

ADDENDUM 1**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(arising from ScC-SC8)

**ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES
UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.1**

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 11.1)

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee welcomed the substantial work undertaken intersessionally to address the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species.

The Sessional Committee noted the need to update after COP15 the Review of Cross-Cutting Aspects in Annex 1 of the document.

With respect to the proposed amendments to Resolution 11.31, the Sessional Committee expressed broad support for language aimed at strengthening legislative and enforcement frameworks, while cautioning against overly prescriptive wording that could be interpreted as directing Parties' judicial processes.

The Sessional Committee also underscored that science-based monitoring and conservation approaches should include multiple systems of knowledge and proposed small changes to relevant operative paragraphs of the Resolution to that effect.

The Sessional Committee, in proposing a new operative paragraph to Resolution 11.31, expressed support for enhanced engagement with key user groups, including hunting and fishing organisations, as essential stakeholders for improving compliance, reporting, and sustainability.

A Sessional Committee member emphasized that species conservation relies on sustainable use, as this can strongly motivate local communities to protect wildlife. Drawing on his experience, he noted that community-managed hunting using birds of prey promotes the preservation of traditional hunting practices and associated groups, such as falconry communities. This approach also helps deter illegal hunting with birds of prey and reduces illegal international trade in these species.

The Committee also acknowledged that practical implementation of the Resolution and Decisions will be challenging and will require strong collaboration with relevant partners which the proposed Global Initiative on Taking of Migratory Species will seek to mobilize.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Sessional Committee recommends to adopt the draft resolution and decisions with amendments as specified below.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

The following amendment is proposed in paragraph 4 of draft Resolution 11.31 Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory species (page 62 of the document):

Encourages Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders to increase national efforts on population estimates, developing and maintaining management and science-based, including multiple systems of knowledge, monitoring plans for species;

The following amendment is proposed in paragraph 7 of draft Resolution 11.31 Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory species (page 62 of the document):

Urges all Parties to take all necessary actions to prevent the illegal and unsustainable take of CMS-listed species as well as conduct regular ~~legislative~~ reviews to identify gaps in protection, compliance, enforcement and prosecution and ensure that their legislation fully implements the provisions of the Convention, including penalties for wildlife crime that are effective, act as a deterrent, reflect the gravity of the offence, and provide for the confiscation of specimens taken in violation of the Convention ~~and prosecution of offenders and pursuit of any illicit proceeds~~

The following paragraph 8 bis is proposed for addition in draft Resolution 11.31 Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory species (page 62 of the document):

New Operative paragraph 8 bis:

Urges Parties to engage with coordinating bodies of key user groups such as hunting and fishing organisations to increase compliance with the laws and regulations, promote accurate reporting of take, implement sustainability principles, and provide training on species identification

The following amendments are proposed in paragraph 12 of draft Resolution (page 62 of the document):

Calls upon Parties, and non-Parties to support and recognize community-based approaches and approaches based on multiple systems of knowledge that contribute to reducing and ideally eliminating the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species