



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document provides an update on implementation of Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) *Synergies and Partnerships* also with regard to mechanisms, models and modalities to enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society.

The document proposes amendments to Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) *Synergies and Partnerships* in Annex 1 and the adoption of new Decisions *NGO Participation in CMS Processes* in Annex 2. In Annex 3, it also contains the Executive Summary and a series of principles, suggestions, and recommendations of the review on the value of CMS to NGO Partners.

SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties to CMS at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, October 2017) adopted Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) on *Synergies and Partnerships*. The document provides an overview of the progress made on its implementation.

Activities since COP12

Promoting CMS Issues in the UN System

2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

2. The Secretariat attended the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (9-18 July 2018) and promoted awareness on the interlinkages between sustainable development and the conservation of wildlife and the Manila Declaration adopted by COP12.

Processes and Initiatives under UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

3. The Secretariat maintains a close relationship with the Executive Office and a number of the Divisions and Regional Offices of UNEP on various programmatic issues.
4. The Secretariat took part in Inter-agency coordination Meeting on advancing Environment Rule of Law Together organized by the UNEP Law Division on 26-28 November 2019, Geneva and has been participating in the UNEP project that aims at improving synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. A component of this project focuses on developing activities to streamline and amplify the biodiversity messaging particularly in the run-up to 2020. The Secretariat attended the two meetings of the Communications Officers of the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and UN Environment, the second of which took place in the margins of the Ramsar COP13 (21-29 October 2018, Dubai).
5. Especially in view of COP13, the Secretariat has been regularly liaising with the UNEP Office for Asia and the Pacific which promoted CMS priorities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework development to support ASEAN consultations on the matter (13 - 14 November 2019,Cambodia) and has been assisting with encouraging accession of countries of the region to CMS and in their engagement in COP13. Additionally, the UNEP Office in India has been playing an instrumental role in the organization of COP13.
6. The Secretariat attended the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA3, 4-6 December 2017, Nairobi) to promote the contributions of the CMS COP12 agenda to the main theme of the UNEA Meeting, "*Pollution Free Planet*" as well as the outcome of the Leadership Dialogue Breakfast, which was organized in cooperation with UN Environment immediately before COP12 in Manila. The Secretariat also attended UNEA4 (11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya) where it promoted CMS's mandate is pertinent to the UNEA4 theme, "*Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production*". It also delivered a statement on behalf of the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to highlight successful approaches, policies and initiatives which have been developed under these conventions to promote sustainable production and consumption and to address environmental challenges including halting biodiversity loss.

7. The Secretariat is an active member of the UN Environment driven MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative. A flagship project of the initiative is InforMEA (www.informea.org), a web-portal which provides central, organized access to a wide array of MEA information such as COP decisions and resolutions, national reports, focal point contact information. For CMS and the wider CMS Family, the initiative has significantly helped to strengthen the Secretariats capacity in the key area of knowledge and information management, while also being an excellent forum for exchange and collaboration with other MEAs on other key common MEA topics such as e-learning, common vocabularies (agreed terminologies) and online national reporting.
8. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) became a member of the Working Group on the CMS Family inputs to the post-2020 framework and took part in its second meeting in November 2019 as well as in informal consultations focusing on ecological connectivity and the post-2020 framework. WCMC has been providing support for the national reporting processes and CMS and its Family and was also commissioned to produce key documents for the consideration of the Fourth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (12-15 November 2019) and COP13.

Environment Management Group (EMG)

9. In the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process, EMG was requested by the facilitating the contribution of its members to this new global commitment in response to the decision of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG). The CMS Secretariat, as EMG member, attended all EMG meetings held so far on the topic including a first informal meeting which was held on 26 August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The 25th Meeting of the EMG Senior Officials (25 September 2019, New York) agreed to the establishment of an inter-agency Consultative Process to prepare a system-wide contribution to the development and implementation of the on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Consultative Process met for the first time in the margins of the 23rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, November 25-29, in Montreal, Canada, to review its terms.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

10. Cooperation with IPBES had been ongoing since the launch of the platform in 2012 in line with Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP12). Details of key activities which have been carried out in 2018 and 2019 are included in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18.1 *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*.

