RESOLUTION 7.8*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Meeting (Bonn, 18-24 September 2002)

Recalling Resolution 6.5 (Cape Town, 1999), which outlines the objectives of the Information Management Plan and identifies the priority actions to be carried out by the end of 2004;

Noting with satisfaction, the progress made by the Secretariat and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in implementing many of the identified priority actions, including a synthesis of the Party reports to CMS and its related Agreements, the design of a standard new reporting format for CMS Parties, and the development of a CMS Information Management System bringing together information from Party reports, knowledge generated within CMS and other biodiversity agreements, and data from various expert organizations;

Acknowledging the generous support by the German Government and all other cooperating institutions to the development of GROMS, which is complementary to the Web-based Information System of UNEP-WCMC and provides information not only for the Convention, its Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, but also for other biodiversity-related conventions with which cooperation is ongoing or intended;

Recognising that the quantity and quality of the information supplied in Party reports needs to be enhanced in order to enable the production of robust, coherent conclusions regarding the results of implementation of the Convention;

Appreciating the potential of the syntheses to bring together in a synoptic manner a wealth of information on the activities, knowledge, strengths and needs of the CMS Parties, and to identify relevant issues across regions or about CMS-listed taxa requiring special attention;

Recognising further that the strength of the conclusions of these syntheses depends crucially on the comprehensiveness and timeliness of the information submitted by all Parties to the Convention; and

Recognising that the Standing Committee, at its 23rd meeting, reiterated the need for linking of GROMS with other CMS databases, that the Scientific Council, at its 11th meeting, linked its information needs to GROMS and that the Secretariat made a proposal for the future of GROMS to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (document UNEP/CMS/Conf.7.7);

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* The original draft of this resolution, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 7.4.

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

1.   *Commends* the development of the new format for Party reports, and *recommends* that after undertaking some necessary fine tuning based on the lessons learned from the voluntary use of the format by many Parties in the production of their 2002 reports, the final version of the format be presented to the 26th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee for final approval and formal adoption;

2.   *Recommends* further that Parties be provided with feedback on the ways in which their subsequent national reports could be enhanced, in line with the guidelines already provided in the new report format;

3.   *Welcomes* the production of the Synthesis of Party Reports, in anticipation of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in recognition of the importance of these documents to the CMS Information Management Plan;

4.   *Encourages* Parties to submit their national reports in a timely and comprehensive manner, to enable the objectives of the CMS Information Management Plan to realise their full potential;

5.   *Commends* the structure, content and presentation of the pilot CMS Information System as an innovative resource tool among biodiversity-related conventions, which will enable CMS to better fulfill its contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and *invites* Parties to use the Information System and provide feedback on its content and presentation;

6.   *Instructs* the Secretariat:

    (a)   to provide technical capacity to facilitate the transfer of knowledge on the application of the CMS Information System to developing countries, to support these countries in their implementation of the Convention more effectively;

    (b)   to continue with the implementation of the remaining actions prioritised in Resolution 6.5, to further develop a flexible CMS Information System, responding to identified needs and, whenever possible, to the feedback provided by users of the System;

    (c)   to continue to take into account the developments implemented by international organizations relevant to CMS, and link to them when necessary in order to promote complementarity and synergy among the information systems of those organizations and the CMS Information System;

    (d)   to take the lead in a process of evaluation of the information needs and appropriate generation and dissemination mechanisms, particularly in developing countries, set up in consultation with different stakeholders, such as key organizations, institutions, and experts. The future of GROMS and its integration into the CMS Information Management Plan should be guided by this consultation group and the Secretariat;

    (e)   to continue to populate the CMS Electronic Library, with information relevant to the assessment of species and regions covered by the Convention; and

    (f)   to consider the possibility of distributing as much information as possible from the CMS Information System and GROMS in a CD-ROM format, in order to facilitate access to this information by Parties that still have difficulties accessing information through the Internet;

7.   *Invites* Parties, organizations and funding agencies to contribute to the further maintenance and funding of GROMS and the Web-based CMS Information System; and

8.   *Encourages* GROMS to strengthen its complementary character and to develop the necessary synergies with other existing databases related, in particular, to that developed by the CBD, as well as the Web-based CMS Information System developed by UNEP-WCMC.

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