



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



44th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 14-15 October 2015

UNEP/CMS/StC44/18

SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

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 1 September 2015, undertaken since the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Quito, Ecuador 2014).

It provides details of the Secretariat's interagency work following what is outlined in the Programme of Work 2015-2017 and in addition to what is reported under it in Document 10.3.

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SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Streamlining activities within the CMS Family

1. The Secretariat continues to streamline activities with the Secretariats and Coordinating Units of the CMS instruments following the mandate and guidance of Resolution 10.9. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC44/13: *Future Structure and Strategies of CMS and the CMS Family*.

Promoting CMS Issues in UN System

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

2. The Secretariat has been following the process towards the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and provided its inputs particularly on indicators through the CBD Secretariat which has been taking part in all negotiations to ensure that the conservation of biodiversity and all its components is taken into account.

Processes and initiatives under UNEP

3. The Secretariat has strengthened its relationship with UNEP through promoting joint work in the context of existing projects and with the support of available resources as well as the inclusion of provisions concerning migratory species in the next UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work.

4. 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. Recommendations for more cost-effective, and quality-driven solutions will be submitted to the Second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in June 2016.

United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)

5. The Secretariat initiated a dialogue with UNEP with a view to contribute to ongoing efforts aiming at mainstreaming environmental sustainability into the UNDAFs. The collaboration includes providing inputs to the revision of existing materials to guide country programming processes and ensuring that CMS obligations are embedded in these.

Promoting synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)

6. The Secretariat participated in the meeting which was held by video-conference on 23 January 2015 to take stock of relevant decisions of the COPs of CBD and CMS and of other MEAs. It considered how to strengthen synergies in terms of cooperation at national level, communication and public awareness and the submission of national priorities to the GEF. A physical meeting of the BLG is planned to take place in September 2015.

Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

7. Meanwhile, liaison has continued individually with BLG members through implementation of joint work plans, and enhancing synergies when possible. The Secretariat has developed Joint Work Plans for 2016-2018 with both the CBD and Ramsar Secretariats which are included in Documents UNEP/CMS/StC44/18.1 and 18.3 respectively. These documents also provide an overview of the activities which have been implemented jointly or in cooperation in 2012-2015.

8. The Joint Work Plan for 2015-2020 with the CITES Secretariat was endorsed by the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and the 42nd meeting of the CMS Standing Committee in 2014. With the generous support of Germany, the first joint CITES/CMS Programme Officer has been recruited and began work on 1 July 2015 to support and coordinate the implementation of the Joint Work Plan.

9. Close cooperation is underway with the Bern Convention particularly on the issues of poisoning and illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds and climate change. In particular, the Bern Convention Secretariat is member of the Consultative Group assisting with setting up the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT). The first meeting of the MIKT will take place in early 2016 back-to-back with the meeting of the Group of Experts on Birds of the Bern Convention. CMS was invited to participate in, and provide input for the meeting of the Bern Convention Ad Hoc Select Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change (Rome, Italy, 28 April 2015). The chair of the CMS Scientific Council and the COP-appointed councillor for climate change participated in the meeting.

10. The development of a Joint Work Plan with the Secretariat of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is at an advanced stage and will cover cooperation on both thematic issues such as ship strikes, marine debris and ecotourism and specific species including the Arabian Sea humpback whales.

Strengthen existing collaboration with other IGOs and Civil Society

11. 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.

12. 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/StC44/10.3 *Implementation of the Programme of Work 2015*.

13. 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 a notification on 16 June 2015 to invite Parties, other Governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and the civil society.

14. By 1 September 2015, the Secretariat received one preliminary contribution. The Wild Migration submitted a proposal on “The Firebird Project: Increasing involvement of NGOs in the CMS Family”. The project proposes a process for facilitating the discussion and option

development that will underpin these important discussions, while also investing the capacity and deeper engagement of NGOs and civil society organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin America to capture as broad an input as possible from the NGOs community. Parties and other potential donors are encouraged to provide funding for the implementation of this initiative.

15. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Resolution, Parties, other Governments, CSOs and NGOs Partners will be invited to provide further recommendations for improving this cooperation in the course of 2016. The Secretariat will consolidate them for the consideration by the 45th Standing Committee Meeting (last trimester of 2016) and the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2017).

Engagement in strategic collaborations

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

16. Following the CMS Resolution 11.10 and the CBD COP12 Decision XII/30, the CMS Secretariat has been liaising with the CBD Secretariat with a view to establish a process for the provision of elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the national priorities for the CMS aligned with the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To this end, a notification will be issued shortly to all CMS Parties to request inputs and a final discussion will be held at the forthcoming Standing Committee session and such advice will be transmitted to CBD Secretariat in time to their First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (2-6 May 2016) and subsequently to the CBD COP13 for its consideration.

Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs)

17. A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), in support of IOSEA and Sharks MOUs as well as other CMS activities, is included in Document UNEP/CMS/StC44/18.2. The Sharks MOU continues to engage with RFMOs and will seek further guidance from Signatories on the way forward at the Second Meeting of Signatories in early 2016.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

18. In pursuance of the mandate provided by CMS Resolution 10.8, the Secretariat and the Scientific Council have continued following the IPBES process. The Secretariat participated in the 3rd session of IPBES Plenary (IPBES-3) (Bonn, 12-17 January 2015), where inter alia it coordinated the production of, and delivered a joint statement by the biodiversity-related conventions. The chair of the Scientific Council attended the 5th meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) of the Platform (Bonn, 14-16 April 2015). In addition, the Secretariat provides administrative assistance and advice to the IPBES Secretariat upon request.

Strengthen regional collaboration and presence of CMS

19. Although no progress could be made with regard to the establishment of regional coordinators in Africa, Pacific and Latin America, the Secretariat has strengthened its relationship with various UNEP Regional Offices and regional institutions.

20. The UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) located in Bangkok, particularly through the UNEP MEA Focal Point, is assisting with the preparations of the workshop to promote the accession of South-east Asian countries to CMS; the workshop is scheduled to take place on 27-29 October 2015 in the Philippines. A similar workshop will be held in 2016 most probably in Samoa for Pacific Islands States with the assistance of the UNEP/ROAP as well as of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

21. The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), particularly through the UNEP MEA Focal Point, is providing support to the organization of the workshop to promote the accession of Latin American countries to CMS; this workshop is scheduled to take place on 22-24 September 2015 in Panama. ROLAC will also be assisting with the workshop dedicated for National Focal Points (NFPs) of the region in preparation of the CMS COP12 in 2017.

22. Contacts has been made with the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) to promote the recruitment of new Parties from the region. CARICOM will provide support to the Secretariat for the organization of a dedicated workshop to be held in Jamaica in 2016.

23. The UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP/ROA) in Nairobi as well as the newly established Sub Regional Office for West Africa based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, is helping with the logistical arrangements of the meeting of the CMS African-Eurasian Landbirds Working Group in Abidjan, in late November 2015, and of the preparatory workshop for CMS COP12 in 2017 for NFPs of African Parties.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Note the progress made and provide any comments to further guide the Secretariat in its implementation of synergies and partnerships in this inter-sessional period;
- b. Consider Documents UNEP/CMS/StC44/18.1, 18.2 and 18.3 and take necessary actions as requested.