

**ONLINE MEETING OF THE FLYWAYS WORKING GROUP**

*(28 February 2023)*

CMS/FLYW2/Outcome 1

**MEETING OUTCOME**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

**Discussed items and actions**

1. CMS Secretariat outlined the purpose of the online meeting of the Flyways Working Group (FWG): the FWG's meeting was an opportunity to discuss strategic matters related to the Flyways mandates and the Flyways Programme of Work (POW) also with regard to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (CMS COP14) to be held in Uzbekistan in October 2023.
2. CMS Secretariat informed the FWG that the FWG's membership had been updated. The FWG currently consists of 33 members. All participants in the meeting briefly introduced themselves. Participants were invited to propose additional members for the FWG by email to Nikola Besek ([nikola.besek@cms.int](mailto:nikola.besek@cms.int)).
3. The new chairing arrangement was confirmed. Dr Rob Clay was appointed as the new Chair of the FWG, succeeding Dr Taej Mundkur in the role. Dr Mundkur was thanked for his exemplary role chairing the FWG for nine years.
4. CMS Secretariat introduced its work on a strategic review of the Flyways mandates under the CMS. The strategic review focuses on CMS instruments, Working Groups and Task Forces that implement activities compatible with a Flyway approach to the conservation of migratory species at global level. The goal of the review is to assess the effectivity and capacity of the CMS Flyways instruments, identify the challenges in implementation and monitoring of the POW and related reporting, with a view to discuss and outline steps to address them, as well as to understand how the Flyway instruments can be better incorporated and improved within the future revision of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS). CMS Secretariat presented the strategic review to the FWG in form of a PowerPoint presentation.
5. The FWG's members discussed the presentation of the strategic review. The importance of addressing the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG), the Multi-species Action Plan on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), the avian Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and action plans, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and its strategic plan, and new opportunities to advance the Americas Flyways Framework was raised. Furthermore, the need for concrete tasks to be formulated under the Flyways mandate, in order to allow prioritization, was expressed.
6. Additionally, the importance of highlighting the Flyways-relevant Working Groups, initiatives

under CMS, Agreements and MOUs that are achieving solutions in Flyways work was emphasized.

7. The FWG discussed the possible next steps under the Flyways mandate. CMS Secretariat presented its planned next steps, including the finalization of the strategic review document and the drafting of the priorities document. The members discussed the future of the FWG, which could consist of bringing to the table various Flyways initiatives as a forum for sharing experiences and information. Moreover, the way forward on whether the Flyways resolution and/or decisions should be amended was briefly discussed.
8. The FWG's members also discussed challenges with implementing the existing global POW, including needs for clear leads for implementation of many activities, a tracking tool, and stronger connections with national reporting. Given its very high level, the FWG noted the importance of the POW being presented in well-defined, practical components. The FWG recommended that updates to the POW should focus on the next intersessional period and be closely aligned with the new CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.
9. CMS Secretariat outlined the steps of the Secretariat toward preparing for COP14 regarding Flyways mandates. Furthermore, the FWG was briefed on the upcoming Flyways-related meetings in which CMS Secretariat would participate and/or organize.

#### **Proposed next steps**

10. The Chair to communicate the outcomes of the meeting to all FWG's members.
11. CMS Secretariat to finish the draft document on strategic review, with additional annexes referring to existing CMS instruments, initiatives, Action Plans, Working Groups and Task Forces related to Flyways, and share with the FWG.
12. The FWG to provide feedback on the situation analysis of the strategic review of the Flyways mandates under CMS by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
13. FWG's members to discuss the need for convening additional online meetings prior to the CMS COP14.
14. The Secretariat and the FWG to agree on the next steps on producing Flyways document for COP14.
15. The FWG to provide inputs to the upcoming elaboration of the new CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, so as to ensure the Flyways component is incorporated.