



# Global Biodiversity Mechanisms

A thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

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Thematic Briefing

# Climate Change and Biodiversity



## **Global Biodiversity Mechanisms**

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Strand Palace Hotel, London

20 May 2009

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## **Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### Briefing note: Climate Change and Biodiversity

Climate change issues have been discussed at the following recent international meetings:

#### **CBD CoP9 (May 2008)**

[Decision IX/16: Biodiversity and Climate Change](#)

#### **Ramsar CoP 10 (October/November 2008)**

[Resolution 10.24: Climate Change and Wetlands](#)

#### **CMS CoP9 (December 2008)**

[Resolution 9.07: Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species](#)

#### **AEWA MoP 4 (September 2008)**

[Resolution 4.14: The Effect of Climate Change on Migratory Waterbirds](#)

#### **World Conservation Congress (October 2008)**

[Resolution 4.075: Climate change mitigation targets for biodiversity conservation](#)

[Resolution 4.076: Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies](#)

#### **CBD CoP9 (May 2008)**

The CoP agreed to include climate change as a cross-cutting theme across all of its work programmes including assessing the potential impacts, both negative and positive, of mitigation and adaptation activities. It also recognised the need to provide biodiversity-relevant evidence to the UNFCCC and to ensure that ocean fertilisation activities do not take place until a good scientific basis to justify such activities is established. The CoP also noted the importance of the conservation of wetland biodiversity, particularly peatlands, in addressing climate change. This last essentially reinforces existing links with the Ramsar convention.

The key Decision (IX/16) is comprehensive and covers four key areas:

- i. proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention;
- ii. options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions;
- iii. ocean fertilization;
- iv. summary of the findings of the Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

In response to paragraph 12 (b) of decision IX/16 B a second *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change was set up. The purpose of the AHTEG is to provide biodiversity-relevant information to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the provision of scientific and technical advice and assessment on the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. This group has met twice, once in

[London](#) in November 2008, and again in [Helsinki](#) in April and may meet a third time to conclude its deliberations.

### **Ramsar CoP 10 (October/November 2008)**

The Ramsar Convention has been asked by the Convention on Biological Diversity to take the lead on guidance and policies regarding climate change and wetlands. A draft resolution to the Ramsar CoP<sup>1</sup> stresses the importance of intact wetlands in carbon sequestration and storage, as well as in the provision of other ecosystem services.

The principle clause of the Resolution 10.24 sets the scene by urging ‘*Parties to manage wetlands wisely to reduce the multiple pressures they face and thereby increase their resilience to climate change and to take advantage of the significant opportunities to use wetlands wisely as a response option to reduce the impacts of climate change*’

The following issues are covered by the resolution.

- Promoting collaboration between relevant MEA’s at all levels i.e. when preparing resolutions, through appropriate joint working of secretariats and through collaboration of scientific working groups.
- Understanding the role of wetland conservation in mitigation and the potential role of wetlands in adaptation activities.
- Protecting wetlands against potential adverse impacts due to the direct impacts of, and societal responses to, climate change.
- Promoting the role of wetlands in providing connectivity in the landscape e.g. along rivers.

### **CMS CoP 9 (December 2008)**

The CMS CoP adopted a key resolution (9.07) on the impacts of climate change on migratory species. The principle paragraph of the resolution urges Parties ‘*to identify which migratory species are most likely to be directly or indirectly threatened or impacted by climate change or climate change mitigation or adaptation activities ... and to transmit relevant information to the Secretariat*’.

The following issues are covered by the Resolution, namely:

- application of the precautionary principle;
- the design and implementation of adaptation strategies for migratory species threatened by climate change or by climate change mitigation or adaptation activities;
- collaboration between daughter agreements and across scientific groups;
- co-ordinating the incorporation of climate change impacts and relevant adaptation measures into species-specific Action Plans.

### **AEWA MoP 4 (September 2008)**

Following a UK-drafted Resolution on *Climate Change and Migratory Waterbirds*<sup>2</sup>, adopted at MoP3 of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, further work has been funded by the UK, including the preparation of a major assessment of the impacts of climate change on migratory waterbirds and draft guidance for response options. At MoP 4 a resolution was passed (4.14) that identifies species particularly at risk

The following needs are identified by the Resolution:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ramsar.org/sc/37/key\\_sc37\\_doc27.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/sc/37/key_sc37_doc27.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop3\\_docs/final\\_resolutions\\_pdf/res3\\_17\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop3_docs/final_resolutions_pdf/res3_17_climate_change.pdf)

- an assessment of adaptation measures needed to benefit migratory waterbirds;
- an assessment of the vulnerability of species listed in Table 1 of the Agreement's Action Plan and identifying measures that may help maintain populations;
- production of adaptation guidelines;
- including potentially beneficial adaptation measures in the development and implementation of single and multi-species action plans; and
- identifying research needs.

### **World Conservation Congress (October 2008)**

The Congress produced a significant number of Resolutions (which are directed to IUCN itself), identified below and a single Recommendation (which is directed to third parties). Some of the Resolutions are very specific and refer to one region or country.

