



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



41st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 27-28 November 2013

UNEP/CMS/StC41/17

SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Summary

In the 2012-2014 triennium, the Secretariat is focusing on developing effective and practical cooperation with the other instruments of the CMS Family and relevant stakeholders including other biodiversity instruments and international organizations, as instructed by CMS Resolution 10.21.

The implementation of this resolution contributes to the attainment of the Strategic Plan 2006-2014 (Resolution 10.5) targets 3.3, 3.5, 4.3, 4.4 and the Future Shape (Resolution 10.9) activities 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 15.

This report highlights the current state of activities, as at July 2013, undertaken since the 40th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Bonn, November 2012).

SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

(prepared by the Secretariat)

Streamlining activities within the CMS Family

1. The Secretariat continues to streamline activities with the Secretariats and Coordinating Units of the CMS instruments following the mandate and guidance of Resolution 10.9 on the Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS Family. Also see Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/14 ('Future Shape').
2. Significant progress has been made particularly towards the harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems. These include the online registration tool now being used by a number of CMS instruments including those run by out-posted offices; workspaces for facilitating the communication and work of the various scientific advisory bodies; the new website and the on-line system for national reporting. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/16.1 (Report on Information Management, Communication and Outreach).
3. The CMS Secretariat endeavours to coordinate, to some degree, fundraising efforts within the Family by exploring new opportunities and means, and leading the management and joint implementation of common projects, such as the ones related to capacity building activities. See Documents UNEP/CMS/StC41/10 (Resource Mobilization) and UNEP/CMS/StC41/16.2 (Capacity building) for more details.
4. Greater synergies are also being sought on several programmatic issues. For instance, CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS have joined forces to make progress on the work related to underwater noise, while AEWA and the Raptors MOU have contributed with their expertise to the efforts that the CMS Secretariat and Scientific Council are making on combating bird poisoning. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/19 (Conservation Issues).
5. The future Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 will provide the overarching framework for the entire CMS Family. The CMS Secretariat has been actively seeking the engagement and views of the various CMS Family Secretariats and their institutional bodies and expert groups in the development of the future Strategic Plan. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/13 (Strategic Plan).
6. Communications and synergies between Bonn-based and out-posted offices have also been enhanced through the establishment of regular meetings (actual or virtual as appropriate) and thanks to a retreat, which took place in June 2013 after the arrival of the new CMS Executive Secretary.

Promotion of synergies with other biodiversity-related MEAs

Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)

7. The Secretariat has taken part in the two meetings of the BLG that took place in 2013. An informal meeting was held in January in Bonn, in the margins of the First IPBES Meeting, while a formal BLG meeting was held on 13 February in Switzerland. Discussions were held on relevant issues such as coordination of requests to IPBES and joint fundraising to promote synergies and collaboration on programmatic issues through the scientific bodies. The CMS and AEWA Secretariats brought to the agenda of BLG the proposal to consider the CMS Family Online Reporting System as a tool that could increase synergies on national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions. BLG members are currently working together to explore the way forward.

Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

8. Meanwhile, liaison has continued individually with BLG members through implementation of joint work plans, and enhancing synergies when possible. Activities are being undertaken with CBD, CITES and Ramsar pursuant to the respective Joint Work Plans for 2012-2014.

9. Dialogues and synergies with other MEAs were particularly enhanced on the subject of streamlining national reporting and promotion of collaboration at the national level for the review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). For further information on specific activities, see Documents UNEP/CMS/StC41/18 (CMS Instruments) and 19 (Conservation Issues).

Environment Management Group (EMG)

10. Collaboration between biodiversity-related MEAs also takes place in the context of the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity which is assisting with a UN system-wide response to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Members of this group, including the CMS Secretariat, are mapping the contributions of each agency to the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which is identifying potential areas of cooperation and existing gaps.

Consolidating existing partnerships

11. The Secretariat has mostly been focusing on renewing its commitments with intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

12. For instance, in February 2013, a renewed Letter of Cooperation (LoC) was signed with the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Joint activities identified under the LoC will include exchange of information on sharks, work to develop mitigation strategies to reduce cetacean bycatch and training volunteers to respond to marine mammal stranding and entanglement events.

