



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



Mr Braulio F. de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9
Canada

Bonn, 11 December 2015

Subject: Advice on CMS priorities for the Global Environment Facility

Dear Mr. Dias,

The purpose of this letter is to transmit to you the decision of the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention on Migratory Species (StC44) with regard to developing elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the national priorities for CMS aligned with the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Following CMS Resolution 11.10 included in Annex I of the present letter, which welcomed CBD Decision COP12 XII/30, the CMS Secretariat released a notification to Parties on 17 September 2015 drawing attention to the questionnaire issued by the CBD Secretariat on funding needs for the seventh replenishment period (July 2018-June 2022). Through the notification, CMS National Focal Points were invited to liaise with their CBD counterparts to ensure that funding of the national priorities for CMS were adequately reflected in their response to the CBD questionnaire.

Although at the time of the StC44, which was held on 14-15 October 2015 in Bonn, the CMS Secretariat had not received any replies directly to its notification, the StC44 developed elements of advice for the GEF and adopted a related decision which is included in the report of the meeting.

On behalf of CMS Parties, I kindly request you to include the recommendations as developed by the CMS Standing Committee, which are presented in Annex II of the present letter, into the documentation for the First Meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and subsequently for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD in 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bradnee Chambers'.

Bradnee Chambers
CMS Executive Secretary



CMS



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.10

Original: English

SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

Recalling Resolution 7.9 on “Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes”, Resolution 8.11 on “Cooperation with other Conventions”, Resolution 9.6 on “Cooperation with Other Bodies” and Resolution 10.21 on “Synergies and Partnerships”, as well as Resolution 10.25 on “Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility”;

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation and synergies with other bodies, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector;

Recognizing the instrumental role of partner organizations in the development and implementation of CMS and its related initiatives and outreach campaigns, including the negotiation of the Convention itself;

Appreciating the value of such partnerships in reaching a wider audience and raising public awareness of the Convention and the importance of conserving migratory species on a global scale;

Noting with appreciation all the individuals and organizations that contributed to the achievements of the Year of the Turtle (2006), Year of the Dolphin (2007/8), Year of the Gorilla (2009) and Year of the Bat (2011/12);

Expressing its gratitude to the many partner organizations that have assisted in promoting CMS and its mandate, for example, by facilitating the negotiation and implementation of species agreements under the Convention;

Welcoming the report on Synergies and Partnerships (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.21.1), prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, and the progress made in enhancing cooperation, coordination, synergies as well as partnerships with biodiversity-related Conventions and other relevant institutions;

Noting with appreciation the support received from UNEP through the appointment of regional focal points for MEAs for biodiversity and ecosystems responsible for liaising with and promoting MEAs and their implantation in the UNEP regions and *acknowledging* their cooperation with the Secretariat;

Further taking note of the results of the UNEP project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;

Welcoming the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;

Welcoming also the continuing and important cooperation among the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions including through Memoranda of Understanding between the CMS Secretariat and the Secretariats of the International Whaling Commission, UNESCO, the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention and CITES;

Further welcoming the Memoranda of Understanding with the Migratory Wildlife Network¹ and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre;

Aware of the ongoing discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the formalization of a Memorandum of Cooperation, and *appreciating* the important efforts made by CMS to enhance relationships with organizations that have different mandates or goals, such as FAO, which provide multidisciplinary solutions aimed at currently achieving food security, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and ecosystem health;

Recognizing the importance of ongoing cooperation among secretariats of biodiversity related conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in order to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Decision X/2 of CBD);

Highlighting the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 as a strategic framework for synergies and partnerships with other MEAs, organizations and stakeholders, which will provide an important contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

Further recognizing the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *The Future We Want*, which recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the MEAs and *encouraging* the Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst MEAs; and

Convinced of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherent national level implementation of each of the conventions;

¹ Now known as Wild Migration.

