



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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Agenda item 11c

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Bonn, 18-24 September 2002

GUIDELINES FOR THE HARMONISATION OF FUTURE AGREEMENTS *(prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. In its note to the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (Cape Town, November 1999) (UNEP/CMS/Conf.6.10) the Secretariat reviewed action that it had taken pursuant to Resolution 5.2 (Geneva, April 1997) on the draft Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Future Agreements. At the time, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Secretariat, the revision of the draft Guidelines had been delayed. Consequently, it had not been possible to consult the draft, as requested by the Conference of the Parties, by correspondence in an open working group of the Parties. Notwithstanding this the Secretariat was then of the opinion that the draft could be used, on a preliminary basis, as a helpful tool for the further elaboration of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU).
2. The Conference of the Parties decided to take note of the revised draft guidelines for the harmonization of agreements; to instruct the Secretariat to proceed as requested in Resolution 5.2; and to request the Standing Committee to supervise the process of finalizing the guidelines, taking due account of the comments made at the current session (para. 147 of the Proceedings of COP6).
3. Since then, Secretariat has not been in position to organise the open working group of the Parties to further examine the draft Guidelines because of lack of capacity. However, during the same period, the Secretariat has supported the development and opening for signature of one formal Agreement (Albatrosses and Petrels) and five MoUs (Bukhara Deer, Great Bustard, Marine Turtles of the African Atlantic Coast, Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-east Asia, and Siberian Crane (revision)).
4. In light of the development of these instruments, and the accelerated number of new instruments that are forthcoming, the Secretariat is now of the opinion that the draft Guidelines need to be substantially reviewed and potentially revised to reflect the current state of the art. This will entail a detailed analysis of the latest tranche of instruments. It should be noted that funds for a consultancy and, as appropriate, other activities, have not yet been calculated in the budget proposal before the Conference (UNEP/CMS/Conf. 7.13.1).

Action requested:

5. The Secretariat proposes that the Conference of the Parties:
 - (i) Take note of the situation;
 - (ii) Decide how to proceed, particularly with regard to additional work to be undertaken, the priority to be allocated to this work, the personnel capacity, the financial resources required to analyse the draft Guidelines and the respective roles of the Standing Committee and Scientific Council.

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