



CMS



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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11th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014
Agenda Item 23.2

IDENTIFICATION OF CETACEANS FOR THE NEEDS OF CITES



Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)



Fifth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS

Tangier, 5 - 8 November 2013

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IDENTIFICATION OF CETACEANS FOR THE NEEDS OF CITES



*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

Note of the Secretariat

During its Seventh Meeting (Monaco, December 2011), the Bureau of ACCOBAMS requested the Scientific Committee to prepare a recommendation to establish individual identification system(s) of cetaceans kept in captivity that could be presented by one (or more) ACCOBAMS Party to the 16th Conference of Parties (COP) of CITES (3-15 March 2013).

A draft Recommendation has been prepared but unfortunately none ACCOBAMS Party had enough time to review and validate the draft in order to present it to the 16th COP of CITES (3-15 March 2013). As a result it is planned to present a proposal to the next CITES COP in 2015.

The Parties will be invited to comment for adoption this draft Recommendation to be presented to the CITES Secretariat.

IDENTIFICATION OF CETACEANS FOR THE NEEDS OF CITES**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF ORIGIN OF CETACEANS
BRED OR KEPT IN CAPTIVITY
to be submitted to the CITES Secretariat**

Recalling that Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Convention specifically provides for regulated international trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I that have been bred in captivity for commercial purposes;

Stressing that, while included in Appendix II of the Convention, a zero annual export quota has been established for live specimens from the Black Sea population of *Tursiops truncatus* removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes;

Noting its previous decisions 11.91 and 11.139, both regarding *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (Black Sea bottlenose dolphin), which is a cetacean species bred or kept in captivity;

Considering that there is a need to identify specimens of *Tursiops truncatus* that are subject to international trade;

Noting that, in the case of cetacean species, there is a need to identify not only the whole animal (alive or dead), but also the body parts or products containing body parts, such as teeth or bone fragments, that may be involved in trade;

Recalling that Article VI, paragraph. 7, of the Convention provides that, where appropriate and feasible, a Management Authority may affix a mark upon any specimen to assist in identifying it and that, for these purposes, the term “mark” includes also any suitable means of identifying a specimen, designed in such a way as to render its imitation by unauthorized persons as difficult as possible;

Conscious that, as recommended in Resolution Conf. 7.12 (Rev. CoP15), in order to facilitate the application of regulatory controls any system of marking specimens bred or kept in captivity must be practical and readily implementable, having due regard for the humane care, well-being and natural behaviour of the specimens concerned;

Stressing the relevance of genetic research to elaborate specific conservation measures;

Aware that the most effective, practical and humane way of identifying specimens bred or kept in captivity of cetacean species is through genetic markers based on a sample of blood, saliva or skin sent to a reference laboratory for the identification of genetic characteristics of the specimen;

**THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
RECOMMENDS that:**

- a) Parties provide for the identification through genetic markers of the specimens bred or kept in captivity of *Tursiops truncatus* and develop the appropriate methodologies for this purpose;
- b) Parties establish on a national or regional basis and register with the CITES Secretariat central repositories where the relevant genetic identification data are stored and made accessible on-line;
- c) Parties exchange information and capabilities on the methodologies used for the relevant genetic analysis;

- d) The CITES Secretariat co-operate for this purpose with the Secretariats of the relevant international conventions applicable at the world or regional basis, in particular the Bonn Convention, the Bern Convention, the Bucharest Convention and ACCOBAMS, in order to coordinate efforts and to avoid duplication.