



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



RESOLUTION 6.4*

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting (Cape Town, 10-16 November 1999)

Noting that Article VII, paragraph 5, of the Convention requires the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, to decide on any additional measures that should be taken to implement its objectives;

Recalling that, at its fourth meeting (Nairobi, 1994), the Conference of the Parties adopted, in principle, the *Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention* (documents UNEP/CMS/Conf.4.11 and UNEP/CMS/Res.4.4);

Further recalling that the Conference of the Parties, through the adoption of Resolution 5.4 at its fifth meeting, held in Geneva in 1997, on the *Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention*, prioritized the objectives agreed for the triennium 1998-2000;

Noting the efforts made by the Parties and, under the guidance of the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council, by the Secretariat to implement the priorities identified by the Conference of the Parties, as described in document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 6.12, Part I, for the period 1997-1999;

Conscious of the need, as the Convention expands its activities, to reassess conservation priorities and to envisage new directions for the Convention's work in order to ensure that they correspond to the most pressing requirements to be addressed;

Conscious also of the need to maintain clear focus and guidance of the work of the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council, the Secretariat and the Parties in their cooperative efforts to implement the Convention;

Appreciative of the efforts of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat in preparing the comprehensive working document (UNEP/CMS/Conf.6.12) from which the Strategic Plan has been drawn;

Acknowledging that for the Convention to develop its full potential as a global instrument for the conservation of migratory species, and for the organs of the Convention to undertake their functions effectively, adequate human and financial resources must be allocated, commensurate with the breadth and geographic scope of the activities to be pursued;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Decides* to adopt the attached document as the Strategic Plan for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals for the period 2000-2005;

* The original draft of this resolution, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 6.3.

2. *Notes* the usefulness and continuing value of the working document (UNEP/CMS/Conf.6.12) as it provides a comprehensive framework for all Parties and each of the institutions of the Convention to further the objectives of the Convention;

3. *Requests* all Parties and each of the institutions of the Convention actively to pursue the objectives contained therein, as far as possible, in particular by using the Strategic Plan as a basis for defining and implementing corresponding activities at national and regional levels;

4. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the statement delivered by the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme on the occasion of the opening of the meeting, affirming support for the Convention, and stressing the need for promoting synergy among global environmental conventions;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the Strategic Plan and its priorities in determining and, where appropriate, mobilizing support for the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to actively foster synergy between global environmental conventions, giving particular emphasis to the relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Instructs* the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council and the Secretariat, and kindly requests all Parties, to report to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made in their implementation of the objectives identified in the Strategic Plan and relevant related activities;

8. *Decides* to set up an open working group of Parties to meet inter-sessionally under the guidance of, and working with, the Standing Committee; and that the tasks of the working group, while respecting the need to avoid significant hindrance to the Secretariat, will be:

(a) to explore, in discussion with the Chairman of the Scientific Council and members of the Scientific Council, a set of robust, measurable, practical, timely and appropriate performance indicators which may collectively be suitable over a period of time to measure the success of the Convention in achieving its aims; and

(b) to explore options to facilitate the measurement of inputs and outputs of the Secretariat and, as appropriate, other organs of the Convention, and hence the achievement of value for money in the budgeting process, while taking account of reporting systems already in place.

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2000 - 2005*

PREAMBLE

In recognition of the fact that migratory species of wild animals are of global importance, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), with the endorsement of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, called upon the world community of States to draw special attention to the conservation of species of wild animals that regularly cross national borders or that migrate in international waters. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was concluded in 1979 as a consequence.

The preamble to the Convention recognizes, among other things, that:

- Wild animals possess ever-growing value from environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic points of view;
- Migratory species in their innumerable forms are an irreplaceable part of the earth's natural system which must be conserved for the good of mankind;
- Each generation of man holds the resources of the Earth for future generations and has an obligation to ensure that this legacy is conserved and, where utilized, is used wisely; and
- States are and must be the protectors of the migratory species of wild animals that live within or pass through their national jurisdictional boundaries.

Efforts aimed specifically at benefiting migratory species contribute to the broader objectives of conserving biodiversity and should be recognised as part of an integrated approach to the implementation of all the conservation-related conventions. The aims of CMS and its sister conventions - Ramsar, CBD and CITES, to name just a few - are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Increasingly attention needs to be given to coordinating action, creating synergies and avoiding duplication among the respective treaty bodies and other concerned partners within the non-governmental community.

