



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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CMS CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY 2015-2017

Summary:

The Capacity-building Strategy provides a set of goals and objectives related to capacity-building activities in the upcoming period 2015-2017. Proposed activities include:

- Contribution to and participation in the NBSAP process;
- Improved communication and collaboration with other biodiversity-related MEAs;
- Application and assessment of the CMS Family Manual;
- Continued pre-COP training workshops in underrepresented regions;
- Implementation of the e-community;
- Continued recruitment of new Contracting Parties; and
- Promotion of the implementation of capacity-building activities of CMS and its Instruments.

CMS CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY 2015-2017

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

Introduction and Lessons Learnt:

1. The greatest challenges for the conservation of migratory species, as reflected in the four objectives of the current Strategic Plan, are: (1) to have the best **available information** on which to base decisions regarding conservation and sustainable management, (2) the need to undertake **conservation measures in a coordinated and cooperative way** across a migratory range, (3) **to widen awareness of the key issues among relevant target audiences**, and (4) the **development and mobilization of human capacity and financial resources** to implement necessary conservation measures.
2. The Strategy for Capacity-building (2015-2017) must be integrated as a major component of the new Strategic Plan proposed for Migratory Species, which defines both long-term and high-level outcomes whilst allowing for a flexible approach.
3. CMS has a strong framework for sustainable capacity-building based on the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building. It promotes a bottom-up approach in identifying specific objectives, strategies and activities that will be used to reflect the needs of governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders. The approach also takes into account the importance of national ownership of capacity-building and technology support initiatives.
4. The Capacity-building Work Plan for the triennium 2012-2014, based on the Capacity-building Strategy presented at COP9 (UNEP/CMS/Conf.9.30) was adopted in order to support and improve national capacity to implement the mandates of the Convention. This initiative aimed at identifying capacity-building needs of Parties and further addressing them through various capacity-building activities, encouraging the exchange of resources, experience and information among all stakeholders, partners and decision-makers to create and maintain successful conservation of migratory species at national and international level.
5. The CMS Strategic Plan 2012-2014 adopted by the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Objective 4) states that “the Plan must also make provision for helping to develop the capacity of bodies involved in implementing the Convention and its legal instruments, especially in developing countries”. It sets out two main prescriptions: (target 4.5) the establishment of CMS networks and national liaison systems or committees by the CMS National Focal Points and Scientific Councillors in each country and (target 4.7) the enhancement of regional capacity for participation in CMS implementation activities, particularly in those regions where CMS is underrepresented.
6. The CMS Capacity-building Strategy¹, adopted by the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, also encourages the Secretariat to initiate and organize regional workshops or meetings for CMS National Focal Points, especially in those regions where the lack of resources and experience has led to a weak institutional basis for the implementation of CMS and its instruments, such as the African, Latin American and South Pacific regions.

¹ CMS Capacity Building Strategy: http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_06_capacity_building_e.pdf

7. Funds were secured through ENRTP² as part of a triennial project the CMS Secretariat, together with the AEWA Secretariat, prepared the Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and Its Instruments and developed an online tool: the e-community platform for National Focal Points for the CMS Family. The CMS Secretariat made considerable efforts to address these through:

- i. A joint CMS and AEWA pre-COP/MOP negotiation workshop (Uganda, November 2011) for 32 CMS and AEWA National Focal Points from 24 countries in Africa.
- ii. Capacity Building Workshop for the National Focal Points of CMS and AEWA in Africa (Training Workshop, South Africa, November 2013) for 51 participants from 27 Anglophone and Francophone African Countries.
- iii. Regional Preparatory and Negotiations Workshops for the 11th Conference of the Parties to CMS (Four Workshops held in August and September 2014 in Chile, Fiji, Zimbabwe and Kyrgyzstan).

8. In light of the encouraging outcomes of past experiences and of the assessments made, CMS intends to implement further capacity-building activities planned for the next triennium. Capacity-building needs are to be addressed by encouraging the use of the comprehensive tools (Manual and e-Community tool) and providing complementary workshops which combine training, skills, development and communications. These activities will be implemented through a bottom-up approach by giving targeted countries the opportunity to reflect on the actual needs of the region during these workshops and through the use of the training tools providing ownership of the outputs.

