



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

Apia, Samoa, 6 March 2007

Agenda Item 6.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general principle that the CMS Secretariat acts as the secretariat for Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Pacific Islands Region MoU pursuant to MoU paragraph 17. It also acts as the MoU depositary pursuant to MoU paragraph 16.
2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as depositary and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MoU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MoU's entry into effect on 15 September 2006. Section 2 briefly summarises the need to generate a list of designated competent authorities and contact points.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

3. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the MoU's depositary. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MoU. It keeps the original version of the MoU on file, it notifies the signatories of new signatures and it transmits certified copies of the MoU to the various Signatories and organisations that have signed the MoU.
4. Document UNEP/CMS/PIC-1/Inf/1 notes that as of 8 February 2007 there were nine Signatories to the MoU: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu.
5. The CMS Secretariat and the SPREP Secretariat are actively working together to increase membership in the MoU.
6. In addition, the Secretariat has been working to recruit key international non-governmental organisations actively working on cetacean conservation issues within the region to sign the MoU as collaborating organisations. Four organisations - CMS Secretariat, SPREP, IFAW and WDCS - have signed the MoU as collaborating organisations.
7. By adding their signature to the MoU, collaborating organisations demonstrate their commitment to support the implementation of the MoU and Action Plan. Some of the attributes that would be considered in determining whether an organisation would be invited to sign the MoU as a collaborator include *inter alia*: (1) a long term interest in the particular species; (2) a

demonstrated commitment towards the MoU; and (3) a regional presence or influence, including good relations with Range States and NGOs in the agreement area.

Action requested:

- The Signatories are invited to consider and take note of the Secretariat's brief report concerning the status of signatures and recruitment efforts.
- Representatives of non-Signatory States and Territories eligible to sign the MoU are invited to inform the meeting of their intentions to sign the MoU.
- The meeting is invited to consider ways and means to increase the membership in the MoU.
- Organizations meeting the criteria listed in paragraph 7 above are invited to express their interest in signing the MoU as a collaborating organization.

List of Designated Competent Authorities and Contact Points

8. MoU paragraph 7 invites Signatories to officially designate a competent authority as a focal point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate the name and address of the authority. In addition to this information, it would be useful to receive the name and address of individuals (contact points) within the competent authority with whom the Secretariat could correspond and who would have responsibility for coordinating the MoU's implementation. A Designated Competent Authority and Contact Point Form (UNEP/CMS/PIC-1/Inf/2) was transmitted to all Signatories, with a request to return it as soon as possible to the CMS Secretariat.

9. The list will be maintained by the Secretariat and periodically circulated to the Signatories.

Action requested:

The Signatories are requested to:

- Provide to the Secretariat at the meeting their Designated Competent Authority and Contact Point Form, officially stamped by the relevant Minister or designee, if it has not been already forwarded to the Secretariat prior to the meeting.