



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



## RECOMMENDATION 7.3

### REGIONAL COORDINATION FOR SMALL CETACEANS AND SIRENIANS OF CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Meeting (Bonn, 18-24 September 2002)

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*Noting* the results of the Conakry Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Small Cetaceans of the African Coast (8-12 May 2000);

*Noting* in particular the inclusion of the West African manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* on Appendix II of CMS;

*Noting* that coastal communities of the Atlantic Ocean and those living along inland waters value these small cetaceans and sirenians for their heritage, economic, scientific, tourism and educational value as a significant component of the world's biodiversity;

*Aware* that threats to these species, notably destruction or modification of habitats by the development of coastal areas and of the riverbanks of inland waters, pollution, agriculture, increasing mortality and by-catch could, if not properly managed, lead to further decline in their populations;

*Further aware* that these migratory species can move between national jurisdictions;

*Acknowledging* the initiatives that have been undertaken by several national and international institutions in the Range States with a view to improving the knowledge on these species and on the threats to them;

*Recognising* that the conservation and sustainable management of small cetacean and sirenian populations in the riparian countries and of sirenian populations in the landlocked countries, as well as of their habitats in the Central and West African region, is a responsibility that needs to be shared; and

*Noting* the keen interest in promoting the transfer of the experience gained within CMS and its 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 Conakry Workshop and of the main concerns expressed by the landlocked countries, all Parties in the distribution range to consider the establishment of a memorandum of understanding on these species and the implementation of collaborative actions, notably through action plans, which would consider the particular characteristics of inland and marine waters;

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

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