[Resolution 4.016: Development of climate change guidelines for Red List assessments](#)

[Resolution 4.074: Climate change and overexploitation of natural resources - inclusion in the IUCN Programme](#)

[Resolution 4.075: Climate change mitigation targets for biodiversity conservation](#)

[Resolution 4.076: Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies](#)

[Resolution 4.077: Climate change and human rights](#)

[Resolution 4.079 The European Union and its overseas entities faced with climate change and biodiversity loss](#)

[Resolution 4.080: Mobilizing action to build resilience and assist adaptation to climate change of coral reefs and marine ecosystems and people that depend on them](#)

[Resolution 4.068 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation \(REDD\)](#)

[Resolution 4.069 Mangrove conservation in Mesoamerica](#)

[Resolution 4.078 Appeal for action to address global environmental change](#)

Three other resolutions are more directly energy related and are partly covered in the biofuel briefing.

[Resolution 4.081 Equitable access to energy](#)

[Resolution 4.082 Sustainable biomass-based energy](#)

[Resolution 4.083 Industrial agrofuel production](#)

A single Recommendation highlights the role of sustainable land management in mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and calls for measures to help achieve this. The principle MEA targeted is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

[Recommendation 4.134: Responding to deforestation and land degradation related to climate change and desertification](#)



Thematic Briefing

# Biofuels



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# Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

## Briefing note: Biofuels

The issue of biofuels has been discussed at the following recent international meetings:

### **CBD CoP9 (May 2008)**

Decision IX/1, para 31: In-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Decision IX/2: Agricultural biodiversity: biofuels and biodiversity.

### **Ramsar CoP 10 (October/November 2008)**

Resolution 10.25: Wetlands and biofuels.

### **World Conservation Congress (October 2008)**

Resolution 4.082: Sustainable biomass-based energy

Resolution 4.083: Industrial agrofuel production

Biofuels and their potential negative impacts on biodiversity have been of high priority for Ramsar and CBD Conventions. The discussions on biofuels are notoriously difficult and progress towards protecting biodiversity and ecosystems from unsustainable biofuels production has been slow.

Notable elements of the various Resolutions include the following.

- Agreement that biofuel production and use should be sustainable in relation to biological diversity and wetlands.
- Concern that increased demand for fuel and energy, including biofuel, will compete with other demands upon agriculture land such as food production and that this will lead to the conversion of wetlands and other threatened ecosystems, including sites previously the subject of restoration projects.
- Recognition that 70% of globally abstracted water is already being used for irrigated agriculture and that biofuel production could increase the threats to water resources and wetlands and biodiversity, including threats to wetlands through their conversion and adverse affects on water quality (RAMSAR).
- Acknowledgement that the conversion of wetlands and other habitats risks releasing high levels of greenhouse gases from the carbon they store and that land use change is already causing increases in global GHG emissions.
- Encouraging Parties to:
  - promote the positive, and minimise the negative, impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities;
  - develop and apply sound policy and regulatory frameworks for the sustainable production and use of biofuels, taking into account their full life-cycle as compared to other fuel types, that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

- strive to ensure that any biofuels policies consider the full range and value of ecosystem services and livelihoods provided by wetlands and the biodiversity they support (RAMSAR);
- share their experiences on the development and application of tools relevant to the sustainable production and use of biofuels and submit examples to the Executive Secretary (CBD);
- conduct deeper study and analysis to assess the potential impacts, benefits and risks of proposed biofuel crop production schemes (RAMSAR).

The Resolutions call for further action, in particular:

- for the CBD Executive Secretary to convene regional workshops on the sustainable production and use of biofuels, aiming at considering ways and means to promote the positive and minimize the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity;
- to consider at CBD CoP10 ways and means to promote positive, and minimize negative, impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity;
- for the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel to review and collate existing best practice and social and environmental sustainability appraisals for growing feedstock for biofuels in relation to wetlands; where appropriate to develop such guidance and appraisals in collaboration with other relevant international organisations;
- to consider further discussions between Ramsar Parties on addressing sustainable biofuel issues in relation to wetlands and to work with relevant international bodies dealing with biofuels;
- for the IUCN Secretary General to continue to support efforts to develop sustainable biofuels, to support the IUCN Commissions in a report that describes how biomass production and use might be sustainably integrated with local livelihoods, to share this information with the CBD and others, and to promote strategies for sustainable and pro-poor biofuel production.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress has adopted two Resolutions in relation to biofuels *inter alia* calling on Governments to:

- put in place appropriate regulatory structures and prior to this to carry out analyses of the potential social, environmental and human rights impacts, including life-cycle analyses of existing and new large-scale biofuel production, and
- immediately suspend all incentives for agro-fuels and agro-energy from industrial monocultures.

Thematic Briefing

# Wildlife diseases and invasive alien species



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# Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

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## Briefing note: wildlife diseases and invasive alien species

### Summary

Invasive alien species (IAS) and wildlife disease can have significant impacts not only on biodiversity but also on human society and its economic interests. IAS have been identified as one of the major causes of global biodiversity loss, whilst the consequences of wildlife disease on wildlife populations (particularly when small or fragmented) and on domesticated animals or humans (if zoonotically infected) can be immense. Both issues have strong similarities, not least the extent to which similar responses (prevention through policy, surveillance and control) are demanded of both.

Both these issues – especially that of wildlife disease – have been gaining increased attention from MEAs, with the 2008 CoPs giving them particular focus.

UK expertise was significantly influential in the drafting of most of the text and guidance related to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and other wildlife disease issues, adopted by three MEAs last year. We continue to have strong influence internationally in relation to this issue – especially informal co-ordination between multiple international organisations, MEAs and the EU. Several UK procedures and approaches concerning HPAI responses have now been adopted as recommended good practice by the international community.

The UK is well placed to respond to international recommendations related to IAS via the [GB Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy](#), and in relation to wildlife disease issues via DEFRA's [Wildlife Health Strategy](#). However, neither of these important policy frameworks apply to the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies which are already suffering major impacts from IAS and where the implications of wildlife disease remain largely unaddressed and unconsidered.

