



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



32nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 8-9 November 2007

CMS/StC32/5
Agenda Item 5.c

CMS STRATEGIC: PLAN REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE BY AGREEMENTS

(Note by the Deputy Executive Secretary)

1. The Eighth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Resolution 8.2 paragraph 5 "*invites* Agreements under Article IV of the Convention on Migratory Species to transmit the Strategic Plan to the next meetings of their governing bodies and to reflect the targets of relevance to those Agreements in their planning and budgetary documents".
2. In Res. 8.5 paragraph 1(d), the Conference also "*invites* Agreements as a contribution to achieving Target 4.2 of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011 to: ...develop their own strategic or implementation plans linked, as far as possible, to the Convention's Strategic Plan through a system of cascading logical frameworks that show how their work contributes to the attainment of CMS objectives and targets".
3. In compliance with CMS COP Resolution 8.2 and Resolution 8.5, the development of a Strategic Plan 2009-2017 for AEWA is largely the most advanced amongst the CMS Article IV Agreements, which shows clearly the proactive line taken towards waterbirds conservation.
4. The AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 will be the first plan ever developed for the Agreement. It aims to provide a context for the implementation of the Agreement, putting forward a medium-term perspective, by setting the overall goal, the objectives and targets for a period of nine years. As such, the Strategic Plan will be the guiding document for Contracting Parties, Partner Organisations and the AEWA Secretariat in their endeavours to act effectively regarding the conservation of migratory waterbirds.
5. Resolution 3.9 'Development of a Strategic Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds' adopted by the Meeting of Parties to AEWA at its third session (2005, Senegal) took into account that a new Strategic Plan for the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) would be submitted to the 8th meeting of the Conference of Parties for adoption, which indeed was the case.
6. The CMS Strategic Plan stresses the important role of the CMS Agreements regarding the implementation of the CMS aims and objectives. As a follow up exercise the AEWA Standing Committee held a brainstorming session at its fourth meeting in November 2006, Bonn to kick off the development of a similar strategic plan for AEWA. The results of the brainstorming session, including interviews done by the Gwen van Boven of SPAN consultants were used to draft the plan.
7. Furthermore, the Consultant met in December 2006 with several AEWA Staff to produce a discussion paper, including a situation analysis, which led to a first draft Strategic Plan. This draft was used by the working group, which met in January 2007 in Bonn, to elaborate it further taking

into consideration the results of the prior situation analysis. Meanwhile this second draft has been circulated firstly to the members of the AEWA Technical Committee and Standing Committee and later as a revised version to the focal points of all Contracting Parties and Partners for comments and remarks, with the deadline of mid September 2007. The document will be amended accordingly and tabled at the next Standing Committee for approval and submission to MOP4, Madagascar, September 2008, for adoption.

8. Other, smaller Agreements have to balance formal planning tools against other day-to-day priorities, such as the establishment of new institutional bodies (Standing Committee for Eurobats) the secretariat merger with CMS (ASCOBANS), and improving implementation (IOSEA).

9. On the other hand, it seems that implementing most of Article IV Action Plans relating to binding agreements, such as AEWA, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and ACAP, or MoUs considered non-binding or less-binding, requires appropriate human and finance resources rather than strategic plans. Thus, it may be questionable to emphasize the need for such additional plans, although they may help to raise money for activities.

10. Since CMS COP8, the new UN reforms have been focusing on the necessity of implementing governance principles (CMS/StC32/6) and “acting as one UN at the country level” in view of achieving the millennium goals to the maximum extent, has been the principal concern of UNEP and CMS, which led to a proposal for a new shape that CMS should adopt by establishing regional nodes and reforming its HQ structure (CMC/StC32/7). Consequently, the Secretariat is inclined to believe the issue of pursuing establishing individual Strategic Plans for Article IV Agreements should be reconsidered in light of these recent developments.

Action requested:

- (a) The Committee is invited to take note of the progress made in implementing CMS Resolution 8.2 and Resolution 8.5 by CMS Article IV Agreements;
- (b) The Committee is also invited to acknowledge AEWA’s action and encourage Parties to the Agreement to adopt its Strategic plan 2009-2017;
- (c) The Secretariat seeks the Committee’s guidance, in light of the new developments related to the possible new shape of CMS and UN reform as referred to in documents CMS/StC32/6 and CMC/StC32/7 presented to the Committee, on the way to forward the coordination of strategic planning between CMS and its Article IV Agreements (current and projected).