



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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MIGRATORY FRESHWATER FISH

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting
(Bergen, 20-25 November 2011)

Recognizing the obligations of the international community to conserve, protect and manage migratory freshwater fish as underpinned by, *inter alia*:

- a) CBD Decision VII/4 on the revised programme of work of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and in particular goal 1.3 to enhance the conservation status of inland water biological diversity through rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and the recovery of threatened species;
- b) CITES Resolutions Conf. 10.12 (Rev.) on the conservation of sturgeons, Conf. 11.13 on the introduction of a universal caviar labelling system, and Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) setting out a number of conservation management measures, including fishery management programmes, improving legislation, promoting regional agreements, development of marking systems, aquaculture and the control of illicit trade; and
- c) the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, dealing mainly with good practice and policy development for freshwater and marine fisheries as outlined in its General Principles in Article 6, also giving recommendations for trans-boundary cooperation, *inter alia*, in Article 6.12 and Article 7.1.3;

Recalling that CMS currently includes twenty-one species of freshwater fish on Appendices I and II;

Considering that the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and its updated version for the period 2012-2014 foresee under Objective 1 that reviews of status and conservation actions for Appendix I and Appendix II species are to be published at regular intervals;

Taking note of the preliminary discussion on freshwater fish at the 16th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 28-30 June 2010) which recognized that these species were underrepresented on the CMS Appendices and where the Council welcomed the preparation of the review to be presented to its 17th Meeting;

Acknowledging the review of migratory freshwater fish prepared by the COP-Appointed Scientific Councillor (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.31 and UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.33), the work of IUCN in assessing the status of freshwater fish, including maps of their distribution, and the contributions of Paraguay during the 16th meeting of the Scientific Council to identify and prioritize threatened migratory species in the La Plata basin to be listed on the Appendices of the Convention (UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.7);

Recalling that in line with Article II of the Convention, Range States should take action to conserve, protect and manage migratory species, and should endeavour to conclude Agreements to promote the conservation and management of migratory species;

Aware of the significant and continuing decline of freshwater fish populations through a wide range of threats, including overfishing, habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution and barriers to migration resulting in the loss of connectivity between critical habitats;

Taking note of the deficient information on the conservation status, migratory behaviour and ecology of freshwater fish and the need for further research; and

Noting further the importance of cooperation between Range States in furthering research, awareness raising and trans-boundary management of migratory freshwater fish, and that these activities could greatly strengthen conservation outcomes for this group of species;

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

1. *Takes note* of the review of freshwater fish contained in documents UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.31 and UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.33;
2. *Requests* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to strengthen measures to protect migratory freshwater fish species against threats, including habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, overfishing, bycatch, invasive species, pollution and barriers to migration;
3. *Further requests* Parties to improve the monitoring of freshwater fish in order to assess the level of vulnerability of each population according to IUCN Red List criteria and to work collaboratively to improve knowledge of trans-boundary migratory fish in order better to identify species that would benefit from international cooperation;
4. *Urges* Parties to submit listing proposals for those species highlighted in the review as threatened, as well as other species that would benefit from international cooperation;
5. *Requests* the Scientific Council to review further the proposals submitted by Paraguay during the 16th meeting of the Scientific Council for listing the species *Brycon orbignyanus*, *Salminus hilarii*, *Genidens barbatus* and *Zungaro jahu* on the Appendices of the Convention;
6. *Calls on* Parties to engage in international cooperation on migratory freshwater fish, which would focus on CMS-listed fish species, at sub-regional or regional levels, noting that this cooperation should, *inter alia*:
 - a) involve governments where appropriate, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and local communities;
 - b) identify and implement effective measures, as appropriate, to mitigate threats such as habitat degradation, barriers to migration, bycatch and overexploitation; and
 - c) identify viable and practical alternatives to uses of endangered migratory freshwater fish while recognizing the cultural and economic importance of these species for some communities, and ensuring that use is sustainable;
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat to bring this Resolution to the attention of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the CITES Secretariat, to encourage joint action and to explore

future avenues of cooperation with these organizations as well as with Range States of migratory freshwater fish with a view to enhancing protection, conservation and management of these species; and

8. *Further instructs* the Secretariat, resources permitting, to identify relevant international fora that address the conservation of migratory freshwater fish and to organize regional workshops to assess conservation status and recommend priority conservation measures.