



**CONSOLIDATION OF RESOLUTIONS:  
WILDLIFE DISEASE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES**

(UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.21.2.9)

*(Prepared by the Aquatic Working Group)*

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

*Recalling* Resolutions 8.27, 9.8, and 10.22 on various aspects of wildlife disease;

*Acknowledging* that wildlife health, livestock health, human health, and ecosystem health are interdependent and influenced by multiple factors, *inter alia*, socio-economics, sustainability of agriculture, demographics, climate and landscape changes;

*Understanding* the role that wildlife can play in emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) serving as either a reservoir host, temporary or periodic transmitter, or spillover/dead-end host;

*Aware* that diseases of wildlife are a normal cause of mortality and morbidity, and *conscious* that emerging or re-emerging diseases of wildlife can have serious implications for the status of migratory and non-migratory species, especially when populations are small and fragmented;

*Noting* that the increased frequency of such diseases has been linked to processes of landscape fragmentation, unsustainable land-use choices, pollution and other types of ecosystem disruption, these being, in turn, the consequences of unsustainable pressure on resources as highlighted by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; and *further noting* that climate change is expected to result in changes in disease distribution and emergence due to altered physiological conditions for hosts and parasites, resulting in the spread of novel micro-organisms with unpredictable consequences or the re-emergence of pathogens in new geographic locations;

*Noting also* that domestic animals, wild animals and humans share many pathogens, with wildlife sometimes being natural reservoirs of pathogens that can cause disease in domestic livestock, and that such pathogens have the potential significantly to affect both public health, food production, livelihoods and wider economies;

*Aware* that migratory species are victims and vectors of a range of contagious (e.g., viral, bacterial and fungal) diseases and some of these diseases may be transmitted to resident species, domestic stock, captive wild animals and humans. Some diseases have the potential to reduce biodiversity, especially in the case of threatened species;

*Recognizing* that wildlife can be a victim of diseases and there is an increase in emergence or re-emergence of diseases negatively affecting wildlife including highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 which causes continued mortality, and (since COP9) the spread of white-nose syndrome in bats, and the high mortalities affecting Saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) and Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*); and *highlighting* the need to understand the causes and epidemiology of these diseases and to coordinate effective and rapid responses to such

events;

*Recognizing* that the direct effects of disease on wildlife are particularly important for small or geographically isolated populations, and that there are numerous indirect effects including lethal approaches to managing wildlife disease and their negative influence on public perception of wildlife;

*Recognizing* the high risk of transmission of wildlife diseases from livestock and/or humans to wildlife and vice versa in areas of growing conflicts over land and increasing habitat loss, especially in developing countries;

*Acknowledging* the substantial impacts of wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, on threatened and endangered species worldwide and the loss of biodiversity and food security that can result from the spread of pathogens through regional and international movements of animals and animal products;

*Further acknowledging* the substantial risks for wildlife, livestock and people of the wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, which can result in the spread of pathogens to previously unexposed populations through regional and international movements of animals and animal products;

*Aware* of the issue of outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (subtype H5N1), which have had major impacts on livelihoods linked to the keeping of domesticated birds (mainly poultry) and on nature conservation values (including mortality of waterbirds on at least four internationally important Ramsar sites in Eurasia, and conscious of the increasing number of countries in which HPAI has been detected following its westward spread through Eurasia;

*Very conscious* that, if the subtype of HPAI either genetically reassorts or adaptively mutates into a form transmissible between humans, this could have the global health, social and economic consequences of a human influenza pandemic;

*Mindful*, however, that the limited number of known cases of human infection with the current strain of HPAI is restricted to certain parts of Asia and have been through contact with infected poultry and none through contact with wild birds, and *recognizing* that public attitudes and support for wetland and species (particularly waterbirds) conservation and sustainable use, could be negatively affected by concerns as to the possible role of waterbirds in the spread of HPAI (subtype H5N1);

