

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**  
(arising from ScC-SC6)

**PRIORITIES FOR ADDRESSING ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES**

**UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.1**

**(ScC-SC6 Agenda item 12.1.1)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14**

The Sessional Committee welcomed the document and the draft Resolution and Decisions, provided comments, and proposed a number of amendments to the draft Resolution and the Decisions.

**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT**

The Sessional Committee noted, *inter alia*, the following:

- Working with the relevant trade authorities at the national and international levels is key for tackling illegal trade in CMS species both in domestic and international markets, including in specimens of species not currently listed in CITES, and that CMS has an important role to play in this regard;
- The need to ensure consistency by using the term “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” in the document, where appropriate;
- There is a significant threat to migratory species from domestic taking and sale, and CMS is well placed to address these issues;
- The gap in data collection and monitoring of take and trade in CMS-listed species, and the need to establish systems for monitoring taking and trade, both domestic and international, of CMS species not currently listed in CITES appendices, should be considered.

**COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION**

Proposed amendments to the draft Resolution:

- Add a new paragraph 3bis to the Preamble, which would read as follows:

*Urges* Parties and non-Parties to strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies on wildlife trafficking and to monitor trade of specimens of species currently not listed in Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES);

- Add a new paragraph 4bis to the Preamble, which would read as follows:

*Noting* the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which highlighted direct overexploitation as one of the two key drivers of biodiversity loss;

- Add new text to paragraph 12 of the Preamble, which would then read as follows:

Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes numerous Goals and Targets related to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife; with particular relevance to migratory species, in particular Targets 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;

- Amend paragraph 17 of the Preamble, which would then read as follows:

*Further recognizing ~~the efforts of Parties efforts~~ to develop and implement legislative provisions and programmes and to ~~ensure that any promote the sustainable~~ utilization of wildlife is sustainable, as an integral part of conservation and secure livelihoods of vulnerable communities; and*

- Add new text to paragraph 18 of the Preamble, which would then read as follows:

*Welcoming the close collaboration between CMS and CITES in working towards ~~the to ensure that the sustainable~~ use of transboundary wildlife is legal and sustainable, including measures to eradicate ~~illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife crime and offences~~ and *noting* the adoption of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2025 at the ~~65<sup>th</sup>~~ 73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and the ~~45<sup>th</sup>~~ 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee;*

- Add a new paragraph 19 to the Preamble, which would read as follows:

*Instructs* the Secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), in order to address illegal trade in wildlife and to strengthen the monitoring of trade in specimens of species currently not listed in CITES Appendices;

- Add new text to paragraph 4 of the Resolution, which would then read as follows:

Encourages Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders to increase national efforts on population estimates, management, and monitoring of wildlife species; and develop and implement science-based management plans for CMS-listed species;

- Add new text to paragraph 7 of the Resolution, which would then read as follows:

*Suggests* that Parties and non-Parties establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the management of shared wildlife populations and habitats with common boundaries, in order to minimize illegal and unsustainable taking, use, sale and trafficking;

- Add new text to paragraph 8 of the Resolution, which would then read as follows:

*Encourages* Parties, where relevant and appropriate, and posing no risk of human, wildlife, or other animal health, to enhance cooperation for the repatriation of live, illegally-traded wildlife and promote the establishment of legal frameworks in recipient countries that ensure a timely and cost-efficient repatriation of live animals and eggs, ensuring that any such framework is consistent with Parties' obligations under CITES and national legislation, and subject to relevant biosecurity and environmental concerns and policies;

Proposed amendments to the draft Decisions:

- Add new paragraph c)bis to Decision 14.AA, which would read as follows:
  - 14.AA c)bis Strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies to address wildlife trafficking and to monitor trade in specimens of species not currently listed in CITES Appendices;
  
- Add a new paragraph c)bis to Decision 14.CC, which would read as follows:
  - 14.CC c)bis provide recommendations to COP15;
  
- Add a new text to paragraph b), subparagraph ii) of Decision 14.DD, which would then read as follows:
  - 14.DD b) ii. the impacts of illegal and unsustainable take on the conservation status of such species, including cumulative impacts on species at the flyway and population level, and the consequences of these impacts on affected ecosystems and the services they provide;
  
- Add a new paragraph f)bis to Decision 14.DD, which would read as follows:
  - 14.DD f)bis Continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), in order to address illegal trade of wildlife specimens and to strengthen monitoring of trade in specimens of CMS-listed species not currently listed in CITES Appendices;