



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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Contribution towards the Secretary-General's Report on "Sustainable fisheries"

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is a global treaty, administered under the aegis of UNEP, with the aim of achieving or maintaining a favourable conservation status for migratory animals and their habitats. CMS acts as a framework convention under which specialized regional instruments are developed as required. This includes Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding dedicated to marine mammals (ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, Wadden Sea Seals, Monk Seals, Pacific Cetaceans, Western African Aquatic Mammals, Dugongs), birds (ACAP, AEWA), marine turtles (IOSEA, African Atlantic), fish (Migratory Sharks).

As **bycatch** with its lethal results remains one of the most severe threats for migratory species, CMS passed a resolution UNEP/CMS Res. 10.14, focusing on the impact of gillnet fisheries, including drift, bottom set gill, trammel and entangling nets. UNEP/CMS Res. 9.18 on bycatch resulting from all types of gear remains in force.

The increasing impact on marine species and their habitats through **marine debris is subject of UNEP/CMS Res. 10.4**. This resolution encourages Parties to identify coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris aggregates, to identify and address the sources and impacts of marine debris, and to develop and implement national plans of action addressing the negative impacts of marine debris in waters within their jurisdiction.

The issue of **underwater noise pollution** is dealt with in UNEP/CMS Res. 10.24 on Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise for the Protection of Cetaceans and other Biota. It recalls earlier Resolutions of CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS and strongly urges Parties to prevent adverse effects on cetaceans and on other migratory marine species. Means of achieving this include restricting the emission of underwater noise and ensuring that Environmental Impact Assessments take full account of the effects of activities on cetaceans. In addition, potential impacts on marine biota and their migration routes and a more holistic ecological approach already at a strategic planning stage should be considered. The application of best available techniques and practice to reduce or mitigate marine noise pollution is recommended.

The conservation of **sharks** is being addressed by CMS through the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of migratory sharks, a global instrument aiming to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for these species based on the best available scientific information. Also taken into account are the socio-economic and other values of these species for the people of the Signatory countries. At the 1st Meeting of the Signatories, which will take place in September 2012, a Conservation Plan for sharks will be discussed.

As to the conservation of **cetaceans**, a Global Programme of Work was adopted in UNEP/CMS Res. 10.15. This urges Parties and non-Parties to promote the integration of cetacean conservation into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national positions among various conventions, agreements and other **international fora**.