



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June, 2010

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Agenda Item 7.0

### REVIEWS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CMS WORKING GROUP ON FLYWAYS

*(Introductory note prepared by the CMS Secretariat)*

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9 - Rome, December 2008), adopted Resolution 9.2 which called for the establishment of “*an open-ended working group on global bird flyways within the framework of the Scientific Council to act as a think tank on flyways and frameworks, and tasked with reviewing scientific and technical issues for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats and relevant international instruments, initiatives and processes, as the basis for future CMS policy on flyways and contributing to the work on the future shape of CMS*”.
2. As the regular meeting of the full membership of the Council following COP9 was not due to be held until 2010, the open-ended Flyway Working Group (FWG) had to be established intersessionally. The Chair of the Scientific Council, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Appointed Councillors for birds and Asiatic Fauna, drafted the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the group.
3. The FWG was set up in late 2009; the Scientific Council was invited to nominate members. In addition, a call was made to key partners, conventions and initiatives to ensure broad coverage both in terms of expertise on bird flyway issues and geographical representation to the Working Group to enhance its work.
4. The FWG is coordinated by representatives of the Scientific Council, with Dr. Taej Mundkur serving as Chair and Mr. John O’Sullivan as Vice Chair.
5. The FWG has three main purposes:
  - a. To review existing administrative/management instruments for migratory bird flyways globally (Review 1);
  - b. To review scientific/technical knowledge of migratory bird flyways and conservation priorities, and identify major gaps (Review 2); and
  - c. To propose policy options for flyway conservation and management to feed into the Intersessional Process Regarding the Future Shape of CMS (Review 3).
6. The production of Review 1 has been coordinated by Wetlands International while the production of Review 2 has been coordinated by BirdLife International. Several consultations

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have been conducted among the members of the FWG as well as among the members of the Council not taking part in the group as to finalising the draft reviews. The final version of Review 1 is included in Annex 1a and Annex 1b and final versions of Review 2 is included in Annex 2a and Annex 2b.

7. Funding for these reviews has been provided mainly by the CMS Secretariat, with contributions from Wetlands International and BirdLife International.

8. COP9 also adopted Resolution 9.13 establishing an Intersessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS (ISWGoFS). It aims to explore the possibilities of enhancing the contribution of CMS and its Family to the conservation of migratory species on a global scale and develop accordingly various scenarios for a new strategy and structure for CMS and its Family for the years to come.

9. Both Resolution 9.2 and Resolution 9.13 request that the results of the two working groups should be coordinated. The Chair of the FWG attended the First Meeting of the ISWGoFS where he presented the FWG's ToR and work plan.

10. The dialogue between the two working groups has also been ensured and promoted by several Scientific Councillors who are members of both groups, and specifically by Dr. Biber who is the Chair of the IWGoFS.

11. Reviews 1 and 2, and related feedback given by the Scientific Council, will be submitted to the Second Meeting of the ISWGoFS which will take place from 1 to 2 July 2010.

12. Review 3, which intends to recommend policy options, is tentatively due to be finalised before the end of 2010, will be produced on the basis of the findings of the first two reviews. The Government of Germany has generously offered €10,500 for this review. However, further funds still need to be raised. Review 3 will be submitted to the CMS Standing Committee, at its 37th session, to be taken into account within the output of the second step of the Future Shape process.

**Action requested:**

- Scientific Council members are invited to consider the reviews and make recommendations.