**LIGHT POLLUTION GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE INCLUDING MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS**

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*(Prepared by COW)*

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**LIGHT POLLUTION GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE**

*Acknowledging* that artificial light is increasing globally by at least 2 per cent per year,

*Recognizing* that artificial light, particularly at night is an emerging issue for the conservation of wildlife, astronomy and human health,

*Further recognizing* that when artificial light contributes to the brightening of the night sky it is called light pollution,

*Alarmed* that artificial light is known to adversely affect many species and ecological communities by disrupting critical behaviours in wildlife and functional processes, stalling the recovery of threatened species, and interfering with a migratory species’ ability to undertake long distance migrations integral to its life cycle, or by negatively influencing insects as a main prey of some migratory species,

*Recognizing* that artificial light at night also provides for human safety, amenity and increased productivity, and sometimes there are conflicting requirements for human safety and wildlife conservation,

*Fully aware* that there are both direct and indirect effects of artificial light that can be detrimental to many migratory species, including changing behaviour and/or physiology, reducing survivorship or reproductive output, or indirect effects on prey species, which has consequences for ecosystem functioning,

*Noting* that there are many documented instances of the negative effect of artificial light on migratory species, including avoidance of marine turtles to nesting on beaches that are artificially lit, migratory shorebirds using less preferable roost sites to avoid lights, and disruption in foraging and fledgling for a number of seabirds,

*Recalling* CMS Decision 12.17 on Marine Turtles that requests the Scientific Council to review relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles, such as climate change and sky glow,

*Recalling* EUROBATS Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution and its Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects (Publication Series No.8), which encourages Parties to avoid or mitigate the negative impacts of light pollution on bats,

*Noting with appreciation* the endeavours of the Australian Government in developing guidance in relation to managing light pollution and identifying a process that can be followed where there is the potential for artificial lighting to affect wildlife,

*The Conference of the Parties to the*

*Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Confirms* that light pollution refers to artificial light that alters the natural patterns of light and dark in ecosystems;
2. *Acknowledges* that both humans and wildlife need the right light, in the right place, at the right time;
3. *Endorses* the Guidelines contained in the Annex to this Resolution designed to aid CMS Parties by providing a framework for assessing and managing the impact of artificial light on susceptible wildlife in their jurisdiction, noting that the Guidelines do not seek to inhibit the benefits afforded by artificial light, where this is necessary for human safety or similar important public interests;
4. *Encourages* Parties, in instances where artificial light is impacting migratory species, to find creative solutions that meet both human requirements and wildlife conservation;
5. *Implores* Parties to manage artificial light so that migratory species are not disrupted within, nor displaced from, important habitat, and are able to undertake critical behaviours such as foraging, reproduction and migration;
6. *Urges* Parties to use the Guidelines to adopt appropriate measures and processes designed to assess if a lighting project is likely to negatively affect wildlife and identify management tools to minimise and mitigate that impact;
7. *Recommends* that non-Parties and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations use and promote the Guidelines to facilitate broad uptake of processes designed to limit and mitigate the harmful effects of artificial light on migratory species; and
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to promote the Guidelines to the CMS Family, including its subsidiary agreements and memoranda of understanding, and more broadly to other relevant multi-lateral environment agreements, as well as relevant regional agreements and programmes;
9. *Recommends* that Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders dedicate more attention to night sky brightness and its monitoring including energy costs linked to nocturnal illuminations;
10. *Recommends* that Parties encourage and support scientific research on the impacts of artificial light on wildlife.

DRAFT DECISIONS

**LIGHT POLLUTION GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE**

***Directed to the Secretariat***

13.AA The Secretariat shall:

1. suggest to its partners that one of the next World Migratory Bird Days should be dedicated to highlighting the effects of light pollution on migratory birds (and also taking into account its effects on bats, marine turtles, insects and other affected animals);
2. prepare guidelines, subject to the availability of resources, on how to effectively avoid and mitigate the indirect and direct negative effects of light pollution for those taxa not yet in the focus of the “Guidelines for Wildlife, including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds” taking also into account other existing guidance as relevant for adoption by COP14.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

13.BB The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

a) consider these issues in its first meeting of the Sessional Committee after COP13, including suggestions regarding how World Migratory Bird Day might be used to highlight the issues associated with light pollution.