

**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Manila, October 2017)

*Recalling* that with Recommendations 6.1 and 9.4, and Resolutions 10.13 and 11.19, the Conference of the Parties adopted standard references to be recognized and used as the bases on which the CMS Appendices and amendments thereto should be prepared,

*Recalling* Resolution 10.13 on Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices that requests the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the secretariats of relevant MEAs and relevant international organizations, including IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds, and to inform the Scientific Council at its eighteenth meeting with a view to adopting an appropriate Resolution at COP11,

*Recalling* that with Resolution 3.1 (Geneva, 1991) regarding listing of species in the Appendices of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties agreed that any further additions to the Appendices of the Convention should be limited to species or lower taxa and that the migratory species covered by higher taxa listings already in Appendix II need only be identified when AGREEMENTS are being prepared,

*Noting* that biological taxonomy and nomenclature are dynamic,

*Aware* that international efforts to take coherent action to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity at the species level can be significantly hampered if there is no common understanding of which animals or plants are included under a particular species name and can present particular challenges for activities such as the implementation of conventions that have legal implications,

*Recognizing* that the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB, Gland, Switzerland, 13 February 2011) expressed its support for the idea of moving towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in lists of species used by the biodiversity-related conventions, and praised the harmonization process undertaken by CITES and CMS,

*Acknowledging* that in order to strengthen the global effort to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2020, it would be sensible to try to ensure greater harmonization between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in the field of taxonomy and nomenclature,

*Further noting* that the case for such harmonization is made more compelling by the fact that of the 124 CMS Parties, only one is not also a member of CITES,

*Acknowledging* that the harmonization of nomenclature can lead to a more integrated process, reduction of duplication and greater sharing of information between biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs),

*Recalling* that this objective was noted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (Bonn, May 2008), and was thereby included in the CITES/CMS List of Joint Activities adopted by the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Rome, November 2008); and the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014 adopted at the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Bergen, November 2011),

*Further aware* that a harmonization of bird taxonomy and nomenclature among MEAs and other partners, such as CMS, CITES, Ramsar, IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, can improve synergies benefitting migratory species' conservation and better implementation of CMS Family instruments,

*Recognizing* that the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) have repeatedly expressed their support for the idea of moving towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in the lists of species that they use, and requested stronger cooperation among MEAs towards that goal,

*Taking note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Harmonization of Bird Taxonomy which took place in Formia (Italy) on 8 October 2013 (UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.9.1) and *thanking* the Chair of the Scientific Council for convening that meeting,

*Taking note* also of the report of the CITES Animals Committee that took place in Veracruz (Mexico) from 28 April to 3 May,

*Stressing* that notwithstanding the adoption, for practical reasons, of standard nomenclatural references at the species level, biological diversity at all taxonomic levels should be valued, conserved and used sustainably,

*Taking note* of the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Rome, 27-28 November 2008) concerning revision of the reference nomenclature for terrestrial and aquatic mammalian species listed in the CMS Appendices,

*Noting* the recommendation provided by the CMS Scientific Council at its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014), on a standard nomenclature reference for non-passerine birds,

*Noting* that regarding albatrosses and petrels, COP10 adopted the taxonomy used by ACAP as the Convention's standard nomenclatural reference, and that ACAP takes account of the most recent taxonomic information on species of albatrosses and petrels,

*Acknowledging* that the adoption of a new reference may imply cases of synonymy, species aggregation (lumping) and/or splitting of species, and that CMS has agreed rules on how to act in such cases and their consequent reflection in the Appendices,

*Noting* the advice of the CMS Scientific Council at its 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Bergen, November 2011),

*Emphasizing* that stability over time in the taxonomy and nomenclature of species listed under CMS is essential to ensure legal security for the implementation of the Convention,

*Recognizing* that the taxonomy used in the Appendices to the Convention will be most useful to the Parties if standardized by nomenclatural references,

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

1. *Adopts* the list of standard references<sup>1</sup> included in the Annex to be recognized and used as the basis on which the CMS Appendices and amendments thereto, are prepared;
2. *Agrees* to refer to the online version of Eschmeyer, W. N., R. Fricke, and R. van der Laan (eds.), *Catalog of Fishes: Genera, Species, References* (<http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain>) as reference for fish at the time of listing new species on the Appendices of CMS and *Instructs* the Secretariat to preserve a hard-copy excerpt from the online reference as the standard reference for the newly listed species;
3. *Instructs* the Scientific Council to review the online version of the fish reference for the species listed on the Appendices at its last meeting before each meeting of the Conference of Parties and make recommendations as to whether the name of any listed species should be updated;
4. *Agrees* to follow a conservative approach in the use of the online reference to update names of listed species, waiting for a new taxonomy to be confirmed by the majority of scientists and other legal frameworks such as CITES before implementing any change;
5. *Agrees* to adopt the same approach for other taxonomic groups in the event that online versions of standard references will be adopted for those groups;
6. *Instructs* the Scientific Council to review the updated online version of the bird reference for the species listed on the Appendices at its last meeting before each meeting of the Conference of Parties and make recommendations as to whether the name of any listed species should be updated;
7. *Reaffirms* the rules adopted by the Convention for the treatment of cases of synonymy, species splitting and species aggregation (lumping) as a result of a change of standard nomenclatural reference, as follows:
  - Synonymy: corrections can be made automatically as there is no change of status for any listed population;
  - Splitting: when a listed taxon is split into two or more, each of the resulting taxa retains the listing status of the former aggregate taxon; and
  - Aggregation (lumping): if a taxon listed in either Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention is merged with one or more unlisted taxa, under its name or that of one of the unlisted taxa, the entire aggregate taxon will be listed in the Appendix that included the originally listed, narrower taxon in all cases where the unlisted entity thus added has the same conservation status as, or a worse one than, that of the previously listed taxon. In all other cases, a taxonomic or geographical restriction will be introduced, pending consideration by the Scientific Council and the Conference of the Parties of extended listing proposals;

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<sup>1</sup> As of yet there has been no need for a standard taxonomic reference for insects or reptiles (except marine turtles).

8. *Urges* other MEAs to adopt the same standard taxonomic reference for passerine birds; and
9. *Repeals*
  - a) Recommendation 6.1, *Standardized Nomenclature for the CMS Appendices*;
  - b) Recommendation, 9.4, *Standardized Nomenclature for the CMS Appendices*;
  - c) Resolution 10.13, *Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices*; and
  - d) Resolution 11.19, *The Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Birds Listed in the Appendices*.

**Annex to Resolution 12.27****LIST OF STANDARD REFERENCES ADOPTED BY  
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES***Mammals*

## Marine mammals:

Perrin W.F., Wursig B. and Thewissen J.G.M. (Editors), (2009), *Encyclopaedia of Marine Mammals*, Second edition. Academic Press as the standard nomenclatural reference for Marine Mammals as recommended by the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Council;

## Terrestrial mammals:

Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*. Third edition, John Hopkins University Press as the standard nomenclatural reference for terrestrial mammals, as recommended by the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Council;

*Birds*

## Non-passerine species:

Del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2014). *Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Non-passerines*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona;

## Passerine species:

Del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2016). *Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 2: Passerines*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona;

*Marine Turtles*

Eckert, K.L., Bjorndal, K.A., Abreu-Grobois, F.A. and Donnelly, M. (Eds) (1999). *Research and management techniques for the conservation of sea turtles*. IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group Publication No. 4;

*Fishes*

Online version of the *Catalog of Fishes: Genera, Species, References*. Eschmeyer, W.N., R. Fricke and R. van der Laan (eds). California Academy of Sciences (continuously updated).