



Convention on Migratory Species

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

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Agenda Item 8.1

SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES
Auckland, New Zealand, 28-29 July 2009

FACILITATING GREATER COLLABORATION BETWEEN CMS CETACEAN AGREEMENTS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Of the 24 agreements (CMS Art IV, paras 3 and 4) operating under the frameworks of CMS, seven agreements now focus on marine mammals and four of these specifically focus on cetaceans.
2. CMS cetacean activities are divided between ASCOBANS (the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas), ACCOBAMS (the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area), the Pacific Cetaceans MoU (the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region), and the Western African Aquatic Mammal MoU (Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia). Together this network is already an important contribution to global cetacean conservation work.
3. In addition, the CMS Conference of the Parties has urged the exploration of marine mammal initiatives in Southeast Asia (Recommendation 7.5) and the Indian Ocean (Recommendation 7.7).
4. CMS has already developed a working relationship within the six global Multilateral Environment Agreements. There are Memoranda of Understanding between CMS and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC). In addition, concrete programmes of work are agreed or under development between CMS and CBD, CMS and CITES, and CMS and the Bern Convention. CMS has recently increased its outreach to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). It is important to find ways for these relationships to become more accessible to CMS agreements.
5. Responding to a need to create greater linkages and synergies within the CMS Family, Resolution 9.9 on Migratory Marine Species was passed during CMS CoP9 (December 2008), requesting the CMS Secretariat to consider options such as promoting joint priorities, the sharing of technical expertise and resources and holding joint meetings if appropriate.
6. The paper supporting this resolution (UNEP/CMS/Conf. 9.26) suggested that consideration may be given to *inter alia*:
 - i. *institutionalizing a connection between agreement scientific bodies and the CMS Scientific Council, by:*
 - a. *creating a regular reporting and request for scientific advice structure between the two bodies;*
 - b. *ensuring that the plans of each body are mutually supportive.*

- ii. *continuing to utilise the expert support of Partner organisations for the work of the Scientific Council (such as the Cetacean Liaison Group), by exploring if these Partner organisations can:*
 - a. *provide similar services to agreements; and*
 - b. *undertake project or advisory work under the direction of both bodies.*
- iii. *sharing technical resources such as species related scientific meetings by:*
 - a. *exploring if the timetables for scientific meetings can be harmonized to maximize the flow of information between each body; and*
 - b. *ensuring that there is reciprocal representation during CMS Scientific Council meetings and agreement meetings*
- iv. *organizing agreement meetings in common, by:*
 - a. *exploring if the timetables for agreement meetings can be harmonized to maximize the flow of information between each body;*
 - b. *seeking opportunities and areas of mutual interest to bring agreement bodies together at specific strategic times*
- v. *establishing joint programmes of work or position documents between the four agreements for issues that extend beyond the boundaries of individual agreement areas, but that impact on the agreements areas. Examples of such might include joint agreement outreach to international process such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for climate change policies, Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) for bycatch mitigation priorities or the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for ship strike regulations*

7. With adequate resources, creating these types of linkages and synergies could substantively contribute to CMS Family outreach to other key international bodies as well as greatly contributing to the capacity of each agreement region.

8. This meeting is one of the first formal agreement meetings since the CMS CoP in December. It therefore offers an early opportunity for the Secretariat to solicit interest of the cetacean agreement Signatories and CMS Parties in pursuing any of these options further.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Seek any clarification that might be necessary;
- Discuss the options for creating greater linkages and synergies within the CMS Family as outlined by the Secretariat, as well as possible alternatives
- Request the Secretariat to pursue specific priorities for further investigation
- Request the Secretariat to convey the discussion and the Pacific priorities to the next appropriate meetings of ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and the Western African Aquatic Mammal MoU, and to facilitate a more regular dialogue among the four cetacean-related CMS agreements