

Agenda Item 13.2

Relations with other Bodies

Cooperation and Joint Initiatives with CMS

Document 13.2

**Development of the Strategic Plan for
Migratory Species 2015-2023**

Action Requested

- Take note
- Decide on development of sub-targets and related process

Submitted by

Secretariat



**NOTE:
DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED
TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Development of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

Background

1. The CMS Parties' Strategic Plan Working Group has been working hard since 2012, when each CMS region elected members to the Group. The Group elected Ines Verleye (Belgium) as Chair and Wendy Jackson (New Zealand) as Vice-Chair. The Chairs of the CMS Standing Committee and Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. CMS partners – Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and non-governmental organizations – and CMS experts, have contributed substantively to the Working Group as observers.
2. In 2012, stakeholders' initial views were gathered and background reports prepared on lessons learned from implementation of the current Strategic Plan 2006-2014. The Working Group has held two meetings (in November 2012 and November 2013), and two drafts of the Plan have also benefited from written contributions received from many CMS Parties and partners in two extensive rounds of consultation undertaken in 2013 and 2014.
3. The 3rd and Final Draft Plan has been finalized for presentation to CMS COP11 as [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.2](#).

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

4. The Plan presents goals and targets for migratory species, based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adapted for migratory species purposes. This approach will allow the migratory species Strategic Plan to benefit from the existing political visibility and support for biodiversity in general, at national and global levels.
5. The Plan is for migratory species as defined by the Convention – that is, the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.
6. As a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species this is not just a CMS Strategic Plan, but it will serve as a guiding framework for all work supporting the conservation of migratory species and support the entire CMS Family of instruments, including ASCOBANS.

Implementation Matters

7. The Plan also contains supporting chapters such as on implementation.
8. The Working Group recognizes the need for a Strategic Plan that is relevant to practitioners as well as to politicians and decision-makers and will recommend that the Plan's implementation could be supported through future development of a technical Companion Volume on Implementation. The Companion Volume could outline Parties', Instruments' and others' roles in implementing the Strategic Plan. It could also outline the delivery mechanisms and activities already available (such as CMS resolutions and programmes supporting the Plan), partnerships, capacity development, resources, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting on progress.

Sub-targets

9. The importance of each of the CMS Family of instruments is also recognized in the Strategic Plan as well as their role in the wider picture. The Strategic Plan would be an overarching framework document with strategic targets, and the Working Group envisages that the decision-making bodies of the CMS instruments would develop specific sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments.
10. In this regard, the Strategic Plan would be a living document, and instruments could add their sub-targets when and if they wish to contribute them. It is to be hoped that this would increase their own visibility on the international stage.

Next Steps

11. If CMS COP11 adopts the final draft Strategic Plan, with or without amendments, it is envisaged that headline indicators will be developed for the Plan over the next triennium.
12. In addition, the Strategic Plan Working Group has recommended that COP11 invite the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments to identify existing or develop new sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments and organizations that support the achievement of the targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species. If approved by COP11, it is expected that the CMS Secretariat would collect contributions of sub-targets from the CMS Family, and that these would be held in a central register of sub-targets. The CMS Secretariat will update you further, at your next meeting.
13. The AC is requested to:
 - a) Consider whether ASCOBANS wishes to contribute sub-targets related to small cetacean conservation
 - b) If yes, decide on a process and timeline for drafting relevant sub-targets for adoption by MOP8 in 2016.