



Convention on Migratory Species

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/PIC2/Doc.6-01
22 July 2009

Agenda Item 6.1

SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES
Auckland, New Zealand, 28-29 July 2009

PROGRESS OF REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The Pacific Cetacean MoU recognises that knowledge of the biology, ecology, migrations, population abundance and conservation status of many cetaceans is deficient for many populations that frequent the waters of the Pacific Islands Region.
2. It is known that the conservation status of these cetaceans, particularly those that have been severely depleted, can be affected by factors such as directed take and by-catch, degradation and disturbance of their habitats, chemical and noise pollution, decline in food availability, use and abandonment of fishing gear, ship-strikes, climate change and ozone depletion.
3. To assist Signatories to conserve these species, the Pacific Cetaceans MoU aims to facilitate the rapid exchange of scientific, technical and legal information necessary to coordinate conservation measures. The MoU recognises that cooperation with recognised experts and collaborating organisations can also help to facilitate this work.
4. The First Meeting of the Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU (Apia, March 2006) endorsed the further development of a concept to provide scientific and technical advice to the MoU. A report of the intersessional process to further this area is tabled in Doc6-02: *Report of the Intersessional Discussion on the Establishment of an Open-Ended Technical Advisory Group to Support the Pacific Cetaceans MoU*.
5. The Secretariat has also tabled Doc8-02: *Collaboration between Cetacean Related Agreements* which speaks to a need to create greater linkages and synergies within the CMS Family, and the request from CMS CoP9 for the CMS Secretariat to consider options such as promoting joint priorities, the sharing of technical expertise and resources and holding joint meetings between species agreements.
6. A number of important information reports from Signatories and Collaborating Organisations have also been tabled for consideration by this meeting under this agenda item.
7. Acknowledging that all of the documents tabled for consideration or information under agenda 6 contribute to the exchange of scientific, technical and legal information and that Doc 6-02 and 8-02 each propose processes that may benefit the work of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU, it seems appropriate that the Secretariat should continue to compile this information together for each meeting of the Signatories under an agenda item specifically focusing on this area of MoU development.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Seek any clarification that might be necessary; and
- Request that the Secretariat regularly report on the progress of regional scientific and technical knowledge at future meetings, maintaining an agenda item specifically focusing on this area of MoU development