

Agenda Item 5.1

Strategic and Institutional Issues

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

Document 5.1

**ASCOBANS and the Strategic Plan for
Migratory Species**

Action Requested

- Take note
- Give guidance

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

ASCOBANS and the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

1. The 10th Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP10) decided to develop a new Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023. To this aim, it set up a Working Group with the task of drafting the Strategic Plan 2015-2023 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting.
2. COP11 adopted the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023. It is important to note that it is not only for CMS, but seeks to support the efforts of all stakeholders in the conservation of migratory species.
3. The Strategic Plan can be found in Annex 1 to CMS Resolution 11.2, made available as MOP8/Inf.5.1.a. In adopting the Strategic Plan, COP11 acknowledged the need for additional inter-sessional work to strengthen the suite of materials to support implementation of the Strategic Plan, including:
 - a) indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, drawing as far as possible from existing work, such as that under the global Biodiversity Indicators Partnership; and
 - b) a Companion Volume on Implementation for the new Strategic Plan, based on available tools, to provide guidance on implementation of the Plan.
4. COP11 also decided to extend the mandate of the Strategic Plan Working Group to include the tasks of elaborating the indicators and Companion Volume during the triennium 2015-2017.

Drafts of the Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

5. The first draft of the Indicator Factsheets for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (dated April 2016) can be accessed at <http://www.cms.int/en/strategic-plan/drafts>. The draft was prepared by the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group, and is open for public consultation until 31 August 2016.
6. A revised version of the Factsheets will be prepared on the basis of the comments received through the consultation process, and will be considered by the 4th meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG-4) on 7-8 November 2016. SPWG-4 will agree further steps towards the submission of a proposal concerning SPMS indicators to be submitted to COP12.

Draft Companion Volume for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

7. A Zero Draft of the Companion Volume has been prepared by the CMS Secretariat, with input also from ASCOBANS, under the guidance of the Chair of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group. The engagement of the ASCOBANS Secretariat was in line with the request of the 22nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee to continue to engage with the process to develop the "Companion Volume" of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (AC22 Action Point 40).
8. The Zero Draft is foreseen to be released for public consultation in July 2016, with a commenting period foreseen until September 2016. Details will be published shortly on <http://www.cms.int/en/strategic-plan/drafts>.

Opportunities to Engage in the Process

9. The added value and applicability of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species will depend highly on its relevance for national, regional and global policy-making regarding

conservation of migratory species. It is therefore of high importance to ensure full participation of Parties and other stakeholders through global outreach and intensive consultations throughout the development of the Strategic Plan, to help shape the content of the Indicator Factsheets and the Companion Volume.

10. Engagement of Parties and stakeholders, including CMS partners such as other biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and non-governmental organizations, in the processes related to the Strategic Plan is being encouraged as follows:

- Decision-making bodies of CMS instruments, as well as other partners and stakeholders working for the conservation of migratory species, are encouraged 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, and to inform the CMS Secretariat of such sub-targets.
- Wide and intensive consultations on drafts are being undertaken to allow for close involvement of all Parties but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs.
- The issue is being raised at all possible occasions, in particular in the margins of relevant planned MEA meetings, for example by Working Group members, individual Parties, the Secretariats in the CMS Family or other interested stakeholders, to engage Parties either individually or through back-to-back meetings.
- All Parties and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to participate in awareness-raising.

11. The views of all Parties and other stakeholders are highly welcome throughout the process in order to ensure optimal involvement in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

12. Further, CMS Resolution 11.2:

- *Urges* Parties and invites other States, the CMS Family of instruments, relevant multilateral bodies, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations working towards the conservation of migratory species to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, and also to take action to raise awareness of the Plan.
- *Invites* the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments to consider the Strategic Plan for adoption at their next meetings.

13. Text to that effect has been included in Revision 1 of the Draft Resolution on Activities of the Advisory Committee and Work Plan (MOP8/Doc.5.3. Rev.1), and the proposed title changed accordingly.