



Lesson - Unit 3 - National Focal Points

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Site: UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Course: Course for the National Focal Points for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Instruments

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1. Appointment of NFP and other representatives and experts



Under CMS and its instruments, Member States are requested to appoint NFPs. The Secretariats and Coordinating Units are required to promote communication and collaboration with and among the Member States. To fulfill this responsibility the Secretariats and Coordinating Units maintain a list of the NFPs designated by the governments of Member States.

In addition, some Agreements (e.g. ACAP, AEWA and EUROBATS) go further - following Article V (4) lit. c) of the CMS - and require Parties to designate a national authority to oversee implementation of the instrument.

CMS NFPs are often requested to play a role in overseeing and following up on the appointment of NFPs for Agreements and MOUs as necessary.

Appointment Procedure of CMS NFPs

The appointment procedure normally requires that a formal letter from the responsible authority of the Member State be sent to the Secretariat/Coordinating Unit concerned, i.e., a formal letter from the government, including the signature of the minister or equivalent relevant to the instrument and an official stamp. It has to contain the name and contact details of the person appointed. Changes in this regard can be directly communicated to the Secretariat/Coordinating Unit by the NFP himself/herself. The National Report format also provides the opportunity to Member States to confirm and/or update their NFPs contact details.

It is an advantage if NFPs can remain in post for several years so that they can experience the full cycle and build up experience and a network of contacts to ensure continuity in the work and communication flow.

Appointment of experts to Scientific and Technical Subsidiary Bodies

CMS and some of its instruments establish a number of subsidiary bodies to which Member States are invited to appoint expert members to provide technical and scientific advice. In the case of ASCOBANS members of the Advisory Committee have a double function.

In some instances each Member State is requested to appoint an expert on the species or group of species covered by the instrument, while in others, specific indications on the required expertise are given for the members of the body concerned. In contrast, the membership of some instruments' scientific and technical subsidiary bodies is limited and based on geographical representation.

NFPs can play an important role in facilitating the selection of the experts and arranging for their appointment. The appointment process therefore varies according to the composition of these bodies.

CMS	Scientific Council (Article VIII.2) → each Party is invited to appoint a member In addition, COP resolution 7.4 states that the Council shall include qualified experts selected and appointed by the COP → see Instrument Box 3.1
Agreements	Advisory Committee (Article IX) → each Party is invited to appoint a member
ACAP	Technical Committee (Article VII) → 10 non-members, comprising: → five experts representing different regions of the Agreement Area (nominated by the Parties within the nine sub-regions and elected by the MCP) → one expert each in soil resources, game management, and environmental law In addition to the Parties' experts: One representative each from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the International Biological and Wetlands Research Bureau (IBWR) and from the Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CWC)
ACOBAMS	Scientific Committee (Article VII and Resolution 4.4) → twelve members, comprising: → One Chair → Four task managers, including a Vice-Chair → Four regional representatives from the ACCOBAMS area → One representative each from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the European Conservation Society (ECS), and the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)
ASCOBANS	Advisory Committee (Article 3.2) → One member from each Party Each Committee member may be accompanied by advisors and the Committee may invite other experts to attend its meetings, Article 3.4) The Committee has both a technical and administrative advisory function
EUROBATS	Advisory Committee (Resolution on the Establishment of an Advisory Committee, Annex II of the MOU 1 report) → One member from each Party Each member may be accompanied by advisors and the Committee may invite other experts to attend its meetings, para. 4 of the Resolution)
GORILLAS	Technical Committee (Article VI) → One representative from each Range State → One expert from each of the following fields: forest management and conservation, environmental law, wild animal health → One representative from the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GASP)
WADDEN SEA SEALS	Wadden Sea Board (Annexes 3 and 4, 2010 Governance Arrangements, Mutual Resolves and cooperation) → thirteen members, comprising: → five board members from each Party (Annex 3) → One Chair (nominated by the participating Government hosting the next Bilateral Governmental Council, Annex 4)
Some of the MOUs	
Dugongs	Dugong Technical Group See Report from the Second Official Signatory State Meeting, DMSG/Report, 19-20 February 2011, paras 11.2-12b, Agenda point 11.4 and the terms of reference contained in CMS/Dugong/SSG/Doc.11.4 Annex K)
Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa	Advisory Committee → 10 members: each Signatory may appoint members: to be either seconded by at least two other Signatories or not including citizens from the nominating state (para. 4)
Marine Turtles (SEA)	Advisory Committee → up to 10 members, nominated by Signatory States from countries other than their own. (Terms of reference, paras 1 and 5)
Raptors	Technical Advisory Group See section 13.2 of the report of the Meeting of Signatories (Abu Dhabi, 9-11 December 2013) and CMS/Raptors/MOU/Doc.13.2 Annex
Sharks	Advisory Committee → 10 members: Africa: 2, Asia: 2; North America: 1; Europe: 2; Oceania: 1; South, Central America & the Caribbean: 2 (Section 2, paragraph 10)

Appointment of Members to Bodies that provide Intersessional policy and administrative Guidance

Since the Standing Committees carry out the functions of the decision-making bodies inter-sessionally, it is recommended that the members should have some expertise in policy and administrative matters. Standing Committees' membership is normally determined on a geographically balanced representation of the Parties. Depending on the instrument, at COPs or MOPs the regions or sub-regions meet to propose the Parties that will represent them, and the Conference or Meeting then formally endorses the choice. It is for the Parties elected to the Standing Committee to decide which individual(s) will attend. See CMS Resolution 9.15, AEW Resolution 2.6 and EUROBATS Resolution 5.8.

