

“Strawdog” Overarching Americas Flyways Framework Agreement

For discussion at CMS/WHMSI Americas flyways experts meeting, Jamaica March 2014

Preamble

Recalling Article VII of the Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (the Western Hemisphere Convention) which states that “The Contracting Governments shall adopt appropriate measures for the protection of migratory birds of economic or aesthetic value or to prevent the threatened extinction of any given species.”;

Taking note of the Plan of Action adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the III Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, 2001) that calls for “the development of a hemispheric strategy to support the conservation of migratory wildlife throughout the Americas, with the active engagement of civil society”;

Acknowledging the work of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) to bring together governments and civil society from throughout the Americas to advance the conservation of shared migratory species, and in particular the action plan developed for “Integrating Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives in the Americas”.

Taking note of Resolution 10.10 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) which calls for “in close partnership with existing flyway organizations and initiatives in the Americas, and in particular the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), to develop an overarching conservation Action Plan for migratory birds in the Americas, recognizing especially the established programmes of work and taking into account existing instruments”.

Acknowledging the work of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management to coordinate international efforts to conserve birds in North America; and acknowledging the increasing number of regional instruments for the conservation of migratory birds in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats.

Participants in the CMS/WHMSI Americas flyways experts meeting (Jamaica, March 2014) call upon the governments and all relevant partners and stakeholders to:

1. Ensure active cooperation among migratory bird instruments, initiatives and partnerships.

Closer cooperation among those instruments, initiatives and partnerships relating to migratory birds and the habitats upon which they depend, and as a priority to focus on and address specific threats to halt the decline in the populations of these birds.

2. Promote collaboration with other environmental instruments.

Closer collaboration with other environmental instruments (not focused on migratory birds), to build upon synergies and ensure that the requirements of migratory birds are integrated within appropriate policies, tools and initiatives.

3. Promote collaboration with other sectors.

Promote the collaborative conservation of migratory birds by working with other bodies whose prime objective is not wildlife conservation, including the private sector, to ensure that the requirements of migratory birds are integrated into land-use policies, operational guidance, safeguard and mitigation policies, and to identify and promote best practices in protection, management and sustainable use.

4. Promote comprehensive biological planning

Promote the identification of priority bird species for conservation action; develop/update full lifecycle conservation business plans as appropriate; and foster the building of coalitions of partners to implement priority actions.

5. Assess and mitigate significant barriers to migration.

Assess the threat to migratory species posed by barriers such as illegal and unsustainable hunting and the proliferation of poorly-planned wind energy and power transmission infrastructure. Promote and foster efforts to reduce or eliminate these barriers, for instance building on existing industry and government guidelines.

6. Foster the conservation of high priority networks of sites and habitats

Identify coherent networks of sites and habitats critical for the conservation of priority migratory bird species; support the development of a Critical Site Network Tool to ensure that information on the networks of sites is readily available; through formal designations and voluntary measures as appropriate, protect and manage all critical sites; and foster trans-boundary collaboration within flyway networks, building effective coalitions of partners, to implement existing site management plans and develop new ones.

7. Mitigate impacts of climate change on migratory bird species

Take action to mitigate the impacts of climate change on migratory bird species, including addressing immediate threats that might reduce adaptive potential, ensuring adequate environmental safeguards for renewable energy projects, promoting adaptive management, and considering the resilience of sites to climate change and the potential for shifts in the range of species due to climate change in the design of protected networks of sites.

8. Enhance and strengthen monitoring

Enhance and strengthen monitoring of migratory bird populations and the important sites they rely upon, and to increase capacity for and sustainability of such monitoring in the long term.

9. Improve knowledge

Support targeted research to understand the ecology of priority migrants throughout their lifecycles, identifying the key barriers and threats; and support the development and use of new and existing tools and techniques, to help identify migration strategies, covering the

entire life cycle of species, to better understand the wider land-use issues facing migratory birds, in addition to the migratory connections linking sites, regions, local communities, and governments.

10. Build capacity

Build capacity for flyway-scale conservation including the strengthening of local and national capacity at critical points on the flyways and the strengthening of collaboration and support between coalitions of local, national and regional partners. Share best practices, lessons learnt, relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes, and provide guidance and input to the conservation and management of flyways at local, national, regional and flyways levels.

11. Build awareness

Communicate and raise awareness of the ecological, economic and cultural importance of migratory species throughout the hemisphere, promoting public awareness campaigns and other relevant activities to increase the participation of civil society in the conservation of migratory species.

12. Help guide funding to priority needs

Work with existing and new donors relevant to migratory bird conservation, and using conservation business plans, help target funding to the highest priority needs for effective migratory bird conservation at the flyway scale.

Comparative Table

The following table compares the strategies proposed in the current document with those identified in one global (CMS), one hemispheric (WHMSI) and one regional (NABCI) initiative, of relevance to migratory bird conservation in the Americas. Assignment of initiative strategies is only intended to be illustrative of the overlap.

| | CMS | WHMSI | NABCI |
|---|--|---|--|
| Ensure active cooperation among migratory bird instruments, initiatives and partnerships. | Res. 10.10 Clause 1 | Conservation Planning - 5, 8 Information, awareness, capacity building, engagement - 20 | Strategy 2: Enhanced Partnerships for Implementation |
| Promote collaboration with other environmental instruments | Res. 10.10 Clause 2 | Conservation Planning - 6, 7 | |
| Promote collaboration with other sectors | Res. 10.10 Clause 2 Res. 10.10 Clause 9 Res. 10.10 Clause 8 | Conservation Planning - 6 | Strategy 2: Enhanced Partnerships for Implementation |
| Promote comprehensive biological planning | | Conservation Planning - 5 | Strategy 1: Comprehensive biological planning |
| Assess and mitigate significant barriers to migration | Res. 10.10 Clause 3 Res. 10.10 Clause 4 | Threat Mitigation - 1, 2, 4 | |
| Foster the conservation of high priority networks of sites and habitats | Res. 10.10 Clause 3 Res. 10.10 Clause 5 Res. 10.10 Clause 6 Res. 10.10 Clause 7 | Threat Mitigation - 1, 2, 4 Conservation Planning - 8, 9 Information, awareness, capacity building, engagement - 14 | 4. International Cooperation |
| Mitigate impacts of climate change on migratory bird species | Res. 10.10 Clause 4 Res. 10.10 Clause 5 Res. 10.10 Clause 8 | Threat Mitigation - 3 | |
| Enhance and strengthen monitoring | Res. 10.10 Clause 10 | Conservation Planning - 9 | 3. Strong Scientific Foundation and Evaluation |
| Improve knowledge | Res. 10.10 Clause 11 | Conservation Planning – 9, 10 Information, awareness, capacity building, engagement – 13, 14, 15 | 3. Strong Scientific Foundation and Evaluation |
| Build capacity | Res. 10.10 Clause 12 | Information, awareness, capacity building, engagement – 11, 19 | |
| Build awareness | | Information, awareness, capacity | |

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| | | building, engagement - 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 | |
| Help guide funding to priority needs | Res. 10.10 Clause 13 | Resources needed – 20, 21 | 5. Sufficient Resources |

CMS – UNEP/CMS Resolution 10.10 guidance on global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements, adopted at CMS COP10.

WHMSI – Objectives identified in the WHMSI “Purpose and Organization”, adopted in principle by the plenary December 2010.

NABCI – Strategies identified in NABCI Strategy and Action Plan, May 1999.