OBJECTIVE 1: TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES INCLUDED IN MAJOR ANIMAL GROUPS LISTED IN THE CMS APPENDICES

SCOPE

One of the strengths of the Convention on Migratory Species is the wide-ranging suite of measures it has at its disposal to promote the conservation of migratory species listed in the CMS Appendices. These include concerted actions for Appendix I species and various co-operative arrangements to promote the conservation of species listed in Appendix II, ranging from Action Plans and Memoranda of Understanding to formal Agreements.

Parties are encouraged to use the full range of measures at the disposal of the Convention (Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and Action Plans) to promote the conservation of species throughout their migratory range; to deploy finite resources in a strategic manner, building on natural,

* Document UNEP/CMS/Res. 6.3/Rev. 2/Add. 1 (Cape Town, November 1999)

regional affinities while working within a global framework with wider benefits; and to continue to support field projects that serve to catalyse longer-term activities.

In this regard, the considerations and recommendations of the Scientific Council and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties identify high priority activities.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1.1 Birds

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of each of the endangered bird species listed in Appendix I and to facilitate the development and implementation of Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding to address the conservation needs of these and other migratory birds on a regional or broader scale.

1.2 Marine mammals

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of each of the endangered marine mammal species listed in Appendix I that are not adequately covered by other instruments, and to facilitate the development and implementation of Agreements to address the conservation needs of these and other marine mammals on a regional or broader scale, as appropriate. Synergies should be sought with other organizations involved with marine mammal conservation, including UNEP, and attention given to putting in place or strengthening conservation measures at the national level (without necessarily requiring the development of new Agreements).

1.3 Marine turtles

Taking account of document CMS/ScC.8/Doc.10 (Recommendations on future CMS activities for marine turtle conservation): to stimulate concerted actions in favour of the endangered marine turtle species listed in Appendix I and to catalyse appropriate arrangements to address their conservation needs on a regional level, in such a way that these initiatives may eventually be linked to form a comprehensive global framework.

1.4 Terrestrial mammals (other than bats)

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of each of the terrestrial marine mammal species listed in Appendix I, and to facilitate the development and implementation of regional Agreements to address the conservation needs of these and other terrestrial mammals.

1.5 Bats

To stimulate concerted actions in favour of any endangered bat species listed in Appendix I and identified as a priority for concerted action, and explore needs and opportunities to develop Agreements for the conservation of bats outside of Europe.

1.6 Fish

To explore needs and opportunities to develop Agreements for the conservation of fish species listed under Appendix II of the Convention.

1.7 Other taxa

To ensure that appropriate consideration is given to other taxonomic groups traditionally not covered within the framework of CMS.

OBJECTIVE 2: TO FOCUS AND PRIORITISE CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

SCOPE

There is an urgent need to engage and influence those sectors of economic activity which have significant impacts on migratory species; to ensure that concerns related to the conservation of migratory species are integrated in national planning and priority-setting; for Parties to implement fully their strict obligations vis-à-vis species listed in Appendix I; and to ensure that the scientific basis for establishing priorities -- namely through the listing of species in the Appendices -- is sound.

It is important also that, through a continuous process of review using the best available sources of information, the Appendices reflect accurately the range of species most in need of attention. This essential task is the responsibility of individual Parties, the Scientific Council and the Conference of the Parties) in the first instance, to ensure that national conservation priorities for migratory species are addressed and, in the second, to provide accurate scientific advice to the Conference of the Parties which must then determine, based on all available information, the most appropriate course of action.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

2.1 Sectoral / interdisciplinary approaches

To engage, and interact more frequently with, those sectors and disciplines whose activities and influence are vital for the success of conservation initiatives for migratory species.

2.2 National and regional priorities

To ensure that the activities of the Convention are in line with national and regional priorities, and vice versa, and that government policies at those levels include consideration of migratory species, in particular with regard to planning for economic development, land-use planning, designation and development of reserves, development of ecological networks, and planning of powerlines, fences, dams... etc.).