9. With respect to technical capacity, the knowledge concentrated among the advisory bodies of CMS and its instruments will be utilized. Similarly, the activities will be designed with the help of external support specializing in capacity building issues in the context of MEAs. Strengthening existing cooperation among Secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions will be continued. This initiative will encourage sharing lessons learnt and latest information among MEAs. There is already a strong will under the ENRTP and ACP³ projects plans to strengthen the synergies and collaboration between the different MEAs and within the CMS Family. Moreover, combined efforts will ultimately lead to more efficient and effective implementation of the instruments. CMS promotes joint activities in capacity building with Ramsar, CITES and CBD as part of an effort to harmonize and simplify common conservation goals and enhance the Secretariats' cooperation.

Overall Objective

10. The overall objective of the Strategy is to strengthen and build the capacities of the national institutions responsible for managing the conservation of migratory species through the: promotion of the implementation of the Convention and by enhancing its contribution to sustainable development.

Desired outputs

² Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the Environmental Directorate-General of the European Commission and UNEP.

³ Capacity building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

11. The Strategy has the following outputs, which aim to address the overall objective of strengthening the institutional capacity with the support of workshops and learning tool(s):

- Identifying specific objectives, strategies and activities to reflect the key needs of countries and regions in conserving migratory species;
- Strengthening the capacities of focal points for instruments of the CMS Family;
- Train NFPs and regional coordinators for UNEP to conduct national training workshops on the CMS approach to the conservation of migratory species;
- Conducting and promoting regular seminars, training sessions and sharing of information through the e-community to further enhance active involvement in CMS Family processes;
- Developing capacity-building materials on CMS with the focus on Parties, regions and the conservation of migratory species;
- Implementing CMS and its instruments effectively across various regions and in various languages through capacity-building;
- Integrating CMS in existing NBSAP processes at the national and international level; and
- Creating monitoring mechanisms that document the progress in building capacities.

Activities and Challenges 2015-2017

Contribute to, and where appropriate, participate in NBSAP processes

12. CMS Resolution 10.18 *Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Other Outcomes* urges the CMS National Focal Points, as well as Standing Committee members, in their capacity as regional representatives, to work closely with other National Focal Points in their regions working with biodiversity-related MEAs, including CBD and CITES. This collaboration will ensure that they play a proactive role and liaise with their counterparts for further consideration on the integration of measures to conserve migratory species into NBSAPs and national implementation of national biodiversity targets and plans. In that respect, a special guideline document⁴ was produced that explains how migratory species conservation can be integrated properly into the already established NBSAPs.

13. CMS NFPs are encouraged to liaise with their CBD counterparts and to attend where possible NBSAP workshops to facilitate this integration process and to raise the profile of migratory species at such events; this can enable an additional path for CMS input into IPBES using NBSAPs as a tool to further increase the collaboration of economic and scientific factors in policy-making.

Promote the use of the Capacity-building Manual for the CMS Family and Assess its Application

14. The Manual was developed in response to paragraph four of the CMS Resolution 10.6 *2012-2014 Capacity Building Activities*. It requests the Secretariat to work with the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council and Secretariats of the daughter Agreements and their scientific advisory bodies in developing tools that would strengthen the capacity of CMS Parties. The Manual will invigorate the active participation of NFPs in decision-making,

⁴ http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e.pdf.

sharing knowledge and wisely managing and executing their numerous tasks related to the Convention and its instruments. Promotion of the use of the CMS Family Manual will be encouraged wherever possible and it should be perpetually integrated in CMS training processes.

Implement the e-community

15. The main objective of the CMS Family NFP e-community is to support NFPs in fulfilling the different aspects of their roles, especially in implementing CMS and its instruments. Therefore, the platform will provide factual background knowledge about CMS, its bodies, instruments and procedures, and explain the roles of the NFPs. Regular updating of practical examples will illustrate different aspects of NFP activity. Additionally, the platform aims to offer continued hands-on support tools to facilitate the work of NFPs, such as checklists, information on funding programmes or training events. The platform concept follows a “knowledge-on-demand” approach and responds to different levels of prior knowledge and user needs by segmenting the information into modules and by providing different access paths to the information. Additionally, exchange via the e-community will be encouraged through capacity-building workshops. Information on e-community use and new features provided during on-going events will invite participation of NFPs. By continually informing national representatives on the features of the platform, the Secretariat hopes to foster active participation in the e-community throughout the COP cycle.

