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SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

Geneva, 11-14 October 1988

Addendum to Report of Chairman of Scientific Council

Report of the first meeting of Scientific Council

Palais des Nations, Geneva, 10 October 1988

A. Opening of the Meeting

1. Dr M. Ford, Chairman of the Scientific Council, opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the first meeting of the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention).

B. Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Chairman proposed an amendment to the provisional agenda to move discussion of the future work programme to a later part of the meeting. With that amendment the meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the provisional agenda.

C. Adoption of Rules of Procedure

3. The provisional Rules of Procedure were adopted unanimously.

D. Report of the Chairman

4. Dr Ford introduced his report, which had been circulated previously, explaining that It would be submitted to the Conference of the Parties together with an Addendum containing a report of the proceedings of this meeting. One amendment to Annex 1, members of the Scientific Council, was made to include Mr. J. Wilson appointed by the Republic of Ireland. The Chairman also announced one further appointment to the Scientific Council, Mr. C. Manu appointed by Ghana. Some Parties still had not appointed members to the Scientific Council.

5. The Chairman drew attention to the report of the Working Group on Small Cetaceans established in accordance with Resolution 1.7 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It was unclear whether the Working Group was intended to continue after the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Scientific Council agreed that it wished to have a working group of the Scientific Council on small cetaceans and agreed that Dr Wolff should be co-ordinator for the working group. In considering the future activities of the working group the Scientific Council considered it should look at migratory small cetacean species globally, including fresh water species. In addition it should give particular consideration to which of the list of potential candidate species identified in Annex II of the Report could be appropriate as subjects for future

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E. AGREEMENTS

6. The Chairman gave a review of the progress on the AGREEMENT on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, which was now almost ready to be submitted formally by the UK to all Range States.

7. Last year the Secretariat had circulated a draft AGREEMENT for the white stork to members of the Scientific Council following advice from the provisional co-ordinator of the Scientific Council and other experts and legal advice from IUCN. Dr. Imboden elaborated on the work which ICBP has undertaken, as contractor to the European Communities, on an associated management plan.

ICBP had produced three possible formats:

- a) The draft AGREEMENT with the Management Plan as an Annex and containing Protocols to be adopted by Parties.
- b) An integration of the Management Plan within the existing draft AGREEMENT.
- c) A simplified AGREEMENT on similar lines to the bats AGREEMENT, without management measures but including management guidelines in a background document.

These different formulations had been submitted to the EC for their consideration. Dr. Devillers confirmed that the EC would sponsor the white stork AGREEMENT. Once it has decided its preferred formulation, it would seek the views of the Scientific Council and subsequently consult with all Range States. Mr. Daniel confirmed to the meeting that Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are Range States for *Ciconia c. ciconia* and this was noted.

8. In considering the possible AGREEMENT on the North and Baltic Sea populations of small cetaceans several members expressed concern at the condition of the North and Baltic Seas as a habitat for migratory species. Dr. Gambell reported that the consultations carried out in correspondence by the Working Group had produced irreconcilable differences of opinion on the scope and content of the AGREEMENT. Dr. Wolff advised that the Netherlands Government was unwilling to act as sponsor to the AGREEMENT. In the absence of other offers to act as sponsor the Scientific Council agreed that as no political commitment existed to resolve these issues it was inappropriate for further resources to be expended by the Secretariat on this issue at this time. It was noted that the situation may need to be reviewed in the light of the Conference decision on the Netherlands proposals to include 8 species of cetaceans in Appendix II.

9. Professor Matthews outlined past attempts to develop agreements on Western Palearctic waterfowl and regretted the lack of success so far. Dr. Nowak considered some reasonable progress had been made but certain problems had been identified. In particular, recognising that many of these species are exploited, an AGREEMENT must include practicable measures capable of being implemented. The AGREEMENT offers an excellent opportunity for discussion and co-operation between East and West. Dr. Boere outlined his work so far and informally tabled a draft document conveying his future work plan, timetable and a draft AGREEMENT. He sought the Council's advice on the scope of the AGREEMENT in relation to the species to be covered and on the need to define "Western Palearctic". After consideration the Council agreed that the AGREEMENT should include a wider range of species than Anatidae and should be termed an AGREEMENT on Western Palearctic Waterfowl. However in drafting the Management Plan and Management Modules Dr. Boere should concentrate first on Anatidae. It further agreed that in principle the term "waterfowl" could include species not listed in Appendix II.

10. The Council recognised that the Bonn Convention with its emphasis on species and the Ramsar Convention with its emphasis on habitats offer complementary opportunities to assist the conservation of migratory species of waterfowl. It was considered important for the Bonn Convention Secretariat to liaise closely with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. It was further recognised that the AGREEMENT offered a unique opportunity for co-operation between hunters and conservationists. Following discussion of the term "Western Palearctic waterfowl" it was agreed that this should be defined as "waterfowl species which, during part of their annual cycle, pass through or reside in the Western Palearctic region".

11. The Council noted that reference had been made to a Wadden Sea seal agreement in the national reports on implementation submitted by Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany.

F. Guidelines for application of terms of the Convention

12. The Chairman introduced his paper which had been produced to facilitate the fulfillment of Resolution 1.4 on the composition and functions of the Scientific Council, paragraph 6(b) of which directed the Council to formulate guidelines on certain terms of the Convention. The meeting unanimously agreed that for the purpose of the Bonn Convention "endangered" equates to the IUCN category of "endangered".

13. It was further agreed that where a particular geographic population of a species is endangered and this represents a significant proportion of the range of that species then in principle the whole species may be listed on Appendix I. However it was acknowledged that there may be a need for geographic limitations for scientific, administrative or political reasons.

14. Following considerable discussion of the term "migratory species" the Council considered that while the inclusion of the phrase "cyclically and predictably" in the interpretation of the term "migratory species" in Article 1.1.(a) of the Convention was not helpful, it was possible to live with it providing a liberal interpretation was adopted. It was agreed that "predictably" need not necessarily mean a regular recurrence but nor was it random. Rather "predictably" implies that a phenomenon can be anticipated to recur in a given set of circumstances, though not necessarily regularly in time.

15. In discussing the term "Range State" the Council considered that problems of interpretation only occurred in relation to species occurring irregularly in a particular country. It was agreed that a country should be considered a Range State when a significant proportion of a geographical separate population occasionally occurs in its territory.

16. The Council considered the difficulties which the Secretariat face in fulfilling its responsibility under the provisions of the Convention to maintain up to date lists for migratory species included in Appendix II because of the listing of whole families. It was agreed that in the case of migratory species included in Appendix II by virtue of higher taxon listing the Secretariat should, with the assistance of the Scientific Council, compile full lists of those species included in these families. Further work on annotation of the lists to indicate species excluded because they are known not to be migratory under the terms of the Convention and drawing up full lists of Range States for individual migratory species should be undertaken only when a proposal for an AGREEMENT is under consideration.

In response to an intervention by Dr Imboden the Chairman confirmed that whilst responsibility for this activity rests with the Secretariat (Article 9(iv)(f)) it need not necessarily be undertaken in-house.

G. Consideration of proposals from Parties for amendments to the Appendices

17. The Chairman explained that the proposal submitted by the UK entails no change to the species listed in the Appendices but was merely a clarification. The Council endorsed the proposal.

18. The Chairman suggested that the Council should in its future work programme address two other general aspects of the Appendices:

- a) a standard taxonomy
- b) Clarification of geographical annotations such as "North West Africa" and "Upper Amazon".

19. In opening discussions on the cetacean proposals the Chairman explained that the Netherlands had agreed at short notice to sponsor the proposals for amendments as a service to the Convention. Dr Wolff acknowledged that the proposals were not as rigorous as might be wished but the evidence presented for listing *Phocoena* and *Tursiops* were more detailed than the other proposals. Several members pointed out that one species, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, was already covered by the International Whaling Convention and questioned whether listing under the Bonn Convention was either appropriate or meaningful.

20. Following further discussion the Chairman called for a vote on each proposal.

The results are as follows:

Species	Members present	In favour	Against
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	15	3	7
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	14	8	0
<i>Tursiops truncates</i>	14	8	0
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	14	5	0
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	14	5	0
<i>Globicephala melaena</i>	14	6	0
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	14	5	0
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	14	5	0

H. Comments on Reports Submitted by Parties

21. Noted.

I. Recommendations on additional measures to improve the conservation status of migratory species

22. Professor Vaz-Ferreira considered that there was a very real need for information, particularly scientific data, about the Convention to be disseminated to non-Party states in order to encourage them to become involved in the Convention. The Chairman pointed out that the Secretariat already circulates information on the Convention.

23. He further noted that the Standing Committee contains Regional Representatives and he wondered whether the task of disseminating information and encouraging prospective Parties within particular regions might not be undertaken by them.

J. Future Work Programme

24. The Chairman noted that as directed by Resolution 1.4, paragraph 6 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Council had addressed the need to assist the development of indicative and exemplary AGREEMENTs. They had also begun work on the formulation of guidelines. In accordance with Resolution 1.4(6) the Scientific Council must now in order of priority:

- a) finalise the guidelines
- b) use the guidelines to review the existing composition of the Appendices to consider whether any species listed do not meet the guidelines
- c) use the guidelines to draw up a candidate list of species which could benefit by future inclusion in the Appendices.

25. In reply to a query on the timescale for completing by correspondence item (a) the Chairman confirmed that this should be completed within a matter of weeks. It was agreed that members should correspond with the Secretariat on those species whose listing they consider not to be in accordance with the guidelines and on those species which they believed should be considered for the candidate list. The Secretariat would then consider with the Chairman how best this information could be consolidated for further consideration by the Council.

26. It was considered in view of the need to progress AGREEMENTs and to ensure there is a clear link to the Scientific Council, that focal points should be appointed for each. It was agreed that Dr. Ford would continue to act as focal point for bats, Dr. Devillers agreed to act as focal point for white stork; Dr. Wolff agreed to be focal point for small cetaceans and Dr. Nowak agreed to act as focal point for Western Palearctic waterfowl. The Council emphasised the importance of implementing some AGREEMENTs by the time of the next Conference of the Parties.

K. Recommendations on special qualifications of members of the Council and implications for members to be appointed by the Conference of the Parties

27. In the course of discussions on this item it was agreed that it would be most helpful to have additional expertise in relation to marine species, waterfowl and possibly environmental law. The Chairman mentioned in passing his surprise that at present there are no women members of the Scientific Council.

L. Date and venue of next meeting

28. It was agreed that it would be most appropriate to schedule the next meeting so that the Council could review the candidate list and allow sufficient time for Parties subsequently to prepare proposals before the deadline for submission provided for in the Convention. Therefore it was considered that a meeting at the end of 1990 would be most suitable.

29. It may be possible to hold this in conjunction with another international meeting; otherwise it could be held at the United Nations in Geneva.

M. Any other business

30. Dr. Ranjitsinh suggested it may be appropriate to consider forming a working group for the Houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*). It was agreed that further discussion at the time of the Conference could be helpful.

31. In closing the meeting the Chairman thanked members for their constructive participation.

Annex I
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