



6th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

“Making flyway conservation happen”

INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS ON COMMON SERVICES AND SYNERGIES IN THE CMS FAMILY

Background

The issue of synergies has been on the agendas of all biodiversity-related MEAs, including the CMS Family for many years.

Under CMS, an intersessional process was established to examine the Future Shape of the CMS Family, with the objective of strengthening the Convention’s contribution to worldwide conservation management and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range. The task was given to a Working Group, the results of which culminated in the adoption of [CMS Resolution 10.9 Intersessional Process Regarding the Future Shape of CMS](#) (for a summary of the process please see [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.16.2](#)).

Subsequently [AEWA Resolution 5.17](#) requested the AEWA Standing Committee to *contribute, where appropriate, to activities identified in Annex 1 of CMS Resolution 10.9*. Following a proposal by the CMS Executive Secretary, at the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee (see [document AEWA/MOP 6.6 - Annex I](#)), a decision was made which *Requests the interim Executive Officer of AEWA and invites the Executive Secretary of CMS to develop further synergies between AEWA and CMS and take actions to merge common services and common areas in an effort to redirect the focus of the Secretariats towards strengthening implementation support*. It also *invites the Executive Secretary of CMS, in consultation with the Executive Officer of AEWA, to bring a proposal to the AEWA MOP6 on a possible joint Executive Secretary for AEWA and CMS for its consideration*.

At the 41st Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, the decision of the AEWA Standing Committee was accepted and it was agreed to conduct a pilot to gain experience with a view to possibly sharing further services. Also in accordance with the CMS Standing Committee decision, an analysis was provided by the CMS Executive Secretary proposing a pilot in the area of communications and information with the approval of the Chairs of both the CMS and AEWA Standing Committees.

An overall analysis of *Shared Common Services Between CMS Family Instruments* ([UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.16.2](#)), which included an initial assessment of the pilot common service in the area of information management, communication and awareness-raising, was presented to CMS COP11 in November 2014. Parties to the Convention subsequently passed Resolution 11.3 on *Enhancing Synergies and Common Services Among CMS Family Instruments*, in which they took note of the above-mentioned analysis and recognized the lessons learned from the pilot of common services in the area of communications ([AEWA/MOP Inf.6.3](#)).

Through CMS Resolution 11.3, CMS Parties also requested an independent analysis and report on the legal, financial, operational and administrative implications of actions to enhance synergies, such as through sharing services in common service areas.

This independent analysis was commissioned by the CMS Executive Secretary to the Institute for European Studies and will be presented to the 44th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, 14-15 October 2015, Bonn, Germany.

This Resolution also *invites the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA at its 6th Session (MOP6) to consider the independent analysis and report and take a decision on the way forward, as regards synergies such as through sharing services in common service areas.*

Operative paragraph 8 of CMS Resolution 11.3 *requests the Executive Secretary in close consultation with the Executive Secretary of AEWA to report the outcomes of the pilot phase and the implementation of this Resolution to COP12¹.*

The Analysis

The CMS Executive Secretary informed the AEWA Executive Secretary and other colleagues that the analysis had been commissioned on 3 June 2015. On the 15 June 2015, the AEWA Executive Secretary was asked for an interview by the consultants; the Secretariat answered on 18 June 2015, also requesting to see the Terms of Reference for the analysis.

The Terms of Reference for the independent analysis were disseminated within the CMS family on 19 June 2015 (see annex 1 of the report) and the one and a half hour interview was conducted on the 2 July 2015 between Mr Oberthur, and Mr Roessing from The Institute of European Studies and Mr Trouvilliez (Executive Secretary), Mr Dereliev (Technical Officer) and Ms Kremer (Programme Assistant) from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. The Vice-chair of the AEWA Standing Committee was also interviewed 27 July 2015.

A draft version of the report, sent in two parts on the 19 and the 25 of August 2015 was circulated to the 18 Interviewee(s) for comments, The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat sent its comments within one week, as requested.

The final document, entitled *Implications of actions to enhance synergies: An independent analysis and report*, was delivered on 8 September 2015 with an annex including all the comments submitted. The 44th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee will examine this issue on the 14 October 2015 and the result of the discussion will be communicated to MOP6.

¹ A Report on the CMS/AEWA Common Information Management, Communication and Awareness-Raising Team, which is the pilot phase of shared services, has been produced by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in consultation with the CMS Executive and Deputy Executive Secretaries, and has been submitted by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to MOP6 as document [AEWA/MOP 6.10](#).