



CMS CoP9 2008

# WWF POSITION STATEMENT

9th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)  
ROME, 1<sup>ST</sup> – 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008

## KEY PRIORITIES

WWF urges the CMS Parties to support the following key priorities for the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CMS:

- The listing of additional species and populations of cetaceans on the appendices of the Convention
- The listing of additional shark species on the appendices of the Convention
- Increased efforts by the Convention to address the impact of climate change on migratory species, in particular through draft resolution 9.7
- Increased efforts by the Convention to address the impact of bycatch on migratory species, in particular through draft resolution 9.18/Rev.1
- Securing political and financial commitments to ensure effective implementation of the Gorilla agreement

## LISTING PROPOSALS

WWF fully supports the listing of the following species on the relevant appendices of the Convention, and urges governments to support the proposals for these species. These listing proposals are the proposals of highest priority to WWF; however please note that WWF does not oppose the proposals for amendments to the appendices that are not listed here.

### APPENDIX I

Bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* (Black Sea population)  
Irrawaddy dolphin, *Orcaella brevirostris*  
Atlantic humpback dolphin, *Sousa teuszii*  
Cheetah, *Acionyx jubatus*  
West African manatee, *Trichechus senegalensis*  
Egyptian vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*  
Saker falcon, *Falco cherrug*

These species fulfil the criteria for appendix I listing, and would benefit from the protection afforded by this listing.

## **APPENDIX II**

Harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena* (North West African population)

Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus* (Mediterranean population)

Bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* (Mediterranean wide population)

Clymene dolphin, *Stenella clymene* (West African population)

Saiga, *Saiga tatarica*

Mako sharks, Genus *Isurus*

Porbeagle, *Lamna nasus*

Spiny dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*

These species fulfil the criteria for listing on Appendix II and would benefit from the international coordination and management that this listing would facilitate.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

WWF supports the passing of resolutions to guide effective implementation of the convention. In particular, WWF believes that the resolutions noted below address some of the most critical issues for migratory species conservation, and provide positive direction to the CMS Parties, the Secretariat and the Scientific Council. WWF urges the Parties to support these resolutions and ensure their adoption at the Ninth Conference of the Parties to CMS. WWF also proposes some amendments to these resolutions as detailed below.

### **Resolution 9.7 Climate change impacts on migratory species**

WWF strongly supports this resolution. However WWF supports some modifications to strengthen the text. Amendments are required to increase the remit of responsibility for the establishment of adaptation strategies for migratory species covered by the convention to include Parties (in addition to the CMS Scientific Council and Secretariat), urge Parties to consider and mitigate both the positive and negative impacts of other climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on migratory species covered by the convention, and strengthen links between CMS and other bodies dealing with climate change impacts on biodiversity (CBD, RAMSAR, IWC, etc.)

### **Resolution 9.13 Intersessional process regarding the future shape of CMS**

WWF supports this resolution, and feels that discussions on the future shape of CMS are timely to ensure the convention fulfils its potential and has the greatest possible impact on the conservation status of species covered by the convention. WWF requests to be represented on the *ad-hoc* working group, and looks forward to working with governments intersessionally on this important body of work.

### **Resolution 9.18/Rev.1 By-catch**

WWF strongly supports this resolution which requests *inter alia* an assessment of the impact of fisheries by-catch on the conservation status of migratory species covered by the convention, a review to identify priority fisheries, regions and species that would benefit from cooperative action through the CMS, increased prioritization of bycatch by the Scientific Council, RFMOs and FAO, and increased collaboration between the latter two bodies and CMS.

Due to the variety of different interpretations of the term bycatch in different fora, for the sake of clarity WWF would like to suggest the inclusion of a preambular paragraph in this resolution defining the term 'bycatch' for the purposes of CMS. Such a paragraph could read as follows:

*“Noting that different stakeholders apply different definitions of bycatch, and that this may cause confusion and inconsistency in development and delivery of bycatch mitigation activities, the definition applied in this case is as follows: Bycatch is the capture of non-target species (and discarded juveniles of target species) in fishing gear”*

### **Resolution 9.19 Adverse anthropogenic marine/ocean noise impacts on cetaceans and other biota**

WWF strongly supports this resolution. However the extent of activities proposed in the resolution is somewhat overambitious in its scope, and WWF would appreciate some discussion with the Parties to identify the activities which will be most crucial in mitigating this serious threat to cetacean populations.

## **CMS INSTRUMENTS**

### **Relevant to Agenda item II.13, Resolution 9.1 and Resolution 9.2**

WWF supports the formation of instruments under CMS for Appendix II listed species, whereby the instrument will deliver significant conservation benefits to the species concerned. In order for these instruments to be successful, it is also important that sufficient resources are provided to ensure the instrument can be effectively implemented.

Since CoP8, CMS has concluded seven new Memoranda of Understanding, a new regional Agreement, and has several other instruments under negotiation. This is in addition to the numerous instruments that were in existence before CoP8.

CMS is already overstretched, as are the Parties. Several of the CMS instruments are functioning well; however, there has been no comprehensive analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of these instruments, or a process to ensure that lessons learnt from existing instruments are being taken into account in new initiatives. There will likely be a great deal to learn from the implementation of the wide variety of instruments that already exist under CMS.

As such WWF fully supports the proposal for a review of existing instruments (Resolution 9.2, section 3.) WWF proposes that this review should include an assessment of the impact of each instrument on improving the conservation status of the species concerned. It is also WWF's position that no additional instruments should be established until this review is completed, and efforts to improve existing instruments are conducted in terms of increasing political commitment for implementation, increasing funding for implementation and coordination, and increasing capacity and partnerships for implementation.