

## **SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.1

*(Prepared by the COW and Institutional and Crosscutting Issues Working Group)*

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

## **SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

*Recalling* Resolution 7.9 *Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes*, Resolution 8.11 *Cooperation with other Conventions*, Resolution 9.6 *Cooperation with Other Bodies* and Resolution 10.21 *Synergies and Partnerships*, as well as Resolution 11.11 *Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society*,

*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,

*Noting* that while the responsibility for implementation of the Convention rests with Parties, the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is important to support Parties in implementing the Convention,

*Recognizing* the instrumental role of partner organizations in the development and implementation of CMS and its related initiatives and outreach campaigns,

*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) and contribute to the annual campaign of the World Migratory Bird Day,

*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 progress made by the Secretariat in enhancing cooperation, coordination, synergies and partnerships with biodiversity-related Conventions, other relevant institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders,

*Welcoming also* the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.3), which aims to promote the interlinkages between sustainable development and the conservation of wildlife with a special focus on migratory species and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

*Welcoming* 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, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Bern Convention, Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species and Convention on Biological Diversity, and their

decisions on cooperation and synergies,

*Recognizing* the importance of ongoing cooperation among secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and *welcoming* the Bern Process to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Framework,

*Highlighting* the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 as a strategic framework for synergies and partnerships with other MEAs, organizations and stakeholders, which provides an important contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and achievement of the SDGs,

*Appreciating* the important efforts made by CMS to enhance relationships with organizations that have different mandates or goals, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which provides multidisciplinary solutions currently aimed at achieving food security, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and ecosystem health,

*Further recognizing* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, The Future We Want, which recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the MEAs, and which encourages 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,

*Also welcoming* the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which will, upon entry into force, enable the protection and effective management of key areas for migratory species in areas beyond national jurisdiction through the establishment of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas.

*Further recognizing* the collaboration with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability to promote the objectives and goals of the Convention on Migratory Species among local and subnational governments through joint activities such as awareness-raising campaigns and profiling the role of local and subnational governments in strengthening ecological connectivity,

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

*Acknowledging* the important role played in conservation of migratory species by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including through the application of traditional environmental knowledge and cultural customs that safeguard populations of wild animals, and *desiring* to cooperate with bodies including UNESCO and the Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity that bring expertise on these issues,

*Emphasizing* that the health of marine migratory species should be supported through enhanced collaboration between CMS Parties, the CMS Secretariat and relevant regional organizations such as regional fisheries management organizations and regional seas conventions, and recognizing the importance of the swift entry into force and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement,

*Recalling* Resolution 11.11, which invited the Secretariat, Parties, other governments, civil society organizations and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to review options

for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society,

*Appreciating* the efforts of the Secretariat in promoting the use of remote/video conferencing technology to enable Parties, agreements, NGOs, and non-Party Range States partial or full remote access to all CMS and CMS agreement full and intersessional meetings, and

*Recognizing the establishment of* the World Coastal Forum, a global partnership initiative to enhance coastal ecosystems, as called for by CMS Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal & other coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*, and by resolutions and decisions of several other biodiversity-related conventions,

*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 multilateral environmental agreements, including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), and other relevant partners about the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 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, international and regional organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and NGOs;
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. *Notes* the recommendations contained in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18/Annex.3 aimed at enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society both at international and national levels;
6. *Recognizes* that formal partnerships with biodiversity-related NGOs have the potential to significantly increase the delivery of CMS objectives and may be deserving of a formal recognition;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue providing letters of endorsement for NGO funding requests relating to projects that contribute to the implementation of any plans, actions or initiatives under the CMS Family;
8. *Encourages* Parties, the Secretariat, NGOs, and other stakeholders to continue strengthening engagement with Indigenous Peoples, youth groups and local communities across the CMS Family;
9. *Further encourages* Parties to promote the active engagement and strengthen the capacity of subnational and local governments in efforts to protect migratory species and their habitats;

