



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 18.2

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

The document provides details on the recent decision to designate the second Saturday of May and the second Saturday of October of each year as the two peak celebration days of World Migratory Bird Day.

The Annex of this document includes proposed amendments to Resolution 11.9 *World Migratory Bird Day* adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (COP11, Quito, 2014).

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

1. World Migratory Bird Day is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. Launched by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in 2006, World Migratory Bird Day has been celebrated each year since and has grown to become an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.
2. On 26 October 2017, a partnership agreement was signed between CMS, AEWA and Environment for the Americas (EFTA), which formally united **International Migratory Bird Day** and **World Migratory Bird Day** in a bid to further strengthen global recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation.
3. In 2018, a decision was made by the three partners to adopt "World Migratory Bird Day" as the single name and brand for the campaign and to align the timing of the campaign, so that World Migratory Bird Day could be celebrated in both May and October each year.
4. Following a practice implemented in the context of International Migratory Bird Day in the Americas for several years, the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October were proposed as the two peak-days for World Migratory Bird Day in both 2018 and 2019.
5. The practice of designating two peak-days each year has been welcomed by many event organizers and has contributed to more opportunities for awareness-raising throughout the calendar year. Having two peak-days for World Migratory Bird Day celebrations has also helped to accommodate repeated requests from southern hemisphere countries, that did not find the previously designated single day in May suitable for organizing World Migratory Bird Day activities in their countries.
6. The Secretariat therefore proposes the following amendments to Resolution 11.9 *World Migratory Bird Day* adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (COP11, Quito, 2014), which will reflect the decision to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day on two peak days each year.

Action requested:

7. The Conference of the Parties is requested to adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 11.9 contained in Annex 1.

ANNEX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 11.9

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

Aware of the importance of communication as a central and cross-cutting element for implementing the Convention and its Agreements;

Underlining the urgent need to raise greater public awareness of migratory birds, the multiple threats they face, the obstacles to their migration and the important role public awareness-raising campaigns can play in encouraging actions to mitigate these threats both nationally and internationally;

Acknowledging ongoing local, national and international efforts of awareness raising about migratory birds and conservation;

Recalling Article IX, paragraph (j) of the Convention which states that it is a function of the Secretariat “to provide the public with information concerning this Convention and its objectives”;

Acknowledging the thousands of World Migratory Bird Day activities which have been carried out globally since 2006 and the dedication of the people and organizations behind them as well as the central role played by the Secretariats of the Convention and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in the organization of the annual campaign since 2006; and

Recognizing the growing importance of World Migratory Bird Day as a key international public awareness-raising campaign dedicated to migratory birds and nature conservation celebrated on the second Saturday in May and second Saturday in October, or when migratory birds are present ~~either in May or~~ at other times of the year;

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

1. *Welcomes* the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day in a growing number of countries;
2. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to consider declaring the second ~~weekend~~ Saturday in May and second Saturday in October of each year as World Migratory Bird Day;
3. *Invites* Parties, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, the United Nations Environment Programme and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to celebrate and raise awareness of World Migratory Bird Day ~~to be held on~~ on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October or at other appropriate times of the year;
4. *Requests* Parties and other relevant donors to provide voluntary contributions towards the annual organization of World Migratory Bird Day on the local, national and international level; and
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to continue to facilitate cooperation and information exchange in support of World Migratory Bird Day.