*Concerned*, however, that in most countries there is a significant lack of information and, in some cases, public misinformation, on important issues related to the spread of HPAI, the risks it may pose, and how to anticipate and respond to outbreaks of HPAI, and *noting* in particular the difficulties that developing countries face in assessing and responding to the threat of HPAI, especially given the significance in many of these countries of both domesticated and wild birds as the basis of rural livelihoods;

*Concerned* also that ill-informed responses may have unfortunate and possibly disastrous long-term consequences for conservation, especially for some of the species which are globally threatened, and already have small or localized populations and particularly those species listed in Appendix I of the Convention and in Column A, Category 1 of Table 1 of the Action Plan of the Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA);

*Noting* that HPAI is considered to have been spread between countries by a number of different known vectors, including through the movement of avian livestock, cage birds and bird by-products, legal and illegal trade in birds, equipment associated with these respective industries, and movement of people, and noting that the migration of waterbirds has been suspected to be a vector as well, although direct evidence is lacking and aware that the relative significance of these different modes of spread has varied and evidence of causal links in many cases is

weak or lacking;

*Aware* of the continued major concerns and implications of the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1 of Asian lineage, as reflected, inter alia, by CMS Resolution 8.27, AEWA Resolutions 3.18 and 4.15, and Ramsar Resolutions IX.23 and X.21 and the guidance annexed to the latter resolution: guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1; and *also aware* that national and international responses to the spread of HPAI H5N1 might provide useful models for adoption in response to the challenges of other emerging and re-emerging diseases that affect wildlife;

1. *Welcoming* the significant work of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) since its creation in 1994 and the recommendations and scientific publications derived from the Working Group on the surveillance and control of the most important specific wildlife diseases;

2.

*Welcoming* the involvement in this issue of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and OIE, notably through the publication in May 2005 of a Global Strategy for the Progressive Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and its implementation, inter alia, through regional Technical Cooperation Programmes on Emergency Assistance for Early Detection and Prevention of Avian Influenza;

*Aware* of the Convention's leading participation in various coordinating mechanisms, including the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds convened in late August 2005 by the Convention, which comprises representatives and observers from eleven international organizations, namely CMS, AEWA, Ramsar Convention, FAO, WHO, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Royal Veterinary College, Ecohealth, and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), recognizing the role of the IUCN Veterinary Specialist Group and *also noting* Resolution 3.18 on Avian Influenza of AEWA and Resolution IX.25 of the Ramsar Convention on managing wetlands and waterbirds in response to highly pathogenic avian influenza;

3. *Welcoming* the international conference organized in Lyon, France, 22-27 July 2012 by the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) and the European Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA) on Convergence in Wildlife Health;

4.

*Recalling* that the Global Flyways Conference (Edinburgh 2004) called, in particular, for urgent action to assess disease risk, and establish monitoring programmes in relation to migratory waterbird movements, the trade of wild birds, and implications for human health;

*Acknowledging* the opportunities for information exchange provided by the Special Round-Table on the spread of HPAI held on 19 November 2005 at Nairobi, Kenya, during the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, and encouraged by the participation of all African and other CMS Scientific Councillors;

5. *Acknowledging* the importance of the global disease information systems WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild developed by the OIE as well as its web interface WAHID, the FAO/OIE/WHO joint mechanism Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases (GLEWS) and existing information systems developed by organizations such as the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, the European Union, AU-IBAR in Africa, ASEAN in Asia, SPC in the Pacific Islands and OIRSA in Central America;

6. *Welcoming* the large scope of consensus on appropriate approaches and responses to wildlife diseases which has developed among UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations including OIE, reflected for example in decisions and resolutions of the Ramsar Convention, AEWA, CMS and in standards of the OIE;

*Recognizing* that exploration of possible scenarios of the HPAI spread, including identification of areas of higher relative risk and development of possible policy responses to outbreaks will benefit from analysis of extensive and long-term data sets relating to bird movements, waterbird counts, trade and movements of people, but noting the urgency to access and analyze such data, networks, and other information, and to fill outstanding gaps in the scientific understanding of these factors;

*Recalling* also that, although outbreaks of H5N1 in Hong Kong in 1997, in Japan in 2004, of H7N1 in Italy in 1999, of H7N3 in Chile in 2002 and of H7N7 in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany in 2003 were all successfully stamped out using rigorous control and biosecurity measures, HPAI now appears to be endemic in some parts of Asia, highlighting the practical difficulties of control in countries with limited veterinary capacity;

*Recognizing* the potential risk of transmission of HPAI between captive birds and other animals at wetland centres and zoological gardens and wild waterbirds visiting these sites, being mindful both of animal welfare requirements and the important role such sites play in wetland communication, education and public awareness;

*Recognizing* also ongoing national actions and plans for monitoring habitats and bird populations for HPAI; and *also noting* that, although development of surveillance schemes and contingency planning will need to be determined nationally, there are significant benefits from international cooperation;

*Aware* of the outcomes of the WHO/FAO/World Bank meeting in Geneva of 7-9 November 2005 on 'Avian Influenza and human pandemic influenza' which identified the significant gap of knowledge concerning the role that wild birds might play in the spread of HPAI, *noting* the need to strengthen research and monitoring related to waterbird migration and trade in birds, as well as disease processes in wild bird populations, especially research identified by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds (See Annex 1);

*Recalling* the outcomes of Ramsar COP 10 on the theme of 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People', which stressed the functional linkages between the role that wetlands play in providing ecosystem services for the support of both human and wildlife populations; and that aquatic waterbirds and other migratory species can be valuable indicators of ecosystem health;

*Aware* that diseases and the need for coordinated responses to them are becoming increasingly highlighted as an important issue in CMS Agreements, Memoranda and other international instruments for the conservation of migratory species, and that such coordinated surveillance and response efforts require multiple stakeholders responsible for managing the health of humans, livestock and wildlife;

*Aware also* of the important work of the FAO and others with regard to domestic animal health and human health, but concerned that national and international responses to wildlife health have, in many situations, yet to be acknowledged as an essential element of disease surveillance or monitoring programmes, epidemiological investigations, and/or outbreak responses;

*Welcoming* the development of national wildlife disease strategies by some Contracting Parties and other governments; *but also noting* that many developing countries lack functional animal health-related programmes and strategies, policies and the infrastructure needed to protect human health, agricultural and wildlife interests from endemic or introduced diseases through local movements, re-establishment programmes, or international trade;

*Thanking* the CMS Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service for their coordination of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds documented in document Conf. 9.25; and *also thanking* Task Force members and observers for their valuable work in maintaining coordination with respect to policies and advocacy concerning the spread of HPAI H5N1;

*Recognizing* the need for rapid and continued sharing of information given the potential significance of this information in terms of bird conservation and population dynamics, so as to enable or improve risk assessments and be better prepared to improve conservation of waterbirds and future management of avian disease outbreaks;

*Noting* that existing methods of communication between management authorities, health professionals, biologists, veterinarians and natural resource professionals could be improved in some jurisdictions and are currently inadequate to respond to the complex issues surrounding human, animal and ecosystem health;

*Recalling* Resolution 9.8, which called on the Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to co-convene the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to develop guidance on responding to wildlife diseases of importance to people, domestic animals and wildlife;

*Welcoming* the body of work being undertaken by the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel on wetlands and health and promotion of an ecosystem approach to dealing with health, in particular the Ramsar Disease Manual on Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Management of Animal Disease in Wetlands which is aimed at practical disease guidance for wetland managers and policy makers;

*Further welcoming* the significant work in the area of wildlife health by the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases of the OIE and non-governmental agencies and organizations;

*Further recalling* Resolution 9.8 that requested the Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to determine the relationship between the existing Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health;

*Taking note* of the report from the inaugural workshop of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, which took place in Beijing, China, on 27-28 June 2011, as well as the Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the Task Force included in document UNEP/CMS/ScC.17/Inf.13;

*Acknowledging* the proposed *Modus Operandi* for Conservation Emergencies (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.38 and Resolution 10.2), which is envisaged to improve the rapid response to disease-related and other conservation emergencies;

