

**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
(COP11) TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY
SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)**

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The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was held from 4-9 November 2014, in Quito, Ecuador. Ethiopia, as a party has taken part in the conference where more than 900 participants attended from various parts of the world. Thus, the progress report of the COP is summarized as follows.

**IMPORTANT ISSUES IN AFRICAN & ETHIOPIAN CONTEXT
DISCUSSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COP.**

- 1. RULES OF PROCEDURE:** Following series of discussions on rules of procedure (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.4), Rule 16 was amended to state “all votes on decisions by the COP shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes’ cast.” adopted by the plenary (UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP25).
- 2. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONVENTION AND UNEP:** Reports of the Standing Committee Chair, Scientific Council Chair, the CMS Executive Secretary and UNEP representative were presented and noted by the COP.
- 3. CMS STRATEGIC PLAN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2014 AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES 2015-2023:** The COP considered the documents on the status of the implementation of the existing Strategic Plan (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.1) and the final draft of the new Strategic Plan (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.2) and discussed the importance of the new draft Strategic Plan in aligning policy priorities across the CMS Family; and introduced the draft resolution that outlines the inter-sessional mandate for the Strategic Plan Working Group from 2015-16. Thereafter, the amended draft

resolution on the Strategic Plan 2015-23 was addressed by the Conference of the Whole (COW) and adopted by the COP.

4. FUTURE SHAPE AND STRATEGIES OF CMS AND THE CMS FAMILY

SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM ACTIVITIES UNDER RESOLUTION 10.9:

Parties like Switzerland introduced a resolution on synergies and the COP took note of the document.

5. SYNERGIES WITH THE WIDER CMS FAMILY: ANALYSIS FOR SHARED

COMMON SERVICES: delegates agreed, *inter alia*, on revised preamble's text acknowledging the need for more information for the rationale for synergies and merging common services between the CMS and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and the COP adopted the resolution (UNEP/CMS/ COP11/CRP28) which requests the Executive Secretary to submit an independent analysis and report on the legal, financial, operational and administrative implications of actions to enhance synergies, before the CMS Standing Committee's 44th meeting and COP 12 in order to establish their benefits and disadvantages.

6. OPTIONS FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL: In this regard, via the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/ COP11/CRP33), the COP decided that:

- For each intersessional period between two consecutive COPs, a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council, to be named the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, should be identified, composed of COP-appointed Councillors, and party-appointed Councillors selected regionally;
- The Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council will be composed of nine COP-appointed members with taxonomic and thematic issues expertise and 15 party-appointed members selected within the Standing Committee's geographic areas;
- In appointing members to the Sessional Committee, the following should be achieved: a balanced scientific representation of expertise in taxonomic and cross-cutting thematic areas and a broad understanding of key scientific issues and experience in translating science into policy

Finally, the COP further requested the Scientific Council to revise its Rules of Procedure and its *modus operandi*, and to submit a report on implementation to COP12.

7. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION EXECUTION OF CMS BUDGET 2012-2014:

The relevant document -(UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.14.1) was initially discussed and the COP took note of the document.

8. DRAFT COSTED PROGRAMME OF WORK 2015- 2017 AND DRAFT BUDGET

FOR 2015-2017: The Secretariat introduced the relevant documents

(UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.14.2 and 3). Three proposed budget scenarios: status quo; status quo plus 3% growth; and status quo plus 5% growth were proposed. According to final resolution (UNEP/CMS/ COP11/CRP34), the COP:

- Adopted the budget for 2015-2017 attached as Annex I and the POW attached as Annex V;
- Adopted the scale of contributions of parties as listed in Annex II and decides to apply that scale *pro rata* to new parties;
- Urged all parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible and all parties with arrears to cooperate with the Secretariat in arranging for the payment of their outstanding contributions without delay;
- Decided that representatives from countries with contributions in arrears three years or more should be excluded from holding office in Convention bodies and denied voting rights;
- Decided that resolutions adopted by this COP that establish, *inter alia*, bodies, mechanisms or activities that have financial implications not provided for in Annex I, are subject to funds from voluntary contributions;
- Decided that the Executive Secretary, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee and in urgent cases with the approval of the Chair, may spend or apply funds from implementation of the core budget to activities in the approved costed programme of work not covered in the core budget;
- Requested the Executive Secretary to prepare budget proposals in the same format for consideration by COP12, including, as a minimum, a zero nominal growth budget scenario, a zero real growth budget scenario and, if necessary, a third scenario.
- The final resolution includes five annexes. Annex I contains the budget for the triennium 2015-2017. Annex II outlines the contributions of parties to fund the 2015-2017 budget. Annex III describes the revised ToR of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee. Annex IV

describes the ToR for the administration of the Trust Fund for CMS. Annex V states the the plenary of the whole (POW) for the triennium 2015-2017.

