



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Eighth Meeting (Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005)

Conscious of the findings of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change's *Third Assessment Report - Climate Change 2001*, especially in relation to the vulnerability of habitats and species to the direct and indirect consequences of unprecedented changes to the global climate;

Further conscious of the role that the Convention has in facilitating achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the need to work collaboratively with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Also aware of the findings of the CBD Technical Report on interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change and that this Report is to be followed up by one issued in 2006 on the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of climate change adaptation activities at the local level through to the international level;

Recognizing that climate change may significantly affect the behaviour, distribution and abundance of migratory species and may change the ecological character of their habitats;

Aware that climate change issues were considered at the 5th Conference of the Parties which resulted in a request that the Scientific Council establish a small working group to review, amongst other things, the scientific work done by other bodies on climate change;

Further aware that the Convention considers it important to base its decisions on the best and most recent scientific data available;

Noting that the desk study¹ into the effects of climate change on migratory species commissioned by the UK Government earlier this year found that:

1. migratory species have been, and will continue to be, adversely affected by climate change;
2. knowledge of the likely impacts of future climate change varies greatly between taxonomic groups, and confident predictions on breeding performance and survival need to be underpinned by more research; and

¹ Climate Change and Migratory Species, UNEP/CMS/Inf.8.19.

3. changes to water regimes and loss of vulnerable habitats are likely to affect the greatest number of migratory species, and in many cases a reduction in human impacts will help species adapt to these changes;

Further noting that the 13th Meeting of the Scientific Council considered the issue of the effects of climate change upon migratory species and supported Resolution 8.13 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*; in addition, a round table, convened after the Scientific Council to discuss these effects of climate change, heard detailed evidence of the extent of the likely impacts and the significant implications for conserving migratory species; and

Conscious that the possible effects of climate change with relevance to some migratory species and their habitats have also been recognized by other MEAs, notably the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the desirability for CMS to take account of the work done by them;

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

1. *Requests* the Scientific Council to afford climate change high priority in its future programme of activities, and to:

- (a) Identify priorities for future research;
- (b) Identify which migratory species, based on best available evidence, are particularly threatened by climate change;
- (c) Review the range states list for CMS species as changes in distribution are seen as a consequence of climate change; and
- (d) Strengthen links with other MEAs, including UNFCCC, that have undertaken research into the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and to take account of that research;

2. *Instructs* the Secretariat to work with the Scientific Council and secretariats of the CMS daughter agreements and their scientific advisory bodies on producing guidance that would help CMS Parties introduce adaptation measures to help counteract the effects of climate change on migratory species;

3. *Calls* on Parties and non-Party range states to implement, as appropriate, adaptation measures that would help reduce the foreseeable adverse effects of climate change on Appendix I species; and

4. *Encourages* the initiation of collaborative international research projects into the effects of climate change on migratory species and their habitats so as to better understand implications and appropriate policy responses.