



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



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

*Bonn, 9 - 10 November 2016*

UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.20

### **SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

*(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)*

*(As at September 2016)*

#### Summary

This report highlights the work done in cooperation with key stakeholders including biodiversity-related Conventions and international organizations, as instructed by Resolutions 11.10 and 11.11.

The present document presents an overview of the state of activities, as at September 2016, undertaken since the 44th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (CMS StC 44, 14-15 October 2015, Bonn, Germany). It provides details of the Secretariat's interagency work in addition to what is reported in Document UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.16.1 Implementation of the Programme of Work 2015-2017.

## **SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

*(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)*

### **Promoting CMS Issues in UN System**

*Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*

1. Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Secretariat has been cooperating with UNEP/DELIC and providing inputs to an exercise aiming at outlining interlinkages between the targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and the Aichi Targets and those of the SDGs. The results of this mapping exercise are important to understand the contribution of migratory species to delivering the 2030 Agenda SDGs and help streamline national strategies and reporting processes.

*Processes and initiatives under UNEP*

2. The Secretariat took part in the UNEP Task Team dedicated to reviewing the current state and level of efficiency of the administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the convention secretariats it administers. The Secretariat also contributed to the UNEP project on “*Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related Conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies*” with a view to elaborating concrete options. The outputs of both initiatives were submitted to the Second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in June 2016 and resulted in two specific [Resolutions](#). Discussions are under way with UNEP as well as MEAs on the implementation of such provisions. It has to be highlighted that Resolution 2/17 on *Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions* requests the UNEP Executive Director to align the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme with decisions and resolutions of the conferences of the parties of the biodiversity-related conventions, and invites the conferences of the parties to be mindful of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme during their deliberations

### **Promoting synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)**

*Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)*

3. The Secretariat participated in the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the BLG which took place in September 2015. The report of the meeting can be found [here](#). The Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the BLG was planned for 23 August 2016 in Bonn and was chaired by the CMS Secretariat. Among other topics, the meeting discussed outcomes of synergy-related processes among the biodiversity-related conventions including related UNEA-2 Resolutions; indicators and monitoring under the SDGs; preparations and expectations of upcoming Conferences of the Parties (CITES and CBD) and IUCN World Conservation Congress; and financial mechanisms including GEF.

*Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*

4. Meanwhile, liaison has continued individually with BLG members and others through implementation of joint work plans, and enhancing synergies when possible.

5. CMS was invited to take part in a series of Regional Preparatory Meetings for CITES COP17 and CBD COP13 and contribute to sessions covering matters of common interest and promoting synergies.

6. In the context of their Joint Work Plan for 2015-2020, the CMS and CITES Secretariats organized the first joint meeting that provided a unique opportunity for African lion Range States to take stock of lion conservation measures across the range and discuss a continent-wide, clear and concrete roadmap for the conservation of this iconic African species, including the listing of the species under both CITES and CMS. The meeting took place in Entebbe, Uganda on 30-31 May 2016 and delivered a [Communiqué](#) which calls for concerted efforts to conserve this species.

7. The CMS Secretariat, in its capacity as BLG member, took part in the Informal Advisory Group (IAG) established under the CBD COP Decision XII/6 tasked with elaborating options to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among the biodiversity-related conventions. The CMS Secretariat facilitated the nomination of representatives of its Parties to the dedicated workshop that took place in Geneva in February 2016 and contributed to all consultations. The [outcomes](#) of the workshop, which included a set of options and a road map for their implementation, were submitted to the First Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation which met on 6 May 2016 and will be presented to the CBD COP13 (Cancún, Mexico, 4 - 17 December 2016).

8. Close cooperation with the Bern Convention was furthered on various issues. In particular, the Bern Convention Secretariat has been invited to take part in the meeting of the Working Group for the CMS Review Mechanism to be held on 19-20 September 2016 in Bonn and share its experience with regard to their mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

### **Strengthen existing collaboration with other IGOs and Civil Society**

9. The Secretariat has been renewing its commitments with intergovernmental organizations and civil society through regular contacts, holding meetings or phone calls, to review progress and exchange information on emerging issues.

