Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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CMS STRATEGIC PLAN

Review of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017

Document prepared by the CMS Secretariat at the request of and in consultation with the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS

Introduction

1. Article VII, paragraph 5, of the text of the Convention requires the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Convention i.e by individual Contracting Parties and CMS institutional bodies, and, in particular, to decide on any additional measures that should be taken to implement its objectives.

2. In 1991, the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP3) recognised the importance of outlining a strategy for the future development of the Convention.

3. Such a strategy is intended to provide the basis for developing the goals that the Convention aims to reach to ensure a coherent approach to its implementation at all levels.

4. Three strategic plans for the Convention have so far been adopted for the following six-year periods: 1995-2000; 2000-2005 and 2006-2011.

Background

Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention for the Period 1995-2000

5. CoP3 agreed that the Standing Committee should prepare a strategy for the future development of the Convention for the period 1995-2000 to be submitted to the Parties at CoP4.

6. The Standing Committee oversaw the preparatory work done by the Secretariat, which also benefited from inputs provided by the Scientific Council as well as by a number of non-governmental organisations, and reviewed progress at each of the four meetings it had held over the triennium.

7. CoP4 adopted in principle the Strategy although it was not able to produce a final version of the document in the time allocated. An annex to Resolution 4.4, drafted by a Working Group set up at CoP4, identified priorities for the triennium 1995-1997.

8. Amendments to the Strategy (those agreed by CoP4 and those submitted afterwards by Parties by August 1994) were subsequently incorporated by the Secretariat, and the document was issued later in October 1994 in accordance with Res. 4.4.

9. CoP5 reviewed progress made in undertaking the activities identified and set out, through Resolution 5.4, “Priorities for the Triennium 1998-2000”.

Strategic Plan for the Period 2000-2005

10. Resolution 5.4, instructed the Standing Committee and the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the Strategy for the period 1998-2000, and to present a revised version for the period 2000-2005 to CoP6 in 1999.

11. Over the following triennium, the Secretariat updated the draft Plan, under the supervision of the Standing Committee, on the basis of inputs received from Parties, Scientific Councillors and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The Strategic Plan (2000-2005) was finally adopted by CoP6 through Res. 6.4.

12. Subsequent to the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the Secretariat presented at each inter-sessional meeting both of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council a review of progress in the Plan's implementation. At CoP7, the Secretariat submitted a further review (UNEP/CMS/Conf.7.10) which embraced fully the concept of "performance indicators" as advocated by the ad hoc working group established by Res. 6.4.

Strategic Plan for the Period 2006-2011

13. Resolution 7.6 established an open-ended Working Group under the chairmanship of Switzerland to take forward inter-sessional work on the elaboration the Strategic Plan 2006–2011 for consideration by the CoP8 in 2005.

14. The Working Group made progress on the elaboration of the Plan and submitted drafts of the Strategic Plan (2006-2011) to the subsequent meetings of the Standing Committee.

15. The Standing Committee acknowledged that the Strategic Plan needed further elaboration and accepted the UK's offer to host and partially fund a workshop to revisit the draft Strategic Plan.

16. In parallel, the Scientific Council pursuant to Res. 7.12, developed its own Strategy Implementation Plan for the period 2006-2011. This Plan, which was adopted in 2005 by its 13th meeting, was elaborated in line with the objectives of the CMS Strategic Plan.

17. CoP8 considered the assessment of the implementation of the Plan for 2000-2005, submitted by the Secretariat, and adopted the final draft of the Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 through Res. 8.2.

Current situation

Review of the Current Strategic Plan (2006-2011)

18. Resolution 8.2, requested the Conference of the Parties to review the Strategic Plan at its ninth and tenth meetings in the light of the Plan's stated targets, milestones and indicators and in line with paragraph 5.5 of the Plan.

19. The Secretariat carried out an assessment of the activities undertaken by the CMS institutional bodies from 2006 to 2008 (UNEP/CMS/Conf.9.5 and its Addendum) which implemented the objectives of the Plan and submitted it to CoP9 in 2008.

20. The Plan, in paragraph 5.5, also foresaw that its second, end-of-term review, to be submitted to CoP10 in 2011, could be led by the Standing Committee, or, if resources allowed, by an independent, external assessment. Specific mention was made to the fact that the Agreements negotiated under CMS auspices should participate in the review process. Furthermore, the Plan highlighted that results and recommendations of this assessment would be an important input for the development of the follow-on Strategic Plan.

Elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017

21. CoP9 did not give any clear mandate assigning responsibility for devising the next Strategic Plan 2012-17.

22. Resolution 9.13 however instructed the ad hoc Working Group on the Future Shape of the CMS and the CMS Family (ISWGoFS) to take into account in its deliberations, contents of the current Strategic Plan and the development of a new Strategic Plan 2012- 2017.

23. The First Meeting of the ISWGoFS, which took place in Bonn from 19 to 20 October to review the draft of the report on the first step of the Future Shape process, therefore discussed how to link the two exercises.

24. The meeting recognised that the current Strategic Plan provided a flexible and sound basis both in terms of structure and content for the development of a new one. The meeting also decided to make proposals for the elaboration of the Strategic Plan and remit them for consideration by the 36th Standing Committee meeting.

Option 1

25. The ISWGoFS would propose to update the current Strategic Plan to cover the next three-year period (2012-2015) without making substantive changes to be submitted to COP10 in 2011. This proposal would allow gaining sufficient time to elaborate the Strategic Plan for 2015-2017 on the basis of the final outcome of the Future Shape process i.e. the option on the future organisation and the strategic development of CMS and the CMS family which is to be adopted by COP10.

Option 2

26. The ISWGoFS would propose to produce three versions of the Strategic Plan for 2012-2017, on the basis of the current one, according to the three options for the future organisation of CMS that are foreseen as the final outcome of the Future Shape process in 2011. The ISWGoFS highlighted that in this case, in consideration of the overlap of time and substance, the elaboration of these plans should be aligned to the progress of the Future Shape process.

27. In both cases the ISWGoFS would carry out the work, as it recognises its crucial role in defining the future objectives of the Convention and as it fears that a separate exercise would not reflect nor fully take into account the deliberations of the Future Shape process. However the ISWGoFS would like to point out that while option 1 does not imply any considerable efforts that would not be dealt within the tasks of the ISWGoFS, option 2 requires extensive work that entails inputs from an external assessment. Extra costs, in addition to those anticipated for step 2 and 3 of the Future Shape process, are therefore foreseen. The ISWGoFS would ask the Standing Committee to consider these additional costs while making a decision for the elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is asked to consider the overview, presented above, of the approach adopted by the Convention for the previous Strategic Plans and make recommendations with a view to identifying responsibilities for:

a) the assessment of the implementation of the current Strategic Plan on the basis of the provisions of Res.8.2 paragraph 5.5;

b) the drafting of the Strategic Plan 2012-2017. In particular, the Committee should clarify the role of the ISWGoFS in this particular matter and specifically consider the proposals, elaborated by the ISWGoFS and to decide which option should be followed.