



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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CMS CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY

(Prepared by the Secretariat – this is a draft document circulated for comment. Parties should submit any comments to Francisco Rilla - frilla@cms.int)

I. Introduction

1. Migratory species are generally more at risk of becoming endangered than non-migratory ones because their habitat requirements are greater. As a result, many migratory species that were once common are becoming increasingly rare. All countries of the world share a responsibility to conserve this common natural heritage. It is axiomatic that the Convention supports Parties by encouraging the development and sharing of knowledge, skills and resources in order to build capacity for conservation.

2. Capacity building is a long-term, continuing process encompassing a country's human, scientific, technological, organisational and institutional capabilities. It has been clear for many years that inadequate capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition puts them at a continued disadvantage and prevents them from reaping the environmental, social and economic benefits offered by full compliance with MEAs.

II. CMS Activities to Date

3. The current CMS Strategic Plan adopted by Parties at CoP8 states (Para 35 - Objective 4) that *“The Strategic 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”*. The Plan sets out two main prescriptions: (i) the establishment of CMS networks and national liaison systems or committees by the CMS focal points and scientific councillors in each country and (ii) the enhancement of regional capacity for participating in CMS implementation activities, particularly in those regions where CMS is underrepresented.

4. There is little information in National Reports to suggest that 3.(i) is being widely implemented. On 3 (ii) the Secretariat has made a considerable effort to work with its existing regional partners such as the Caribbean, South Pacific and African regional seas organisations, and to build new links for example by participation in the meetings in 2006 of Central Asian Environmental Ministers (The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia) in Turkmenistan and of African Environmental Ministers (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment) in Congo Brazzaville, of the Arab League (League of Arab States) in 2007 and lastly of the CBD COP9 in 2008.

5. CMS budgets have not been sufficient to allow the Secretariat to attempt more than occasional capacity building events, such as the workshops held in Samoa, Panama and China in 2006, which were funded by earmarked contributions. However, other CMS activities such as those on avian influenza and the “Year of the Dolphin” programme contain a capacity building element (e.g. workshops with East African fishermen to encourage dolphin-friendly fishing techniques). Moreover in 2007 the Secretariat published the first-ever comprehensive Guide to CMS¹ which has the potential to be a key capacity building tool, especially when resources are found to make it available in other languages. The Wings over Wetlands project is currently finalising the flyway training toolkit that covers the African-Eurasian flyway, soon to be available online via the WoW website. Once in place, it will offer excellent capacity building in various regional languages throughout Africa and Eurasia with respect to migratory birds. The basis of this toolkit has applicability for flyways in general and therefore has relevance to all regions outside the African Eurasian flyway as well.

III. The Bali Strategic Plan

6. In 2005 the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building was generated by UNEP as a standard for capacity building procedures. CMS is able to utilize the Plan as a template to adapt to its own requirements. The Bali Strategic Plan constitutes an approach agreed among governments to strengthen technology support and capacity building in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. It seeks to strengthen the capacity of governments of such countries at all levels and provide systematic, targeted, long- and short-term measures for technology support and capacity building. Another objective of the Plan is to promote, facilitate and finance access to and support for environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how.

7. The Plan seeks to enable collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and provide a basis for a comprehensive approach to developing partnerships, including public-private partnerships. It emphasises the identification and dissemination of best practices and fostering of entrepreneurship and partnerships.

8. With respect to its implementation, the Bali Strategic Plan states that a bottom-up approach in identifying specific objectives, strategies and activities will be used to reflect the needs of countries and regions. This bottom-up approach reflects the views and priorities expressed by governments, while also considering views of relevant organisations and stakeholders. This approach also supports another tenet of the Bali Strategic Plan: the importance of national ownership of capacity building and technology support initiatives.

IV. CMS Options

9. CMS Parties need to consider a range of options for developing an effective capacity building programme for the Convention (as demonstrated in Diagram 1: Life Cycle of Capacity-building Implementation). The actions described below are neither an exhaustive list nor are they mutually exclusive, and include:

¹ “The Encyclopaedia of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory of Wild Animals” CMS 2007.

a) National or Regional Training Programmes

10. Following the model of the Ozone and Chemicals Conventions, national or regional training programmes could be established (see Diagram 2: CMS Structure for Capacity-building). Governments and NGO Partners would be sought to help finance and manage the centres. Their key objective would be to empower national bodies and local communities to actively support wildlife conservation and contribute to wider sustainable development objectives in the countries and regions concerned. CMS regional “nodes”² could be given the lead role in developing a network of training centres.

