



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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**REGIONAL COORDINATION FOR SMALL CETACEANS AND DUGONGS OF
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ADJACENT WATERS¹**

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

Noting the outcome of the Second International Conference on Marine Mammals of Southeast Asia conducted in Dumaguete, Philippines (22-26 July 2002),

Noting in particular the inclusion of several small cetacean species (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*, *Sousa chinensis*, *Tursiops aduncus*, *Stenella longirostris*, *S. attenuata*, *Orcaella brevirostris*, and *Lagenodelphis hosei*) and the Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) on Appendix II of CMS and on the list of species for cooperative action,

Noting that coastal communities of Southeast Asia and adjacent waters and those living along inland waters value these species for their socio-economic, cultural, scientific, tourism, ecosystem, and educational significance,

Recognizing that whales and dolphins play a major role in the maintenance of population dynamics, balance, and functionality of the food web,

Recognizing further that illegal and indiscriminate catch of these and other large marine animals continues in Southeast Asian countries, thereby jeopardizing the integrity and viability of the marine ecosystem,

Aware that threats to these species include most notably incidental and deliberate mortality, habitat destruction and modification due to coastal and river bank development, and pollution,

Recognizing that these species are migratory and can move across national boundaries and jurisdictions,

Acknowledging the initiatives on small cetacean and sirenian conservation that have been undertaken by countries in the regions, including in Australia, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam,

Recognizing the need for shared responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of small cetacean and sirenian populations and their habitats in Southeast Asia and adjacent waters, and

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

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

1. *Encourages*, on the basis of the recommendations of the Dumaguete conference, all Parties and Range States in the distribution range to consider the establishment of an appropriate instrument of cooperation for the conservation of these species, which would consider the particular characteristics of inland and marine waters;

¹ Previously Recommendation 7.4.

2. *Encourages* the participation of all stakeholders, including government agencies responsible for the conservation and management of small cetaceans and sirenians, as well as non-governmental organizations and the international scientific community;
3. *Recognizes* the need to promote the conservation of these species with various sectors of society including oil companies, fish and aquaculture industries, and tourist operators;
4. *Recommends* that the countries of the region designate as soon as possible a coordinator for the preparatory phase of the appropriate instrument; and
5. *Recommends* multilateral and bilateral technical and financial partners to facilitate the implementation of this recommendation.