



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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## ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CMS FAMILY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

*Appreciative* of the sustained commitment to the CMS Family that has been consistently demonstrated by civil society, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), scientific institutions, independent scientists and independent policy experts in many parts of the world, a commitment recognized in key Resolutions and Recommendations since CMS COP4;

*Aware* that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council at its First Universal session in February 2013 adopted Decision 27/2 on institutional arrangements, inter alia, to explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies including: developing a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation; explore mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice; and consider working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision-making process;

*Recalling* the Convention preamble, which states that the States are and must be the protectors of the migratory species of wild animals that live within or pass through their national jurisdictional boundaries; and that conservation and effective management of migratory species of wild animals require the concerted action of all States within the national jurisdictional boundaries of which such species spend any part of their life cycle;

*Noting* the findings and recommendations of 'A Natural Affiliation: Developing the Role of NGOs in the Convention of Migratory Species Family' (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.15) that responds to a number of activities highlighted in CMS Resolution 10.9 Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family and also mirrors the directions of Decision 27/2 of the UNEP Governing Council;

*Noting also* the report of the Chair of the CMS Strategic Plan Working Group (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.15.2) and CMS Resolution 11.2: Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023;

*Conscious* that many of the CMS Family agreements benefit greatly from a respectful and collaborative relationship with civil society, including CSO and NGO involvement in implementation of conservation activities and also from support of the Governmental processes; and

*Conscious also* that the collaborative relationship could be enhanced to further benefit the CMS Family programme of work;

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

1. *Invites* the CMS Secretariat, Parties, other Governments, CSO and NGO Partners to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society including, inter alia:
  - 1.1 Mechanisms to enable CSO- and NGO-facilitated work to be formally and consistently reported across the CMS Family and to be considered by the Parties and CMS Family agreement governing bodies;
  - 1.2 Models for further CSO and NGO involvement in CMS processes; and
  - 1.3 Modalities for further strategic engagement with CSOs and NGOs to provide implementation and capacity-building expertise;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to present a review of progress and to invite contributions from the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Standing Committee;
3. *Invites* the CMS Secretariat, Parties, other Governments, CSO and NGO Partners to draft recommendations and requests the Secretariat to consolidate those recommendations, and submit them to the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee for further consideration at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
4. *Invites* Partners and donors to consider providing financial assistance to support the review process.