



9th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE 18 – 19 September 2013, Trondheim, Norway

DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES 2015-2023

Compiled by the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats

The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP10), decided through [Resolution 10.5](#) to develop a new Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023, to be submitted to CMS COP11 for consideration. It also decided to set up an intersessional Working Group with the task of drafting the Strategic Plan 2015-2023. The Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) is composed of members appointed by each CMS region. The Chairs of the CMS Standing Committee and the CMS Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. CMS partners and experts are welcome to contribute substantively to the Group as observers.

Progress in the development of the future Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

At its first meeting on 5 and 6 November 2012, the SPWG discussed background reports on lessons learned from a review of the current Strategic Plan, and suggestions on the way forward towards the drafting of a new Strategic Plan. The Group agreed that the plan should be a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species¹, and thus

- focus on the issue, not the CMS instruments;
- support the entire CMS Family of instruments;
- encourage efforts by all stakeholders towards the conservation of migratory species.

It also agreed that the Strategic Plan should be strategic, and as such

- define expected long-term, high-level outcomes for migratory species;
- generate political support for migratory species considerations; and
- increase visibility of migratory species issues.

The SPWG also agreed on the need to look at the shortcomings of the previous Plan, such as lack of guidance for the implementation of the CMS instruments; and lack of support for CMS Parties in terms of resources, capacity building and technical assistance. In this regard, it agreed to address both issues (strategy and implementation) through a twin-track approach:

1. A 'strategic' Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

A short, focused document which will provide overall guidance for migratory species conservation and links to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which can be easily communicated at the political level and which will facilitate both high-level and country-level buy-in to enhance political status, engagement and funding.

More specific targets for some of the CMS instruments could then be further developed by their individual governing bodies to underpin the overall targets for migratory species.

¹ As defined by Article 1 paragraph 1.a) of the Convention: "Migratory species means 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."

2. A 'technical' Companion Volume for Implementation

The Companion Volume would provide technical guidance and support for the Plan's implementation. It would serve to:

- Remedy shortcomings in implementation of the previous Plan;
- Connect with and guide future CMS decisions (for the CMS and its instruments);
- Provide guidance for enhanced and coherent implementation of the CMS Family in support of the Plan and identify clearly the possible role of individual instruments in this regard;
- Identify and take on board the individual contributions and responsibilities of National Focal Points, the Secretariats of CMS and its instruments, civil society and others;
- Support priority setting for the development of future CMS instruments; and
- Further develop specific provisions on, *inter alia*, indicators, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and capacity building.

At the time of writing, a first draft of the Strategic Plan has been released for comments by 30 September 2013. The draft presents proposed Goals and Targets for migratory species, based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The draft is available from the CMS website [here](#)² and, in line with the wishes of the Strategic Plan Working Group, has been circulated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to all AEWA National Focal Points for information and possible comments by 30 September 2013.

Further development of the Strategic Plan and AEWA participation

A timetable for the development of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species is attached to this document as Annex 1.

The SPWG acknowledged that the added value of the Strategic Plan will highly depend on its buy-in at national, regional and global level. In this regard, it is considered of high importance to support the development of the draft Strategic Plan through intensive consultations and it was agreed to develop an enhanced consultation process to support regional involvement as well as outreach at global level. This should allow close involvement, not only of all CMS Parties through the regions, but also of all CMS instruments, other stakeholders and other MEAs. As regards CMS instruments, the SPWG expressed the wish to engage them *inter alia* through discussions on the draft Plan during their own meetings. The inclusion of a discussion on the development of the Strategic Plan in the agenda of the 9th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee (StC9) should be seen in that perspective.

Considering that StC9 will take place before the deadline for comments on the first draft, the meeting will have an opportunity for commenting on the present draft, providing additional input to any possible comments from individual AEWA Parties submitted through the ongoing consultation.

At the same time, StC9 might wish to consider, and provide guidance as appropriate on other aspects of AEWA participation in the development of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species. These aspects might include, without necessarily being limited to:

- The level of participation of AEWA governing and advisory bodies in the further phases of development of the draft Strategic Plan, and the desired level of input;
- The relations of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species with the existing AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017, and its possible future revisions;
- The desired level of endorsement of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species by AEWA.

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_drafts.html

Action requested from the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is expected to:

- Take note of the report;
- Provide possible comments on the first draft of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species; and
- Consider, and provide guidance as appropriate on the further participation of the Agreement and its bodies in the development of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

ANNEX 1

Indicative timetable for development of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

Date	Task
2013 – Drafting the future Strategic Plan 2015-2023	
April – 30 Sept 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Consultations on 1st draft SP➤ Engage all Parties and CMS Agreements in the consultations through written consultations, regional/expert meetings, etc
25-26 Nov 2013	➤ 2 nd SPWG meeting prior to StC41 to review & discuss the 2 nd draft SP
27-28 Nov 2013	➤ StC41 meeting - 2 nd draft SP tabled for input and guidance to SPWG
December 2013	➤ Adjust 2 nd draft SP with the comments received
2014 - Finalizing the future Strategic Plan 2015-2023	
Approx. 1 Jan – 30 June 2014	➤ Second round of consultations
Jul-Aug 2014	➤ Revisions
Sept-Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ StC42 recommends final draft is presented to COP11➤ CMS COP11: SP 2015-23 is presented