

ScC-SC6 CRP 12.2.1.2

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS (arising from ScC-SC6)

ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY – TECHNICAL ASPECTS

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.2

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sessional Committee recommends endorsement of the document and the lines of future work outlined, subject to the minor amendments detailed below.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee welcomed the array of work presented in the document, and emphasised the centrality of ecological connectivity to the goals of CMS. In that light, it was noted that in addition to the documents dedicated specifically to connectivity, the issue is an important element of other strands of work of CMS being brought to the COP from the Scientific Council, and a coherent overview of how the strands inter-relate should be maintained and linkages could be strengthened e.g. by including references to connectivity measures in the templates for proposing and reporting Concerted Actions.

Attention was drawn to opportunities for synergies with various scientific data holding initiatives, including among others the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership and BirdLife International's redevelopment of its Data Zone, which offers opportunities for analyses of relevance to migratory species and connectivity.

The strong potential that connectivity offers as a subject for outreach and awareness raising was also noted.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

Page 4 of the background document, paragraph. 16

Amend the paragraph as follows:

16. CMS Family instruments also have resources such as the AEWA Critical Site Network Tool, tracking data on albatrosses and petrels held by ACAP and on bats compiled by Eurobats, a site network for marine turtles created by IOSEA, [a network of sites of importance for birds of prey compiled under the Raptors MOU](#), and others that are being identified in consultation with each instrument. The same would apply to other CMS initiatives such as the Energy Task Force. The CMS Secretariat has documented data sets held by CMS Family instruments, together with metadata on the data sources and the hosting and access arrangements.

Annex 1 DATABASES TO SUPPORT RELEVANT ANALYSES AND SYNTHESSES OF INFORMATION ON CONNECTIVITY – DECISION 13.114 A)

Page 10 after paragraph 14

Insert a new paragraph as follows (and re-number the subsequent ones):

15. The Signatories of the Raptors MOU have amended their list of sites (Table 3 of Annex 3 to the MOU) to include over 7500 sites recognized as internationally important for migratory raptors across the geographic scope of the MOU. These sites represent the largest network of sites for migratory raptors ever identified and the MOU provides the legal framework for their conservation. For each site, the list of qualifying species is provided and Signatories are committed to keeping the data updated.

Page 12 paragraph 23

Delete the paragraph (and re-number the subsequent ones).

(The paragraph refers to a database which was never completed and does not exist).