The need for OT and CD governments to develop relevant policy in these areas seems to be a high priority. It would be useful to explore how this might best be developed and supported with expertise from other parts of the UK. It would also be helpful to discuss how UK expertise might be used to help develop relevant policy and processes internationally.

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## Outputs from relevant MEA meetings

Issues of wildlife disease and alien invasive species have been discussed at the recent international meetings or otherwise agreed by international processes:

### Invasive Alien Species

#### **CBD COP 9 (May 2008)**

Decision XI/4: [In-depth review of ongoing work on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.](#)

#### **AEWA MoP 4 (September 2008)**

Resolution 4.5: [Introduced non-native waterbird species in the Agreement area.](#)

#### **European Commission (December 2008)**

Communication - [Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species](#)

### Wildlife Diseases

#### **AEWA MoP 4 (September 2008)**

Resolution 4.15: [Responding to the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.](#)

#### **Ramsar CoP 10 (October/November 2008)**

Resolution X.21: [Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.](#)

#### **CMS CoP 9 (December 2008)**

Resolution 9.8: [Responding to the challenge of emerging and re-emerging diseases in migratory species, including HPAI H5N1.](#)

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## Wildlife diseases

All three Resolutions have a major focus on conservation responses to highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, in all cases responding to previous Resolutions at previous MoP/CoPs in autumn 2005 when the virus was spreading across Eurasia.

Each Resolution seeks to establish good national and international practice in contingency planning and responses to HPAI outbreaks. This good practice draws to a significant extent on UK experience, especially in respect to aspects such as the recommendation for countries to establish Ornithological Expert Panels (as pioneered by DEFRA) as a means of integrating specialist ornithological expertise within government response systems.

Notable elements of the three Resolutions include the following.

- Promotion of conclusions of the Aviemore workshop on ‘Lessons learnt from H5N1 outbreaks’ (June 2007), and including recommendations with respect to:
  - contingency planning, risk assessment and response strategies;
  - surveillance and early warning systems;
  - epidemiology and tracing sources of infection;
  - communication, education and public awareness; and
  - research and data needs [AEWA].
- A major ‘guide to guidance’ related to HPAI which outlines key sources of advice and guidance<sup>1</sup> that countries can use, organised by theme and risk state [Ramsar].
- New guidance for managers of wetland protected sites related to risk assessment and responses [Ramsar].
- An objective ‘scientific summary’ outlining current understanding of the genesis and factors behind the spread of HPAI H5N1, especially as a guide for those responsible for briefing media and others [AEWA, Ramsar & CMS].
- An outline of experience (drawn largely from UK and other EU experience) in establishing and running Ornithological Expert Panels so as to ensure appropriate ornithological expertise is available to decision makers within government regarding risk assessment, contingency planning and responses [AEWA & Ramsar];
- The need to further integrate responses to wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health issues.
- Recommendation on the important need to undertake and report epidemiological investigations following cases where HPAI H5N1 infection is found in wild birds – whether apparently associated with outbreaks in poultry or not – in order to learn from these and reduce future risks [AEWA & Ramsar].
- Technical guidance for non-specialists on recommended ornithological information to be collected during surveillance programmes or field assessment of wild bird mortality events, especially at wetlands (so as to improve quality of reported data reported internationally which has been generally poor) [Ramsar].
- Strong endorsement that each MEA should continue to support and participate in the work of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds ([www.aiweb.info](http://www.aiweb.info)) as the international liaison group on this issue [AEWA, Ramsar & CMS].

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<sup>1</sup> See also <http://www.aiweb.info/document.aspx?DocID=285>

- Promotion of the convening (by CMS and FAO) of a separate Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease to provide a means for liaison on conservation responses on wide issues regarding wildlife disease [CMS].
- Development of appropriate guidance on appropriate responses to wildlife diseases of importance to people, domestic animals and wildlife which are dependent on wetlands [Ramsar & CMS].

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## **Invasive alien species (IAS)**

### **CBD CoP 9**

Fifteen guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of IAS impacts were agreed at CoP 6 in 2002. At COP 9 decisions were taken on recommendations from a review undertaken by an *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group ([UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/4](#)).

The review identified the lack of capacity as a major constraint to the prevention, eradication and control of IAS. The inadequacies included phytosanitary and quarantine control, early detection and rapid response systems, adequate field equipment; inter-sectoral planning, economic valuation, and integrated policy and legal frameworks.

### **Gaps and inconsistencies**

CoP 9 recognised the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies and agreed follow-up activities as follows:

- Parties were encouraged to use existing risk assessment guidance and apply the International Plant Protection Convention quarantine procedures and standards to all IAS that have adverse impacts on plant biodiversity.
- The International Plant Protection Convention was invited to continue its efforts to expand its coverage of IAS.
- Organisations including OIE – the World Organization for Animal Health, WTO’s Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and FAO’s Committee on Fisheries were invited to note the lack of international standards covering IAS and to consider whether and how to address this, including broadening their mandates and providing practical guidance.
- Examples of best practices were requested for addressing risks associated with the IAS via trade in pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food. SBSTTA is to consider the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group to address the risks associated with the introduction of IAS.

### **Follow-up of in-depth review of work programme**

Decisions to date including the “Guiding Principles” adopted in [Decision VI/23](#) which continues to provide a relevant guidance framework. However, IAS threats continue to grow and additional actions were identified in four main areas outlined below. The main points included the need for the following.

