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, including collaboration on new work by the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel in this subject area, and follow-up to the reports of the “TEEB” study.	2015-2017
5.2	To align and harmonize where possible proposals for COP Resolutions on technical subjects of mutual interest (such as climate change, the energy sector, extractive industries and impact assessment).	2015-2017
5.3	To coordinate participation and joint statements at meetings of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in the context of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)	2015-2017
5.4	To publish jointly technical guidance materials of mutual interest where appropriate (and resources permitting).	2015-2017

## 6. Information, outreach and capacity-building

Activities		Timeframe
6.1	To organize efficient cross-distribution to the two Conventions 'constituencies of materials for the promotion of World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day as well as of CMS species-awareness campaigns if they are of any relevance for Ramsar, and to issue mutually supportive public information about each of these Days and campaigns.	2015-2017
6.2	To collaborate on activities for capacity-building (resources permitting) including cross-representation on capacity-building workshops and investigation of ways and means to support the application of the Flyway Training Kit developed under the GEF project Wings Over Wetlands (WOW).	2015-2017
6.3	To consider creative ways of mutually enhancing Secretariat capacity, for example through staff placements, exchange of interns, and reciprocal temporary staff secondments for "pressure point" occasions such as COPs.	2015-2017
6.4	To collaborate in exploring funding for joint activities e.g. the project on the Enhancement of Information and Communication Technologies and Capacity at CITES, CMS and Ramsar.	2015-2017