



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

27–28 November 2013
Bonn, Germany

Report to the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species at its forty-first meeting

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It provides information on the most significant collaboration between UNEP and the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species since the fortieth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species, held in November 2012. The report also details information on administrative support provided by UNEP to the secretariat, its programme of work and the substantive cooperation between the two organizations during that period.

II. Substantive support to the Convention on Migratory Species

A. Support for the implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements through regional focal points

2. UNEP has assigned four multilateral environmental agreement focal points to its regional offices to support and coordinate regional initiatives under existing mechanisms, such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the League of Arab States, the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which aim to strengthen regional implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. The focal points represent the multilateral environmental agreements secretariats under such mechanisms by promoting their programme of work, especially decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, catalyzing partnerships and mobilizing resources.

B. Activities carried out at the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, Regional Office for Africa, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and Regional Office for North America that had an impact on the promotion and implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species

3. The UNEP Regional Office for North America shares a programme officer with the Convention secretariat and thus collaborates closely with secretariat by way of regular information exchange between the two offices and the overall promotion of the Convention in North America through joint outreach events, networking opportunities and the hosting of roundtables, among other measures. UNEP is pleased with this very effective cooperative arrangement and has observed great success from the integration of the programme officer within the ecosystem management portfolio of the UNEP Regional Office for North America. This arrangement helps to improve the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements within North America.

4. In addition, as part of the LifeWeb Panama Workshop, the programme officer provided a presentation on the Convention on Migratory Species Agreement and Action Plan and supporting framework, specifically referencing opportunities for enhanced collaborations between the LifeWeb Project and the Convention secretariat, for example through the development of regional agreements or memorandums of understanding (the presentation is available upon request).

5. The Director and the focal point of the Regional Office for North America have had meetings with scientific experts, government representatives of the United States of America and marine mammal stakeholders, such as the Marine Mammal Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, Humane Society International, the International Whaling Commission and Marine Conservation Institute, to discuss migratory species conservation issues and Convention implementation goals, in particular for marine mammals, sharks, seabirds and sea turtles. Those meetings help build support for Convention

agreements, three of which the United States is a signatory to: the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding; the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks; and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region. The meetings are continuing and have so far been very useful in leveraging the region's support for the implementation of Convention agreements.

6. To enable the participation of focal points and promote the inclusion of migratory species concerns in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the UNEP Regional Office for Europe contributed financially to the workshop on the national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Minsk, in 2011.

7. The UNEP Regional Office for Europe also presented a session on resource mobilization for all biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Migratory Species, at the workshop on the revision and financing of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Chisinau, from 10 to 14 September 2012. Approximately seven focal points attended the workshop.

8. The sixth Intergovernmental Conference on Biodiversity in Europe, held in Batumi, Georgia, in April 2013, was a key milestone in which many parties to the Convention on Migratory Species and its related agreements participated. Building on the conclusions of the Conference, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy was transformed into the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform. The Platform is led by a steering committee with the following membership: Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Norway, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Tajikistan. It is chaired by the Russian Federation and is supported by a secretariat provided by UNEP.

9. In Batumi, those countries agreed on five priorities to be undertaken before the next Conference: first, promoting synergies among biodiversity-related conventions; second, integrating biodiversity into key sectors; third, strengthening capacity-building for the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; fourth, supporting in-country activities of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity; and fifth, financing biodiversity.

10. The Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, serviced by the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, provided \$20,000 that covered costs for the participation of pan-European Range States in the meeting, namely Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, as well as the cost of document translation into Russian and Russian interpretation at the meeting.

11. The UNEP Regional Office for Europe, secretariat to the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform, is participating in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Forum, supported by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Development Programme and UNEP, to ensure that countries, including parties to the Convention on Migratory Species and related agreements, participating in the Platform update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans using the Global Biodiversity Strategy 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a framework for all biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.

12. A UNEP capacity-building workshop for 13 anglophone African countries was held in Harare, from 26 to 28 November 2012. The workshop brought together 46 national focal points of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to discuss how to integrate the objectives of biodiversity-related conventions into the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and Regional Office for Africa, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity, organized and conducted the workshop. Financial support was provided by various donors, such as the Ministry of the Environment of Sweden, the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the Government of Germany. Further support in facilitating the arrangements in the host country was provided by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Zimbabwe.

