



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



40th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, Germany, 7-8 November 2012

UNEP/CMS/StC40/12

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP

(Prepared by the Chair of the Working Group)

Background

1. At the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Bergen, Norway; 20-25 November 2011), the COP endorsed Resolution 10.5, which established a Working Group to draft a new CMS Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023. The Working Group is to operate inter-sessionally, with the first progress report to be forwarded to the 40th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee. A final draft strategic plan is to be presented to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11) in 2014.

2. In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Working Group (Annex 1 to Resolution 10.5), each CMS region elected a maximum of two members to the Group. The Chairs of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. Resolution 10.5 also provides for the involvement of CMS partner organizations and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Secretariats.

Establishment of the Working Group

3. The Working Group was established and elected Ines Verleye (Belgium) and Wendy Jackson (New Zealand) as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The members of the Group are as follows:

CMS Region	Working Group member
Africa	Ms Nopasika Malta Qwathekana, South Africa Dr Samuel Kasiki, Kenya
Asia	Mr Mohammad Sulayem, Saudi Arabia Mr Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan, Islamic Republic of Iran
Europe	Ms Ines Verleye (Chair), Belgium Mr Martiros Nalbandyan, Armenia
South and Central America and the Caribbean	Mr Roman Baigún, Argentina Mr Eduardo Espinoza, Ecuador
Oceania	Dr Wendy Jackson (Vice-Chair), New Zealand [Alternate] Ms Fiona Bartlett, Australia
North America	Vacant (no Parties in the region)
Standing Committee Chair	Mr Alfred Oteng Yeboah
Scientific Council Chair	Dr Fernando Spina

4. CMS partners (MEAs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) and CMS experts are welcome to contribute substantively to the Group as observers.

Report on Progress

5. The Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Working Group, developed the Terms of Reference for external consultant support for the Group, and tenders were called for this work. Three tenders were received. To ensure a transparent and fair process, evaluation of the tenders was undertaken by the Working Group Chair, Vice-Chair, Scientific Council Chair, and Standing Committee Chair. There was unanimous support for the proposal from Mr Dave Pritchard, given his extensive experience with and knowledge of biodiversity-related organizations, MEAs, and their strategic processes, as well as the implementation of CMS and its instruments.

6. Dave Pritchard has commenced the review, including consultation with CMS stakeholders (e.g. the Secretariats of CMS and its daughter agreements; CMS National Focal Points; CMS Standing Committee; CMS Scientific Council members; MEA and NGO partners; and CMS experts). A meeting took place as scheduled with the Secretariat and the Working Group Chair in early August to provide further guidance.

7. From this review, two substantive draft reports will emerge; these will be the basis for discussions at the Working Group's first meeting. The reports will comprise:

- a) A draft review of the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014, including lessons learned; and
- b) A draft context and suggested approach for the development of the future CMS Strategic Plan 2015-2023.

8. The Strategic Plan Working Group will hold its first meeting on 5-6 November 2012 in Bonn, Germany. The second day will be open to observers. The Working Group Chair will submit an oral update on the results of this meeting to the 40th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, which immediately follows the meeting of the Working Group (Bonn, Germany; 7-8 November 2012).

9. A dedicated page has been created on the CMS website to provide information about the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group. Relevant background documents are also available on the webpage, which will be updated as work progresses.

What Next?

10. Dave Pritchard, in close collaboration with the Strategic Plan Working Group, will finalize the above-mentioned reports, which will form the basis for the first draft of the Strategic Plan 2015-2023. These reports will be publicly available on the CMS website.

11. Substantive drafting, revision, and finalization of the new Strategic Plan will occur during 2013 and 2014, in time to be presented for adoption to CMS COP11 in late 2014.

12. The Working Group envisages wide-ranging consultations with relevant stakeholders throughout the entire process.

13. The development of the Strategic Plan will also be promoted in a wide range of fora, in order to facilitate active involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the CMS strategy to conserve and manage migratory animal species, and encourage full participation in its future implementation.

This should give the Strategic Plan 2015-2023 the desired buy-in and high profile to be a key instrument for increasing the political visibility and impact of the objectives of the CMS Family.

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) Note the above report.
- b) Provide any comments to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Working Group.