

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC4)

**INSECT DECLINE AND ITS THREAT TO
MIGRATORY INSECTIVOROUS ANIMAL POPULATIONS**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.10

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP13

- Draft Resolution and the draft Decision recommended for adoption (with proposed amendments).

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Scientific Council recognizes the importance of the decline of insect biodiversity, not only in relation to migratory species but also for ecosystem and human health and supports the intent of the draft Resolution and draft Decision.
- Following the recent increase in awareness about the problem, the amount of scientific literature is growing very rapidly.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Page 2, para. 3

- A variety of taxa are likely to be severely affected by a decline in insect biodiversity, either directly or indirectly as a consequence of the disruption of ecological processes e.g. freshwater fish. It is therefore recommended not to focus attention exclusively on bats and birds.

Page 4, preambular para.

- Add two penultimate preambular paragraphs:
Recalling UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP12) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds* which adopts the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2) including “Recommendations to prevent risk to birds from insecticides used to protect crops” as well as “Noting the objectives of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which promotes the environmentally sound use of hazardous chemicals and shared responsibility to protect the environment from harm”

Further recalling Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12) which adopts the *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)* including a number of actions addressing intensive agriculture

Page 4, para.1(a)

- Modify as follows:
 - a) encourage and support scientific research on the impact of insect decline on migratory insectivorous animal populations, e.g. birds and bats to identify the gaps in research, species specific data collection and monitoring, making use where appropriate of existing monitoring methods, such as developed by FAO and recognised by IUCN

Page 4, para. 1 (b)

- Modify as follows:
 - b) Avoid, including by reduced usage, the detrimental effects of pesticide use on non-target insects as food resource of migratory insectivores in and around areas that are important for the conservation of these species;

Page 4, para. 1 (c)

- Modify as follows:
 - c) promote action programmes for the conservation of insects and restoration of their habitats in consideration of their vulnerability, aiming at the known primary causes of insect decline, especially agricultural pesticide usage;

Page 4, para. 1 (d)

- Modify as follows:
 - d) in general, take a precautionary approach with respect to the use of pesticides, including enhancing efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices, including reduction in usage of damaging pesticides;

Page 5, Draft Decision 13.AA

- Amend the first sentence as follows: “The Scientific Council shall is requested to consider, subject to the availability of resources, ...”
- The amendment proposed above takes into account the fact that the activities requested to the Scientific Council are likely to constitute a very significant body of work, for which adequate resource should be made available.
- Considering that bats are likely to result one of the taxa mostly affected by the decline of insect biodiversity, a close collaboration with Eurobats is recommended to fulfil the mandate provided by the draft Decision.

Page 5, Draft Decision 13 AA (a)

- Information already exists on the main drivers of the loss of insect biodiversity. Besides the review by Sanchez-Bayo & Wyckhuys referenced in the paper, other reviews such as the IPBES assessment, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and others have addressed the issue of drivers of biodiversity loss. Rather than identifying the main factors causing loss of insect biodiversity, it might be more important to identify how those factors operate on insect populations with a view to then understand how those factors affect migratory species.

Page 5, Draft Decision 13 AA (c) and (d)

- Considering the ongoing rapid increase in knowledge, the development and publication of guidelines might be premature, while it might be more important to focus attention on the understanding of the factors at play in insect decline and the cascading effects on migratory species.