



# MIGRATORY SPECIES WITHIN THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS



1. The requirement to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making is at the heart of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To this end, Article 6 of the CBD states that each Contracting Party should set up national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including wildlife, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities. The strategies shall integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.
2. The tool prescribed by the CBD in order for the countries to implement Article 6 is the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)*. These NBSAPs are designed to define the national goals and targets to be achieved and include a plan for their implementation. Thus, once national targets are agreed upon and adopted, they should be incorporated into the NBSAPs.<sup>1</sup> The development and adoption of a national
3. biodiversity strategy is therefore a cornerstone to implementation of the CBD by Parties. Each national strategy will reflect how the country intends to fulfill the objectives of the Convention in light of specific national circumstances, and the related action plans will constitute the sequence of steps taken to meet these goals.<sup>2</sup>
3. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its instruments, while aimed specifically at benefiting migratory species, contribute to the broader objective of conserving biological diversity. CMS, as the leading global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes, complements and co-operates with a number of other treaties and international bodies, particularly the CBD. CMS complements with CBD in significant ways; for example, CMS uses migratory species as a “living thread” to link ecosystems functionally through networks, corridors and pathways over large geographic areas, cutting across national, regional and continental boundaries.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Setting National Biodiversity Targets, making use of the CBD's Framework for the 2010 Biodiversity Target, Module B-4, July 2007. [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cbd.int/reports/nbsap.aspx](http://www.cbd.int/reports/nbsap.aspx).

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CMS/Res. 8.18: Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans. [www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int).



4. The relevance of migratory species for the implementation of the CBD lies in two factors: the implications for the ecosystem approach, and the fact that the conservation of migratory species, due to its inherent transboundary character, requires international cooperation by Range States.<sup>4</sup>
5. The principal task for those responsible for implementing CMS nationally is that of ensuring participation in the NBSAP processes, if this is not already the case, with a view to mainstreaming migratory species issues into NBSAP.<sup>5</sup> In this respect, various mandates have emanated from the COPs, e.g. Decision III/21 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD requests that the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat of CMS, to evaluate how the implementation of the CMS can complement the implementation of the CBD through its transboundary coordinated and concerted actions on a regional, continental and global levels.
6. Furthermore, Resolution 8.18 of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties of CMS on the integration of migratory species into NBSAPs and into on-going and future programmes of work under the CBD recognizes that implementation of the strategic plans of both conventions and achieving the 2010 target will require greater cooperation between the two conventions and that the integration of migratory species into NBSAPs, as well as CBD's programme of work represents the basis

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.26: Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Action Plans.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

for such cooperation. Therefore, it requests CMS national focal points to cooperate fully with CBD national focal points, NBSAP managers and other national bodies responsible for CBD implementation with a view to ensuring coordination in the implementation of both conventions.

7. Cooperation between the CBD and CMS focal points at national level is key for integrating CMS and its related issues within the NBSAP implementation process at country level. With many countries attempting to revise their NBSAPs such a link can easily be found. CMS COP-9 may wish to call for enhanced cooperation with CBD with their common goals to achieve reduced biodiversity loss by 2010.
8. Furthermore, CMS COP may wish to request for increased focus on the following issues:
  - The need to link with programmes of work and the national reporting process under CBD and to be cognizant of the view to consider issues of relevance to CMS.
  - Development, review and implementation of NBSAPs to include CMS COP outcomes and resolutions under its Agreements and MOUs;
  - Using CMS based indicators to assess implementation of NBSAPs, as appropriate; and
  - Enhancing further collaboration between CBD and CMS focal points at national level, as well as mainstream NPSAPs with CMS national Action Plans.

