



11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands: home and destination”

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Cooperation between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species: Ramsar-CMS Joint Work Plan 2012-2014

Background

1. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Bureau [Secretariat] and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was first signed in 1997. An updated Memorandum of Cooperation will have been signed between the Secretariats in May 2012.
2. Subsequent to the first MOU, a tripartite Joint Work Plan between Ramsar, CMS and its ‘daughter agreement’ the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) was developed for the period 2003-2005. Experience in implementing this first JWP has found, however, that it was too detailed and complex relative to the capacities of the respective Secretariats.
3. Although there has been no formal JWP in place since 2005, a number of important cooperative activities have continued since then, and have included:
 - the Task Forces on Avian Influenza and Wildlife Diseases;
 - the “Wings over Wetlands” (WOW) African-Eurasian Flyways GEF project;
 - joint Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAM).
 - development of policy on flyways;
 - a ‘waterbird flyway initiatives’ expert workshop (hosted by the Republic of Korea in October 2011); and
 - the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands.
4. A summary of the activities carried out was provided to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CMS in the document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 10.28.
5. The updated Memorandum of Cooperation made provision for a further Ramsar-CMS Joint Work Plan for 2012-2014, which is provided below. Most of the activities identified will have no significant extra cost, but for any that do the Secretariats will jointly seek

external funding. In addition, carrying out activities jointly should make it possible to optimize the use of any necessary funds secured.

6. The updated MoC and 2012-2014 JWP were welcomed by CMS COP10 in October 2011 (in Resolution 10.21). Draft Resolution DR6 for Ramsar COP11 invites Ramsar's Contracting Parties to welcome the Joint Work Plan.
7. A number of CMS-related agreements or memoranda of understanding concern wetland-dependent migratory species, and the updated MoC includes the provision that any such agreement or memorandum can participate in the Joint Work Plan or develop and agree a separate JWP with the Ramsar Secretariat. It is anticipated that such a JWP will be developed with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) during 2012.

Joint Work Plan 2012-2014
Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

This plan identifies a non-exclusive list of activities on which the Ramsar Convention and CMS Secretariats agree to cooperate within the framework of their Memorandum of Cooperation.

1. National policies
1.1 To support national policy initiatives for coordinated implementation of the CMS and Ramsar Conventions, including consultation among relevant national focal points, cross-representation on relevant national implementation committees and working groups, streamlining and harmonization of reporting processes, and adequate reflection of Ramsar and CMS interests in the updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and in initiatives of other relevant biodiversity-related conventions.
2. Regional agreements and initiatives
2.1 To take opportunities for facilitating mutual participation in relevant meetings under either Convention, including those organized at regional level in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and its Regional Initiatives, those organized under CMS auspices in relation to individual Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other instruments, and workshops on technical topics of mutual interest.
3. Management of species populations and wetland ecosystems
3.1 To develop policy and management approaches in furtherance of the most recent scientific knowledge and best practice thinking concerning ecological networks in relation to migratory species and wetlands.
3.2 To continue to develop joint intelligence, research and response mechanisms in relation to wildlife diseases.
3.3 To explore the scope for synergy in responding to other emergency situations (such as mass die-offs), in follow-up to Ramsar Resolution COP IX.9 and CMS COP Resolution 10.2.
3.4 To collaborate in elaboration and implementation (if approved) of the proposed GEF project on Dugongs in the Indian Ocean & Western Pacific (resources permitting).
3.5 To continue to enhance the identification of overlaps between the interests of migratory species and wetlands of importance, and to seek appropriate coherence between attention to “critical sites” for migratory pathways and strategic objectives for networks of protected wetlands.
3.6 To undertake specific advisory missions on a joint basis in cases where the interests of both Conventions may be involved (resources permitting).

4. Monitoring and assessment
4.1 To define and operate (monitor, assess, report on) relevant biodiversity indicators to evaluate effectiveness of Convention implementation, and as a contribution to wider collective efforts concerning assessments of progress towards the global Aichi targets, <i>inter alia</i> through the expert consultative processes established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.
5. Global science and policy
5.1 To consider collaboration, resources permitting, on the production of synthesis products focused on water, wetlands and migratory species interests in respect of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, including collaboration on new work by the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel in this subject area, and follow-up to the reports of the “TEEB” study.
5.2 To align and harmonize where possible proposals for COP Resolutions on technical subjects of mutual interest (such as climate change, the energy sector, extractive industries and impact assessment).
5.3 To publish jointly technical guidance materials of mutual interest where appropriate (and resources permitting).
6. Information, outreach and capacity-building
6.1 To organize efficient cross-distribution to the two Conventions’ constituencies of materials for the promotion of World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day as well as of CMS species awareness campaigns if they are of any relevance for Ramsar, and to issue mutually supportive public information about each of these Days and campaigns.
6.2 To collaborate on activities for capacity building (resources permitting) including cross-representation on capacity building workshops and investigation of ways and means to support the application of the CMS Flyway Training Kit.
6.3 To consider creative ways of mutually enhancing Secretariat capacity, for example through staff placements, exchange of interns, and reciprocal temporary staff secondments for “pressure point” occasions such as COPs.
6.4 To collaborate in exploring funding for joint activities, e.g., the proposed project on the Enhancement of Information and Communication Technologies and Capacity at CITES, CMS and Ramsar.