2.3 Mitigation of obstacles to migration

With reference to Article III, paragraph 4, of the Convention, requiring Parties to endeavour to mitigate obstacles to migration: review systematically and comprehensively the special problems faced by migratory animals in relation to various obstacles to migration, and propose remedial measures that may have widespread applicability.

2.4 Appendix I species

To ensure that Appendix I reflects accurately those endangered migratory species most in need of attention; to review the conservation needs of those species systematically with a view to arriving at a prioritized plan for further action; and to have in place by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties concrete instruments for the protection and recovery of all "Concerted Action" species identified in resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.

2.5 Appendix II species

To ensure that Appendix II reflects accurately those migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status or which would benefit from the conclusion of Agreements for their

conservation; and to identify systematically those taxonomic groups which should be priorities for the development of Agreements. Parties and the Secretariat should give priority to the development of new Agreements, particularly in regions where CMS initiatives are not well advanced.

2.6 Data required for decision-making

To identify and secure the best available scientific data on which to base decisions regarding the inclusion or deletion of species in/from the Appendices, as well as the prioritization of conservation actions; and to maintain the accuracy of the CMS Range State list (and, therefore, its usefulness as a reference tool).

2.7 Policies on satellite telemetry

To play a more active role in the scrutiny of conservation/research projects that propose the use of satellite telemetry, particularly those involving endangered species listed in Appendix I, to ensure compliance with agreed guidelines.

OBJECTIVE 3: TO ENHANCE GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP IN CMS THROUGH TARGETED PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION'S AIMS

SCOPE

Coverage of migration routes must be as comprehensive as possible for maximum effectiveness of joint efforts to conserve migratory species. This is especially important in relation to long-distance migrants, such as those covered by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. Increasing the membership will eliminate gaps in geographic range and enhance opportunities for regional co-operation and co-ordination in areas of common concern.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE

3.1 Membership

To endeavour to secure membership of at least 85 Parties to the Convention by the end of 2002, and 100 by the end of 2005, including at least 8-12 non-Parties that have been identified by the Standing Committee as high priorities for recruitment.

OBJECTIVE 4: TO FACILITATE AND IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

SCOPE

By the very fact they migrate over long distances, migratory animals provide natural links between different ecosystems and different countries. CMS is also uniquely placed to serve as a mechanism for fulfilling those aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity which relate to migratory species. Information programmes of CMS Parties and of the Secretariat need strengthening in order to convey this message effectively.

CMS's own means are quite modest, but sufficient to fund a limited number of small projects specific to the conservation of key Appendix I migratory species and to act as a catalyst for actions in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition. Projects should be elaborated in such a way as to ensure their eligibility for financial support from other sources, including the GEF.

Certain issues fundamental to the Convention warrant financing in their own right.

The organs of the Convention (the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Scientific Council, and the Secretariat) ought to be reviewed as the Convention attracts a greater membership of Parties and as the number of related Agreements grows, to ensure that they are well-equipped to fulfill their functions properly. The role of the Secretariat as the developer and facilitator of CMS should be defined and set apart from the role of the Parties, which should assume more responsibility for the practical implementation of the Convention, including taking a lead role in the development of Agreements, as called for under Article IV.

The aims and objectives of CMS complement and reinforce those of other international conventions and are shared by other international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. Co-operation in areas of mutual interest is therefore essential.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

4.1 Global importance of CMS

To increase awareness of the relevance of CMS and its global importance in the context of biodiversity Conservation and to convince decision-makers and stake-holders at all levels that conserving migratory animals throughout the world is a worthy objective.

4.2 Mobilize resources

To mobilize financial resources needed for conservation actions and increase the level of funding support external to CMS (which may or may not be channelled through the Convention) that is made available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species.

4.3 Institutions of CMS

To rationalize arrangements for the institutions of the Convention and to ensure that the institutions of the Convention - the Conference of the Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific Council and Secretariat - are properly equipped to undertake their individual responsibilities.

4.4 Linkages

To strengthen orderly institutional linkages with partner organizations and in particular define jointly, under the umbrella of the Convention on Biological Diversity, within a global context involving the main biodiversity related conventions, the scope of their responsibility and the ways to improve, in the most efficient way, their tasks and to enhance their synergetic effect.