

RESOLUTION 5.4

STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Fifth Meeting (Geneva, 10-16 April 1997)

Noting that Article VII, paragraph 5, of the Convention requires the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, to decide on any additional measure that should be taken to implement its objectives;

Recalling that, at its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted, in principle, the *Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention* (documents UNEP/CMS/Conf. 4.11 and UNEP/CMS/Res.4.4);

Noting the efforts made by the Parties and the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council, to implement the Convention's priorities, as embodied in the *Strategy*, during the triennium 1994-1997;

Conscious of the need to review priorities set out in the *Strategy* in order to ensure that they correspond to the most pressing requirements which the Convention needs to address;

Conscious also of the need to maintain clear priorities for the guidance of the work of the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council, the Secretariat and individual Parties in implementing the Convention; and

Considering the usefulness of having available a comprehensive document outlining the Convention's strategic plan for the short- to medium-term;

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Decides* that, pending a comprehensive review of the *Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention* prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the objectives and activities listed in the annex to the present resolution shall be the first priorities of the Convention for the triennium 1998-2000, according to the following categories:

High Priority Objectives 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3

Medium Priority Objectives 1.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, and 6.1

Ongoing Objectives 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3

In so doing, the Conference of the Parties considers the key priorities for the success of the Convention to be:

Recruitment of new members, and assisting new and existing members;
Promotion of the Convention and its objectives;
Concerted action for Appendix I species;
Development of and assistance to regional Agreements; and
Scientific work to keep the CMS Appendices under review.

2. *Requests* the Parties and all the institutions of the Convention actively to pursue these and priorities as far as possible;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take full account of the *Strategy* and priorities in determining the support to be provided for the Convention by UNEP; and
4. *Instructs* the Standing Committee and the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties on the progress in implementation of the objectives and activities, and to present a revised version of the *Strategy* to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTION POINTS FOR THE 1998-2000 TRIENNIUM

OBJECTIVE 1: ENHANCE MEMBERSHIP IN CMS THROUGH TARGETED PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION'S AIMS

- 1.1 Parties, UNEP and the Standing Committee, with the active support of the Secretariat, should intensify efforts to persuade potential Parties to join the Convention and related Agreements. First priority should be given, but efforts not necessarily limited, to the key countries for which "country profiles" have been already been developed according to biological criteria:
(Parties, UNEP, Standing Committee, Secretariat)
- 1.2 The Secretariat should expedite preparation and updating of information material, including brochures, posters, videos, mobile displays, a Convention Directory, and regular bulletins. Parties are encouraged to provide technical assistance and funds if the core budget does not suffice. Such material should be used both to promote awareness and implementation of CMS in existing Party States and to promote the Convention to potential new Parties. Individual Parties should produce information materials for national or regional audiences. Consideration should be given to undertaking a major information campaign, in concert with non-governmental organizations, well in advance of the Convention's 20th anniversary in 1999.
(Secretariat, Parties, NGOs)

OBJECTIVE 2: INTENSIFY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN REGIONS UNDER REPRESENTED IN CMS

- 2.1 The Convention's presence in Africa and Asia-Oceania should be strengthened with a view to encouraging regional co-operation for migratory species conservation. As in the case of Latin America, where the appointment of a Programme Officer from the region has helped to stimulate regional initiatives, Parties should be encouraged to second personnel to CMS in order to facilitate governmental and non-governmental contacts and to improve programme delivery within Africa and Asia-Oceania. The Secretariat should be more pro-active in its efforts to promote conservation initiatives in co-operation with regional bodies.
(Parties, Secretariat)
- 2.2 In Africa, the emphasis should be on supporting activities that are just getting off the ground, such as the recently concluded African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, as well as preliminary work on marine turtles and cetaceans in coastal waters.
(Parties, Secretariat)
- 2.3 In Asia-Oceania, CMS should continue to support and provide input to the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (1996-2000)*, which may lead in the future to a more formal multilateral agreement among States of the region, and to take an active role in the development of a conservation initiative for migratory waterbirds of the Central Asian-Indian flyway. In addition, CMS should play a more prominent role in regional co-operation for marine turtle conservation, where other bodies are not already active, and should continue to support essential research on cetaceans.
(Parties, Secretariat)

- 2.4 The Convention shall contribute to ensure that advances achieved in the neotropics by way of the CMS South American workshop (Proceedings, Valdivia, Chile, 1-3 December 1996) and whose conclusions were recognized and endorsed by the seventh meeting of the Scientific Council are followed up, and recommends that this type of meeting should also be organized for other regions of the world.
(Parties, Secretariat)

OBJECTIVE 3: FACILITATE AND IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- 3.1 The Secretariat should work together with each new Party, as soon as possible after their accession to CMS, to advise, answer queries and offer suggestions as regards implementation of the Convention. It should, through a consultancy, develop guidelines on legislation and implementation and other useful material, in order to give guidance to new Parties on CMS and its associated Agreements.
(Secretariat, individual Parties)
- 3.2 Parties as well as non-Party States, including regional economic integration organisations, should provide sufficient funds for the implementation of the Convention and of Agreements concluded under its auspices, both domestically and for transboundary co-operation and concerted action. Developed countries should channel adequate funds to projects for the implementation of CMS and Agreements in developing countries and countries in economic transition. Also, they should encourage non-governmental organisations to target their project work, *inter alia*, towards the implementation of CMS and Agreements.
(Parties, non-Parties, NGOs)
- 3.3 All Parties should be encouraged to submit reports on their implementation of CMS well before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). An analysis of reports submitted by Parties should be prepared before each meeting. The Secretariat should engage a specialised organisation on a permanent basis to review and evaluate the reports and to prepare a comprehensive report for the COP on the status and population trends for the relevant species, and conservation measures undertaken by the Parties and non-Party Range States, using also information from other sources.

