



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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CMS/StC28/9-E

Progress on CMS Activities in Relation to the 2010 Biodiversity Target

Introduction

At its 26th Meeting in July 2003, the CMS Standing Committee (StC) agreed that CMS should contribute to the work being led by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to develop a set of global indicators to measure the international community's achievement of the 2010 target – the significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010. The Sixth Meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) had originally agreed the target in April 2002. This was later endorsed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002.

StC26 endorsed the development of a paper by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and requested the Secretariat to announce CMS's intention to undertake the necessary work to contribute to the CBD process.

A statement was made at the 9th Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (Montreal, 10-14 November 2003) expressing CMS's readiness to contribute to the process. This was later reflected in SBSTTA Recommendation IX/13, where SBSTTA welcomed "*the initiatives taken under...the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals that contribute to promoting and assessing progress towards the 2010 target.*" At its Seventh Meeting in Kuala Lumpur (9-20 February 2004) the CBD COP invited "*related conventions to contribute reports and information that assist the monitoring of progress towards the 2010 target*" (Decision VII/30).

The paper prepared by UNEP-WCMC was provided to the Twelfth Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC12) (CMS/ScC12/Doc.17). During the meeting UNEP-WCMC summarised the progress that was being made by the CBD Secretariat in developing targets, objectives and global indicators for the achievement of the 2010 target. Reviewing the information and proposals contained in Document 17, UNEP-WCMC emphasized that CMS was one of the very few global multilateral agreements explicitly dealing with the conservation of species and their habitats. It therefore directly addressed one of the key components of biodiversity, and its mandate explicitly covered species with populations that occurred regularly in more than one country. UNEP-WCMC accordingly proposed that CMS should explicitly recognize the relevance of the 2010 target to its activities and objectives, report on the action that it had taken to achieve the target and develop indicators on migratory species that could help assess progress in achieving the target. The document itself contained a set of 10 preliminary recommendations that CMS could act upon, and was described as a "rolling draft" that could be significantly improved with input from CMS bodies and Agreement Secretariats.

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ScC12 discussed the 2010 target in two contexts. First, in the context of the draft CMS Strategic Plan, where it was recommended that CMS's achievement of the 2010 target should figure more prominently. Second, it undertook a limited discussion of the UNEP-WCMC paper and its recommendations, while making the primary recommendation that the CMS Secretariat liaise with the CBD Secretariat to clarify the best inputs that CMS could make into its process.

A revision of the UNEP-WCMC paper was tabled at StC27. While it was not expected to consider in detail the technical and scientific aspects of the study, the Standing Committee was requested to consider the larger context and to provide some general guidance on how to proceed to capitalise on the interim period until the next Scientific Council meeting and COP8.

Key interrelated issues were (i) the relationship between, and emphasis given to contributing migratory species indicators of success in achieving the 2010 target, while measuring the Convention's overall effectiveness in achieving the objectives expressed in the future Strategic Plan; (ii) in relation to the previous point, the need to develop supporting outcome-oriented targets and indicators under the new Strategic Plan; (iii) the availability, management and processing of information measuring successful outcomes both under the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the 2010 target; (iv) the need to develop partnerships - both within the CMS family and outside it - to develop the indicator(s), and to compile and use the necessary information for indicator development and reporting.

Main indications of the meeting pointed to focusing assessing the achievement of the Convention's strategic objectives and targets, with a 2010 indicator (or indicators) being one form of output of the assessment process, in effect making a link between the future Strategic Plan and CMS's impact on the ground. An assessment of available data and information was seen as desirable in view of further consideration on how to proceed, possibly presenting them in graphic form and focusing on Appendix I species or a subset of them such as *CMS Concerted Action species*. The Secretariat was urged to look into the CBD's timetable and approach with a view to continuing the ongoing dialogue between the two conventions.

In the next sections of this note progress on the above issues will be summarized.

Relationship between the 2010 target and the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

The 2010 target has been considered in the further elaboration of the draft CMS Strategic Plan, notably at the workshop which took place in London from 2-4 March 2005. The issue is not considered in detail in this paper, and reference is made to Doc. CMS/StC28/8, presenting the revised version of the draft Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

Explicit reference to the relation between the 2010 target and the CMS Strategic Plan is given at the level of introduction of the document, where it is stated that "*This Strategic Plan, together with future associated implementation plans for the various CMS bodies, represents the Convention's planned contribution to achieving the 2010 target, ...*", thus indicating that the Strategic Plan will be the primary framework through which the Convention will contribute to achieving the target.

