

CMS COP10: OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING RELEVANT TO DUGONG MOU

Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat

1. The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to CMS took place on 20-25 November 2011 at Bergen, Norway. Important decisions are reflected in the 29 Resolutions adopted by the Conference. This document outlines the key outcomes from COP10 of relevance to the Dugong MoU, and highlights the importance of the process for the development of the future Migratory Species Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023.

Marine Debris - Resolution 10.4

2. This Resolution highlights the negative impacts of marine debris on migratory species, caused by ingestion, entanglement and habitat degradation. CMS Parties are called upon to identify hotspots where marine debris accumulates and originates, and collaborate to assess the impacts. They are encouraged to develop and implement national plans of action to address this problem, and to report available information on the amounts, impacts and sources of marine debris. The CMS Scientific Council will identify knowledge gaps and best practice waste management strategies on ships and determine the need for the improvement or development of codes of conduct. The Secretariat will assist with collating information on the subject, also from other agreements.

Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries - Resolution 10.14

3. Prior to CMS COP10, an assessment of bycatch in gillnet fisheries identified the forty species most exposed to risk from gillnet fishing. These included sirenians as well as cetaceans and seabirds, seals, sea otters, sea turtles and sharks. Resolution 10.14 recognizes the magnitude of the impact of gillnet fisheries and calls on CMS Parties to assess the risk of bycatch for migratory species in their territorial waters, and to identify and improve mitigation measures. The CMS Scientific Council is instructed to develop terms of reference for studies identifying the degree of interaction between gillnet fisheries and CMS-listed species. The Scientific Council is also to identify the most effective mitigation techniques, building upon existing initiatives within the fisheries sector.

Underwater Noise Pollution - Resolution 10.24

4. This Resolution reaffirms that there is a need for further research on the impact of underwater noise (including inter alia from offshore wind farms and associated shipping) on cetaceans and other migratory species and including their migratory routes and ecological coherence. CMS Parties are urged to prevent adverse effects on cetaceans and on other migratory marine species and to develop appropriate regulatory frameworks or implement relevant measures to ensure a reduction or mitigation of man-made underwater noise. Environmental Impact Assessments are to take full account of the effects of activities on cetaceans and to consider potential impacts on marine biota and their migration routes. The Resolution further recommends that CMS Parties use noise reduction techniques for offshore activities and integrate the issue of anthropogenic noise into the management plans of marine protected areas.

Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans - Resolution 10.15

5. One matter relevant to the Dugong MoU is the establishment of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the CMS Scientific Council, which seeks to support the delivery of specific information to CMS Parties and CMS agreement Signatories. The Working Group will commence operations soon, via an on-line workspace which any interested experts can join.

Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change - Resolution 10.19

6. There was also recognition at COP10 of the increasing need for Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments to, for instance, promote timely conservation measures where migration patterns have changed due to climate

change, develop and implement monitoring regimes for transboundary range shifts and analyse the impact of climate change on migratory species.

The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species - Resolution 10.3

7. The COP recognized the importance of a network approach to habitat sites in the implementation of existing CMS instruments and initiatives. Parties asked the CMS Secretariat and the Scientific Council to identify, within the CMS Family of instruments, the current and potential future use of ecological networks concepts and approaches and to conduct a strategic review to assess how major protected area systems and initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks of critical sites address the needs of migratory species. The CMS Secretariat is in the process of compiling existing information and case studies and at the same time is actively undertaking to raise funds to assist with further work, e.g. to research potential new sources of information; analyse the data collected; identify gaps in knowledge and provide advice and guidance on next steps. Also, CMS Parties and other States as well as relevant international fora, are urged to explore the applicability of ecological networks to marine migratory species, especially those that are under pressure from human activities such as over exploitation, oil and gas exploration/exploitation, fisheries and coastal development.

CMS Strategic Plan 2015–2023 - Resolution 10.5

8. One of the major COP decisions concerned the establishment of an inter-sessional Working Group (WG) to develop the future CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023. The Working Group held its first meeting in November 2012, and there was agreement that the future Plan will be drafted for migratory species in general – as a *Migratory Species Strategic Plan* it will therefore not only support CMS instruments, but will also serve as an overarching framework for all of those working towards the conservation of migratory species. Thus it will be based on the approach used in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. It will also use the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a basis.

