



DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS

CONCERTED ACTIONS

(UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.26.1)

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Recalling the preamble of the Convention, which refers to the Parties' conviction that conservation and management of migratory species require the concerted action of all Range States,

Further recalling Resolution 3.2, which instructed the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to encourage and assist Parties to take Concerted Actions to implement the provisions of the Convention, and which initiated a process for each meeting of the Conference of Parties to recommend initiatives to benefit a selected number of species listed in Appendix I,

Further recalling Recommendation 5.2 which introduced the concept of "Cooperative Actions" as a rapid mechanism to assist the conservation of species listed in Appendix II and to act as a precursor or alternative to the conclusion for any of those species of an agreement under Article IV,

Recalling also Resolution 3.2, as updated by Resolutions 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.29, 9.1, 10.23, and 11.13 and Recommendation 6.2, as updated by Recommendations 7.1, 8.28, and Resolution 9.1, 10.23, and 11.13, which advise the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to encourage and assist Parties to take Concerted and Cooperative Actions to implement the provisions of the Convention and to improve the conservation status of certain listed migratory species,

Recalling the decision of the Parties at COP11 to consolidate Concerted Actions and Cooperative Actions into a single process, as described in Resolution 11.13,

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

1. *Determines* that Concerted Actions are priority conservation measures, projects, or institutional arrangements undertaken to improve the conservation status of selected Appendix I and Appendix II species or selected groups of Appendix I and Appendix II species that
 - a) involve measures that are the collective responsibility of Parties acting in concert; or
 - b) are designed to support the conclusion of an instrument under Article IV of the Convention and enable conservation measures to be progressed in the meantime or represent an alternative to such an instrument;

2. *Adopts*

- a) the *Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process* contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution; and
- b) the *Format for Proposing Concerted Actions* contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution;

and *requests* Parties, the Scientific Council, the Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders to take them fully into account in the different steps of the Concerted Actions process;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Council to propose for each meeting of the Conference of the Parties a list of species for Concerted Actions;

4. *Requests* the Scientific Council to:

- a) nominate, for each species and/or taxonomic group listed for Concerted Action, a member of the Council or a designated alternative expert to be responsible for providing a concise written report to each meeting of the Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned in accordance with the *Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process* contained in Annex X to this Resolution;
- b) confirm at each subsequent meeting of the Scientific Council that these nominations remain valid or agree alternative nominations as necessary;

5. *Decides* to review, at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, progress in implementing Concerted Actions, in accordance with the *Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process* contained in Annex X to this Resolution;

6. *Instructs* the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to encourage and assist Parties to take Concerted Actions to implement the provisions of the Convention, where possible through existing instruments of bilateral or multilateral cooperation;

7. *Urges* Parties to provide the in-kind and financial means required to support targeted conservation measures aimed at implementing Concerted Actions for the species listed in Annex X to this Resolution; and

8. *Adopts* the lists of species designated for Concerted Actions contained in Annex X of this Resolution and *encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to implement the activities included in the proposals for the designation of the species submitted in accordance with the *Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process* contained in Annex X to this Resolution;

9. *Repeals* Resolutions 3.2, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.29, 9.1, 10.23, and 11.13 and Recommendations 5.2, 6.2, 7.1, and 8.28.

Annex 1 to Resolution 12.XX

GUIDELINES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTIONS PROCESS

Step 1: Proposing a species for Concerted Actions

- 1) Proposals for Concerted Actions can be submitted to the Scientific Council by Parties, the Secretariat or other relevant stakeholders, using the format provided in Annex 2 of this Resolution.
- 2) The Scientific Council itself can also propose species for Concerted Actions.
- 3) Proposals for Concerted Actions may address a single species, lower taxon or population, or a group of taxa with needs in common. The target animals in each case should be clearly defined, including by reference to their status in terms of the CMS Appendices and the geographical range(s) concerned.
- 4) Proposals for Concerted Actions should be submitted using the template provided in the Annex to these Guidelines.
- 5) Proposals for Concerted Actions should be submitted to the Scientific Council according to the provisions for the submission of documents to meetings of the Scientific Council or its Sessional Committee as defined by its Rules of Procedure.

Step 2: Assessment of proposal by the Scientific Council / Sessional Committee

- 1) Upon receipt of a proposal for Concerted Actions the Scientific Council will assess the merits of the proposal.
- 2) The Scientific Council will assess the merits of each proposal, taking into account the following criteria:

(i) Conservation priority

May relate to the degree of endangerment or unfavourable conservation status as defined under the Convention; the urgency with which a particular kind of action is required; and other priorities expressed in CMS decisions.

