



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.5

Original: English

### NATIONAL REPORTS

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

*Recalling* Resolutions 4.1, 6.5, and 9.4,

*Pursuant* to Article VI (3) of the Convention which obliges Parties to submit national reports on the measures they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention,

*Emphasizing* the important role of national reports as vital indicators of the implementation of the Convention,

*Noting* the importance for such reports to be submitted at least six months before any given meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to allow the Secretariat to prepare a meaningful synthesis,

*Reminding* Parties of the necessity of timely submission of their reports before the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to enable a thorough synthesis to be prepared,

*Aware* of the difficulties experienced by some Governments in the compilation and development of national reports,

*Aware* that many Parties to the Convention have not submitted national reports for each reporting cycle or have not submitted information in sufficient detail,

*Also noting* that 58 reports had been submitted to the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

*Further noting* that 60 reports were submitted to the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties out of 102 that were due, as detailed in Conference Document 9.10; of the current total of 110 Parties, 8 were not yet required to submit reports,

*Further noting* that 68 out of 113 eligible Parties submitted national reports prior to the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties and 59 out of 118 eligible Parties submitted national reports using the standard online reporting prior to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

*Recognizing* that a standard format for national reports would provide a useful structure for organizing the information received, and would facilitate its incorporation in a comprehensive database,

*Acknowledging* the need to ensure consistency and best practice in the compilation of national reports, containing the best available information and scientific knowledge,

*Noting* the importance of harmonizing reporting procedures across all biodiversity instruments, especially the Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding related to the Convention, thereby increasing collaboration between convention secretariats,

*Underlining* that reporting should be kept concise and focused, avoid duplication and be outcome orientated so that there is more time for the implementation of conservation measures,

*Noting* the progress made by the CMS Secretariat since COP8 in amending the national reporting format,

*Welcoming* the development of online reporting, which should make significant advances both in the reporting process and harmonization of reports within the CMS Family;

*Recognizing* the need for an evaluation of implementation based, in part, on a synthesis of all previous national reports,

*Recognizing* the opportunity to use national reports and the associated synthesis to promote the objectives of the Convention and its implementation at the local and national level, and to national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations,

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

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to make the format for the next National Report available to Parties at least 15 months in advance of the deadline for submission of that National Report;
2. *Urges* all Contracting Parties, in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Convention, to submit national reports to the Secretariat at least six months before each ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to send a reminder to Parties well in advance of the deadline for submission of reports, which is six months before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to issue reminders if the reports are not received by the said date;
4. *Calls* upon the Parties to nominate focal points for correspondence, including national reporting, and to nominate contacts in other national authorities, as appropriate, for other issues;
5. *Encourages* national focal points and their Scientific Councillor counterparts to liaise on the preparation of national reports before they are submitted to the Secretariat through official channels;
6. *Directs* the Secretariat to compile the information received from Parties in a database, to be updated intersessionally with any new information that may be made available by Parties;
7. *Urges* the Secretariat to identify, in cooperation with Parties, possible obstacles and/or constraints in preparing national reports;
8. *Recommends* that the Secretariat develop mechanisms to support countries in submitting their national reports, including assistance for developing countries to help gather the required information;
9. *Instructs* the Secretariat to perform an analysis of the reports received and to make the results available to the Parties, consistent with the rules for submission of

documents to meetings of the Conference of the Parties so that the findings can help inform their activities and decision-making;

10. *Further requests* the Secretariat to advance harmonization of reporting with other international biodiversity agreements through the development of common reporting modules, via the framework of the Biodiversity Liaison Group and in consulting with UNEP-WCMC;
11. *Requests* the CMS Secretariat to continue to liaise with the CBD Secretariat and the other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant institutions with a view to adopting suitable indicators to measure the achievement of relevant Aichi targets;
12. *Also requests* UNEP to continue to seek opportunities to support the Convention through the Knowledge Management and related projects; and
13. *Repeals*
  - a) Resolution 4.1, *Party Reports*;
  - b) Resolution 6.5, *Information Management Plan and National Reporting*; and
  - c) Resolution 9.4, *The Future of National Reports*.