



Unit 5 - The Implementation cycle II - Implementation of NBSAP and/or NIP

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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

Book: Unit 5 - The Implementation cycle II - Implementation of NBSAP and/or NIP

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Step 5 Promote and Facilitate the Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategic action plan (NBSap) and/or National Implementation plan (NIP)

Once the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or National Implementation Plan (NIP) has been finalized and endorsed at the appropriate level by the government, it should enter into the implementation phase. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of CMS and its instruments are part of the responsibilities of the NFP. It is therefore generally expected that the NFP should play a role in the execution of the NBSAP and/or NIP.

It is expected that the NBSAP and/or NIP should identify first who is responsible for carrying out the activities foreseen by the plan, and second - to the extent possible - the resources available for implementation. The role of the NFP in this regard should consist primarily of stimulating action by the various actors, ensuring and facilitating coordination and synergies among different activities, as appropriate, and endeavoring to fill gaps for those activities in the NBSAP and/or NIP for which leadership and/or resources could not be identified earlier.

The following section highlights some key functions of the NFP in ensuring and promoting the implementation of the NBSAP and/or NIP. Importantly, part of these functions, notably those pertaining to oversight of realizing the NBSAP and/or NIP, can be fulfilled through the national consultation mechanism.

1. Ensure continuous communication flow at the national level during all the different stages of implementation of the NBSAP and/or NIP

This function is absolutely critical, and is expected to significantly influence the effectiveness in fulfilling the other functions listed next.

It is essential that the NFP communicates regularly with relevant key stakeholders at all stages of implementation. Communication is the key for gaining support for implementing activities towards the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species. Efficient communication will strengthen the institutional capacities of NFPs, better connect relevant government departments and other stakeholders and promote synergies and cooperation in the governance of migratory species conservation and management. In this regard, the development of a CEPA plan could be valuable, and should ideally be part of the NBSAP and/or NIP itself.

2. Stimulate initiation of action by activity leaders identified in the NBSAP and/or NIP

It is a key function of NFPs to coordinate activities agreed upon for national implementation. This could be done through maintaining an overview of “who does what” in the implementation of the plan and reminding activity leaders of their role and engagements. Depending on the level of seniority of the NFPs, communication between the various stakeholders might be direct from them or from an appropriate higher level in the administration. The NFPs would have the role of briefing the senior official.

3. Where appropriate, promote the integration of relevant elements of the NBSAP and/or NIP into other sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, policies, plans and programmes

Migratory species conservation policy should not be seen as independent of other sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, but rather sectoral and cross-sectoral policies should be seen as vehicles through which migratory species conservation targets can be attained. Mainstreaming efforts should be part of the NBSAP and/or NIP itself. Relevant sector-specific plans include those concerning agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, energy, tourism, transport and others, while cross-sectoral plans of relevance could concern sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation/ mitigation, trade and international cooperation.

What is Mainstreaming?

“Mainstreaming” means just that: the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in both cross- sectoral plans such as sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation/mitigation, trade and international cooperation, and in sector-specific plans such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, energy, tourism, transport and others. It implies changes in development models, strategies and paradigms.

Source: Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

4. Monitor progress in the implementation of relevant components of the NBSAP and/or NIP and ensure a link to the national reporting process to the Convention and relevant instruments

Responsibility for oversight of the implementation of the NBSAP and/or NIP may rest with the NFP, or alternatively it might be given to a multi-stakeholder committee or group. Such a committee or group might include representatives of the same stakeholders (or a subset of them) who participated in the national consultation process. Even in this second case, the NFPs would be expected to play a central role in the facilitation of the work. In their role as coordinator of the National Reporting process, the NFPs should also ensure that progress achieved is regularly recorded, in order to simplify the process of compilation and synthesis of information when the National Report is due.

5. Endeavour to identify and involve additional actors and stakeholders to undertake activities for which a lead could not be identified in the NBSAP and/or NIP

It may not always be possible at the planning stage to identify who is responsible for activities and projects foreseen by the NBSAP and/or NIP and when this is the case, the NFP is expected to liaise proactively with actors capable and willing to lead the implementation of specific components. These will typically include government departments and specialized agencies and components of the civil society such as NGOs, institutions and the private sector. It might also include world players such as international NGOs. The search for leaders to implement elements of the plan is likely to be done in parallel with the identification of resources for the implementation of those same elements.

