



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 12th Meeting (Manila, October 2017)

Concerned that avoidable detriment to migratory species often occurs through lack of adequate prior assessment of the potential environmental impacts of projects, plans, programmes and policies, carried out in a way that is systematic and formally taken into account in decision-making,

Emphasizing that migratory species are especially in need of international cooperation in this respect owing inter alia to their particular susceptibility to impacts which may be manifest far beyond the territory of the country in which they originate, and to cumulative impacts,

Desirous that migratory species interests be given improved treatment in biodiversity-related aspects of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment,

Conscious that Article I (1) (c) of the Convention defining favourable conservation status, Article II (2) regarding avoiding endangerment of species and Article III (4) regarding protection of Appendix I species all imply a need to anticipate and predict effects,

Aware that many Contracting Parties already operate legal and institutional systems of environmental assessment in various forms, but that most would benefit from international harmonization of guidance on principles, standards, techniques and procedures, and confirmation of their applicability to migratory species interests,

Aware that environmental impact assessment is foreseen in other conventions concerned with biodiversity conservation, and in CMS Agreements,

Further aware that the respective Conferences of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have in recent years adopted or endorsed decisions and guidelines on environmental impact assessment which have relevance to cooperation between those conventions and the Convention on Migratory Species,

Noting in particular that CBD's Decision IV/10c on impact assessment and minimization of adverse effects specifically encouraged collaboration between the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, CMS, the International Association for Impact Assessment and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature on this matter,

Noting also that CBD's Decision V/18 on impact assessment, liability and redress specifically encouraged similar cooperation in relation to the development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into legislation and/or processes on strategic environmental assessment, and included the CMS Scientific Council among those with whom cooperation was requested,

Welcoming the endorsement by CBD COP6 of the “Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment” annexed to its Decision VI/7, and

Desiring as always to maximize synergy and joint working efficiencies between all biodiversity-related Conventions,

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

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of good quality environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as tools for implementing Article II (2) of the Convention on avoiding endangerment of migratory species and Article III (4) of the Convention on protection of Appendix I species, and as important elements to include in AGREEMENTS concluded under Article IV (3) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II species, and in agreements concluded under Article IV (4) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II and other species;
2. *Urges* Parties to include in EIA and SEA, wherever relevant, as complete a consideration as possible of effects involving impediments to migration, in furtherance of Article III (4) (b) of the Convention, of transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns or on migratory ranges;
3. *Further urges* Parties to make use, as appropriate, of the “Impact Assessment: Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-inclusive Impact Assessment” endorsed by Decision VIII/8 of CBD COP 8.;
4. *Further requests* the Secretariat to pursue its contacts with secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements in evaluating with them the potential implications of the decisions of their Conferences of the Parties on the conservation of migratory species; and
5. *Encourages* Parties to establish contact with relevant national contact points from within the networks of the International Association for Impact Assessment with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with migratory species-related impact assessment as part of impact assessment procedures in general.