



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 28.1

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCERTED ACTIONS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document summarizes progress in the implementation of mandates concerning the implementation of the Concerted Actions Process, contained in Resolution 12.28 *Concerted Actions* and Decision 12.103 and 12.104.

The Conference of the Parties is recommended to endorse the approach proposed by the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council to address the mandate included in Decision 12.103; adopt proposed amendments of the format of Annex 3 of Resolution 12.28; review progress in the implementation of Concerted Actions as reported in documents UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.x; and take decisions concerning the continuation of Concerted Actions still to be completed, including any modifications to the original Concerted Action proposals.

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCERTED ACTIONS

Background

1. Concerted Actions were established by Resolution 3.2 in 1991, which instructed the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to encourage and assist Parties to take such actions to benefit selected Appendix I-listed species.
2. Cooperative Actions were established by Recommendation 5.2 in 1997, in response to the practical limits to the number of Agreements¹ that could be developed and implemented simultaneously for the long list of species on Appendix II. The Recommendation encouraged Parties to undertake *cooperative action* to improve the conservation status of relevant species or populations of species listed on Appendix II, providing for relatively rapid action either as an alternative to an Agreement or as the precursor to one.
3. The 10th and 11th meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP10 and COP11) reviewed the Concerted and Cooperative Actions processes (see documents [UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.36](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.4](#) for details). In [Resolution 10.23](#)² and [Resolution 11.13](#)¹, the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of changes aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the processes. In particular, COP11 decided that the two processes of Concerted Actions (normally for selected Appendix I species) and Cooperative Actions (normally for selected Appendix II species) be consolidated within one process of Concerted Action.
4. Significant progress in the consolidation of the Concerted and Cooperative Actions processes was achieved at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP12), with the repeal of all previous resolutions and recommendations concerning Concerted and Cooperative Actions, and the consolidation of their components still in effect into a new resolution on Concerted Actions ([Resolution 12.28](#)); the adoption of a list of species designated for Concerted Actions during the triennium 2018-2020 including species previously designated for Cooperative Actions and some newly designated species; and the adoption of guidelines for the implementation of the Concerted Actions process.
5. Resolution 12.28 defines Concerted Actions as “*priority conservation measures, projects, or institutional arrangements undertaken to improve the conservation status of selected Appendix I and Appendix II species or selected groups of Appendix I and Appendix II species that*
 - a) *involve measures that are the collective responsibility of Parties acting in concert; or*
 - b) *are designed to support the conclusion of an instrument under Article IV of the Convention and enable conservation measures to be progressed in the meantime or represent an alternative to such an instrument;*”.

The Resolution further specifies that proposals for Concerted Actions may address a single species, lower taxon or population, or a group of taxa with needs in common. The target animals in each case should be clearly defined, including by reference to their status in terms of the CMS Appendices and the geographical range(s) concerned.

¹ In line with Resolution 12.8, the term “Agreement” is used to refer to AGREEMENTS, agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

² Now consolidated in Resolution 12.28 *Concerted Actions*

6. Through Resolution 12.28 the Conference of the Parties also decided to review, at each of its meetings, progress in implementing Concerted Actions, in accordance with the *Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process* annexed to the Resolution.
7. Resolution 12.28 confirms the central role of the Scientific Council in the implementation of the Concerted Action process, notably in advising the Conference of the Parties in the process of designation of species for Concerted Actions and in the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of Concerted Actions. In particular, paragraph 4 of the Resolution requests the Scientific Council to:
- a) *nominate, for each species and/or taxonomic group listed for Concerted Action, a member of the Council or a designated alternative expert to be responsible for providing a concise written report to each meeting of the Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned in accordance with the Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution;*
 - b) *confirm at each subsequent meeting of the Scientific Council that these nominations remain valid or agree alternative nominations as necessary.*
8. COP12 also adopted Decisions 12.103 and 12.104 on *Concerted Actions*, which provide:

12.103 Directed to the Scientific Council

By the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Scientific Council should:

