

2nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC2)

Bonn, Germany, 10 – 13 July 2017

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC2/Inf.2

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATLAS ON ANIMAL MIGRATION

(prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

The 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) in 2014 identified the development of an atlas on animal migration as an activity to pursue within the CMS Programme of Work for 2015-2017 ([Resolution 11.1](#), Annex V, Activity 32 in the “implementation support” table). This document summarizes progress up to the 2nd meeting of the Sessional committee of the Scientific Council.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATLAS ON ANIMAL MIGRATION

1. The 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) in 2014 identified the development of an atlas on animal migration as an activity to pursue within the CMS Programme of Work for 2015-2017 ([Resolution 11.1](#), Annex V, Activity 32 in the “implementation support” table). The production of the atlas is foreseen as a long-term initiative, expected to be continued also in future triennia and to be implemented with a modular approach. For the current triennium, the Programme of Work foresees to start with migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region. However, in the course of the triennium, the possibility arose to also develop a module for migratory mammals in the Central Asian region.

Atlas of bird migration in the African-Eurasian region

2. The Secretariat has liaised with the Chair of the Scientific Council and other stakeholders with a view to building support for the initiative, and develop terms of reference and a detailed project concept. A concept on the development of an atlas on bird migration that would use as a basis data of the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING) was presented at the 1st meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, which endorsed it.
3. After the meeting, efforts were devoted mainly to raising the necessary funds to operationalize the concept. Thanks to the good offices of the Chair of the Scientific Council, the Government of Italy has pledged €1 million, under the Migratory Species Champion Programme, for producing this Atlas which will be based on EURING data. Signing of the donor agreement is expected to take place shortly after ScC-SC2. The Atlas, which is planned to be completed in 2020, aims to (i) respond to the purposes and needs of the Convention and other related international treaties, particularly within the CMS family, and their respective Parties to meet their obligations, and (ii) spearhead the creation of a Global Animal Migration Atlas. To this end, the Atlas is expected to lay the foundation for the integration of datasets beyond those on bird movements provided by the EURING.

Migration atlas for migratory mammals in the Central Asian region

4. Resolution 11.24 on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) adopted Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia, as well as a comprehensive Programme of Work (PoW) annexed to the Resolution. Activities to address the negative impacts of linear infrastructure are a major component of the PoW and have already been discussed at several meetings of the Scientific Council since 2011.
5. During a priority-setting workshop for CAMI in August 2016, co-organized by CMS and the International Nature Conservation Academy of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany (BfN) with funding from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMUB), several priority projects were identified and proposed for immediate funding and fundraising to support implementation of the CAMI PoW. Developing a migration atlas for migratory mammals in the central Asian region was selected for funding by the Swiss Government as a significant contribution to the implementation of CAMI.

6. The project, implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), aims at mapping the distribution and movement corridors of migratory mammals in combination with threats from linear infrastructure, such as railways, roads, pipelines, and border fences, across the entire Central Asian region. The atlas features the distribution of ten most affected species in ten countries as well as the constructed and planned infrastructure. Having this information ready in one database will help to more effectively inform and influence decision makers to take the needs of migratory species into account when building and planning any kind of infrastructure.
7. During an expert workshop on the Isle of Vilm from 27 April to 1 May 2017, again co-organized by the International Nature Conservation Academy of the BfN with financing of the BMUB, the previously developed distribution and infrastructure maps have been reviewed and verified. The final atlas is currently being finalized and will become available as a pdf document and presented as an Inf.Doc and during a side event at COP12. Funding is currently being sought to further develop this product into an interactive online webtool to facilitate greater accessibility and usability.