



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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FUTURE STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIES OF CMS: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 2015-2017 ACTIVITIES

Summary

The Secretariat is focusing on implementing the medium-term 2015-2017 activities as instructed by Resolution 10.9.

The implementation of this resolution contributes to the attainment of the provisions of many other resolutions.

This report highlights the current state of activities, as at 31 July 2015, undertaken since the Eleventh Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties to CMS (Quito, Ecuador 2014).

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FUTURE STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIES OF CMS: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 2015-2017 ACTIVITIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Introduction

1. The 10th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Bergen adopted a set of activities listed in CMS Resolution 10.9 based on options for the future organization and the strategic development of the CMS Family. The activities are divided into those for implementation in the short term (2012-2014) and those for the medium term (2015-2017) and the long term (2018-2020).
2. The Secretariat provided a full report on the implementation of short-term activities as well as a plan for carrying out medium-term activities at COP11, which took place on 4-9 November 2014, Quito, Ecuador. The report (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.16.1) can be found [here](#).
3. The present document reports on progress made since COP11 regarding the activities for implementation in 2015-2017 (as at 31 July 2015) (see Appendix I).

Financial Implications

4. Unlike the 2012-2014 budget, the 2015-2017 budget does not include resources earmarked for the implementation of Resolution 10.9. Activities reported in this document have been carried out using resources from the core budget (essentially staff time) and voluntary contributions

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Note the progress made, as reported in this document;
- b. Consider funding priority activities as indicated in the table in Appendix I; and
- c. Provide any comments to guide the Secretariat further in the implementation of these activities.

APPENDIX I – Activities for implementation in 2015-2017 (Medium-term activities by COP12 in 2017)

Progress report for the period December 2014- July 2015

NR.	ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS REPORT ON SECRETARIAT'S CONTRIBUTION	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1	<p>Alignment with international environmental governance reform.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Discussion of reforms at COPs and Standing Committee. (1.2)</p>	<p>Alignment with international environmental governance reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support coherent international decision-making processes for environmental governance. - To catalyse international efforts to pursue the implementation of internationally agreed objectives. - To support regional, sub-regional and national environmental governance processes and institutions. - To promote and support the environmental basis for sustainable development at the national level. 	<p>The Secretariat pursued its engagement with the process on the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including their indicators, in cooperation with the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG).</p> <p>Preparations for the Second Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) scheduled to take place in June 2016 have started. A dialogue has been entered into with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on having possible joint side events and statements at UNEA on issues of common interest.</p>	Core budget: staff time
2	<p>Improved partnership working.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Closer working with partner organizations (including NGOs, indigenous and local communities and States) (2.3)</p>	<p>Improved partnership working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To expand partnership opportunities. - To share best practice. - To utilize common resources. - To share knowledge and expertise. - To coordinate conservation activities. - To identify potential synergies based on common or shared work programmes, geographies and interests. - To utilize local knowledge. 	<p>The Secretariat is continuing to collaborate with key stakeholders in accordance with Res. 11.10 Synergies and Partnerships.</p> <p>With a view to promoting the implementation of Res. 11.11, the Secretariat issued a Notification in July 2015 inviting Parties, other Governments, CSO and NGO Partners to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society and inform the Secretariat of any related proposal or recommendation to be reported on to StC44.</p>	Core budget: staff time
3	<p>Enhancing scientific research and information.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ CMS to coordinate scientific research programmes based on identification of common issues/threats shared across the CMS Family to reduce duplication and overlaps and improve economies of scale. To be used to promote CMS to other International Conventions – administered by CMS but open to all Inter community to use – used to raise profile of CMS (Internal). (3.2)</p>	<p>Enhancing scientific research and information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of research requirements. - Sharing of research information and data. - Providing easy access for all members of the CMS Family to existing and future research information. - Developing relevant research into common threats and issues. 	<p>The Secretariat continued coordinating research and policy development across the Family by leading on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bird poisoning (CMS/AEWA/Raptors); – Underwater noise (CMS/ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS); – Energy and migratory species (CMS/AEWA/Raptors). <p>It is proposed to establish, under the Scientific Council, groups on issues such as marking techniques and demography possibly including experts of bodies from the rest of the Family. An expert workshop on species connectivity will take place in Venice in September 2015 at the generous invitation of the Po Delta Interregional Park.</p> <p>The Expert Group on Culture and Social Complexity (Res.11.23) was formed to develop a list of priority species listed on CMS for a comprehensive investigation of culture and social structure, and commence more detailed analysis.</p>	Core budget: staff time and various voluntary contributions see Doc.10.4 (Resource Mobilization)

