

**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/ScC17/Report
Annex VII

Original: English

17TH MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
Bergen, 17-18 November 2011

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Bergen, 18 November 2011, 12:00 – 13:40**

The Chair Prof. Colin Galbraith of the working group welcomed the participants to the working group and stressed the importance of convening on the issue. Climate change was one of the primary threats to migratory species in the current century and was therefore a priority matter for CMS and its Parties. The United Kingdom had laid the foundation for CMS' work on climate change, most notably through Res.8.13 in 2005 and a thorough research review, which was also tabled at COP8.

The Secretariat had been active in facilitating the implementation of CMS' climate change mandate, specifically the Res.9.7 on Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species during the past triennium. Climate change was one of the priority issues for the Convention.

The Chair emphasized the need for further capacity building initiatives on the issue of climate change and migratory species, by promoting regional workshops on national implementation of the CMS climate change mandate. Initiatives to improve "climate change literacy" and climate change related issues should be supported with a view to ensuring that Parties have access to the best available scientific information on which to base decisions.

The Chair gave an example of a successfully implemented technical workshop mandated by Res.9.7 on the "Impact of Climate Change on Migratory Species: the current Status and Avenues for Action" that took place at the Tour du Valat research station near Arles, France, from 6-8 June 2011. The proceedings from the workshop and the presentations provided a good overview of the current status of migratory species with regard to climate change as well as the rationale for the content of Resolution 10.19 (for further information and presentations see www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/climate_change_wg/ccwg_mainpage.htm).

Dr. Aline Kuehl from the Secretariat presented the past CMS decisions on Climate Change, the implementation of Res.9.7 during the past triennium and introduced Resolution 10.19.

Draft "Message to Durban" from CMS COP10

Ms. Brita Slettemark, Deputy Director General, Ministry of the Environment, Norway, presented the *draft "Message to Durban" from CMS COP10*. She reported that S.H. Mr. Erik Solheim, Minister of the Environment and International Development, Norway, suggested the Council to work on a statement on climate change and migratory species that could be presented to the UNFCCC COP17 taking place in Durban, South Africa,

28 November – 9 December 2011. This statement had been drafted by Norway and was presented to the working group. The Minister planned to attend the UNFCCC COP17 and would take the opportunity to deliver the message in order to strengthen the integration of biodiversity matters more prominently within UNFCCC processes.

Resolution 10.19: Migratory Species Conservation in the light of Climate Change

The Chair invited the working group to deliver comments on the Resolution. The UK raised the concern that the Resolution might be very long and this might be an issue when negotiating it at COP. He suggested identifying the key issues of that Resolution. Egypt supported the UK and said that a clearer message would help to report back to national governments. Wild Europe pointed out that funding opportunities needed to be discussed. The Chair supported this practical approach.

The Councillors commented on the draft Resolution 10.19

The UK highlighted that if there was a need to prioritize, the following paragraphs were of particular importance in the Resolution: 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 21 (according to the original numbering of Resolution 10.19).

The Chair thanked the Councillors for their inputs, which would be made available online in track changes as an Annex to the Resolution in the evening.

Draft “Message to Durban” from CMS COP10

The Secretariat welcomed the offer by Norway to take a message to UNFCCC COP17 to focus attention to biodiversity and migratory species within the UNFCCC processes.

The Working Group was invited to comment on the draft “Message to Durban”. Norway pointed out that the message should be short, if possible only one page long. Egypt said an opportunity for reviewing the message should be given to the other working groups also by discussing the document in plenary. He asked for the document to be made available in hard copy for all participants of the Scientific Council later in the afternoon.

The Councillors commented on the draft “Message to Durban”, supported the draft and welcomed Norway’s initiative.

Egypt wanted to know who would deliver the message to the UNFCCC COP17. He pointed out that decision-makers would need simple and powerful messages and suggested the use of figures/scientific results to strengthen the message. UK supported Egypt’s point of view. It was clarified that Norway would be delivering the message to UNFCCC COP17 in Durban.

Closure of the meeting

The Chair thanked Norway for their initiative and the participants for their valuable contributions to the dynamic 1½ hours discussion. The Secretariat thanked the Chair. The Chair closed the meeting.

Participants:

Chair: Colin Galbraith (UK, Vice-Chair of the Scientific Council)
Colin Limpus (Appointed Councillor Turtles)

Australia: Narelle Montgomery
Bolivia: Omar Emilio Rocha Olivio
Croatia: Jelena Kralj
Czech Republic: Jiri Flousek
Egypt: Moustafa M. Fouda
France: Jean-Philippe Siblet
India: Prakriti Srivastava
India: Sivakumar Kuppusamy
Italy: Fernando Spina
Kenya: Samuel Kasiki
Luxembourg: Mark Simmods
Montenegro: Darko Saveljic
New Zealand: Wendy Jackson
Norway: Brita Slettemark
Paraguay: María Cristina Morales Palarea
Poland: Grzegorz Rąkowski
Senegal: Djibril Diouck
Serbia: Daliborka Stankovic
Slovakia: Peter Puchala
South Africa: Humbulani Mafumo
United Kingdom: James Williams

Migratory Wildlife Network: Margi Prideaux
Wild Europe: Toby Akroyd
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat: Sergey Dereliev

UNEP/CMS Secretariat: Aline Kuehl, Stella Reschke