



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 26.4

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 12.98 – 12.100 *Community Participation and Livelihoods*. Based on the work during the intersessional period, the CMS Secretariat suggests amendments to the Decisions as contained in the Annex to this document.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

Background

1. At the 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12, Manila, 2017), the Parties adopted Decisions 12.98 to 12.100 *Community participation and livelihoods* as follows:

12.98 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,

- a) *Prepare a study of best-practice cases of community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species, including factors such as land rights, management responsibilities, authority over distribution of benefits by communities and spiritual values;*
- b) *Based on the results of the best-practice case study and, where feasible, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;*
- c) *Report to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meetings and the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

12.99 Directed to Parties

Parties are invited to cooperate with the Secretariat in compiling information on instruments, including legislation, policies and action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species;

12.100 Directed to Parties, IGOs & NGOs

Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the Secretariat in developing the study referred to in Decisions 12.98, paragraphs (a) and (b) and Decision 12.99.

Activities for the implementation of Decision 12.98

2. During the intersessional period, the CMS Secretariat undertook efforts to raise the necessary funds to prepare the study of best-practice cases of community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species, as requested by Decision 12.98 paragraph (a). However, no voluntary contributions were provided for the study. Consequently, the Secretariat was unable to prepare the report.
3. Nevertheless, the Secretariat did initiate some preliminary, desk-top research to identify relevant work in this area. The Secretariat identified several existing reports and databases that compile case studies on community-based management of wildlife and community involvement to address illegal wildlife trade and other related topics¹: *The relevance of CBNRM² to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting*

¹ It should be noted that the list aims to illustrate an indicative list of existing compilations of case studies, rather than providing an exhaustive list of available case studies. Other forums such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have also produced a range of resources.

² Community-Based Natural Resource Management

countries;³ Handbook on CITES and Livelihoods;⁴ Crime, Conservation and Communities Database;⁵ People not Poaching database;⁶ and CITES and livelihoods factsheet⁷.

4. A recent study by the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *Wildlife, Wild Livelihoods: Involving Communities in Sustainable Wildlife Management and Combatting the Illegal Wildlife Trade*⁸ provides an overview of the current status of knowledge on community involvement to address illegal wildlife trade. The report emphasized that best practices of community wildlife management have been well-identified over the past decades, but that there has been a lack of implementation of these recommendations.
5. Concerning Decision 12.98, paragraph (b), side events and workshops based on the study have not been organized as the study was not prepared. However, the Secretariat has liaised with the CITES Secretariat in anticipation of possible future events.
6. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP18, Geneva, 2019), the CITES Parties requested the CITES Secretariat to collate or conduct new case studies on CITES and livelihoods. Parties are invited to submit new case studies that demonstrate how the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities that live alongside wildlife in the trade of CITES-listed species contributes to their livelihoods and the conservation of the species in the wild⁹. It is expected that these new case studies will shed further light on community-based management practices on those species that are listed both on the CITES and CMS appendices.
7. As requested by Decision 12.98 paragraph (c), the Secretariat reported to the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee on progress made.

Discussion and analysis

8. Although there are numerous studies and guidance on community-based management of wildlife, and although some may include CMS-listed species, the studies on community-based management, so far identified by the Secretariat, did not fully examine particular challenges around migratory species. It has been pointed out that *[m]igratory species present the greatest of all problems for community management. Unless all of the relevant communities whose land or waters form part of the range of the species can act in coordination, the prospects for conserving such species may be slim*¹⁰. Kühl and Mrema (2011)¹¹ further pointed out the difficulty in gaining consensus on ownership among stakeholders when managing migratory species. Thus, for example, best practices might include coordination between different communities, managing the same migratory species. In addition, best practices might involve country-based initiatives that have not been published.
9. To better understand the best practices of community-based involvement for the conservation and management of migratory species, it would be helpful to undertake a more comprehensive compilation of case studies and initiatives that include a focus on the particular challenges around migratory species. Such a compilation would help Parties understand challenges and

3 Abensperg-Traun, M., Roe, D. and O’Criadain, C., eds. (2011). CITES and CBNRM. Proceedings of an international symposium on “The relevance of CBNRM to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries”, Vienna, Austria, 18-20 May 2011. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and London, UK: IIED. 172pp.