A proposal should be developed and submitted to the COP6, as well as to the Meetings of the Parties of the Agreements concluded under CMS, to harmonise the various reports with a view to a) making those reports more substantial, b) providing the COP with appropriate information on the implementation of the Convention and c) making an input to the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to the conservation of migratory species.
(Parties, Secretariat)

OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOP AGREEMENTS ACCORDING TO REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- 4.1 Activities to lay basis for the identification and development of new Agreements should be continued and intensified, as far as resources are available. Parties, including regional economic integration organisations, should take the lead in developing and/or sponsoring Agreements and in hosting interim secretariats; sponsors should specify clearly to the Standing Committee how they intend to proceed in this regard. Developed Party States, whether or not they are Range States, should be encouraged to facilitate initiatives of developing countries by providing technical, scientific and financial assistance on request. The Secretariat's capacity to assist in the development of new Agreements should be strengthened.
(COP, Parties, Scientific Council, Secretariat)
- 4.2 Support to existing Agreements (including Memoranda of Understanding) should be provided by the Secretariat to the extent these activities contribute significantly to the conservation of the species concerned and help to raise the profile of the Convention.
(Secretariat)

OBJECTIVE 5: PRIORITIZE CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

- 5.1 Priority should continue to be given to actions for Appendix I species (or populations). The Scientific Council should recommend to the Conference of the Parties or Standing Committee, as appropriate, concerted measures to be taken by Parties in respect of selected species. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Council, should promote the development of cost-effective projects, in particular those intended to have a direct benefit for Appendix I species.
(Scientific Council, Secretariat)
- 5.2 In the case of critically endangered species listed in Appendix I, Parties should designate protected areas, in close co-operation with other Range States and taking into account commitments under other international instruments, so that a network of critical sites is established throughout the migration route of the species concerned.
(Parties)
- 5.3 The CMS Appendices should be reviewed and improved continually in order to assure their scientific integrity and value for conservation purposes.
(Scientific Council)

OBJECTIVE 6: MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

- 6.1 The Secretariat, with the assistance of the Standing Committee, should develop closer relations with multilateral agencies operating on a global and/or regional level that provide development assistance for projects which: a) may affect migratory species covered by CMS or b) could include migratory species as a component of a broader conservation strategy.
(Secretariat, Standing Committee)

OBJECTIVE 7: RATIONALIZE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 Secretariats for individual Agreements should be financed entirely by their Parties, except when the membership is such that financial support from the Convention is essential in the early stages of development. In addition, Parties to the respective Agreements should provide substantial voluntary support to facilitate the administration and effective implementation of the Agreement.
(Parties to Agreements, Secretariat, Standing Committee)
- 7.2 In keeping with the model adopted for Europe, Parties to Agreements developed in other regions should consider consolidating secretariat functions for one or more Agreements in regional centres which would facilitate links to the CMS Secretariat and, where appropriate, to existing organisations specialised in the conservation of migratory species.
(Parties to Agreements)
- 7.3 The personnel of the Secretariat should be augmented as far as financial resources permit to improve delivery of services in relation to technical and scientific matters, developmental and organizational activities, and liaison with other biodiversity-related conventions and organisations. The geographic and linguistic balance within the Secretariat should be improved in order to strengthen its capacity in regions not adequately represented. Regional officers for Africa and Asia should be recruited through secondment. Parties should assign to the Secretariat, at their own cost for periods of at least one year, personnel capable of undertaking specialized tasks that would otherwise not be possible to carry out.
(Parties, Secretariat, UNEP)

OBJECTIVE 8: STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

- 8.1 CMS should strengthen or establish new partnerships with the institutions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with other biodiversity-related conventions, regional agreements and programmes *inter alia* by:
- (a) implementing the MoU concluded between the secretariats of CBD and CMS (*Secretariat, Parties*);
 - (b) intensifying communication and consultations with other conventions and institutions, relevant for, *inter alia*, the conservation of migratory species (*Secretariat*);
 - (c) intensifying, as a priority, the linkages with CBD and GEF in order to implement the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CBD, as well as developing pilot projects which demonstrate (i) the complementarity of CMS in the implementation of CBD and (ii) the basic need to fill the gap in the funding mechanism of GEF for biodiversity-related projects;
 - (d) nominating a focal point from both the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council to communicate with the respective bodies of the institutions mentioned above, to participate in their meetings and to report back to the CMS bodies (*Standing Committee, Scientific Council*); and

For this reason, it is proposed that the COP provide for the establishment of a Programme Officer post to assist with the Secretariat's liaison with CBD, other biodiversity-related conventions and post-UNCED organisations (e.g. the CSD, UNFCCC, and Desertification Convention) and with other UN organisations, in a broader sense, in matters of common concern – where until now there has been minimal interaction.

- 8.2 The Standing Committee should negotiate with UNEP (through its Governing Council) on support for the implementation of CMS (as already promised in 1994) and the inclusion of some of the strategy action points in its programme of work. UNEP should also actively support the recruitment of new Parties and the establishment of partnerships with the institutions mentioned above. (*Parties, Standing Committee, Secretariat*).
- 8.3 Specialized non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play a more active role in the Convention, particularly by providing scientific advice, assisting in promotional activities and implementing projects for migratory species. The Secretariat should hold at least one intersessional meeting with NGOs, and individual Parties should also consult and, where appropriate, make use of NGOs in implementing the Convention. (*NGOs, Secretariat, Parties*)