#### ***1. National, regional and sub-regional activities and capacity-building***

- **Development of national and regional policies, strategies and/or programmes and initiatives**, which to address IAS threats. The EU IAS strategy is a good example. Workshops were seen as very useful for building and strengthening regional initiatives.

- **Support for capacity development** in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states, to implement national strategies and programmes on IAS, noting also countries that are centres of origin.
- **Identify existing information management networks**, expertise and opportunities to further enhance national work of regional organisations and share lessons learned about regional approaches.
- **Collaborate on the development and use of early warning systems** and on the development and use of rapid response mechanisms.
- Further **enhance and strengthen the involvement and participation of local communities** in the management of IAS, and to include in national IAS strategies and action plan implementation.
- **Develop capacity** to address how climate change affects the risks associated with the introduction, establishment, spread and impacts of IAS;

## 2. *Information exchange on best practices, lessons learned and development of tools*

- **Submit case-studies, lessons learned and best practices** to implement the Guiding Principles and other relevant measures.
- **Develop practical tools based on case studies** and best practice to help implement CoP 9 decisions on IAS with Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and others, and develop and implement national IAS strategies.
- **Establish mechanisms to manage pathways for potential IAS**, especially in inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems, including shipping, trade and aquaculture and mariculture.
- Parties and other States that have not done so, to **ratify the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment**.
- Note the need for **guidance and criteria to evaluate the risks from other pathways of IAS** such as aviation, tourism, hull-fouling, and development aid projects.
- Support **development and implementation of voluntary schemes**, certification systems and codes of conduct for relevant industries and stakeholders including guidelines to prevent introduction of, and manage potentially invasive commercially important species (including plants, pets, invertebrates, fish, and aquarium / terrarium species).
- Study the **impact of other drivers**, in particular, land use change and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities on the introduction, establishment and spread of IAS.

## 3. *Communication, education and public awareness*

- **Strengthen national level communication across sectors**, ensure greater co-operation and co-ordination between relevant agencies and authorities at national and regional levels, and consider the advisability of establishing or designating national co-ordination centres.
- **Develop and support awareness raising programmes at all levels** for decision-makers and practitioners, in particular in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, and in the horticulture trade and pet trade, and more generally, in the transportation, trading, travel and tourism sectors that are potential pathways of biological invasions.
- **Promote access to and availability of information on IAS**.

#### 4. *Provision of resources*

- CBD reiterated its invitation to the GEF, Parties, other Governments and funding organizations to **provide adequate and timely financial support to GISP** to enable it to fulfil the tasks outlined in many of its decisions.

AEWA MoP 4 considered a [major review](#) (undertaken by the BTO) related to the status and trends on non-native waterbird species in the Agreement area. Resolution 4.5 reflected on the implications for Contracting Parties. In particular, it (*inter alia*) recommended:

- that Contracting Parties and other Range States strengthen their precautionary measures in order to prevent introductions, escapes and deliberate release of non-native waterbirds species and, as appropriate, enforce and improve national legislation to this effect;
- that ornithological organisations to encourage counters to include non-native and hybrid waterbirds in their existing waterbird censuses and monitoring schemes, and regularly report such information;
- the UK to continue its Ruddy Duck eradication programme towards a complete extermination of the UK population, and strongly urged all other Contracting Parties and other Range States with Ruddy Duck populations, notably The Netherlands and France, to establish or step up complementary eradication measures in order to prevent the spread of the species in Europe and towards its complete eradication within Eurasia;
- the implementation of better regulation of the introduction of non-native populations of native waterbird species so as to prevent the introduction of inappropriate genetic material; and
- that Contracting Parties consider the better recording and monitoring of avicultural collections of non-native waterbirds.

**Ramsar** CoP 10 did not specifically consider non-native species at CoP 10, although its Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has been requested to “Prepare comprehensive and up-to-date global guidance on invasive species in relation to wetlands and their management, in cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and other relevant organizations” for CoP 11.

It is probable that this will be in the form of a ‘guide to guidance’ as successfully prepared for HPAI H5N1 (see above).

#### **Other international work in progress...**

##### **European Union**

Annual costs in the EU related to IAS issues are estimated to be at least €12.7 bn, and increasing rapidly due to the expansion of trade. The European Commission adopted in December 2008 a [‘Communication presenting policy options for an EU Strategy on Invasive Species’](#).

In the Communication, the Commission:

- examines the evidence regarding ecological, economical and social impact of IAS in Europe;
- analyses the effectiveness of the current legal situation for tackling this problem; and
- describes four possible options for a future EU strategy.

In addition the Commission highlights measures that can be put in place immediately, including a Europe-wide early warning system to report on new and emerging species.

A consultation was carried out on the options proposed in the Communication and the Commission is now in the process of developing the EU Strategy on Invasive Species, planned for 2010.

### **International Convention for the control and Management of Ships, Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (the BWM Convention)**

The Ballast Water Convention has been developed to address the major issue of the spread of marine IAS via sea water carried as ballast in empty tankers. This is known to have resulted in the spread of many marine IAS which in turn have both conservation and sometimes massive economic impacts. For example the introduction of the shipworm *Teredo navalis* into the Baltic has severely damaged wooden coastal defence structures and caused damage estimated at €50 million since 1993. Similarly, the Chinese mitten crab has caused damage of an estimated €73.5 - 85 million in German waters alone.