It should be noted that the 2010 target is a consensual target endorsed by all governments participating within the CBD framework and later endorsed by the WSSD process. Much of CMS's work is already geared to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and therefore CMS is already contributing to reaching the target set. However to maximise the Convention's impact will require (1) a further focussing and implementation of the CMS work programme towards meeting the target with respect to migratory species, (2) periodically monitoring and evaluating the Strategic Plan's implementation by Contracting Parties (through national reports), CMS bodies, agreements

developed under its auspices and key partners and by using the CMS Information Management System to process the information to measure conservation impact on the ground and then (3) reporting on CMS's achievements both internally and externally, most notably by making periodic input into the CBD process.

An important link also needs to be recognised between the CMS budget, the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the 2010 target. The WSSD Plan of Implementation especially pointed out that “*achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources*”.

Within the context of the CMS budget discussions Parties will have a spectrum of choices before them at the COP. If Parties choose options from the lower end of the spectrum, then they will also implicitly be choosing to reduce the capacity of the Convention to contribute towards the 2010 target. Options from the higher end of the spectrum will retain or increase the Convention's capacity to deliver tangibly towards the target. In this regard, while much of the CMS programme of work should be seen as a contribution towards achieving the target, some elements of it, especially new work financed by new resources, could be highlighted and packaged as a “CMS 2010” sub-programme. Such a “CMS 2010” sub-programme could also be used to support CMS's fund-raising initiative with the private sector (CMS/StC28/6). However, the Secretariat would feel comfortable with this approach only if it could be demonstrated that new and additional resources were available from CMS.

To make the link between the 2010 target and the CMS Strategic Plan will also require the development of biological indicators in the form of an index on migratory species. The revised draft of the Strategic Plan recognises this, as it is briefly discussed in the next section of this note.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee may consider expressing its views on the extent to which consideration of issues related to the 2010 target is adequate in the present version of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

Development of Indicators

The revised draft Strategic Plan's logical framework makes reference to indicators and milestones. For example the achievement of the Plan's high level goal – *To ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species thereby contributing to global sustainability* – would be measured by the number of Appendix I species whose conservation status has improved as indicated by a CMS global index. Directly relevant to this and the development of indicators are targets 1.3 and 1.5 of the draft Strategic Plan, while target 1.1 is directly related to identified needs of management and processing of information to facilitate assessment of progress towards the 2010 target, and communication of this assessment.

The CMS migratory species index is envisioned to be a direct contribution to the CBD process and the work being undertaken in its framework to identify and use a series of regional and global indicators.

Developments have been followed by the Secretariat with support from UNEP-WCMC, mainly in the framework of CBD.

In May 2003, a meeting was convened in London jointly by the CBD Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC and UNDP on '2010 – *The Global Biodiversity Challenge*'. The meeting was attended by the Chair of the CMS Standing Committee and the Chair of the CMS Scientific Council. The meeting recommended, *inter alia*, that a set of approximately ten key indicators be identified or developed, and that priority should be given to regional or global indicators.

The CBD SBSTTA discussed the issue at its 9th Meeting (Montreal, 10-14 November 2003). Subsequently, the CBD COP at its 7th Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 February 2004) adopted decision VII/30, in which the COP *inter alia* agreed that a limited number of trial indicators be developed and used in reporting progress in achieving the 2010 target.

An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) meeting for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target was convened by CBD in October 2004. The main objective of the meeting was to assist the CBD SBSTTA in identifying or developing indicators for assessing progress at the global level, and communicating effectively trends in biodiversity. CMS was represented at the meeting by Mr. J. Harrison from UNEP-WCMC.

Of particular relevance to CMS, the AHTEG meeting proposed two species-related indicators, the Living Planet Index and the Red List Index, while noting that these should be used in conjunction with other information on species trends. These indicators were subsequently endorsed by the SBSTTA at its 10th Meeting (Bangkok, February 2005). Some further details and considerations on the possible relevance of these two indicators for CMS are given below.

Living Planet Index (LPI)

LPI was identified by the AHTEG meeting as the key method for illustrating trends in abundance and distribution of species, at global, regional and (sub-) national scale, as well as within biogeographic units, ecosystems or taxonomic groups. At the same time, the meeting made several observations and recommendations for its improvement.

Following the AHTEG meeting contacts has been undertaken among UNEP-WCMC, WWF, IUCN and BLI on further development of the LPI, of which the CMS Secretariat has been kept informed. The CMS Secretariat has been contacted by WWF with a proposal to consider the development of the Index for Migratory Species. The Secretariat has responded positively to this approach in informal discussions and meetings with WWF.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is asked to endorse this in principle on the basis that any work would be jointly funded by CMS and WWF.

Red List Index (RLI)

RLI is being developed by partners in the Red List Consortium on the basis of the IUCN Red List. The RLI illustrates the relative rate at which species in a particular group change in overall threat status (i.e. projected relative extinction risk) as quantified by Red List categories.