Promoting Synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)

11. Collaboration among the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, including CMS, increased significantly over the last two years particularly in relation to the post-2020 process and results in regard consultations and joint statements in different fora.

12. The Secretariat took part in the Thirteenth Meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions (BLG) which took place in September 2018 in Rome. The report of the meeting is available at the following link: www.cbd.int/cooperation/BLG-13-rep-final-en.pdf. The Secretariat also attended the Fourteenth Meeting of the BLG which was hosted by the International Whaling Commission on 26-27 September 2019, in Cambridge, UK. The meeting focused on expectations and perspectives of the eight biodiversity-related conventions of the post-2020 framework and on possible key elements for its development and implementation. The meeting agreed on the need to promote regular consultations with the Co-Chairs of the OEWG to help shape the post-2020 framework in a coherent manner. A phone call took place in October while a second one will be held in January in preparation of the Second Meeting of the OEWG.

Biodiversity-related MEAs and others

13. Meanwhile, bilateral cooperation with BLG members and other MEAs has continued through the implementation of joint work plans and enhancing synergies when possible.
14. On the basis of their Joint Work Programme 2015-2020, the Secretariats of CMS and of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) worked closely to further the conservation of a number of common species. The African Carnivore Initiative (ACI), which is a region wide commitment towards protecting African Wild Dog, Cheetah, Leopard and Lion, was jointly established and its first Meeting of the ACI Range States took place on 5-8 November 2018 in Bonn. The initiative was endorsed by the COP18 of CITES (17-28 August 2019, Geneva). Further details are included in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.3.1/Rev.1 *African Carnivores Initiative*.
15. The joint work plans with the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) reached their expiration in 2018. The Secretariat informed the Standing Committee at its 48th Meeting (23-24 October 2018, Bonn) and proposed to extend them and revise them at a later time with the view to including the outcome of their respective COPs and any consideration of the development of the post-2020 framework. The Standing Committee endorsed the extension of both joint workplans and the cooperation with both Secretariats continued in this framework. Both CBD and Ramsar became members of the CMS Energy Task Force (EFT). The Third Meeting of the EFT was held on 16 November 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, in the margins of the High-Level Segment and the Business and Biodiversity Forum of the CBD COP14 was attended by the Ramsar Secretariat.
16. The CMS Secretariat took part in the CBD COP14 and meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI2, 9-13 July 2018) and of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA23, 25 - 29 November 2019, Montreal, Canada) to promote current and future collaboration particularly in preparation of the post-2020 framework. Further details are included in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.17 *CMS Contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*.
17. A number of meetings and other activities were organized by the CMS Secretariat in connection with other conventions including Ramsar and the World Heritage Convention, to promote connectivity conservation. Further details are included in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18.1 *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)* and UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.4 *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*.

18. CMS and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) have recently joined forces to encourage best practice in the growing whale watching industry worldwide and launched a Whale Watching Handbook in October 2018. The Handbook was formally endorsed at the IWC biennial meeting in September 2018. Further details are included in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.5 *Marine Wildlife Watching*.
19. Collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification increased on the topics of the conservation of landbirds (AEMLAP) and ecological connectivity.

Strengthen Existing Collaboration with Civil Society

20. CMS continued to benefit from the support of numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the implementation of species Memoranda of Understanding and initiatives as well as in the operation of various processes, working groups and task forces.
21. Born Free Foundation is the latest NGO which entered into a formal partnership with the Secretariat. A related agreement was signed during the Third Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (29 May - 1 June 2018).

