



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



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UNEP/CMS/StC40/13

FUTURE STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIES OF CMS: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

Introduction

1. At the 10th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Bergen, the CMS Inter-sessional Future Shape Working Group presented options for the future organization and the strategic development of the CMS Family.
2. Based on options as presented, COP10 adopted a set of activities listed in CMS Resolution 10.9. The activities were divided into those for implementation in the short-term 2012-2014 and those medium- and long-term activities to be made use of by the Strategic Plan Working Group as an integral part of the development of the CMS Strategic Plan 2012-2023.
3. This document reports on progress regards the activities for implementation in 2012-2014 (as at September 2012) (see **Appendix I**).
4. It is noted that Parties to CMS and its instruments, institutional bodies of the CMS, UNEP and relevant stakeholders were also urged to contribute to and/or undertake activities on both lists (short-term and medium- to long-term implementation).

Financial Implications

5. The activities for implementation in 2012-2014 were to be carried out with means provided by the core budget and voluntary contributions. Appendix I also indicates the status of funding for these activities.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a. Note the progress made, as reported in this document;
- b. Approve the recommendations made in this document;
- c. Take into account requests for funding necessary to implement priority activities as indicated in the table; and
- d. Provide any comments to guide the Secretariat further, in its implementation of priority activities.

APPENDIX I – Activities for implementation in 2012-2014 (Short-term activities by COP 2014)

	ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION 2012-2014	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SECRETARIAT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THESE ACTIVITIES	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1	CMS Secretariat and Standing Committee to monitor and participate in IEG reform process. (1.1) ¹	Alignment with international environmental governance reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support coherent international decision-making processes for environmental governance. - To catalyze international efforts to pursue the implementation of internationally agreed objectives. - To support regional, sub-regional and national environmental governance processes and institutions. - To promote and support the environmental basis for sustainable development at the national level. 	CMS Secretariat is monitoring the IEG reform debate, such as the Rio+20 outcome of strengthening UNEP. One of the requests in the Rio+20 outcome document is for Parties to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to consider further measures promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among MEAs, including the three Rio Conventions as well as with the UN system in the field.	Core budget (staff time)

¹Activity numbers relate to those activities that were selected for short-term implementation, from a list that was presented in Annex 1 of document UNEP/CMS/INF 10.14.10 as amended as COP10.

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2	<p>Closer collaboration with UNEP regional offices, where appropriate, to assist with capacity building and technological support by CMS and its Family. (Already in existence and builds on current mapping work) (2.1)</p> <p>Encourage more NGOs and private sector to become engaged in Agreements and MoUs. (2.2)</p>	<p>Improved partnership working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To expand partnership opportunities. - To share best practice. - To utilize common resources. - To share knowledge and expertise. - To coordinate conservation activities. - To identify potential synergies based on common or shared work programmes, geographies and interests. - To utilize local knowledge. 	<p>The Secretariat has strengthened its relationships with the Regional UNEP Biodiversity MEA Focal Points, who are currently developing work plans for their assistance with implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs.</p> <p>The CMS Programme Officer for North America, based in the UNEP/RONA office, is yielding positive results in terms of building interest of government representatives and NGOs to explore ways to better achieve common objectives in migratory species conservation.</p> <p>UNEP ROE, through its PEBLDS programme, is supporting the Central Asian Flyways meeting (see 15 below), as it fits within their objective to promote pan-European cooperation on biodiversity and synergies in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.</p> <p>UNEP ROAP has provided advice on the issue of infrastructure development in Mongolia, as well as helping to identify appropriate delegates to meetings.</p>	<p>Core budget (staff time)</p> <p>Volycon from the ROE: \$20,000 towards the organization of the CAF meeting</p>

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2			<p>UNEP ROWA collaborates closely with the Dugong MOU, and is involved in the development of a project on Dugong bycatch.</p> <p>UNEP, through the Spain-UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas (LifeWeb), supports the Monk Seal MOU, including conservation projects and reinforcement of marine protected areas in the African Atlantic range of the species.</p> <p>CMS continues to collaborate with many partner NGOs, and has signed 1 partnership agreement since COP10. In September 2012, two NGOs signed the Sharks MOU as Cooperating Partners.</p> <p>The Secretariat is building on existing partnerships, and is making new approaches to the private sector, e.g. HeidelbergCement. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/18 (Update on Synergies and Partnerships) and Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/21 (CMS Instruments) for more details.</p>	