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Stresses* the importance of supporting the objectives of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to improve national collaboration, communication and coordination with relevant organizations and processes;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform biodiversity related agreements, including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners about the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 and pursue further activities related to synergies and partnerships within that framework;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue developing effective and practical cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including other biodiversity instruments and international organizations;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to identify potential strategic partners and engage with them when developing campaigns and other outreach activities and *encourages* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to these initiatives;
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to facilitate non-formalized collaborations with partners such as the FAO, that can help to extend the multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary scope of approaches to collaboration;
6. *Further requests* the Secretariat to pursue strengthened partnerships with the private sector in accordance with the CMS Code of Conduct;
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat, its daughter Agreements within the mandates given by their Parties/Signatories and the Scientific Council to enhance their engagement with expert committees and processes initiated by partners, as appropriate;
8. *Welcomes* the joint work plan between the secretariats of the CMS and CITES and *further requests* the Secretariat to prepare proposals to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies, with other biodiversity-related conventions, including through joint work plans with clear targets and timetables aligned with the CMS strategic plan, for consideration by the next Conference of the Parties;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to take action to strengthen implementation of CMS through the processes on the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), including through cooperation with the UNEP Regional Offices;
10. *Also requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of other conventions to continue liaising with the UNEP regional MEA focal points for biodiversity and ecosystems and make best use of their role in assisting the implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs;
11. *Further requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of CBD and of other relevant MEAs to consider and advise on ways and means of more coherently addressing the conservation and sustainable use of animal species in CBD processes, including in relation to the

implementation by biodiversity-related conventions of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets; and *further requests* the Secretariat to report on progress to the Scientific Council and COP12;

12. *Further requests* the Secretariat to enhance cooperation through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the biodiversity indicators partnership to improve a global set of biodiversity indicators;

13. *Further requests* the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies with the Ramsar Convention to pursue the most effective actions for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats;

14. *Welcomes* the Gangwon Declaration adopted on the occasion of the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which welcomes the importance given to biodiversity in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the further integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda, and *requests* the Secretariat to continue to engage with the process on the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with the Biodiversity Liaison Group;

15. *Also welcomes* the CBD COP12 Decision that provides for a workshop with the task to prepare options which may include elements that can contribute to a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels and Requests the Executive Secretary and the Standing Committee to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in this workshop;

16. *Invites* the members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation and coordination with a view to increasing synergies among their respective explorations and developments of online reporting systems as a means to increase synergies on national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions;

17. *Also invites* the members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group to consider ways and means to increase cooperation on their outreach and communication strategies;

18. *Further invites* the Biodiversity Liaison Group to take into due consideration the need to optimize monitoring efforts and improve effectiveness through the use of coherent monitoring frameworks and indicator systems;

19. *Requests* the Secretariat as far as possible to avoid duplication of work on the same issues among MEAs dedicated to nature protection issues, and *invites* the Biodiversity Liaison Group to address at its future meetings options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, bushmeat and invasive alien species, including through exploring the possibility of identifying lead MEAs in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes;

20. *Recalling* CMS Res.10.25, *welcomes* the CBD COP12 Decision XII/30 on the Global Environment Facility to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and in this context *requests* the Standing Committee to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the national priorities for the CMS;
21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the elements of advice as developed by the Standing Committee in time to be considered by the CBD COP13 so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
22. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to report to the Standing Committee on progress made including on results of joint activities as discussed and agreed in the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
23. *Recognizes* that adequate resources are required to allow partnerships to be developed, and such resources could be provided in part through voluntary contributions from Parties and *requests* Parties to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Secretariat to allow partnerships to be developed and strengthened;
24. *Urges* Parties to establish close collaboration at the national level between the focal point of the CMS and the focal points of other relevant conventions in order for Governments to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts, for example by developing national biodiversity working groups to coordinate the work of focal points of relevant MEAs and other stakeholders *inter alia* through relevant measures in NBSAPs, harmonized national reporting and adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA;
25. *Also urges* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns related to migratory species into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national positions among the various conventions and other international fora in which they are involved;
26. *Encourages* Parties and other governments and organizations to make use of the web-based tools, such as InforMEA, when developing and implementing mutually supportive activities among CMS Agreements and biodiversity-related conventions so as to improve coherence in their implementation;
27. *Urges* partner organizations to continue to promote and publicize the benefits to them, to CMS and to conservation arising from effective collaboration; and
28. *Repeals* Resolution 7.9, Resolution 8.11, Resolution 9.6, and Resolution 10.21.

