

Memorandum of Co-operation

between

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD Secretariat)

and

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Secretariat)

The UNCCD and CMS Secretariats,

Recognising that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is the global United Nations-based mechanism addressing comprehensively all migratory species, and that it provides an international legal framework through which States can work together to conserve and manage migratory species across their migratory range;

Recalling the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), namely Article 8 on the relationship with other conventions, and Article 22, paragraph 2(i), on promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant international bodies and conventions;

Recalling as well Decision 13/COP.1 of the First Meeting of the UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP), requesting the Secretariat "to make all efforts to strengthen further the collaboration with other relevant conventions and in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as well as the other conventions related to sustainable development, and thereby assist UNEP in its role of developing coherent interlinkages among relevant environmental conventions in cooperation with their respective conferences of the parties";

Noting Decision 8/COP.2 of the Second Meeting of the UNCCD COP, requesting the Secretariat to consult with other relevant secretariats to develop memoranda of understanding to define their collaboration and cooperation;

Recognising that CMS Article IX requires the CMS Secretariat to maintain liaison with, inter alia, international organizations concerned with migratory species, that Resolution 6.4 (CMS Strategic Plan 2000-2005) requests the CMS Secretariat to "actively foster synergy" between other global environmental conventions and CMS, and that operational objective 4.4 of the CMS Strategic Plan calls for the strengthening of operational linkages with partner organizations in particular the main biodiversity-related conventions;

Aware of Decision VI/20 of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) whereby it is recognized that:

- a) migratory species are "a unique globally important component of biological diversity" under CMS;
- b) "the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species need to be undertaken in their migratory range and through cooperative actions"; and

- c) CMS is the "lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range";

Conscious that the habitats for a significant number of the migratory species listed as "endangered" on CMS Appendix I, and subsequently identified for concerted action by the CMS COP, are found in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and that the survival of these animals depends in part on the successful implementation of national, regional and sub-regional plans and programmes to combat desertification;

Considering that according to UNCCD Article 1, paragraphs (a) and (e), combating desertification in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas includes activities which are part of the integrated development of land for sustainable development, and that "land" means the terrestrial bio-productive system that comprises soil, water, vegetation, other biota, and the ecological processes that operate within;

Further considering that national action programmes developed pursuant to UNCCD Articles 9 and 10 as the central element of a country's strategy to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought shall be closely interlinked with national sustainable development policies and, in keeping with UNCCD Article 11, that sub-regional and regional action programmes to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes may be prepared to sustainably manage transboundary natural resources;

Aware that both Secretariats have Memoranda of Cooperation with the CBD Secretariat and the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, all of which are aimed at, inter alia, avoiding duplication of efforts and encouraging a more integrated implementation of these conventions at the national and regional levels; and

Acknowledging the longstanding relationship between the UNCCD and the CMS Secretariats and their co-location in the same premises.

NOW THEREFORE the Secretariats, agree as follows:

Article 1 Institutional Co-operation

1. Each Secretariat shall invite the other to participate as an observer in their Conventions' respective key meetings, including sessions of the Conference of the Parties, their subsidiary bodies as well as regional and sub-regional meetings.
2. The Secretariats shall inform their respective Parties' national focal points of their cooperative activities. They shall seek to promote consultation and co-operation between the focal points in those Parties where the focal points for the two conventions are different.
3. Each Secretariat shall explore possibilities for the organs of the other convention to participate as observers at their respective key meetings.
4. The Secretariats shall provide each other with the details of their scientific bodies' respective work programmes and, where appropriate, invite the chair people of these bodies to participate as observers in their scientific bodies' respective meetings.

Article 2
Exchange of Information and Experience

1. The Secretariats shall regularly exchange information of mutual interest. The CMS Secretariat will encourage the Secretariats of Agreements concluded under CMS auspices to regularly share information of mutual interest with the UNCCD Secretariat.
2. The Secretariats shall link their respective Internet sites.

Article 3
Coordination of Joint Activities

The Secretariats shall meet at least annually to brief each other on their respective activities and plans. They shall also decide on collaborative joint activities that shall be detailed in an annex considered to be integral to this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Article 4
Joint Actions

The Secretariats shall:

- a) Consult their Contracting Parties with a view to encouraging them to integrate the special requirements of migratory species into the national and regional action plans and programmes prepared and implemented by UNCCD Parties;
- b) Consult their Contracting Parties with a view to encouraging the identification of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas critical to the conservation and management, including where appropriate sustainable use, of migratory species and making recommendations to their Contracting Parties for action;
- c) Consult the responsible organs of their Parties and other relevant international organizations or programmes with the aim to establish methods to exchange relevant information in their databases; and
- d) Endeavour to collaborate in undertaking their activities in project development and public awareness activities.

Article 5
Consultation, Reporting and Further Guidance

The Secretariats shall institute measures to consult on the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation. They shall report as appropriate to their respective governing and advisory bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of action.

Article 6
Entry into force

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall take effect upon the date of signature by both parties.

Article 7
Review and Termination

This Memorandum of Cooperation may be reviewed at the request of either Secretariat and modified by written mutual agreement. It may be terminated by a unilateral written notice of either party. The termination shall take effect twelve months after the Party has received the notification.

Done at Havana on the 2 day of September 2003, in duplicate in the English language



Hama Arba Diallo
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to Combat Desertification
in those Countries Experiencing
Serious Drought and/or Desertification,
particularly in Africa



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