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3	Explore opportunities to improve the synergies between the CMS science base with the development of IPBES, as well as collaborating with and learning lessons from existing data hubs (e.g. (utilization of existing systems such as TEMATEA, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Wetland International) to enhance the delivery of CMS Family objectives. (External) (3.1)	<p>Enhancing scientific research and information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of research requirements. - Sharing of research information and data. - Providing easy access to all members of CMS Family of existing and future research information. - Developing relevant research into common threats and issues. 	<p>CMS was fully involved in the process to establish IPBES and the Chair of the Scientific Council attended the plenary meeting in Panama in April 2012. A consultation with focal points and scientific councillors has been launched in order to provide input to the IPBES work programme.</p> <p>The Secretariat has been collaborating with IUCN on the establishment of criteria to identify sites of global relevance to biodiversity, which is envisaged to become a global tool just like the IUCN Red List.</p> <p>The IUCN Species Specialist Groups continue to be engaged with MOU implementation.</p> <p>An example of sharing scientific expertise was the Secretariat's contribution to the IUCN/UNCCD/UNEP book on "Conserving Dryland Biodiversity"</p>	Core budget (staff time)

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4	<p>Produce CMS website in 3 languages. (4.1)</p> <p>Parties/Signatories to begin to translate guidance documents into local languages to assist implementation. (4.4) on-going after 2014, but commences in short term.</p>	<p>Enhance communication and seek opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of internal systems to enhance communication between working groups, Parties, agreements and institutions and to increase accessibility to information within the CMS Family. - Development of external systems to raise the profile of and increase awareness of the CMS and the CMS Family. - Where relevant improvement of existing IT systems, for example existing website system. - Redesign of website to include targeting specific audience groups. 	<p>Efforts have been made to enhance the profile of the CMS Family and communication within its bodies. First step of the development of a new CMS Family website i.e. creation of a database structure, has been completed. Translation of the website (Activity 4.1) will follow the completion of the new website. A web-based communication space and working area for the Convention's institutional bodies in particular the Scientific Council has also been developed following the example of the AEWA Technical Committee (TC) Workspace</p> <p>Activity 4.4 is reported in regional reports. CMS urges Parties and instrument Signatories to translate guidance documents into local languages.</p> <p>See Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/16 (Outreach and Communication) and Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/17 (Information Management) for details.</p>	<p>Core budget (staff time) German volycon: €30,000 towards the development of the new CMS Family Website. Further funds (€100,000) are needs to complete it.</p> <p>Swiss volycon: €13,000 towards the development of the CMS Family workspace</p>

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5	<p>Global Gap and Resource Assessment, including:</p> <p>1. CMS Secretariat to coordinate a global gap analysis at Convention level: consider which issues are being addressed, which issues are not being addressed, if another organization is addressing these issues, scientific gap analysis and what research is required. (5.1)</p> <p>2. Resource assessment of Convention (CMS Secretariat and MoUs). (5.3)</p> <p>3. Undertake an assessment of MoUs and their viability. (16.3)</p>	<p>Carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resource appropriateness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To prioritize resources through improved cooperation and sharing of resources. - To identify where appropriate potential partnerships. - To work with Scientific Council. - To share best practice and lessons learnt. 	<p>Elements of a Global Gap and Resource Assessment were addressed during the Future Shape process (COP10 Documents UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.14.1 – 11), and by reviews of existing or proposed CMS initiatives , such as Central African elephants,(Inf.10.27), marine turtles (Inf.10.16), terrestrial mammals (Inf.10.15), and Argali Sheep. (StC40 Doc.21).</p> <p>In addition, the Secretariat is in the process of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing criteria the development of new agreements, including indicators to monitor effectiveness of existing instruments as per Resolution 10.16 and item 12 below. • developing options for the restructuring of the Scientific Council (see item 7 below and UNEP/CMS/StC40/11.3) • ???? <p>Finally, since COP10, the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group has commenced its work, including an assessment of the implementation of the current Strategic Plan and an assessment of the needs for the future. The Secretariat expects that this process will further identify gaps and suggest next steps.</p>	<p>Core budget (staff time and €25,000) and Swiss volycon: €13,000 towards the work of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group</p> <p>See items 7 and 12 below for additional information on funding.</p>

