



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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STANDING COMMITTEE
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Agenda Item 5(c)

COOPERATION BETWEEN CMS AND RAMSAR

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Background

1. In November 2011, a new Memorandum of Cooperation is to be concluded between the Secretariats of CMS and the Ramsar Convention (“Ramsar”), replacing the previous Memorandum of Cooperation between the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Secretariat which was concluded on 18 February 1997.

2. In 2005, CMS Res.8.11 stressed the importance of and need for enhanced collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions. In addition, Res.8.2 adopted the *CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011* (which is expected to be extended to 2014, by CMS COP10 through draft Resolution 10.5/Rev.1), which has four main objectives:

- a) To ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species are based on the best available information;
- b) To ensure that migratory species benefit from the best possible conservation measures;
- c) To broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors; and
- d) To reinforce the overarching and unifying role of CMS in the conservation and management of migratory species.

3. The most recent formal three-way joint work programme between the Secretariats of the CMS, AEWA and Ramsar covered the period 2003-2005. Much has continued to be achieved since then, even though the plan was not fully implemented due to its over-ambitious goals.

4. In 2008, CMS Res.9.6 reaffirmed the interest and importance for CMS of continuing to develop effective and practical cooperation with other biodiversity instruments. In Res.9.6, the Parties recognized that the preferred instruments for such cooperation are renewable joint work plans with agreed and attainable targets included in a clear timetable, and the necessity to report on progress and to assess effectiveness of results regularly.

5. In 2008, Ramsar Resolution X.11 urged the Ramsar Secretariat to pursue as actively as possible, time and resources permitting, the review and streamlining of its joint work programme with CMS and AEWA. Ramsar's Strategic Plan (2009-2015) calls for Ramsar to work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (Strategy 3.1).

Joint activities implemented since 2008

6. Although there has not been any specific work plan since then, the CMS and Ramsar Secretariats have continued cooperating particularly on the following initiatives:

- Task Forces on Avian Influenza and Wildlife Diseases;
- Development of policy on flyways;
- Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands; and
- Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAM).

7. Details about activities carried out under these areas of work can be found in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.28: "Report on Synergies and Partnerships".

Joint activities planned for the period 2012-2014

8. The Ramsar and CMS Secretariats have developed a draft joint work plan for 2012-2014 which is attached in **Annex 1**. It takes account of the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (proposed to be extended to 2014).

9. Many of the activities will not incur significant extra cost, but for any that do, the Secretariats will jointly seek external funding. In addition, carrying out activities jointly should make it possible to optimize the utilization of the funds secured.

10. The CMS and Ramsar Secretariats will submit regular reports on their activities to their respective Standing Committees and, if appropriate, to other stakeholders, including the other biodiversity-related conventions.

11. The 10th Meeting of the Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties in 2012 will be invited to approve the joint work plan for 2012-2014. If the document is approved by the two bodies, the two Secretariats will move forward with its implementation. Until then, existing and on-going cooperative activities which are not yet completed will continue to be pursued.

Action requested:

- The Standing Committee is invited to approve the draft joint work plan for 2012-2014 contained in Annex 1.

Joint Work Plan, 2012-2014
Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

This plan identifies a non-exclusive 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

Activities	Timeframe
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.	2012-2014

2. Regional agreements and initiatives

Activities	Timeframe
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.	2012-2014

3. Management of species populations and wetland ecosystems

Activities	Timeframe
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.	2012-2014
3.2 To continue to develop joint intelligence, research and response mechanisms in relation to wildlife diseases.	2012-2014
3.3 To explore the scope for synergy in responding to other emergency situations (such as mass die-offs), in follow-up to Ramsar Resolution COP IX.9 and [draft CMS COP Resolution 10.2].	2012-2014
3.4 To collaborate in elaboration and implementation (if approved) of the proposed GEF project on Dugongs in the Indian Ocean & Western Pacific (resources permitting).	2012-2014
3.5 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.	2012-2014
3.6 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.	2012-2014

5. Global science and policy

Activities	Timeframe
5.1 To consider collaboration, resource 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.	2012-2014
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).	2012-2014
5.3 To publish jointly technical guidance materials of mutual interest where appropriate (and resources permitting).	2012-2014

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.	2012-2014
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 CMS Flyway Training Kit	2012-2014
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.	2012-2014
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.	2012-2014