9. A new Strategic Plan will provide a clear, common agenda for all to work to. The whole CMS Family, including the Dugong MoU through its secretariat, is invited to provide their views to ensure that the Strategic Plan is aligned with the mandate of each individual instrument. An opportunity to comment is now, during 2013, while the Plan is being drafted. More information is attached in Annex 1, and drafts of the Plan will be placed on this web link:

www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_mainpage.htm.

Capacity Building Strategy (2012-2014) - Resolution 10.6

10. The Resolution emphasizes the importance of increased cooperation within the CMS Family with a view to developing tools that would strengthen the capacity of Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments. Earlier this year, the European Commission¹ sponsored the project titled '*Effective Implementation of CMS Family Instruments across Various Regions & Languages through Capacity Building*' for the period 2012–2014. This project focusses on supporting African countries through result-based capacity building and strengthening activities to implement CMS and its instruments, such as the Dugong MoU. Currently, steps are being taken to develop a manual and an interactive e-learning tool for both the National Focal Points and Contact Points for the CMS instruments.

Outreach and Communication Issues - Resolution 10.7

Web-based database and new CMS Family website

11. This Resolution recognizes the need to modernize and streamline the Convention's information sharing capacity. One of the activities foreseen is the development of a new CMS Family website. The first step has been

¹ Funds came from the '*The Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between the European Commission - DG Environment and UNEP*'.

taken by contracting a Consultant to build the database which will form the foundation for the new Website. This is a major undertaking but will provide a platform for all of the CMS Family instruments to utilise in the future.

Online Reporting System

12. An Online Reporting System (ORS) has been developed by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration with the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA) to streamline the national reporting process, make it more efficient for the countries and to provide the basis for easier analysis of datasets. The ORS was successfully tested for the AEWA reporting cycle to its 5th Meeting of Parties in May 2012. Anticipating the potential future use of the system by CMS and its instruments, the ORS has been designed as a tool for the whole CMS Family.

Cooperation between the Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS - Resolution 10.8

13. The need is recognized for regular and thematic assessments of the status of biodiversity to provide decision-makers with the necessary information basis for adaptive management. CMS Parties and Scientific Councillors are urged to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species are being adequately addressed by IPBES. The CMS Scientific Council is requested to undertake a review of needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, including the use of scientific assessments, and the potential role of migratory species as indicators of wider ecological change.

Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs – Resolution 10.18

14. The COP acknowledged the importance of integrating measures to conserve migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and during implementation of national biodiversity targets. The Resolution requests Parties to make use of the relevant Guidelines (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27²) which should also assist Signatories to the Dugong MoU in aligning their national level and trans-boundary actions with NBSAPs.

Future Structure and Strategies of CMS and CMS Family - Resolution 10.9

This Resolution lists a set of activities according to priorities assigned by the Parties:

- Alignment with international environmental governance reform.
- Improved partnership working, which foresees closer collaboration with other MEAs, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector.
- Enhancing scientific research and information, e.g. in connection with the development of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- Enhancing communication and seeking opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family, e.g. through a redesign of the website.
- Carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resources appropriateness.
- Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family.
- Restructuring of the Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity.
- Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography, to be achieved by means of greater regional presence through coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs, Parties and MEAs.
- Harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family.
- Strengthening the coordination and servicing of MoUs, by ensuring appropriate staffing levels of the

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e.pdf

CMS Agreements Unit.

- Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family instruments.
- Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family, e.g. by CMS providing centralized related services.
- Seeking opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities.
- Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements, by cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects, and between agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography.
- Monitoring of implementation.

15. Many of these activities concern current actions in which the CMS Secretariat, CMS Agreements and MoUs and partner organizations have already invested considerable effort. CMS Parties effectively confirmed that these efforts are in line with their priorities, and provided guidance as to the next steps to be taken.

16. An overview of progress made by the CMS Secretariat in the implementation of this Resolution was presented to the 40th CMS Standing Committee Meeting in November 2012 (UNEP/CMS/StC40/13). MoU Secretariats or Coordinating Units will be requested to provide input to similar reports to be presented to future meetings.

17. Given that many of the prioritized activities concern not only CMS but the entire CMS Family, including Signatories to the Dugong MoU, the Meeting is invited to take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions and to engage with their implementation as appropriate.

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