Cooperation on outreach activities

22. Following the conclusion of the agreement between CMS and AEWA and Environment for the Americas (EFTA) in the margins of COP12, World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is now celebrated as a single global campaign twice a year, both on the second Saturdays in May and in October. The campaign unifies the planet's major migratory bird corridors, or flyways: the African-Eurasian flyway, the East Asian-Australasian flyway and the Americas flyways and by doing so, it reaches out to a broader audience thus amplifying its message for bird conservation. CMS and AEWA and Environment for the Americas have been working closely to manage the global campaign and on creating a common vision for the campaign. For both 2018 and 2019 an astonishing number of events were registered around the globe especially with this year's theme which highlighted the problem of plastic pollution and promoted measures to address negative impact of plastic on migratory birds and their habitats. The CMS and AEWA Secretariats and EFTA have agreed on the 2020 WMBD's theme: "*Birds connect our world*" - which will help communicate the concept of connectivity to a broader audience.
23. The CMS Secretariat has also participated in a workshop dedicated to the development of a Communication Strategy for the Post 2020 Framework organized by the CBD Secretariat on 21-22 November 2019. It is expected that the updated strategy will take into account the mandates of all biodiversity MEAs and ensure that their respective messages are part of the global communication strategy which will try to elevate the importance of nature and biodiversity conservation.

Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society

24. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) refer to strengthening the cooperation the CMS Family and civil society both at international and national levels and extending opportunities for civil society to be involved in CMS processes and implement the Convention.

25. To promote the implementation of these provisions, the Secretariat issued a Notification (2018/008 on 3 August 2018) to invite Parties, other governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to consider and make recommendations on the relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society, specifically on:
 - Mechanisms that will facilitate CSO- and NGO-facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family and to be considered by the Parties and governing bodies of agreements within the CMS Family;
 - Models for further CSO and NGO involvement in CMS processes;
 - Modalities for further strategic engagement with CSOs and NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise.
26. Inputs were received from the Governments of Australia and Poland and from Wild Migration also on behalf BirdLife International, OceanCare and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). All submissions were compiled in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.32 *Inputs towards enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society*, as they were received, with a courtesy translation in the official languages.
27. Australia suggested the possibility of extending an invitation to provide written reports of their work to those NGOs that regularly attended COPs.
28. The group of NGOs lead by Wild Migration proposed to produce a review on the value of CMS to NGO partners (which have signed a formal partnership agreement with the Secretariat), as well as a reporting format for civil society, for the consideration of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13, 17-22 February 2020, Gandhinagar, India).
29. The 49th Meeting of the Standing Committee (23-24 October 2018, Bonn, Germany) reviewed and took note of the report by the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12), including the inputs received on the relationship between the CMS Family and the civil society.
30. The Standing Committee welcomed the suggestion that the group of NGOs would produce a reporting format for civil society as part of their review for COP13.
31. Following the decision of the Standing Committee, these NGOs established a “Civil Society Project Steering Group” to lead the work and developed a review “*Conservation Collaboration: Strengthening the relationship between CMS and its NGO partners when the world needs us most*”. This review, which is presented in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.33, is based on information gathered through an interview and questionnaire process carried out in 2019 which involved 12 CMS formal NGO partners.
32. Among its findings, the review quantifies the combined financial commitment of these NGOs to CMS and the status of their relationship with the CMS Family.
33. In line with Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12), the review proposes a series of principles, suggestions, and recommendations which are contained, together with the Executive Summary, in Annex 3 of this document.

Discussion and analysis

34. The CMS Secretariat is appreciative of the cooperation with other UN entities, including biodiversity-related conventions, and NGOs which play a key role in furthering the implementation of CMS and its related initiatives as well as raising its profile and relevance at different levels.
35. Since COP12, the Secretariat has made considerable efforts to enhancing existing partnerships and co-operative relationships, largely in relation to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
36. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat could explore ways to establishing a dialogue with other key sectoral groups including indigenous peoples, local communities and youth groups as well as to increasing the engagement and recognition of those NGO partners whose activities make a significant contribution to CMS.

