



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



40th Meeting of the Standing Committee

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

1. The second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was held in Panama City from 16 to 21 April 2012.
2. The Chair of the Scientific Council represented CMS at the Panama meeting. The final report of the meeting is contained in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9 (available at www.ipbes.net) and key outcomes included the following:
 - a) A resolution establishing IPBES as an independent intergovernmental body;
 - b) A set of functions, operating principles and arrangements for the Platform, including the establishment of two subsidiary bodies of the IPBES Plenary (i.e. a Bureau comprising the Chair and four Vice-Chairs, and five additional officers that will oversee administrative functions, and a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), whose interim membership will be based on equal representation of five participants from each of the five UN regions, who will carry out scientific and technical functions);
 - c) Inclusion of the chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as observers to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;
 - d) Location of the seat of the secretariat of the Platform in Bonn, Germany;
 - e) Certain Rules of Procedure for the Plenary of the Platform; and
 - f) Intersessional work to prepare for the first session of the Platform's Plenary (including a compilation by the secretariat of capacity-building needs identified in the national reports submitted to biodiversity and ecosystem services-related MEAs and the submission of views from MEAs on how to submit requests to the Plenary, and on how the Plenary might prioritize such requests).
3. The fifth meeting of the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), that took place in Dublin (Ireland) on 25 March 2012, and where the Chair of the Scientific Council and the Secretariat were present, developed a joint statement which was

submitted as an information document to the second session of the IPBES plenary meeting (see document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/16, available at www.ipbes.net). The statement was very well received since it showed the will of MEAs to work closely with IPBES to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

4. In June 2012 the IPBES interim Secretariat sent a letter to the Executive Secretary of CMS asking for input on a number of documents and activities to be undertaken during the inter-sessional process preparing for the first plenary meeting of the Platform. As part of the response to that request, the CMS Secretariat submitted to IPBES in August a report prepared by the Chair of the Scientific Council containing a number of ideas and proposals related to the initial work programme of the Platform. This contribution from the Chair of the Scientific Council is already available on the IPBES website.

5. CMS Focal Points and Scientific Councillors have been consulted on this process and the Secretariat will convey to the IPBES Interim Secretariat the results of this consultation.

6. CMS COP 10 adopted Resolution 10.8 on Cooperation between IPBES and CMS. Inter alia, the Resolution invites IPBES to address science-policy linkages and the need for assessments, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species.

7. In particular, Resolution 10.8 requests the Scientific Council, subject to available funds, to undertake a review of needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species. This should include the use of scientific assessments, and consider the potential role of migratory species as indicators of wider ecological change and the results should be communicated to IPBES.

8. The first plenary meeting of IPBES will take place in Bonn from 21 to 26 January 2013, preceded by regional and stakeholder consultations that will take place a day prior to the meeting. The first plenary meeting will aim to agree on the remaining rules of procedures for the meetings of the Platform, consider other rules of procedure for the platform, elect Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel members, report on progress about the establishment of the Secretariat in Bonn, and agree on the next steps by which the IPBES work programme can become operational as soon as possible.

Action requested:

- a. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document and provide comments if appropriate;
- b. The Standing Committee is requested to provide strategic guidance on how CMS should position itself in view of the first plenary meeting of the Platform to be held in Bonn in January 2013;
- c. The Standing Committee is requested to consider possible guidance it may wish to provide to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Council, and the Secretariat regarding future work related to IPBES.