



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 14.1

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES 2015-2023**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document provides a final progress assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023, as per the mandate provided to the Secretariat by Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12) and Decision 13.1 *Progress in the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*.

The assessment, conducted by UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the CMS Secretariat, is contained in Annex to this document.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES 2015-2023

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 11th meeting (COP11, 2014), adopted the *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023*. The SPMS was revised at COP12 (2017) ([Resolution 11.2 \(Rev.COP12\)](#)) to include a technical [Companion Volume on Implementation](#) and a set of indicators defined for each of the 16 targets in the SPMS, replacing the initial set of indicators adopted at COP11.
2. As per paragraph 11 of Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12), the COP also decided to keep the implementation of the SPMS under review at its regular meetings.
3. COP13 (2020) gave further instructions and guidance on the assessment of the implementation of the SPMS, noting that the SPMS was about to enter its final triennium and would come to an end in 2023. COP13 thus adopted [Decisions 13.1 – 13.3 Progress in the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#), which read as follows:

13.1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to:

- a) *further develop indicators identified in the Strategic Plan that are not yet operable, notably the composite indicators recommended for assessing progress towards Targets 6 and 7;*
- b) *identify data gaps which are hindering assessment of progress in relation to indicators, and support filling of those gaps;*
- c) *identify appropriate case studies and single assessment studies relevant to those indicators in the Strategic Plan expected to be based on such studies, and support their undertaking;*
- d) *undertake a full assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 in time for the Standing Committee's consideration of available options for a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting;*
- e) *report to the Standing Committee at its intersessional meetings on progress in implementing this Decision.*

13.2 Directed to Parties, Intergovernmental and Non-governmental organizations

Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, notably in relation to the activities foreseen in Decision 13.1 (a) - (c).

13.3 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is requested to:

- a) *consider the reports on progress in implementing this Decision submitted by the Secretariat;*
- b) *provide guidance to the Secretariat as appropriate.*

4. To fulfill this mandate, the Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP13 and COP14 (set out in [Annex 6 to Resolution 13.2](#)) included the further development of indicators, the identification of related data gaps and case studies, and the full assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Activities to implement Decision 13.1

5. Pursuant to Decision 13.1(a)-(c), at the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (StC52, 2021), the Secretariat presented an 'assessment of implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023 and options for follow up' ([UNEP/CMS/StC52/Doc.10](#)). The Secretariat noted that the implementation of some of the objectives foreseen by the Decision, such as the further development of indicators identified in the Strategic Plan that were not yet operable, or the undertaking of case studies and single assessment studies, was no longer realistic due to the lack of resources. Therefore, the Secretariat suggested focusing any further efforts on components of the Decision that were still achievable, such as the assessment of indicators that were already fully operable, and the identification of already available case studies ([UNEP/CMS/StC52/Doc.10](#)). StC52 supported the Secretariat's proposal ([UNEP/CMS/StC52/Report](#)).
6. At its 53rd meeting (StC53, 2022), the Standing Committee further considered implementation of the SPMS 2015-2023, and options for a follow-up to the Strategic Plan. Due to lack of resources and the fact that the National Reports for COP14 would not be available until after the meeting, the Secretariat could not provide the StC53 with a full assessment of implementation. However, the Secretariat prepared a document for StC53 providing an assessment of implementation to date, as well as reflections on the impact of the SPMS as a whole ([UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#)). Moreover, thanks to the voluntary contributions of the Government of Malta, the Secretariat provided the Standing Committee with a summary of the implementation of each of the targets in the SPMS, drawing on the analysis prepared for COP13 and other sources (Annex 2 to [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#)). In accordance with the decision taken at StC52, the Secretariat further assessed the availability of indicators and presented its findings to the Standing Committee at StC53 (Annex 1 to [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#)).
7. The document and the summary served as important inputs for the Standing Committee's consideration of options for a follow-up to the SPMS 2015-2023, along with [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.12 Options for Follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#) and [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.12/Add.1 Additional Information to support consideration of options for follow up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#). A proposed Strategic Plan for Migratory Species for the period 2024–2032 is presented in a separate document ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.14.2](#)) for consideration by COP14.
8. Thanks to voluntary contributions of the Governments of Germany and Switzerland, the Secretariat was able to commission an assessment by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) of progress towards the achievement of SPMS targets. The assessment is contained in Annex to this document. The assessment was undertaken in conjunction with a UNEP-WCMC analysis of CMS National Reports to COP14 (contained in Annex 3 to [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.23](#)); elements of the progress assessment can also therefore be found in the National Reports analysis.
9. The assessment provides a summary of progress towards each of the 16 SPMS targets, synthesized from relevant information provided in Parties' National Reports to COP14, the *State of the World's Migratory Species* report (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21.1), and from the analysis of other priority indicators.

10. The final progress report concludes that positive progress has been made on actions aiming to mainstream migratory species priorities across government and society (Goal 1). However, actions to reduce direct pressures have, so far, not proved sufficient (Goal 2). Although the improved conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats are central to the mission guiding the implementation of the SPMS, many species still have an unfavourable conservation status and a substantial proportion are undergoing population declines (Goal 3). It has to be noted, though, that moderate progress has been made on enhancing the benefits to all from the favourable conservation status of migratory species (Goal 4), and on enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building (Goal 5).
11. It is difficult to draw conclusions on whether the patterns identified in the National Reports are representative of global implementation, as the overall reporting rate was low. While the available data indicates notable progress, it is clear that more intensive action – by individual Parties and collaboratively – is needed to achieve the aims of the Convention, along with the wider global goals of conserving biodiversity and protecting and restoring natural ecosystems.

Recommended actions

12. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) take note of the assessment of progress towards the achievement of SPMS targets contained in Annex to this document, and comment as appropriate;
 - b) delete Decisions 13.1 – 13.3.

ANNEX

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES 2015-2023
- FINAL PROGRESS REPORT**

NB: Due to its length, the Annex is presented in a separate file [here](#).