16. Communication functions provided on the platform foster discussion and the exchange of experience among the NFPs. Additionally, knowledge transfer via the platform should be complemented by training events (online and face-to-face) planned and carried out by the Secretariat, offering a sound mix of information, knowledge management, communication and networking, with the aim of creating a community-of-practice where NFPs mutually support each other by collaboratively learning on the job.

17. The platform seeks to encourage participation, to invite an open informal debate and to create a trusting atmosphere where it is no problem to admit lack of knowledge, declare problems, ask questions, and voice doubts or concerns. It is not intended to use the e-community platform for formal communication (e.g. invitation to COP, submission of official statements).

Objectives of the Strategic Plan related to the recruitment process of new Parties

18. According to Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan *to broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors*, cooperation between nations can be achieved only if the decision-makers and opinion-leaders involved are aware of the issues and the paramount need for concerted action. It has been a main task of the Convention in the past, and will remain so in future, to bring those problems to the attention of selected key target audiences. Targets related to this objective include activities that strengthen the engagement of existing Parties and networks as well as the addition of new Contracting Parties including those identified as priorities to impact migratory species.

19. Objective 4, *to reinforce CMS’s overarching and unifying role in the conservation and management of migratory species*, includes many activities. The objective above and corresponding activities aimed at strengthening the work of the Convention increases its

effectiveness and efficiency and establishes a better corporate identity for the Convention and its legally independent, formal daughter Agreements.

20. With regard to objective 4.1, CMS membership should increase by 30 Parties, particularly targeting those that are of high importance for migratory species. Finally, the Strategic Plan must also make provisions for helping to develop the capacity of bodies involved in implementing the Convention and its legal instruments, especially in developing countries.

21. There is considerable evidence of a continuing interest in increasing the number of new Parties to the Convention. CMS formally recognized the recruitment of new Parties as a high priority for the Convention at the COP8 in November 2005. The guiding principles that underpin the CMS Recruitment Strategy are: the transfer, exchange and sharing of CMS information and expertise that promote and result in the conservation of migratory species.

Promoting the implementation of Capacity-building activities CMS and its Instruments

22. Continued efforts will promote the implementation of CMS and its instruments through strengthening the abilities of NFPs through pre-COP workshops in Latin America, Central Asia, Oceania and Africa. This will enhance the capacity, especially for weaker regions, to participate actively in the COP as well as allow for the increased capacity-building.

23. Additionally, through collaboration with international organizations, such as UNDAF, national capacity-building initiatives can be used to strengthen national strategies.

24. Additionally meetings will be coordinated in conjunction with:

- All Regional Offices of UNEP (facilitation assistance in coordination of the implementation in the region) and the associated UNEP Biodiversity MEA focal points.
- Secretariats of the biodiversity-related MEAs and their Parties (advice and information dissemination).
- Relevant NGOs and IGOs (advice and information dissemination).

25. Other regional and sub-regional relevant initiatives and centres could further assist in the collaboration and synergizing of capacity-building activities in the regions. This includes a post-COP meeting in the Caribbean together with the Cartagena Convention.

26. Further efforts should be made, through this strategy, to strengthen the existing cooperation among Secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions. CMS will promote the joint capacity- building activities with Ramsar, CITES and CBD as part of the effort to harmonize and simplify common conservation goals and enhance inter-secretariat cooperation as well as to avoid both duplication of efforts and creation of parallel structures.

27. Efforts should be focused on enhancing CMS-related activities on the ground. This is done through a survey to identify the needs and gaps from our partners. As a result of this capacity building will aim to extend and create Communication, Education and Public Awareness tools, where needed and appropriate. This should especially target the preparation of manuals, guidelines and other such documents relevant to CMS Agreements and MoUs.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is requested to:

- (a) Review and adopt the proposed activities on the Capacity-building Strategy for 2015-2017 set out in the section Activities and Challenges 2015-2017 above.
- (b) Provide ear-marked voluntary contributions and consider increasing the core budget for the implementation of the Capacity-building Strategy for 2015-2017.
- (c) Support the Secretariat in identifying capacity building needs of the Parties as requested in the Capacity-building Strategy for 2015-2017.
- (d) Support the Secretariat in focusing on cooperation with CMS agreements and other MEAs, highlighting common strategies, needs and actions.