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			For these reasons, the Secretariat seeks approval not to undertake, at this stage, another global-level analysis, but rather to build on the efforts already made and carry the existing strategic plan process forward and await its results.	
6	Analysis and assessment of strategic plans. (6.1) Development. (6.2) [to be followed long-term by implementation].	Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family: - To coordinate the work of the CMS Family. - To encourage priority setting. - To share and maximize resources. - To identify potential synergies and links between programmes and projects.	These activities are included in the work of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group which is developing a Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023 which will encompass the strategic objectives the entire CMS Family. As a starting point, the consultant in support of the Group is reviewing the implementation of the current Strategic Plan and the context and needs for the future Plan. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/12 (Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group) for details.	Core Budget (€25,000) and Swiss volycon: €13,000 towards the work of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group

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7	Planning process, assessment, Gap Analysis. (7.1)	<p>Restructuring of Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify potential and relevant opportunities to maximize the expertise and knowledge of the Scientific Council to best support the CMS. - To identify any gaps in knowledge and/or expertise exists in the current membership of the Scientific Council. - To expand advice and knowledge sharing across the CMS Family. 	<p>As in Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/11.3 (Scientific Council) it is proposed to engage a consultant to undertake the gap analysis and produce a report to be submitted to a sub-group of the Scientific Council in September 2013. A finalized report would be submitted to the full meeting of the Scientific Council in 2014 and a draft Resolution on organizational changes to the Scientific Council could be submitted by the Council to COP 11 for its adoption.</p> <p>The new online workspace for the Scientific Council is part of the strategy to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity of the Scientific Council, see document UNEP/CMS/StC40/11.3</p> <p>An analysis of knowledge and expertise existing in the current membership of the Scientific Council has been undertaken and presented at its 14th Meeting. See Document UNEP/CMS/ScC17.Doc.6.</p> <p>Proposals are included in Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/11.3 (Scientific Council)</p>	Core budget (staff time and €50,000)

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8	Regionalize conservation efforts by having local coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs, Parties and MEAs, leading to greater presence in each of the regions if appropriate. (8.1 and 8.2).	<p>Identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage resource efficiency. - To provide opportunities for improved integration and to minimize institutional overlap through the cooperation and sharing of resources allowing for mutual assistance and logistical support. - To develop local and/or regional synergies with stakeholders. - To identify common or shared work programmes. - To aid capacity building, fundraising and implementation at the local level at the local level. 	<p>The CMS Pacific Officer position, based at the Secretariat of SPREP (the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) has been filled since January this year. The Officer is having a very positive impact in the region, promoting the objectives of the Convention, accession and supporting the implementation of the Dugong, Sharks and Pacific Islands Cetaceans (PIC) MoUs.</p> <p>Regional assistance from NGOs for CMS instruments is outlined in Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/21. (CMS Instruments), and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Crane Foundation (ICF) coordination of the Siberian Crane MoU. • The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds coordination of the Aquatic Warbler MoU. • Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society for technical services to the Pacific Cetaceans MOU • ACBK for coordination of the Saiga Antelope MOU. • GIZ for assistance in the development of the Argali Sheep gap analysis, and a draft Action plan <p>BirdLife International coordinator to work on the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Action Plan (funded by BLI partners, and located in BLI's West Africa Office).</p>	<p>US\$80,000 required for continuation of Pacific Officer in 2013. (US\$20,000 available from SPREP in co-funding arrangement)</p> <p>Core budget (staff time and €16,000 towards Siberian Crane and PIC), voluntary contributions (e.g. Swiss volycon: €10,000 towards the Aquatic Warbler MoU. GIZ has self-funded all Argali work to-date.</p> <p>Swiss Volycon: €35,000 towards the organization of the meeting on Landbirds), in-kind and financial contributions from NGOs,</p>