(ii) Relevance

May relate to the degree to which the particular conservation problem is linked to migration and requires collective multilateral action; and the degree to which the proposed action will fulfil specific CMS mandates.

(iii) Absence of better remedies

An options analysis to test whether (and why) CMS Concerted Action is the best method of meeting the defined conservation need. Alternatives both within and outside the mechanisms of the CMS should be considered¹.

(iv) Readiness and feasibility

The proposal will need to demonstrate meaningful prospects for funding and leadership, and to address all significant issues of practical feasibility for undertaking the action.

(v) Likelihood of success

Feasibility (see previous criterion) only concerns whether an action is likely to be implementable. Criterion (v) seeks in addition to assess whether implementation is likely to lead to the intended outcome. Risk factors to consider include: uncertainty about the ecological effects; weakness in the underpinning science; lack of a "legacy mechanism" by which results can be sustained; and activities by others that may undermine or negate the results of the action.

(vi) Magnitude of likely impact

Proposals that are equal in other respects might be prioritized according to the number of species, number of countries or extent of area that will benefit in each case; the scope for catalytic or "multiplier" effects, contribution to synergies or potential for acting as "flagship" cases for broadening outreach.

¹ For cases where it appears that proceeding directly to the development of an Agreement or other instrument under Article IV of the Convention would be a better remedy, equivalent guidance and criteria for judging such proposals is provided in Resolution 11.12, *Criteria for Assessing Proposals for New Agreements*.

(vii) Cost-effectiveness

Proposals should specify the resources they require, but should also relate these to the scale of impact expected, so that cost-effectiveness can be judged.

- 3) If the Scientific Council considers it beneficial, it may recommend to extend or reduce the number of species covered by the proposal or amend the proposed conservation measures.

Step 3: Recommendation to the Conference of Parties to designate species for Concerted Actions

- 1) If the Scientific Council concludes that there are merits in adding a species to the list for Concerted Actions, the Scientific Council will recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting to designate the species for Concerted Actions.
- 2) The recommendation of the Scientific Council to the Conference of the Parties will also include the conservation measures proposed to be undertaken under the Concerted Actions, as well as a list of Range State Parties of the species, where it is recommended measures are to be implemented.

Step 4: Decision of the COP to include species into the list for Concerted Actions

- 1) The Conference of the Parties will consider the recommendations of the Scientific Council and decide whether or not to accept the proposal for Concerted Actions, including the conservation measures proposed and the list of range States concerned.
- 2) If the Conference of the Parties accepts the proposal, it will include the species in the list for Concerted Actions.

Step 5: Reporting and monitoring of implementation of Concerted Actions

- 1) Members of the Council or alternative experts nominated by the Scientific Council will provide a concise written report to each meeting of the Scientific Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned.
- 2) Parties that are Range States of species listed for Concerted Actions are urged to fully cooperate in providing information to the nominated members of the Council or alternative experts.
- 3) The Scientific Council will evaluate the progress made in implementation by Range State Parties of species listed for Concerted Actions and make appropriate recommendations for further actions, as necessary.
- 4) Parties that are Range States of species listed for Concerted Actions should report 180 days prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on their progress in implementation of Concerted Actions, as part of their National Reports.
- 5) The Conference of the Parties will review the progress made in implementing Concerted Actions in order to measure the effectiveness of the instrument.

Step 6: Removing a species from the list for Concerted Actions

- 1) The Scientific Council, having assessed progress in implementation of Concerted Actions will recommend to the Conference of Parties at each of its meetings whether a species listed for Concerted Actions should be removed from the list.
- 2) The Conference of Parties, upon the recommendation of the Scientific Council will, at each of its meetings, decide whether a species should be taken off the list.

Annex 2 to Resolution 12.XX

TEMPLATE FOR PROPOSING CONCERTED ACTIONS

Proponents of proposals for Concerted Actions are requested to fill in the template below. The information required in the template is derived from Resolution 11.13 and document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.4/ANNEX I on *Improving the process for Concerted and Cooperative Actions* submitted to the Conference of Parties at its 11th meeting. The information compiled should as far as possible provide a balanced assessment of the advantages and risks associated with each issue, rather than being seen solely as a tool for persuasion (paragraph 5, Annex 3 to Resolution 11.13).