13. New simplified joint work plans have been developed to formalize and stimulate activities in areas of overlapping priorities with a number of partners including the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW); Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); and *in prep* for Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC).

14. Regular contacts, through meetings or phone calls, are held to review progress and exchange information on emerging issues.

15. CMS continues to benefit from the support of numerous NGOs in the implementation of species agreements and MOUs, and the operation of various scientific working groups as outlined in Documents UNEP/CMS/StC41/18 (CMS Instruments) and 19 (Conservation Issues). CMS civil society partners are continuing with their review of the contribution of civil society to the Convention, with phase two relating specifically to the CMS instruments. It is expected that the results of this review will be available in time for the Standing Committee's 41st meeting, and will also provide a useful input to the inter-sessional process for developing the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

Continuing informal collaborations

16. The Secretariat is also pursuing synergies with other organizations with which there is no formal partnership agreement. For instance, CMS continues working closely with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on a number of issues including shark conservation and wildlife

diseases. The First meeting of the CMS/FAO Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health took place on 29 January. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/19 (Conservation Issues).

Engagement in new strategic collaborations

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

17. The CMS and AEWA Secretariats, on behalf of the Family, have initiated a joint project with the IRENA which aims to evaluate the conflict between migratory species and renewable energy developments¹ and produce consolidated guidelines on the possible mitigation and/or avoidance measures. A consultancy firm has been recently selected to carry out the project. Both outputs (review and guidelines) will be reviewed at each stage by IRENA as well as the Secretariats and the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of the CMS Family instruments. The final products will be then submitted to the decision-making bodies of the CMS Family instruments for adoption. The project and its outputs intend to make an impact on the ground and, with such an influential partner as IRENA, it can indeed make a difference in the sustainable development of renewable energy in a way compatible with conservation priorities for migratory species.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

18. As instructed by a number of Resolutions e.g. 10.10 and 9.9, the Secretariat recently formalized its cooperation with the Arctic Council's International Secretariat of CAFF. In addition, a Joint (trilateral) Work Plan including AEWA was developed to guide and include activities of interest. A strengthened dialogue with CAFF is crucial to improving the understanding of the on-going and predicted changes to the Arctic environment, particularly related to climate fluctuations, and impacts on many migratory species including birds and marine animals. One of the activities identified as part of the JWP is the development of an Arctic Species Trend Index for migratory birds, with a view to contributing to filling the gaps of existing data and better reflect the global picture of Arctic bird migrants.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Germany

19. Friends of CMS (Freunde der Bonner Konvention), the NGO established to explore fundraising opportunities for conservation projects with the private sector in Germany, recently decided to cease operations. The German office of the WWF expressed its interest to explore the possibility to cooperate with the Secretariat for the conservation of selected migratory species and related issues and involve members of the former "Friends" in this new collaboration. Discussions are on-going on the development of a partnership agreement to provide the framework for formalizing joint collaborative activities as well as role and responsibilities for their implementation. The agreement is planned to be signed during a reception on the occasion of the 41st CMS Standing Committee Meeting.

Engagement with expert committees and processes initiated by partners

Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)

20. In March 2013, the Secretariat became a founding member of the CPW. The CPW is a voluntary partnership of international organizations including the CBD, CMS, CITES and OIE secretariats, as well as FAO, UNEP, IUCN, IIFB, TRAFFIC, IUFRO, CIFOR and CIC. The mission of the CPW is to promote conservation through the sustainable management of terrestrial vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas and to increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members and partners. In the biennium 2013-

¹ The project focuses on migratory animals of all taxa and the following renewable energies: bio and geothermal energy; hydropower; ocean energy (including tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy); solar; and wind energy on land and at sea.

2014, the work of CPW is focusing on the thematic focal areas of wildlife, food security and livelihoods; human wildlife conflict; and illegal/unsustainable hunting.

Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO)

21. In May 2013, the Secretariat joined the GPO which is a growing alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and private companies committed to preserving the health of the world's oceans. Launched at Rio+20, the Partnership aims to address issues of global concerns such as overfishing, pollution and habitat loss. By participating in the Partnership, CMS, together with its specialized instruments and scientific advisory mechanisms, will contribute advice and knowledge about the unique needs of migratory species that depend on ocean habitats.