From 2009, but not later than 2016, the Convention requires the establishment of a ballast water management system on board ships which will replace the uncontrolled ballast water uptake and discharge operations common until then. In future, ballast water will be treated on board before being discharged into the marine environment, in compliance with the ballast water performance standard in Regulation D-2 of the Ballast Water Convention.

The BWM Convention will enter into force 12 months ratification by not less than 30 States with combined merchant fleets constituting >35% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping. As of April 2008 it has been ratified by 18 Contracting Parties with 15.4% of the world's fleet tonnage.

The UK is in the process of ratifying the Convention but this could take about two years.

## Issues for possible discussion

### GENERAL ISSUES

- What priority is currently being given to IAS and wildlife disease as an issue for biodiversity conservation in the UK? Is this adequate and does it reflect the impacts of these both on biodiversity, and on (socio-)economic interests?
  - How might the profile of these issues be further raised within and outside government?
- IAS issues have been identified as of high priority by the governments of the UK OTs and CDs. This is especially because of their status as islands, sometimes in tropical or sub-tropical areas, and with often limited governmental and other capacities. Yet although part of the UK, the OTs are included neither within the GB Framework Strategy (below) nor within the scope of the EU's Communication.
  - How can capacity for IAS (and wildlife disease) issues best be developed within the UK OT/CDs?
  - How can the risk assessment developed for GB best be applied in the OT/CDs?
- How can we better join-up currently separate thinking about IAS in marine and terrestrial environments?

### SPECIFIC ISSUES

The [GB Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy](#) gives four main themes under which discussion might be considered:

#### 1. PREVENTION

#### 2. EARLY DETECTION, SURVEILLANCE, MONITORING

- Are the UK's surveillance programmes adequate for the purposes of early detection of IAS and wildlife disease?
  - What about the OTs and CDs?
- Can we further fine-tune UK responses in the event of further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1, especially the undertaking of recommended surveillance when infection is detected in wild birds but not in poultry?
- Can we adapt the Ornithological Expert Panel concept for application in the context of other advice to government on wildlife disease responses?

#### 3. RAPID RESPONSE

#### 4. MITIGATION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION

- In terms of Ramsar STRP's task to prepare further guidance related to wetland invasive species, what form might this take that avoids duplication and adds value to existing material? What information or guidance would be useful either at a policy level or to wetland managers that doesn't readily exist?

Thematic Briefing

# Application of the ecosystem approach and use of ecosystem SERVICES



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## **Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **Briefing note: Application of the ecosystem approach and use of ecosystem services**

Despite the ecosystem approach (EA) being developed as the primary framework of action under the CBD, the results of the in-depth review conducted before CBD CoP9 showed that the EA is still rarely used in its full scope. Insufficient understanding of the concept seems to be one of the largest barriers to overcome.

The decision at CBD CoP 9 stressed that the EA should not be regarded as a single solution but rather its application provides the basis for bringing together social, economic, cultural and environmental values. It was also noted that whilst there were good examples of it being applied locally it needs to be applied at all levels and embedded across policy. For instance, the EA has an important role to play in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The concepts of ecosystem services and ecosystem functioning are also firmly embedded in the concept of the EA. Consequently its application could assist in the articulation of the role of ecosystem goods and services to human well-being.

The Decision at CoP 9 strengthened calls for the promotion of the EA across sectors and to promote national initiatives. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment will assist with meeting this requirement. There were also calls for its incorporation into poverty reduction strategies with particular emphasis on its application at the local level. The DFID, ESRC, NERC project Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction (ESPA) could make a useful contribution to this aim.

#### **Sustainable use of ecosystem services**

There is wide recognition that securing sustainable food (and biofuels, fibre, fuelwood etc) production globally will require ecosystems to maintain their capacity to deliver ecosystem goods and services. The FAO has estimated that 40% of the world's economy is based directly and indirectly on the use of biological resources. It is therefore not surprising that sustainable use of biological diversity is one of the three objectives set out in the CBD's first article. As underlined in the plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, sustainable use is also an effective tool to combat poverty, and, consequently, to achieve sustainable development. In light of this CBD Decision VII/14 adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment findings have also strengthened the call for a better understanding of the links between ecosystem goods and services and public welfare. This has also been echoed in several CoP decisions, notably under CBD's agricultural biodiversity, forestry biodiversity and EA decisions; and a CMS resolution on sustainable use.

Under the decision on agricultural biodiversity at CBD CoP9 there were several calls for work which strengthen the links between sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity, as follows.

- Compiling and disseminating information to improve understanding of soil biodiversity, its interaction with above-ground biodiversity, other soil functions, and the practices that affect it.
- Completing information (much has already been collated by the FAO) on pollinator species, populations and their taxonomy, ecology and other interactions.
- To gather and disseminate information on the links between climate change, agriculture and biodiversity, including the impacts of climate change on crops, crop wild relatives, livestock, food and nutrition, soil biodiversity and pollinators, as well as the availability of water.

An in-depth review of the CBD's thematic programme on sustainable use is currently underway. This will report to SBSTTA 14 and then to CoP10 in 2010.

Thematic Briefing

# Island issues

(Especially relating to the UK Overseas  
Territories & Crown Dependencies)



## Global Biodiversity Mechanisms

A thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London

20 May 2009

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**Global biodiversity mechanisms:  
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**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Briefing note: Island issues (especially relating to the UK Overseas Territories & Crown Dependencies)

**Outputs from relevant MEA meetings**

Issues relating to islands have been discussed specifically at the following meetings in 2008.