10. *Encourages* Parties, non-Party Range States and other stakeholders, and *requests* the Secretariat as well as the Aquatic and Avian Working Groups of the Scientific Council to engage in the World Coastal Forum as a mechanism to facilitate the synergistic delivery of commitments in relation to coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration under CMS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, CBD and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to collaborate with partners to promote incorporation of multiple scientific and cultural methods and value systems relating to the conservation of migratory species;
12. *Also requests* the Secretariat to pursue strengthened partnerships with the private sector in accordance with the CMS Code of Conduct;
13. *Further requests* the Secretariat, and the CMS Family 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;
14. *Welcomes* the joint work programme between the CMS and CITES Secretariats and *further requests* the Secretariat to prepare proposals to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions, including through joint work programmes with clear targets and timetables aligned with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032, for consideration at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
15. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) and encourages Parties, the Secretariat, NGOs and other stakeholders to engage in its processes and build synergies to enhance conservation of migratory marine species;
16. *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 United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices and the United Nations Development Programme;
17. *Also requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of other conventions to continue liaising with the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices and make best use of their role in assisting the implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs;
18. *Further requests* the Secretariat together with interested Parties and stakeholders 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 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and under the BBNJ Agreement; and further requests the Secretariat to report on progress to each meeting of the COP;
19. *Calls on* the Secretariat to enhance cooperation through the BLG and the biodiversity indicators partnership to support further development of the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the BBNJ Agreement, and to strengthen cooperation and consultation with regional conservation and fisheries management bodies;

20. *Requests* the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to pursue the most effective actions for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats;
21. *Also requests* the Secretariat to be aware of the progress with respect to the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, and to subsequently engage with that Agreement in order to advance the conservation of migratory species;
22. *Further requests* the Secretariat to continue to engage with the process on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with the BLG;
23. *Invites* the members of the BLG 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;
24. *Also invites* the members of the BLG to consider ways and means to increase cooperation on their outreach and communication strategies;
25. *Further invites* the BLG to take into due consideration the need to optimize monitoring efforts and improve effectiveness through the use of coherent monitoring frameworks and indicator systems;
26. *Requests* the Secretariat, to avoid duplication of work among MEAs dedicated to nature protection issues, and *invites* the BLG to address, at its future meetings, options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, wild meat 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;
27. *Also 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 BLG;
28. *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;
29. *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 knowledge management and national reporting by making use of the Data Reporting tool (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme as well as through adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA;
30. *Urges* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, regional, subregional and national organizations and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns related to migratory species into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national commitments among the various conventions and other international fora in which they are involved;

31. *Encourages* Parties to ratify the BBNJ Agreement at their earliest convenience, in order to ensure a rapid entry-into-force of the Treaty and opportunities to advance the conservation of migratory species within the marine environment across all taxa;
32. *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; and
33. *Urges* partner organizations to continue to promote and publicize the benefits to them, to CMS, and to conservation arising from effective collaboration.

## DRAFT DECISIONS

**PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS  
IN CMS PROCESSES*****Directed to the Secretariat***

14.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) establish an Intersessional Working Group comprising Parties, the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other relevant organizations to explore options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS, including a process and a template for reporting to the Conference of the Parties;
- b) present a proposal for accreditation for NGO partners to CMS to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and adoption;
- c) continue exploring and proposing ways to increase the involvement of Indigenous Peoples, youth groups and local communities in CMS processes, building on the experiences from other multilateral environmental agreements, and present suggestions, including their cost implications, to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15).
- d) in collaboration with interested Parties, UNESCO and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, undertake a concise review of the values, policy principles and concrete opportunities that exist in relation to the tangible and intangible cultural values associated with migratory species and their conservation.

***Directed to Parties, IGOs & NGOs, Others***

14.BB Parties, NGOs and other relevant organizations are invited to support the Secretariat in exploring options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS for the consideration of COP15.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

14.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:

- a) assess the significance of multiple systems of knowledge and understanding, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge, for supporting effective migratory species conservation; and
- b) provide a report to COP15 with suggestions for ways in which CMS might facilitate inclusion of additional systems of knowledge and understanding for enhanced implementation of the Convention.