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4	<p>Enhance communication and seek opportunities to develop awareness of CMS Family.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Run awareness campaigns to ensure that CMS is recognized by the public, academic institutions, international organizations and others as the global leader in the protection of migratory species.</p> <p>→ CMS to commence coordination of communication activities. (4.2)</p> <p>→ CMS to coordinate communication operations and strategies as centralized services across the Family. Coordinate press/media announcements and implementation of species campaigns and public events. Support the development and maintenance of CMS Family websites and CMS provide centralized awareness-raising on common threats through publications and online resources. (4.3)</p> <p>→ Parties/Signatories to begin to translate guidance documents into local languages to assist implementation. (4.4)</p>	<p>Enhance communication and seek opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of internal systems to enhance communication between working groups, Parties, agreements and institutions and to increase accessibility to information within the CMS Family. - Development of external systems to raise the profile of and increase awareness of CMS and the CMS Family. - Where relevant improvement of existing IT systems, for example the existing website system. - Redesign of website to include targeting specific audience groups. 	<p>Following the decision of the 41st Standing Committee meeting, the CMS Executive Secretary, in close cooperation with the Acting Executive Secretary of AEWA, established a Common CMS and AEWA Information Management, Communications and Outreach Team in January 2014 as a pilot initiative to demonstrate joint services between the two Secretariats.</p> <p>Strategically aligned Communication Strategies for CMS and AEWA are being developed. It is expected that the strategies will help strengthen strategic communications for both CMS and AEWA and provide the basis for improving the overall communication and awareness-raising efforts for the CMS Family in the years to come. See Doc. 17.1.</p> <p>Following Res. 11.3, an assessment of this pilot phase was prepared by the CMS and AEWA Executive Secretaries. See Doc. 15.2. The new Joint Communications Unit has been actively coordinating all communications activities, coordinating press/media announcements and running awareness-raising campaigns such as World Migratory Bird Day. The unit is also responsible for managing all online resources, including the CMS Family websites (re-launched in mid-2014).</p> <p>The Secretariat continues to encourage translation of documents in CMS non-official languages.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and various voluntary contributions see Doc.10.4 (Resource Mobilization)</p>
5	<p>To carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resources appropriateness.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Implementation of recommendations of gap analysis and resource assessment. (5.2)</p>	<p>Carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resource appropriateness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To prioritize resources through improved cooperation and sharing of resources. - To identify where appropriate potential partnerships. - To work with Scientific Council. - To share best practice and lessons learnt. 	<p>A Convention-wide gap analysis was developed during the last triennium and submitted to COP11. Following the recommendations of COP11, the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPIWG) is expected to take the gap analysis into account in the development of the Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The development of the resource assessment is pending provision of funding.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time</p> <p>Voluntary contribution: it is estimated that approximately €25,000 is needed</p>
6	<p>Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Implementation. (6.3)</p>	<p>Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To coordinate the work of the CMS Family. - To encourage priority setting. - To share and maximize resources. - To identify potential synergies and links between programmes and projects 	<p>COP11 extended the mandate of the Strategic Plan Working Group to the triennium 2015-2017, notably with the tasks of developing indicators and the Companion Volume. Progress will be reported to StC44 by the working group</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and voluntary contribution from Germany (€37,000)</p>