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9	<p>Utilization of existing data collection and management systems external to CMS (for example by UNEP-WCMC) (External). (9.1)</p> <p>Build upon current practices of harmonization of data reporting and the development of current systems, probably utilizing the on-going work being undertaken by both AEWa and IOSEA. (9.2)</p>	<p>Harmonization and inter-operability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce duplication of reporting. - To analyze and compare data. - To access to data. - To improve coordination of collection, storage and management systems. - To reduce effort and time spent on collecting and reporting information across the CMS Family. 	<p>The CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which was developed by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWa Secretariat, was used for the last AEWa reporting cycle. It is expected that the system will also be fully operational for CMS for COP11 as well as for other CMS instruments in the near future. Its use is being promoted to other MEAs. It provides a concrete example and proposal for streamlining of national reporting under the various MEAs and ultimately harmonization of their reporting processes.</p> <p>The next step (for which funding is required) is the development of an analytical tool to analyze contents of national reports.</p> <p>See Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/17 (Information Management) and Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/20 (National Reporting) for more details.</p>	<p>Core budget (staff time) Funds (€200,000) are being sought for the development of an analytical tool to complement the ORS</p>

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10	Ensure appropriate staffing levels of CMS MoU Coordination Unit. (10.1)	<p>Strengthen the coordination and servicing of MoUs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoUs to receive coordinated service. - To share resources, knowledge and expertise across MoUs. - To utilize available resources. - To avoid duplication and promote consistency across MoUs. 	<p>The Agreements Officer has been supported by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German JPO assisting with Central Asian initiatives since late 2010. • Finnish JPO working part time on African MOUs since mid-2011. • German-funded post Sharks MOU and Gorilla Agreement, since mid-2011. <p>This additional support has significantly strengthened the capacity of the Unit, and enabled much progress outlined in (UNEP/CMS/StC40/21 CMS Instruments), However, these posts are all temporary, for 2-3 years. Efforts are being made to secure long-term availability of these staff.</p> <p>Knowledge and expertise are also shared between Bonn and MOUs coordinated away from HQ. For example Agreements Officer assisted at IOSEA MOS6, using best practices from IOSEA in proposals to Sharks MOS1, the outcomes of which have been shared with the Raptors secretariat, to assist with the development of related documentation for that forum.</p> <p>There is on-going close cooperation between marine species instruments, particularly ASCOBANS and Dugongs, PIC and Sharks MOUs.</p> <p>For more details see Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/10.4 (Resource Mobilization)</p>	Core budget (staff time), voluntary contributions (dedicated JPO from Germany; part time JPO from Finland and funding from Germany for P2 officer) Funds are being sought to secure continuation of JPOs.

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11	Prioritizing and coordinating, meetings of Scientific Committee, technical groups, working groups etc. (Internal) (11.1)	<p>Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To utilize and share resources. - To reduce time commitments required to attend meetings. - To increase attendance. - To improve sharing of knowledge and information. - To expand knowledge and information. - To develop synergistic relationships. 	<p>Examples of efficiencies gained in coordinating meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS inter-sessional working groups held meetings back to back with StC40 (CMS Family Manual WG and Strategic Plan WG). • The AEWA Technical Committee and the first workshop on migratory Landbirds of Africa and Eurasia were held back-to-back in Accra, Ghana (September 2012). • The 1st meeting of the Raptors MOU Signatories will be held back-to-back with the Central Asian Flyway Negotiation Meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE (in December 2012). 	Core budget and volycons. See other sections and Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/10.4 (Resource Mobilization) for further details

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12	<p>Agreements and MoUs focused only on migratory species (as a policy) (12.1)</p> <p>Encourage more Range States to become Parties/Signatories to CMS and CMS Family. (12.2) on-going after 2014, but commences in short term</p> <p>Create criteria against which to assess proposed new potential agreements. These criteria to include scientific need, the added value of CMS involvement, existing and potential synergies (internally and externally) funding criteria and existence of a volunteer coordinator. An example of added value includes the consideration of whether the new agreement would encourage participation and extend Parties, including considering whether the proposed agreement is better served by another MEA or other initiatives.</p>	<p>Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To augment the growth of the CMS Family. - To maximize resource efficiency. - To identify common threats shared across conservation programmes and relevant responses through the use of best practice. - To develop synergies. - To increase global coverage. - To focus the development of new agreements. 	<p>Activity 12.1 is fulfilled by CMS focus on migratory species listed on the appendices, and is also covered by existing and future potential instruments.</p> <p>New Parties are encouraged to accede to the Convention (see the Report of the Depositary Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/5 and Report of the Secretariat on Key activities since COP10 Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/9) and there have been several new signatories to various CMS instruments (see Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/21 (CMS Instruments)).</p> <p>The Secretariat is planning to further develop existing criteria against which to evaluate proposed new instruments as well as indicators to monitor effectiveness of agreements in line with the Strategic Plan ones.</p>	<p>Activities 12.1 and 12.2 – Core budget (staff time).</p> <p>Activities 12.3 and 12.5 - Funds (€50,000) are being sought to engage consultant support for activities 12.3 and 12.5.</p>

