



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



1st Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC1)

Bonn, Germany, 18 – 21 April 2016

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC1/Doc.6.1

CONCERTED AND COOPERATIVE ACTION

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary

Through [Resolution 10.23](#) and [Resolution 11.13](#), the Conference of the Parties made a series of decisions and recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Concerted and Cooperative Actions processes. In particular, COP11 recommended that the two processes be consolidated.

The present document summarizes the mandate to the Scientific Council in the consolidation process.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

CONCERTED AND COOPERATIVE ACTIONS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Concerted Actions were established by COP Resolution 3.2 in 1991, which instructed the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to encourage and assist Parties to take such actions to implement the provisions of the Convention, and initiated a process for each meeting of the COP to recommend initiatives to benefit a selected number of Appendix I species.
2. Cooperative Actions were established by COP Recommendation 5.2 in 1997, in response to the practical limits to the number of Agreements that could be developed and implemented simultaneously for the long list of species on Appendix II. The Recommendation encouraged Parties to undertake *cooperative action* to improve the conservation status of relevant species or populations of species listed on Appendix II; providing for relatively rapid action either as an alternative to an Agreement or as the precursor to one.
3. The 10th and 11th meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CMS kept the Concerted and Cooperative Actions processes under review (see documents [UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.36](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.22.4](#) for details). Through [Resolution 10.23](#) and [Resolution 11.13](#), the Conference of the Parties made a series of decisions and recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the processes. In particular, COP11 recommended that the two processes of Concerted Actions (normally for selected Appendix I species) and Cooperative Actions (normally for selected Appendix II species) be consolidated.
4. To effect this consolidation, all future proposals (from COP12 onwards) would be made for Concerted Actions only. The Concerted Actions mechanism would be applicable to both Appendix I and Appendix II species, and its scope would broaden to include all of the kinds of activity previously pursued through Cooperative Actions, as well as those normally pursued through Concerted Actions. The Cooperative Actions mechanism itself would cease to exist.
5. The Scientific Council is expected to play an important role in the transition to the new consolidated process. In particular, the Council is expected to review the case of species previously listed for Cooperative Actions, but for which no activity has yet begun, to determine whether each such species should remain listed in a new unified Concerted Actions list, or be deleted. Projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions under earlier COP decisions would continue unaffected. These too however would be subject to review by the Scientific Council. Such reviews may conclude, *inter alia*, that the objectives of a given action have been achieved and it has been completed, or that it should continue within the terms of the unified Concerted Actions mechanism. The present meeting may wish to discuss and decide how to undertake these reviews, with a view to deliver its advice for the consideration of to the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting.
6. The list of species designated for Cooperative Actions, as contained in Annex 2 to Resolution 11.13, includes 56 taxa. A significant undertaking within the review process is expected to be represented by the compilation of information on actions undertaken by Parties and other

stakeholders in response to the designation of these taxa for Cooperative Actions. Of relevance to this task, Resolution 10.23 requests the Scientific Council to nominate, for each species and/or taxonomic group listed for Concerted or Cooperative Action, a member of the Council or a designated alternative expert to be responsible for providing a concise written report to each meeting of the Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned. It also requests the relevant COP-appointed Councillors to liaise with relevant experts including those nominated as focal points for Concerted and Cooperative actions to produce a concise written report providing a synthesis of issues for each taxonomic group to each meeting of the Scientific Council.

7. Within its consolidated mandate to recommend species to be designated for Concerted and Cooperative Actions to the Conference of the Parties, the Sessional Committee may also wish to discuss and agree on a process aimed at identifying candidate species to be considered for designation for Concerted Actions by COP12, as well as action to take in response to Concerted Action listing, taking fully into account the recommendations summarized in Annex 3 to Res. 11.13.

Action requested:

The Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council is invited to

- i) Discuss and decide how to undertake the reviews of species designated for Cooperative Actions, with a view to deliver its advice for the consideration of to the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting;
- ii) Agree on a process for the identification of candidate species to be considered for designation for Concerted Actions by COP12, as well as action to take in response to Concerted Action listing.