13. A similar workshop was held for eight francophone African countries in Douala, Cameroon, from 25 to 28 June 2013. The workshop, which brought together national focal points of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES, was also organized by the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The workshop combined the identification of synergies among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including in national

targets, with capacity-building, in terms of the development and use of indicators in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

14. In 2010, UNEP established a collaborative partnership with the Convention on Migratory Species Office in Abu Dhabi at the programmatic and administrative levels. A number of activities were undertaken by the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia in support of Convention activities in West Asia. Those activities are summarized below:

(a) Memorandum of understanding on the conservation and management of dugongs and their habitats throughout their range: the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia signed a co-finance commitment letter for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, which complements the continuing cooperation between the two offices to promote the dugong memorandum of understanding in the region and beyond;

(b) Memorandum of understanding on birds of prey: the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia participated in the first meeting of signatory States, which took place in Abu Dhabi, from 9 to 11 December 2012;

(c) Saker Falcon Task Force: UNEP was selected as a member of the Saker Falcon Task Force, established by resolution 10.28 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, to develop an action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of Saker falcons in their range States and promote synergies with CITES and other global mechanisms. The UNEP Regional Office for West Asia attended the first Saker Falcon Task Force workshop. Inputs were delivered to working groups on existing Saker falcon policies and mechanisms, including the working group on sustainable use. The Regional Office for West Asia will attend the second Task Force workshop, to be held from 9 to 11 September 2013;

(d) Synergies with biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. (since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia has been diligent in implementing decision X/2 to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans and use the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a framework for all biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. To this end, the Convention on Migratory Species Office in Abu Dhabi was invited to support three workshops: a workshop on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and indicators, for the Middle East and North Africa region in Muscat, in August 2012, and two workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the United Arab Emirates, held in Dubai, between May and July 2013;

(e) Collaboration on the UNEP programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015: efforts have been undertaken towards developing a concept or project for the region on by-catch fisheries and sustainable fishing policies, which has now been incorporated into the UNEP ecosystem management and climate change subprogrammes;

(f) Convention on Migratory Species information materials – communications, notifications and news: these have been effectively disseminated through regional networks, newsletters and regional meetings of the Regional Office for West Asia;

(g) Promotional activities: programmes and activities of the Convention on Migratory Species have been promoted at the regional forums of the League of Arab States and at the annual meetings of the working groups of the multilateral environmental agreements;

(h) Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) region came together in Abu Dhabi, on 12 and 13 December 2012, to decide on the way forward for the legal and institutional framework for the CAF Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds. The meeting unanimously agreed that the preferred option would be to include CAF under the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement. The delegates issued a declaration requesting the parties to the Agreement to consider extending the geographic area of that Agreement to encompass the entire CAF region and to take responsibility for the CAF Action Plan. This decision promotes synergies between instruments of the Convention on Migratory Species and, as requested by parties, ensures the strengthening of existing agreements rather than the development of new ones. The meeting report and annexes are available at www.cms.int/species/CAF/AbuDhabi_Mtg/report_2012_caf_meeting.htm. An article on the conservation of waterbirds in Central Asia is available at www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2012/12_dec/nw_121212_conservation_waterbirds_central_asia.html.

15. The broad-scale marine spatial planning for the management of marine mammal corridors and critical habitats in the Caribbean and Northeast and Southeast Pacific project, led by the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UNEP Regional Office for North America, contributed to the development of the UNEP LifeWeb Interregional Workshop on Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning and Transboundary Marine Mammal Management (21–24 May 2012, Panama City), thanks to the collaborative action of the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre, the UNEP Regional Office for North America, the MarViva Foundation and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific.

16. The workshop brought together 24 officials from 22 Governments from North America, Latin America and the wider Caribbean region, four representatives from intergovernmental organizations and 20 representatives from non-governmental organizations and universities, as well as experts and scientists.