6. Promote/facilitate the identification of resources for the implementation of measures/activities for which resources could not be identified at the planning stage

While the NBSAP and/or NIP should ideally already identify the resources necessary to support the implementation of the activities and projects it foresees, this may not always be possible, notably when the period covered by the plan does not coincide with the country's budgetary cycle. 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. Importantly, the implementation of some activities/projects foreseen by the plan might generate revenues (e.g. from tourism) that should remain available for the further implementation of the plan. Support from the private sector should also be actively pursued.

National resources can in many cases be matched by funds from multilateral and bilateral sources. NFPs from developing countries should normally know the development cooperation agencies of other countries or the international agencies and NGOs that support projects in their countries and have an interest in funding activities in the area of wildlife conservation. NFPs are expected to play a role in facilitating the contacts between potential donors and activity leaders.

7. Promote education and public awareness activities

Education and public awareness are of paramount importance to gain support towards the implementation of CMS and its instruments at all levels of society. A great variety of activities can be foreseen, identified in the CEPA plan when this instrument has been developed. NFPs, while not necessarily leading, are expected to promote and facilitate the development of CEPA initiatives in their countries. This should be particularly the case as regards the participation of the country in campaigns and initiatives promoted by the CMS and its instruments, such as the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) and migratory species campaigns.

Communication, Education [Participation] and [Public] awareness (CEPA)

The initials CEPA can stand for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (as is the case with CBD, ASCOBANS and AEWA) or Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (as is the case with the Ramsar Convention).

Communication, Education and Public Awareness are important activities in making the connection between scientific theory and ecological conditions on one hand and the social and economic reality people face on the other.

Ramsar's CEPA programme 2009-2015 was adopted at the 10th COP in Changwon, Korea in 2008; the 17th meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (October 2010) adopted the Agreement's CEPA Plan, while for AEWA, CEPA activities are covered in Resolution 5.5 "Implementation and Revision of the Communication Strategy" adopted at MOP5 in 2012.

Outreach - Public awareness campaigns

World Migratory Bird Day

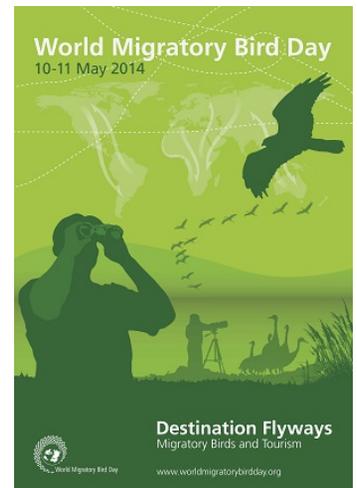
Outreach elements such as public awareness campaigns are also a strong instrument to support implementation efforts. One example of a public awareness campaign, for which NFPs are encouraged to initiate action on the national level, is the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). The campaign was initiated in 2006 and is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. On the second weekend of each May, people around the world take action and organize public events such as bird festivals, education programmes and bird watching excursions to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.

These kinds of campaigns are extremely effective in generating awareness among the general public and are particularly important for species that have minimal publicity.

Species campaigns

CMS has run a series of species campaigns: the “Year of the ...” campaigns. They started in 2006 with the Year of the Turtle, the Year of the Dolphin 2007-8, and the Year of the Gorilla 2009.

The biennium 2011-2012 was named Year of the Bat and this campaign helped to increase knowledge and understanding worldwide of the role of bats and their population declines. Similarly, in 2011 a regional campaign called the Pacific Year of the Dugong was launched targeting awareness among communities of geographical relevance to the Dugongs specifically in areas where human action could increase protection efforts most. The Dugong campaign involved local schools in educational programmes for children and encouraged media coverage by offering prizes and hosting discussions on the web, radio and television.



World Migratory Bird Day in Uganda, 2010

NatureUganda, the BirdLife International Partner in Uganda, took part in the 2010 celebrations under the theme “Save migratory birds in crisis - every species counts!” To celebrate the day, NatureUganda organized a bird walk around Mabamba Bay, one of the migration stop-over sites in the country.