Amendment of Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) and adoption of draft Decisions

37. The draft amendments to Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) contained in Annex 1 reflect some of the suggestions and recommendations proposed by the review "*Conservation Collaboration: Strengthening the relationship between CMS and its NGO partners when the world needs us most*" as well as the importance to promote the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in CMS processes and to cooperate with other Conventions in the further development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
38. Annex 2 contains proposed Decisions aimed at setting up a process for a special accreditation to be conferred to those NGOs willing to play a key role in the implementation of the Convention and provide a regular and significant contribution to the further development and application of its policies as well as technical and scientific tools. Such a process would build on the experience of other Conventions e.g. the Ramsar Convention and take account of the recommendations of the review contained in Annex 3.

Recommended Actions

39. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document; and
 - c) take note of the Executive Summary and recommendations of the review "*Conservation Collaboration: Strengthening the relationship between CMS and its NGO partners when the world needs us most*" in Annex 3, which is based on the full review in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.33.

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 11.10 (REV. COP12)

SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

Recalling Resolution 7.9 on “Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes”, Resolution 8.11 on “Cooperation with other Conventions”, Resolution 9.6 on “Cooperation with Other Bodies” and Resolution 10.21 on “Synergies and Partnerships”, as well as Resolution 10.25 on “Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility”,

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation and synergies with other bodies, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector,

Recognizing the instrumental role of partner organizations in the development and implementation of CMS and its related initiatives and outreach campaigns, including the negotiation of the Convention itself,

Appreciating the value of such partnerships in reaching a wider audience and raising public awareness of the Convention and the importance of conserving migratory species on a global scale,

Noting with appreciation all the individuals and organizations that contributed to the achievements of the Year of the Turtle (2006), Year of the Dolphin (2007/8), Year of the Gorilla (2009) and Year of the Bat (2011/12) and contribute to the annual campaign of the World Migratory Bird Day,

Expressing its gratitude to the many partner organizations that have assisted in promoting CMS and its mandate, for example, by facilitating the negotiation and implementation of species agreements under the Convention,

Welcoming the report on Synergies and Partnerships (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18/21.4), prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme/CMS Secretariat, and the progress made in enhancing cooperation, coordination, synergies as well as partnerships with biodiversity-related Conventions and other relevant institutions, and NGOs,

Welcoming also the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.3) which aims to promote the interlinkages between sustainable development and the conservation of wildlife with a special focus on migratory species and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Further taking note of the results of the United Nations Environment Programme project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies,

Welcoming the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions,

Welcoming also the continuing and important cooperation among the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions including through Memoranda of Understanding between the CMS Secretariat and the Secretariats of the International Whaling Commission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention and CITES,

~~*Further welcoming* the Memoranda of Understanding with the Migratory Wildlife Network¹ and the Environmental Law Centre of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),~~

Aware of the ongoing discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the formalization of a Memorandum of Cooperation, and *appreciating* the important efforts made by CMS to enhance relationships with organizations that have different mandates or goals, such as FAO, which provides multidisciplinary solutions aimed at currently achieving food security, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and ecosystem health,

~~*Recognizing* the importance of ongoing cooperation among secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to develop and implement a post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Decision X/2 of CBD) and noting the establishment the road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020 of an provided by the informal advisory group on synergies to provide advice on prioritization and implementation of actions (CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.1 Decision XIII/24 of CBD),~~

Highlighting the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 as a strategic framework for synergies and partnerships with other MEAs, organizations and stakeholders, which will provided an important contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and will support the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and achievement of the SDGs,

Further recognizing the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *The Future We Want*, which recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the MEAs and *encouraging* the Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst MEAs, and

Convinced of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherent national level implementation of each of the conventions,

Recalling Resolution 11.11, which invited the Secretariat, Parties, other Governments, civil society organizations (CSO) and non-governmental organization (NGO) Partners to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society, and

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in promoting the use of remote/video conferencing technology to enable Parties, agreements, NGOs, and non-Party range states partial or full remote access to all CMS and CMS agreement full and intersessional meetings;

Acknowledging the review on the value of CMS to NGO Partners and *Recognizing* the recommendations for strengthening the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society Partner NGOs submitted to the Conference of Parties and contained in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18/Annex.4 and UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.33,

¹ Now known as Wild Migration.