17. The main recommendations from the workshop included:

(a) To promote future data refinement and increase the predictive capabilities of the information generated by the mapping and modelling carried out under the LifeWeb Project, in terms of populations and stocks, and threats such as shipping and fishing gear. Satellite telemetry is desirable for increasing knowledge of the migratory routes of large whales;

(b) To strengthen and build upon existing regional institutional frameworks such as the Regional Seas Programmes for the Wider Caribbean and South-East Pacific and their regional marine mammal action plans, so as to continue serving as platforms to integrate marine spatial planning, to further opportunities for the transboundary management of marine mammals and to mobilize industry and user groups;

(c) To increase national sectoral integration for marine spatial planning, identifying and engaging actors for their active participation in vision building and implementation of goals. The development of tools and materials to support what might be termed “making the case” for marine spatial planning and the benefits of transboundary management would be of value in this context;

(d) To encourage networking opportunities and collaborative efforts at the national, regional and international levels and across audiences (academic, public and private sectors) to increase knowledge of marine spatial planning, its benefits and the challenges in applying it to transboundary migratory species;

(e) To communicate the need to incorporate and embrace marine spatial planning as policy and its potential as a vehicle for the transboundary management of marine mammals by strategically tailoring the dissemination of the LifeWeb Project results to relevant forums, such as the International Whaling Commission, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the regional seas conventions and action plans;

18. A link to the documents and report of the interregional workshop on broad-scale marine planning may be found on the website of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean at www.pnuma.org/m_m_lifeweb.

C. Suggested activities to increase support over the next biennium

19. The following activities should be undertaken to increase support to the Convention on Migratory Species over the next biennium:

(a) Seek funding to hold regional workshops with focal points to promote capacity-building and awareness of the Encyclopaedia of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

(b) Seek funding to hold regional workshops in West Asia, inviting all multilateral environmental agreement focal points, including those of the Convention on Migratory Species, to promote synergies and implement national and regional joint programmes using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(c) Promote more activities on biodiversity indicators with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in support of the work carried out under the UNEP Global Environment Facility Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in all UNEP regions;

(d) Seek funding to finance Convention activities that promote synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements and contribute to the implementation of the UNEP programme of work.

D. Collaboration of the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat in UNEP programme activities

20. There is potential for the UNEP secretariat, through its programme of work, to collaborate with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat on a broad range of issues, with a view to enhancing synergies in common programme activities. An example is the Convention's membership of the UNEP drylands network and its provision of input to the UNEP draft dryland strategic agenda.

E. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

21. The second meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Plenary, whose membership currently stands at 112 member States, is scheduled to take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 9 to 14 December 2013. Further details and online registration are available at www.ipbes.net/plenary/registration-ipbes-2.

22. UNEP is continuing to provide the interim Platform secretariat in Nairobi and is currently recruiting for the Platform's secretariat positions with a view to having a fully functioning secretariat in Bonn at the earliest opportunity, co-located with the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat. UNEP is also continuing to receive financial contributions for the Platform. To date, contributions and pledges for 2013 have been received from: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The European Union has also pledged financial resources upon its acceptance as a member of the Platform.

F. Support provided to the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre

23. The online reporting system developed by UNEP-WCMC for the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement will be used for the Convention's current national reporting cycle. Training has been provided to the Convention secretariat and to representatives from other agreements within the Convention's family to enable them to establish their own questionnaire formats. The CITES secretariat is also planning to use the system for its forthcoming biennial reports. Discussions are under way regarding strengthening the system in the context of support to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

24. An integrated species information platform, known as Species+, is being developed by UNEP-WCMC in conjunction with the CITES secretariat to support the delivery of taxonomic, distribution, legal and trade management data for species subject to management by multilateral environment agreements. Liaison with the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species is under way to ensure that up-to-date information on species listed under the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as other species listed in the Convention's family agreements, is also included and made available for download by national focal points. An automated CITES checklist and the species portion of the integrated portal are scheduled for completion in 2013.

25. An online reporting system for the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental agreements has been developed by UNEP-WCMC under the guidance of the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and was successfully used by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement in 2012. The secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement actively participate in the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, which develops harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of parties and the environmental community at large.