- a) *Determine whether species previously listed for Cooperative Actions, but for which no activity has yet begun, should remain listed in the newly unified Concerted Actions list or be deleted;*
- b) *Review the projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions under earlier Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the criteria included in Step 2, paragraph 2 of the Guidelines to the Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process contained in Annex 1 to UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.28 on Concerted Actions, along with any information about progress towards and impact of implementing those actions. Such review may conclude, inter alia, that the objectives of a given action have been achieved and it has been completed, or that it should continue within the terms of the unified Concerted Actions mechanism (and be added to the list of species accordingly);*
- c) *Report to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

12.104 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *Develop a template to be used by the Members of the Council or alternative experts nominated by the Scientific Council to provide a concise written report to each meeting of the Scientific Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned;*
- b) *Report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 3rd and 4th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

Activities to implement Decision 12.103

9. The Scientific Council addressed the review of the projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions at the 2nd and 3rd meetings of its Sessional Committee. The Sessional Committee observed that for the great majority of species designated for Cooperative Actions up until COP11, the designation had not been accompanied by an identification of conservation objectives and expected outcomes, and a timeframe for their achievement. After considerable debate, the 3rd meeting of the Sessional Committee considered it impossible to undertake any meaningful review of the implementation of Cooperative Actions. It also noted that similar considerations were equally applicable for species designated for Concerted Actions before COP12.
10. For all species designated for Concerted or Cooperative Actions before COP12 and included in Annex 3 to Resolution 12.28 as a measure of transition in the consolidation of the two processes, the Sessional Committee recommended that only those for which a Concerted Action proposal will have been developed according to the guidelines provided by Resolution 12.28 and then endorsed by the Sessional Committee and COP13 will be retained on the list of species designated for Concerted Actions for the triennium 2021-2023.
11. The Sessional Committee deliberations on this matter were reported to the Standing Committee at its 48th meeting by the Chair of the Scientific Council.
12. This approach was communicated to Parties and other stakeholders through Notification 2019/012, which *inter alia* encouraged Parties and other stakeholders with an interest in species designated for Concerted Actions for the triennium 2018-2020 to consider submitting a proposal for a Concerted Action for those species to COP13 according to the process outlined in Resolution 12.28.
13. Proposals concerning species designated for Concerted Actions for the current triennium are summarized in document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.2, and made available in full in documents UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.2.4, UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.2.5 and UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.2.6.

Activities to implement Decision 12.104 and provisions or Resolution 12.28 concerning review of progress in the implementation of Concerted Actions

14. At its 3rd meeting, the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council determined that only Concerted Actions that followed the process for submitting proposals for Concerted Actions set forth in Resolution 12.28, i.e. the proposals submitted to, and endorsed by COP12, could be assessed. The meeting also considered that, to support the review of progress in implementing Concerted Actions by the Scientific Council and the Conference of the Parties, information on implementation was expected to be provided primarily by the proponents of the respective proposals for Concerted Actions.
15. The Secretariat submitted a draft template for reporting on progress in the implementation of Concerted Actions to the 3rd meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 2018). Based on the comments received, the template was finalized and made available to the proponents of the Concerted Actions proposals endorsed by COP12 (provided as Annex 1 to this document). In addition to information on progress in the implementation of the activities foreseen by the Concerted Action, proponents were also requested to indicate whether any revision of the original

16. The reports received are made available as separate documents (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.x). In some cases, the reports are accompanied by proposals for the revision of the original Concerted Action proposal. The 4th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC4, Bonn, 12-15 November 2019) is expected to evaluate progress and make recommendations concerning the continuation and possible revision of Concerted Actions still to be completed.