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7	<p>Restructuring of Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Implementing the review of CMS membership of Scientific Council based on species groupings or thematic issues if appropriate. (7.2)</p> <p>→ CMS-wide Scientific Institution if appropriate. (7.3)</p>	<p>Restructuring of Scientific Council to maximize capacity of expertise and knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify potential and relevant opportunities to maximize the expertise and knowledge of the Scientific Council to best support the CMS. - To identify any gaps in knowledge and/or expertise in the current membership of the Scientific Council. - To expand advice and knowledge sharing across the CMS Family. 	<p>In accordance with the provisions of Res. 11.4, the Secretariat has coordinated the consultation process for the nomination of members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for the triennium 2015-2017.</p> <p>The Secretariat has also developed draft Terms of Reference for the operations of the Scientific Council and its Sessional Committee for StC44 consideration. See Doc.14</p>	Core budget: staff time
8	<p>Identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ MOUs/Agreements consider enhancing collaboration and cooperation via sharing i.e. office/personnel/resources (e.g. as per Abu Dhabi –Dugongs and Birds of Prey). (8.3)</p>	<p>Identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage resource efficiency. - To provide opportunities for improved integration and to minimize institutional overlap through the cooperation and sharing of resources allowing for mutual assistance and logistical support. - To develop local and/or regional synergies with stakeholders. - To identify common or shared work programmes. - To aid capacity-building, fundraising and implementation at the local level. 	<p>A retreat for the CMS Family was held in June 2015 near Bonn to explore and discuss ways to enhance the programmatic collaboration and cooperation between CMS and MOUs/Agreements.</p>	Core budget: staff time and funds in line 35
9	<p>Harmonization and inter-operability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Centralization and harmonization of reporting formats and returns. Development of information technology and centralized systems and procedures in relation to data storage and analysis (Internal). (9.3)</p> <p>→ Coordinate access to research data as a centralized service across CMS agreements. (Internal) (9.4)</p>	<p>Harmonization and inter-operability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce duplication of reporting. - To analyse and compare data. - To access to data. - To improve coordination of collection, storage and management systems. - To reduce effort and time spent on collecting and reporting information across the CMS Family. 	<p>The existing Online Reporting System (ORS), which is being used by CMS, AEWA ASCOBANS and several MOUs, is being further promoted within the CMS Family and beyond</p>	Core budget: staff time

