

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(arising from ScC-SC8)

**OVERVIEW OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE  
CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND ITS SESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.16.2**

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 4.2)

**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT**

The Scientific Council agreed that while it is desirable to establish working groups with time limited duration for each intersessional period where possible, some working groups need to start their work soon after the COP meetings, and not only after the Scientific Council meeting establishes them for a specific intersessional period, which would lead to delay of a number of months. It was therefore suggested that certain Working Groups should remain in place until the Sessional Committee determines that their work is complete, or until an alternative arrangement is made.

The Scientific Council therefore agreed to change the Terms of Reference of the following Working Groups established under the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council:

- a) Working Group on Climate Change and Migratory Species;
- b) Working Group on Taxonomic and Nomenclatural Issues and on Potential Taxa For Listing;
- c) Working Group on Maintaining Lists of Species Listed in CMS Appendices;
- d) Working Group on Ecological Connectivity;
- e) Working Group on Pastoralism.

The following text will be added to the Terms of Reference of these working groups by the Secretariat, or will replace any current text regarding the duration of the working groups:

*“The Working Group will remain in place until the Sessional Committee determines that their work is complete, or until an alternative arrangement is made.”*

The amended Terms of Reference of the working groups listed under a) – d) above will be annexed to the ScC-SC8 meeting report. The amendments to the Terms of Reference of the working group under e) above will be proposed in revised document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.6 *Pastoralism*.