

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC4)

**LIGHT POLLUTION GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE INCLUDING
MARINE TURTLES, SEABIRDS AND MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.9.1

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP13

- Recommended the Resolution and Guidelines for adoption.
- However, given the presence of a closely related draft Resolution in COP13/Doc.26.4.9.2, both submitting Parties were asked to consider merging the two documents.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Scientific Council warmly welcomed both the Resolution and the attached Guidelines and congratulated Australia on their initiative.
- Very positive feedback had already been received from a wide range of organizations using the guidelines.
- They were found to be very simple and easy to use.
- It was acknowledged that this was not just a problem within national boundaries, but also affects areas beyond national jurisdiction, such as deep-sea mining.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Draft Resolution:

- Add a reference to the existing EUROBATS Resolution and Guidelines on light pollution.
- Include reference to direct and indirect effects of light pollution.
- Operative paragraph 1: Replace the text with the definition quoted on the InforMEA website: "Light pollution refers to artificial light that alters the natural patterns of light and dark in ecosystems".
- Operative paragraph 4: Delete the word "safety" as follows:
"... solutions that meet both human ~~safety~~ requirements and wildlife conservation;"
- Operative paragraph 8: Delete the reference to "the Western Hemisphere Migratory Shorebird Initiative".
- Operative paragraph 8: Include a reference to the International Seabed Authority, as this problem also affects areas beyond national jurisdiction.

After the initial discussion of the document in plenary, and given the comments requesting the merging of the two related Resolutions, Australia provided the revised Resolution and Decisions contained in Annex 1 and Annex 2 to this document.

ADDENDUM 1 – ANNEX 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

LIGHT POLLUTION GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE

Acknowledging that artificial light is increasing globally by around 2 per cent per year,

Recognizing that artificial light at night is an emerging issue for the conservation of wildlife, astronomy and human health,

Further recognizing that when artificial light contributes to the brightening of the night sky it is called light pollution,

Alarmed that artificial light is known to adversely affect many species and ecological communities by disrupting critical behaviours in wildlife, stalling the recovery of threatened species and interfering with a migratory species' ability to undertake long distance migrations integral to its life cycle, or by negatively influencing insects as a main prey of some migratory species,

Recognizing that artificial light at night also provides for human safety, amenity and increased productivity, and sometimes there are conflicting requirements for human safety and wildlife conservation,

Fully aware that there are both direct and indirect effects of artificial light that can be detrimental to many migratory species, including changing behaviour and/or physiology, reducing survivorship or reproductive output, or indirect effects on prey species,

Noting that there are many documented instances of the negative effect of artificial light on migratory species, including avoidance of marine turtles to nesting on beaches that are artificially lit, migratory shorebirds using less preferable roost sites to avoid lights, and disruption in foraging and fledgling for a number of seabirds,

Recalling CMS Decision 12.17 on Marine Turtles that requests the Scientific Council to review relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles, such as climate change and sky glow,

Recalling EUROBATS Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution and its Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects (Publication Series No.8), which encourages Parties to avoid or mitigate the negative impacts of light pollution on bats,

Noting with appreciation the endeavours of the Australian Government in developing guidance in relation to managing light pollution and identifying a process that can be followed where there is the potential for artificial lighting to affect wildlife,

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

1. *Confirms* that when artificial light contributes to the brightening of the night sky, it is referred to as light pollution;
2. *Acknowledges* that both humans and wildlife need the right light, in the right place, at the right time;

3. *Endorses* the Guidelines contained in the Annex to this Resolution designed to aid CMS Parties by providing a framework for assessing and managing the impact of artificial light on susceptible wildlife in their jurisdiction, noting that the Guidelines do not seek to inhibit the benefits afforded by artificial light;
4. *Encourages* Parties, in instances where artificial light is impacting migratory species, to find creative solutions that meet both human safety requirements and wildlife conservation;
5. *Implores* Parties to manage artificial light so that migratory species are not disrupted within, nor displaced from, important habitat, and are able to undertake critical behaviours such as foraging, reproduction and migration;
6. *Urges* Parties to use the Guidelines to adopt appropriate measures and processes designed to assess if a lighting project is likely to negatively affect wildlife and identify management tools to minimise and mitigate that impact;
7. *Recommends* that non-Parties and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations use and promote the Guidelines to facilitate broad uptake of processes designed to limit and mitigate the harmful effects of artificial light on migratory species; and
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to promote the Guidelines to the CMS Family, including its subsidiary agreements and memoranda of understanding, and more broadly to other relevant multi-lateral environment agreements, as well as the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention, the International Seabed Authority and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

ADDENDUM 1 – ANNEX 2

DRAFT DECISIONS

Directed to the Secretariat

13.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) suggest to its partners that one of the next World Migratory Bird Days should be dedicated to highlighting the effects of light pollution on migratory birds (and also taking into account its effects on bats, marine turtles, insects and other affected animals).

Directed to the Scientific Council

13.BB The Scientific Council should:

- a) consider these issues in its first meeting of the Sessional Committee after COP13, including suggestions regarding how World Migratory Bird Day might be used to highlight the issues associated with light pollution.