



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 21.1.32

**RESOLUTIONS TO REPEAL IN PART**

**RESOLUTION 11.23, CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS OF CETACEAN CULTURE**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee)*

Summary:

This document repeals in part [Resolution 11.23, Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture](#).

This document should be read in conjunction with UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.3, which proposes additional Decisions to facilitate the implementation of this Resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION 11.23, CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS OF CETACEAN CULTURE**

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

Paragraph	Comments
<b>CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS OF <del>CETACEAN</del> <u>ANIMAL</u> CULTURE <u>AND SOCIAL COMPLEXITY</u></b>	Change the name of the Resolution to reflect mandate, as established in paragraph 6 of the Resolution
<i>Recalling</i> that Resolution 10.15 Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans (2012-2024) instructed the CMS Scientific Council’s Aquatic Mammals Working Group to provide advice on the impact of the emergent science of cetacean social complexity and culture as it related to regional populations;	Retain
<i>Aware</i> that the CMS Scientific Council expert workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture held in April 2014 recommended that “management decisions should be precautionary and assume that populations may contain discrete social elements which have conservation significance warranting further investigation”;	Retain
<i>Noting</i> that the CMS Scientific Council endorsed the recommendations of the expert workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.18;	Retain
<i>Recognizing</i> that a number of socially complex mammalian species, such as several species of cetaceans, great apes and elephants, show evidence of having non-human culture (hereafter ‘culture’);	Retain
<i>Concerned</i> that highly social species face unique conservation challenges;	Retain
<i>Aware</i> that the social transmission of knowledge between individuals may increase population viability and provide opportunities for the rapid spread of innovations and thus adaptation to environmental change;	Retain
<i>Aware</i> that this transmission of knowledge may also increase the impact of anthropogenic threats or can operate synergistically with anthropogenic threats to compound their impact on a specific social group or more widely;	Retain
<i>Recognizing</i> that the impact of removal of individuals from populations of socially complex species may have consequences beyond simply a reduction in absolute numbers;	Retain
<i>Also recognizing</i> that populations of some species are better delineated by cultural behaviour than genetic diversity or geographic isolation;	Retain
<i>Conscious</i> that the scientific investigation of culture and social complexity in mammals is a rapidly evolving field which is increasingly important for conservation management; and	Retain
<i>Considering</i> that the CMS Family is in a strong position to take account of this emerging information in its work;	Retain
<i>The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i>	
1. <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the CMS Scientific Council Expert Workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.18;	Retain

Paragraph	Comments
2. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to consider culturally transmitted behaviours when determining conservation measures;	Retain
3. <i>Also encourages</i> Parties and other stakeholders to assess anthropogenic threats to socially complex mammalian species on the basis of evidence of interactions of those threats with social structure and culture;	Retain
4. <i>Urges</i> Parties to apply a precautionary approach to the management of populations for which there is evidence that influence of culture and social complexity may be a conservation issue;	Retain
5. <i>Encourages</i> Parties and other stakeholders to gather and publish pertinent data for advancing the conservation management of these populations and discrete social groups;	Retain
6. <i>Requests</i> the CMS Scientific Council to <del>establish</del> <u>maintain</u> an intersessional expert working group dealing with the conservation implications of culture and social complexity, with a focus on, but not limited to cetaceans;	Retain as modified; the working group has been established but it is meant to continue its work.
7. <i>Invites</i> relevant CMS Scientific Councillors for taxa other than cetaceans to review the findings of the <del>workshop</del> <u>expert working group</u> and engage in this expert group; and	Retain as modified
<p>8. <i>Requests</i> the expert group, subject to availability of resources, to:</p> <p><del>8.1 Develop a list of priority species listed on CMS for a comprehensive investigation of culture and social structure and commence more detailed analysis as appropriate, including for example developing a list of key factors that should be taken into consideration for effective conservation; and</del></p> <p>8.2 Report its findings and any proposals for future work through the CMS Scientific Council to <u>each meeting of the Conference of the Parties CMS COP12.</u></p>	<p>Repeal paragraph 8.1 and convert to a Decision.</p> <p>Retain paragraph 8.2 as modified.</p>

## RESOLUTION 11.23 (REV. COP12)

### CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS OF ANIMAL CULTURE AND SOCIAL COMPLEXITY

*Recalling* that Resolution 10.15 Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans (2012-2024) instructed the CMS Scientific Council's Aquatic Mammals Working Group to provide advice on the impact of the emergent science of cetacean social complexity and culture as it related to regional populations,

*Aware* that the CMS Scientific Council expert workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture held in April 2014 recommended that "management decisions should be precautionary and assume that populations may contain discrete social elements which have conservation significance warranting further investigation",

*Noting* that the CMS Scientific Council endorsed the recommendations of the expert workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.18; *Recognizing* that a number of socially complex mammalian species, such as several species of cetaceans, great apes and elephants, show evidence of having non-human culture (hereafter 'culture'),

*Concerned* that highly social species face unique conservation challenges,

*Aware* that the social transmission of knowledge between individuals may increase population viability and provide opportunities for the rapid spread of innovations and thus adaptation to environmental change,

*Aware* that this transmission of knowledge may also increase the impact of anthropogenic threats or can operate synergistically with anthropogenic threats to compound their impact on a specific social group or more widely,

*Recognizing* that the impact of removal of individuals from populations of socially complex species may have consequences beyond simply a reduction in absolute numbers,

*Also recognizing* that populations of some species are better delineated by cultural behaviour than genetic diversity or geographic isolation,

*Conscious* that the scientific investigation of culture and social complexity in mammals is a rapidly evolving field which is increasingly important for conservation management, and

*Considering* that the CMS Family is in a strong position to take account of this emerging information in its work,

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

1. *Welcomes* the report of the CMS Scientific Council Expert Workshop on the conservation implications of cetacean culture, contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.18;
2. *Encourages* Parties to consider culturally transmitted behaviours when determining conservation measures;

3. *Also encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to assess anthropogenic threats to socially complex mammalian species on the basis of evidence of interactions of those threats with social structure and culture;
4. *Urges* Parties to apply a precautionary approach to the management of populations for which there is evidence that influence of culture and social complexity may be a conservation issue;
5. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to gather and publish pertinent data for advancing the conservation management of these populations and discrete social groups;
6. *Requests* the CMS Scientific Council to maintain an intersessional expert working group dealing with the conservation implications of culture and social complexity, with a focus on, but not limited to cetaceans;
7. *Invites* relevant CMS Scientific Councillors for taxa other than cetaceans to review the findings of the expert working group and engage in this expert group; and
8. *Requests* the expert group to report its findings and any proposals for future work through the CMS Scientific Council to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISION

***Directed to the Expert Working Group on Culture and Social Complexity***

12.AA ~~Requests~~ The expert group, subject to availability of resources, shall ~~to~~ develop a list of priority species listed on CMS for a comprehensive investigation of culture and social structure and commence more detailed analysis as appropriate, including for example developing a list of key factors that should be taken into consideration for effective conservation.