



**Convention on Migratory Species  
Memorandum of Understanding for the  
Conservation of Cetaceans and their  
Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region**

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/PIC2/Inf.6-02  
22 July 2009

Agenda Item 6.2

---

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

**PROPOSAL/S TO COORDINATE THE OPEN-ENDED TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
GROUP TO SUPPORT THE PACIFIC CETACEANS MOU BETWEEN MOS2 AND 3**

**a) Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society**

## WDCS Proposal to Coordinate the Open-Ended Technical Advisory Group to Support the Pacific Cetaceans MoU

**WDCS Pacific Cetaceans MoU Programme Office**  
PO Box 228  
Suva, Fiji Islands  
Phone: + 679 918 7614  
Fax: + 679 323 1531

**WDCS International and WDCS UK**  
Brookfield House, 38 St Paul Street  
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 1LY  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 1249 449 500  
Fax: +44 1249 449 501

**WDCS Deutschland**  
Altostr. 43, 81245 Munchen  
Deutschland  
Phone: +49 89 6100 2393  
Fax: +49 89 6100 2394

**WDCS South America**  
Potosi 2087, B1636BUA  
Olivos, Buenos Aires  
Argentina  
Phone +5411 4799 3698  
Fax +5411 4799 3698

**WDCS North America**  
7 Nelson Street,  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
United States of America  
Phone: +1 508 746 2552  
Fax: +1 508 746 2537

**WDCS Australasia**  
PO Box 720  
Port Adelaide Business Centre  
South Australia 5015  
Australia  
Phone: +61 8 8440 3700  
Fax: +61 8 8447 4211

1. WDCS has a long standing relationship with CMS that is codified by a formal *Partnership Agreement* and *Joint Programme of Work* between the two organisations. The *Partnership Agreement* commits WDCS and CMS to working in Partnership towards the achievement of the 2010 target and cetacean conservation at the international level, including continuing to work with ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, the Pacific Cetaceans MoU, the Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU and future CMS cetacean related agreements and MoUs in their development, resourcing, on-ground implementation and promotion.
2. Following the endorsement received during CMS 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CMS CoP) (2005), WDCS established the *Cetacean Liaison Group* which supports the scientific work of CMS and assists the development, and where possible implementation, of a forward strategy of key science and political work that needs to be undertaken in each triennium to progress the cetacean related priorities of CMS CoP decisions; to provide advice and recommendations to CMS on cetacean issues; and to support existing relevant CMS processes such as the taxonomic working group on marine mammals within the Scientific Council.
3. WDCS International has a very well developed understanding of CMS process, networks and timelines and a regional programme in support of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU that focuses exclusively on supporting Signatories to implement the agreement in the Pacific Islands Region.
  - a. WDCS has been present at every meeting associated with the development, negotiation (commencing in 2002) and now implementation of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU,
  - b. In 2004 WDCS established a Programme that focused on our work in the Pacific Islands Region with the specific and direct intent of supporting the ongoing development of the Pacific Cetaceans MoU and long-term in-country Signatory implementation capacity.
  - c. In July 2008 WDCS also established a permanent Pacific Cetaceans MoU Programme presence in the Pacific Islands Region (Fiji). A MoU with the University of the South Pacific (USP) houses the Programme Lead, Dr. Cara Miller.
4. We believe that these attributes make WDCS an appropriate candidate for the Signatories to consider for role of Coordinator of an *Open-Ended Technical Advisory Group to Support the Pacific Cetaceans MoU* as detailed in the Pacific Cetaceans MoU meeting document: *Report of Intersessional discussions on the establishment of an Open-ended Technical Advisory Group to support the Pacific Cetaceans MoU* (UNEP/CMS/PIC2/Doc.6-02).

### WDCS's Coordination Proposal

1. Based on the Terms of Reference detailed in UNEP/CMS/PIC2/Doc.6-02, WDCS would self-fund direct coordination activities and serve as a focal point for any fundraising necessary to engage in activities such as meetings and specific research programmes;
2. Initially, to establish the *Open-Ended Technical Advisory Group*, under the direction of Pacific Cetacean MoU Signatories WDCS (acting as the Advisory Group Coordinator) would:
  - a. Draft a *Advisory Group Programme of Work* based on the instructions received by the 2nd Pacific Cetaceans MoU MoP, and circulate this draft to the Secretariat and Pacific Cetaceans MoU Contact Points for consideration, additional input, review and eventual endorsement;

- b. Call for nominations from experts (science, social, legal, technical etc) to participate in the *Advisory Group*;
  - c. Collate nominations into categories (science, social, legal, technical etc) and circulate these to the Secretariat and Pacific Cetaceans MoU Contact Points for consideration and endorsement;
3. Once the *Advisory Group* and the *Advisory Group Programme of Work* had been established, WDCS (acting as the *Advisory Group Coordinator*) would:
- a. Establish an electronic meeting schedule and modus operandi for expert engagement in the *Advisory Group Programme of Work*;
  - b. Maintain a register of accepted experts, their areas of expertise and contact details that would be available to Signatories and SPREP;
  - c. Coordinate the delivery of the *Advisory Group Programme of Work*;
  - d. Maintain and publish a timetable of meetings and processes of relevance to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU;
  - e. Establish a working relationship with the technical support bodies of ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, the Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU, the CMS Scientific Council, the Cetacean Liaison Group and other coordination initiatives developed by the CMS Secretariat (as detailed in UNEP/CMS/PIC2/Doc.8-02);
  - f. Report on *Advisory Group* progress against the programme of work to both the CMS Secretariat and the Pacific Cetaceans MoU Contact Points on a regular and cyclical basis (the frequency of which should be determined by the Signatories during the 2nd Pacific Cetaceans MoU MoP);
  - g. Formally report on all *Advisory Group* activities to the 3rd Pacific Cetaceans MoU MoP, as well as bringing forward appropriate advisory statements and proposals that may have arisen while engaged with the *Advisory Group Programme of Work*, including:
    - i. reviewing any new or existing CMS species listing proposals;
    - ii. disseminating conservation status reports developed by the CMS Scientific Council;
    - iii. reviewing the scientific and technical implications of CMS Conference of the Parties resolutions and recommendations and their impact on Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MOU; and
    - iv. reviewing and contributing to the implementation of the CMS Scientific Council Implementation Plan.
4. WDCS would commit to maintaining this coordination role until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Cetacean MoU MoP, or until a time determined by the Signatories.