

ADDENDUM 1
In-session version

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC6)

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR CETACEANS

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.1

(ScC-SC6 Agenda item 9.5.1)

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP14

ScC-SC6 recommended that the draft Resolution be simplified and the potential for inconsistencies with other adopted text be reduced before it is considered by COP for adoption.

ScC-SC6 recommended the draft Decisions for adoption with the amendments listed below.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Aquatic Working Group welcomed the review contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1a and considered it useful.
- It was noted that some of the species mentioned in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.1 were not listed on the Appendices and were not migratory. Accordingly, the reference to Hector's and Maui's Dolphins should be removed from a revised version.
- Some participants questioned the need for a comprehensive resolution on a specific taxonomic group, while others stressed how useful it was to have one place which cross-referenced all relevant other Resolutions and outlined activities of specific importance to cetaceans, noting that this was a large and diverse taxonomic group affected by numerous threats.
- No concerns of a scientific or technical nature were raised by the Working Group.
- Given the complexity of the document as well as the overlap with other Resolutions and the resulting risk of inconsistencies being introduced at COP14 or subsequent COPs, there were concerns that negotiating this Resolution would be very time consuming and might not be successful.
- The Secretariat was recommended to revise and simplify the draft Resolution. A correspondence group would be established with individuals willing to support the Secretariat in this process.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Decision 14.CC c)

- Delete "Identify and"

Decision 14.II b)

- Amend to read:

"Consult with ~~relevant suitable~~-regional and technical bodies ~~including such as~~ the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group to seek ~~its~~their support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, as recommended by the above-mentioned workshop;"