

Global Workshop on CMS Legislation

Bonn, Germany, 3 – 5 June 2025

UNEP/CMS/GWL/Doc.6/Rev.1

**SESSION 6 FACILITATION QUESTIONS –
ADDRESSING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY AND INPUT TO THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE
GUIDANCE FOR MAINTAINING, IMPROVING AND RESTORING ECOLOGICAL
CONNECTIVITY**

(Prepared by the Secretariat, as at 20 May 2025)

Summary:

This document provides preparatory material for the workshop, which participants are encouraged to review in advance.

The preparatory material is designed to support reflection on national legislation, best practices and challenges related to the implementation of CMS Article III.4 a) and b) and addressing ecological connectivity.

In addition, the document outlines the breakout group questions that will be discussed during the workshop.

Rev.1 contains a revision of breakout group questions.



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Pre-workshop Preparation

1. To facilitate constructive discussions at the workshop and exchanges of best practices, challenges, and lessons learned, the Secretariat encourages you to familiarize yourself with the national legislation regarding the implementation of CMS Article III.4 a) and b) in your country and addressing ecological connectivity.
2. To aid in this preparation, the Secretariat has also prepared a list of questions to support reflection on national legislation, best practices and challenges in your country when it comes to addressing ecological connectivity.
3. During the second day, you would have the opportunity to share and report on national approaches to reflect ecological connectivity in your national legislation. Your findings would also enrich the discussions during the breakout group session.
4. Furthermore, the Secretariat encourages you to acquaint yourself with the UNEP/CMS/GWL/Doc.5: *Draft Legislative Guidance for Maintaining, Improving and Restoring Ecological Connectivity* and the draft recommendations it contains.
5. Therefore, to prepare for the workshop, the Secretariat encourages you to:
 - **Consult** your national legislation regarding the implementation of CMS Article III.4 a) and b) and addressing ecological connectivity;
 - **Consult** UNEP/CMS/GWL/Doc.5: *Draft Legislative Guidance for Maintaining, Improving and Restoring Ecological Connectivity*;
 - **Review** the regulatory system in your country addressing ecological connectivity; and
 - **Reflect** on the following questions:

Implementation of CMS Article III.4 a) and b) in national legislation

- a. Does your country have in place any kind of legislation that addresses the conservation and restoration of habitats of CMS Appendix I species, as in CMS Article III.4 a)? If yes, what legislation?
- b. Does your national legislation and/or other domestic measures require consideration of a species' Appendix I status when identifying and establishing protected areas or other effective conservation measures?
- c. Does your country have in place any kind of legislation that addresses the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species, as in CMS Article III.4 b)? If yes, what legislation?
- d. Does your national legislation and/or other domestic measures require consideration of a species' Appendix I status when undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment?

Planning laws and ecological connectivity

- e. Do planning laws in your country prioritize connectivity?
- f. Do planning laws in your country include measurable connectivity mandates (e.g. minimal percentages of territory designated as “green spaces”, “ecological corridors”)?

Protected area legislation and ecological connectivity

- g. Is connectivity a factor in designating protected areas in your country?
- h. Does legislation on protected areas in your country contemplate buffer zones or creation of ecological corridors?
- i. Do the laws in your country allow the designation of private protected areas?

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and ecological connectivity

- j. Does EIA law in your country include requirement to study impacts on connectivity?
- k. Are connectivity baseline studies required in your country?

Marine connectivity

- l. Are ecologically based marine protected areas provided for in law in your country?
- m. Do relevant laws in your country require marine spatial planning and ocean zoning?

Hydrological connectivity

- n. Does the law in your country manage water resources for environmental flows for non-consumptive uses?

Public participation

- o. Are planning processes in your country open to public participation?

Workshop Breakout Group Questions

Breakout Groups 1 and 2

Please identify the following roles for your group: a notetaker, a timekeeper, and a group reporter.

Part A: How are countries addressing ecological connectivity for migratory species through legislation, what are the challenges and what are the best practices

Based on your knowledge of national legislation implementing CMS and addressing ecological connectivity, discuss and address the following questions:

Legal Framework for Ecological Connectivity

1. What role do environmental impact assessments play in your country to maintain and/or improve ecological connectivity? Share examples and lessons learned.
2. How does your national legislation balance competing land-use priorities, including infrastructure, with the need to maintain ecological connectivity? Discuss the challenges and how best to overcome them.
3. How does your national legislation:
 - a. address marine ecological connectivity? What are the current challenges you face in maintaining and/or improving marine ecological connectivity?
 - b. address hydrological connectivity? How could national legislation support hydrological connectivity for migratory species in times of increasing human-use and drought periods?

Strengthening Domestic Frameworks

4. Considering your existing legislation addressing ecological connectivity, what are the top three challenges to their effective implementation?
5. What additional measures could be provided in the legislation to improve ecological connectivity? Share your country's examples and lessons learned.

Identifying Best Practices

6. What three factors do you consider essential for legislation to effectively ensure ecological connectivity?
7. What approaches have worked best in your country?

Part B: Input to the Draft Legislative Guidance for Maintaining, Improving and Restoring Ecological Connectivity

Based on the previous discussion, reflect on UNEP/CMS/GWL/Doc.5: *Draft Legislative Guidance for Maintaining, Improving and Restoring Ecological Connectivity* and the draft recommendations it contains. Provide your input by addressing the following questions:

1. Does your country already have some of the recommendations from the Draft Legislative Guidance in place? If so, which ones? How effective have they been, and what lessons have been learned?
2. Of the 20 recommendations, which do you consider to be:
 - a. The most important? (Select top three)
 - b. The easiest to implement? (Select top three)
3. Are there any additional recommendations you could suggest?
4. Would your country benefit from having this guidance available?