



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Bonn, Germany, 13 June 2009

UNEP/CMS/ScCAP/Doc.7
Agenda Item 6.3

RANGE STATES CLASSIFICATION

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Article I, paragraph I, of the Convention provides the following terms relevant to the definition of “Range State”:

“ ...

f) “Range” means all the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route;

“ ...

h) “Range State” in relation to a particular migratory species means any State (and where appropriate any other Party referred to under sub-paragraph (k) of this paragraph) that exercises jurisdiction over any part of the range of that migratory species, or a State, flag vessels of which are engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in taking that migratory species;

“ ...

(k) “Party” means a State or any regional economic integration organisation constituted by sovereign States which has competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements in matters covered by this Convention for which this Convention is in force.”

The Convention, in accordance with Resolution 3.1 paragraph 3, also considers that a State should be classified as a Range State for a migratory species when a significant proportion of a geographically separate population of that species occasionally occurs in its territory.

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat, in accordance with both Article VI paragraph 1 and Article IX, paragraph 4f) of the Convention text, produces and maintains a list of Range States of all migratory species included in Appendices I and II.

The list is compiled on the basis of information that Parties provide to the Secretariat. Member States are required under Article VI, paragraph 2, of the Convention text, to inform the Secretariat with regard to which of the migratory species listed in the Appendices they consider themselves to be Range States. This includes information on their flag vessels engaged outside national jurisdiction or limits in taking the migratory species concerned and, where possible, future plans in respect of such taking.

For reasons of economy, documents are printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

The Range States list is therefore compiled by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat according to information included in the proposals for inclusion of species on the Appendices, adopted by the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

It however appeared that historically, in some cases the listing of countries as Range States did not comply with the provisions of the Convention.

Several countries were in fact considered as Range States for certain species, e.g. *Numenius tenuirostris*, on the basis of records of sightings rather than established patterns of migration.

Particularly at the 15th Meeting of the Scientific Council, it was pointed out that classifying countries as Range State only on the basis of single records of occurrence of a particular species would just be a burden on their administrative and financial resources without bringing any significant contributions to the species conservation.

Following this request, the Council agreed to discuss criteria for classification of species' Range States at its next intersessional meeting.

Action requested:

Participants are invited to:

- a) prepare the discussion on criteria for classification of countries as Range States for a particular species, taking into consideration relevant information documents (UNEP/CMS/ScCAP/Inf.1 and UNEP/CMS/ScCAP/Inf.3).