**CBD CoP9 (May 2008)**

Decision IX/21: Island Biodiversity

**World Conservation Congress (October 2008)**

Resolution 4.067: Advancing island conservation and sustainable livelihoods

Resolution 4.079: The European Union and its overseas entities faced with climate change and biodiversity loss

Resolution 4.032: Coordination of the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge

Islands are a cross-cutting theme in their own right and the nature of islands and their biodiversity make specific themes, such as climate change and invasive alien species, especially critical. Islands are also highly relevant from a UK perspective, notably in how we implement the various MEAs in our predominantly insular Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and also in the numerous islands around the coast of the metropolitan UK. Islands, as a topic, also have prominence in the CBD which adopted a *Programme of work on island biodiversity and protected areas* at its 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (Decision VIII/1) with almost 50 actions under 11 goals. The Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) is recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a partnership to advance the implementation of the CBD 2010 biodiversity target, to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, and implement the programmes of work on island biodiversity and protected areas.

Other recent relevant initiatives included a conference on *The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss*<sup>1</sup> held in Reunion (July 2008).

The event was co-ordinated by the IUCN under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The message from Reunion has a number of island related recommendations around themes like climate change, invasive species, economic valuation, the role of civil society, sustainable development and energy etc.

Building on the message from Reunion, the IUCN World Conservation Congress adopted one Resolution (of three particularly relevant to islands – see above) calling on the EU to provide responses to the recommendations of the message. Other island-related resolutions adopted at the 4th

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.reunion2008.eu/>

World Congress include those on marine biodiversity, marine protected areas, fisheries, the Mediterranean, the Arctic, mangrove conservation and climate change adaptation.

### **Other MEA/Island developments from 2008 onwards**

*MEA reporting requirements – new developments for islands in 2008/09.* The reporting burden arising from MEAs is often a problem for island States and Territories. The South Pacific Environmental Regional Programme (SPREP) is currently commissioning the Australian Government to investigate ways to reduce the burden of reporting to 5 biodiversity related MEA<sup>2</sup>s through the use of a consolidated reporting template that is tailored to meet the needs and reporting capacity of Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

*Development of island ‘Natura 2000-like’ voluntary scheme: BEST.* The European Commission is developing the concept of a voluntary scheme for **B**iodiversity and **E**cosystem **S**ervices in **T**erritories of European Overseas Countries and Territories that is similar to the Natura 2000 network. This initiative is being led by DG Environment, and there have been consultations around the initial concept with OT and relevant Member State governments and NGOs

#### *UK initiatives to support implementation of MEAs in UKOTs*

- The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Ecosystems and Biodiversity is meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> May where they will consider a **strategy** for HMG input into biodiversity conservation in the UKOTs. The strategy includes improving communications between UK and UK OTs in relation to MEAs.
- An Overseas Territories Research and Training Programme has been developed which is based around research priorities that have been identified by the UK OTs.

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<sup>2</sup> The 5 MEAs covered in this project are: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – Biennial report only; Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar); and World Heritage Convention (WHC).

## **Issues for possible discussion**

### **Key implementation requirements:**

- What do MEAs mean to OTs/CDs and other islands?
- Are MEAs relevant to OTs/CDs? What added value do they bring?
- What are the main barriers for OTs/CDs in implementing and complying with MEAs?
- How do MEA-related issues in the OTs and CDs compare with those in islands around the metropolitan UK – are there common issues?

### **Key emerging issues**

- What are the key emerging issues and how ready are we to respond to them?
- Invasive aliens are a key issue – but are the EU or GB invasives strategies relevant to OTs and CDs?

### **Evidence and research needs:**

- What are the key gaps in evidence base for OTs/CDs (building on the work already done – see above - rather than starting from scratch)

### **Science - Policy interface:**

- What are the policy needs/drivers in OTs/CDs? (national, UK, EU, international)
- Which have most impact/influence?
- What are the evidence needs to support the policy?
- Does the policy drive the evidence agenda or *vice versa* or neither? Which should it be?

### **Identify priorities**

- What are the main priorities for islands/OTs/CDs
  - Themes
  - MEAs
  - Processes

**Appendix 1.** Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which have been ratified by the UK and which have been extended to the UK's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. (Source – Foreign & Commonwealth Office; this table should be seen as indicative only until subject to confirmation).

	<b>CBD</b>	<b>CITES</b>	<b>CMS</b>	<b>CMS - ACAP</b>	<b>CMS - Eurobats</b>	<b>CMS - IOSEA</b>	<b>Ramsar</b>
<b>UK</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Bailiwick of Jersey</b>	-	X	-	-	X	-	X
<b>Bailiwick of Guernsey</b>	-	X	-	-	X	-	X
<b>Isle of Man</b>	-	X	X	-	X	-	X
<b>Anguilla</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
<b>Bermuda</b>	-	X	X	-	-	-	X
<b>BAT</b>	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
<b>BIOT</b>	-	X	X	-	-	X	X
<b>BVI</b>	X	X	X	-	-	-	X
<b>Cayman Islands</b>	X	X	X	-	-	-	X
<b>Cyprus SBA's</b>	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
<b>Falkland Islands</b>	-	X	X	X	-	-	X
<b>Gibraltar</b>	X	X	X	-	X	-	X
<b>Montserrat</b>	-	X	X	-	-	-	X
<b>Pitcairn</b>	-	X	X	-	-	-	X
<b>St Helena &amp; dependencies</b>	X	X	X	-	-	-	X
<b>SGSSI</b>	-	tbc	X	X	-	-	X
<b>TCI</b>	-	-	X	-	-	-	X

UK territories: BAT – British Antarctic Territory; BIOT – British Indian Ocean Territory; BVI – British Virgin Islands; Cyprus SBAs – Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas; SGSSI – South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, TCI – Turks & Caicos Islands. The dependencies of St Helena are Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha.