III. Administrative support to the Convention on Migratory Species

A. Appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species

26. Mr. William Bradnee Chambers was appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species on 8 February 2013, succeeding Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, who was appointed

Deputy Director of the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation in January 2012, but kindly continued to support the Convention secretariat until Mr. Chambers's appointment in February 2013.

27. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Chambers headed the Law and Governance Branch of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. He has worked in various capacities at UNEP, including as Senior Legal Officer and Head of Policy and Synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Over the last few years, he has led the UNEP Secretariat in the Nairobi-Helsinki Ministerial Consultative Process on International Governance and in negotiations at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that led to the upgrading and strengthening of UNEP in its outcome document entitled "The future we want".

28. He has co-chaired the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, which is a collaborative platform that brings together 40 global and regional agreements from 14 secretariats hosted by four different United Nations organizations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

B. Delegation of authority

29. The delegation of authority from the Executive Director of UNEP to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, signed in August 2011, has been replaced by an updated delegation of authority for the new Executive Secretary. It includes authority relating to inter alia: programme management related to the implementation of the programme of work approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention; management of the implementation of the budget approved by the Conference of Parties and all other Convention budgets, including those financed from trust fund resources and the Convention allotment from the UNEP special account for programme support costs; and management of the human resources assigned to the Convention, as well as authority to enter into contracts for the purchase or rental of services, equipment or other requirements for activities funded under the Convention trust funds. Given that UNEP and the Convention secretariats that it administers move to the International Public Service Accounting Standards on 1 January 2014, reporting requirements under that delegation will become more stringent.

C. Support provided to the Convention on Migratory Species from programme support costs

30. The United Nations refers to the indirect costs usually expressed as a percentage of direct costs (i.e., 13 per cent) that it collects on trust fund (or extrabudgetary) expenditures as programme support costs. With regard to UNEP and the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, the recovery and use of programme support costs resources are of central importance to the financing and organization of efficient and effective programme support services. This is also the case for the secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species.

31. During the biennium 2012–2013, the posts of seven administrative staff directly assigned to the Convention secretariat are being funded from programme support costs. These include the post of Administrative and Finance Officer (P4), two finance assistant posts (G6) and two administrative assistant posts (G5) all based in Bonn. In addition, a team assistant post (G6) based in Bangkok and an administrative assistant post (G6) based in Abu Dhabi are all being funded from programme support costs.

32. Programme support costs were also used to finance staff development training and United Nations Volunteer costs under contractual services.

33. In accordance with United Nations standard procedures, the amount of resources available to the UNEP and Convention secretariats for programme support in any given year is based on the income received for that purpose in the previous year.

D. Recruitment status of the Executive Secretary of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

34. The recruitment exercise for the post of Executive Secretary of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement is under way, in accordance with United Nations regulations, rules and policies and standard procedures.

E. Memorandum of understanding between the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species and the UNEP Executive Director

35. Following consultations with the Convention Standing Committee and in line with the recommendations made by the Committee at its fortieth meeting, UNEP is preparing a draft memorandum of understanding between the Standing Committee and the UNEP Executive Director concerning secretariat services to and support for the Convention.

36. The UNEP Secretariat wishes to conclude such a memorandum of understanding as soon as possible, in view of both a recent internal audit recommendation (concerning another UNEP administered Convention) and of the transition of UNEP, along with the United Nations Secretariat, to the International Public Service Accounting Standards, effective 1 January 2014.

37. The proposed memorandum of understanding shall determine the working arrangements between the UNEP and Convention secretariats, including in areas such as the relevance of the United Nations and UNEP rules and regulations and their applicability to the operations of the secretariat, financial and budgetary matters, administrative support (including programme support cost), secretariat staff (including the process for their recruitment), the authority and accountability of the Executive Secretary, and programme evaluation and management review.

F. Other support to the secretariat

38. UNEP headquarters has provided legal support in dealing with internal justice cases within the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, as well as offering advice to the Convention secretariat on the establishment of an office in Abu Dhabi.
