



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



16TH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June, 2010

UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.5/Rev.1

Agenda Item 10.0

SURVEY OF THE EXPERTISE OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

1. The CMS Scientific Council has discussed and lamented at its previous meetings particularly in the context of discussions concerning the *modus operandi* of the Council, the lack of awareness of the collective expertise available among the members of the Council.
2. The Council, having the role of ensuring the provision of effective technical advice to the Convention overall, has expressed the need to review the scientific expertise of its current membership.
3. Information on Councillors' knowledge of geographical areas, groups of migratory species and cross-cutting issues would allow the Convention to benefit more from the expertise of the Council. It would also help the Secretariat to better coordinate and involve the Council members at meetings and especially inter-sessionally, as well as assist new Parties in appointing an expert as member of the Scientific Council.
4. The Secretariat has designed a questionnaire as a main tool to invite the Councillors to express their interest in specific areas of work of the Convention. Information obtained will be used to build a database as a fast and effective means of selecting suitable specialists for future projects, meetings and agreements.
5. A draft questionnaire, a revised version of a preliminary questionnaire which was made available at the 14th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, was presented at the meeting of the Scientific Council Activity Planning (13 June 2009). Participants provided some suggestions and amendments and endorsed the questionnaire.
6. Following inclusion of changes and translation into French and Spanish, the questionnaire (Annex I) was sent to all members of the Council in September 2009. Unfortunately, despite a few reminders, responses were very limited (18 completed questionnaires returned).

Action requested:

- Scientific Council members are invited to complete the questionnaire in Annex I as a basis for a survey to determine the expertise currently available within the Scientific Council.

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