

Progress Report by the CMS Scientific Council Flyway Working Group

This briefing note provides an update of the work of the CMS Scientific Council Flyway Working Group and builds on UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.10/Rev.1.

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9 - Rome, December 2008), adopted Resolution 9.2 which called for the establishment of *an open-ended working group on global bird flyways within the framework of the Scientific Council to act as a think tank on flyways and frameworks, and tasked with reviewing scientific and technical issues for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats and relevant international instruments, initiatives and processes, as the basis for future CMS policy on flyways and contributing to the work on the future shape of CMS.*
2. The open-ended Flyway Working Group (FWG) was established inter-sessionally in late 2009 under the purview of the Scientific Council. In addition to members of the Scientific Council, a call was made to key partners, conventions and initiatives to ensure broad coverage both in terms of expertise on bird flyway issues and geographical representation to the Working Group to enhance its work (Annex I provides the list of FWG representatives). The FWG is coordinated by representatives of the Scientific Council, with Dr. Taej Mundkur serving as Chair and Mr. John O'Sullivan as Vice Chair.
3. The FWG has three main purposes:
 - a. To review existing administrative/management instruments for migratory bird flyways globally (Review 1);
 - b. To review scientific/technical knowledge of migratory bird flyways and conservation priorities, and identify major gaps (Review 2); and
 - c. To propose policy options for flyway conservation and management to feed into the Intersessional Process Regarding the Future Shape of CMS (Review 3).
4. The production of Review 1 has been coordinated by Wetlands International while the production of Review 2 has been coordinated by BirdLife International. Funding for these reviews has been provided mainly by the CMS Secretariat, with contributions from Wetlands International and BirdLife International. The work was undertaken from February – August 2010.
5. The second draft final versions of the Reviews 1 and 2 were presented to the 16th Meeting of the Scientific Council (June 2010), where they were well received. The Reviews 1 and 2 have been finalised in August 2010.
6. Review 3, which intends to recommend policy options for CMS, is to be produced on the basis of the findings of the first two reviews. It has been initiated in September 2010 and is tentatively due to be finalised before end February 2011. The Government of Germany has generously offered support for this review. The production of the review has been coordinated by the CMS Secretariat; the review itself is being produced by Prof. Colin Galbraith.
7. The first draft of Review 3 is submitted to the CMS Standing Committee (StC), at its 37th session, and to be taken into account in conjunction with the output of the second step of the Future Shape process (report to be presented at the same 37th session of the CMS StC). The outcome of Review 3 should then be considered within the third step of the Future Shape process.
8. Preparation of the three Reviews has been achieved within very tight timeframes and has been made possible due to the strong support and valuable contributions from the Flyway Working Group representatives and the CMS Secretariat.

9. It is anticipated that the main tasks of the Flyway Working Group are to be completed by February 2011.
10. The FWG has successfully managed to tap into flyway management expertise beyond the Scientific Council, particularly in North America, where the CMS currently has no Parties, and to gather the views of other independent experts. It has been recognised that the FWG, offers a new strategic mechanism for the CMS to maintain a global overview of flyway related conservation priorities and major initiatives. Such a group can, due to its open-ended nature, continue to provide the CMS with a wider range of advice in the roll-out of the Convention's priority flyway activities into the future.
11. Therefore, the CMS may wish to consider maintenance of the Flyway Working Group as a permanent working group under the Scientific Council Working Group on Birds for this purpose. The Flyway Working Group Representative from the Government of South Africa has indicated interest to develop a resolution for the next COP to facilitate this process.
12. The Standing Committee is requested to consider the progress made by the Flyway Working Group, and to agree with, or amend, the proposals made above, particularly as regards timing of the work on Review 3, and as concerns the future role of the Working Group.

Annex I. Representation on the CMS Flyway Working Group (as at March 2010)

COP Appointed Councilors

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Annex II: Documentation relating to the Flyway Working Group

16th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council

http://www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/16th_scientific_council/16th_ScC_documents.htm

- UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.10/Rev.1: Reviews Within The Context Of The CMS Working Group On Flyways (Introductory note prepared by the CMS Secretariat)
- UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.10 Annex 1a: Review 1 - Existing CMS and non-CMS instruments. Summary Briefing Note
- UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.10 Annex 1b: Review 1 - A review of CMS and non-CMS existing administrative/management instruments for migratory birds globally
- UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.10 Annex 2a Review 2 - Review of Current Knowledge of Bird Flyways, Principal Knowledge Gaps and Conservation Priorities Executive Summary
- UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.10 Annex 2b Review 2 - Review of Current Knowledge of Bird Flyways, Principal Knowledge Gaps and Conservation Priorities

The summary briefing are in English, French and Spanish (Annex 1a and 2a), while the full report is only in English.

- UNEP/CMS/ScC16/REPORT: Report Of The 16th Meeting Of The CMS Scientific Council, Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June 2010
http://www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/16th_scientific_council/ScC16_Mtg_Rpt.html