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Stresses* the importance of supporting the objectives of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to improve national collaboration, communication and coordination with relevant organizations and processes;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform biodiversity related agreements, including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners about the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 and pursue further activities related to synergies and partnerships within that framework;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue developing effective and practical cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including other biodiversity instruments, ~~and~~ international organizations, ~~and~~ NGOs;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to identify potential strategic partners and engage with them when developing campaigns and other outreach activities and encourages all relevant stakeholders to contribute to these initiatives;
5. ~~*Welcomes*~~ *Encourages* the implementation of the recommendations responding to a request of Parties set out in Resolution 11.11 contained in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18/Annex.4 aimed at enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society both at international and national levels;
6. *Recognizes* that formal partnerships with biodiversity-related NGOs have the potential to significantly increase the delivery of the Convention's objectives and may deserve of a formal recognition;
6. *bis Requests* the Secretariat to continue endorsing NGO funding requests for projects that contribute to the implementation of any plans, actions or initiatives under the CMS Family;
- ~~6 *Further encourages* the CMS Secretariat, Parties, other Governments, CSO and NGO Partners to elaborate and report to the Conference of the Parties mechanisms, models and modalities to enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society, as outlined in Resolution 11.11, including:~~
 - ~~— Mechanisms that will facilitate CSO and NGO facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family and to be considered by the Parties and CMS Family agreement governing bodies;~~
 - ~~— Models for further CSO and NGO involvement in CMS processes; and~~
 - ~~— Modalities for further strategic engagement with CSOs and NGOs to provide implementation and capacity building expertise;~~

- 6.ter Encourages Parties, CMS, NGOs, and other stakeholders to strengthen engagement with indigenous peoples, youth groups and local communities across the CMS Family and requests the Secretariat to take steps to increase the participation of indigenous peoples, youth groups and local communities in CMS processes, building on the experiences from the CBD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) Facilitative Working Group;
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat to facilitate non-formalized collaborations with partners such as the FAO and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), that can help to extend the multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary scope of approaches to collaboration;
 8. *Further requests* the Secretariat to pursue strengthened partnerships with the private sector in accordance with the CMS Code of Conduct;
 9. *Further requests* the Secretariat, its daughter Agreements within the mandates given by their Parties/Signatories and the Scientific Council to enhance their engagement with expert committees and processes initiated by partners, as appropriate;
 10. *Welcomes* the joint work plan between the secretariats of the CMS and CITES and *further requests* the Secretariat to prepare proposals to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies, with other biodiversity-related conventions, including through joint work plans with clear targets and timetables aligned with the CMS strategic plan, for consideration at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
 11. *Requests* the Secretariat to take action to strengthen implementation of CMS through the processes on the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), including through cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and its Regional Offices;
 12. *Also requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of other conventions to continue liaising with the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices and make best use of their role in assisting the implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs;
 13. *Further requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of CBD and of other relevant MEAs to consider and advise on ways and means of more coherently addressing the conservation and sustainable use of animal species in CBD processes, including in relation to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework implementation by biodiversity-related conventions of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets; and *further requests* the Secretariat to report on progress to ~~the Scientific Council and~~ each meeting of the COP;
 14. *Further requests* the Secretariat to enhance cooperation through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the biodiversity indicators partnership to improve a global set of biodiversity indicators in view of the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
 15. *Further requests* the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies with the Ramsar Convention to pursue the most effective actions for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats;