Decision of the CMS Standing Committee with regard to developing elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the national priorities for CMS

Acknowledging the potential of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) to facilitate the implementation of CMS and *concerned* that this potential is currently not realized in full;

Recalling Resolution 11.10, which welcomes CBD COP12 Decision XII/30 on the Global Environment Facility to enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and in this context requests the Standing Committee to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the national priorities for the CMS;

Further recalling that Resolution 10.25 requests the Executive Secretary to provide elements of advice as developed by the Standing Committee in time to be considered by the CBD COP13 so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Noting that to date the larger part of GEF allocations targets national rather than regional projects with multiple countries engaged, and that therefore the eligibility of CMS priorities as outlined in the CMS Programme of Work 2015-2017, contained in Annex V to Resolution 11.1, is currently limited since the ranges of migratory species on CMS Appendices extend beyond one or more national jurisdictional boundaries and thus require regional conservation approaches;

Further noting that the CMS Programme of Work 2015-2017 contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (CMS Resolution 11.5), which is aligned to and complements the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, by adding the necessary specificity for and focus on migratory species conservation;

Further noting the possibility of GEF funding for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in eligible countries, and *stressing* the importance for national focal points collaborating at national level to include priority actions on migratory species in the NBSAPs in line with Resolution 11.10 and the CMS Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

Recalling Decision X/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in which CMS is recognized as the lead partner in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range;

Concerned that the current Focal Areas and Themes under GEF do not adequately cover the needs of migratory species but also noting that the Aichi Targets provide full guidance for the GEF Focal Areas and Themes and that these are also the basis for the 16 targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species adopted at CMS COP11 Res 11.2;

Noting that migratory species have large ranges which extend beyond individual protected areas, and beyond national borders and that therefore conservation for these species needs to take into account entire ecological corridors and/or ranges;

The Standing Committee:

1. *Invites* the CBD COP13 to formally recognize the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, which directly contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and consider it as an eligible policy tool when identifying priorities for targeted GEF funding;
2. *Encourages* Parties to submit joint applications for transboundary projects to facilitate this process in order to access a larger proportion of GEF funds for national, regional or global projects that cover migratory species;
3. *Recommends* that a larger proportion of GEF funds be made available for regional or global projects, relative to national ones;
4. *Further recommends* that the following priorities from the CMS Programme of Work 2015-2017 should be eligible to receive targeted funds under GEF:
 - 4.1 Restoring and maintaining ecological corridors for migratory mammals, as outlined in Resolutions 11.1 and 11.25;
 - 4.2. Making infrastructure more wildlife-friendly, including roads, railways, fences, pipelines and other forms of linear infrastructure as outlined in Resolutions 11.1 and 11.24;
 - 4.3 Combatting wildlife crime and strengthening anti-poaching, including community-based approaches, as outlined in Resolution 11.31;
 - 4.4 Regional approaches for tackling the illegal killing of birds, including trapping and poisoning, as outlined in Resolutions 11.1, 11.15 and 11.16;
 - 4.5 Restoring and maintaining global flyways, as outlined in the Programme of Work in Resolution 11.14;
 - 4.6 Reducing marine pollution, including marine debris, noise and unexploded ordinance, as outlined in Resolution 11.30 and elsewhere;
 - 4.7 Minimizing bycatch of CMS-listed marine species and reducing-post release mortality as outlined in Resolution 10.14 and elsewhere;
 - 4.8 Mitigating threats to freshwater fish, such as habitat degradation, barriers to migration, bycatch and overexploitation, as outlined in Resolution 10.12.
5. *Encourages* an increased effort to include the integration of national CMS implementation and mainstreaming of migratory species considerations into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), during the development and revision of these;
6. *Invites* the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider the above-mentioned elements of advice in its guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity.