

Notification 2020/009

29 June 2020

## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

### **ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY CONCERNING FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PRIORITIES OF CMS**

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is pleased to inform Parties about opportunities to promote migratory species conservation over the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF-8, July 2022 to June 2026).

#### Advice on National Priorities

Although CMS does not receive direct support from the GEF, Parties to CMS can benefit from funding for national priorities that are integrated into the guidance that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) develops for the GEF. Following on CBD Decisions [XII/30](#) and [XIII/21](#), the CBD Secretariat invited CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions to provide inputs on their priorities to be considered in the development of the four year framework of programme priorities for GEF-8.

The CBD Secretariat has indicated two opportunities for this input: first, as an input to documentation being prepared by the CBD Secretariat to be considered at the third meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) on 9-14 November 2020, and subsequently at its Conference of the Parties (COP15) in 2021. CBD Decision [XIV/23](#) further noted that its guidance on priorities for the GEF should be aligned with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted at CBD COP15, and thus it anticipates that there may be an additional opportunity to identify programme priorities for the GEF8 replenishment during COP15.

[CMS Resolution 10.25 \(Rev.COP12\)](#) requests the CMS Standing Committee to develop such elements of advice, and the CMS Secretariat to convey this advice on its behalf.

In line with CBD Decisions XIII/21 and XIV/23, it is recommended that these priorities are formulated in accordance with the GEF mandate and at a strategic level, and in

<http://www.cms.int/en/news/notifications>

line with [the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#) and the [Gandhinagar Declaration](#) on the CMS priorities for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as other relevant decisions adopted at CMS COP13.

To facilitate this process, the CMS Secretariat has prepared the attached draft resolution on CMS guidance for GEF8, for the consideration of the Standing Committee. Accordingly, the CMS Secretariat invites National Focal Points to liaise with their regional representatives on the Standing Committee to provide their inputs to this draft resolution **no later than 1 August 2020** to allow the Standing Committee to consider such inputs when finalizing their advice.

### Questionnaire on Funding Needs

As a separate matter, the CBD Secretariat has issued a questionnaire to collect information about the types and costs of projects or programme areas envisaged by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fulfil their commitments under CBD and its Protocols over GEF-8. Questionnaire responses, together with data from other sources, will enable an assessment of the overall funding needs for GEF-8.

The questionnaire together, with guidance for completing it, is available at the following link: [www.cbd.int/financial/gef8needs.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/financial/gef8needs.shtml). Among the factors to consider in identifying these needs are synergies with other conventions and the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which largely reflects CMS priorities.

The CMS Secretariat encourages National Focal Points to liaise with their CBD and GEF counterparts so that programmes and projects and initiatives that conserve and sustainably use migratory wildlife and their habitats are highlighted, as appropriate, in the responses of CBD Parties to the questionnaire

For any further information please contact Laura Cerasi, Fundraising and Partnerships Officer, UNEP/CMS Secretariat, E-mail: [laura.cerasi@un.org](mailto:laura.cerasi@un.org).

**Draft Resolution of the Standing Committee with regard to elements of advice concerning the funding of national priorities for CMS for the development of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period of its Trust Fund (GEF-8)**

*Nothing* that the global biodiversity assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) showed that we are losing species of plants and animals at an unprecedented rate, and that one million species face extinction in the near term unless more actions are taken;

*Further noting* that the preliminary report on the Status of Migratory Species presented at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the parties to CMS (COP13) found that despite some success stories, the populations of most migratory species covered by CMS are declining;

*Acknowledging* the potential of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) to facilitate the implementation of CMS and *conscious* that this potential is currently not realized in full;

*Noting* that, although CMS does not benefit from direct support from the GEF, advice on national priorities for its implementation can be provided through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

*Further noting* that [CMS Resolution 10.25 \(Rev.COP12\)](#) requested, on an ongoing basis, the CMS Standing Committee to develop this advice and the Executive Secretary to refer it to the GEF through the CBD COP.

