



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS REGARDING THE FUTURE SHAPE OF CMS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Meeting (Rome 1-5 December 2008)

Recalling Resolution 8.2 of the Eighth Conference of the Parties (Nairobi, 2005) that adopted the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011;

Noting with gratitude the work undertaken by Parties and the Secretariat to implement this Strategic Plan;

Reaffirming the overall ambition and objectives of this Strategic Plan;

Recognizing that since 2005 considerable progress has been made, which includes *inter alia* one new regional species AGREEMENT and seven Memoranda of Understanding and several others under negotiation, a continued growth in the number of CMS Parties, which has risen from 93 at the time of the eighth Conference of the Parties in November 2005 to 110 at the ninth Conference of the Parties in December 2008, the establishment of working partnerships with NGOs operating from local bases around the world, and a significant growth in the role of the CMS in relation to marine animals;

Welcoming that, due to these positive results, the CMS is steadily becoming a worldwide lead partner in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range;

Acknowledging the review underway within the UN to consider how the Organisation can develop into a more integrated entity, to accomplish system-wide coherence throughout the processes of management and policy development (the “deliver as one” process);

Acknowledging the issues and options outlined in the CMS Secretariat’s papers (ref CMS/StC32/7) prepared for Standing Committee 32 and subsequently;

Considering, however, that alternative options should also be taken into account;

Acknowledging that this will create new challenges for the CMS, its related Agreements (AGREEMENTS and Memoranda of Understanding) and all of the bodies that require in-depth consideration as to what strategies including institutional changes would best support the effective conservation and management of more migratory species in a greater number of Parties and Range States; and

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties may under Article VII.5 (e) of the Convention make recommendations to the Parties for improving the conservation status of migratory species and review the progress being made under AGREEMENTS;

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

1. *Launches* an intersessional process to explore the possibilities of strengthening the contribution of the CMS and the CMS family to the worldwide conservation, management and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range;
2. *Establishes* an ad hoc working group with the task of drafting proposals on the future strategies and structure of the CMS and the CMS family for the Tenth Conference of the Parties in 2011;
3. *Instructs* the ad hoc working group on the future shape of the CMS and the CMS family to take into account the following issues in its deliberations:
 - Possibilities and options to deliver a more integrated conservation programme under a broad umbrella of “CMS Multispecies Initiatives”, for instance, by focussing CMS Initiatives on main migratory species groups and, in this context, consulting with the related agreements and MoUs to see how such an approach could bring synergies and benefits;
 - Possibilities and options for various types of activities, such as the development of new agreements and the implementation of existing agreements;
 - Possibilities and options for strengthening the position of the CMS and Agreement Secretariats in the various regions of the world, which might be affected by the future shape of CMS, in cooperation with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
 - Possibilities and options for ensuring a sound science base of a growing CMS family and the resultant growing responsibility for a higher number of species;
 - Possibilities and options for strengthening the cooperation with other international organizations and with other interested partners, such as business organizations;
 - Financial and institutional implications (including Secretariat issues: staff, relevant competence, etc.) of all possibilities and options, in close collaboration with related CMS agreements;
 - Contents of the current Strategic Plan and the development of a new Strategic Plan 2012-2017, taking into account Strategic Plans of other biodiversity related conventions and related CMS Agreements; and
 - The findings of the open-ended working group on global bird flyways, which will be reviewed at the intersessional meeting of the Scientific Council;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to support the ad hoc working group on the future shape of the CMS; and
5. *Adopt* the terms of references in the Addendum.