



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June 2010

UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.16

Agenda Item 15.4a

### TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES

*(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)*

#### Introduction

1. Collaboration between CMS and CITES has recently brought about significant progress on the harmonisation of taxa nomenclature among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.
2. This joint effort was initiated in early 2000, and aimed to compare the species list on the Appendices to both Conventions to ensure a common interpretation of their scientific names. The objective of this exercise was endorsed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB, Bonn, May 2008) and noted by the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG, Bonn, May 2008) on the basis of a report from the CMS Secretariat.
3. Within this process of harmonisation of species nomenclature, the CMS Scientific Council has been tasked to consider potential implications deriving from an alignment of the CMS references to those of CITES.
4. At the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, Dr. Ebenhard, the Councillor for Sweden, presented an analysis of taxonomic and nomenclatural changes in the CMS Appendices related to the possible adoption of the reference for mammals adopted by CITES: Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*. Third edition, Vol. 1-2, xxxv + 2142 pp. Baltimore (John Hopkins University Press).
5. At its 15<sup>th</sup> session (Rome, November 2008) the CMS Scientific Council concluded that Wilson & Reeder (2005), should be used as standard nomenclature for CMS terrestrial mammals while Perrin W.F., Wursig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), *Encyclopaedia of Marine Mammals*, Second edition. Academic Press should be considered for marine mammals.
6. The Council also recommended discussing the question of harmonisation of bird nomenclature between CMS and CITES intersessionally with a view to making a proposal to be reported to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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7. These proposals were compiled and formulated in draft Recommendation 9.4 which was submitted and subsequently adopted by the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### Current situation

8. In accordance with Recommendation 9.4, the CMS Scientific Council is now asked to assess possible changes arising from adopting the CITES reference for all bird species (see Table 1 below).

9. Explanations for the selection of the standard reference for birds accepted by CITES can be found in the documents CITES CoP14 Doc. 8.5 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-08-5.pdf>), NC2005 Summary Record ([http://www.cites.org/eng/com/NC/2005/E-NC2005-Sum\\_record.pdf](http://www.cites.org/eng/com/NC/2005/E-NC2005-Sum_record.pdf)) and NC2006 (fauna) Doc. 4.1 (<http://www.cites.org/common/com/NC/2006/E-NC2006-Fa-04-01.pdf>).

10. The Council is also requested to take into account the work of other relevant CMS Agreements in the process of harmonisation of nomenclatural references. Recommendation 9.4 specifically requests the Council to consider the most recent taxonomic information on species of albatrosses and large petrels adopted by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and assess possible consequences deriving from the adoption of the standard nomenclature for the species listed on Annex I of ACAP.

**Table 1. Current and proposed nomenclatural references**

Current nomenclatural references	Proposed nomenclatural references
<p>Morony, J.J, Bock, W.J. and Farrand, J. (1975) <i>Reference List of the Birds of the World</i>. Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York. [for taxonomy and nomenclature at the level of orders and families].</p> <p>Sibley, C.G. and Monroe, B.L. (1990) <i>Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world</i>. Yale University Press, New Haven; and</p> <p>Sibley, C.G. and Monroe, B.L. (1993) <i>A supplement to Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world</i>. Yale University Press, New Haven. [for taxonomy and nomenclature at the level of genera and species].</p>	<p>Dickinson, E.C. (ed.)(2003): <i>The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World</i>. Revised and enlarged 3rd Edition. 1039 pp. London (Christopher Helm) together with Dickinson, E.C. (2005): <i>Corrigenda 4 (02.06.2005) to Howard &amp; Moore Edition 3 (2003)</i> for all bird species.</p> <p>Taxonomic list approved for inclusion on Annex I of ACAP for albatrosses and large petrels.</p>

11. With a view to supporting the Scientific Council work, the Secretariat has conducted a preliminary analysis of the nomenclatural treatment of bird species included in the CMS Appendices according to the new taxonomic references.

12. The format of the analysis made by Dr. Ebenhard on nomenclatural changes for mammals has been used as a basis for identifying changes introduced in Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005).

