



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 18

**COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON  
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document provides an update on the implementation of Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) and Decisions 12.13 and 12.14 with regard to the cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The document also proposes amendments to Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS*, the deletion of Decisions and 12.13 and 12.14 *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS* and the adoption of new Decisions.

## COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

### Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP12, Manila, 2017) reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the cooperation between Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS through the adoption of Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS*, which instructs the Secretariat to maintain cooperative working relationships with IPBES and to participate in its meetings as appropriate, and Decisions 12.13 and 12.14 *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS* which provide:

#### **12.13 Directed to the Scientific Council**

*The Scientific Council, subject to available funds, shall undertake a review of needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species. This should include the use of scientific assessments, and consider the potential role of migratory species as indicators of wider ecological change and the results should be communicated to IPBES.*

#### **12.14 Directed to the Scientific Council**

*The Scientific Council shall report on the above-mentioned review to the Standing Committee at its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

### Activities to implement Resolution 10.8(Rev.COP12) and Decisions 12.13 and 12.14

#### *Review of IPBES assessments and associated summaries for policymakers in relation to their relevance to CMS*

2. The Secretariat conducted a preliminary review of the Summaries for Policymakers associated with the IPBES Regional and Thematic Assessments, which were endorsed by the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-6) (17-24 March 2018). The summaries were reviewed with a view to appraising their relevance to CMS. The analysis revealed only partial relevance to CMS due to the limited data and information provided on migratory species and their movements. Further details can be found in document UNEP/CMS/StC48/Doc.17.1. The Secretariat presented elements of this preliminary review to the 11th Meeting of the IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) (25-29 June 2018, Bonn) and to the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (StC48, 23-24 October 2018, Bonn).
3. Following the approval by its 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary (28 April-4 May 2019, Paris), IPBES released its first Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019), which is comprised of 1) a Summary for Policymakers and 2) a set of six chapters and their executive summaries currently available in a draft form, pending their final editing.
4. The Secretariat conducted a review of the six chapters to identify findings related to the implementation of CMS and to the topic of connectivity. It found numerous mentions of the importance of connectivity for protecting biodiversity and the need to integrate connectivity conservation aspects into future policies. The review of the six chapters of the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is contained in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.17.

*CMS contribution to the review of the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of IPBES*

5. The Secretariat also engaged in the review of the effectiveness of the administrative and scientific functions of IPBES. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CMS Family, provided the following inputs to the process which were reported to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPBES Bureau and MEP:
  - recommended the establishment of a formal link to the decision-making bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions thus allowing consideration of requests from these bodies;
  - suggested the creation of mechanisms through which biodiversity-related conventions' decisions and resolutions feed into IPBES priority setting;
  - requested the involvement of CMS in the definition of any new assessment from its inception phase, specifically in the formulation of Terms of Reference and scoping papers; and
  - proposed the need to take into consideration migratory species as an important component of biodiversity and dedicate specific analyses in all future IPBES assessments, both Thematic and Regional.
6. The deliberations of IPBES-7 on the matter are set out in Decision 2: [www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes-7-10\\_en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=35328](http://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/ipbes-7-10_en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=35328).

*Contribution to the IPBES rolling Work Programme up to 2030*

7. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC3, 29 May-1 June 2018, Bonn) recognized the need to make contributions to the IPBES second work programme and prioritized such action in the Programme of Work of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for 2018-2020.
8. With a view to making progress on the implementation of Decision 12.13, the CMS Secretariat actively engaged in the process for the development of the IPBES second work programme (2020-2030) to ensure that research and policy guidance related to migratory species are adequately addressed.
9. In July 2018, the MEP and the Bureau of the IPBES issued a call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer-term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme, in line with decision IPBES-5/4. The CMS Secretariat invited the Scientific Council to provide such inputs, including proposing new assessments that could improve the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation needs of migratory species.
10. The Secretariat prepared a draft proposal for an assessment on connectivity based on inputs from members of the Scientific Council, namely the Chair and the councilors of Uzbekistan and Tunisia, into a proposal for an assessment on connectivity which was presented to the StC48 for its consideration and guidance.
11. Following the approval by the Standing Committee, the CMS Secretariat, on behalf of the CMS Family, and together with the World Heritage Convention (WHC), submitted the proposal to IPBES.
12. The assessment was prioritized by the IPBES MEP and the Bureau but was not recommended for the initial round of assessments included in the work programme which was adopted by the IPBES-7 Plenary. Based on the request from the Secretariats of CMS and the WHC and their interventions during IPBES-7 Plenary, together with other similar requests on the topic of

connectivity from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and other governments and non-governmental organizations, the IPBES-7 Plenary agreed on the following:

- To reconsider the assessment on connectivity at its ninth session in 2022;
  - To look at, among other aspects, the role of connectivity in ensuring integrity and resilience in socioecological systems in the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (“nexus assessment”).
13. The Secretariat also kept CMS Parties and other stakeholders apprised of opportunities to contribute to the assessments adopted by IPBES-7 Plenary as well as to the review of drafts of the assessment on sustainable use of wild species. The Secretariat, together with the Chair of the Scientific Council, also provided inputs to already engaged in the scoping processes of the nexus assessment as well as in the thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (“transformative change assessment”).