11. Among the topics to be covered by the centres would be:

- Scientific information on migration (in co-operation with the Scientific Council)
- By-catch and other adverse human impacts on marine species
- Protected areas and migratory species
- Maintaining corridors for migratory species (migration phenomena are among the most magnificent wildlife spectacles in the world) in addition to the identification of new flyways and seaways and other corridors relevant for migratory species
- Human resources and financial capacity building
- Ecotourism and sustainable development
- Effect of climate change on migratory species
- Private sector partnerships
- Bird migration and Avian Influenza or other infectious diseases and epidemics
- Conservation of mega-fauna
- Impact of alien invasive species on migratory species
- Impact on the population of migratory species due to habitat degradation and contamination
- Providing practical experience on monitoring techniques, species identification and data collection

12. The contracting or partnering of NGOs opens the way to the implementation of this programme. In this way, targeted training by experts on the topics mentioned above may be required. However, initially the Convention and its Parties can utilise the sheer wealth of expertise and experience generated by the CMS focal points to exchange such knowledge during regular meetings. Consequently the continuous accession growth offers a wider pool of information delivered by new parties.

The table below demonstrates the continuous expansion of the Convention in terms of Parties.

² Conf 9.31 Secretariat Manpower and Organization “Future Shape of CMS”.

CMS Membership over the period 2005-2008

Region	Parties 2005	Parties 2005 %	Parties 2008 (increase)	Parties 2008 %
Africa	34	36.2	38 (+4)	34.5
Americas	8	8.5	12 (+4)	10.9
Asia	10	10.6	14 (+4)	12.7
Europe	38	40.4	40 (+2)	36.4
Oceania	4	4.3	6 (+2)	5.5
Total	94	100	110 (+16)	100

b) Computer-Based Learning

13. Computer-based learning offers a variety of benefits to capacity building and complements local training programmes. On one hand, it delivers a quick-access, cost-effective tool that can easily be assessed and modified; on the other, it can be designed to disseminate knowledge and information to all stakeholders in a coordinated manner.

14. It may be organised as follows: a dedicated capacity building coordinator will oversee the learning programme online. This central focal point prepares interactive courses on various aspects of CMS implementation in a variety of languages, to be available online and in CD/DVD format. Knowledge management, in particular the UNEP/IUCN partner project TEMATEA could thus facilitate a probable sharing of computer-based learning with other MEAs. This would include among others the collection, storage and analysis of data as well as effective sharing and dissemination of information in a harmonised manner in form of Online National Reporting.

c) Regional Workshop Programme

15. As an additional measurement a number of workshops with full global and linguistic coverage are planned for the next 3 years. Costs can be minimised by coordinating these workshops with other MEAs and scheduling them to take place alongside or back-to-back with other meetings in the region. Major subjects can thereby be covered.

16. The emphasis of the workshops will be on exchanging information and active learning with a particular focus on the existing knowledge of local communities, which involves taking into account all levels of society in the countries concerned. This suggests a workshop format featuring a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions, discussions in small working groups and structured skill-building modules. Providing an internal forum for the exchange of information and experience between stakeholders allows for mutual feed back after the practical sessions.

17. Three such workshops have taken place already, namely the joint CMS/CREHO-Ramsar Capacity-Building workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama; the outreach workshop in Apia, Samoa and the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington DC, all in 2007.

d) Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) Programme

18. In order to address common problems, the Biodiversity Liaison Group has been founded. The advantage of joining forces, to form a harmonised capacity building approach run equally by all conventions, is an improved use of resources and therefore achieves greater cost effectiveness. The BLG programme would function as a combined specialised variant of paragraphs 12-15 under which BLG would draw up, co-finance and organize a series of regional workshops and computer-based training resources for the six biodiversity-related MEAs (CMS, CBD, CITES, Ramsar, World Heritage Convention and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture). Some of the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines³ of BLG include the following:

Practical principle 4:

Adaptive management should be practiced, based on:

- a. Science and traditional and local knowledge;
- b. Iterative, timely and transparent feedback derived from monitoring the use, environmental, socio-economic impacts, and the status of the resource being used; and
- c. Adjusting management based on timely feedback from the monitoring procedures.