MEAs: CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity; CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; CMS - Convention on Migratory Species; ACAP – Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels; IOSEA – Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and SE Asia.

Thematic Briefing

# Science-policy interface



## **Global Biodiversity Mechanisms**

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[www.jncc.gov.uk/MEA-event](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/MEA-event)



## **Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### Briefing note: Science-policy interface

Ever since the former French President Jacques Chirac set out ambitious views for the creation of a new international science-policy mechanism for biodiversity at the international conference on 'Biodiversity: Science and Governance' in Paris in 2005 there has been a progressively more inclusive international debate on what is wrong with existing mechanisms and science bodies within the Conventions, what else is needed and how this could be delivered. A particular focus has been on creation of an independent scientific body similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Following a wide consultation on user needs undertaken by the French-sponsored '*International Mechanism on Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB)*' project, and with encouragement from the CBD Conference of the Parties in Bonn in May 2008, a meeting about the creation of an '*Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*' was organised by UNEP in Putrajaya in Malaysia in November 2008, with support from the UK Government. The meeting did not reach agreement on the establishment of a new panel but instead the Chairs recommended further exploration of mechanisms to improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and sustainable development. Such mechanisms could include: (1) components of early warning; (2) multiple scale assessments; (3) policy information; and, (4) capacity development. The Chairs requested a preliminary gap analysis to be undertaken to inform further consideration by the UNEP Governing Council.

In February 2009, the UNEP Governing Council requested UNEP to undertake a further process to explore mechanisms for improving and strengthening the science policy interface with the aim of reporting progress at the special session on biodiversity at the 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in 2010 and other relevant meetings (i.e. CBD COP10). Prior to this, UNEP was asked to convene a second intergovernmental and multi stakeholder meeting in [October] 2009, following completion of the full gap analysis. Consultation on this gap analysis is now taking place.

In parallel, the European Commission and European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) have developed the concept of a 'network of knowledge' as a means of facilitating greater engagement of existing science and science-policy bodies in provision of advice to international conventions and EU bodies. A workshop to discuss this concept will be held in Brussels on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The purpose of the discussion on this topic is to gain further insight about the most critical gaps and weaknesses in the international science-policy interface and to further develop thinking on how these could be delivered cost-effectively as a contribution to this international process. Relevant results of this meeting will be forwarded to UNEP and the European Commission.



Information Paper

# Briefing for workshop discussions



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## Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

### Briefing for workshop discussions

The five working groups are as follows:

- Climate change and biodiversity
- Biofuels
- Invasive alien species and wildlife diseases
- Ecosystem Approach and use of ecosystem services
- Island issues – especially relating to UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

Each group will have 2.25 hours in total for workshop discussions comprising 1.5 hours before lunch and 45 minutes afterwards. Subsequently, each group will have a 10 minute slot to report back to plenary. In order to keep feedback within the allotted time, we are asking the groups to restrict their conclusions to a few bullet points under each of five **key headings** (see below). A longer report (1-2 sides) of the working group will form part of the final report of the meeting and will be posted on the web pages.

#### Key items for discussion

Whilst discussions may be wide-ranging, we have asked each group to seek to address the following issues to give a common format to discussions under the different themes, as follows.

- Key implementation requirements – in order to better implement the requirements of the MEAs under each thematic heading, what are the most pressing issues for the UK, its devolved governments, agencies and Territories? What factors most limit our ability to implement the requirements of the various Conventions and how might we address these?
- Key emerging issues - what are the issues on the horizon, either globally or within the UK, that are most likely to have an impact over the coming years? How are these likely to emerge at future CoPs and are we prepared to address them?
- Evidence and research needs – what are the key gaps in our current and future evidence base and what research do we need to fill these?
- Science-policy interface – are there significant shortcomings in the way that science informs policy (at national, European and international level)? Or how policy requirements influence science investment? How might these be addressed? Is there a need for a new intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES)?
- Identify priorities for each thematic area (both from a domestic and global perspective) – considering the above, what does each working group identify as the greatest priorities under the particular theme? What might the UK most usefully focus its attention on in preparation for the next series of MEA meetings and what

might we want to achieve? How might these priorities differ between the metropolitan UK and its Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories?

Clearly, many of these thematic issues are inter-linked. For example, climate change is likely to have an impact on the rate of spread of invasive alien species; biofuel production may disrupt ecosystem services and biofuel species may themselves become invasive and so on. It may be useful for each group to consider any such interactions and how they may be addressed.

MEA Briefing

# Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



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## Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

### Briefing Note: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD is one of the three international conventions – together with the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Desertification Convention – that were opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. From 19 to 30 May 2008 the CBD held its 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 9) in Bonn Germany. Around 5000 participants attended this meeting including official delegates from over 180 of the 189 parties to the convention.

The Convention has three main objectives:

- Conservation of Biodiversity.
- Achieving sustainable use of biological diversity and its components
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of biological diversity (mainly genetic resources).

On the agenda for COP 9 were eight items for in depth consideration, as follows.