4 OAS and CITES (2015) Handbook on CITES and Livelihoods Part I and II

5 <https://communitiesforwildlife.iied.org/>

6 <https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/>

7 See <https://cites.org/eng/prog/livelihoods>

8 Cooney, R., Roe, D., Dublin, H. and Booker, F. (2018) *Wildlife, Wild Livelihoods: Involving Communities in Sustainable Wildlife Management and Combatting the Illegal Wildlife Trade*. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

9 Decision 18.XX CITES and Livelihoods (To be filled once the number is fixed)

10 UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.24

11 Kühl, A. & Mrema, E. 2011. Creating incentives for community-based management of migratory species: The case study of the Saiga Antelope and the wider policy perspective. In: Abenspergtraun, M., Roe, D. & O’Criadain, C. (eds.) CITES and CBNRM: Proceedings of an international symposium on “The relevance of CBNRM to the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species in exporting countries”. Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 48. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

opportunities with applying community-based management to the conservation and management of CMS-listed species.

10. In this context, Parties may also further consider how to best realize the CMS Strategic Plan (2015-2023) Goal 5: *Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge, management and capacity-building* and its Target 14. The Target envisages conservation and management of migratory species with effective participation of local communities and indigenous peoples¹².
11. A recent study has pointed out that CMS does not have formal mechanisms for local peoples and indigenous communities to contribute to the decision-making processes¹³. Under the current mechanism, local communities and indigenous peoples may participate as observers, part of national delegations or experts. However, there is no formal procedure to support their participation nor to facilitate their inputs to the discussions under the CMS process. Further consideration may be needed to realize effective participation of local communities and indigenous people and to achieve Target 14 of the CMS Strategic Plan by 2023.

Proposed amendments to Decisions 12.98 – 12.100

12. The Secretariat proposes to amend Decisions 12.98 – 12.100 as contained in Annex 1. Since financial resources have been limited for the Secretariat to conduct a new study, it is suggested to compile existing case studies¹⁴ as well as new case studies submitted by Parties and relevant stakeholders. These case studies may include success stories and good practices as well as challenges and lessons learnt. It is expected that a broad range of case studies will help demonstrate how community-based management could be used for the conservation and management of migratory species.

Recommended actions

13. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to adopt the Decisions as contained in Annex 1 of this document.

¹² Target 14: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and their customary sustainable use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, thereby contributing to the favourable conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats

¹³ Cooney, R., Roe, D., Dublin, H. and Booker, F. (2018) *Wildlife, Wild Livelihoods: Involving Communities in Sustainable Wildlife Management and Combatting the Illegal Wildlife Trade*. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

¹⁴ See paragraph 4

ANNEX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DECISIONS 12.98 – 12.100

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.AA (12.98) The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,

- a) identify ongoing initiatives and best practice case studies and prepare a compilation study of best practice cases studies of and initiatives related to community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species that include a focus on the particular challenges of migratory species, including factors such as land rights, management responsibilities, authority over distribution of benefits by communities and, spiritual values and cooperation among communities, and prepare a standard template to be used by Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for submission of new cases;
- b) analyze the case studies referred to in paragraph (a) and assess implications for future actions to assist Parties in using community-based management for the conservation and management of CMS-listed species;
- c) based on the results of the ~~best practice case~~ best practice case compilation and analysis, and, where feasible, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;
- d) submit to the Scientific Council at the 5th or 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee, the compilation and the analysis referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).
- e) ~~report to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th and the Conference of the Parties at its 13th~~ 14th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.

Directed to Parties

~~12.99~~ Parties are invited to cooperate with the Secretariat in compiling information on instruments, including legislation, policies and action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations

~~12.100~~ 13.BB (12.100) Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the Secretariat in developing the study referred to in Decisions 12.98, paragraphs (a) and (b) and Decision 12.99.

- a) submit to the Secretariat, using a standard template, relevant case studies

on community engagement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species;

- b) submit information on instruments, including legislation, policies and action plans that promote community involvement in the conservation of CMS-listed species; and
- c) provide technical and financial support to the Secretariat for the preparation of the study referred to in Decision 13.AA paragraph (a).

Directed to the Scientific Council

- 13.CC The Scientific Council shall review and provide recommendations on the compilation and the analysis referred to in Decision 13.AA paragraphs (a) and (b).