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	<p>(Includes - Improving identification of priority objectives and prioritize current activities and develop a policy where monitoring implementation must be a part of any future MoUs).</p> <p>(Includes: Development and/or use of indicators to monitor effectiveness of agreements; Implementation and effectiveness of MoUs to be reviewed at COP level; After set period of time CMS Secretariat to report on MoU implementation). (12.3 and 12.5)</p>			
13	<p>Work with local and regional partners to develop capacity building. (13.1)</p> <p>CMS provide centralized services relating to build capacity with the CMS Family including training and educational activities. (13.2) on-going after 2014, but commences in short term.</p>	<p>Seek opportunities to expand and develop capacity building across the CMS Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To expand and enhance capacity building to improve conservation efforts and implementation. - To include centralized workshops by region or along common thematic interests, for example the development of national policy instruments, reporting practices and species monitoring. 	<p>The CMS Secretariat, together with the AEWA Secretariat, is leading capacity efforts within the Family with the objective of developing learning tools and delivering supplementary training to strengthen the capacity of focal points.</p> <p>See Documents UNEP/CMS/StC40/15 (Capacity Building) 10.4 (Resource Mobilization)for details.</p>	<p>Core budget (staff time), voluntary contributions (dedicated part time JPO from Finland and EC volycon (through ENRTP SCAs between EC DG Env and UNEP): €500,000 for 2012-2014 towards the capacity building project</p>

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14	CMS coordinate fundraising activities work with partners and stakeholders to expand fundraising activities. (14.1) on-going after 2014, but commences in short term.	Seek opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To coordinate fundraising activities. - To develop synergies. - To identify funding opportunities. 	The CMS Secretariat has been making efforts to increase its fundraising activities and acting as a catalyst for the Family and partner organizations. See Document UNEP/CMS/StC40/10.4 (Resource Mobilization).	Core budget (staff time)
15	Cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography as appropriate (15.1) If appropriate, cooperation and coordination between Agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering or on geography. (15.2) on-going after 2014, but commences in short term.	Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements via Secretariats or via merger of agreements based on either geography/ ecology or on species clusters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering. - To maximize resources. - To encourage cooperation between agreements. - To develop common conservation programmes. - To consolidate funding. 	The CMS Secretariat proposed for consideration by the First Meeting of Signatories to the Sharks MOU that its secretariat clustered either by geography or species (in Bonn with mother Convention or in Abu Dhabi or Bangkok with other marine species MOUs). The Signatories decided to extend the current arrangement with CMS providing the interim Secretariat in Bonn. A budget for the Secretariat was approved, on a voluntary basis. In December 2012, Range States will consider options for the institutional legal arrangements for the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan including the possibility to incorporate it into the AEW framework.	Core budget (staff time) Sharks MOU Interim Secretariat funded by voluntary contributions, plus core CMS staff time.

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			<p>On-going cooperation between CMS and Bonn based Agreements includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint fundraising • Joint capacity building • Joint awareness-raising, e.g. World Migratory Bird Day (CMS/AEWA), Year of the Bat (CMS/EUROBATS). 	
16	Utilization of systems of assessment and monitoring external to CMS (for example by UNEP-WCMC). (External) (16.1)	<p>Monitoring of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For an assessment of the quality of work being undertaken, an identification of gaps in the programmes and what possible measures may be required in order to close the gaps. - To improve implementation across the CMS Family. - To measure success. - To share best practice. 	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the CMS strategic plan (present and future) is under consideration by the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group.</p> <p>See progress report on ORS and related analytical tool under Activity 9</p>	Core Budget (€25,000) and Swiss volycon: €13,000 towards the work of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group Funds (€200,000) are being sought for the development of an analytical tool to complement the ORS