Proposals should be submitted to the Scientific Council through the Secretariat at cms.secretariat@cms.int prior to the deadline for submission of documents to the Scientific Council at its meetings.

All text in blue should be removed when submitting the proposal.

Proponent	Provide the name of the proponent and in the case of a stakeholder demonstrate your relevance to the species and CMS.
Target species, lower taxon or population, or group of taxa with needs in common	List the species, lower taxon or population, or group of taxa with needs in common concerned in accordance with the names used within the CMS Appendices.
Geographical range	Define the geographical range of the target species.
Summary of Activities	Summarize the activities proposed (100-200 words)
Activities and expected outcomes	Specify each activity to be undertaken, and define their expected outcomes. This should address both institutional aspects (e.g. development of an Action Plan) and ecological aspects (e.g. targets for improved conservation status). Following the SMART standard (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) will help; and the intended process for monitoring & evaluation should also be described. When a complex set of activities are proposed, it would be useful to add a table that outlines for each activity: outputs/outcomes, timeframe, responsibility and funding. Such a table enables Parties and stakeholders to quickly and clearly understand what is being proposed, when it will occur, who will be responsible, and if (and how much) additional resources may be needed for implementation.
Associated benefits	Identify opportunities to maximise added value, for example where actions targeting certain migratory animals may incidentally benefit other migratory species/taxa/populations, or where there is good scope for awareness-raising, capacity-building or encouraging new Party accessions.
Timeframe	Specify completion timeframes (and progress milestones where possible) and identify any elements of the action that are intended to be open-ended (e.g. measures to maintain conservation status).
Relationship to other CMS actions	Explain how the action's implementation will relate to other areas of CMS activity. This may form part of its purpose, for example if it is designed to lead to an Agreement; or it may involve showing how the action will support the Strategic Plan or COP decisions. It may also be

	necessary to show how different Concerted Actions complement or interact with each other.
Conservation priority	Explain why this action is a conservation priority. This may relate to the degree of endangerment or unfavourable conservation status as defined under the Convention; the urgency with which a particular kind of action is required; and other priorities expressed in CMS resolutions and decisions.
Relevance	Explain, for example, the degree to which the particular conservation problem is linked to migration and requires collective multilateral action; and the degree to which the proposed action will fulfil specific CMS mandates.
Absence of better remedies	Provide a brief options analysis to test whether (and why) a CMS Concerted Action is the best method of meeting the defined conservation need. Alternatives both within and outside the mechanisms of the CMS should be considered. (For cases where it appears that proceeding directly to the development of an Agreement or other instrument under Article IV of the Convention would be a better remedy, equivalent guidance and criteria for judging such proposals is provided in Resolution 11.12 and document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.2/Annex 1.)
Readiness and feasibility	Demonstrate meaningful prospects for funding and leadership, and address all significant issues of practical feasibility for undertaking the action.
Likelihood of success	Explain how implementation is likely to lead to the intended outcome. Risk factors to consider include: uncertainty about the ecological effects; weakness in the underpinning science; lack of a “legacy mechanism” by which results can be sustained; and activities by others that may undermine or negate the results of the action.
Magnitude of likely impact	Explain the number of species, number of countries or extent of area that will benefit from the action; the scope for catalytic or “multiplier” effects, contribution to synergies or potential for acting as “flagship” cases for broadening outreach.
Cost-effectiveness	Specify the resources required and relate these to the scale of impact expected, so that cost-effectiveness can be judged.
Consultations Planned / Undertaken	If work is targeted in Range States, outline what consultations, if any, are planned or have been undertaken. Outline any consultations with other relevant stakeholders.

DRAFT DECISIONS

Directed to the Scientific Council

12.AA By COP13, the Scientific Council should:

- a) Determine whether species previously listed for Cooperative Actions, but for which no activity has yet begun, should remain listed in the new unified Concerted Actions list or be deleted
- b) Review the projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions under earlier decisions of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the criteria included in Step 2, paragraph 3 of the *Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process*, along with any information about progress towards and impact of implementing those actions. Such review may conclude, *inter alia*, that the objectives of a given action have been achieved and it has been completed, or that it should continue within the terms of the unified Concerted Actions mechanism (and be added to the list of species accordingly);
- c) Report to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.

Directed to the Secretariat

12.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) Develop a template to be used by the Members of the Council or alternative experts nominated by the Scientific Council to provide a concise written report to each meeting of the Scientific Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned.
- b) Report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 3rd and 4th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.