

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

**the Secretariat of the Convention
on the Conservation of Migratory Species
of Wild Animals (CMS Secretariat)**

and

**the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of
International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
(Ramsar Secretariat)**

The CMS Secretariat and the Ramsar Secretariat,

Recognizing that migratory species of wild animals form a significant component of many wetland ecosystems, with associated benefits to people, and that a significant proportion of migratory species in turn depend on the conservation and wise use of wetlands;

Aware that the CMS and the Ramsar Conventions therefore share similar goals and interests;

Convinced that the goals of both Conventions and the implementation activities of their respective institutional bodies and Contracting Parties are generally achieved more effectively where there is good cooperation, coordination, synergy and joint working as appropriate between them;

Noting that CMS Resolution 8.11 stressed the importance of and need for enhanced collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions. In addition, Resolution 8.2 adopted the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (to be extended to 2014), which has four main objectives, including to broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors. CMS Resolution 9.6 reaffirmed the interest and importance for CMS of continuing to develop effective and practical cooperation with other biodiversity instruments.

Noting also that Ramsar Resolution X.11 urged the Ramsar Secretariat to pursue as actively as possible, time and resources permitting, the review and streamlining of its joint work programme with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats. Ramsar's Strategic Plan (2009-2015) calls for Ramsar to work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (Strategy 3.1).

Affirming that similar considerations apply in respect of many of the Agreements and other instruments formally concluded under CMS auspices;

Confirming that the present Memorandum of Cooperation supersedes and completely replaces the Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Secretariat which was signed on 18 February 1997;

AGREE as follows:

Article 1

Policy compatibility

1. The CMS and Ramsar Secretariats (“the Secretariats”) will seek to achieve mutual compatibility in the policy content of the documents they prepare for major technical and decision-making meetings, such as their respective Conferences of Parties and meetings of subsidiary bodies.
2. The Secretariats will cooperate to seek other opportunities for presenting compatible policy positions and advisory materials in relevant fora, and in their relationships with relevant organisations.
3. The Secretariats will take appropriate opportunities, including in publications and on websites, each to promote awareness and support for the other, while maintaining sensitivity in relation to the individual relationships they each may be aiming to develop with donors, partner NGOs, citizen science networks, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders.

Article 2

Institutional cooperation

1. The Secretariats will invite each other to be represented at meetings of the respective Conventions’ Conferences of the Parties, subsidiary bodies and other relevant meetings.
2. The Secretariats will seek to facilitate cross-representation between their respective Conventions’ subsidiary bodies, and the sharing of key scientific and technical work plan documents.
3. The Secretariats will allow each other access to contact information concerning their respective national focal points, will communicate the content of this Memorandum to those focal points and will encourage them to consult each other and to cooperate at the national level in accordance with the spirit of this Memorandum.

Article 3

Exchange of information and experience

1. The Secretariats will maintain a regular exchange of information of mutual interest, including the sharing of work planning documents and reports, and early communication of relevant perceived needs, risks and opportunities.
2. The Secretariats will develop and operate systems for exchange and updating of data on issues of mutual interest. This will include but not necessarily be limited to initiatives for harmonization and interoperability of information, reporting and knowledge management.
3. The Secretariats will ensure that their respective Conventions’ websites each contain adequate cross-references and hyperlinks to the other.

Article 4
Work plans and conservation activities

1. The Secretariats will consult and agree joint plans and projects of mutual interest. Terms of such joint collaborative activities to be developed, including their funding arrangements, will be agreed upon prior to their initiation and included in a standalone Joint Work Plan. The Secretariats will use their respective annual work programming processes as a stimulus to consult each other over refreshing periodically the Joint Work Plan, identifying wherever possible the timeframe for completion of such activities and their links to objectives expressed in one or both Conventions' Strategic Plans and Resolutions and Recommendations.

2. The Secretariats will cooperate in seeking opportunities for the development and funding where applicable of joint projects of mutual interest, including projects to be undertaken in partnership with other organisations.

3. The Secretariats will encourage their Contracting Parties, Range States and other countries, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, donor institutions and other bodies as appropriate to support and participate in the implementation of the conservation activities contained in any Joint Work Plan.

Article 5
**Application to agreements and other instruments
concluded under CMS auspices**

1. In the event that any secretariat of a CMS-related agreement or memorandum of understanding and the Ramsar Secretariat also seek opportunities to develop and support programmes and projects of mutual interest, they may participate in the Secretariats' Joint Work Plan or negotiate and agree a separate Joint Work Plan.

Article 6
Review and reporting on implementation

1. The Secretariats will consult each other regularly about the implementation of this Memorandum, reviewing in particular any impediments to its effective operation, assessing progress in undertaking the activities listed in the Joint Work Plan, and identifying any updating of the Joint Work Plan. Such consultations may include but not necessarily be limited to a bi-monthly telephone conference call, and once each year shall include a review against the revised annual work plans of each Convention.

2. Where a Joint Work Plan is agreed with any secretariat of a CMS daughter agreement, the secretariat concerned will consult from time to time with the Ramsar Secretariat and as appropriate the CMS Secretariat about the implementation of those activities.

3. A report of activities concluded under the Joint Work Plan will be prepared periodically and submitted as an information document into relevant Secretariat oversight processes.

Article 7
Amendment and termination

1. This Memorandum may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Secretariats.
2. Where any separate Joint Work Plan is agreed, it may be amended by mutual written consent of the bodies by which it was originally agreed.
3. This Memorandum will remain in force subject to review and update thereafter unless terminated by either Secretariat giving three months' written notice, or if it is replaced by another new agreement.
4. In the event of termination of this Memorandum, the Secretariats will nonetheless ensure that their rights and obligations on any on-going joint activities are completely fulfilled.

Article 8 Settlement of disputes

1. The Parties will use their best efforts to settle any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this Memorandum amicably. Any mediation will take place according to a procedure agreed by both parties, and if such mediation fails to achieve an amicable settlement, the Memorandum will terminate immediately.

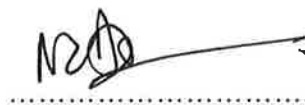
Article 9 Status and entry into effect

1. Nothing in or related to this Memorandum shall be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.
2. The Secretariats will each be solely and completely responsible and accountable for all services performed by their own staff, members or agents.
3. This Memorandum shall take effect upon signature by both Secretariats.

Done in the English language on the



Bert Lenten
Officer-in-Charge/
Deputy Executive Secretary
UNEP/CMS Secretariat



Anada Tiega
Secretary General
Ramsar Convention Secretariat