*Noting also* that the Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health agreed to enhance research on diseases that have an impact on both domestic and migratory wildlife, and that are of greatest concern with regard to food security, sustainable livelihoods and conservation;

*Further noting* that the Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health agreed on a mechanism to be created for CMS Parties and FAO Member States to respond to the threat of trans-boundary animal health crises by reporting wildlife morbidity and mortality events;

*Acknowledging* the importance of existing global disease information systems coordinated between the OIE, FAO and WHO related to wildlife diseases, and the need to assure good communication and avoid unnecessary overlap in global reporting requirements;

*Acknowledging* that the One Health approach is increasingly gaining ground as a multidisciplinary way of addressing emerging infectious diseases, and that the concept has been endorsed by several international organizations including FAO, OIE, WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank;

*Further acknowledging* the need to maintain and build upon the global momentum created in response to successful eradication of rinderpest virus from animals including wild populations, and progress on control of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1;

*Aware* of the decision of AEWA (Resolution 3.6) to request the support of the CMS and other

stakeholders to establish long-term funding regimes in order to develop long-term monitoring of waterbird populations *inter alia* via the International Waterbird Census and its derived outputs, and further to Ramsar Resolution VIII.38, as a means of informing a wide range of national and international conservation policies including risk assessment for HPAI; and

*Noting* that the CMS Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases established by the 12th meeting of the Scientific Council provides a means to develop responses to some of the issues highlighted by this Resolution but that integration of both wildlife and domestic animal issues is required to properly understand disease epidemiology as well as address disease transmission, control and prevention;

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

1. Calls for fully integrated approaches, at both national and international levels, to address HPAI and other animal borne diseases by bringing ornithological, wildlife, and wetland management expertise together with those traditionally responsible for public health and zoonosis, including veterinary, agricultural, virological, epidemiological, and medical expertise;

*Wild Bird information (knowledge needs)*

2. In response to the issue of HPAI H5N1, given its potential significance for conservation of migratory species, and the need to be better prepared for the future management of avian disease outbreaks, calls upon Contracting Parties, non-contracting Parties, international and national organizations, in cooperation with FAO, OIE and other competent authorities in domesticated and captive birds, to support and build capacity for research (see annex) related to disease processes in migratory bird species, long-term monitoring of their movements and populations and rapid development of surveillance programmes for HPAI in populations of wild birds; and to strengthen ongoing efforts to improve, integrate and analyze existing data sets across different flyways to determine precise migratory routes, fluxes and population dynamics of species, and to disseminate the results;

*Specific Instructions*

3. *Supports* the conclusions of WHO, FAO and OIE that attempts to eliminate HPAI in wild bird populations through lethal responses such as culling are not feasible and may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;
4. *Emphasizes* that destruction or substantive modification of wetland and other habitats with the objective of reducing contact between domesticated and wild birds does not amount to wise use as urged by Article 3.1 of the Ramsar Convention and Articles 1 and 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;
5. *Calls* on Contracting Parties and urges non-contracting Parties to strictly apply internationally agreed quarantine and health standards for the cross-border transport of bird products and captive birds of all kinds and further calls for a crackdown on the illegal transport of bird products and captive birds of all kinds, both nationally and internationally;
6. *Suggests* that African Contracting Parties and non-contracting Parties coordinate their responses to the threats posed by the spread of HPAI through the New Partnership for Africa's Development amongst others;
7. *Urges* that hunting communities, in the framework of existing hunting activities, contribute to monitoring the spread of HPAI and co-operate actively with national authorities in the event that measures, *inter alia* special temporary hunting regulations are considered or put into force;

### *Strategic advice*

8. *Notes* the overriding importance of enhanced biosecurity measures, including adequate farming and aquaculture standards, and the need for competent authorities to develop strategies that limit the risk of disease transmission between wild and domestic animals (through enhanced biosecurity measures) and humans;
9. *Underlines* the importance of developing and implementing national contingency or action plans related to the potential risk of disease transmission, and the need for national preparedness to respond effectively to instances of detection of HPAI in birds, notably in wetland-dependent species;
10. *Requests* Contracting Parties and urges non-contracting Parties to develop and implement programmes of education and public awareness on HPAI, especially aimed at actually or potentially affected stakeholders, in particular those engaged in outdoor activities and the poultry industry;
11. *Urges* the Contracting Parties to integrate wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health issues into a) contingency planning, b) monitoring and surveillance, c) outbreak investigations and responses to morbidity and mortality events; and d) current and future capacity building activities;

### *Funding Needs*

12. *Urges* the Contracting Parties to:
  - a) support the establishment of an internationally or regionally coordinated well-structured long-term monitoring and surveillance programme for migratory birds, as appropriate, to assess, inter alia, current and new disease risks, making best use of, and building on existing schemes; and
  - b) rapidly fill specific gaps in knowledge through provision of support to establish programmes to study migratory patterns of targeted species at flyway level (including bird-ringing/banding, colour-marking, satellite tracking and isotope study);
13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore possibilities for establishing partnerships so as to support the development of long-term funding for monitoring schemes, including the International Waterbird Census and its derived outputs, that are relevant to the Convention's interests;
14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary working with the Scientific Council and in cooperation with the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to approach urgently FAO, OIE and WHO in response to their call for further research into fully understanding the role of wild birds in spreading HPAI, and seek the necessary resources to perform this work;
15. *Further urges* Parties and international donor organizations to support the activities of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, through both financial and in-kind support, and in particular for the organization of annual meetings of the Task Force;
16. *Calls on* Parties and international donor organizations to provide technical and financial support to assist developing countries in establishing appropriate systems of surveillance and control of wildlife diseases;

### *CMS Engagement*

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure continued leadership of the Convention in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, through appropriate representatives of the Scientific Council and the Secretariat, and urges the Scientific

Council, with and through the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, to provide relevant input on practical measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission between wild, captive and domesticated birds, to those agencies developing contingency and wetland management plans related to HPAI;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, working with the Scientific Council and its Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases to make recommendations regarding the nature and extent of risks associated with other diseases in migratory species and possible areas of action to be taken by Contracting Parties in addressing this;
19. *Also calls* on the CMS Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases to become part of the broader focused Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease and to provide guidance related to past accomplishments and future needs;
20. *Requests* FAO to a) identify diseases that have an impact on both domestic and wildlife species, and that are of greatest concern in regards to food security, economics and sustainable livelihoods; and b) integrate into their “One World One Health” approach, disease and management issues that can be brought to the attention of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease for consideration and action;
21. *Also requests* the CMS Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to identify the relevant members and observers that would comprise the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, and to determine the relationship between the existing Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health;
22. *Requests* the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to liaise with the OIE Headquarters and the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, and with the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, so that the work and recommendations of the OIE Working Group and the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group can be taken into account in the activity plan of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, and to invite representatives from the OIE Headquarters and from the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, and the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, to actively participate in the Scientific Task Force particularly in the field of global wildlife disease early detection, notification and management mechanisms, and *vice versa*;
23. *Further welcomes* the proposal for a *Modus Operandi* for Conservation Emergencies as a mechanism to improve the rapid response to mass mortality events affecting migratory species and other conservation emergencies as outlined in Resolution 10.2;
24. *Encourages* the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to liaise with the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and other related programmes so that the work recommendations and ongoing global initiatives are well coordinated, particularly in the field of global wildlife disease surveillance, early detection, including of outbreaks of domestic livestock disease with the potential to affect wildlife, and notification;
25. *Encourages* the Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to incorporate key relevant civil society organizations into the governance structure of the Task Force, at the Core Affiliate level, such that the work of the Task Force will be able to support the consensus of both governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations focused on wildlife and ecosystem health;

#### *Cooperation*

26. *Invites* Parties to contribute voluntarily to the Wildlife Health Event Reporter (WHER) as an unofficial rapid reporting system for wildlife morbidity and mortality events in collaboration with OIE national delegates and wildlife focal points, taking fully into account the OIE WAHIS, FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWs mechanisms and existing regional information systems,

and the need to complement existing communication channels, specifically OIE disease reporting and ProMed-mail;

27. *Calls on* Parties to collaborate with and share simultaneously information with OIE national delegates and wildlife focal points, OIE WAHIS, the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWS mechanisms and existing regional information systems;
28. *Also calls on* Parties to use and promote the Ramsar Disease Manual together with guidance produced by the Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health for managing diseases of migratory animals and in cooperation with Veterinary Authorities following global standards adopted by the OIE;
29. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to help in dissemination and promotion of Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health products;
30. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with, *inter alia*, Parties, other governments, IGOs and NGOs, subject to the availability of resources, to review existing initiatives to enhance cooperation and collaboration among different conventions through national focal points;
31. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with, *inter alia*, Parties, other governments, IGOs NGOs, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate workshops to enhance cooperation and collaboration among different conventions through national focal points;
32. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other governments and donors such as the GEF to provide adequate financial support for such workshops;
33. *Requests* the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, subject to available funding, to work with the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases on the development of an agreed approach to wildlife event reporting, and to communicate regularly on their combined approach to wildlife animal health issues;
34. *Encourages* Parties to engage in activities of the Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health including serving as National Associates, linking their organization's websites, and serving as a conduit for information-sharing;
35. *Congratulates* and *thanks* the members of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds for their unstinting efforts and output during the period 2005–2008 which have made a significant contribution to improving understanding and awareness of the causes of, and responses to, the spread of HPAI H5N1; and *requests that* the CMS Secretariat and FAO continue to act as co-convenors of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds with the engagement of the CMS Scientific Council, building on international activities already undertaken, and responding to new developments related to the spread of HPAI H5N1 and other subtypes as they occur;
36. *Endorses* the Scientific Summary of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Wildlife and Conservation Considerations prepared by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and attached as Appendix 2 of this resolution as similarly endorsed by AEWA Resolution 4.15 and Ramsar Resolution X.21; *calls on* other relevant bodies including FAO, UNEP and MEAs also to endorse this statement, and requests the Secretariat to ensure maximum circulation, translation and understanding of the statement;
37. *Encourages* the Contracting Parties to utilize, as appropriate, in relation to issues for migratory species the guidance available in Ramsar Resolution X.21: guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1;
38. *Requests* the Secretariat to report progress on the implementation of this Resolution to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

## Final Provisions

### 39. Repeals

- a) Resolution 8.27, *Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*;
- b) Resolution 9.8, *Responding to the Challenge of Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in Migratory Species, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1*;
- c) Resolution 10.22, *Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species*.

### **Annex 1: Key research needs related to the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in relation to migratory birds and their habitats**

1. Identification and mapping of the precise nature of migration routes, including stop over sites, flux and timing for key migratory waterbirds so as to expand and/or refine existing ecological monitoring of these populations.
2. Clarification of virus behaviour and survival in the aquatic habitats which are waterbird breeding, staging and non-breeding (wintering) areas.
3. Clarification of viral incubation periods, the infectious period in birds and the symptoms affecting individual wild birds, including implications for migratory movements, as well as determining survival rates of birds and persistence of viruses in birds.
4. Establishment of informed assessments of the possibility of transmission between populations of wild birds and domestic flocks, including by non-waterbird species found near poultry-keeping areas.
5. Surveillance of the prevalence of HPAI in wild bird populations.
6. Development of combined risk assessments based on the known epidemiological behaviour of the virus, risks of transmission, routes and timing of migratory species, as well as known poultry and captive bird husbandry techniques.
7. Research on methods for improvement of farming standards and the development of strategies to limit the risk of any disease transmission between wild and domesticated birds.

### **Appendix 2: Scientific summary of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1: wildlife and conservation considerations**

Not included due to its length. It can be found in full [here](http://www.cms.int/en/document/responding-challenge-emerging-and-re-emerging-diseases-migratory-species-including-highly), <http://www.cms.int/en/document/responding-challenge-emerging-and-re-emerging-diseases-migratory-species-including-highly>.