



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12 – 17 February 2024
Agenda Item 15.2

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document provides information for Parties on the appointment of members of the Scientific Council and its Sessional Committee.

The comparative analyses of candidates for the COP-appointed Councillors for the subject areas of Aquatic Mammals and of Climate Change are contained in Annex 1 of this document, and the full details of the nominations are contained in Annex 2.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Background

Composition of the Scientific Council and its Sessional Committee

1. Each Party is entitled to appoint one member of the Scientific Council (Art. VIII, para.2, of the Convention). These Party-appointed Councillors are appointed for an unlimited period, until they step down or they are replaced by the Party that appointed them.
2. Further Scientific Council members (known as COP-appointed Councillors) are appointed at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Art. VIII, para.2, of the Convention) for the subsequent triennium. Their appointment can be renewed; however, re-appointment is not automatic and has to be confirmed by each meeting of the COP.
3. In accordance with Resolution 12.4, paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties also appoints a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council to sit on the Sessional Committee. The Committee is composed of COP-appointed Councillors and regionally selected Party-appointed Councillors, appointed at each ordinary meeting of the COP on the basis of a recommendation from the Secretariat and in consultation with the Standing Committee.
4. Unless otherwise decided by the COP, the Sessional Committee is composed of:
 - (a) nine COP-appointed Councillors with expertise in taxonomic and thematic issues; and
 - (b) fifteen Party-appointed Councillors selected from within the Standing Committee's five geographic regions, three from each of the regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and South and Central America and the Caribbean.
5. In accordance with Resolution 12.4, Sessional Committee members should normally be appointed for a minimum term of two triennia. Each ordinary meeting of the COP should decide upon the renewal of half¹ of the Party-appointed membership of the Sessional Committee.
6. Resolution 12.4 also recommends that the COP identify from the pool of Party-appointed Councillors up to three alternate members for each region, who could replace permanently or temporarily a regular member from the region not in a position to continue to serve on the Sessional Committee in the intersessional period.

¹ Due to the odd number of Party-appointed members (15) on the Sessional Committee, this may be 7 or 8.

COP-appointed Councillors

7. The table below lists the current COP-appointed Councillors and their subject areas. The COP-appointed Councillors for Aquatic Mammals (Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara), Climate Change (Prof. Colin Galbraith) and Terrestrial Mammals (Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín) have informed the Secretariat that they are stepping down from their positions as COP-appointed Councillors.

Subject area	COP-appointed Councillor
Aquatic Mammals	Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara
Birds	Dr. Rob P. Clay ²
Birds	Prof. Stephen Garnett ²
Bycatch	Dr. Barry G. Baker
Climate Change	Prof. Dr. Colin A. Galbraith
Connectivity/Network	Dr. Fernando Spina
Fish	Dr. Zeb S. Hogan ³
Fish	Dr. Rima Jabado ³
Invasive species, disease, feral animals, insects, and marine pests and weeds	Dr. Ruth Cromie
Marine Pollution	Mr. Mark P. Simmonds
Terrestrial Mammals	Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín ⁴
Terrestrial Mammals	Prof. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah ⁴

8. The Secretariat compiled all nominations received for the subject areas of Aquatic Mammals, and Climate Change. As two COP-appointed Councillors shared the responsibility for the subject area of Terrestrial Mammals, which counts as a single position, the Secretariat did not seek nominations for this subject area. Prior to COP14, the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (Bonn, Germany, 18-21 July 2023) consulted on the nominations received for the subject areas of Aquatic Mammals, and Climate Change, with a view to formulating its recommendations for the COP on the selection of candidates.
9. Res. 12.4 *Scientific Council*, paragraph 9, "requests the Secretariat to provide for a consultative process, including Party, scientific and expert advice, in order to elaborate its recommendation in consultation with the Standing Committee to the Conference of the Parties on the composition of the Sessional Committee..." As part of this consultative process, the Scientific Council has also provided its recommendations for the position of the COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals. Two candidates, Ms. Ellen Hines and Ms. Vanesa Tossenberger, were shortlisted and were recommended by the ScC-SC6 for consideration by COP14. As only one candidate was nominated for the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change, the Scientific Council requested the Secretariat to seek additional candidates for the position, and to present the list of candidates to COP14 for consideration.

² Councillors Clay and Garnett share responsibility for birds, which counts as a single position.

³ Councillors Hogan and Jabado share responsibility for fish, which counts as a single position.

⁴ Councillors Medellín and Oteng-Yeboah share responsibility for terrestrial mammals, which counts as a single position.

10. The nominations for the COP-appointed Councillors for Aquatic Mammals and for Climate Change are presented to COP14 for consideration. Annex 1 of this document contains a short overview and comparative analyses of the candidates; Annex 2 contains the full documentation for nominations of candidates for the vacant positions. The current COP-appointed Councillors for all other subject areas will continue their mandate following COP14.