NFPs of each instrument are therefore reminded to liaise with NFPs of other countries in their own region or sub-region, as appropriate, in order to influence the decision on the appointment of these representatives, prior to meetings of decision-making bodies.

Members of the CMS Standing Committee 2011-2014

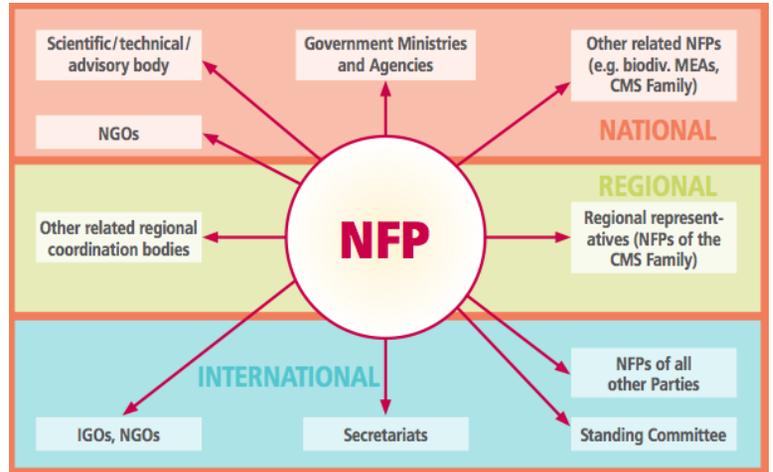
REGION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATE MEMBERS
Africa	Ghana (Chair)	Congo (Brazzaville)
	Tunisia	Mali
	Uganda	South Africa
Asia	India	Mongolia
	Pakistan	Syrian Arab Republic
South & Central America & Caribbean	Chile	Argentina
	Cuba	Costa Rica
Europe	Norway (Vice-Chair)	France
	Poland	Georgia
	Ukraine	Switzerland
North America (no Parties)	vacant	vacant
Oceania	New Zealand	Australia
Depository	Germany	
Host of COP10	Norway (also representative for Europe)	
Host of COP11	Ecuador	

2. Communication and Dissemination of Information

Communication is a key element of any NFP's responsibilities. NFPs are the main points of contact on matters:

- within the Member State (at the government level and beyond)
- between the Secretariat/Coordinating Unit and the Member State, and
- between Member States.

It is therefore crucial to establish a regular flow of information and communication. "Staying up-to-date" regarding developments under CMS and its instruments is the starting point.



Communication responsibilities of NFPs

It is recommended that the NFPs regularly communicate:

At the **national** level, with:

- colleagues, peers and supervisors within the organization where the NFP works as well as other relevant
- government ministries and agencies.
- experts/members of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of the relevant CMS instrument.
- other NFPs of the CMS and/or its instruments as appropriate
- NFPs of other biodiversity-related MEAs
- other relevant expert institutions (e.g. relevant non-governmental organizations) and individuals ;

At the **regional** level, with:

- their regional representatives in the relevant bodies of the CMS and its instruments
- regional authorities/fora as appropriate e.g. the European Commission and regional economic commissions such as the Southern African Development Community.

At the **international** level, with:

- Secretariats/Coordinating Units concerned
- NFPs of other Member States outside of their region
- International governmental and non-governmental organizations

Dissemination of Information

Many tools have been developed by the Secretariats/ Coordinating Units and are currently in use. These include as websites, e-bulletins, social media as well as the e-community platform. These both help keep Member States and stakeholders abreast of progress on the work of the instrument; challenges and needs; and provide platforms for communications and exchange of views.

CMS MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• E-Bulletin• Twitter• Notifications• Facebook	ASCOBANS MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Bulletin
	EUROBATS MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Chat
AEWA MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• E-newsletter• Facebook	IOSEA MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Newsletters• e-News (Archive)

3. Financial Matters

The role of NFPs with regards to resource mobilization is twofold:

Assessed contributions

An important aspect of the NFP's work is to oversee and ensure the prompt and full payment of the annual contributions to the CMS and its instruments. NFPs are regularly informed by Secretariats/Coordinating Units about the status of their annual dues and will receive invoices from UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. It is crucial that assessed contributions are paid on time in order to ensure the smooth functioning and continuation of activities, staffing and project implementation. The quality and effective implementation of a programme or project suffer when funding is irregular.

Paying the contributions to the CMS Family instruments

While responsibility for securing adequate resources is expected to be shared among the various activity leaders and stakeholders, the NFP is expected to play a proactive role. Much of the financial resources will have to be found at the national level and each country will have its own institutions and procedures to deal with this.

NFPs should make sure that the contributions to the CMS Family instruments are paid on time. The amounts are determined by the meetings of the decision-making bodies and the can be found in the adopted budget resolution/decisions. Normally in the budget resolution/decisions an indication of the bank details and on how and who to pay are provided.

Voluntary contributions

In addition to the assessed contributions, voluntary contributions both financial and in-kind are welcome and sought particularly to support the implementation of CMS and instruments at the international level. NFPs are informed by Secretariats and Coordinating Units about funding needs to complement core resources.