

CMS CITES JOINT WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2020

Introduction: The CMS/CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020 comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities. They are organized around four main themes:

- (A) Harmonization of species-specific information;
- (B) Joint activities addressing shared species and issues of common interest;
- (C) Implementation and fundraising;
- (D) Outreach and capacity building.

(A) Harmonization of species-specific information

Joint activities in this area relate to updating the species-specific information for species listed in the respective Appendices and relevant databases of the two Conventions and aligning nomenclature in the Appendices to ensure compatibility.

Description of envisaged joint activities
<u>Harmonization of species-specific information contained in related databases</u> A1. Harmonize and link databases containing species-specific information (such as taxonomy, nomenclature, species common names, range states, conservation and legal status), taking into account the respective requirements of the two Conventions.
<u>Harmonize Nomenclature</u> A2. Pursue efforts to harmonize the nomenclature in the Appendices of the two Conventions with the long-term aim of complete alignment across all taxa.

(B) Joint activities addressing shared species and issues of common interest

The Secretariats will jointly address overarching species conservation and management issues of common interest, such as promoting regional management of species, community-based management of resources, non-detrimental trade and sustainable use, encouraging best conservation and sustainable use practices for shared species, and monitoring emerging threats such as climate change.

Shared species of particular attention include:

- Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*);
- Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.);
- Big cats, such as Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*);
- Great apes (Hominidae);
- African elephant (*Loxodonta* spp.);
- Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*);
- Marine turtles (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae); and
- Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii)

The Secretariats will also respond to any relevant recommendations, resolutions and decisions agreed by Parties or Signatories and that pertain to joint CITES/CMS work, including those resulting from the implementation of CMS instruments (e.g. MoUs). Activities shall not be limited to those envisaged below.

Description of envisaged joint activities
<u>Argali</u> B1 - Coordinate the development and, once adopted, joint implementation of the Argali Action Plan, focusing on species management and sustainable trade components.
<u>Saiga antelope</u> B2 Ensure collaboration on the implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme under the Saiga MoU and its revisions; including regular exchange of technical and other relevant

Description of envisaged joint activities

information, coordinated reporting, capacity building, fundraising efforts, outreach activities aimed at range States where appropriate, dialogue between consumer and range States, and population restoration and conservation efforts. Activities which both Secretariats shall facilitate include strengthening anti-poaching efforts and implementing trade measures.

B3 Collaborate on and jointly fundraise for the organization of meetings of the signatories of the Saiga MoU, including for expert participation at these meetings.

B4 Collaborate with regional, national and local Saiga antelope conservation initiatives.

Big cats

B5 Ensure collaboration on the conservation and management of big cats, including regular exchange of technical and other relevant information, attendance of each other's meetings, capacity building, joint fundraising and collective reach-out to range States where appropriate.

B6 Maximize the synergies between CMS and the CITES MIKES programme in Africa, as appropriate

Great apes

B7 Maximize synergies between CMS, CMS Gorilla Agreement and the CITES MIKES programme on Great Apes in Africa.

B8 Coordinate contributions to great ape policy mechanisms, such as GRASP.

B9 Cooperate on trade and enforcement issues relating to Great Apes, including through the sharing of relevant information and cooperation with the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

African elephant

B10 Ensure collaboration on the conservation and management of African elephants, including regular exchange of technical and other relevant information, attendance of each other's meetings, capacity building, joint fundraising and collective outreach activities aimed at elephant range States where appropriate. Activities which both Secretariats shall facilitate include management of human-elephant conflicts and addressing the illegal trade in specimens.

B11 Collaborate on the coordination and implementation of the CMS MoU on the West African elephant, with a focus on MIKE sites and facilitation of transboundary connectivity amongst elephant populations in West Africa.

B12 Maximize synergies between CMS and the CITES MIKES programme on elephant conservation in Africa, recognizing the particular role that CMS can play with regard to managing transboundary populations.

B13 Ensure connectivity with the African Elephant Action Plan and the associated African Elephant Fund.