Development of the index is at an advanced stage, and SBSTTA10 considered it ready for immediate testing. A presentation of the index was made at the recent Conference 'Biodiversity Science and Governance' (Paris, 24-28 January 2005) within a workshop on biodiversity indicators and the 2010 target. The index has already been tested on several subsets of species, including some of relevance to CMS and related agreements such as migratory birds, Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). Preliminary results are also available in peer-reviewed scientific literature.

Action requested:

In the light of these developments, the Standing Committee may wish to:

- a) request the Secretariat to continue liaising with partners to follow the developments of these indicators, particularly the Living Planet Index;
- b) request the Scientific Council to consider at its next meeting the significance of these indicators for migratory species, both in the assessment and communication of progress in achieving the Convention's objectives and targets, and the achievement of the 2010 target, as well as the requirement for their effective application, with a view to providing advice to the COP on the way forward.

The Ramsar Convention is in the process of developing (for consideration by its COP9 in 2005) indicators for assessing the Convention's effectiveness. Its Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) established an expert working group to develop a set of key outcome-oriented ecological indicators that should provide information about the achievement of the Ramsar Convention's objectives.

The working group held two meetings, selecting seven indicators to which the highest priority should be given. The choice was approved by the STRP meeting held in Gland, 1-4 February 2005, and fact sheets for each of the selected indicators are being developed. Among the selected indicators, those concerning taxon/species status would be more directly relevant to CMS interests.

The approach adopted by the Ramsar Convention concerning the development of indicators – i.e. develop them with the primary goal of measuring the implementation effectiveness of the convention, with the indicators concerned with the achievement of the 2010 target being seen as an output of this process - seems to correspond with the orientations that so far have been expressed within CMS on the same issue.

Action requested:

In the light of this, the Standing Committee may wish to request the Secretariat to continue following the work on indicators within the Ramsar Convention, with a view to developing synergies where appropriate.

Additional tools for evaluation and reporting

Species-related indicators should be used in conjunction with other information on species trends. Of relevance in this regard is an exercise being undertaken within the Scientific Council, consisting in the preparation of rapid reviews of the conservation status and conservation actions undertaken for species of CMS interest. A preliminary report covering the 43 *CMS Concerted Action Species* (Res. Conf. 7.1) has been compiled by UNEP-WCMC and presented at ScC12. Information has been chiefly compiled from sources integrated through the *CMS Information Management System* (CMS IMS). These include internet sites and databases of specialised agencies, as well as data available from the *CMS Party Reports Database*, and at UNEP-WCMC.

These reviews were produced with the following objectives:

- * To provide a concise overview of the conservation status for each species both at the global level as well as for, when known, each country in the distribution range of the taxon. Information on population trends is also included when available;

- * To provide a concise overview of the conservation actions reported by Parties to CMS, as well as of the conservation actions known to be in place at each country in the distribution range of the taxon;
- * To assess the amount of information available within, and through, the CMS IMS, and to identify other relevant sources of online specialist information which could be interconnected through the CMS IMS for future reference.

The report is expected to be given further consideration at the 13th Meeting of the Scientific Council both in term of structure and content.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee may wish to request the Council to consider options for the further development of the report with a view to assessing progress in achieving the Convention's objectives, in conjunction with possible indicators.

Synergies with other biodiversity-related Conventions

The Seventh Meeting of the CBD COP recognized that enhanced international cooperation and improved coordination at national level will be important efforts to meet the 2010 target, and therefore urged further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies (Decision VII/26) . In particular, the COP requested the CBD Executive Secretary to invite the secretariats of the other four biodiversity-related conventions (CITES, Ramsar, CMS and World Heritage Convention) to form a liaison group to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation.

Drawing on the experience to be gained in the operation of the liaison group the COP also requested the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with relevant conventions, organizations and bodies, to examine options for a flexible framework between all relevant actors, such as a "global partnership on biodiversity", that should enhance implementation through improved cooperation.

The biodiversity liaison group met twice and a third meeting is scheduled for 10 May 2005. At the first two meetings two priority issues were identified and will be addressed at subsequent meetings, namely: (a) the 2010 target on Biodiversity; and (b) the Global Partnership on Biodiversity.

The group is seeking enhanced cooperation, in assessing progress towards the 2010 target, through the establishment of targets, data provision, the development and use of indicators, reporting, and contributions to the Global Biodiversity Outlook. The group will also discuss options for enhancing cooperation to achieve the 2010 target, including implementation of the conventions, and consideration of alternatives for a global partnership on biodiversity.

CMS is actively participating in the meetings of the liaison group and working on the identification of those areas where joint activities can most effectively boost progress towards achieving the 2010 target. In particular, the CMS Secretariat stands ready to assist the group in the development of indicators and the provision of relevant data.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee may wish to consider proposing additional items and priorities to achieve the 2010 target to be addressed by the liaison group at its next meeting on 10 May 2005.