13. This preliminary analysis was submitted to the Scientific Council Activity Planning meeting, which took place on 13 June 2009. The meeting endorsed the work carried out so far by the Secretariat and requested that the work be continued so that the subject could be discussed at the next Scientific Council. The meeting also stressed that fact that consistent rules on the selection of reference should be adopted and that work made by other organisations, such as BLI and Wetlands International should be considered as well. It was therefore agreed to add another column to the table in the Secretariat's paper to cover Wetlands International nomenclatural treatment at the species level.

14. Both the ACAP Secretariat and its Taxonomy Working Group were consulted. The analysis concerning the taxonomic reference for albatross and petrel species covered by CMS and ACAP, produced by the CMS Secretariat, was submitted to the ACAP's Advisory Committee, held on 13 - 17 April 2010. The Committee agreed that the Taxonomy Working Group should prepare a paper on the merits of the CMS adopting the taxonomy used by ACAP, for consideration at the 16th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council.

15. The final version of the analysis presents four annexes produced by the CMS Secretariat. Annex I includes two tables, which present an analysis of the consequences of choosing the new standard nomenclature for bird species included in CMS Appendix I and II respectively. The first column gives the taxonomic treatment and nomenclature of birds on the current appendices, with notes on particular populations listed, and on taxonomic/nomenclatural changes. Species listed in this column are only those for which there is a nomenclatural change according to the new reference.

16. The second column points out the taxonomic reference now in use, with indications of non-adherence. The third column provides the taxonomic treatment and nomenclature according to Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005) for those cases where there is a new treatment or name.

17. In general, the analysis identifies a certain number of taxonomic and nomenclatural changes between the current reference for bird species and in Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005).

18. In the case of species listed on the CMS Appendices as individual entities, both tables present two options with related notes:

**Option 1** is to accept Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005) as the new standard nomenclature for birds on the CMS Appendices. Column Four of the tables states suggested actions in response to this option.

**Option 2** is to keep the present standard nomenclature, and include notes aimed to clarify correspondence in Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005). Column Five of the tables offers actions proposed to follow option 2.

19. In the case of entire families listed on CMS Appendix II, the second table presents an assessment of treatment according to both Sibley & Monroe and Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda

2005) for each species included in these families. The analysis covers all families which are listed on the CMS Appendices with the exception of “Muscicapidae”.

20. Column Six indicates the taxonomic treatment and nomenclature adopted by Wetlands International (Wetlands International. 2006. Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition) (sequence of families and the treatment of species follow the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (del Hoyo et al. 1992, 1996) except for two families: Grebes which follows the Grebe Specialist Group (O’Donnell & Fjeldså 1995) and Herons, which follows the approaches of the Heron Specialist Group, *Action plan for Herons of the World* (Hafner et al. 2003)).

21. Four different cases of changes were identified by the analysis:

- Case 1: Different name, some species are now considered as included in a different genus or Dickinson uses an accepted synonym as species name;
- Case 2: Same species, but according to Dickinson it includes several more subspecies;
- Case 3: Species splitting - 1 species splits into 2 “new” species; and
- Case 4: Different hierarchy, i.e. changes in the order of *taxa*, thus modifying the number of species covered by CMS Appendices.

22. Annex II presents a comparison of taxonomic and nomenclature treatment at a high taxonomic level, i.e. Order and Family, according to the two current references (Morony et al and Sibley & Monroe), the suggested one, i.e. Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005) and Wetlands International.

23. Annex III is the analysis of two Families listed in CMS Appendices (Anseriformes and Charadriiformes) and changes in number of genera resulting of the adoption of a new reference.

24. Annex IV provides a comparison of taxonomic and nomenclatural treatment for all albatrosses and petrels included in the CMS Appendices, among Dickinson (2003 plus Corrigenda 2005) and the current references adopted by CMS and ACAP.

25. UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.17 is the contribution provided by the ACAP’s Taxonomy Working Group on Taxonomy of albatrosses and larger petrels.

**Actions requested:**

The Scientific Council is invited to:

- a. Consider and give their views on the outputs (Annexes I, II, III and IV) of the analysis of nomenclature of CMS bird species comprising the implications of adopting the new proposed references.
- b. Consider UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.17 on the merits of the CMS adopting the taxonomy used by ACAP.