#### Amendment of Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12), deletion of Decisions 12.13 and 12.14 and adoption of draft Decisions

14. In the light of recent developments and with a view to ensure effective engagement in the implementation and further development of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, amendments to Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) are proposed in Annex 1 and draft Decisions are proposed for adoption in Annex 2 of this document.
15. Decisions 12.13 and 12.14 are considered no longer relevant because the ongoing efforts coupled with the potential future assessment on connectivity will largely address the need for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species. Decisions 12.13 and 12.14 are therefore proposed for deletion.

#### Recommended actions

16. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
- a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12) contained in Annex 1 of this document;
  - b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document;
  - c) delete Decisions 12.13 and 12.14;
  - d) take note of the review of the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.17.

## ANNEX 1

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 10.8 (REV. COP12)

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) AND CMS**

*Recognizing* the need for regular and thematic assessments of the status of biodiversity to provide decision-makers with the necessary information basis for adaptive management and to promote the necessary political will for action addressing biodiversity loss in general and the loss of migratory species in particular,

*Further recognizing* the need to strengthen and improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being through the establishment of a science-policy platform,

*Acknowledging* the outcomes of the Paris Conference on Biodiversity, Science and Governance held in Paris, France in January 2005, highlighting that there is a need for an objective source of information on the status of biodiversity and its impact on ecosystem services and human well-being,

*Welcoming* the outcome of the third *ad hoc* intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting held in Busan, Republic of Korea in June 2010, and *recalling* the following recommendations:

- a) that an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services should be established that should be scientifically independent, should ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy, and perform regular and timely assessments on knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their linkages,
- b) that the IPBES Plenary as a decision-making body should be open to participants of all member states of the UN, and regional economic integration organizations as well as for intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders as observers,
- c) that the IPBES should collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements,

*Recalling* that the Standing Committee was briefed on progress on the establishment of the IPBES process by the Secretariat through document CMS/StC37/Inf.7 at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Bonn, Germany in November 2010,

~~*Recalling* the functions of the Scientific Council as set out in Article VIII of the Convention and as further elaborated in its rules of procedure, terms of reference, which include the provision of scientific advice to the Conference of the Parties, to the Secretariat, and, if approved by the Conference of the Parties, to any body set up under this Convention or an Agreement or to any Party and that its functions are supplemented from time to time by instructions included in resolutions or recommendations adopted by the Conference of the Parties,~~

*Taking note* of decision GC.26/6 of the 26<sup>th</sup> UNEP Governing Council Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2011, endorsing the "Busan Outcome" and, based on resolution GA 65/162 of the United Nations General Assembly, requesting UNEP to convene a plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES in 2011,

~~*Recalling* the functions of the Scientific Council as set out in Article VIII of the Convention and as further elaborated in its rules of procedure, which include the provision of scientific advice to the Conference of the Parties, to the Secretariat, and, if approved by the Conference of the Parties, to any body set up under this Convention or an Agreement or to any Party and that its functions are~~

supplemented from time to time by instructions included in resolutions or recommendations adopted by the Conference of the Parties,

*Noting* that the biodiversity-related conventions have an important role in setting the global agenda on biodiversity and ecosystem services and that the scientific processes informing policy under each of the conventions may provide useful inputs to the work of IPBES,

*Noting also* that the work of IPBES at the sub-global level can and should support the implementation of the conventions at the regional and sub-regional levels, strengthening the science-policy interface at these levels,

*Taking note* of the outcome of the IPBES-1 Plenary ~~4<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting~~ which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2011 to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform, and of the need to contribute to the development of the IPBES work programme,

*Taking note also* of the outcome of IPBES-7 Plenary which took place in Paris, France in May 2019 which adopted the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030,

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* CMS Parties Focal Points and Scientific Councillors to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES;
- 1.bis *Calls on* the Standing Committee to participate in the development of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030 and submit inputs as necessary, in line with the priorities of the Convention;
2. *Invites* IPBES to address science-policy linkages and the need for assessments, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species of wild animals;
- 2.bis *Requests* IPBES to include, to the extent possible, aspects of connectivity in the assessments, which have been approved by IPBES-7 Plenary;
- 2.ter *Requests* IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022 to approve the inclusion of the assessment on connectivity in its rolling work programme up to 2030;
- 2.quarter *Urges* IPBES to provide specific data and analysis on wildlife and on migratory species in future relevant assessments, when possible;
3. *Encourages* Parties and relevant organizations to make available funds to support the four functions of IPBES, namely assessments, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation aimed at improving the science-policy interface related to the conservation of migratory species;
4. *Requests* the Scientific Councillors to ~~participate~~ engage in all relevant processes of IPBES and in the development of new assessments including in their scoping processes, in collaboration with the scientific advisory bodies of other MEAs as appropriate;
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to maintain cooperative working relationships with IPBES, to participate as appropriate in meetings of the Platform and to report on progress to the Standing Committee, resources permitting.

DRAFT DECISIONS

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY  
PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) AND CMS**

***Directed to Parties***

13.AA Parties are requested to:

- a) liaise with IPBES counterparts to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme by IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022;
- b) review the findings of the IPBES global assessment on the importance of connectivity for conservation efforts, and consider how to reflect such findings in their conservation actions at the national-level.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

13.BB The Scientific Council is requested to:

- a) engage in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments adopted by IPBES-7 Plenary with a view to ensure that elements of connectivity are integrated.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.CC The Secretariat is requested to:

- a) support the Scientific Council in engaging in relevant scoping processes of the new IPBES thematic assessments adopted by IPBES-7 Plenary;
- b) promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme by IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022;
- c) report to the Standing Committee at its 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting and to the Conference of Parties at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.