16. ~~Welcomes the Gangwon Declaration adopted on the occasion of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which welcomes the importance given to biodiversity in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the further integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda, and~~ Requests the Secretariat to continue to engage with the process on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs in cooperation with the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
17. *Invites* the members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation and coordination with a view to increasing synergies among their respective explorations and developments of online reporting systems as a means to increase synergies on national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions;
18. *Also invites* the members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group to consider ways and means to increase cooperation on their outreach and communication strategies;
19. *Further invites* the Biodiversity Liaison Group to take into due consideration the need to optimize monitoring efforts and improve effectiveness through the use of coherent monitoring frameworks and indicator systems;
20. *Requests* the Secretariat as far as possible to avoid duplication of work on the same issues among MEAs dedicated to nature protection issues, and *invites* the Biodiversity Liaison Group to address at its future meetings options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, ~~bushmeat~~ wild meat and invasive alien species, including through exploring the possibility of identifying lead MEAs in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes;
21. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to report to the Standing Committee on progress made including on results of joint activities as discussed and agreed in the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
22. *Recognizes* that adequate resources are required to allow partnerships to be developed, and such resources could be provided in part through voluntary contributions from Parties and *requests* Parties to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Secretariat to allow partnerships to be developed and strengthened;
23. *Urges* Parties to establish close collaboration at the national level between the focal point of the CMS and the focal points of other relevant conventions in order for Governments to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts, for example by developing national biodiversity working groups to coordinate the work of focal points of relevant MEAs and other stakeholders *inter alia* through relevant measures in NBSAPs, harmonized national reporting and adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA;
24. *Also urges* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns related to migratory species into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national positions among the various conventions and other international fora in which they are involved;

25. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments and organizations to make use of the web-based tools, such as InforMEA, when developing and implementing mutually supportive activities among CMS Agreements and biodiversity-related conventions so as to improve coherence in their implementation;
 26. *Urges* partner organizations to continue to promote and publicize the benefits to them, to CMS, and to conservation arising from effective collaboration; and
 27. *Notes that the present Resolution has repealed Resolution 7.9 Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes, Resolution 8.11 Cooperation with other Conventions, Resolution 9.6 Cooperation with Other Bodies, and Resolution 10.21 Synergies and Partnerships and Resolution 11.11 Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society.*
27. ~~Repeals Resolution 7.9, Resolution 8.11, Resolution 9.6, and Resolution 10.21.~~

DRAFT DECISIONS

NGO PARTICIPATION IN CMS PROCESSES

Directed to the Secretariat

13.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) establish an Intersessional Working Group comprising Parties, the Secretariat, NGOs including members of the Civil Society Project Steering Group, and other relevant organizations to explore options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS, including a process and a template for reporting to COP;
- b) present a proposal for NGO partners' accreditation to CMS under a) to the Standing Committee for its consideration and adoption in the intersessional period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
- c) upon the approval of the proposal under b), invite NGO partners to apply for this special accreditation and present applications to the Standing Committee in the intersessional period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties and NGOs including members of the Civil Society Project Steering Group and other relevant organizations

13.BB Parties, NGOs, including members of the Civil Society Project Steering Group, and other relevant organizations are invited to support the Secretariat in exploring options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS for the consideration of the Standing Committee in the intersessional period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Standing Committee

13.CC The Standing Committee, in the intersessional period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, is:

- a) requested to consider the proposal under 13.AA b), and is authorized to adopt the process for conferring a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS;
- b) requested to consider and approve the NGO applications under 13.AA c).



Conservation Collaboration

Strengthening the relationship between CMS and its
NGO Partners when the world needs us most

Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history, and this loss threatens all of humanity. The landmark Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment released earlier in 2019 spoke with clarity about where the world stands in relation to key international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Despite our pledges nature, across most of the globe, has been significantly altered—ecosystems and biodiversity are in rapid decline. Yet, the IPBES Global Assessment also offers hope—nature can be conserved and restored if we embrace transformative change, including innovative

Summary

governance approaches. This is not a time for the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Non-Governmental Organisation Partners (Partner NGOs) to walk separate paths. Many of the interventions and leverage points identified by IPBES require close collaboration between and within sectors. ***The world needs us to work more closely together.***

Civil society has long underpinned the conservation work of CMS and, despite the difficulties we all face, the dedication of CMS Partners continues to grow. To date, Partner NGO involvement has remained one of trusted friend to the convention, but there is argument that the friendship could deepen through a 'collaborative governance' model, if the right dynamic is established.

The IPBES Global Assessment challenges us to think bravely; to think differently. Exploring options for the evolution of the relationship between civil society, in particular Partner NGOs, and the convention has been the work of the Civil Society Project.

