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MIGRATORY SPECIES IN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

(As at July 2022/ Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document summarizes progress in the implementation of COP13 CMS/Decision 13.8 concerning engagement of the CMS Secretariat in the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) since the 52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee (21-29 September 2021).

The Standing Committee is recommended to take note of progress and advise the Secretariat on its further work and engagement in the GBF development and implementation.

MIGRATORY SPECIES IN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (COP13, Gandhinagar, 2020) adopted the Gandhinagar Declaration on CMS and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (CMS/Resolution 13.1) highlighting CMS priorities for the GBF, and calling for it to include *inter alia*:
 - i. a commitment to maintain and restore ecological connectivity;
 - ii. provisions to effectively address the conservation needs of endangered species and species with an unfavourable conservation status, including goals and targets to halt species declines and strengthen the linkages between its provisions on species and its provisions on habitats;
 - iii. provisions encouraging Parties to include in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) appropriate reference to other biodiversity-related conventions to which they are also Parties, in order to increase more coherent implementation at the national level;
 - iv. recognition of the role of the various biodiversity-related Conventions as well as other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), for effective implementation, monitoring, and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and
 - v. provisions to promote international cooperation and connectivity for the implementation of the new Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. COP13 also adopted CMS/Decisions 13.7 and 13.8 on *Migratory Species in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, which included further direction on this topic:

13.7 Directed to: Parties

Parties are requested to:

- a) *ensure that migratory species' needs and considerations are integrated in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;*
- b) *report to the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting (COP14) on the progress in implementing the Decision.*

13.8 Directed to: the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *continue support the CMS Family Working Group on the post-2020 framework and transmit the contributions into the Open-ended Working Group established by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and thereby to the CBD COP15 in Kunming, China in October 2020;*
- b) *support the development of the follow-up of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species in line with the analysis of the post-2020 framework to be conducted under Decision 13.4 Options for a Follow-Up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023;*
- c) *report to the Standing Committee at its 52nd and 53rd meetings and to COP14 on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

Implementation of CMS/Decision 13.8 on Migratory Species in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

3. Since COP13 and in line with CMS/Decision 13.8 a), the Secretariat has been engaging in the process related to the development of the GBF as well as supporting CMS Parties and the Working Group (WG) on the CMS Family inputs to the GBF which comprises representatives of governments and organizations and CMS Councillors.
4. A progress report on the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2020-2021 was provided at the 52th Meeting of the Standing Committee (21 – 29 September 2021) in Document [UNEP/CMS/StC52/Doc.15](#) *Implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-2023*. The present document provides an account of further progress made since then.
5. Details about the implementation of CMS/Decision 13.8 b) are contained in Document UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.12 *Options for a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*.

Finalization and adoption of the GBF

6. The GBF is to be adopted by CBD COP15, which due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was postponed to 7-19 December 2022. All related preparatory meetings were also rescheduled and complemented by additional online consultations and in-person meetings to advance discussions and agreement on the final text. A fifth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the GBF will be held immediately before COP15 on 3 to 5 December 2022.

Meetings

7. Since StC52, the Secretariat has actively supported the CMS priorities highlighted in the Gandhinagar Declaration and participated in all of the CBD consultations and meetings related to the GBF process, namely:
 - i. meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group (WG2020) on the GBF:
 - WG2020/3 Resumed Session, 14 - 29 March 2022;
 - WG2020/4, 21-26 June 2022.
 - ii. Various webinars, informal meetings and briefings in the course of 2022;
 - iii. Resumed sessions of the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3), 14 - 29 March 2022.
 - iv. Expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the GBF, 29 June - 1 July 2022.

Documents and recommendations

8. In preparation for these meetings, the Secretariat reviewed and analysed relevant documentation, including revised drafts of the GBF and its monitoring framework, and made extensive consultations with the WG on CMS Family inputs to the GBF.
9. Based on these reviews and analyses, the Secretariat issued sets of recommendations with respect to better reflecting CMS priorities in the GBF, its monitoring framework and other related documents, including through the following notifications:
 - [Notification 2022/02](#) in February 2022;
 - [Notification 2022/008](#) in June 2022.

CMS priorities in the GBF, monitoring framework, planning, implementation, reporting and review

GBF Goals and Targets

10. The Secretariat promoted CMS priorities through the following recommendations to improve text of elements of the GBF:
 - *Goal A*: ecological connectivity is clearly articulated as a distinct and independent element as opposed to be an element under the umbrella concept of integrity;
 - *Target 1*: maintaining and improving ecological connectivity is an essential and integral function of spatial planning;
 - *Target 2*: restoring ecological connectivity itself is as important as ensuring connectivity among restored ecosystems;
 - *Target 3*: systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are “well connected” so to ensure connectivity also in terms of connecting non-contiguous areas, important for migratory species;
 - *Target 4*: species recovery and conservation are achieved by active management of species as well as other actions that address drivers of their decline;
 - *Target 5*: unsustainable, illegal and unsafe harvesting, trade and use are eliminated for target and non-target species with a view to ensure both wildlife and human health;
 - *Target 7*: all sources of pollution having significant impact on wildlife are addressed including pollution from noise, light and lead (ammunition, fishing weights and industrial sources);
 - *Target 9*: sustainable levels of take of species are ensured by complying with relevant international commitments and regulations.
11. The latest GBF text, which resulted from the WG2020/4 ([CBD/WG2020/4/L2-ANNEX](#)), contains numerous of these CMS priorities while some others will need further attention during the final negotiations.
12. For instance, ecological connectivity is so far well reflected in many elements of the GBF (i.e. *Goal A* and *Targets 1, 2, 3 and 12*) concerning spatial and urban planning, ecosystem restoration; development of protected and other conserved areas, and wildlife management.
13. In contrast, greater ambition is needed for addressing extinction and overexploitation of species in *Targets 4* and *5* respectively.
14. A new set of recommendations for possible text in the GBF, based on the outcomes of the WG2020/4, is contained in the annex of this document in preparation for WG2020/5 and COP 15 in December.

