

**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Meeting (Rome, 1-5 December 2008)

Concerned that climate change is already known to be affecting the habitat, behaviour, distribution and abundance of migratory species listed under the Convention;

Recognising that due to climate change, ranges of migratory species are changing and that CMS instruments may need to adapt to these variations;

Acknowledging the considerable threat that climate change poses for migratory species and their habitats based upon the findings of the 4th Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its Synthesis Report and Summary for Policymakers, approved in November 2007;

Recognising the role of the Convention in working towards achieving the 2010 biodiversity target under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the need to work collaboratively with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as other relevant UN agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

Recalling CMS Resolution 8.13, which calls upon Parties to implement adaptation measures to reduce the foreseeable adverse effects of climate change on migratory species and requests the Scientific Council to afford climate change a high priority in its future work programme;

Welcoming the report on Climate Change and Migratory Species commissioned by the UK government in 2005 highlighting the specific adverse effects and interactions of climatic change on populations of migratory species, as well as strategies for adaptation as recognised by Resolution 8.13;

Aware of the report on Indicators of the Impact of Climate Change on Migratory Species prepared by the British Trust for Ornithology in 2008, specifically that individual species groups such as Trans-Saharan migrant birds may be a suitable indicator for assessing the impact of climate change on a number of migratory species;

Recognising the need for close cooperation amongst Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the coordination of the activities resulting from the Convention on Biological Diversity COP Decisions VIII/30 and IX/16 on biodiversity and climate change, and Ramsar Convention Resolution VIII.3 and X.24 on climate change and wetlands;

Noting decisions IX/1 and IX/2 of the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD concerning biodiversity and biofuels, and Ramsar COP10 Resolution X.25 on wetlands and biofuels;

Acknowledging recommendation 135 of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

Further noting the ongoing work on climate change within the CMS Family, specifically the establishment of a working group on migratory species and climate change, which was initiated at CMS COP8;

Recalling Resolution 4.14 adopted at the 4th Meeting of Parties to AEWA, which, among other issues urges Contracting Parties to designate and establish comprehensive and coherent networks of adequately managed protected sites as well as other adequately managed sites, to accommodate range shifts and facilitate waterbird dispersal;

Aware that the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and developing countries with small islands, which are important migratory sites for various species of birds, marine mammals, reptiles and fish, are highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change and thus require immediate support including capacity building to address these issues; and

Welcoming the forthcoming “Second Workshop on Cetaceans and Climate Change”, to be convened by the International Whaling Commission;

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

1. *Urges* Parties, despite the remaining uncertainty surrounding the full scale of the impacts of climate change on migratory species, not to delay related decision-making and action;
2. *Further urges* Parties to identify which migratory species are most likely to be directly or indirectly threatened or impacted by climate change or climate change mitigation or adaptation activities, based on best available evidence and by initially assessing Appendix I species and species listed on Appendix II already known to be affected by climate change; and to transmit relevant information to the Secretariat;
3. *Recommends* to Parties to reduce the above-mentioned threats, and to consider the impacts of climate change and land degradation, as well as the positive and negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on migratory species, in domestic land use and development planning;
4. *Further recommends* to Parties to design and implement adaptation strategies for migratory species threatened by climate change or climate change mitigation or adaptation activities, as well as related land degradation, and wherever possible act upon and fully implement advice relating to climate change as provided by the Scientific Council;
5. *Further urges* Parties to foster and promote capacity building to implement conservation action on migratory species threatened by climate change;

6. *Encourages* Parties to assist the Secretariat to establish an open-access database on scientific literature of relevance to climate change and migratory species;
7. *Further encourages* Parties to provide technical and financial support for Small Island Developing States and developing countries with islands to enable them to comply with recommendation 3 of this Resolution;
8. *Further urges* Parties to support increased capacity in the Secretariat to effectively address climate change issues in relation to migratory species, including support for the organization of a workshop at the regional level on climate change and migratory species;
9. *Requests* the Scientific Council, in its future work programme, to prioritise climate change adaptation concerning migratory species and to report back to CMS COP10; and in relation to this work to collaborate with other relevant work ongoing in other MEAs, such as by the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel;
10. *Encourages* other bodies that have relevant expertise on climate change as it affects migratory species to contribute to the work of the climate change working group of the Scientific Council;
11. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue its close cooperation with the Scientific Council, the secretariats and scientific bodies of the CMS daughter agreements, and other biodiversity organizations and biodiversity related bodies, to produce scientific and technical advice to assist CMS Parties introduce adaptation measures to counteract the effects of climate change on migratory species; and
12. *Requests* Parties and the Secretariat to coordinate the incorporation of climate change impacts and relevant adaptation measures into species-specific Action Plans.

