



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Rio + 10 Conference)

1. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10) will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 3 to 15 September 2002. The meeting will focus on the 10 year review of the progress achieved to date since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) met in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. UNCED adopted the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles. Concurrently, three instrumental environmental conventions were signed, the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Desertification and Framework Convention on Climate Change.
2. The Summit is expected to bring together thousands of participants including Heads of State, national delegates, NGOs, business and other major groups representatives and will draw the world's attention towards how to address challenging issues, namely improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources
3. A special web site for the Summit has been established at: www.johannesburgsummit.org
4. In its resolution A/RES/55/199 on the "Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", the United Nations General Assembly (GA) expressed its deep concern that despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the Stockholm Conference and the fact that some progress has been achieved, the environment and the natural resource base that support life on Earth continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate.
5. This GA resolution also confirmed the political importance of the forthcoming 10-year review and underscored that the review should address the implementation of Agenda 21, other outcomes of the Conference, as well as the Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its 19th Special Session in 1997 (5 years after the Rio Conference).
6. The GA decided that the review should focus on the identification of accomplishments and areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should focus on action-oriented decisions in areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21. It should therefore address, within the framework of Agenda 21, new challenges and opportunities, and result in renewed political commitment and support for sustainable development, consistent, *inter alia*, with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
7. The GA also decided that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

8. The agreed preparatory meetings at national regional and sub-regional levels were scheduled . Thus far more than 44 preparatory meetings being held in the 5 UN geographic regions which have demanded a significant amount of resource mobilization.

9. The Commission on Sustainable Development has been appointed as the preparatory committee for the Summit and a Bureau composed of 10 members with 2 representatives from each of the geographical groups has been established. In 2002, in addition to the preparatory meetings three substantive events will take place in January and March, where the final agenda for the Summit will be agreed. Main elements to consider for the meetings include matters related to directions and policies for sustainable development, regarded as a progressive and balanced achievement of sustained economic growth, improved social equity and environmental sustainability, while recognizing the importance of environmental agreements for sustainable development. In May 2002 a ministerial level meeting will take place in Indonesia.

10. Even though to date there is no agreed agenda for the Summit, the substantive preparatory meetings are expected to:

- Identify major accomplishments and lessons learned in the implementation of Agenda 21
- Identify major constraints hindering the implementation of Agenda 21 and propose specific time-bound measures to be undertaken, and institutional and financial requirements and identify the sources of such support.
- Address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since UNCED within the framework of Agenda 21.
- Address ways of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and evaluate and define roles and a programme of work of the Commission of Sustainable Development.
- Propose a provisional agenda and possible main themes for the Summit (based on the outcomes of the preparatory activities at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels).

11. The regional preparatory meetings have been producing important inputs to the summit and are highlighting some major problems which impact on matters related to sustainable development:

- Rate of population growth and fertility rates
- Gradual increase in already-high urban population creates greater demands for space and transport infrastructure, generates large quantities of waste and emissions to soil, water and air. Water availability, essential also for biodiversity -- including migratory species -- might be raised as an issue at WSSD.
- Environmental pressures from consumption have intensified and may worsen in many areas
- Transboundary and international environmental problems, namely emissions of greenhouse gases, air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, waste generation, technological hazards and risks to human health caused by harmful chemicals and genetically modified organisms are seen.
- Significant new legally-binding regional and sub-regional environmental conventions and Agreements have come into force, as well as MoUs which are of particular importance to CMS.
- Some conclusions reached underscore that sustainable development is only starting to be put into practice. Short-term concerns still take precedent over long-term principles of inter-generational equity or the precautionary approach. No single-country has fully implemented its declarations about integrating environmental considerations into decision-making. There are still obstacles to promoting dialogue between policy makers and civil society and communicating sustainable development issues to decision makers.

12. Main recommendations in regards to biodiversity include:

- More should be done to protect and restore ecosystems and halt the loss of biodiversity.
- Extending that protection to the wider countryside requires a deeper and effective integration of

environment and biodiversity into agriculture, landscape, forestry, and marine policies, coupled with new initiatives, for example, to develop a soil strategy for Europe.

- More attention needs to be given to establishing and maintaining ecological networks, as well as to protecting the mountain ecosystems, particularly those shared by two or more states.
- In Europe countries of the region were requested to ratify and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- New instruments for the protection and sustainable management of biodiversity, particularly coastal zones and mountain areas, should be developed

13. At the forthcoming Seventh Special Session of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum to be held in Cartagena, Colombia from 13 to 15 February 2002 UNEP's contribution to the World Summit will be discussed. The Executive Director is preparing a report which will include activities of UNEP that are relevant in the context of the World Summit such as information, monitoring, assessment and early warning; environmental law; coordination of environmental conventions; technology, industry and regional activities in the management of the environment (Contained in document UNEP/GCSS.VII/2).

Suggested Actions:

14. The Standing Committee may wish to consider discussing under agenda item 5.4 how best to raise the profile of migratory species conservation within the Rio +10 Conference. In addition to making a statement from the floor and submitting a well-prepared progress report on CMS (which would double as information for COP 7), special studies might be commissioned and presented, for instance:

- case studies that assess the utilization of migratory species at the national level, as well as the economic (and other) values of such activities, and examine the potential for enhancing economic benefits through sustainable utilization (as called for in the CMS Strategic Plan)
- an innovative study of the interactions between climate change and migratory species.

15. The Standing Committee may consider establishing a working group to discuss and prepare these and other possible CMS contributions to the World Summit.