

Draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

The staff of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) has asked PIF participants to review and make comments on their latest draft of “A *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*”. For this reason we are posting the draft and the following background information on the PIFV website. Thank you.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or the Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their ranges. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.

Since the Convention's entry into force, its membership has grown steadily to include 119 *parties* from around the world. The Convention was signed in 1979 in Bonn and entered into force in 1983. Although the USA is not yet a *Party to the Convention*, it does participate in CMS agreements. Neither Canada nor Mexico are signatory to CMS but Canada participates in two CMS agreements. Western Hemisphere nations that are *parties* are restricted to Central and South America. CMS has a long history of inclusiveness and does not limit participation in its memoranda of understanding or agreements to signatory nations.

Although PIF and most of its partners have not been directly involved in CMS activities, CMS does bring substantial capacity to bear on bird conservation around the world. As we continue to build our international linkages in support of full life cycle bird conservation, we should think carefully about how greater involvement in CMS can further our own goals including how CMS might help better link PIF with other key bird initiatives in the Americas. CMS is interested in promoting flyway-style conservation around the world and is a potential mechanism for effectively creating an Americas-wide approach to conservation for birds. Consideration of this option for PIF and other initiatives could review the goals and targets of the CMS draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species as a resource for ideas and to potentially facilitate working with them in the future.

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A *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023* is being prepared by the Strategic Plan Working Group. A first draft of the Strategic Plan has now been released for comment. The draft presents proposed Goals and Targets for migratory species, based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>). Matching migratory species priorities with Aichi Targets enhances their visibility at national levels and hence facilitates their inclusion in funding proposals based on national priorities, such as during bilateral discussions with donor countries or the Global Environmental Facility (<http://web.undp.org/gef/>).

The draft Plan is available in English, French and Spanish on the CMS web page here:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_drafts.html.

The Working Group and CMS Secretariat would therefore very much appreciate hearing your views **by 30 September 2013**, and these should be emailed to cms@cms.int, inesverleye@gmail.com, and wjackson@doc.govt.nz.