*Recalling* that CBD [Decision XIII/21](#), invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, including CMS, to repeat the exercise described in [Decision XII/30](#) for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF-8) in time for consideration by CBD COP15;

*Noting* that CBD Decision [XIV/23](#) called for the priorities of CBD for GEF 8 be aligned with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration by CBD COP15;

*Further noting* that the [Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#) (CMS Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12)) will overlap with the initial period of GEF8, and is aligned to and complements the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by adding the necessary specificity for and focus on migratory species conservation;

*Underscoring* that the [Gandhinagar Declaration](#) (CMS Resolution 13.1) agreed on CMS priorities for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*Recalling* CBD [Decision X/20](#) in which CMS is recognized as the lead partner in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range;

*Noting* that migratory species have large ranges which extend beyond individual protected areas, and beyond national borders and that therefore conservation for these species needs to take into account entire migratory systems;

*Acknowledging* that GEF-7 has recognized the importance to promote integrated approaches for transformational change in a set of key systems to tackle the drivers of environmental degradation;

Noting the possibility of GEF funding for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in eligible countries, and *stressing* the importance for national focal points collaborating to include priority actions on migratory species in the NBSAPs in line with Resolutions [11.10 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and [13.1](#);

*The Standing Committee:*

1. *Notes with thanks* that the GEF supported migratory species conservation through past projects including the African Eurasian Flyways Project “Wings over Wetlands” and the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project;
2. *Invites* the GEF to continue giving priority to programmes and projects and initiatives that conserve and sustainably use migratory wildlife and their habitats in the eighth replenishment of its Trust Fund.
3. *Invites* the GEF to allocate a large proportion of its funds for regional or global programmes and integrated approaches that support species migration systems;
4. *Invites* the GEF to increase support to integrating the commitments of CMS Parties, in the revision and updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and other national planning processes and development plans and related budgets;
5. *Invites* the GEF to continue consulting with the CMS Secretariat to maximize synergies with CMS priorities in its programming;
6. *Invites* the GEF to consider the following elements deriving from the [Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#) (Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12)), the [Gandhinagar Declaration](#) on CMS and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Resolution 13.1) and other key COP Resolutions in the development of all focal areas and impact programmes for GEF-8:
  - Improving monitoring, data collection and data analysis of species population sizes and trends, migration patterns and distribution, habitats and critical sites as well as of drivers of population changes;
  - Supporting countries in setting up, strengthening and enforcing their legal frameworks for the conservation of wildlife including of CMS obligations at national level;
  - Restoring and maintaining ecological connectivity, especially for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species and their habitats, which has been defined as the “*unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth*” as outlined in Resolutions [12.26 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and [12.7 \(Rev.COP13\)](#);
  - Support Governments and all other stakeholders including CMS, in their specific role and contributions to the effective implementation, monitoring, and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
  - Promote international cooperation through regional and transboundary mechanisms, and initiatives;
  - Addressing the drivers of loss of wild animals, especially habitat destruction and fragmentation, and overexploitation of wild animals, which are linked to infectious diseases in humans that originate in wild animals;
  - Reducing the adverse impacts on wild animals from energy installations and linear infrastructure, including roads, railways, fences, and pipelines as outlined in Resolutions [11.24 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and [11.27 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and integrate migratory

wildlife considerations into any spatial planning including in strategic and environmental impact assessments;

- Combatting wildlife crime and strengthening anti-poaching efforts, including through regional approaches for tackling the illegal killing of birds, including trapping, as outlined in [Resolution 11.31](#) and [11.16 \(Rev.COP13\)](#);
- Advancing the implementation of projects that are mutually supportive of various treaties as well as joint programmes such as the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, as outlined in [Resolution 13.4](#);
- Restoring and maintaining global flyways, as outlined in the Programme of Work as outlined in [Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#);
- Reducing poisoning of wildlife caused by use of pesticides, poison bait, veterinary pharmaceutical treatments, lead in ammunition and fishing weights as well as light pollution and pollution in the marine environment through marine debris, noise and unexploded ordinance, as outlined in [Resolution 12.20](#), [Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and [Resolution 13.5](#);
- Minimizing bycatch of CMS-listed marine species and reducing post-release mortality as outlined in [Resolution 12.22](#) and elsewhere;
- Mitigating threats to freshwater fish, such as habitat degradation, barriers to migration and overexploitation, as outlined in [Resolution 10.12](#);
- Supporting conservation strategies that promote the establishment and maintenance of networks of climate resilient sites for migratory species, as outlined in [Resolution 12.21](#);
- Addressing insect decline and support scientific research on its impact on migratory insectivorous animal populations [Resolution 13.6](#).

7. *Invites* the Third Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI3) and subsequently CBD COP15 to transmit this decision to the GEF and include the above-mentioned elements of advice in the guidance for GEF-8.