

REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP for CMS NON-PARTIES of the CARIBBEAN REGION

CMS as a Tool for Conservation of Biodiversity

Accra Beach Hotel, Bridgetown, Barbados

31st August – 2nd September 2016



WORKSHOP REPORT

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November 2016

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1. Workshop introduction

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. As an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. In order to meet this aim and to serve as an effective platform for conservation, CMS ultimately needs countries to become Party to the Convention and work together for the sustainable management of migratory species, which, of course, know no political boundaries.

The Caribbean region has relatively few CMS Parties, which makes it hard to implement the Convention effectively, especially when it comes to regional issues. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat is the focal organisation in the region for the European Commission-funded programme on Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries. CARICOM and CMS thus jointly organised this workshop in collaboration with the Government of Barbados, which hosted the event. The overall aim was to inform non-Parties within CARICOM about the need for migratory species conservation, about the role of the Convention and ultimately to encourage countries to join CMS. The workshop was one of a series of workshops planned around the world aiming to boost accession to the Convention. Financial support came from the European Commission's MEA/ACP programme. The workshop structure followed the manual on the roles and responsibilities of the CMS Family National Focal Points (NFPs), referred to as the CMS Family Manual.

2. Workshop venue and programme

The workshop was held at the Accra Beach Hotel, Bridgetown with field trips along the Hastings Beach and to wetlands of southeast Barbados of importance for migratory birds, namely Chancery Lane, the Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge and Congo Road Shooting Swamp. The workshop started at 8:30 on 31st August and ended at 16:00 on 2nd September, following the programme agenda in Annex 1.

3. Workshop participants

Participants comprised mainly government representatives from non-CMS parties in the region, namely Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago, with additional participants from the NGO sector and representatives from UNEP and the CARICOM Secretariat. A full participant list is provided in Annex 2.

4. Workshop résumé

The workshop was opened by Ms. Nicole Scholar Tasker of the Ministry of Environment and Drainage of Barbados, whilst Francisco Rilla gave welcoming words on behalf of CMS, Lorna Innis on behalf of UNEP and Thérèse Yarde on behalf of the CARICOM Secretariat. Tim Dodman, the workshop facilitator, then led a participant introduction session, when participants gave their name, country, a workshop expectation and their favourite migratory species. Francisco Rilla presented the aims

of the workshop and gave an introduction to the workshop programme. After this, training sessions were held following the chapters of the manual in a largely consecutive order.

The workshop included two field trips related directly to migratory species. The first trip was in the evening of 31st August along the Hastings Boardwalk close to the workshop venue, to learn about and experience first-hand issues relating to breeding turtle conservation. The second field trip took place during the afternoon on 1st September when three different wetlands were visited, all of which are important for migratory waterbirds, especially waders. The Pew Charitable Trusts organised a Shark event cocktail on 1st September in the evening.

At the end of the training, there was an informal closing session and vote of thanks for key contributors, including the government of Barbados.

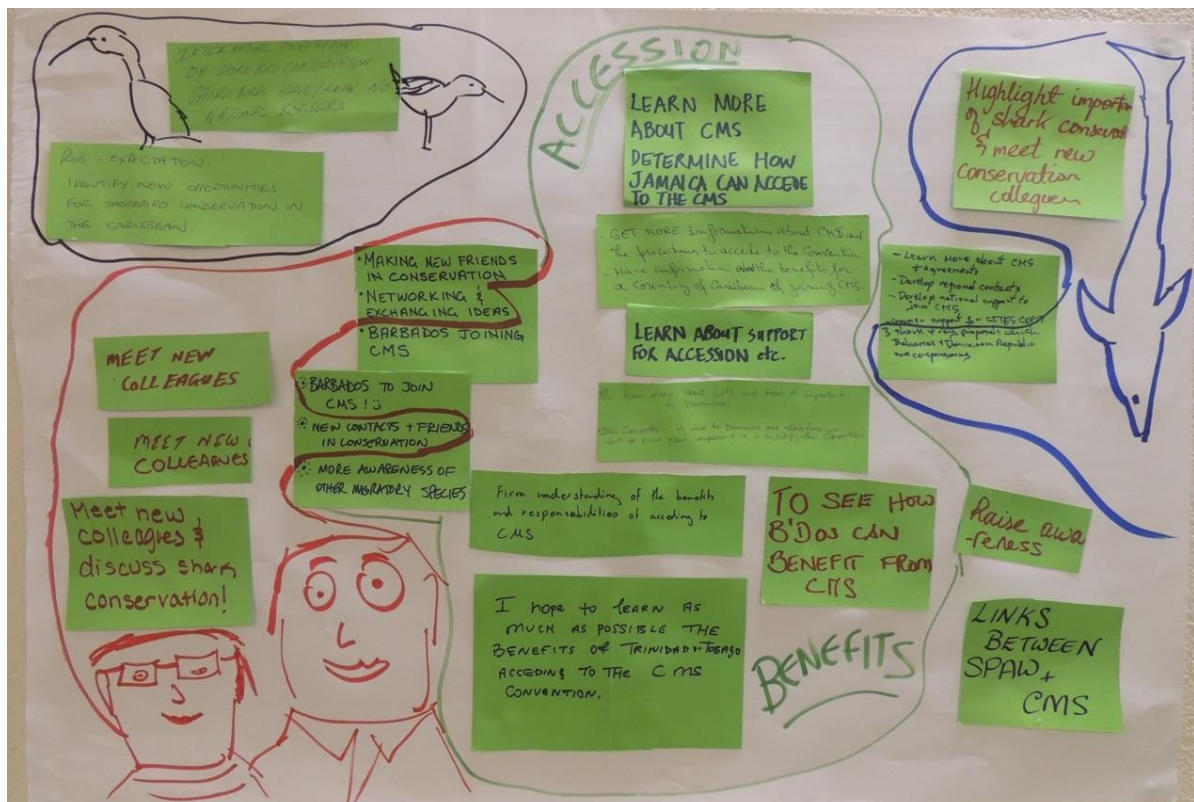
5. Workshop account

Wednesday 31st August 2016

1.1 Introductions

During the introduction session, participants introduced themselves and chose their favourite migratory species. These ranged from the American Golden Plover to the Humpback Whale. The most-featured animals were marine turtles, which provide important tourism revenues in the region.

Participants also wrote down their expectations for the workshop (collage shown below), the most prominent expectations being to:



- Learn more about CMS and steps needed for accession;
- Learn about the benefits of joining CMS;
- Determine how countries can join CMS.

The aim of the workshop were then presented by Francisco Rilla, who outlined the main objectives:

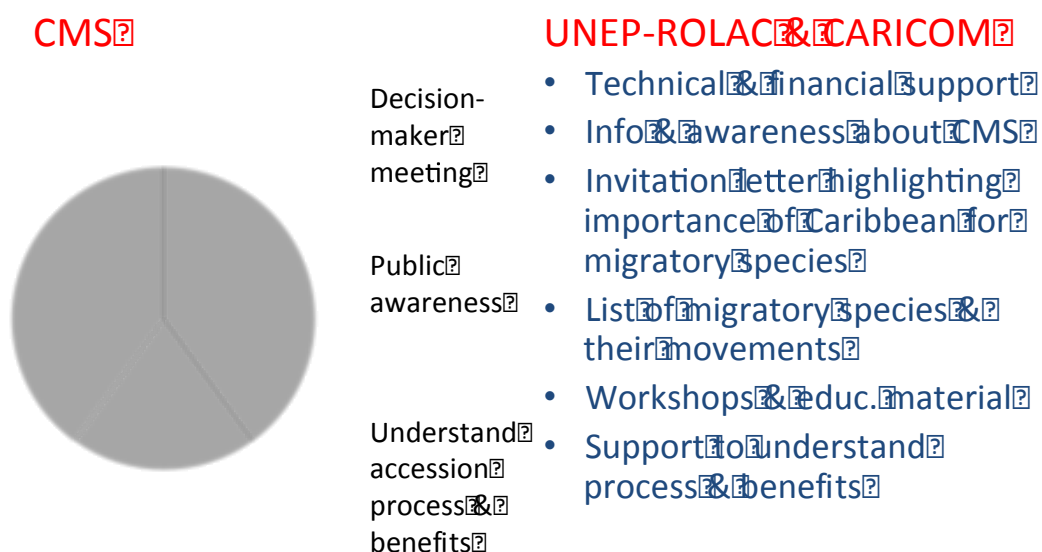
- Strengthen the presence of CMS in the Caribbean region
- Facilitate communication and build synergies between Countries and CMS and between Governments
- Inform about NBSAPs development and CMS compliance with Aichi Targets
- Provide information about CMS and its Agreements
- Support Non-Parties in the accession process
- Understand the needs of support
- Exchange the experiences and challenges of each country in the region.

An overview of the workshop was then presented by Tim Dodman, who also gave an overview of why Caribbean countries had not joined the convention. This information was based on a questionnaire that had been circulated to all non-Parties in the region before the workshop. The main reasons were that:

- Some countries considered that the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) covers migratory species already
- Countries had a general lack of awareness about CMS and were unaware of the benefits of joining.

The main obstacle to joining the Convention was the time-consuming process to ratify multilateral agreements. Support would be welcome from the CMS, UNEP-ROLAC and CARICOM Secretariats, as highlighted below:

Support requested from CMS Secretariat, UNEP-ROLAC & CARICOM



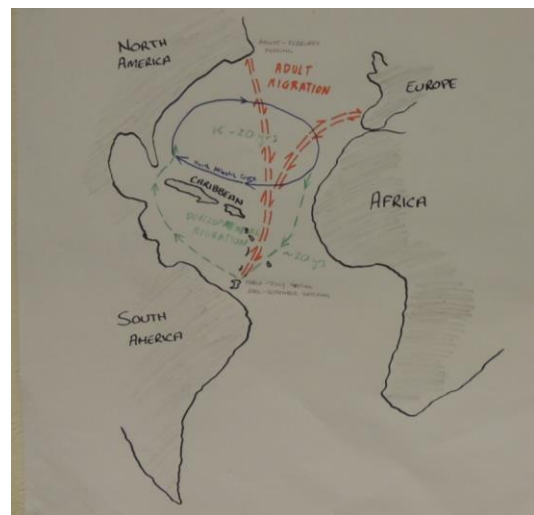
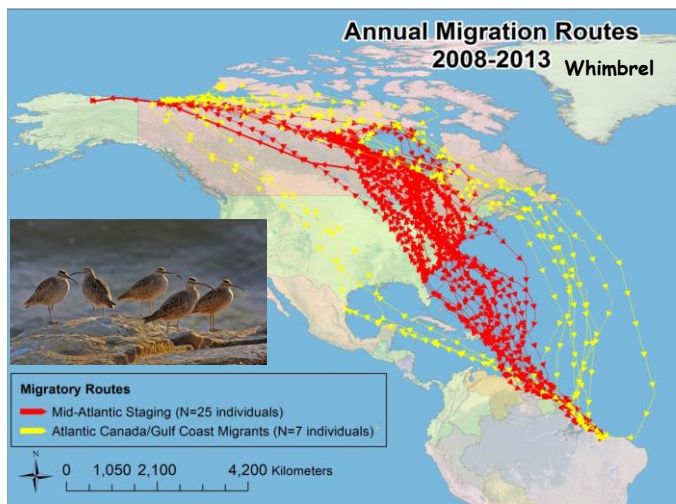
The main benefits countries identified to joining CMS were the sharing of information and scientific knowledge for species conservation and sustainable use.

1.2 Background Information

5.2.1 Migratory species and the rationale for their protection

Tim Dodman gave an interactive lecture on 'What is migration?' The CMS definition of migration was presented and examples given of migratory groups of animals. The ecological advantages of being migratory were then highlighted, and some of the key issues influencing migration, such as weather, and the migration strategies adopted by species.

This was followed by a group exercise 'Draw a Migratory Route'. Four groups were formed, and each was required to draw the migratory route of a different migratory species and then present their findings. The animals chosen were the Whimbrel, the Leatherback Turtle, the Humpback Whale and the Greater Hammerhead Shark. Each group worked together to produce a map, and then presented their map to the other participants.

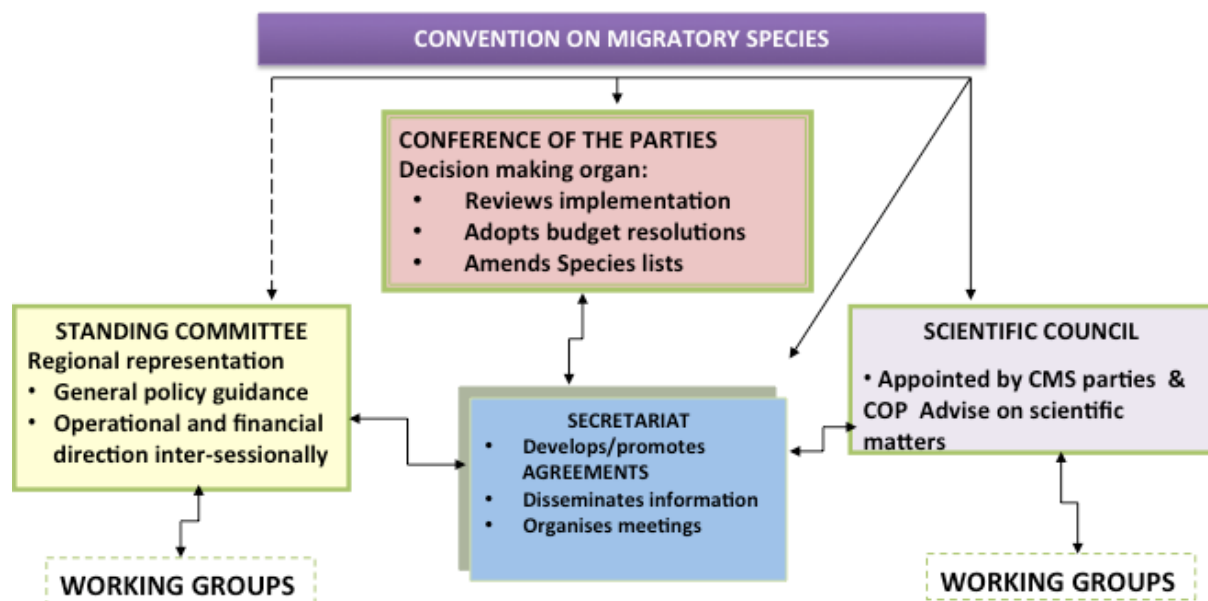


Some Whimbrels were shown to migrate from breeding grounds as far away as Alaska, moving eastwards before travelling south to the Caribbean for the northern winter (see map above left, USFWS). Leatherback Turtles are ocean wanderers with an important breeding population in the Caribbean (see drawn map, above right). The Humpback Whale was shown to breed in Polar Regions, with the Caribbean being an important area for breeding. The movement strategies of the Greater Hammerhead Shark were not so well known, but there are certainly movements along the eastern seaboard of the Americas. For all species, there are still question marks about aspects of their migratory life cycle, which clearly have an impact on conservation decision-making. It is important that all countries have a good general understanding of migratory routes and appreciate the need to work together, especially to enable effective dialogue about global conservation for migratory species.

An interactive lecture was also delivered on the rationale for protecting migratory species. This focused especially on the numerous threats faced by migratory species, such as barriers to migration, habitat loss and degradation, bycatch, underwater noise, illegal hunting and fishing, pollution, marine debris, disturbance and climate change.

5.2.2 The role of CMS

After lunch, Francisco Rilla gave an interactive presentation on the role of CMS in supporting countries to improve the conservation status of migratory species and to help mitigate these threats. CMS is a global convention under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), governed by the Parties and administered by the Secretariat, whose headquarters are in Bonn, Germany. Since its inception in 1979, 122 countries have become Party to the Convention. CMS operates especially through its Appendices, agreements and other instruments, such as MOUs. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species requires international cooperation efforts that link species conservation and ecosystem-based approaches. The main bodies of CMS are illustrated in the diagram below:

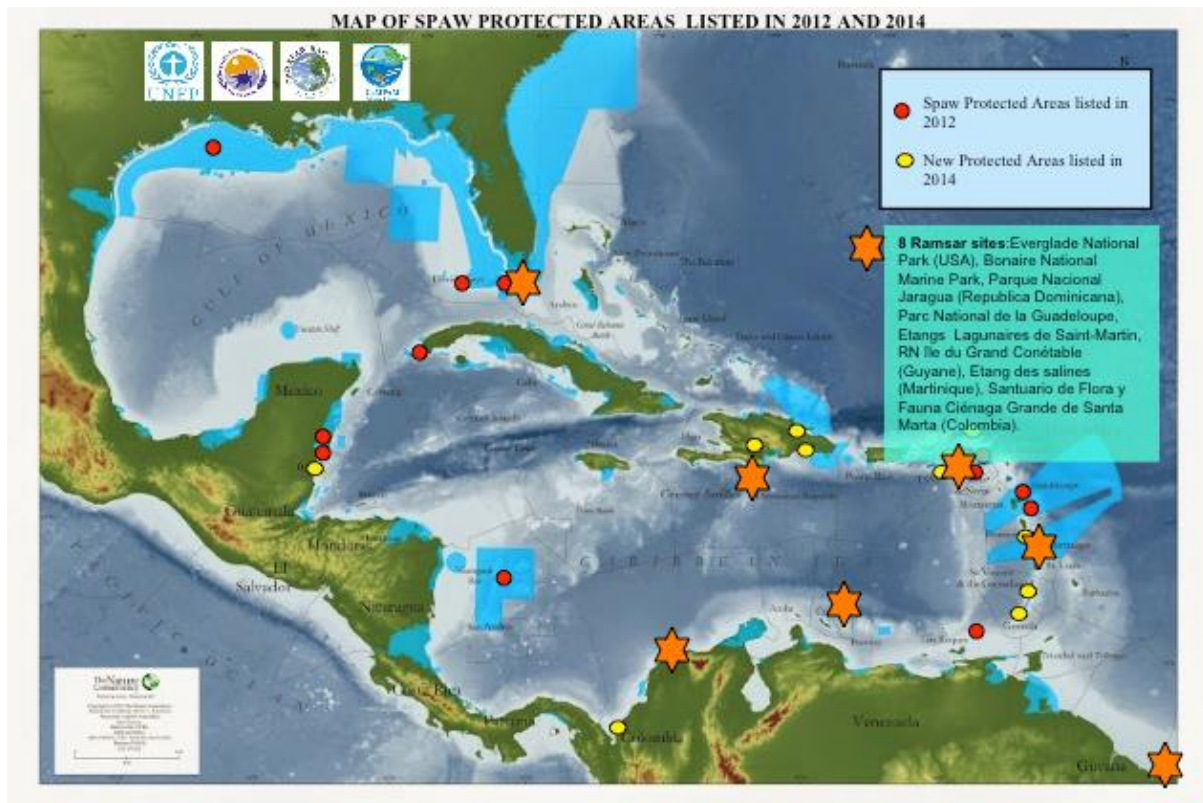


5.2.3 The SPAW Protocol: the Caribbean biodiversity treaty and its linkages to CMS

Dr Lorna Innis informed the workshop about UNEP/CEP's activities, especially through implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its three technical protocols addressing specific environmental issues, two addressing pollution plus the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol). SPAW provisions include measures on planning, establishment and management of protected areas, species protection measures, development of cooperation programmes, alien species introductions and EIAs. Many species listed under the SPAW annexes are also listed under CMS. Some tools developed under SPAW for implementation include:

- National Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs)
- Manual of Best Practices for Safeguarding Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches
- Regional Action Plan for Marine Mammals
- North Atlantic Humpback Whale Sister Sanctuary Programme
- Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching
- Marine Mammal Spatial Planning
- SPAW Protected Areas listing (see below)
- CaMPAM Network (Caribbean MPA Managers Network)

There are many benefits to the SPAW Protocol, which is the only regional biodiversity treaty for the Wider Caribbean.



5.2.4 Building Capacity for Biodiversity Management in CARICOM

Dr Thérèse Yarde introduced the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which carries statements committing the Caribbean community to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of biological resources and the management and conservation of forest resources on a sustainable basis. CARICOM actions support implementation of instruments, including through mainstreaming biodiversity MEAs into national development policies and strategies, building capacity for implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing and training customs officers to implement CITES. The Secretariat also supports regional preparations for MEA COPs and helps countries to integrate sustainable development goals into their NBSAPs. The Secretariat is also developing a Caribbean Biodiversity Strategy and a draft Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework and Action Plan.

5.2.5 Let's talk Marine!

As a break between presentations, participants formed three groups – sharks, dolphins and whales, and were asked to provide the most interesting facts about them and answer other questions to a small panel of judges. Groups called turns by squeaking their animal toys! We heard interesting facts about the incredible longevity of some sharks, the role of dolphins for ecotourism and that whale faeces floats, amongst other shared information ... Team Whale (below) won the day!



5.2.6 Benefits for CMS Parties

Francisco Rilla highlighted the main benefits to becoming a CMS Party, including:

- Access to specialists in management and conservation of migratory species
- Coordination to maximize cooperation and resource use
- Low annual contribution
- Simplified National Reports (online)
- Financial support of eligible delegates to the COP and other meetings
- Access to CMS Small Grants Fund (US\$ 20,000 - US\$ 40,000).

If the convention is implemented well, there are also implicit potential benefits, such as disease control, tourism development and reducing the impacts of pollution on migratory species. Further, member states demonstrate their commitment to the conservation of migratory species and most adopt measures to strengthen national legal and technical capacity for managing migratory species. Given the wide range of many migratory species, CMS also provides a forum for cooperative sharing of information, management and decision-making for migratory species.

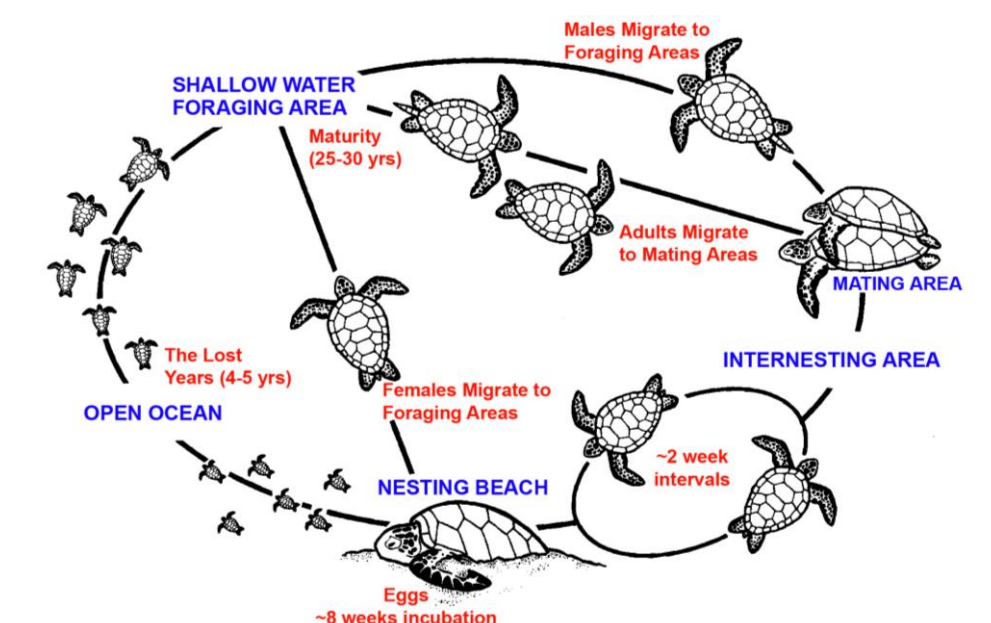
1.3 The conservation of marine turtles in the Caribbean

5.3.1 Transboundary conservation of sea turtles

Marine turtles form one of the most important groups of migratory species in the wider Caribbean. Several states host globally important breeding areas, whilst turtles also serve as an important source of revenue through tourism.

5.3.2 Trails through the Caribbean: Regional co-operation to monitor sea turtles

Dr Darren Browne's enthusiasm for marine turtles clearly came through in this illuminating presentation. Of the world's seven existing marine turtle species, six are found in the Caribbean Sea, all of them threatened – Kemp's Ridley (CR), Olive Ridley (VU), Loggerhead (VU), Hawksbill (CR), Green (EN) and Leatherback (VU). All have shown steep population declines due to the threats they face, especially high levels of illegal take and bycatch, pollution, high density coastal development, harvesting for meat and eggs, entanglement in fishing gear and harvesting of Hawksbill Turtles for their shells, which are used in the craft industry. Reversing population decline is not easy due to their complex life cycles, as illustrated below:



Conservation approaches being taken in the Caribbean include:

- Coordination of efforts at national and international levels
- WIDECAST: the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network – a regional UNEP/CEP network including 65 coordinators in 43 countries
- Significant increase in long-term turtle research and monitoring projects
- Major public awareness campaigns, training and exchange of expertise
- Marine Turtle Tagging Centre

These initiatives have resulted in examples of rising populations within the Caribbean, notably in Barbados, where there is an active network of volunteers.

5.3.3 Turtle beach walk

Carla Daniel of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project (BSTP) led the group on a fascinating night walk along the boardwalk and beach in the Hastings area. We learned about the work carried out every evening by the network of BSTP staff and volunteers in both finding turtle hatchlings and helping them to reach the sea, and in finding nesting female turtles and mapping their nests and covering their tracks to deter predators. When hatchlings are found emerging from a nest, the whole nest is dug up both to



rescue any hatchlings left behind and to count the number of eggs hatched per nest. Through such efforts the turtle population on Barbados is currently on the rise.

Thursday 1st September 2016

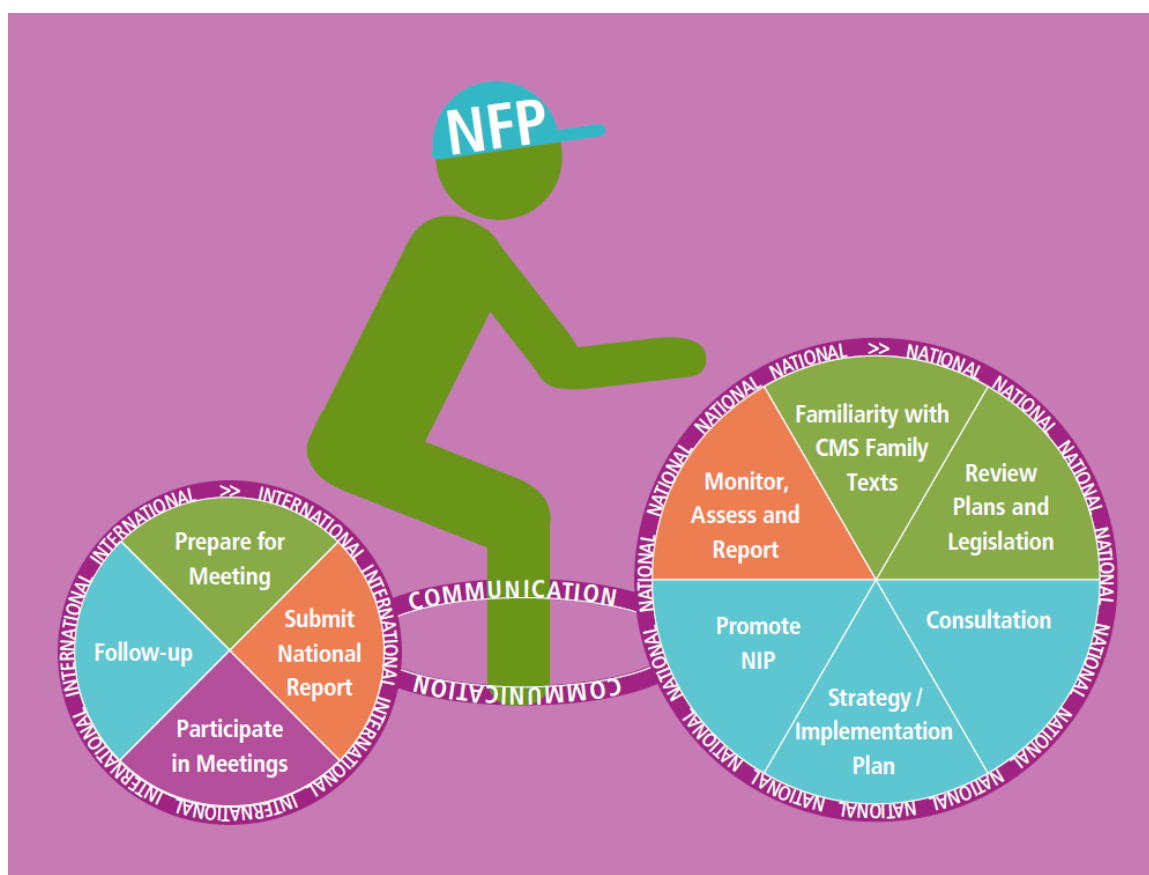
1.4 Functions Relating to Administration, Finance and Communication

5.4.1 Terms of Reference for National Focal Points

Francisco Rilla gave an overview of the role of National Focal Points (NFPs). Under all CMS instruments, Member States are requested to appoint NFPs. The procedure requires submission of an official signed letter of appointment from the responsible minister or office to the Secretariat concerned. Other representatives and experts include: experts to Scientific and Technical Subsidiary Bodies, representatives to Standing Committee and members to Working Groups. The main responsibilities of NFPs are to promote synergies for migratory species conservation through:

- Communications
- Dissemination of information
- Representation at meetings
- Responding to various requests for information
- Collaboration with other stakeholder groups
- Monitoring
- Promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention.

The NFP has a central role to play in the implementation cycle of the Convention:



5.4.2 Practicalities of NFP role and communication

Through a facilitated discussion, the following points were raised:

- One of the obstacles is the coordination aspect
- Caribbean countries should meet together in regional groups during COPs, as often the Caribbean voice gets 'lost' during wider groupings (eg of Americas)
- CARICOM advocates for a strong voice for the Caribbean at international fora
- Caribbean countries however also have a role in making their voice heard!
- Regional representatives need to take their roles seriously, and much needs to be done towards implementation and communication in between meetings.

1.5 Meetings of the CMS Family Decision-making Bodies

5.5.1 CMS COP and other meetings

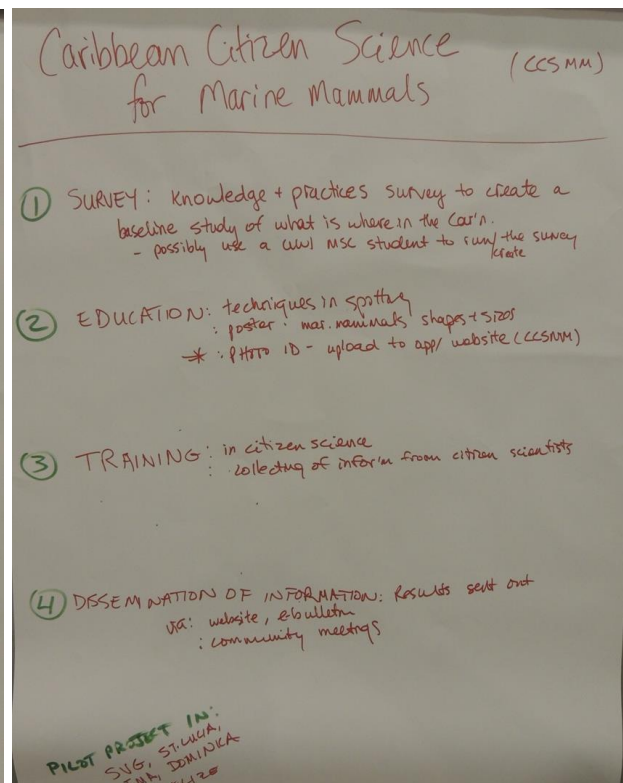
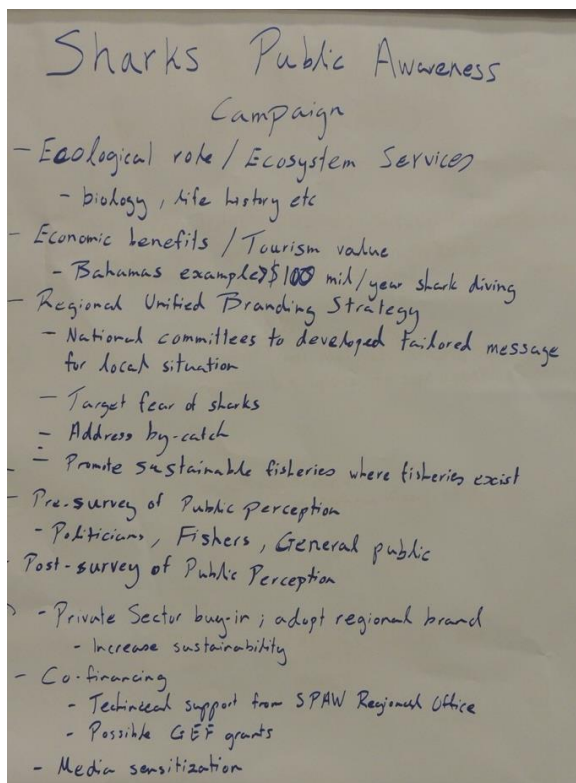
Meetings of decision-making bodies set the course of the instrument for the next few years. The CMS Conference of Parties (COP) takes place every three years. The tasks of these meetings usually include agreeing budgets, amending species lists, agreeing policy resolutions and adopting conservation and strategic plans. The decisions reached have a great bearing on the future direction of the instruments and can have consequences for the Member States, and particularly for those officials responsible for implementing policies. NFPs must keep abreast of the bodies' operations and liaise with colleagues before the meeting and follow up afterwards on key issues and disseminate the results.

Meetings should involve substantive preparation, including national and regional consultation. As with other formal meetings, the COP is bound by set procedures, such as submission of credentials. Often, meetings involve committees and working groups to work through particular issues. Follow-up after the COP or other meetings is important, and may involve implementing new decisions.

5.5.2 Raising funds in the COP corridors

An important feature of meetings is the less formal side events, often held during the lunch breaks or in the evenings. Various organizations make presentations on their work or research and such events provide opportunities for information to be exchanged, for questions to be asked and contacts to be made. These meetings are an excellent means of finding out who else is interested in the same issues. Often, meetings such as COPs also provide an opportunity to meet donors, especially in relation to regional programmes, as many different countries will be represented.

An exercise took place to highlight the importance of working together at a regional level to identify projects for fund-raising and also to highlight the importance of communication. Three groups were formed, for Sharks, Marine Mammals and Birds, and each was asked to design and present (in two minutes) a regional project worth US\$ 2 million. The Sharks team focused on a public awareness campaign, which included targeting the fear of sharks (see below). The Marine Mammals team developed a citizen science programme with surveys, education, training and feedback of information (see below). The Birds team focused on some key sites where breeding birds were threatened, including addressing the eradication of alien species.



Groups voted for each other, then Tim Dodman acted as a wealthy benefactor from the French Antilles, presenting the winning team, the Marine Mammals, with a prize. Good communication is one of the skills needed by NFPs, and it was a challenge for groups to present all relevant information concisely but effectively.

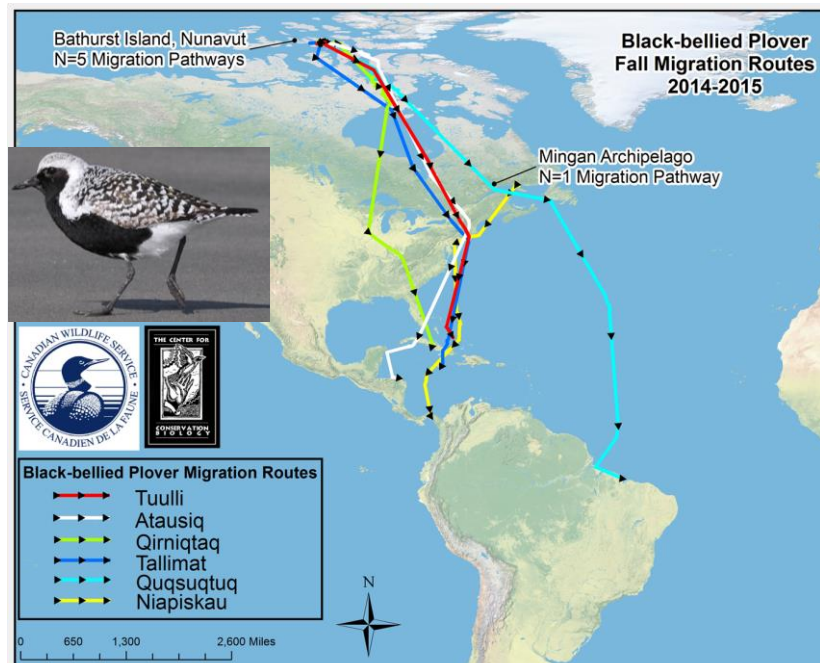
1.6 Implementation of CMS

5.6.1 Migratory bird conservation initiatives in the Caribbean and Americas

The Caribbean is an important region for migratory birds, with important stopover sites for birds moving between North and South America, as well as for migrants that choose to stay in the region during their non-breeding season. There are also birds that move widely within the region and local breeding birds that move further afield, including some of the region's breeding seabirds.

Rob Clay gave a comprehensive overview of the Caribbean's importance for birds, especially noting its high level of endemism and role as a hotspot for biodiversity. More than 120 species come to the Caribbean from the north to spend the northern winter within the Caribbean. These Neotropical migrants depend on the natural resources of the Caribbean for up to nine months of the year. Birds face many threats in the Caribbean, including pollution, human disturbance, habitat loss, predation (especially by human commensal predators such as cats and mongooses), climate change impacts and sport and subsistence hunting.

The American flyway region in which the Caribbean plays a crucial part has witnessed a shorebird crisis, with around a 70% decline in populations in the last 10-15 years. Many of the flyway's shorebirds have evolved remarkable migration strategies, depending on a network of key sites along their flyway. An example is the Black-bellied Plover, which comes to the Caribbean after breeding in the Arctic (shown right).



The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is a voluntary partnership that aims to protect key sites across the Americas, including a number of sites in the Caribbean. BirdsCaribbean is a regional NGO dedicated to the conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats (<http://www.birdscaribbean.org>).

One endeavour currently underway focused on shorebird conservation is the **Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative** (AFSI: <http://atlanticflywayshorebirds.org>), which was presented by Scott Johnson. Its goal is to increase the populations of 15 focal shorebird species by 10-15% by 2020 through participation of over 60 agencies and through actions at a flyway scale, as outlined in its business plan. The initiative has working groups on monitoring, hunting, flyway engagement, resources / funding, communications and habitat.

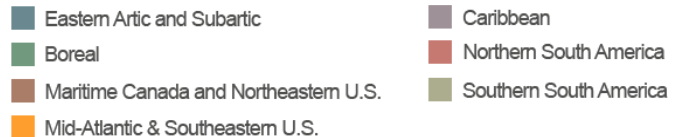
The initiative is seeking direct assistance from Caribbean countries, especially to:

- Integrate country priorities into the AFSI
- Work with partners for funding
- Participate in the Executive Committee
- Invite AFSI to brief governments
- Work with Embassies to brief Congress
- Help spread the word
- Identify potential funders
- Caribbean initiatives / synergy



This request provides a clear opportunity for Caribbean engagement.

The Caribbean is one of six key 'focal geographies' featured in the AFSI's conservation strategy (map shown right).



5.6.2 Conservation implications of a migratory species



Various conservation, management and advocacy issues were brought to the fore through an interactive game led by Tim Dodman. In this exercise, volunteer participants were invited to be migratory animals, in this case the Lesser Yellowlegs (left), a bird that migrates annually between breeding areas in Canada and Alaska and non-breeding areas in the Caribbean, Central and South America. The 'human birds' had to leave their Arctic breeding areas, then find enough food (beads on the floor) to eat in the Caribbean before proceeding to wetlands along the coast of Suriname.

The 'birds' actively competed for food, but most made it to their non-breeding areas and back. Things changed when food shortages (e.g. caused by coastal development), hunting and a cyclone were introduced into the game, and out of five pairs only two made it back to breed.

There was a rich discussion following the exercise about the dangers faced by birds at different stages of their migration and the need for conservation measures along the whole migratory route. In this particular case, the Lesser Yellowlegs is a target for hunters in the Caribbean, although the hunting community may also be helping to protect them by managing wetlands as hunting swamps, noting that many other wetlands are drained or set aside for development. The winning 'bird' is shown to the right in blurred fast flight!



5.6.3 Field visit to Bajan wetlands important for migratory waterbirds

The afternoon field visit was led by Wayne 'Doc' Burke (shown below at Chancery Lane) to a series of wetlands of southeast Barbados that are important for migratory waterbirds.

a. Chancery Lane

The first site visited was Chancery Lane, a beautiful natural wetland under private ownership, but also under no form of protection and consequently under a veil of permanent threat. There was a heated discussion about potential options for the future of Chancery Lane. Whilst it was clearly a 'national treasure', being a relatively unspoilt wetland and green space in a wider landscape of development, there were clear difficulties in bringing the site



into the conservation framework, not least the high price that would have to be paid if it were feasible to purchase it for conservation purposes. A number of waders were seen, including possibly the first record for Barbados of the Eurasian subspecies of Whimbrel.

b. Congo Road Shooting Swamp



There are a number of shooting swamps in Barbados, indicating the history of shooting here since colonial times. Shooting is focused primarily on Nearctic migratory waders. The Congo Road Shooting Swamp is managed specifically for the objective of providing an attractive habitat for migratory waders, most of which are also of interest for hunting.

The presence of a fresh-water wetland permanently filled with water is a big draw for migrant shorebirds, whilst decoy birds (shown above) and a number of caged birds help to further attract them. Hunting itself is largely self-controlled by the hunting club managing the site, although this is not a sole aim of the club, and the numbers of birds shot has declined from former days.

c. Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge

Woodbourne is managed as a refuge for shorebirds, and no hunting is permitted here. The refuge is sited on the edge of a floodplain, most of which is given over to agriculture. The refuge relies on natural rainfall to fill and replenish the ponds. When wet, these provide an important refuge for migratory shorebirds. There is a hide at the site, and the refuge is often visited by groups, such as university students. The site is managed by Wayne Burke,



with support of Boot, a local volunteer (shown here in front of one of the dry ponds). Few birds had visited the refuge yet this season, as the rains were late.

All three sites together illustrated the pressures on wetlands in Barbados and the role of managed shooting swamps and refuges in the conservation of migratory shorebirds in Barbados.

5.6.4 Shark conservation

After the field trip, the Pew Charitable Trust hosted a cocktail evening session, which focused on global shark conservation. Dr Stacy Baez introduced shark facts and concerns, indicating how sharks are vulnerable especially due to their slow growth, late sexual maturity and low fecundity, resulting in a low capacity for population increase. The main pressures on sharks are due to fisheries, both intentional catch and bycatch, through which it is estimated that at least 100 million sharks are killed each year. Shark declines are worldwide, and global solutions are needed for their future survival. The Hong Kong market imports sharks from around the world, including from the Caribbean. Sharks are afforded some measure of protection through national legislation and management areas including shark sanctuaries, but major challenges remain, especially in enforcing legislation.

Most governments don't act on controlling shark overfishing, partly due to difficulties in producing accurate scientific advice. 21 species of sharks and rays were listed on CMS Appendices at the CMS COP11 in 2014. Elise Traub introduced Pew's Global Shark Conservation Campaign and highlighted some of the actions underway in the Caribbean. Pew's campaign aims to establish shark conservation measures at Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and international treaties (e.g. CMS and CITES), to reduce demand for shark products in Asia and to protect sharks through sanctuaries and national measures. Advocacy is an important element, and research has shown that in economic terms sharks are worth far more alive than dead. Caribbean shark work is underway in the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Grenada, the Dutch Caribbean, the Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos. A lively awareness campaign is shown below.



Thursday 29th October 2015

5.6.5 Shark CMS MOU

Francisco Rilla introduced the CMS Sharks MOU – an important instrument under the convention that is relevant to all countries of the Caribbean, and the first global agreement for the conservation of migratory sharks. The goal of the MOU is the restoration and long-term viability of populations of migratory sharks through multilateral, intergovernmental discussion and scientific research. The MOU aims to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for migratory sharks based on the best available scientific information and taking into account their socio-economic and other values. The main objectives of the MOU's Conservation Plan are to:

- improve understanding of migratory shark populations
- ensure that fisheries are sustainable
- protect critical habitats and migratory corridors
- increase public awareness and participation
- enhance national, regional and international cooperation.



During a plenary brainstorming session, a number of issues were raised related to the CMS Sharks MOU, including the following:

- More specific information is needed about the MOU, including reporting requirements; (reporting is only needed before each meeting)
- Coherence between the MOU and FAO is important
- The Sharks MOU is a tool to implement shark conservation

- The MOU is an opportunity to become engaged with CMS and could be a stepping stone to CMS accession
- UNEP/ROLAC has the potential to support a stronger dialogue between environment and fisheries sectors at the national level; UNEP/ROLAC will facilitate (Skype or other) conferences with environment and fisheries ministries and regional bodies, starting with Jamaica
- Bahamas will look closely at the Sharks MOU, with an awareness push; Trinidad & Tobago will also take the information home to consider.

5.6.5 CMS and NBSAPs

The NBSAP is the main instrument to implement CBD by improving policy on biodiversity, incorporating biodiversity in other sectors, integrating economic values to ecosystem services and tackling threats and restoration. The NBSAP is a process through which countries can plan their strategies how to approach threats to biodiversity. It is an active process, which is periodically revised and updated with new information and knowledge. This planning process should co-involve other conventions and MEAs, including CMS. CMS thus drafted guidelines on the integration of migratory species in the review and update of NBSAPs. These also relate to the Aichi Targets.

Biodiversity indicators are important to measure implementation targets. An indicator is a measure based on verifiable data that conveys information beyond itself; the development of indicators should begin with the identification of the problem. Biodiversity indicators involve actions that should ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Indicators are needed to measure national targets within NBSAPs; such indicators are equally needed for migratory species.

5.6.6 Implementation of CMS in the Philippines

For a CMS accession workshop in 2015, Anson Tagtag of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines prepared a presentation about the implementation of CMS in his country, which had been a Party since 1994. Tim Dodman gave an overview of this presentation, noting that the Philippines will host the next CMS Conference of Parties (COP). The Philippines has made progress in aligning national policies and conservation planning with CMS objectives. Migratory species conservation is subsumed within the Philippines Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (cover shown right), especially in the thematic areas of inland wetland ecosystems, coastal and marine ecosystems, and urban biodiversity. The Philippines further participates in regional initiatives relevant to the conservation of migratory species.



The Philippines recognises the following benefits to being a CMS Party:

- Guidance to articulate conservation plans and programmes in the country;
- Conservation of migratory species of particular interest to the country (e.g. birds and Whale Shark for nature-based tourism);
- Participation in collaborative research for migratory species;
- CMS-funded projects:

- Philippines-Malaysia Marine Mammals Research Project Grant (\$20,000)
- Survey of small cetaceans in the North Eastern Celebes Sea (\$60,000)
- Survey of small cetaceans in the Southern Sulu Sea (\$120,000);
- Access to CMS grants by NGOs on migratory species related projects;
- Free technical and financial assistance from other member states for the conservation, protection and management of migratory species;
- Travel grants for attending CMS meetings (Standing Committee, COP and scientific council meetings).

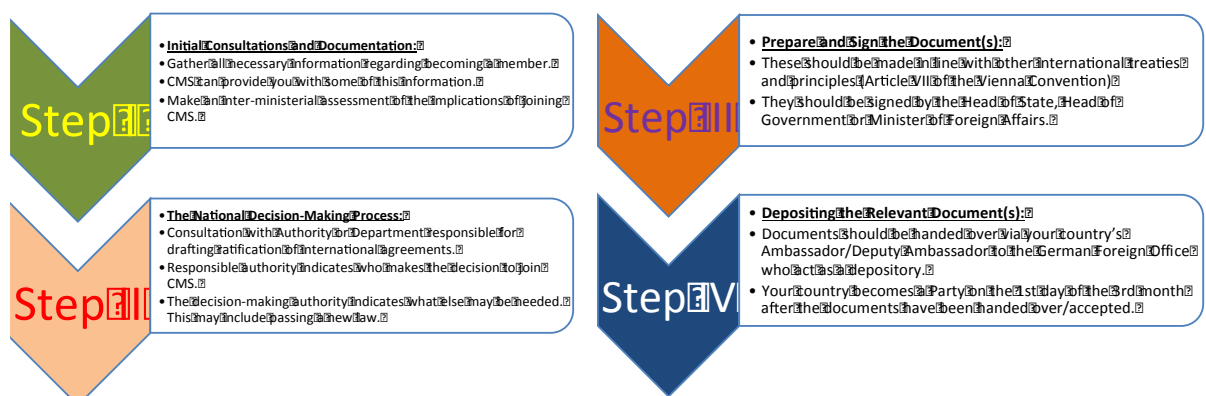
Some of the costs or challenges in terms of national implementation are:

- Institutional capacity to fully implement the program of work of CMS and its strategic action plans
- National reporting: how comprehensive can it get?
- Effective and sustained representation to CMS / MOU meetings
- Contributions to trust fund of CMS and its MOUs, and other partnerships
- Preparations for participation to COPs
- More active representation in the COP needed from the region.

1.7 Accession of CMS: process, obligations and costs / benefits

5.7.1 The CMS accession process

Accession is when a State undertakes to become a Party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other States. It has the same legal effect as ratification. CMS membership enters into force for the acceding country on the first day of the third month after the country has deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Convention with the Depositary, which is the Foreign Office of Germany. The process of accession follows four main steps, illustrated below:



It is possible for a State to declare a reservation at the time of accession, through which it announces that it does not wish to be bound by one or more specified provisions of the Convention. In the Caribbean, some of the priorities for implementing CMS identified by the Secretariat could include:

- Identification of new species to be included in CMS Appendices I and II
- Conservation plans shared among countries
- Sharks MOU
- Build synergies with other MEAs & regional partners, e.g. CITES, Ramsar, CBD.

5.7.2 Responsibilities of CMS Parties

The main responsibilities or obligations of Parties to CMS are to:

- Adapt national legislation (Appendix I species)
- Include migratory species in NBSAPs and NIPs (National Implementation Plans)
- Designate a National Focal Point and scientific counsellor
- Pay annual contributions (based on the United Nations Scale of Assessment)
- Prepare proposals for Appendix I and II
- Boost regional / bilateral agreements
- Submit a National Report every three years

Implementation requires reviewing and enforcing legislation relating to migratory species and implementing relevant CMS Agreements.

5.7.3 Costs and Benefits of joining CMS

The main costs associated with CMS obligations relate to the protection of migratory species, legislation and law execution, and training of staff. These are all costs that most countries should be undertaking anyway in terms of biodiversity conservation. The financial contribution is linked to the UN Scale of Assessment, and is generally low for most countries of the Caribbean. There is also staff time input required in relation to CMS, especially for the NFP, who should carry out a range of duties and produce a National Report every three years.

In terms of benefits, initiating the accession process for CMS exhibits national determination towards international collaboration on the conservation of migratory species. CMS Parties:

- demonstrate their commitment to the conservation of migratory species;
- strengthen national legal and technical capacity for the conservation of migratory species for the benefit of future generations;
- foster regional and international co-operation for sharing information and building consensus among migratory species Range States;
- gain improved access to relevant technologies and data, and benefit from a regular exchange of information and expertise;
- participate in regular COPs, where decisions are taken on such important matters as the allocation of financial resources, the listing of species on Appendices I and II and conservation programmes to protect them;
- are eligible to participate in the work of the Convention, such as the CMS Scientific Council, Standing Committee and ad hoc working groups;
- have access to funding for research, conservation and capacity building.

Direct benefits include:

- Access to fora of specialists in the management and conservation of migratory species
- Coordination between the academic sector and ministries to maximize cooperation and resource use
- Low annual contribution
- Simplified National Reporting procedure (online)
- Financial support of eligible delegates to the COP and other meetings
- Access to CMS Small Grants Fund for research, conservation and capacity building (US\$ 20,000 - US\$ 40,000).

5.7.4 Costs and Benefits for the region

In order to tease out some of the potential costs and benefits for Caribbean countries, an exercise was carried out, with participants working in pairs. One person of the pair represented the head of a delegation from the environment sector, the other the Minister of Internal Affairs. The head of the delegation needed to make the case to the Minister for becoming a Party, presenting information about the costs and benefits, whilst the Minister needs to ask questions to find out more and to consider especially the costs and challenges to joining.



A 'minister' and a 'head of delegation' in thought

In a plenary, the 'Ministers' then presented their costs and challenges, whilst the 'heads of delegation' produced a list of benefits. This exercise yielded the following list of costs or challenges and benefits to joining CMS.

No	Costs / Challenges	No	Benefits
A	Accession process & lack of information	1	CMS membership can assist with implementation of other MEAs
B	We don't know the benefits well enough or what we can gain	2	CMS Secretariat support for accession process & paperwork
C	There are many MEAs already	3	CMS technical support options
D	Some migratory species actions do not feature in national Aichi targets	4	CMS financial support options
E	Information needed on added value to existing MEAs	5	Potential to increase ecotourism benefits
F	Implications on trade	6	Potential for improved livelihoods / sustainability
G	Staff commitments / constraints (for accession & implementation)	7	Being a part of a regional conservation for migratory species
H	Financial implications of implementation	8	Improved protection through harmonised cooperation
I	Need to know how accession would affect fisheries	9	Cascade effect: increased recognition and regional clout
J	Concern about invasive species & disease transmission	10	Improving knowledge, especially of species valuable for ecotourism
K	Provisions for 'working alone' when neighbours are not Parties	11	Improved access to external funds

6. Development of country road maps to accession

After more than two days of presentations, exercises, discussions and site visits, it was time for participants to consider options for progressing with accession to CMS for their own countries. Participants worked in pairs or small groups to develop short road maps to their country's CMS accession process.



1.8 Costs / challenges and Benefits

All participants were first asked to identify the main costs/challenges and benefits to joining CMS, and to then identify the next steps. These results together represent the foundation of country road maps to accession. All countries identified their costs and benefits, as illustrated in the following table.

Some countries prioritised their costs and benefits (where 1 = most relevant). Others ascribed action benefits to particular challenges; in these cases the letters (A-K) representing each challenge appears against the relevant benefit.



Thérèse Yarde and Lorna Innis enjoy some time out while participants work on their road maps!

Potential costs/challenges and benefits of becoming a CMS Party identified by each country

No	Country	Bahamas	Barbados	Belize	Dominica	Haiti	Jamaica	St Kitts & Nevis	St Lucia	St Vincent & Grenadines	Suriname	Trinidad & Tobago
Costs / Challenges												
A	Accession process & lack of information	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
B	Benefits / gains not well enough known	1				1	2				2	1
C	There are many MEAs already	1	1						2		3	1
D	No Aichi target migratory species actions	1								3		1
E	Added value to existing MEAs unclear						4	4				
F	Implications on trade									4		
G	Staff commitments / constraints	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	5	5		1
H	Financial implications of implementation	1	1	1	1		3	3	4	2	4	1
I	Potential affect of accession on fisheries		1	1	1			5	3		5	
J	Invasive species & disease transmission											
K	No neighbours are Parties		1									
Benefits												
1	Assist implementation of other MEAs	G	1				5	E / G	4	G	1	G
2	Secretariat supports accession process	G		G	G			G		G	1	G
3	CMS technical support options	A / B / C	1	A / G	A / G	1	4	G	3	G	1	A / B / C
4	CMS financial support options	A / H	1	A	A	1	1	H	2	H	1	A / H
5	Potential for ecotourism benefits	H					3	H / I	5	D / F / H	1	H
6	Potential for improved livelihoods	H					2		1	F	1	H
7	Being part of regional conservation	D				1		E				D
8	Improved protection via cooperation	D	1	I	I	1					1	D
9	Increased regional recognition							I			1	
10	Improving knowledge, especially of species valuable for ecotourism	G		I	I	1		A		A / D	1	G
11	Improved access to external funds	H	1	H	H			H		F / H	1	H

1.9 Roadmaps to accession

Most countries also identified priority steps to accession, as illustrated below:

Country	Next steps / roadmap to accession
Bahamas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report to Ministries after this workshop 2. Request CMS Secretariat to provide information (e-conference) with national Advisory Committee 3. Hold consultations 4. Recommend to initiate accession process
Barbados	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss accession with the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries 2. Report to the Working Group on Biodiversity (stakeholder consultation) 3. Discuss with Ministry via a position paper 4. Draft a Cabinet Paper to seek approval for accession; submit paper 5. Approval ... hopefully!
Haiti	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing to the Ministry of Environment 2. Collect all information necessary 3. Consultation with stakeholders 4. Prepare and sign instruments of accession 5. Submission
Jamaica	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete report on the workshop 2. Share information with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies and departments, NGOs and academia 3. Identify linkages with National Plans, policy, legislation, other MEAs, potential conflicts and how they may be resolved; carry out any research needed 4. Obtain Attorney General's opinion on legislative needs for ratification 5. Identify funds for and then carry out a cost-benefit analysis 6. Approach (senior) government executives en route to Minister with a submission outlining the information gathered and request approval to ratify from Minister
St Lucia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile report of workshop and share workshop documents with key stakeholders, e.g. fisheries, biodiversity, forestry 2. Convene meeting with major stakeholders (NGOs, government agencies, academics, community) to discuss costs and benefits and to thrash out ideas 3. Seek opinion of Attorney General's office 4. Carry out a cost-benefit analysis 5. Approach Minister via briefing, then a meeting 6. If agreed, contact CMS Secretariat for accession
Suriname	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold stakeholders meetings along the entire coast 2. Secure grants for projects on migratory species conservation 3. Obtain data for policy makers 4. Consider financial support options 5. Improve education possibilities on migratory species 6. Hold a stakeholders consultation to accession
Trinidad & Tobago	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report to Ministries after this workshop 2. Request CMS Secretariat to provide information (e-conference) with national Advisory Committee 3. Hold consultations 4. Recommend to initiate accession process



1.10 Regional Steps

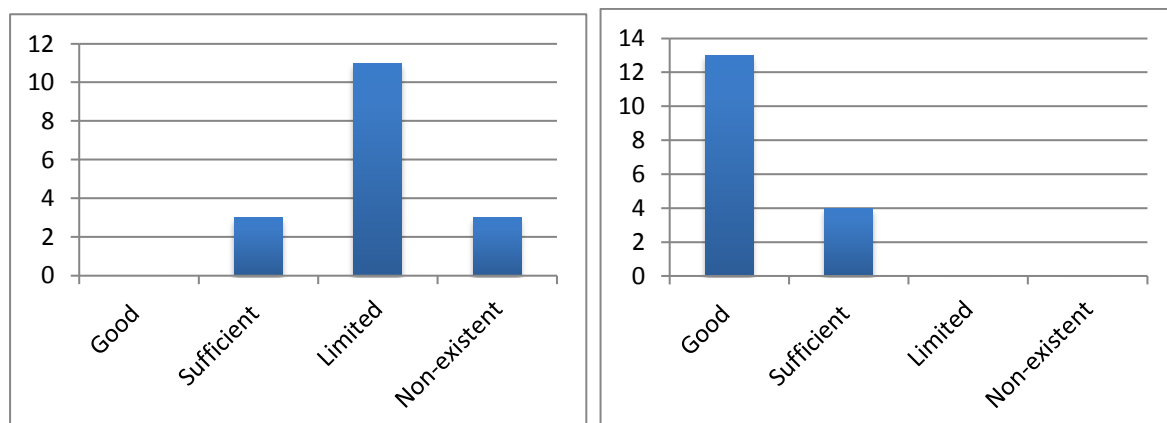
Participants decided that we should not lose momentum in the process of accession of Caribbean countries to CMS. A number of upcoming events and actions were identified where there was potential for CMS engagement and/or promoting the accession progress. The events / actions identified are listed below:

Date	Event / notes	Opportunity / Action
October / November 2016	1 st Joint STAC of SPAW and LBS Protocols, Miami (LBS Protocol: Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources & Activities); UNEP/ROLAC to send invitation to CMS; CMS to check agenda and send recommendations.	Opportunity to discuss emerging issues (under CLME and projects)
2016 - 2017	CARICOM & CMS Secretariats to put together information requested to fill gaps, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> list of migratory species in the Caribbean letters to governments 	Secretariats work together to provide information that will aid countries in their accession process
December 2016	CBD COP, Cancun, Mexico: disseminate information; participants to brief CBD NFPs	Share information / briefings
2016 - 2017	UNEP/ROLAC to organise (Skype) conferences between environment & fisheries ministries	UNEP/ROLAC to lead, starting with Jamaica
2016	Identify how Caribbean interest can best be met through the American Flyway Shorebird Initiative	Rob Clay / Scott Johnson to provide advice
?	Potential for implementation workshops after new decisions on sharks at CITES COP17	Pew: assess feasibility of and planning workshops
2016	CMS to share its Facebook page with participants	CMS: share info. by e-mail
2016	Identify technical organisations to support steps	CMS / CARICOM

7. Evaluation

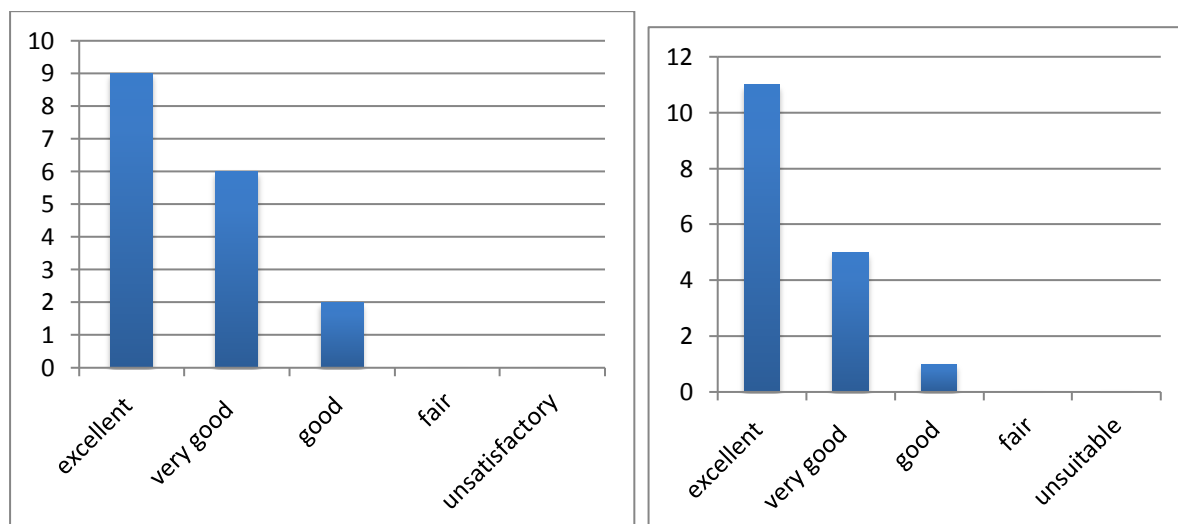
The workshop can be considered as a very successful initiative for enhancing the understanding and potential influence of CMS in the Caribbean region. 82% of participants considered that they had limited or no understanding of the Convention before the workshop, whilst all participants had good or sufficient knowledge of CMS after the workshop (see below).

Understanding of CMS before the workshop (left) and after the workshop (right)



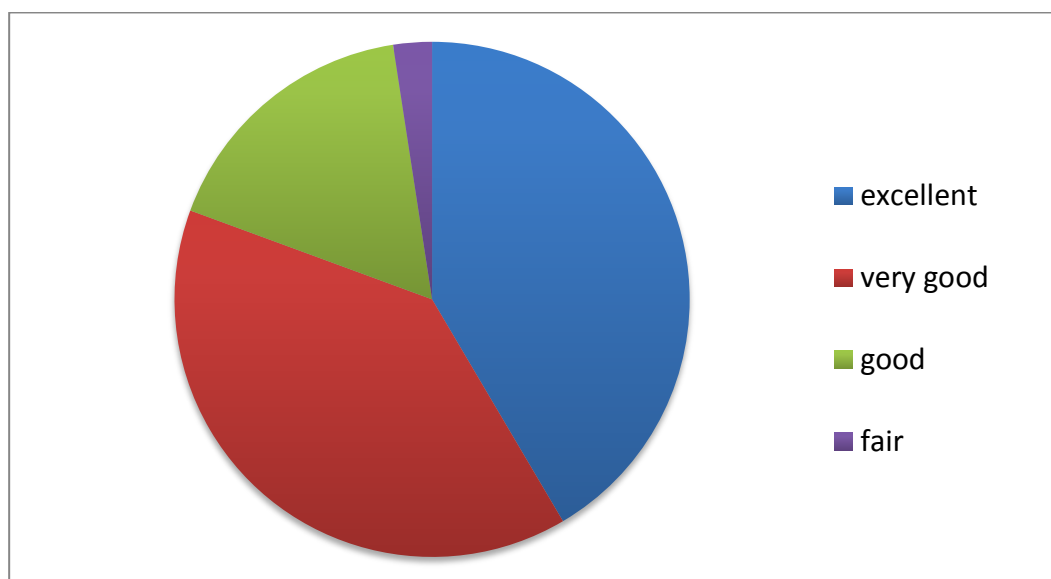
All participants found the workshop to be useful or very useful. The length and delivery of the workshop were appreciated, with 94% finding the three-day duration to be just right, and with all participants rating the workshop approach and facilitation as 'excellent, very good or good' (see below). The venue was also rated positively.

Effectiveness of the facilitator / trainers (left); training workshop approach (right)



Comprehensive and active understanding of the work of CMS was well ensured by presentations, group work, plenary exercises and field visits. The overall introduction in Day 1 and activities in Day 2 all enjoyed very positive feedback, which constituted a solid base for the productive sessions in Day 3. The overall workshop content received a very positive rating, as shown in the pie chart (below). Sessions with particularly positive feedback included the session on marine turtles, the migration challenge (plenary exercise – Lesser Yellowlegs) and the accession challenge.

Combined evaluation response from all workshop sessions



Additional comments relating to the workshop included the following:

- This is the first CMS workshop I attended and it was very interesting. The facilitators know the material very well. Job Well Done!
- All activities were great; allow time for shopping & site seeing before departure.
- Very well run workshop; have left feeling very enthusiastic about the Convention.
- Would have liked to see more local food served!
- One of the most lively and organised participatory workshops that I have been to.
- Even though the workshop was meant to be interactive, no one felt obliged to participate if they were not comfortable contributing at a particular time.
- Best workshop I have attended.
- All is all right about the design of the workshop.
- This was one of the most informative & interactive workshops I have attended. I would encourage participants to limit laptop use next time.
- Exercises were well timed and useful in helping us to understand the concepts being discussed.
- The agenda should give a better breakdown of topics & times.
- The migration challenge exercise was fun.
- This workshop was very important for us. It has permitted to improve knowledge concerning CMS and its procedures to joining it. I think it's necessary for the CMS Secretariat to continue to share information with us and others for facilitating our accession to the convention.
- The workshop was excellent and timely in preparing regionally for CITES COP17. What is more important is follow-up including sharing of contact information and communication by the NGOs with the countries in the future.
- Thank you for allowing me to participate - I have learned so much more, and it will keep my enthusiasm for migratory species sharp!
- All in all, the workshop was very informative and interesting. I learnt a lot!

8. Annexes

Annex 1. Workshop Agenda

Annex 2. List of participants

Annex 1. Workshop Agenda

Date	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
Tuesday 30 th August	Arrival of participants. Workshop planning meetings (trainers, facilitators, logistics, CMS Secretariat).				
Wednesday 31 st August	Opening session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">RegistrationWelcome & official openingParticipant introductions & expectationsAgenda overview & CMS family manualWhy countries are not (yet) CMS parties (PL Q&A / D)	CMS background & rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none">What is migration? (PL IL)Draw a flyway / migratory route (GW)Rationale for protecting migratory species (PL IL)	CMS background & rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none">What is CMS? (PL IL)The SPAW Protocol (PL L)Building capacity for biodiversity action in CARICOM (PL L)Benefits to accede CMS & its instruments (PL IL, Q&A / D)	Marine turtle conservation in the Caribbean: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Trails Through the Caribbean: Regional Cooperation to Monitor Sea Turtles (PL L)Turtle conservation issues & initiatives in the Caribbean (PL D)	Field visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Turtle-nesting walk; start at Hastings Rock Esplanade
Thursday 1 st September	Roles & responsibilities of NFPs & administrative issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">Appointment of NFPs, their roles & responsibilities (PL L & D)Practicalities / communication (Q&A D)	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Migratory bird conservation (PL L)Migration challenge (PL EX)The CMS Sharks MoU (PL IL)	Field visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chancery Lane, Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge & Congo Road Shooting Swamp: site visit & discussion with managers / hostsDiscussions on managing sites for migratory birds, sustainable management (hunting) and the CMS resolution on 'illegal killing of migratory birds' (PL D)		Shark Cocktail: hosted by the PEV Charitable Trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shark / marine wildlife conservation & management
	CMS Family Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">CMS COP & other meetings (PL L & D)CMS meeting: topical marine issue (short RP)				
Friday 2 nd September	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation cycle, and integration of migratory species into NBSAPs (IL)What does implementation involve? (PL D)Aspects of implementation; roles of government & NGOs (GW)	CMS Accession Process & Exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The accession process (PL L)Obligations: annual contribution & reporting (PL L)Accession cost/benefit studies: taking steps towards joining CMS & signing Sharks MOU (PL L & EX)	Accession Exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accession Challenge exercise, followed by feedback and discussion (GW & PL EX)Road maps to accession (PL D)	Close: Workshop conclusions, evaluation & close	

Approx. times: Morning sessions 08:30-12:30; afternoon sessions 13:45-17:00. Lunch 12:30-13:45. Coffee & tea breaks provided.

31st August: Field trip: 20:00 – 22:00. 1st September: Field trip: 14:00 – 18:00.

Abbreviations: PL: Plenary; IL: Interactive Lecture; GW: Group Work; EX: Exercise; D: Discussion; CS: Case Study; RP: Role Play; B: Brainstorming

Colours: These represent chapters and their respective colours in the CMS Family Manual

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