Saker falcon

B14 Collaborate closely on the implementation of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP), specifically on activities relating to the management and sustainable use of the species, including application of the Non-detriment Finding protocol and by exchanging information concerning legal and, where known, illegal trade in Saker Falcons.

B15 Collaborate to review implementation of the SakerGAP in 2017, and in the case of a sudden

Description of envisaged joint activities
major change liable to affect one or more Saker Falcon populations.
<u>Marine turtles</u> B16 Maximize the synergies between the CMS and the CITES MIKES programme concerning marine turtles, including within the framework of the CMS turtle instruments, as appropriate.
<u>Sharks and Rays</u> B17 Optimize the effectiveness of actions taken by Parties to both CMS and CITES concerning sharks and rays, and strengthen synergies with FAO, RFMOs and other relevant bodies. B18 Cooperate on capacity building regarding the implementation of regulations of both Conventions related to sharks and rays.
<u>Other species issues</u> B19 Collaborate closely on the implementation of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), initiated by CMS Parties. B20 Exchange information on the differences in the criteria for inclusion of species in respective Appendices and the reasons/justifications for which they are listed in order to improve alignment of policies under both treaties. B21 Develop a formal process within CMS for providing comments to CITES on proposals to amend the latter's Appendices and to seek comments from CITES on proposals to amend the CMS Appendices.

(C) Implementation and fundraising cooperation

Joint activities in this area relate to implementing, coordinating and updating this work programme and matters of mutual interest, such as by exchanging experience and information. The Secretariats will cooperate in seeking opportunities for the development and funding where applicable of joint projects of mutual interest.

Description of envisaged joint activities
<u>Secretariat coordination meetings</u> C1. Organize an annual coordination meeting between the two secretariats, as well as regular teleconference calls as required, to discuss the implementation of the Joint Work Programme, and for ensuring continued cooperation and organization of joint activities.
<u>Exchange information</u> C2. Facilitate the exchange of information among the Secretariats, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calendars of meetings; - Meeting invitations; - Lists of administrative and scientific focal points and Authorities in Parties; - Pertinent draft documents in advance of Convention meetings, including strategic plans; - Details of procedural and administrative developments; and - Guidelines whose joint adoption is mutually supportive.
<u>Staffing</u> C3 Engage inter-Secretariat staff loans at key moments to optimize support to respective Parties and build skills of staff complement.

C4 Jointly explore possibilities for secondments and loans from Parties in order to support shared work.

Fundraising

C5 Raise funds for joint projects already planned and those that will be proposed during the term of this Joint Work Programme.

(D) Outreach and capacity building activities (strengthening existing cooperation between secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions)

Joint activities in this area relate for example to: representation of one Secretariat by the other at events of mutual interest to save participation costs and promote synergy; jointly undertaking activities on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); following up on work undertaken by inter-agency liaison groups; and improved harmonization and synergies through complementary internet-based initiatives and capacity building tools.

.Description of envisaged joint activities

D1 Investigate possibilities for coordinated outreach and joint capacity-building activities.

D2 Jointly attend, or represent the other Secretariat, at meetings of inter-agency groups, including those listed below; collaborate with the follow-up to such meetings and actions as required; and encourage such groups to support the implementation of CMS and CITES:

- Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG);
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) processes;
- Environment Management Group (EMG) and the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity (IMG4);
- Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW); and
- 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

D3 Encourage representation of one secretariat by the other at events of mutual interest to reduce costs and promote synergies. This may include joint presentations and/or jointly approved statements and press releases.

D4 Promote the dissemination and use of relevant information and CMS and CITES capacity building tools amongst CITES Authorities and CMS Focal Points, such as the CMS Family Manual, CMS E-Community, Guidelines for NBSAPs, the CITES Virtual College, the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA).

D5 Encourage the organization of regional and subregional meetings or workshops for CMS Focal Points and CITES Authorities in order to exchange experiences on issues such as the conservation and sustainable use of shared species, the integration of Action Plans and protected areas into relevant sectorial and spatial plans.