

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

This paper considers the implementation of Resolution 10.19; poses key questions related to priority work areas, and outlines some means to take this work area forward for CMS.

Resolution 10.19 on Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change established the position of a COP Appointed Councillor for Climate Change and requested to prepare a programme of work (POW). The notes below have been arranged according to the structure of the Resolution and are intended to provide background information in support of the elaboration of the POW at the forthcoming workshop to be held in Costa Rica in April 2014.

The challenge now is to use the operative parts of the Resolution as a framework for action and for the workshop to focus on what needs to be delivered and on how this will be achieved.

The operative sections of Resolution 10.19 on climate change

The Resolution provides encouragement to the Parties to support the work on climate change and then covers specific areas of work that need to be addressed. The following text from the first three operative paragraphs encourages support as follows:

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

1. Urges Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments and encourages Non-Parties exercising jurisdiction over areas that a migratory species inhabits or is expected to inhabit in the near future due to climate change, to participate in CMS and relevant CMS instruments, in order to promote timely conservation measures where migration patterns have changed due to climate change;
2. Further urges Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments to enable and support the full participation in CMS of those states, where migratory species are expected to occur, in the near future due to climate change;
3. Encourages Parties to develop guidelines on measures needed to assist migratory species adapt to climate change;

Work Plan to Implement Resolution 10.19

Management and monitoring of species population

Immediate actions:

- Consult the relevant IPCC reports (Working groups II and III) for background information on climate change impacts (Parties and Scientific Council)
- Employ adaptive management measures and the ecosystem-based approach in addressing climate change impacts (Parties)
- Monitor the effectiveness of conservation actions in order to guide ongoing efforts (Parties)
- Identify and promote a standardized methodology for evaluating the susceptibility of species to climate change (Parties, Scientific Council, the scientific community, IUCN and other relevant organizations)
- Develop and implement monitoring regimes that are adequate for distinguishing true declines in populations from transboundary range shifts and for analyzing the impact of climate change on migratory species, inter alia through the following measures:
 - identifying and carrying out research on the interactions of climate change and migratory species, including the impact on habitats and local communities dependent on the ecosystem services provided by these species (the scientific community)
 - ensuring that monitoring is maintained in the long term, using comparative methodologies (Parties and NGOs)
 - communicating and sharing monitoring results regularly with neighbouring and other range states (Parties)
 - continuing to identify indicator species as a proxy for wider migratory species assemblages, habitats and ecosystems (the scientific community, Parties, NGOs)

Moving Forward:

- Identify those Appendix I and II listed species, as well as other migratory species on the IUCN Red List, that are most susceptible to climate change (Parties, the Scientific Council, IUCN, the scientific community)
- Consider whether these should be listed or uplisted on the CMS Appendices, as appropriate (Parties, Secretariat)
- Prepare single species action plans for those species listed on Appendix I considered to be most vulnerable to climate change (Parties and the Scientific Council, IUCN and other relevant organizations)

- Improve the resilience of migratory species and their habitats to climate change, inter alia by reducing other threats in order to maintain or increase population size and genetic diversity (Parties and the Scientific Council, and conservation stakeholders)
- Consider ex situ measures and assisted colonization, including translocation, as appropriate for those migratory species most severely threatened by climate change (Parties and the Scientific Council, and conservation stakeholders)

Critical sites and ecological networks

Immediate Actions:

- Consult the relevant IPCC reports (Working groups II and III) for background information on climate change impacts (Parties and the Scientific Council)

Moving Forward:

- Improve the resilience of migratory species and their habitats to climate change in order to achieve the following objectives:
 - to ensure that individual sites are sufficiently large, holding a variety of habitats and topography (Parties)
 - to strengthen the physical and ecological connectivity between sites, aiding species dispersal and colonization when distributions shift (Parties)
 - to consider the designation of seasonal protected areas in areas where migratory species occur at critical stages in their lifecycle and would benefit from extra protection (Parties)

Climate change mitigation and adaptation, and land use planning

Immediate Actions:

- Consult the relevant IPCC reports (Working group III) for background information on climate change mitigation (Parties and the Scientific Council)
- Evaluate and reduce the additional impacts on migratory species resulting from changes in human behaviour due to climate change (the so-called “tertiary effects”), such as increased shipping and exploitation in the Arctic ocean areas, which are made possible by retreating ice (Parties, relevant organizations)
- Develop environmental sensitivity and zoning maps that include critical sites for migratory species, as an essential tool for selecting sites for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects (Parties, the scientific community, NGO’s)
- Make the post-construction monitoring of environmental impacts a standard requirement for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, especially wind power, and to ensure that such monitoring continues for the duration of plant operation (Parties, the energy sector)

Moving Forward:

- Ensure that where impacts on migratory species are significant, renewable energy and other climate change mitigation or adaptation structures are operated in ways that minimize the mortality of migratory species, such as short-term shutdowns or higher turbine cut-in speeds, with regard to wind farms (Parties, the energy sector)
- Ensure that any climate change mitigation and adaptation action has appropriate environmental safeguards in place taking into account CMS-listed species (Parties, multilateral development banks, and the energy sector)

Capacity building

Immediate Actions:

- Publish periodic scientific reviews on the following topics (universities and other scientific institutions with support from Parties):
 - the impacts of climate change on migratory species
 - the potential for conservation management to increase the resistance and resilience of animal populations to climate change; and
 - the impacts of anthropogenic climate change adaptation and mitigation on migratory species;

Moving Forward:

- Pursue capacity building initiatives on the issue of climate change and migratory species (Secretariat)
- Make use of available funding mechanisms, such as REDD+, to support the maintenance of ecosystem services, with the close involvement of local communities, in order to improve the conservation status of migratory species (Parties and relevant stakeholders)
- Continue to fill the information gap through research and monitoring, in order to make explicit the associated synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity conservation, mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Cooperation and implementation

Immediate Actions:

- Work closely with and provide national UNFCCC Focal Points with expert guidance and support on how migratory species can be affected by adaptation and mitigation activities, such as renewable energy and bio-energy development, and to collaborate closely in order to develop joint solutions aimed at reducing negative impacts on migratory species (CMS Focal Points and Scientific Councillors)
- Engage in and support CMS work related to climate change (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention, IWC and other international instruments such as the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES))

Moving Forward:

- Strengthen synergies with the Secretariats of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention, the IWC and other international instruments (Secretariat)
- Examine whether provisions of the Convention, including the terms “range” and “historic coverage” in Article I, might benefit from interpretations that take account of the requirements of species in response to climate change (Secretariat and the Scientific Council)
- Include the measures contained in this Resolution in their national climate change strategies, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policy processes, ensuring that mitigation or adaptation activities do not result in a deterioration of the conservation status of CMS-listed species (Parties and non-Parties)
- Provide financial support for the implementation of this Resolution (Parties, UNEP, multilateral development banks and other national and international donors)