



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**REGIONAL COORDINATION FOR SMALL CETACEANS AND SIRENIANS OF  
CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA<sup>1</sup>**

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

*Noting* the results of the Conakry Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Small Cetaceans of the African Coast (8-12 May 2000),

*Noting* in particular the inclusion of the West African manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* on Appendix II of CMS,

*Noting* that coastal communities of the Atlantic Ocean and those living along inland waters value these small cetaceans and sirenians for their heritage, economic, scientific, tourism and educational value as a significant component of the world's biodiversity,

*Aware* that threats to these species, notably destruction or modification of habitats by the development of coastal areas and of the riverbanks of inland waters, pollution, agriculture, increasing mortality and by-catch could, if not properly managed, lead to further decline in their populations,

*Further aware* that these migratory species can move between national jurisdictions,

*Acknowledging* the initiatives that have been undertaken by several national and international institutions in the Range States with a view to improving the knowledge on these species and on the threats to them,

*Recognizing* that the conservation and sustainable management of small cetacean and sirenian populations in the riparian countries and of sirenian populations in the landlocked countries, as well as of their habitats in the Central and West African region, is a responsibility that needs to be shared, and

*Noting* the keen interest in promoting the transfer of the experience gained within CMS and its relevant Agreements,

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

1. *Recognizes* the need to promote the conservation of small cetaceans and sirenians with the actors of civil society including those outside the area, such as oil companies, fish and aquaculture industries, and tourist operators;
2. *Recommends* multilateral and bilateral technical and financial partners to facilitate the implementation of this recommendation.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously Recommendation 7.3.