



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.8

14 October 2019

Original: English

13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 26.4.8

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 12.72 to 12.74 on Climate Change and Migratory Species, and to undertake activities on the subject of climate change and migratory species implementing provisions of Resolution 12.21 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*.

The document proposes the deletion of Decision 12.73 and the renewal and amendment of Decisions 12.72 and 12.74.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, 2017) adopted [Resolution 12.21](#) *Climate Change and Migratory Species* and Decisions 12.72 to 12.74 on *Climate Change and Migratory Species*. Decisions 12.72 to 12.74 provide:

12.72 Directed to the Parties and the Scientific Council

Parties and the Scientific Council are requested to report on progress in implementing the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, including monitoring and the efficacy of measures taken, to the 13th and 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ensuring as far as possible integration into the national reports for CMS.

12.73 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall ensure the integration of elements of the Programme of Work into the Companion Volume of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species to ensure mainstreaming of climate change, avoiding duplication, enhancing synergies and cooperation.

12.74 Directed to the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council should provide advice on how the interpretation in Paragraph 9 of UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.21 on Climate Change and Migratory Species could be turned into pragmatic good practice.

2. A few activities on the subject of climate change and migratory species implementing provisions of Resolution 12.21 were also included in the Programme of Work for 2018 – 2020 annexed to [Resolution 12.2](#) *Financial and Administrative Matters*.

Activities to Implement Decision 12.73 and Resolution 12.21

3. The Secretariat undertook an analysis of the information provided by Parties in their national reports concerning the implementation of Resolution 12.21. At the time this document was being finalized, information on the implementation of Resolution 12.21 was included in only 5 national reports out of the 85 submitted to the Secretariat. The information provided was very diverse and did not include any specific reference to the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species annexed to Resolution 12.21. The Secretariat considered the information too limited and diverse to allow any meaningful consideration on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species.
4. Within the process of updating the Companion Volume of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 to take into account the outputs of COP12, the Secretariat undertook a detailed analysis of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species in relation to the targets of the Strategic Plan. Relevant sections of the Programme of Work have been included in the online version of the Companion Volume available at <https://www.cms.int/en/page/spms-companion-volume-online-version>. The Secretariat considers Decision 12.73 fully implemented and proposes its deletion.

5. The Third meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC3, Bonn, 2018) included the consideration of Decision 12.74 in its Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP12 and COP13. Climate change and migratory species will be discussed during the Fourth meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC4, Bonn, 12-15 November 2019). Possible recommendations of the Sessional Committee to COP13 on this matter are expected to be provided as an addendum to this document after ScC-SC4.
6. With respect to climate change-related activities included in the Programme of Work for 2018 – 2020 annexed to Resolution 12.2, no implementation was possible due to a lack of funding. In particular, no meeting of the Climate Change Working Group of the Scientific Council could be convened, and no progress could be made in (i) the development of a baseline curriculum for webinars and e-learning courses to build capacity on climate change and migratory species among natural resource professionals and decision makers; (ii) undertaking a review of evidence for climate change impacts on migratory species and an assessment of migratory species vulnerability to climate change; (iii) the development of guidelines for adaptation measures.
7. With a view to promoting the establishment of climate-resilient networks of sites for migratory species the Secretariat, jointly with Wetlands International, led the development of a project concept titled 'Climate Resilient Flyways Asia: Developing a climate resilient network of important sites in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway and the Central Asian Flyway for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the context of climate change and climate change adaptation'. The concept was submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) of the Government of Germany by Wetlands International as lead implementing organization of a consortium that includes the CMS Secretariat, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat, the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative and BirdLife International as other implementing partners and the Governments of China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines as political partners. At the time this document is being finalized the concept is under consideration by IKI under its Thematic Selection for 2019. Should the concept be selected, the consortium will receive a grant for the development of a full project proposal.
8. Following a recommendation of the meeting of the Climate Change Working Group of the Scientific Council held in 2017, the Secretariat has been working on the development of a series of fact sheets aimed at illustrating actual and projected climate change impacts on selected migratory species and some of their critical habitats. Eleven fact sheets have been developed and are being factchecked by external experts. Progress on this initiative in being supervised by the chair of the Climate Change Working Group and COP-appointed councillor for climate change, Prof. Colin Galbraith, with support from Dr. Mark Simmonds. It is anticipated that the fact sheets be finalized in time for their presentation at COP13.

Discussion and analysis

9. Based on the review of national reports mentioned in paragraph 3 above, and irrespective of any possible additional information that could be gathered through late submissions of national reports, the Secretariat considers the template for national reports not specific enough to trigger reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species in sufficient detail and structure to draw any conclusions. Based on this consideration, a revision of Decision 12.72 is proposed in the Annex.

10. While some progress in undertaking the action requested by Decision 12.74 is expected by ScC-SC4, it is anticipated that the action will not be completed by COP13 and therefore its renewal is recommended.

Recommended actions

11. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) take note of this document;
 - b) delete Decision 12.73;
 - c) adopt the draft Decisions contained in the Annex of this document which amend Decisions 12.72 and 12.74.

ANNEX

DRAFT DECISION(S)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Directed to the Parties and the Scientific Council

13.AA (12.72) Parties and the Scientific Council are requested to report on progress in implementing the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, including monitoring and the efficacy of measures taken, to the 13th and 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ensuring as far as possible integration into the national reports for CMS based on the questionnaire referred to in Decision 13.BB below.

Directed to Secretariat

13.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) develop a questionnaire or similar tool aimed at assessing the implementation of the Programme of work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, in consultation with the Scientific Council;
- b) circulate the questionnaire to Parties;
- c) compile the responses received through the questionnaire mentioned above in a report, and submit such report to the Sessional Committee at its 6th meeting for review and to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration;

Directed to the Scientific Council

13.CC (12.74) The Scientific Council should provide advice on how the interpretation in paragraph 9 of UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.21 on Climate Change and Migratory Species could be turned into pragmatic good practice.