



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR
HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
Noumea, New Caledonia, 8 September 2012
Agenda Item 5.2

DETERMINING A REPORTING MECHANISM FOR THE PACIFIC CETACEANS MOU

(prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Paragraph 8 of the of the Pacific Islands Cetaceans Memorandum of Understanding (Pacific Cetaceans MoU) states that Signatories will provide to the Secretariat a regular report on their implementation of this MoU. Such reporting is important so as to identify progress, areas of concern as well as indicate the Signatories' commitment to the implementation of the MoU and Action Plan.

2. At the Second Meeting of the Signatories (Auckland, 2009) the 'National implementation report of Signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation of cetaceans and their habitats in the Pacific Islands Region' was discussed. This tabular model was based on the CMS National Reports, with which CMS Parties would be familiar. However, some concerns were raised by the meeting participants including:

- Certain questions being more appropriate for birds / terrestrial animals;
- Recognition of the desire to emphasize cultural relationships which exist between people and cetaceans of the Pacific;
- Accommodation of reporting from Territories;
- Inclusion of a table of all cetacean species reported in the Pacific and by Signatories with the opportunity to list species reported in national waters.

3. A Working Group was given the task of reviewing the report format and concluded that it would be preferable to simplify and shorten the process to engage non-CMS members. Additionally, it was noted that the objective of the reports would be to fulfil CMS requirements, but additionally, deliver a systematic reporting of cetacean species and conservation / management efforts undertaken in the region under the MoU.

4. For CMS COP10, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) produced a document entitled "*Preliminary implementation report of the Signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region*" which was published as UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.18.9 (http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/docs_and_inf_docs/inf_18_09_pic.pdf). It mirrored the

national report format to support Pacific CMS Parties with their national reports to COP10, while making attempts to harmonize information collected through other CMS processes for the purposes of reporting against the Pacific Cetaceans MoU.

5. An additional review of progress and attempt to encourage reporting were made at the Review Meeting for the SPREP Regional Marine Species Action Plans in March 2012. The process of how this was undertaken and the results generated are referred to in CMS/PIC/MoS3/Doc.3.2.

6. An assessment of 'reporting ease' has yet to be undertaken with national government agencies and Collaborating Organizations (COs) who had populated the above-mentioned review templates.

7. The Secretariat and the Technical Advisory Group, together with interested Signatories, plan to undertake further consultations on this issue. They will review the templates disseminated prior to the March 2012 meeting, the national report format tabled at the Second Meeting of the Signatories, methodology of collecting data for the Preliminary Implementation report submitted to CMS COP10 and design a format that would capture efforts made under the MoU and Action Plan. This would be done in line with current efforts in the region to review NBSAPs and establish streamlined national reporting mechanisms.

Action Requested:

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

- Seek any clarification that might be necessary.
- Suggest possible mechanisms for improved reporting against the MoU.
- Instruct the Secretariat to undertake the consultation with TAG and other interested Signatories to develop a reporting format and determine a mechanism for consistent submissions.