



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 -19 September 2014

**CMS Secretariat Statement to
The Eighth Meeting of ACAP's Advisory
Committee (AC8)
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 to 19 September
2014.**

CMS Secretariat



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



CMS Secretariat Statement to

The Eighth Meeting of ACAP's Advisory Committee (AC8)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 15 to 19 September 2014.

Warm greetings to the participants of AC8, from the CMS Secretariat in Bonn!

This statement provides an update on some of the Secretariat's work that may be of interest to your Committee.

Bycatch

The CMS Bycatch Working Group met during the 18th CMS Scientific Council Meeting (CMS ScC18, 1-3 July 2014, Bonn, Germany). The report will be published shortly as an annex to the ScC18 report. Participants received the final revised report "Assessment of Bycatch in Gill Net Fisheries" ([UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.15.1](#)), the report of the "Australasian Net Solutions Workshop" ([UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.15.2](#)), and oral reports from the organizations represented at the meeting. The work programme for the coming triennium for the Appointed Councillor for Bycatch and the Working Group were approved.

Marine Debris

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.4 on Marine Debris instructed the CMS Scientific Council to undertake three reviews, which were presented to ScC18 as [UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.4.1](#): Migratory Species, Marine Debris and its Management, [UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.4.2](#): Marine Debris and Commercial Marine Vessel Best Practice, and [UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.4.3](#): Marine Debris Public Awareness and Education Campaigns. A draft resolution developed on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report was endorsed for submission to the 11th Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (CMS COP11) to be held this November, and UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.6 will be published shortly.

Boat-based Wildlife Watching

A number of migratory marine species are the subject of boat-based wildlife watching activities, including species covered by ACAP. In order to realize the potential benefits of wildlife watching tourism and to minimize risks, it is important that it is conducted sustainably and is well-managed through comprehensive regulations and guidelines. While such guidelines exist for some species groups (especially cetaceans) and in some countries, there are significant gaps. A draft resolution was therefore put before CMS ScC18 and endorsed for submission to CMS COP11. It will be published shortly as UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.5.

Flyways

CMS ScC18 discussed and endorsed a Programme of Work for Migratory Birds and Flyways which will be submitted to CMS COP11 together with a draft resolution. The Programme of Work has been prepared by the CMS Flyways Working Group and its overall purpose is to identify and promote implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide. More information on the Programme of Work and draft resolution can be found in [UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Doc.10.10](#).

Bird poisoning

Guidelines to prevent poisoning of migratory birds have been prepared by the CMS Working Group to Prevent Bird Poisoning and will be submitted to CMS COP11. The Guidelines address five major poisoning products: insecticides, rodenticides, poison-bait, veterinary drugs and lead. These priority categories of poisoning addressed by this study are those most likely to affect migratory bird populations in line with UNEP/CMS Resolution 10.26. More information on these Guidelines can be found in [UNEP/CMS.ScC18/Inf.10.9.2](#).

Illegal killing of birds

A draft resolution on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds will be submitted to CMS COP11. The issue has been identified as one of the key factors that threaten the conservation status of migratory birds. Together with other factors such as habitat degradation and fragmentation, illegal killing is contributing to the population decrease of several species included in CMS Appendices. More information on this document can be found in [UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Doc.10.12](#).

Invasive Alien Species

For the first time in its history, the CMS COP11 will be discussing a draft resolution on invasive alien species (IAS). The resolution is based on a report prepared by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group on the impacts of IAS on migratory species [UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.10.11.1](#). Once adopted, the resolution will provide a roadmap and clear mandates to guide the work of the CMS Parties and stakeholders in relation to IAS, with a strong emphasis on implementation of prevention, control and eradication.

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

Background

The CMS Parties' Strategic Plan Working Group has been working hard since 2012, when each CMS region elected members to the Group. The Group elected Ines Verleye (Belgium) as Chair and Wendy Jackson (New Zealand) as Vice-Chair. The Chairs of the CMS Standing Committee and Scientific Council are *ex-officio* members. CMS partners – Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and non-governmental organizations - and CMS experts, have contributed substantively to the Working Group as observers.

In 2012, stakeholders' initial views were gathered and background reports prepared on lessons learned from implementation of the current Strategic Plan 2006-2014. The Working Group has held two meetings (in November 2012 and November 2013), and two drafts of the Plan have also benefited from written contributions received from many CMS Parties and partners in two extensive rounds of consultation undertaken in 2013 and 2014.

At the time of writing (July 2014) the Working Group was preparing the 3rd and Final Draft Plan for presentation to CMS COP11.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Plan presents goals and targets for migratory species, based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adapted for migratory species purposes. This approach will allow the migratory species Strategic Plan to benefit from the existing political visibility and support for biodiversity in general, at national and global levels.

The Plan is for migratory species as defined by the Convention – that is, 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.

As a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species this is not a CMS Strategic Plan, but it will serve as a guiding framework for all work supporting the conservation of migratory species and support the entire CMS Family of instruments, including ACAP.

Implementation Matters

The Plan also contains supporting chapters such as on implementation.

The Working Group recognizes the need for a Strategic Plan that is relevant to practitioners as well as to politicians and decision-makers and will recommend that the Plan's implementation could be supported through future development of a technical Companion Volume on Implementation. The Companion Volume could outline Parties', Instruments' and others' roles in implementing the Strategic Plan. It could also outline the delivery mechanisms and activities already available (such as CMS resolutions and programmes supporting the Plan), partnerships, capacity development, resources, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting on progress.

Sub-targets

The importance of each of the CMS Family of instruments is also recognized in the Strategic Plan as well as their role in the wider picture. The Strategic Plan would be an overarching framework document with strategic targets, and the Working Group envisages that the decision-making bodies of the CMS instruments would develop specific sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments.

In this regard, the Strategic Plan would be a living document, and instruments could add their sub-targets when and if they wish to contribute them. It is to be hoped that this would increase their own visibility on the international stage.

Next Steps

In parallel to the current process of developing sub-targets, it is envisaged that headline indicators will be developed for the Plan. The CMS Secretariat would be delighted to hear from the ACAP Advisory Committee about any indicators that are developed for ACAP, which could be applicable to the targets under the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species as well.

The Final Draft Plan will be available on line as a [CMS COP11 document](#), some time in September 2014.

Best Wishes!

With best wishes for a productive and successful meeting in Uruguay, and please be assured that the CMS Secretariat looks forward to collaborating with ACAP going forward, where we can offer support.

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