



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FOURTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO
THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR
HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

5-6 August 2021, *Online*

OPTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat and SPREP)

1. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was initiated after the 2nd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS2) of the CMS Pacific Cetaceans MOU in 2009. At this meeting Cara Miller, supported by WDCS, was endorsed as the Coordinator and entrusted with making progress on this body.
2. In November 2010 a call for nominations to the TAG was circulated to all Signatories. This call indicated that experts could be from any discipline that Signatories anticipated they might seek assistance in progressing the CMS Pacific Cetaceans MOU. Nine nominations were received.
3. At MOS3 in 2012, the Coordinator and WDCS reported that they would be happy to continue coordinating the TAG until MOS4. However, due to personnel changes in WDCS this arrangement had to be discontinued.
4. Going forward, the Secretariat would like to propose two options for the organisation of TAG:
 - a. PIC MOU to re-establish the TAG. The availability of previously nominated members would need to be verified. This would potentially require new nominations. A Chair or Coordinator would need to be elected from volunteers within the TAG.
 - b. The Aquatic Mammals Working Group (AMWG) of the CMS Scientific Council to act as the TAG for PIC MOU. AMWG currently has 75 members from all over the world, with expertise in all relevant cetacean species and many of the topics of concern. The AMWG is currently chaired by the COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals, Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara.
5. The meeting is invited to discuss the two options and advise on their preferred way forward.