



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



RESOLUTION 7.2*

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Meeting (Bonn, 18-24 September 2002)

Concerned that avoidable detriment to migratory species often occurs through lack of adequate prior assessment of the potential environmental impacts of projects, plans, programmes and policies, carried out in a way that is systematic and formally taken into account in decision-making;

Emphasising that migratory species are especially in need of international cooperation in this respect owing *inter alia* to their particular susceptibility to impacts which may be manifest far beyond the territory of the country in which they originate, and to cumulative impacts;

Desirous that migratory species interests be given improved treatment in biodiversity-related aspects of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;

Conscious that Article I (1) (c) of the Convention defining favourable conservation status, Article II (2) regarding avoiding endangerment of species and Article III (4) regarding protection of Appendix I species all imply a need to anticipate and predict effects;

Aware that many Contracting Parties already operate legal and institutional systems of environmental assessment in various forms, but that most would benefit from international harmonisation of guidance on principles, standards, techniques and procedures, and confirmation of their applicability to migratory species interests;

Aware that environmental impact assessment is foreseen in other conventions concerned with biodiversity conservation, and in CMS Agreements;

Further aware that the respective Conferences of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have in recent years adopted or endorsed decisions and guidelines on environmental impact assessment which have relevance to cooperation between those conventions and the Convention on Migratory Species;

Noting in particular that CBD's Decision IV/10c on impact assessment and minimisation of adverse effects specifically encouraged collaboration between the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, CMS, the International Association for Impact Assessment and IUCN – the World Conservation Union on this matter;

Noting also that CBD's Decision V/18 on impact assessment, liability and redress specifically encouraged similar cooperation in relation to the development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into legislation and/or processes on strategic environmental assessment, and included the CMS Scientific Council among those with whom cooperation was requested;

* The original draft of this resolution, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 7.10.

Noting further that the CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme 2002-2005, in section 10, includes actions relating to studies of migratory species and impact assessment, and to input concerning migratory species in guidelines for the integration of biodiversity considerations into impact assessment procedures;

Welcoming the endorsement by CBD COP6 of the “Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment” annexed to its Decision VI/7; and

Desiring as always to maximise synergy and joint working efficiencies between all biodiversity-related Conventions;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Emphasises* the importance of good quality environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as tools for implementing Article II (2) of the Convention on avoiding endangerment of migratory species and Article III (4) of the Convention on protection of Appendix I species, and as important elements to include in AGREEMENTS concluded under Article IV (3) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II species, and in agreements concluded under Article IV (4) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II and other species;
2. *Urges* Parties to include in EIA and SEA, wherever relevant, as complete a consideration as possible of effects involving impediments to migration, in furtherance of Article III (4) (b) of the Convention, of transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns or on migratory ranges;
3. *Further urges* Parties to make use, as appropriate, of the “Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment” endorsed by Decision VI/7 of CBD COP 6;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to establish cooperative links with the International Association for Impact Assessment in furtherance of the matters specified in this resolution, and on other matters of mutual interest;
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to pursue its contacts with secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements in evaluating with them the potential implications of the decisions of their Conferences of the Parties on the conservation of migratory species;
6. *Encourages* Parties to establish contact with relevant national contact points from within the networks of the International Association for Impact Assessment with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with migratory species-related impact assessment as part of impact assessment procedures in general;
7. *Requests* the Scientific Council, in cooperation with the International Association for Impact Assessment, the Scientific & Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD and other suitably qualified bodies, including CMS Agreements, to review existing international guidance in this field, identify gaps in relation to migratory species interests and if necessary, develop further guidance relating to migratory species issues for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting; and

8. *Strongly encourages* Parties and others to make voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the Scientific Council in taking forward and developing further the matters covered by this resolution.

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