Practical principle 9:

An interdisciplinary, participatory approach should be applied at the appropriate levels of management and governance related to the use.

Practical principle 12:

The needs of indigenous and local communities who live with and are affected by the use and conservation of biological diversity, along with their contributions to its conservation and sustainable use, should be reflected in the equitable distribution of the benefits from the use of those resources.

Practical principle 14:

Education and public awareness programmes on conservation and sustainable use should be implemented and more effective methods of communications should be developed between and among stakeholders and managers.

e) UNEP-Based Programme

19. Using the model of Ozone Action Branch within the UNEP/Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, it has been proposed that UNEP and CMS should establish a similar regular procedure for communication. This would facilitate information exchange and help solve problems. CMS is specifically relying on UNEP to provide a comprehensive capacity building and training programme for CMS at regional and national level. The CMS

³ The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable use of Biodiversity consist of fourteen interdependent practical principles, operational guidelines and a few instruments for their implementation that govern the uses of components of biodiversity to ensure the sustainability of such uses. The principles provide a framework to assist Governments, resource managers, indigenous and local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders on how to ensure that their use of the components of biodiversity will not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity.

Secretariat for its part is required to help organize events, and provide speakers.

V. Potential Difficulties

20. The main problem hindering the development of capacity building is inadequate financing. Without sufficient and continuous funding over several years, training centres, on-line training kits, workshops and other capacity building programmes cannot be generated. A sophisticated solution is required to ensure the progressive build-up of local resources, utilising the available finances in a most effective way that leads to a self-sustainable management of the country's own capacity with a continuous reduction in cost covered by external funding. The programme needs to be an integral part of the CMS Strategic Plan and Budget, as it is very difficult to plan ahead and allocate resources effectively if each main activity depends on attracting fresh ad hoc resources from voluntary earmarked contributions.

VI. Other Issues

21. A variety of other relevant points are raised below.
22. The development of capacities is an important implementing tool in relation to 2010 and WSSD targets.
23. The principles of the Clearing House Mechanism already implemented by CBD can be integrated into the CMS Capacity Building Strategy. It will offer research and other technical information on migratory species as a contribution to global capacities in the implementation strategy of the CMS Convention. Feedback and regular reports on capacity building activities as a means of quality control are crucial.
24. The encouragement of growth of the research and scientific capacity and quality control mechanisms cannot be sufficiently emphasised. A better understanding of the behaviour of migratory species and consequently improved mechanisms of conservation lead to higher efficacy of the Convention using the expertise of local scientists on the ground.
25. As mentioned in Paragraph 15 and again emphasised in Paragraph 16, the key to success in effective capacity building lies in involving local people. Not only do they provide CMS with their knowledge on migratory animal conservation and wise use, they are also the target group to develop capacities. This includes local trainers and decision makers in their national language organised by national focal points and NGOs.
26. A networking and analytical tool could comprise worldwide forums on specific subjects (e.g. exchange of scientific, environmental and legal information) for all stakeholders including scientists, trainers, policy makers, etc. They encourage interaction and unity among stakeholders, provided they have the means to converse online e.g. via teleconferences hosted by GEO.
27. Finally, engaging local experts and utilizing their knowledge to enhance information on CMS in conjunction with the engagement of the scientific community, particularly those working with threatened species and protected areas, are the recipe for successful implementation of the capacity building strategy.

