



# Convention on Migratory Species

## Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

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Agenda Item 8

SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES  
Auckland, New Zealand, 28-29 July 2009

### ALLIANCES, SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. The Pacific Cetaceans MoU is a valuable part of a global and regional network of activities. It is therefore important to ensure that the MoU's activities both complement and are complemented by these activities.
2. Overarching synergies are found in the commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for which the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is the CBD lead partner in the global conservation of migratory species over their entire range.
3. The MoU also recognises instruments, policies and strategies important to the Pacific Islands Region, in particular, the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related Protocols, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work and Programme of Work on Protected Areas, the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, and the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region.
4. The Signatories may wish to give consideration to how the synergies of these international and regional instruments are considered and discussed at future meetings.
5. There are a number of additional activities that can be reported and considered at this meeting, including increasing collaboration between CMS cetacean related agreements; the Coral Triangle Initiative and the commitments of CMS to developing a Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans.

#### Collaboration between Cetacean Related Agreements

6. The Secretariat has tabled Doc8-02: *Collaboration between Cetacean Related Agreements* which speaks to a need to create greater linkages and synergies within the CMS Family, and the request from CMS COP9 for the CMS Secretariat to consider options such as promoting joint priorities, the sharing of technical expertise and resources and holding joint meetings between species agreements.

#### A CMS Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans

7. CMS Resolution 8.22: *Human-induced Impacts on Cetaceans* (2005) calls for the development of a draft *Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans* to be developed. This resolution was reaffirmed during COP9 (Resolution.9.09: *Migratory Marine Species*, December 2008). The resolution explicitly requires that this programme of work be developed with the full knowledge of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the Cartagena Convention and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the United Nations Informal Consultation on Protection of the Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (IWC SC) and Conservation Committee (IWC CC), the United Nations Food and

Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and its Committee on Fisheries Industries (COFI) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) activities relating to cetaceans and requires the programme of work to identify points of collaboration and synergy between CMS, CMS cetacean-related agreements, IMO, IWC SC and CC, OSPAR, UNICPOLOS and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

8. In the development of this programme of work, CMS Resolution 8.22 requires specific activities be undertaken. These areas can be grouped as follows:

- i. *Notification* of CMS Resolution 8.22 be transmitted to IMO, IWC SC and CC, OSPAR, UNICPOLOS, and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme to ensure a full exchange of information, promote collaboration and reduce duplication of effort with these other international organisations;
- ii. *Review* of the extent to which CMS, CMS cetacean-related agreements, IMO, IWC SC and CC, OSPAR, UNICPOLOS, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, FAO, COFI and the RFMOs are addressing listed impacts through their threat abatement activities;
- iii. *Analysis* of the gaps and overlaps between CMS, CMS cetacean-related agreements, IMO, IWC SC and CC, OSPAR, UNICPOLOS, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the *identification* of priority impacts and regions requiring urgent attention; and
- iv. *Development* of a draft programme of work.

9. The necessary research to complete this draft *Global Programme of Work* is currently being undertaken within the Secretariat. In the coming 12 months, the Secretariat will work with the CMS Appointed Councilor for Aquatic Mammals to identify the priority impacts and regions requiring urgent attention and develop the draft *Programme of Work for Cetaceans*. A draft *Programme of Work for Cetaceans* will be submitted to the CMS Standing Committee for approval within 12 months.

10. As part of this process it is important that the Secretariat is able to seek the input of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU, and Signatories may wish to discuss how the Secretariat should seek this input. Possible options might include this input being gathered as part of the medium term implementation priorities electronic correspondence process (agenda item 7); the Open-ended Technical Advisory Group being instructed to act on the Signatories behalf (agenda item 6.2); or possibly requesting that this to form the basis for the first collaboration between the four existing CMS cetacean-related agreements (agenda item 8-01)

11. Finally, acknowledging that all of the documents tabled for consideration or information under agenda 8 contribute to the growing understanding of the alliances, synergies and complementary activities, and that 8-02 specifically proposes a process that may benefit the work of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU, it seems appropriate that the Secretariat should continue to compile this information together for each meeting of the Signatories under an agenda item specifically focusing on this area of MoU development.

12. Consideration might also be given to the Secretariat compiling a list of forthcoming meetings and events of relevance to MoU under this same agenda.

**Action requested:**

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Seek any clarification that might be necessary; and
- Discuss options for providing input to the draft CMS *Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans* and Request the Secretariat to implement the agreed process.
- Request the Secretariat to regularly report on the progress of alliances, synergies and complementary activities at future meetings, maintaining an agenda item specifically focusing on this area of MoU development.