



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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11th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014

Agenda Item 23.1.6

THE TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES

Summary:

Resolution 10.13 on Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices requested the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with relevant stakeholders with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds. The issue was subsequently discussed at an ad hoc meeting on harmonization of bird taxonomy held in Formia (Italy) on 8 October 2013.

The 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014) took into account the results of the ad hoc meeting and recommended the adoption of the Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool (2014), to be published in August 2014.

An information document comparing the three options considered for nomenclatural references and analyzing their implications for the CMS Appendices and CITES Annexes is provided as UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.35.

THE TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

1. Resolution 10.13 on Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices requested the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the Secretariats of relevant MEAs and relevant international organizations, including IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds, and to inform the Scientific Council at its eighteenth meeting with a view to adopting an appropriate Resolution at COP11.
2. Resolution 10.13 adopted the taxonomy used by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) as the Convention's standard nomenclatural reference for albatrosses and petrels.
3. Pursuant to Resolution 10.13 the Chair of the Scientific Council discussed the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds with the participants of an Ad Hoc Meeting on the Harmonization of Bird Taxonomy, held in Formia, Italy, on 8 October 2013. The report of that meeting can be found in document UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.9.1.
4. The Formia Meeting proposed to do an initial analysis of the nomenclatural implications for the CMS Appendices and CITES Annexes of the new Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool, due to be published in August 2014. This preliminary analysis was undertaken by BirdLife International and is contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.35.
5. The twenty-seventh Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (Veracruz, México, 28 April – 3 May 2014) decided to postpone the discussion on a standard nomenclatural reference for birds to its next meeting in spring 2015 (AC 28) when it was hoped that in addition to the new edition of the Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World (2013) for Non-Passerines, edited by E.C. Dickinson and J.V. Remsen, the new Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World –Non Passerines - would be published and available, thus enabling the Committee to evaluate thoroughly which would best serve the needs of CITES.
6. The 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014) recommended the adoption of the reference mentioned in paragraph 4 above. The rationale for this decision was the alignment of the taxonomy and nomenclature proposed by this publication with the one followed by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species for birds.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- Review and adopt the draft resolution annexed to this cover note.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THE TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS
LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES**

Recalling Resolution 10.13 on Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices that requests the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the Secretariats of relevant MEAs and relevant international organizations, including IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds, and to inform the Scientific Council at its eighteenth meeting with a view to adopting an appropriate Resolution at COP11;

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Harmonization of Bird Taxonomy which took place in Formia (Italy) on 8 October 2013 (UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.9.1) and *thanking* the Chair of the Scientific Council for convening that meeting;

Taking note also of the report of the CITES Animals Committee that took place in Veracruz (México) from 28 April - 3 May 2014;

Noting that regarding albatrosses and petrels, COP10 adopted the taxonomy used by ACAP as the Convention's standard nomenclatural reference, and that ACAP takes account of the most recent taxonomic information on species of albatrosses and petrels;

Aware that international efforts to take coherent action to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity at the species level can be significantly hampered if there is no common understanding of which animals or plants are included under a particular species name and that this lack of understanding can present particular challenges for activities such as the implementation of conventions, potentially with legal implications;

Further aware that a harmonization of bird taxonomy and nomenclature among MEAs and other partners, such as CMS, CITES, Ramsar, IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, can improve synergies benefitting migratory species conservation and better implementation of CMS Family instruments;

Recognizing that the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) have repeatedly expressed their support for the idea of moving towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in the lists of species that they use, and requested stronger cooperation among MEAs towards that goal;

Emphasising that stability over time in the taxonomy and nomenclature of species listed under CMS is essential to ensure legal security for the implementation of the Convention;

Acknowledging that the adoption of a new reference for birds may imply cases of synonymy, species aggregation (lumping) and/or splitting of species, and that CMS has agreed rules on how to act in such cases and their consequent reflection in the Appendices; and

Noting the recommendation provided by the CMS Scientific Council at its eighteenth Meeting (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014), on a standard nomenclature reference for birds;

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

1. *Adopts* the reference recommended by the eighteenth Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council as the CMS standard reference for bird taxonomy and nomenclature: Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool (2014);
2. *Reaffirms* the rules adopted by the Convention for the treatment of cases of synonymy, species splitting and species aggregation (lumping) as a result of a change of standard nomenclatural reference, as follows:
 - *Synonymy*: corrections can be made automatically as there is no change of status for any listed population;
 - *Splitting*: when a listed taxon is split into two or more, each of the resulting taxa retains the listing status of the former aggregate taxon; and
 - *Aggregation (lumping)*: if a taxon listed in either Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention is merged with one or more unlisted taxa, under its name or that of one of the unlisted taxa, the entire aggregate taxon will be listed in the Appendix that included the originally listed, narrower taxon in all cases where the unlisted entity thus added has the same conservation status as, or a worse one than, that of the previously listed taxon. In all other cases, a taxonomic or geographical restriction will be introduced, pending consideration by the Scientific Council and the Conference of the Parties of extended listing proposals;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Council and the Depositary, to adapt the CMS Appendices according to the new bird reference adopted and the rules outlined above;
4. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to transmit this Resolution to the secretariats of CITES and the Ramsar Convention for consideration by their scientific bodies, and to continue to liaise with the avian CMS instruments and MEA Secretariats with a view to strengthening harmonization of taxonomic references; and
5. *Urges* other MEAs to adopt the same standard taxonomic reference for birds.