



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

23rd Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee

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PRELIMINARY LIST OF POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepared by the Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties will, as usual, have before it a number of more or less standard resolutions and recommendations for consideration. The Standing Committee is invited to review the provisional list below, and to propose additional resolutions or recommendations, as necessary, or to contribute ideas to the substance of those already mentioned. This list does not yet reflect possible initiatives from Parties, collaborating organizations, or other organs of CMS. Nor does it mention a number of resolutions whose elaboration requires further reflection, such as the possible endorsement of the CMS Headquarters Agreement that is expected to have been concluded by that time, and the idea of having amendments to the CMS Appendices confirmed by way of resolution.

I. STANDARD RESOLUTIONS

Concerted Actions for Appendix I Species

Recommendations on the continuation of concerted actions and preparation of review reports for species identified for this purpose by previous COPs, and on the possible designation of new species to be the subject of concerted actions are expected to arise from the 11th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council which will take place just before COP7. Note also that Operational Objective 2.4 of the Strategic Plan, calling for concrete instruments for the protection and recovery of all *existing* Concerted Action species to be in place by COP8.

Financial and Administrative Matters

Standard resolution to adopt the budget for the forthcoming triennium. Consideration might be given to mentioning the role of the Standing Committee in the development, presentation and defense of future budget proposals.

Institutional Arrangements: Standing Committee

This matter having been thoroughly reviewed at COP6, a resolution at COP7 is not considered necessary.

Institutional Arrangements: Scientific Council

Such a resolution should cover *inter alia* possible changes in the Conference-appointed councillors (in this regard Dr. Michael Moser, appointed councillor for waterbirds/wetlands, already expressed his intention not to stand for a new mandate) and in the list of bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings of the Council. Moreover, there could well be important decisions taken about the functioning of the Scientific Council (see also the review Strategic Plan Operational Objective 4.3), though these might not warrant formal adoption through a resolution.

Date, venue and funding of the Eighth Meeting of the conference of the Parties

This is basically a routine point. However it would be highly desirable if the venue for the next meeting of the COP could be confirmed already during COP7, on the basis of a formal offer by a CMS Party. To this end the Secretariat will make contact with Parties having expressed interest in this regard, with a view to securing a decision of the relevant government to make an official offer at COP7 to host the next meeting. The Secretariat proposes to invite all member States to give consideration to this matter before the COP so that those interested in hosting the meeting come to Bonn with the necessary mandate.

II. STANDARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Co-operative actions for Appendix II Species

Recommendations for the continuation of co-operative actions for species identified for this purpose by previous COPs, and for the possible designation of new species to be the subject of co-operative actions are expected to arise from the 11th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council.

III. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee is also invited to consider whether or not additional proposals for resolutions and recommendations of the COP should be prepared in relation to *inter alia* the following issues.

Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species

A Strategic Plan for CMS for the period 2000-2005 has been adopted by COP6 by way of Resolution 6.4. COP7 will certainly be invited to take stock of the progresses made in the implementation of the Plan and where appropriate provide guidance to its further implementation, through an appropriate resolution. It might in particular acknowledge the importance of developing further Performance Indicators to measure the success of the Convention.

Information Management Plan and National Reporting

An Information Management Plan for CMS for the period 2000-2005 has been adopted by COP6 by way of Resolution 6.5. As for the Strategic Plan, COP7 should take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Plan and where appropriate provide guidance to its further implementation through an appropriate resolution. In particular, COP7 might be invited to endorse a revised format for the preparation of national reports.

Reporting on By-catch

In relation to the implementation of Resolution 6.2, the 10th meeting of the Scientific Council (Edinburgh, May 2001) suggested that a resolution or recommendation addressing data collection on the problem, and notably the reporting of by-catch be adopted by COP7. Beyond this, it would be appropriate for the COP to review Res. 6.2 in its entirety and to recommend further implementation measures.

Small Cetaceans and Manatees in West Africa

Work has started on the preparation of an Action Plan for the conservation of small cetaceans and manatees of tropical West Africa. It follows one of the recommendations of the CMS-sponsored workshop "Conservation and Management of small cetaceans of the coast of Africa" (Conakry, Guinea, May 2000). The initiative was presented to the 10th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, where it was well received by the Councillors from the Range States present, who expressed their general support towards its continuation. COP7 might consider to issue a specific recommendation in support of this initiative.

Southern Africa Breeding Seabirds

Evolving from an initial project to develop an agreement for the African Penguin (species recommended for co-operative action by Recommendation 6.2) the initiative has been developed to include 15 species of seabirds in southern Africa (Angola, Namibia, South Africa). COP7 might consider to issue a specific recommendation in support of this initiative.

Taxonomy of the Right Whales

The Scientific Council at its 10th Meeting discussed and endorsed the recommendation of the appointed councillor for cetaceans to adopt a new taxonomy for the Right Whales, recognizing three species of right whales rather than the two appearing in the CMS Appendices. COP7 will be invited to endorse this recommendation through an appropriate recommendation.

Asian Large Herbivores

A new field of possible activities in this area arises from the growing membership of Asian countries in CMS and cooperation of CMS with international organizations and Party authorities. COP7 will be invited to endorse the action intended by the Secretariat.