



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



Process for developing the future Strategic Plan for Migratory Species **Report of the 1st Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, 5-6 Nov 2012**

Background

The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) held in November 2011, endorsed [Resolution 10.5](#), which established a Working Group to draft a new CMS Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023.

A final draft strategic plan is to be presented to CMS COP11 in 2014.

Each CMS region elected members to the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG). The Chairs of the CMS Standing Committee and the CMS Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. CMS partners – Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - and CMS experts are welcome to contribute substantively to the Group as observers.

In support of the work of the SPWG, two reports were produced by an independent consultant, Dave Pritchard:

- a) *Review of the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014*, including lessons learned; and
- b) *Proposals for the CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023*.

Summary

The SPWG at its first meeting on 5 and 6 November 2012, discussed the reports of the consultant as well as suggestions on the way forward towards the drafting of a new Strategic Plan. The Group made good progress and agreed on several elements in support of the development of a draft Strategic Plan by CMS COP11.

The SPWG agreed that the Strategic Plan should be for migratory species in general to focus on the issue rather than on the CMS instruments. Furthermore, a twin-track approach was developed which will:

1. Allow the development of a *strategic* Strategic Plan, based on the approach used in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and in particular its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and;
2. Support the Plan's implementation through a technical Companion Volume.

The SPWG Members confirmed their commitment to play a key role in mobilizing their regions in the development of the Strategic Plan but stressed the need for support to do so efficiently. The SPWG considered it of high importance to support the development of the draft Strategic Plan through intensive consultations and agreed to develop an enhanced consultation process to support regional involvement as well as outreach at global level. This should allow close involvement not only of all CMS Parties through the regions, but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs.

The SPWG further requested the Secretariat to engage actively in fundraising to support this process and raise awareness of its importance. It is clear that funding will be required to allow a strong participatory process to take place that will result in strong buy-in at all levels by the time of CMS COP11.

A dedicated [page](#) has been created on the CMS website to provide information about the work of the Group, where relevant documents are made available as work progresses, in particular to support outreach and consultations by the Group and other stakeholders. A Concept Note regarding further steps towards drafting the Strategic Plan is already available for use in outreach and consultations (copy attached).

Finally, based on the elements identified in the consultant's reports, the SPWG also spent some time on issues that could benefit from being addressed more intensively now, before the next CMS COP, in order to support the implementation of the current Strategic Plan:

- The need to reinforce the integration of migratory species into revisions of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). There is guidance within the CMS on this issue but it is important to emphasize the urgency of the matter given that in many countries the NBSAPs are currently being revised in light of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and any further delay will make it difficult to integrate migratory issues at a later stage.
- Along the same lines, CMS should already engage actively in the UN Decade on Biodiversity and benefit from the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Target 20 on resource mobilization which is for biodiversity in general, including migratory species. An info note will be made available by the SPWG on the issue of resource mobilization for this purpose.

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November 2012

Concept Note towards a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, 2015-2023

Migratory Species and Conserving the World's Biodiversity!

The Way Forward – A Twin Track Approach

The CMS Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) has agreed upon the following approach to guide the further development of the draft Strategic Plan 2015-2023.

It should be a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species:

- To focus on the issue, not the CMS instruments;
- To support the entire CMS Family of instruments; and
- To encourage efforts by all towards the conservation of migratory species.

The Strategic Plan should be strategic:

- To define expected long-term/high-level outcomes for migratory species as a framework for assessing progress and results;
- To generate political support at national, regional and global levels for migratory species considerations; and
- To increase visibility of migratory species issues.

However, there is also a need to look at the shortcomings of the previous Plan, such as:

- Lack of guidance for the implementation of the CMS instruments; and
- Lack of support for CMS Parties in terms of resources, capacity building and technical assistance.

Both issues (strategic and implementation) will be addressed through a twin-track approach:

1. A 'strategic' Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

This will be a short, focused document that will provide overall guidance for migratory species, can be easily communicated at the political level and will facilitate both high-level and country-level buy-in to enhance political status, engagement and funding. It will be developed by:

- Using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a basis, in order to benefit from existing political visibility and support at national and global levels;
- Tapping into existing supporting mechanisms (e.g. on capacity building, NBSAP revisions, Aichi Target 20 on resource mobilization, and activities in the UN Decade for Biodiversity);
- Identifying explicitly how migratory species contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and how the Targets in turn will contribute to the objectives for conserving migratory species;

- Developing targets specific to migratory species, using the Aichi Targets as a framework but not restricted by them, so as to retain migratory species' identity and added-value.

Note: More specific targets for some of the CMS instruments could then be further developed by their individual governing bodies to underpin the overall targets for migratory species.

2. A 'technical' Companion Volume for Implementation

The Companion Volume would be cross-referenced within the Plan itself, to provide technical guidance and support for its implementation. It would serve to:

- Remedy shortcomings in implementation of the previous Plan;
- Connect with and guide future CMS decisions (for the CMS and its instruments);
- Provide guidance for enhanced and coherent implementation of the CMS Family in support of the Plan and identify clearly the possible role of individual instruments in this regard;
- Identify and take on board the individual contributions and responsibilities of National Focal Points, the Secretariats of CMS and its instruments, civil society and others;
- Support priority-setting for the development of future CMS instruments;
- Further develop specific provisions on indicators, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, capacity building, and so on.

Further steps

A draft Strategic Plan will be developed over the next months which will identify

- The mutual relevance of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and migratory species;
- Possible relevant high-level targets for migratory species;
- The needs regarding implementation, monitoring and indicators for its implementation.

SPWG background and working documents can be found [here](#)¹.

The added value of the Strategic Plan will highly depend on its buy-in at national, regional and global level. It is therefore of high importance to support the development of the draft Strategic Plan through intensive consultations that will allow the close involvement of all CMS Parties through the regions, but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs.

The following opportunities are being explored to raise awareness regarding this issue:

- Making available communication and outreach material for use by SPWG members and other interested stakeholders (PowerPoint presentations and so on, available [here](#)²);
- Organizing expert meetings and/or regional consultations on the draft Strategic Plan;
- Raising the issue in the margins of relevant planned MEA meetings to engage Parties either individually or through back-to-back meetings; and
- Engaging the entire CMS Family through the SPWG, through discussions on the draft Plan during their own meetings, through electronic means, through meetings back to back with other meetings, and so on.

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¹ http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm