



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



## RESOLUTION 4.4

### STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Fourth Meeting (Nairobi, 7-11 June 1994)

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*The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,*

*Noting* that Article VII, paragraph 5, of the Convention requires the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Convention, and, in particular, to decide on any additional measure that should be taken to implement its objectives,

*Recalling* that, at its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the Standing Committee should, as a priority, prepare a strategy for the future development of the Convention to be put before the Parties,

*Appreciative* of the efforts made by the Standing Committee and the Secretariat in preparing the Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention circulated to the Conference as document UNEP/CMS/Conf.4.11,

*Conscious* of the need to establish clear priorities to guide the work of the Scientific Council, the Standing Committee, the Secretariat and individual Parties in implementing the Convention,

1. *Accepts* the Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention subject to any factual amendments submitted by Parties by 31 August 1994 and those substantive amendments agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;
2. *Decides* that the objectives and activities listed in the annex to the present resolution shall be the first priorities of the Convention for the triennium 1995-1997;
3. *Requests* the Parties and the institutions of the Convention to follow the Strategy and priorities as far as possible;
4. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take full account of the Strategy and priorities in determining the support to be provided for the Convention by UNEP;
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat to redraft the Strategy in accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference and to publish it by 31 October 1994;
6. *Also instructs* the Standing Committee and the Secretariat to update the Strategy and present a revised version for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

## Annex

### PRIORITIES

1. CMS should establish a partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with other post-UNCED bodies and with existing wildlife conventions. The CMS Secretariat should have a senior focal point for liaison with these bodies.

Main action : Secretariat

2. UNEP and the Standing Committee, with the active support of the Secretariat and Parties, should take the lead in initiating high-level political discussions to persuade potential Parties to join the Convention. On the basis of advice from the Scientific Council and the Secretariat, the Standing Committee should identify a target list of non-Party States on which recruitment efforts should be concentrated and report progress to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting. The advice about each target State should, if necessary, be supplemented by the use of outside consultants.

Main action : UNEP, Parties, Standing Committee, Secretariat

3. The Secretariat should prepare and update information material, including brochures, posters, videos, mobile displays, a Convention Directory, and regular bulletins. Such material should be used both to promote implementation in existing Party States and to promote the Convention to potential new Parties. Individual Parties should be encouraged to produce information materials for national or regional audiences, with financial assistance for this purpose provided from the core budget in case of need.

Main Action : Secretariat, Parties

4. A consultancy should investigate the options for providing support other than direct financial assistance to countries which may require it to join or implement the Convention. The report should be submitted to the Standing Committee.

Main Action : Secretariat

5. The Secretariat should work together with each new Party to discuss implementation of the Convention.

Main Action : Secretariat

6. The Scientific Council should identify species (or populations) for which concerted action by Range States is a high priority.

Main Action : Scientific Council

7. The Scientific Council should review Appendix II of the Convention to assess the potential for new Agreements and to consider whether any additional species should be added to the Appendix.

Main Action : Scientific Council

8. Further migratory species should be proposed for listing on Appendix I if they are endangered, and for listing on Appendix II if they would significantly benefit from an Agreement. Assistance should be made available, if needed, to developing countries wishing to submit proposals;

Main Action : Parties, Scientific Council, Secretariat

9. The Scientific Council should continue to commission reviews of selected Appendix I species identified by the Conference of the Parties in order to provide a sound basis for conservation actions. The Council should report to the Conference of the Parties with recommendations for any further measures to be taken by Parties with respect to the species concerned.

Main Action : Scientific Council

10. The Standing Committee shall appoint a consultancy under line 1200 of the Trust Fund budget to assist developing countries to prepare more comprehensive proposals for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and to support small scale pilot projects. The Scientific Council should advise the Standing Committee as appropriate on the selection and geographical distribution of such projects. The maximum support available via consultancy support for any single project would normally not exceed \$ 15,000 without the express authority of the Chairman of the Standing Committee. The total resources allocated in the triennium 1995-1997 for this activity will be \$ 130,000. This amount may be increased if there is any voluntary contribution for this activity to a certain project.

Main Action : Secretariat, Standing Committee

11. The Conference of the Parties should continue to make provision in the core budget to assist developing countries with expenditures related to CMS meetings.

Main Action : COP, Secretariat

12. All Parties should be encouraged to submit reports well before each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). An analysis of reports submitted by Parties should be prepared before each meeting. The Secretariat should request more detailed information from Parties if reports are insufficient. All information received should continue to be stored in a computer database. The Secretariat should, subject to availability of resources, compile scientific data on migratory species from other sources and may include this in their overview report, provided that this has been properly verified and the Party States given the opportunity to comment in advance of its inclusion.

Main Action : Parties, Secretariat

13. The Secretariat should act primarily as a catalyst for the elaboration of new Agreements rather than providing ongoing support to existing ones; its capacity to facilitate the development of new Agreements should be strengthened.

Main Action : Secretariat, Standing Committee, UNEP

14. Parties should be urged to take the lead in developing and/or sponsoring Agreements and to host interim secretariats; sponsors should specify clearly to the Standing Committee how they intend to proceed in this regard. Developed Party States, whether or not they are Range States, should be urged to sponsor initiatives of developing countries.

Main Action : Parties to Agreements

15. Agreements should continue to be developed as legally binding instruments. Recommendations and memoranda of understanding should be used where necessary to conserve species through non-binding instruments linked to the Convention.

Main Action : Parties, Secretariat

16. Future Agreements should incorporate the "precautionary principle" and should also provide for the sustainable use of species where this is consistent with their conservation.

Main Action : Parties to Agreements

17. Secretariats for individual Agreements should be financed entirely by their Parties, except when the membership is such that financial support from the Convention is essential in the early stages of development.

Main Action : Parties Agreements, Secretariat, Standing Committee

18. Parties to Agreements should be invited to consider consolidating secretariat functions for one or more Agreements in regional centres which would facilitate links to the CMS Secretariat.

Main Action : Parties to Article IV Agreements

19. The Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and other European Agreements under the Convention should be invited to consolidate secretariat functions in a special Agreements Unit co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention.

Main Action : Parties to European Agreements

20. Additional measures should be taken to encourage Parties to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund. In particular, annual invoices should be sent to all Parties by the end of the preceding year to which they apply; outstanding contributions prior to 1991 and totalling up to \$5000 should be forgiven by the Standing Committee on condition that the Parties take steps to pay all subsequent subscriptions; the rules of procedure should be amended to remove voting rights from Parties which are three years behind with their subscriptions at the time of the Conference of the Parties; and Parties which are two years behind with their subscriptions should be ineligible for the assistance under Priority 10 above.

Main Action : Secretariat, Standing Committee

21. The personnel of the Secretariat should be augmented within the extent of available financial resources to improve delivery of services in relation to technical and scientific matters, and developmental and organizational activities; the geographic and linguistic balance within the Secretariat must be improved in order to strengthen its capacity in regions not adequately represented.

Main Action : UNEP

22. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties should be held at intervals of roughly 2 ½ to 3 years; and Parties should be encouraged to host them in order to raise the profile of CMS in other regions.

Main Action : Secretariat

23. Standing Committee members should actively promote CMS in their respective regions. Meetings of the Committee will have simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish. The Chairs of the Standing Committee and Scientific Council should have reciprocal observer status at their respective meetings.

Main Action : Standing Committee, Secretariat

24. The Scientific Council may meet in mid-term between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in addition to meeting before the Conference of the Parties. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided whenever possible. Parties should have the option of appointing an alternate representative to the Council.

Main Action : Scientific Council, Secretariat

25. Specialized non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to play a more active role in the Convention, particularly by providing scientific advice, assisting in promotional activities and implementing projects for migratory species. The Secretariat should hold at least one intersessional meeting with NGOs, and individual Parties should also consult and, where appropriate, make use of NGOs in implementing the convention.

Main Action : NGOs, Secretariat, Parties