

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

**IMPROVING WAYS OF ADDRESSING CONNECTIVITY IN THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES**
UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.11

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

The COP is recommended to:

- adopt the Draft Resolution;
- adopt the Draft Decision.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The importance of considering obstacles to migration that are not physical in nature was stressed; supporting the references in the Draft Resolution in this context to factors such as disturbance, habitat fragmentation and discontinuities in habitat quality.
- It was suggested that it would be useful to be able to draw attention to examples of real-life cases where connectivity has been a biological success. It is hoped that this will feature in the document *Migratory animals connect the planet: the importance of connectivity as a key component of migration systems and a biological basis for coordinated international conservation policies* to be presented to the COP as document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.20.
- CMS Ambassador Ian Redmond informed the meeting of an initiative to launch a mobile phone application demonstrating migratory species connectivity issues with examples such as swifts in Africa; which should be available by the time of the COP.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- BirdLife International suggested an amendment to refine the 4th preambular paragraph in the Draft Resolution (Annex 1, page 5), since it could be read as implying that all migratory species have a role as ecological keynote species, yet this is not necessarily always the case. The paragraph however is referring to the exact wording of text in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, and since that has already been adopted by the COP, BirdLife did not press their suggestion further and no change is proposed.
- The Zoological Society of London requested the inclusion of the following decision into the decisions contained in Annex 2:

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,

“Prepare an analysis of linear barriers to migratory species in Africa (including linear infrastructure developments and large scale private and public fencing initiatives) in order to develop policy guidance for African countries, building on the experience and lessons learned in the implementation of guidelines on linear infrastructure for Central Asia.”