GBF planning, implementation and reporting and review

15. The Secretariat also made considerable efforts, in liaison with Parties and in collaboration with the Secretariats of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions, to ensure the recognition of the important contributions that these conventions make to the effective and coherent implementation of specific elements of the GBF and to its planning, reporting and review.
16. To this end, several joint interventions were made at WG2020 and SBI meetings also with a view to improve relevant text of the draft decision operationalizing the GBF, sections I (Enabling conditions) and J (Responsibility and transparency) of the GBF as well as SBI recommendations on cooperation as well as on planning, reporting and review. The Secretariats of all eight Conventions also convened a joint side event in the margins of the CBD meetings held in Geneva in March 2022 to highlight the contributions of these conventions to the implementation of the GBF.

17. The SBI recommendation on *Cooperation with other conventions international organizations and initiatives* ([CBD/SBI/REC/3/12](#)), received little attention and will need to be addressed by COP15. Significant progress was made on other aspects, including in the negotiation of the SBI recommendation on *Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention* ([CBD/SBI/REC/3/11](#)) which, among other provisions, recognizes the contributions of other MEAs to the implementation of the GBF, and the need to include commitments under these MEAs in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports. This SBI recommendation as well as the draft decision operationalizing the GBF reflect the need for Parties to cooperate at the international level in implementing the GBF.

GBF Monitoring framework and indicators

18. With regard to the GBF monitoring framework, the Secretariat undertook work to propose viable indicators for key GBF elements as outlined in [Notification 2022/02](#), and especially to address the lack of adequate proposed indicators for ecological connectivity for Goal A and Targets 1-3.
19. In April 2022, the Secretariat co-organized a second workshop focusing on connectivity indicators for the GBF, together with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC), the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group (IUCN WCPA-CCSG). The workshop was held virtually over two days (20-21 April) featuring discussions among more than 25 scientists, experts, including the CMS Cop-Appointed Councillor for Connectivity, Mr. Fernando Spina, and partners. The outcome of this workshop will be presented to CBD COP15 in the form of an Information Document and is planned to be communicated through dedicated webinars in September 2022.
20. The Secretariat was also represented at the CBD Expert workshop on the monitoring framework for the GBF on 29 June - 1 July 2022. The workshop reviewed all proposed headline indicators for each goal and target of the GBF in order to recommend to COP15 those fit for immediate use as well as those requiring further work to be done by an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) on indicators for the GBF after COP15.
21. Among all candidate headline indicators, the workshop reviewed the one proposed by CMS for Goal A to measure its connectivity component: "*Conservation status of migratory species (disaggregated from existing indices), as a proxy indicator of connectivity*". Unfortunately, this indicator was only assessed as a component indicator of particular relevance for Goal A but is not proposed for adoption as headline indicator.
22. Similarly, the indicators "*PARC*" and "*ProtConn*", proposed for monitoring the "well-connected" component of Target 3, were not assessed as viable headline indicators but rather as complementary and component indicators respectively.
23. The workshop also recognized the need for further work to integrate aspects of connectivity in the headline indicator proposed for adoption for Target 1, "*Percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans*".

Next steps

24. To further the discussions and agreement on the GBF text in preparation to its adoption at the second part of CBD COP15, which will take place in Montreal, Canada on 5-17 December 2022, additional consultations are planned in the months leading to COP15, and at the WG2020/5 immediately before COP15 (3-5 December 2022).

25. The Secretariat will strive to continue engaging in the process and will support CMS Parties and the WG on CMS Family inputs to the GBF as appropriate.
26. In anticipation of the adoption of the GBF, the Secretariat is taking steps towards contributing to the implementation of the GBF. These include:
 - developing a Joint Programme of Work with the CBD Secretariat to collaborate on implementation, capacity building, and other key areas of relevance to CMS;
 - disseminating information to CMS Parties about funding under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) and exploring possible initiatives and projects for implementation with partners (see Document UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.10.2 *Resource Mobilization*);
 - analyzing how CMS can support implementation of the GBF as part of its implementation of CMS COP Decision 13.4 on future CMS strategic objectives (see Document UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.12 *Options for a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*); and
 - exploring opportunities to strengthen CMS work in key areas relevant to the GBF.

Recommended actions

27. The Standing Committee is recommended to:
 - a) take note of the document and make any comments, as appropriate;
 - b) provide advice to the Secretariat on its further work and engagement in the GBF process in the final steps in negotiations to be concluded at COP15;
 - c) encourage Parties' focal points to liaise with their CBD counterparts with a view to ensuring that CMS priorities are reflected in the GBF in line with Decision 13.7; and
 - d) provide feedback to the Secretariat with regard to next steps towards contributing to the implementation of the GBF.