The Civil Society Project began during the Tenth CMS Conference of the Parties (CoP) through the *Civil Society Dialogue*, a review that followed that discussion, and the subsequent intent of Resolution 11.11 adopted during CoP11, which culminated in agreement to investigate how to take the relationship between civil society and CMS further. Several recommendations from the first civil society review, *A Natural Affiliation*, have since become norms in the way the convention progresses its business, and it appears to be time to progress the work further.

In the margins of the Third Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC3) several Partner NGOs discussed the next iteration of the Civil Society Project and established a Steering Group to take this work forward. The resulting review, *Conservation Collaboration: Strengthening the relationship between CMS and its NGO Partners when the world needs us most*, and its recommendations are therefore the second, substantial step in a discussion which will continue within the NGO community as well as between NGOs, Governments, and Secretariats of the CMS Family on the road towards increasing 'collaborative governance'.

This review strengthens the argument for Partner NGOs to be formally welcomed as valuable collaborators. Because most

NGOs foster a solid relationship between supporters, the media and the general community, they can also be effective messengers about conservation progress as well as conservation concerns. The diplomacy work of the Partner NGOs is coordinated, effective and consistent and several organisations represent a longer history of direct experience with CMS and other MEAs, and a deeper technical knowledge about the issues being discussed than some government agencies. Their knowledge and skills are an asset to the work of the convention.

Partner NGOs have historically demonstrated a considerable commitment to the CMS Family, and this review reveals how Partner NGOs perceive their relationship with CMS. It also asserts the comparative importance they attribute to CMS against other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and to CMS within the post-2020 biodiversity framework and dialogue. For the first time, the information presented quantifies, at a basic level, the combined financial commitment of Partner NGOs equating to more than US\$20 million/year. Finally, a series of recommendations are proposed for formal consideration by CMS Parties.

The information contained in this review has been collected through an interview and questionnaire process, based on twenty-seven questions, during a six-week period from June 2019. The participating Partner NGOs represent a spectrum of policy positions ranging from individual or population level animal welfare through to sustainable or wise use, but the review intentionally remains policy-neutral, avoiding leaning in one policy direction or the other. The participants represent substantial expertise and value to CMS, including scientific and technical expertise, funding expertise and other resources, and deep experience in policy work and field projects that deliver on CMS priorities. They are bridge-builders, working across the world with significant reach in Africa, Asia, South America, and Oceania, often conducting high-level international outreach and strengthening dialogue with stakeholders around CMS. Some have experience in large scale event planning and programme management.

They all understand that MEAs are where agendas are set and dedicate considerable time and attention to influencing the direction of these agendas, including within CMS. Most believe the work of

CMS is crucial to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2020 framework.

The perception of CMS standing has significantly increased for those interviewed compared to the views gathered five years ago, yet Partner NGO work of relevance to CMS, representing a commitment of more than US\$20 million/year of funds, is not necessarily directed into the CMS Family in a visible sense; even though most Partner NGOs direct significant organisational focus to delivering on CMS-related objectives.

There is a sentiment of frustration expressed by some Partners about the slow rate of progress towards adopting a system where their organisations can contribute more systematically, consistently, and visibly to the work of CMS.

Several Partners feel their work within CMS would benefit from CMS establishing a formal Partnership with an NGO able to legitimately bring forward an Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Communities (ITLC) focus to CMS while also bringing greater visibility to Land Defenders within the CMS agenda.

Partners accept responsibility to step up and take a more formal role, provided a system is created to allow them to represent themselves and their work with formal standing.

At a time when CMS Parties confront major challenges for CMS funding, and when domestic budgets for environment issues are stretched, CMS' Partner NGOs offer the potential for significant support if current processes are expanded to better include them. These offers were made apparent in the recommendations of the first review, *A Natural Affiliation*, and are reaffirmed in this review. Adopting a system where at least Partner NGOs can contribute centrally to the work of CMS, requires a new dynamic that includes them as equal participants in active dialogue, a process of trust building (mutual transparency and accountability), and the development of shared commitments and understanding; it requires a transition to collaborative governance.

