



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/PIC-1/9  
8 February 2007

Original: English

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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 9.0

### NEXT MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. The Signatories are invited to consider when their next meeting should take place. Signatories may wish to consider whether it would be desirable to hold stand-alone meetings for this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), or continuing to hold more compact meetings in the margins of other events, taking into account the experiences gained from the present meeting and the need to ensure adequate representation.
2. Until the Eighth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted a new budget in November 2005, the regular meetings of MoUs concluded under CMS auspices had been financed in-part from dedicated MoU meeting budget lines from the Convention's regular budget. Host governments have typically provided additional in-kind and financial support for these meetings.
3. The situation has changed with the elimination of dedicated MoU meeting budget lines from the CMS triennial budget 2006-2008. Instead, a modest annual sum (approximately 65,000 euros per year) has been allocated to the CMS Secretariat to support agreement development and servicing, though this may be supplemented by the understanding reached during the COP that voluntary contributions would be provided to help support the Convention's implementation in lieu of larger assessed contributions on the Parties.
4. The MoU meeting's core budget was originally estimated at approximately US\$85,000. The German Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU), the Marine and Biodiversity Division of the Australian Department of the Environment and Water Resources, SPREP and CMS have all provided very generous and substantial financial and in-kind contributions to make this meeting possible in Apia.
5. Significant savings for the First Meeting of MoU Signatories resulted from twinning it with a larger series of cetaceans-related events, such as, the CMS Outreach Workshop, the Workshop on Cetaceans and Fisheries Interactions and the SPREP Regional Workshop to Review the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan.

**Action requested:**

The Signatories are invited to consider:

- Expressing appreciation to SPREP for hosting the MoU meeting and to the co-sponsors of the MoU meeting.
- The desirability of holding future stand-alone MoU meetings or compact meetings in the margins of other meetings.
- When the next meeting of the Signatories should take place.
- Any offers to host the next MoU meeting and/or pledging financial or in-kind support.

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