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10	<p>Strengthen the coordination and servicing of MOUs.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Ensure appropriate levels for all MOUs not currently represented. (10.2)</p>	<p>Strengthen the coordination and servicing of MOUs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOUs to receive coordinated service. - To share resources, knowledge and expertise across MOUs. - To utilize available resources. - To avoid duplication and promote consistency across MOUs. 	<p>Following a joint approach with the CITES Secretariat, the German Government has agreed to fund a position to support joint work on African elephants and other mammals. This position provides some further capacity to the CMS Secretariat to assist with the implementation of related MOUs.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and contribution from Germany (ca.€95,000 per year for 2014-2017)</p>
11	<p>Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family agreements.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Prioritizing and co-ordination of COP and MOPs. (Internal). (11.2)</p> <p>→ Coordinate with international organizations common meetings relating to shared issues (e.g. IUCN) and common research conservation programmes, species action plans and capacity-building activities for on the ground conservation. (External) (11.3)</p>	<p>Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To utilize and share resources. - To reduce time commitments required to attend meetings. - To increase attendance. - To improve sharing of knowledge and information. - To expand knowledge and information. - To develop synergistic relationships. 	<p>The Secretariat continued to explore opportunities to coordinate its meetings between the CMS Family agreements and other organizations. For instance, the CMS/AEWA/Raptors MOU Sub-regional Workshop on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds will take place on 24 August in Cape Town back-to-back with the AEWA African Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (Pre-MOP6).</p> <p>The 3rd Meeting of Signatories of the Aquatic Warbler MOU took place the 20-22 May 2015 in Lithuania back-to-back with a meeting of the EU LIFE project on Baltic Aquatic Warbler. Costs of both meetings were covered by the project.</p> <p>Since 2014, CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS operate a joint working group on underwater noise. ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS regularly convene joint workshops on topics of common interest.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and various voluntary contributions see Doc.10.4 (Resource Mobilization)</p>
12	<p>Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Encourage more Range States to become Parties/Signatories to CMS and CMS Family. (12.2).</p> <p>→ Extending the scope of existing instruments rather than developing new ones (e.g. AEWA and Elephants MOU). (12.4)</p>	<p>Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To augment the growth of the CMS Family. - To maximize resource efficiency. - To identify common threats shared across conservation programmes and relevant responses through the use of best practice. - To develop synergies. - To increase global coverage. - To focus the development of new agreements. 	<p>New Parties joined the Convention in 2015 namely Afghanistan and Brazil (see Doc 5) and there have been several new signatories to various instruments (see Doc 10.3).</p> <p>The Secretariat is further promoting the accession of new Parties by organizing regional workshops. Two workshops are planned to take place in 2015 (South-East Asia and Latin America) while two workshops will take place in 2016 (Pacific and Caribbean regions).</p> <p>In its capacity as Secretariat for numerous MOUs the CMS Secretariat in cooperation with its outposted office in Abu Dhabi undertakes multiple outreach activities to non-Signatory Range States to encourage signing, in particular to increase the membership of newer MOUs such as the Raptors, Dugong and Sharks MOU.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and voluntary contribution from the EC (€200,000)</p>

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13	<p>Seek opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→CMS provides centralized services relating to build capacity with the CMS Family including training and educational activities. (13.2).</p>	<p>Seek opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To expand and enhance capacity-building to improve conservation efforts and implementation. - To include centralized workshops by region or along common thematic interests, for example the development of national policy instruments, reporting practices and species monitoring. 	<p>Discussions on the development of capacity-building activities on common thematic issues are continuing.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time</p>
14	<p>Seek opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ CMS coordinate fundraising activities work with partners and stakeholders to expand fundraising activities. (14.1) on-going after 2014, but commences in short term.</p>	<p>Seek opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To coordinate fundraising activities. - To develop synergies. - To identify funding opportunities. 	<p>The Migratory Species Champion Programme which was launched at COP11, is being further developed.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time</p>
15	<p>Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements via Secretariats or via merger of agreements based on either geography/ ecology or on species clusters.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ If appropriate, cooperation and coordination between Agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering or on geography. (15.2)</p> <p>→ Begin considering, if appropriate, merging agreements based on geography and/or ecology or species grouping. (15.3)</p>	<p>Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements via Secretariats or via merger of agreements based on either geography/ ecology or on species clusters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering. - To maximize resources. - To encourage cooperation between agreements. - To develop common conservation programmes. - To consolidate funding. 	<p>Following Res., 11.3, the CMS Executive Secretary contracted out an analysis and report on the legal, financial, operational and administrative implications of actions to enhance synergies, such as through sharing services in common service areas of the CMS instruments. See Doc. 15.1</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and line 6</p>
16	<p>Monitoring of implementation.</p> <p>PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2017</p> <p>→ Improve mechanisms to measure implementation of CMS and its Family both from a Party and conservation perspective, quality of work, and identification of gaps and propose measures to close these gaps. Developing indicators for measuring action plans. (Internal) (16.2)</p>	<p>Monitoring of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For an assessment of the quality of work being undertaken, an identification of gaps in the programmes and what possible measures may be required in order to close the gaps. - To improve implementation across the CMS Family. - To measure success. - To share best practice. 	<p>A suite of indicators for the Migratory Species Strategic Plan 2015-2023 is being developed in parallel with developing a Companion Volume on Implementation. See activity 6.</p>	<p>Core budget: staff time and voluntary contribution from Germany reported under activity 6</p>