Honouring the directions of Resolution 11.11 adopted during CoP11, and now captured in Resolution 11.10 (Rev CoP12), a series of principles, suggestions, and recommendations are proposed for adoption.

Principles to facilitate Civil Society Organisation (CSO-) and NGO-facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported and considered across the CMS Family.

1. Acknowledge Partner NGO contributions as formal inputs against the strategic plan and fully incorporate their work into the reporting and forward planning of the CMS agenda.
2. Transition to long-term planning to facilitate genuine collaborative governance, inviting Partner NGOs to take forward key pieces of CoP-directed work over three- and six-year periods.
3. Commit to developing shared work programmes between Partner NGOs and the Secretariat, supported by regular implementation discussions to track work delivery.
4. Fully utilise the potential of task forces, as well as technical or expert working groups and panels in the Scientific Council, by accepting Partner NGOs nominees in key advisory and facilitation roles in the Scientific Council, and providing an opportunity for Partner NGOs to partly or fully fund key roles.
5. Overcome institutionalised dis-engagement by introducing accountability and reporting against CoP-adopted action plans and global programmes of work.
6. Commit to conducting a systematic CMS Family wide assessment of existing gaps in the CMS programme, which can be formally supported by Partner NGOs.

Models for further CSO and NGO involvement in CMS processes.

1. Review and implement a structure with similar intent to Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR) and their International Organisation Partners (IOPs), conferring an additional participation status to Partner NGOs.
2. Pursue a specific target for connectivity and CMS, replicating the model of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) wildlife trafficking Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that also links to civil society contribution.

Recommendations to facilitate Partner NGOs to formally provide implementation and capacity-building expertise to the CMS Family.

1. Formalise the acceptance of NGO Partnership with the Convention through Resolution.
2. Attribute formal standing to Partner NGO work that is delivered against agreed work programmes and instigate formal reporting of that work with the same standing as Party reporting.
3. Streamline all reporting (Party, Agreement and Partner) to enable an assessment of implementation progress across the whole CMS Family within regular (ie six-yearly) State of the CMS Environment Reports.
4. Broaden the new Review Mechanism to evaluate implementation progress of Parties and Partner NGOs.
5. Open all intersessional meetings to Partner NGOs especially those held under the auspices of the convention and/or those conducted with convention resources.
6. Engage Partner NGOs to represent the CoP-approved CMS agenda when the CMS Secretariat is not able to fully participate in meetings of CITES, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress.
7. Establish a regular circular of Partner NGO expertise and availability to support national implementation and Ministry capacity-building of CMS Parties, including Partner NGO contact details to facilitate direct communications between Parties and Partner NGOs.
8. Strategically establish formal Partnerships with relevant NGOs to bring an ITLC focus to the work of CMS and provide greater visibility and support to Land Defenders through CMS.
9. Establish additional capacity within the Secretariat focused on increasing CMS' relevance to the donor community, drawing on CoP-approved priorities and Partner work plans that respond to those priorities, profiling proposed Partner work as legitimate CMS activities to donors.
10. Establish a foundation CMS budget dedicated as a cofunding contribution to match donor funding of CMS activities.
11. Establish a CoP-funded Partner NGO focal point, either within

the Secretariat or as a roll filled by a Partner NGO through an election process, to increase coordination between Partner NGOs, provide support to the Secretariat to focus on donor community relevance, coordinate regular Partner NGO/Secretariat coordination meetings, and collate and distribute NGO materials as required.

12. Reduce climate emissions related to CMS planning and governance work by investment in remote/video conferencing technology enabling Parties, Agreements, Partner NGOs, and non-Party range states partial or full remote access to all CMS and CMS agreement full and intersessional meetings.

These recommendations, unmistakably put from a Partner NGO perspective, are an important indicator of the pulse of the Partner NGO community concerning the CMS Family. They reflect the depth of consideration Partners give to the CMS agenda and the shared hope for greater and more meaningful collaboration in the future.



For the full review

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