

ADDENDUM 1**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**
(arising from ScC-SC6)**IMPACTS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION ON AQUATIC, TERRESTRIAL AND AVIAN SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/ Doc. 30.4.5

*(ScC-SC6 Agenda item 12.4.5)***RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14**

The Scientific Council supports the recommendations set out in the document.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- Plastic pollution is a very important issue for migratory species and ecosystems, also resulting in the poisoning of species.
- The focus of action should not be on cleaning up but on avoiding plastic production in the first place. In that regard, the development of a new treaty under the aegis of UNEP to address plastic pollution in a comprehensive manner was welcomed.
- The paper by Clark, B.L., Carneiro, A.P.B., Pearmain, E.J. *et al.* Global assessment of marine plastic exposure risk for oceanic birds. *Nat Commun* **14**, 3665 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-38900-z> was recommended.
- Measures to address plastic pollution should be handled by the Convention in a complementary manner between aquatic and other taxa units.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- Concerns were expressed on overstepping the mandate of the COP with regards to Decision 14.AA, directing Parties to raise issues of importance to migratory species in the negotiations on the new plastic treaty and on overstretching the resources of the Scientific Council in regard to Decision 14.CC, directing the Council to develop a concise report summarizing the status of knowledge on the impact of plastic pollution on CMS-listed species that inhabit in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in other regions, along with recommendations to address such threats.
- Under 14.AA it would be important to include the necessity for Parties to monitor levels of emerging persistent organic pollutants such as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in tissues of migratory species.
- Additionally, Parties should be requested to take note of new regulations regarding PFAs of EU which set maximum levels of PFOS/PFOA/PFAS in several foods, noting that many migratory species are used for human consumption worldwide. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R2388>