Party-appointed members of the Sessional Committee

11. The table below lists the Party-appointed Councillors currently serving as members of the Sessional Committee, and the triennium for which they were first appointed.

Current Party-appointed members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council				
Region	Scientific Councillor	Appointed by	Triennium of first appointment to Sessional Committee	No. of terms of service
Africa	Mr. Djibril Djouck	Senegal	COP12-COP13	2
	Mr. Stephen Okiror	Uganda	COP13-COP14	1
	Prof. Dr. Edson Gandiwa	Zimbabwe	COP13-COP14	1
Asia	Mr. Hany Tatwany	Saudi Arabia	COP12-COP13	2
	Mr. Daniel Fernando	Sri Lanka	COP12-COP13	2
	Mr. Askar Davletbatkov	Kyrgyz Republic	COP13-COP14	1
Europe	Mr. João José de Bastos Loureiro	Portugal	COP13-COP14	1
	Mr. Ruben Moreno-Opo	Spain	COP13-COP14	1
	Ms. Daliborka Stankovic ⁵	Serbia	COP13-COP14	1
Oceania	Ms. Narelle Montgomery	Australia	COP12-COP13	2
	Ms. Saras Sharma	Fiji	COP13-COP14	1
	Mr. Graeme Taylor	New Zealand	COP11-COP12	3
South & Central America and the Caribbean	Mr. Carlos Mario Orrego Vásquez	Costa Rica	COP12-COP13	2
	Ms. Patricia Pereira Serafini	Brazil	COP12-COP13	2
	Mr. Héctor Samuel Vera Alcaraz	Paraguay	COP12-COP13	2

12. Eight of the current members of the Sessional Committee (one from Africa, two from Asia, two from Oceania, and three from South & Central America and the Caribbean) will have completed at least two terms by the time of COP14 (see the highlighted rows in the table above). The remaining members (a total of seven)⁶ will have completed one term and should be considered for renewal.
13. As decided by the Standing Committee at its 44th meeting, proposed candidates for Party-appointed members should be identified by the regions through a consultation process among the Parties in the regions, coordinated by the relevant members of the Standing Committee. Regions are then expected to submit their recommendations on the candidates to COP.

⁵ Ms. Stankovic was appointed by COP12 as an alternate member for Europe. She became a member of the Sessional Committee in September 2019, replacing Mr. Poluda who had stepped down. Pursuant to Rule 2 (g) of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council and its Sessional Committee, she will be eligible to serve for two triennia in the new capacity as member in addition to any term she has already served as an alternate.

⁶ Six of them have confirmed that they are in position to continue as a Party-appointed member of the CMS Sessional Committee. Confirmation from Mr. Davletbatkov is pending.

14. The COP is also expected to appoint, from among the Party-appointed Councillors, up to three alternate members for each region. There is no limit on the length of tenure for this role. The current list of alternates is as follows:

Current alternate members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council		
Region	Scientific Councillor	Appointed by
Africa	Mr. Kahsay Gebretensae Asgedom	Ethiopia
	Mr. Andrews Agyekumhehe	Ghana
	Mr. Selby Remie	Seychelles
Europe	Mr. Jean-Philippe Sibley	France
	Mr. James M. Williams	United Kingdom

15. In identifying proposed candidates for Party-appointed members, Parties should keep in mind the provisions of [Resolution 13.2, paragraph 10](#), which stipulate that representatives from countries with contributions in arrears of three years or more should be excluded from holding office in Convention bodies. The status of contributions can be found on the [CMS website](#).
16. It should be assumed that candidates proposed by Parties that are not eligible for funding to attend the Convention's meetings have the means to participate in the meetings of the Sessional Committee, either through their own institution or the government of the Party that appointed them.
17. In the intersessional period between COP13 and COP14, the Secretariat has also updated the contact details of the CMS Scientific Council members. The Scientific Council members nominated by Parties were requested to confirm or update their contact details by 31st October 2023.

Recommended actions

18. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
- a) after consultation within regional groups, appoint the regional and alternate members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, in accordance with Resolution 12.4;
 - b) after considering the nominations of candidates for the COP-appointed Councillors, as contained in Annexes 1 and 2 of this document, and the recommendations of the Scientific Council, appoint COP-appointed Councillors for the subject areas of Aquatic Mammals, and Climate Change.

ANNEX 1

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS OF
COP-APPOINTED COUNCILLORS FOR THE SUBJECT AREAS OF
AQUATIC MAMMALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

NB: The Annex is presented in a separate file [here](#).

ANNEX 2

**FULL NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS OF COP-APPOINTED
COUNCILLORS FOR THE SUBJECT AREAS OF
AQUATIC MAMMALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

NB: Due to its length, the Annex is presented in a separate file [here](#).