



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 26.4

LIGHT POLLUTION AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the EU and its Member States)

Summary:

Artificial light at night is increasing worldwide with detrimental effects for migratory species such as bats, birds and marine turtles as well as for insects which constitute an important food resource for many species. This proposal aims to raise awareness of this issue, in particular by using World Migratory Bird Day. It furthermore includes the invitation to Parties to address this issue and, in that regard, it is proposed that a process for the development of guidelines is commenced.

Implementation of the attached draft Resolution and Decisions will contribute towards the implementation of targets 1 and 7 of the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023 (as revised at COP12).

LIGHT POLLUTION AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. Artificial light is increasing worldwide at a fast pace, with detrimental effects for migratory species such as bats, birds and marine turtles – in particular during their migration – or insects, which serve as a main food resource for a plethora of species including numerous migratory taxa. However, there is a lack of awareness of these negative effects and international guidance supporting mitigation and avoidance measures with particular focus on migratory species is insufficient.

Discussion and analysis

2. As a new topic for CMS requiring mandates for the Secretariat and the Scientific Council, this issue should be dealt with by the Conference of the Parties. So far only EUROBATS has addressed the issue of light pollution through its Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution, albeit with a specific focus on bats. Addressing the issue at the level of CMS allows a more effective and synergistic approach, for example by identifying mitigation measures which could reduce the effects of light pollution across a range of different migratory species.

Recommended actions

3. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to adopt the draft Resolution and Decisions contained in Annexes 1 and 2 of this document.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

LIGHT POLLUTION AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Acknowledging the value and relevance of natural light rhythms and levels for the health of humans and wildlife or ecological processes,

Aware of the potential negative effects of artificial light at night and its detrimental effects for migratory species such as bats and birds – in particular during their migration – or insects as a main food resource for a plethora of species including numerous migratory taxa,

Noting with concern the growth and extent of artificial light worldwide and a lack of awareness about its risks for species,

Recalling EUROBATS Resolution 8.6 on Bats and Light Pollution, which encourages Parties to avoid or mitigate the negative impacts of light pollution on bats (e.g. affecting their commuting routes),

Considering that awareness raising is needed and helpful, in particular, for migrating birds and insects as an indispensable food resource for a huge part of bird species,

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Invites* all CMS Parties to address the negative effects of artificial light at night and possibilities to avoid or diminish it wherever possible in order to conserve the darkness of the night.

DRAFT DECISIONS

LIGHT POLLUTION AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Directed to the Secretariat

13.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) suggest to its partners that one of the next World Migratory Bird Days should be dedicated to reducing light pollution, including its effects on birds (and also taking into account its effects on bats, marine turtles, insects and other affected animals).
- b) prepare guidelines on how to effectively avoid and mitigate the negative effects of light pollution on migratory species, taking into account existing guidance as relevant for adoption by COP14.

Directed to the Scientific Council

13.BB The Scientific Council shall:

- a) consider these issues in its first meeting of the Sessional Committee after COP13, including suggestions how World Migratory Bird Day might be used to catalyze help for the species concerned.