



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR  
HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION  
Apia, Samoa, 6 March 2007  
Agenda Item 8.2

## SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVICE

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. MoU paragraph 7 notes that Signatories may consider at their meetings suitable organisations to provide technical advice to support the MoU's implementation.
2. A breakout group first considered the issue during the Third Workshop on the Convention on Migratory Species & First Drafting Group Meeting on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (Nadi, 5-7 July 2005). The Nadi meeting report, and draft terms of reference for an MoU Technical Advisory Group prepared by the breakout group in Annex 7 to the Nadi report, is available from the CMS website at:  
  
< [http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/fiji/3rd\\_marine\\_mammal\\_workshop\\_fiji.htm](http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/fiji/3rd_marine_mammal_workshop_fiji.htm) >.
3. The CMS Secretariat has further refined the Nadi proposal for the consideration of the MoU meeting. Draft terms of reference are attached as an annex to this note.
4. The Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG) would be an open-ended ad hoc group of scientific bodies, intergovernmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations and invited individual experts with a mandate to deliver quality scientific and technical information and advice to the MoU and its Signatories.
5. The TAWG would be a freestanding and self-coordinated network of expertise created to support the MoU's implementation. The MoU Meeting of Signatories would request scientific and technical advice from the TAWG, as needed, on particular issues.
6. The TAWG would determine its modus operandi. The TAWG would operate at no cost to the MoU or the Convention on Migratory Species.

### **Action requested:**

The Signatories, and as appropriate other meeting participants, are invited to:

- Consider the need for scientific and technical advice to be provided to the MoU to support implementation.
- Provide comments on the need for a TAWG and its terms of reference.
- Consider endorsing any offers to coordinate it.

## Draft Terms of Reference for the Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG)<sup>1</sup>

### Objective

The TAWG will support the implementation of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and its Action Plan by establishing a coordinated framework of interested organisations and individual invited experts to deliver quality scientific and technical information and advice to the MoU.<sup>2</sup>

### Modus operandi

The MoU's Meeting of the Signatories will provide requests to the TAWG as needed.

The TAWG will determine its modus operandi, including its coordination, frequency of meetings<sup>3</sup> and the means to liaise with the MoU Secretariat and MoU Coordinator.

The TAWG will operate at no cost to the MoU or the Convention in Migratory Species.

### Participation

Membership will be open-ended.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Annex 7 of the Report of the Third Workshop on the Convention on Migratory Species & First Drafting Group Meeting on a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region.

<sup>2</sup> The mandate for the Meeting of the Signatories to consider the provision of scientific and technical advice to the MoU is found in MoU paragraph 17: "The signatories may also consider at their meetings suitable organizations to provide technical advice to support the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding."

<sup>3</sup> The TAWG could coordinate its activities by email and, where possible, opportunistically with face-to-face meetings. It could also meet in advance of MoU meetings to coordinate its inputs into those meetings depending on the requests from the Meeting of Signatories.

<sup>4</sup> Bodies that may be interested in participating or could be invited to participate:

- Scientific bodies: SPWRC, USP, SCU, SPC, IUCN CSG, University of Auckland.
- International NGOs: CI, IFAW, IUCN, TNC, WDCCS, WWF.
- Intergovernmental Organisations: SPREP, CMS.
- Individual invited experts.