Mabamba Bay is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and Ramsar site and is one of the country’s most interesting and spectacular sites for birdwatching. The site is known for globally threatened species, such as, the Shoebill Stork, Blue Swallow and the Papyrus Yellow Warbler. It is a migratory stop-over site for huge congregations of terns and gulls and an important habitat for resident species, such as ducks, storks, herons and jacanas.

The event aimed to raise awareness among NatureUganda members, local communities surrounding the migration site and the general public about migratory birds, that are globally threatened. Specifically, the intention was to highlight how migratory birds are an integral part of the biological diversity of ecosystems and how the threat of extinction faced by individual bird species is a reflection of the impact on other species and the general ecosystem.

Source: Nature Uganda and World Migratory Bird Day 2010

8. Initiate and facilitate the process of revision of existing legislation or development of new legislation as appropriate

When a need for the revision of the existing relevant national legislation and/or the development of new legislation has been identified the NFP is expected to play a role in initiating the process, following it through its various steps, and endeavour to remove obstacles and promote action when the process get delayed or blocked. Enlisting the assistance of other ministries, departments and agencies, members of parliament or the relevant parliamentary committees, working groups or inter-sectoral governmental committees to help to facilitate this work would be useful.

9. Ensure coordination and synergies with the implementation of other relevant MEAs

The NFP is encouraged to maintain regular contacts with the NFPs of other relevant MEA, with a view to sharing information on the implementation of CMS and/or its instruments and identifying opportunities for synergies and collaboration. When a national consultation process has been established, it should provide a suitable context for this coordination to take place. Normally the participation of the NFPs in the national consultation mechanisms of the other MEAs would also be expected .

10. Facilitate research and monitoring

Encouraging specific research and monitoring programmes to keep track of the progress towards achieving national migratory species targets is an important activity to be promoted nationally. The monitoring processes should gather supplementary information, carrying out inspections and investigations. This should result in periodic updating and revision of NBSAPs or other implementation strategies, through which increasing scientific information, gained through the monitoring and evaluation of each phase of implementation, is fed back into a permanent review process.

11. Promote Economic and Financial Instruments to Facilitate Implementation

A wide range of economic responses exist to support the successful implementation of any MEA on a national level. Generally, any initial appliance of economic and financial instruments should be preceded by checking existing regulations for potential “perverse” subsidies (those that create as much harm as they do good) in order to maximize the effectiveness of for new response policies. NFPs may want to bear in mind that no single economic instrument is the best for all types of ecosystem problems and socioeconomic situations.

12. Enacting an NBSAP and/or NIP into law

Once either or both are in place, consideration could be given to it being enacted in law, which will in any case in many countries have to happen anyway. This can also apply to a NIP or the revision of an existing biodiversity law that is being amended to incorporate specific provisions for migratory species. By enacting a NBSAP/NIP into legislation, there will be clear benefits because the law would be enforceable. It would also define more clearly the objectives of national policy on biodiversity, identify a vision and ideal outcomes, establish any bodies responsible for overseeing implementation as may be needed and, when appropriate, allocate responsibilities between different levels of government (national, state or provincial, municipal or village levels).

13. Develop Enforcement Programmes and Frameworks

An important part of implementation is the adoption of appropriate laws and regulations, but equally as important is enforcing them. It is important that adequate attention is paid to setting up programmes and a framework for enforcement to ensure that those individuals or bodies whose activities are being regulated actually comply with the laws and regulations.

14. Secretariat / Coordinating Unit Can Help

While the implementation of CMS and its instruments at the national level is mainly the responsibility of the individual Member States, the Secretariat/Coordinating Unit remains ready to assist NFPs in promoting implementation within the limits of their human and financial resources.

Step 6 Monitor, assess and report on National Implementation

The NBSAP and/or NIP should include review, monitoring and evaluation of a country's implementation activities in order to determine whether CMS and its instruments are bringing about tangible improvement and whether obligations under the instruments are being met.

Monitoring undertaken at the national level is extremely important for gauging the actual impact of CMS and its instruments in their implementation goals. In other words, monitoring gives a measure to a country's progress and helps to identify specific challenges that a country might face in meeting the objectives of CMS and its instruments. The National Reports, for which the NFP normally oversees the compilation process, serve as the main indication of how CMS Family instruments are being implemented overall, both at the national level as well as at the international level.