Friends of Target 12

22. With support from CBD, IUCN has established the partnership "*Friends of Target 12*", comprising organizations and institutions (including CMS) which join forces to support countries to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. It aims to provide practical guidance and raise awareness of initiatives and programmes that contribute to the implementation of the activities needed to stem the tide of species extinctions.

UNEP 2015 Strategic Group

23. The CMS Executive Secretary is a member of this Group, a key task of which is to provide environmental inputs to the various Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) processes.

Promotion of collaboration at the national level

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

24. Also as per Resolution 10.18, the Secretariat has been promoting the collaboration between CMS and other biodiversity-related MEAs National Focal Points (NFPs) with regards to the integration of measures to conserve migratory species into NBSAPs.

25. Two regional workshops for Africa were held with a view to assisting NFPs integrate CMS and CITES objectives into their NBSAPs: the first one for Anglophone countries took place in Zimbabwe, November 2012, and the second in Cameroon in June 2013, for Francophone countries. Both events were organized by the UNEP Division of Environment Law and Conventions (DELIC) and the Regional Office for Africa (ROA) with the support of the governments of Germany, Sweden and Japan. The CMS Secretariat contributed to their preparation and took part in both workshops to support participants to develop common best practice with tangible targets to improve policy and administrative coordination of biodiversity-related MEAs in the NBSAP process. CMS also participated in NBSAP-related workshops in the Middle East and in the Pacific Regional Workshop, August 2012, to encourage the uptake of migratory species into 14 Pacific Island country NBSAPs.

26. The CMS Secretariat also takes part in the NBSAP Forum, which is a new global partnership, hosted by the CBD Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, aiming to support countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs. A dedicated web portal has been established to develop a community of practice across a wide range of stakeholders who need access to timely information regarding best practices, guidance and resources or wish to share their information and knowledge. The CMS Secretariat's participation, on behalf of the entire Family, envisages the provision of relevant documentation and offering ad hoc guidance on specific issues whenever the need arises.

Promotion of collaboration at the regional level also through strengthened CMS regional presence

Collaboration with UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points

27. Work is on-going with UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points to develop their regional work plans for putting in place a framework for their assistance with the implementation of CMS. Examples of their assistance during the last year include the Africa Focal Point helping to organize the NBSAP workshops mentioned above.

CMS presence in the regions

28. The arrangement with the SPREP Secretariat to promote CMS work in the Pacific through a dedicated officer has continued at no cost to CMS. Although temporarily focused to provide workload cover after the sudden passing on of the Officer's senior colleague and supervisor late last year, the Officer is still having a positive impact in the region for CMS. She contributed to the objectives of the Convention in particular to the accession of new CMS Parties (recently, Fiji) and MOU signatories (e.g. Vanuatu to the Sharks MOU), provided technical support for countries' NBSAPs reviews, strengthened CMS's relationship with the International Whaling Commission and its regional conservation planning for Pacific whale species, and supported the implementation of the Sharks, Dugongs and Pacific Islands Cetaceans MOUs and their action plans.

29. The CMS Washington Officer (hosted by the UNEP Regional Office for North America) consolidated on the first year's efforts in the region by targeting an increase in the visibility of CMS in North America, alongside building awareness and political support for CMS and its instruments, strengthening outreach, networking and partnerships and supporting fundraising efforts. She has successfully promoted and strengthened the relationship with the US Government (renewed LoC with NOAA), supported the operations of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) and assisted with providing CMS's stakeholders with information notices about upcoming grant deadlines related to US Foundations as well as other potential funding opportunities. Further details about her achievements are contained in Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/9.1 (Administrative and Budget).

Strengthened partnerships with the private sector

The development of the proposed Migratory Species Champion Programme is intended (amongst other things) to provide the basis for approaching and engaging the private in the conservation of CMS species. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC41/10 on Resource Mobilization.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Note the progress made, as reported in this document;
- b. Provide any comments to guide the Secretariat further, in its implementation of synergies and partnerships in this inter-sessional period.