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING INSTRUMENTS, CMS AGREEMENTS AND ASSESSMENT OF MOUS – Document UNEP/ CMS/COP11/Doc.22.1 : The COP

adopted the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/ COP11/CRP23), by which it :

- Instructed the Secretariat and the Scientific Council, and urged parties, to apply the criteria; and
- Urged all range states of existing agreements that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede, as appropriate, and take an active part in their implementation.

10. CRITERIA FOR AMENDMENTS OF THE APPENDICES: The Scientific Council representative reported on progress made in developing guidelines for the assessment of proposals for the amendment of CMS Appendices (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.2) noting the use of the IUCN Red List Categories in assessing listing proposals to Appendix I and II of the Convention. In the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/ COP11/CRP7/Rev.1), the COP, *inter alia*, decided:

- To interpret the term “endangered” as set forth in the Convention, as meaning “facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future”; and
- That in the interpretation of the term “migratory species” in the Convention, the word “cyclically” in the phrase “cyclically and predictably” relates to a cycle of any nature.

11. PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION: The CMS Secretariat introduced proposals submitted by CMS parties (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Conf.10.15) to add 32 species to Appendices I and II. The COP adopted all proposals except the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) one which was submitted by Kenya. Among the species discussed under this session, some antelopes to which Ethiopia is a range are included. The COP adopted to list the **Red-fronted Gazelle** (*Eudorcas rufifrons*) under Appendix I (UNEP/CMS/COP11/ Doc.24.1.I-3) and **the White-eared Kob** (*Kobus kob leucotis*) in Appendix II (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.II-12) (see the attached document).

12. GUIDELINES TO PREVENT POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS: The Secretariat introduced UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2. and in the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP11/ CRP31), the COP, *inter alia*:

- Adopted the “Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning of Migratory Birds” (the Guidelines) contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2/Annex 2, agreeing that it is for each party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions;
- Urged the Secretariat to consult regularly with relevant stakeholders to monitor the impacts of poisoning on migratory birds and to support the elaboration of national strategies and sector implementation plans as necessary;
- Called on parties and non-parties to elaborate strategies to address poisoning or to include measures contained in this resolution and in the Guidelines in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or relevant legislation, as appropriate, to prevent, minimize, reduce or control the impact of poisoning on migratory bird species;
- Called on parties and invites non-parties and stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat, to strengthen national and local capacity for the implementation of this resolution, including by developing training courses, translating and disseminating.

13. ILLEGAL KILLING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS: The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.3 and according the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/ COP11/CRP30), the COP calls on :

- Parties, non-parties and other stakeholders to cooperate to address the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds through support of, and collaboration with, existing international initiatives and mechanisms to address these issues, as well as establishing task forces targeted at facilitating concerted action to eliminate illegal killing, taking and trade of shared populations of migratory birds in those areas where such problems are prevalent;
- The Secretariat to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean to facilitate the implementation of the existing guidelines and action plans, any necessary new guidelines and action plans relating to the Mediterranean and to consider whether any new guidelines, action plans or other recommendations are necessary;
- The Secretariat to explore with parties and non-party range states and others in South and Central America and the Caribbean the potential to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in that region; and

- The Secretariat to report progress, on behalf of the Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and other similar initiatives elsewhere in the world, on implementation and, as much as possible, on assessment of the efficacy of measures taken, to COP12 in 2017.

14. CONSERVATION OF LANDBIRDS IN THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN REGION: The plenary adopted the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). The final resolution on “Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbird Species in the African-Eurasian Region” (UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP11), adopted the AEMLAP, which aims to develop an initial overarching, strategic framework for action at the international level to conserve, restore and sustainably manage populations of migratory landbird species and their habitats. The Plan covers 34 globally threatened migratory landbird species, 124 Least Concern migratory landbird species with decreasing global population trends and 346 Least Concern migratory landbird species with increasing, stable or unknown global population trends.

15. CONSERVATION OF THE SAKER FALCON: Through the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP11/ CRP27), the COP:

- Adopted the ten-year SakerGAP, as contained in UNEP/ CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.5.2, as the basis for action on the conservation and management of the Saker Falcon in the coming triennium and beyond, with the overall goal “to re-establish a healthy and self-sustaining wild Saker Falcon population throughout its range, and to ensure that any use is sustainable” and
- Decided to continue the Concerted Action for the Saker Falcon during the next triennium at least, to enable initial implementation of the Saker GAP.

16. BIRD TAXONOMY: The Avian Working Group presented the document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.6 on the Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices and recommended it for adoption and finally the document was adopted by the plenary.

17. ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS: This issue was discussed in detail and the final resolution which:

- Endorsed the recommendations made in the strategic review on ecological networks;

- encourages parties to provide financial resources and in-kind support to underpin and strengthen existing ecological network initiatives within the CMS Family of instruments, including the Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds, the Critical Site Network of African Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement;
- Urged parties to monitor adequately ecological networks to allow early detection of any deterioration in quality of sites, rapid identification of threats and timely action to maintain network integrity; and
- Encouraged parties, other range states and relevant organizations to apply the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Best Practice Guideline on Trans-boundary Conservation was adopted by the COP.

18. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY

SPECIES: The Scientific Council’s Climate Change Working Group presented the document (UNEP/CMS/COP11/ Doc.23.4.2) and the final resolution which requests parties and signatories to the CMS instruments to assess what steps are necessary to help migratory species cope with climate change was adopted by the COP.

19. RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES DEPLOYMENT AND MIGRATORY

SPECIES: The COP:

- Endorsed the document “Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment” and urges parties and encourages non-parties to implement these voluntary guidelines as applicable;
- Urged parties to implement, as appropriate, a series of priorities in their development of wind, solar, ocean energies, hydropower and geo-energy; and
- Instructed the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation.

20. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: The Secretariat introduced UNEP/

CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.4, which includes a review of the impact of invasive alien species (IAS) on species listed under CMS and explores potential future work on IAS. Through the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP11/ CRP5), the COP:

- Called on parties and non-parties to address threats from IAS with a focus on CMS-listed species;

- Instructed the Secretariat to encourage parties and non-parties to ensure effective collaboration in relation to issues concerning IAS among national authorities and focal points that deal with, among others, the CBD, CITES and the Ramsar Convention; and
- Urged the Scientific Council to address at its future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, policy coherence and implementation with regard to work on IAS, in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of the Scientific Council and other MEAs.

21. WILDLIFE CRIME: The document on this important issue (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.7/Rev.1) was presented and through the final resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP19), the COP:

- Encouraged parties and non-parties to take measures to increase awareness of wildlife crime and offenses among their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities and civil society;
- Urged parties and invites non-parties to strengthen national and trans-boundary law enforcement with emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and intelligence sharing;
- Recommended that parties and non-parties work to reduce demand for illegally obtained wildlife specimens and products within their domestic markets and utilize the CMS framework to exchange knowledge and lessons learned regarding successful demand-side reduction strategies; and
- Encouraged the many stakeholders addressing wildlife crime affecting migratory species to collaborate closely.

22. IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION PLAN 2012-14 AND COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION AND OUTREACH PLAN 2015-17: The Secretariat introduced the related documents (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.1 and 19.2). He presented the draft resolution, highlighting three priority activities designed to enhance the strategic focus and overall coherence of CMS and AEWA communications, namely: development of a communications strategy and common branding; strengthening the joint team; and initiating the development of a Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme. The AEWA Secretariat invited parties to support the resolution to increase the visibility of CMS and AEWA. Finally, the resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP21) which requests the CMS Executive Secretary to continue to work closely

with the AEWA Executive Secretary to guide the work of the new joint CMS and AEWA unit that was endorsed by the COP.

- 23. ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS OF NATIONAL REPORTS:** The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.3. noting that 2014 marked the inaugural use of the CMS online reporting system and the COP took note of the document.
- 24. WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY:** Kenya introduced its proposal on World Migratory Bird Day (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.4) considering the second weekend in May of each year as World Migratory Bird Day. In plenary, the COP adopted the resolution.
- 25. ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOSTING THE 11TH AND 12TH MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES:** The COP addressed the draft resolution on Arrangements for Hosting the 12th Meetings of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CMS/COP11/CRP35). The COP welcomed the offer by the Philippines to host COP12.

CONCLUSION

“Time for action” was the motto of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, and parties have responded accordingly. Considerable number of resolutions and proposals that range from specific administrative issues to inclusion of particular species in appendices and from certain conservation matters to those cross-cutting ones have been adopted by the COP.

Generally, during the whole week of its meetings, CMS COP11 adopted 35 resolutions, including on: the Asiatic lion that, *inter alia*, will work towards an Appendix II listing proposal to be presented at COP12; the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023; the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species; the Central Asian Mammals Initiative; renewable energy and migratory species; enhancing the relationship between the CMS family and civil society; the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region; management of marine debris; the Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean; fighting wildlife crime and offenses within and beyond borders; and enhancing synergies and common services among CMS family of instruments. Moreover,

subsequent to the submission of proposals by parties to amend the appendices of the Convention, the COP decided to list 31 new species.

Therefore, the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties was relatively successful in all circumstances especially in supporting the conservation endeavors of the parties, including Ethiopia.