Action requested:

The Secretariat requests the Parties to:

- a. consider and decide on the various options as well as on the main elements in the Capacity Building strategy for 2009-11.
- c. provide financial support and fundraising guidance for the Capacity Building strategy adopted.
- d. afford Capacity Building high priority in their national programmes in line with the adopted strategy 2007-2011:

- e. assist the Secretariat in the implementation of the capacity building plan, by:
- undertaking activities that aim to (i) identify priorities for future research (ii) identify which challenges for migratory species, based on best available evidence, benefit particularly from capacity building (iii) strengthen links with other MEAs that have undertaken research into the impacts of capacity building for migratory species and to take account of that research; and
 - providing the financial contribution needed to support the implementation of current capacity building projects and to initiate new activities, in particular regional workshops and national training programmes.
- f. encourage the initiation of collaborative international research projects on migratory species and their habitats so as to better understand implications and appropriate policy responses.
- g. mandate the Secretariat to:
- i. continue to liaise with the CBD Secretariat and the other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant institutions with a view to adopting suitable indicators to measure the achievement of the 2010 target;
 - ii. coordinate regional workshops with meetings already scheduled for the region;
 - iii. work with the Scientific Council and secretariats of the CMS daughter agreements and their scientific advisory bodies on producing guidance that would help CMS Parties to build capacities; and
 - iv. identify possible regional, multilateral, bilateral collaborations and involve relevant stakeholders including the private sector.

Diagram 1: Life Cycle of Capacity Building Implementation

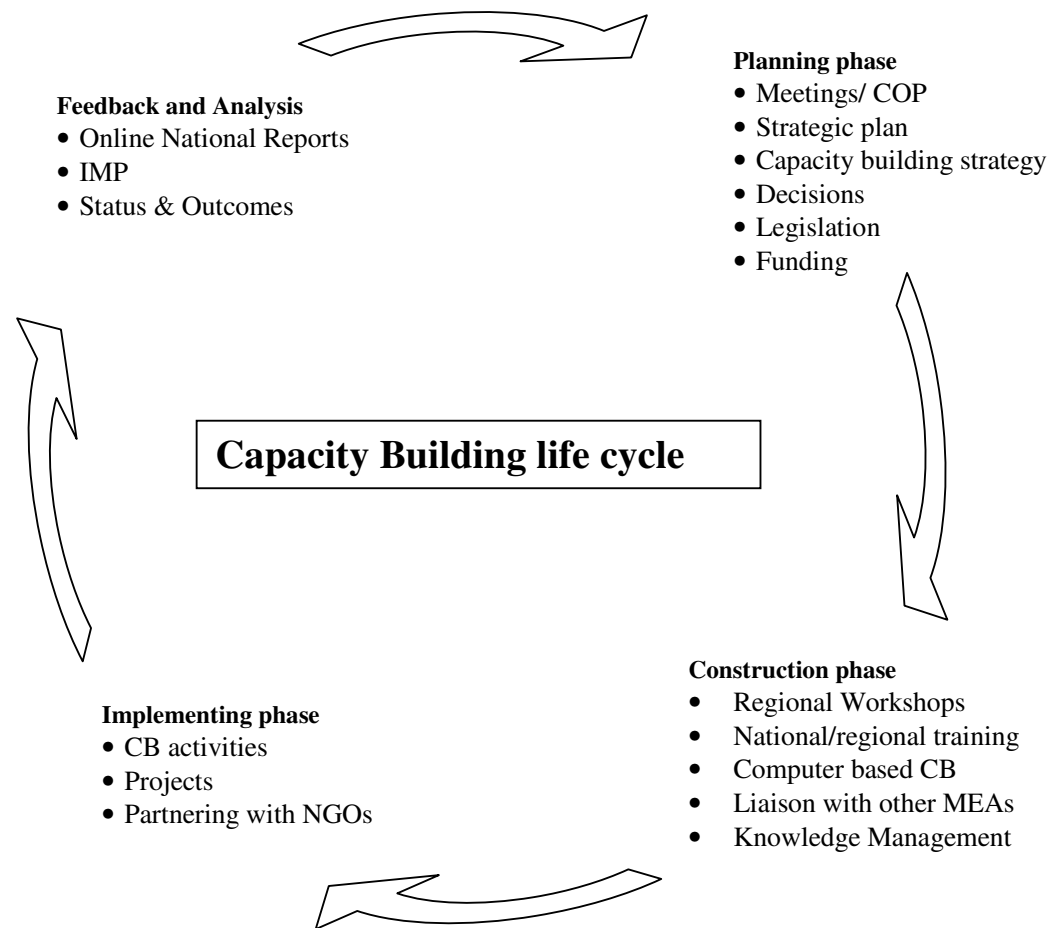


Diagram 2: CMS Structure for Capacity Building