10. CMS continues to benefit from the support of numerous NGOs in the implementation of species agreements and MOUs as well as in the operation of various processes and scientific working groups as outlined in Document UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.16.1 *Implementation of the Programme of Work 2015-2017*.

### *Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society*

11. With a view to promoting the implementation of Resolution 11.11 on “*Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society*”, the Secretariat issued Notification 2016/017 on 14 July 2016 to invite Parties, other Governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to review options and make recommendations for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society.

12. By 1 September 2016, the Secretariat had received responses from the Governments of Australia and Togo. In response to Notification 2015/19 issued on 16 July 2015, the Secretariat had received input from Wild Migration in the form of a project proposal entitled “The Firebird Project: Increasing involvement of NGOs in the CMS Family”. All submissions are contained, as they were received, in Inf.1 including a courtesy translation in the official languages. These inputs were consolidated and translated into recommendations that address both the national and international levels as follows:

- Explore ways to enable the work of NGOs and CSOs to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family for the consideration of its decision-making bodies;
- Ensure greater NGO and CSO involvement in CMS Family processes and their participation in related meetings through better use of web and communication technologies, including video

conferencing and through convening regular dedicated dialogues prior to the CMS COPs (by providing the necessary space and time allocations);

- Increase the understanding and capacity of NGOs and CSOs to engage with the CMS Family agenda through the development of specific e-learning materials;
- Provide support to government officials and strengthen their capacity to implement the CMS Family instruments by creating national committees and platforms including NGOs and civil society for exchanging information and experience and promoting activities in the field that are designed to increase the relevance of CMS.

It was noted that suitability and cost-effectiveness are essential elements of any proposed recommendation.

## **Engagement in strategic collaborations**

### *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

13. Following the CMS Resolution 11.10 and the CBD COP12 Decision XII/30, the CMS Secretariat transmitted to the CBD Secretariat the decision taken by the CMS StC44 (included in Annex II) on elements of advice for the GEF concerning the funding of the national priorities for the CMS aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Such advice was transmitted to the CBD Secretariat in time to their First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (2-6 May 2016) and is being subsequently presented to the CBD COP13 for its consideration. The CMS Secretariat will issue a notification in October 2016 to remind CMS Parties and stakeholders of such advice and any other provisions related to migratory species conservation to be taken into account during any related negotiations at CBD COP13.

### *Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)*

14. Following the endorsement of the CMS StC 44 in 2015, the Memorandum of Cooperation between CMS and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was submitted to the IOTC. Although approval by the IOTC is still pending, cooperation between the CMS Family and IOTC continues. A joint capacity-building workshop was organized by both Secretariats and supported by the Sharks and IOSEA Marine Turtle MOUs. It was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman in Muscat from 18-22 October 2015. It provided expert training to support the creation and implementation of observer schemes in Oman, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with a specific focus on gillnet fisheries.

### *Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*

15. In pursuance of the mandate provided by CMS Resolution 10.8, the Secretariat has continued following the IPBES process. On 9 September 2016, the Secretariat issued Notification 2016/023 drawing the attention to a call from IPBES to take part in the review of the [draft scoping report for the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of biodiversity](#), which was produced at a meeting held in Bonn, Germany from 2-4 August 2016. Furthermore, the notification informed about the release of the final versions of the Summaries for Policymakers (SPM) of the IPBES [methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services](#) and the [thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production](#), which were approved by the IPBES Plenary in Malaysia in February 2016.

## **Strengthen regional collaboration and presence of CMS**

16. Although no progress could be made with regard to the establishment of regional coordinators in Africa, the Pacific and Latin America, the Secretariat continues to foster its relationship with various UNEP Regional Offices and institutions particularly in view of the organization of regional

workshops in preparation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12, 22-28 October 2017, Manila, the Philippines).

**Action requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i) Take note of the progress made and provide any comments to further guide the Secretariat in its implementation of synergies and partnerships in this inter-sessional period;
- ii) Consider recommendations made to enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society (see also Inf.1) and make further contributions as per Resolution 11.11 for consideration of COP12.