List of species designated for Concerted Actions for the triennium 2021-2023

17. Based on the approaches agreed by the Sessional Committee outlined here above, the list of species designated for Concerted Actions for the triennium 2021-2023 will be composed of three categories of species: (i) species designated for Concerted Actions by COP12 on the basis of a full proposal, for which activities under the Concerted Action have not been completed and that COP13 will agree to extend to the next triennium; (ii) species designated for Concerted Actions for the triennium 2018-2020 for which a proposal has been submitted in conformity with Resolution 12.28 and will be endorsed by the 4th meeting of the Sessional Committee and COP13; and (iii) species newly proposed for Concerted Actions and for which the relevant proposal will be endorsed by the 4th Meeting of the Sessional Committee and COP13. All other species designated for Concerted Actions for the triennium 2018-2020 will be deleted from the list.
18. The list of species designated for Concerted Actions for a given triennium is included in Annex 3 to Resolution 12.28. The list currently included in Annex 3 is therefore expected to be revised on the basis of the decisions of COP13 concerning the acceptance, amendment or rejection of proposals considered under items 28.1 and 28.2 of the COP13 agenda.
19. Annex 2 to this document includes a proposal for the revision of the format of the table in Annex 3 to Resolution 12.28.

Recommended actions

20. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
- a) endorse the approach proposed by the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council to address its mandate included in Decision 12.103;
 - b) delete Decision 12.103, as its purpose of completing the consolidation of the Concerted and Cooperative Actions processes will have been achieved at COP13;
 - c) adopt the proposed amendment of the format of Annex 3 of Resolution 12.28 included in Annex 2 to this document;
 - d) take note of the template for reporting on progress in the implementation of Concerted Actions included in Annex 1 to this document;
 - e) delete Decision 12.104 as completed;
 - f) review progress in the implementation of Concerted Actions as reported in documents UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.x;
 - g) take a decision concerning the continuation of Concerted Actions still to be completed, including any modifications to the original Concerted Action proposals.

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE [NAME OF THE TAXON]**

UNEP/CMS/ CONCERTED ACTION 12.XX

1. CONCERTED ACTION

Title:

Document number:

This section should contain the reference to the original Concerted Action proposal adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

For an overview of all Concerted Actions currently in effect, please visit: <https://www.cms.int/en/documents/concerted-actions>.

2. [REPORTING GOVERNMENT or ORGANIZATION]

This section is expected to provide information about the government(s) or organization(s), which have contributed to this report.

3. TARGET SPECIES

Class:

Family:

Order:

Species:

This section is expected to provide the scientific name of the taxon that the Concerted Action refers to (as outlined in the proposal).

4. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

This section is expected to include a description of progress, results achieved, possible delays or difficulties in the implementation of each activity, in particular, regarding expected outcomes. (max. 5,000 characters)

Optionally, the table in the attachment may be filled in addition which aims to provide a quick overview of implementation progress of more complex projects.

5. CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL CONCERTED ACTION (IF ANY)

This section should include a description of any significant change to the original plan of activities, including the timelines, and an explanation of the reasons for the change. Changes can include adjustment that have already taken place, or changes that are anticipated at the time of reporting.

(max. 5,000 characters)

See also the table in attachment.

6. REFERENCES (if any)

This section should include references relevant to the implementation of the Concerted Action and which show progress in implementation or impediments (e.g. reports, scientific publications, policy documents, video footage, etc.)

7. ACTION

This section should clarify which next steps should be undertaken: e.g.

- Action completed: Concerted Action can be closed, and the species removed from the list in Res.12.28.
- Action revised (see revised Concerted Action proposal).
- Action renewed – as activities were not yet completed, the Concerted Action should be extended for the following triennium.
- Action cancelled - given the circumstances explained above, the Concerted Action should be cancelled, and the species removed from the list in Res.12.28.

**LIST OF SPECIES DESIGNATED FOR CONCERTED ACTIONS
FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD BETWEEN COP13 AND COP14**

Species (scientific name)	Species (common name)	Other CMS instruments or processes covering the species	Range of the species covered by the Concerted Action	Meeting of the COP that endorsed the proposal
AVES				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
MAMMALIA (AQUATIC)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
MAMMALIA (TERRESTRIAL)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
REPTILIA (MARINE TURTLES)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				

Species (scientific name)	Species (common name)	Other CMS instruments or processes covering the species	Range of the species covered by the Concerted Action	Meeting of the COP that endorsed the proposal
PISCES				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				
(ORDER)				
(Family)				