



# Unit 5 - International Aspects of Implementation

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Book: Unit 5 - International Aspects of Implementation

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## International aspects of Implementation

Given the nature of migratory species moving between range states, and encouraged by Article IV of the CMS, successful national implementation will depend on collaborations at a transboundary, regional and sub-regional levels.

Achieving effective conservation of migratory species requires cooperation between Range States sharing those ecosystems or situated along a migration route. Assessing which elements of implementation are better achieved through regional and transnational cooperation will be necessary.

International support by operational UN entities and specialized agencies is also an important source of assistance for national implementation that NFPs might consider seeking. This section covers these international aspects of implementation and helps to identify key actors and major processes that will assist NFPs in developing their country strategies and applying for assistance for promoting their implementation.

# 1. Transboundary and Regional Implementation

Transboundary implementation is integral to the CMS Family instruments due to the migratory nature of the species that they cover. Effective implementation, therefore, must result from cooperation and coordination between multiple nations that are relevant to a specific migratory species. Through liaising and communication, NFPs are important actors in promoting transnational cooperation. Several cooperative programmes have been developed for the management of shared resources of migratory species or the conservation of individual species.

Sub-regional consultation processes are extremely helpful to enhance the exchange of information between different stakeholders that would otherwise not interact with one another.

Other MEAs provide useful examples of sub-regional cooperation. For instance, the Ramsar and the World Heritage Conventions encourage their Member States to designate specific sites through which individuals, communities, and nations work to protect habitats. For the CMS Family, identifying migratory corridors across countries needs strong cooperation. The objective would be to link protected area networks potentially beyond national jurisdiction and across international boundaries through the establishment of migratory corridors. Transboundary collaboration is again a key tool to support the aims of the CMS Family instruments. At the same time the establishment of migratory corridors could help raise public and governmental awareness as is the case with the Ramsar Convention does when a site is designated.

## Practical Example - Mountain Gorilla conservation by Uganda, Congo and Rwanda

Only 790 individuals of Mountain Gorillas remain in existence globally. About half of these live in Uganda's Bwindi National Park and the other half migrate between Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in the Virunga landscape. In a bid to save this close cousin of man, the three countries cooperate in management of the Virunga Landscape which straddles the three countries.



The three countries have managed to increase the Mountain Gorilla population in the Virunga Landscape from 380 in 2003 to 480 in 2010. This has been possible through joint planning, sharing of intelligence, joint monitoring teams when the animals move, joint enforcement activities, collaborative research, revenue sharing when a group of gorillas from one country is viewed by tourists in another and continued engagement of the three Governments in multilateral cooperation.

The three countries are now taking the cooperation to another level by developing the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration Treaty to provide concrete measures for conserving the entire landscape and its ecosystems in a collaborative manner.

## 2. Collaboration with International Organizations

Liaising with other organizations that share goals or objectives provides important opportunities for collaboration. For instance, many non-profit organizations are effectively working on conservation and restoration. Some are quite established and spread across different nations, providing a foundation for developing transnational relationships. Moreover, collaboration with different organizations can enhance skills, as many have experience with cross-cutting tools, including communication, advocacy and lobbying, as well as the establishment of partnerships.

For NFPs from some countries there are specific UN operations at the national level that can be very useful for mainstreaming national strategies into planning activities in economic and social sectors other than environment. There also exists opportunities for developing international assistance in the form of capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer that can promote the implementation of the national strategies. The main UN vehicle for this at the national level is the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF). UNDAFs are developed in consultation with developing country governments to focus the UN's assistance and the UN Country Teams actions on national priorities. The UNDAF includes outcomes, activities and UN agency responsibilities that are agreed by governments.

For NFPs in developing countries it is important to establish a dialogue with their UN Country Teams and national entities to ensure that national strategies for migratory species become part of the development frameworks. Once part of the framework opportunities for assistance, advice and potential financial assistance to support the implementation of the strategy will open up. Being part of the dialogue establishing or revising the UNDAFs will also improve the coordination and potentially help to mainstream a country's migratory species strategies with other sectors also receiving UNDAF support. The linkages with other environmental issues and MEA strategies will also be important, particularly for those issues that have high priority in national assistance frameworks such as climate change, water and waste management, chemicals and biodiversity management. In addition, developing a common understanding of how migratory species implementation strategies fit with key global priorities such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will improve the potential take up of the migratory species strategies by the UNDAF.

## Funding and expertise

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is a powerful financial mechanism at the national level. It is not a financial mechanism for CMS and its instruments but it does fund biodiversity projects and activities on biodiversity and the NBSAPs. Therefore it can be useful for assisting a country's work on migratory species in the greater context of biodiversity.

There are a number of international organizations, inter-governmental and non-governmental, that have expertise, mandates or resources that enable them to assist countries with national strategies and implementation plans. Such inter-governmental organizations include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and others, including regional organizations. Non-governmental organizations include the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), the World Resources Institute (WRI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), BirdLife International, Wetlands International and others.

The implementation of instruments can also be supported by workshops, meetings, and activities outside formal institutional processes. These may be held in conjunction with the Secretariat/Coordination Unit and Member States to the instrument.

## UNEP and the Integration of environmental sustainability in the UNDAFs and UN common country programming processes

UNEP has been increasingly engaged in the UN common country programming processes specifically to play a more visible and effective role in addressing the lack of UNCT capacities to properly integrate environment into their work. In particular, UNEP's engagement has piloted a number of interventions aimed at strengthening the systematic integration of environmental sustainability in country analysis and UNDAFs including support to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to develop guidance notes on environmental sustainability including on MEA policies. Much of the work has focused on the development of national environment summaries to enhance the environmental components of the country analyses, participating in inter-agency thematic working groups and supporting the integration of environmental considerations in the UNDAF outcome priorities and results matrices.