

**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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**STANDARDIZED NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS
LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting
(Bergen, 20-25 November 2011)

Recalling that with Recommendation 6.1 the Conference of the Parties adopted standard references to be recognized and used as the basis on which the CMS Appendices, and amendments thereto, should be prepared;

Noting that biological taxonomy and nomenclature are dynamic;

Aware that international efforts to take coherent action to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity at the species level can be significantly hampered if there is no common understanding of which animals or plants are included under a particular species name and can present particular challenges for activities such as the implementation of conventions which have legal implications;

Recognizing that the 4th meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB, Gland, Switzerland 13 February 2011) expressed its support for the idea of moving towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in lists of species used by the biodiversity-related conventions, and praised the harmonization process undertaken by CITES and CMS;

Acknowledging that in order to strengthen the global effort to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2020, it would be sensible to try to ensure greater harmonization between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in the field of taxonomy and nomenclature;

Further noting that the case for such harmonization is made more compelling by the fact that of the 116 CMS Parties, only four are not also members of CITES;

Acknowledging that the harmonization of nomenclature can lead to a more integrated process, reduction of duplication and greater sharing of information between biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);

Recalling that this objective was noted by the 6th Meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (Bonn, May 2008), and was thereby included in the CITES/CMS List of Joint Activities adopted by the 34th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Rome, November 2008); and the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014 adopted at the 38th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Bergen, November 2011);

Stressing that notwithstanding the adoption, for practical reasons, of standard nomenclatural references at the species level, biological diversity at all taxonomic levels should be valued, conserved and used sustainably;

Noting that the taxonomy used by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) takes account of the most recent taxonomic information on species of albatrosses and large petrels;

Considering that the adoption of a new reference may imply cases of synonymy, “lumping” and/or splitting of species, and that rules have to be agreed on how to act in such cases and their consequent reflection in the CMS Appendices, and that to date there has been no rule in effect for cases of lumping (aggregation); and

Noting the advice of the CMS Scientific Council at its 17th Meeting (Bergen, November 2011);

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

1. *Adopts* the taxonomy used by ACAP as the Convention’s standard nomenclatural reference for albatrosses and large petrels;
2. *Adopts* the rule set out below for aggregation cases to take account of the merged species conservation status and the status of the merged component species:

If, as a result of a change of standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties, a taxon listed in either Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention is merged with one or more unlisted taxa, under its name or that of one of the unlisted taxa, the entire aggregate taxon will be listed in the Appendix that included the originally listed, narrower, taxon in all cases where the unlisted entity thus added has the same conservation status as, or a worse one than, that of the previously listed taxon. In all other cases, a taxonomic or geographical restriction will be introduced, pending consideration by the Scientific Council and the Conference of the Parties of possibly adequate extended listing proposals.

3. *Requests* the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the Secretariats of relevant MEAs, and relevant international organizations including IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds, and to inform the Scientific Council at its 18th meeting with a view to adopting an appropriate Resolution at COP11;
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to transmit this Resolution to the CITES Secretariat for its consideration by the scientific bodies of that Convention.