- Agricultural Biodiversity
- Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Invasive Alien Species
- Forest Biodiversity
- Incentives
- Ecosystem Approach
- Progress in achieving the 2010 target and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Financial resources and the Financial Mechanism (GEF)

In addition there were 17 other substantive agenda items

The main achievements of CBD COP 9 included: adoption of the "Bonn roadmap" for the negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS); adoption of scientific criteria and guidance for marine areas in need of protection; adoption of the Convention's first resource mobilization strategy; a decision on biodiversity and climate change, including language cautioning against ocean fertilization; and agreement on biofuels. The most difficult negotiations were around access and benefit sharing, climate change, biofuels and new and additional financing.

Of particular interest to the UK delegation were decisions<sup>1</sup> on:

*Biofuels*: no agreement was reached on sustainability criteria for biofuel production but the issue was incorporated into the agricultural biodiversity work programme and Parties were encouraged to promote the positive, and minimise the negative, impacts of biofuels on biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-09>

*Ecosystem approach and incentive measures:* The CoP continued to promote the use of the ecosystem approach and to consider this in the achievement of the MDGs and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. With respect to incentive measures, the CoP placed more emphasis on the assessment of values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, promotion of sustainably-produced biodiversity-derived products, and studies on market and payment schemes for ecosystem services.

*Climate change:* the CoP agreed to include climate change as a cross-cutting theme across all of its work programmes including assessing the potential impacts, both negative and positive, of mitigation and adaptation activities. It also recognised the need to provide biodiversity-relevant evidence to the UNFCCC and to ensure that ocean fertilisation activities do not take place until a good scientific basis to justify such activities is established. The CoP also noted the importance of the conservation of wetlands and biodiversity, particularly peatlands, in addressing climate change.

*Protected areas:* Sensible and useful actions were agreed to improve the governance and management effectiveness of protected areas through mainstreaming, application of the ecosystem approach, the development and sharing of tools and best practice, and the analysis of capacity gaps. There was strong pressure to agree to new and additional financing for protected areas and resistance to attempts to link protected areas to funding already available for sustainable development, climate change and wider implementation of the convention. UK didn't agree with either of these positions but eventually conceded a little on both issues.

MEA Briefing

# Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)



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## Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

### Briefing note: Convention on Migratory Species

Migratory species are vulnerable to a range of threats, not just where they live in the breeding and non-breeding seasons, but also in the countries along their migration routes. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS; also known as the Bonn Convention) is a species based, action focused Convention, which creates a framework to develop other treaties for specific species or groups of species.

CMS was adopted in 1979 and entered into force on 1 Nov 1983. Species may be listed on Appendix I as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of their range, or on Appendix II as having an unfavourable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international co-operation. To-date, seven Agreements and 14 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been adopted. These Agreements and MoUs are open to all range states, whether or not they are parties to the Convention. The most recent (9<sup>th</sup>) Conference of the Parties was held in Rome from 1-4 December 2008<sup>1</sup>.

The UK is a party to the following CMS instruments:

- Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (Eurobats)
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
- The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
- Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa (Marine Turtle - Africa MoU)
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (Marine Turtle – IOSEA MoU)
- Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) (Aquatic Warbler MoU)
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptor Agreement)

The Convention has grown significantly in the past decade. With 110 Parties, CoP9, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, was therefore a cross-roads. CoP recognised this by passing resolutions which looked to consolidate and review direction, in parallel with continuing action.

The conference adopted 17 resolutions and 5 recommendations<sup>2</sup> including those on:

- developing an inter-sessional process to determine the future shape of the convention;

<sup>1</sup> A draft report of the CoP is available from the CMS website at: [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/documents/Final\\_Report\\_draft18March09.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/documents/Final_Report_draft18March09.pdf). Analysis by Earth News Bulletins is at <http://www.iisd.ca/cms/cop9/>.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/COP9\\_Pre\\_final\\_res\\_rec\\_en.htm](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/COP9_Pre_final_res_rec_en.htm)

- reducing the impact of climate change on migratory species;
- convening a taskforce on wildlife diseases;
- recognition of emerging evidence of the impact of ocean noise; and
- continuing to work to mitigate the impacts of bycatch.

The UK contributed to the development of many of these and will be represented on the inter-sessional Working Group on the Future of the Convention.

Most of the new species listings were uncontroversial, but proposals to list the saker falcon, *Falco cherrug*, on Appendix I, and several shark species on Appendix II, generated considerable debate, both in formal session, and in the corridors. The proposal for listing the saker was eventually withdrawn, but only after adoption of a resolution which will bring it back for listing if there is not a significant improvement in its status by the next CoP. The shark proposals eventually went through, after agreement to restrict listing to the Northern hemisphere populations of the spiny dogfish *Squalus acanthias*, as South American Parties did not consider that there was scientific evidence of declines for Southern hemisphere populations.

MEA Briefing

# Agreement on the Conservation of African- Eurasian migratory waterbirds (AEWA)



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## Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

### Briefing note: AEWA - Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds

AEWA is a daughter Agreement of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) which was finalised in 1995 and came into force in 1999. It is one of the largest of the CMS Agreements with its own Secretariat and covering 118 Range States. Of these, 62 are currently Contracting Parties (as of November 2008). The Agreement aims to achieve a visionary objective – ‘*the need to take immediate action to stop the decline of migratory waterbird species and their habitats ... for the benefit for present and future generations...*’. The 4th Meeting of the Parties (MoP 4)<sup>1</sup> was convened in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 15-19 September 2008.

The MoP recognised that the overall status of migratory waterbird populations in the Agreement area of Africa, the Middle East and western Eurasia was acknowledged as poor and declining. Despite international targets to reduce and halt the decline of biodiversity loss by 2010, monitoring evidence suggests that for waterbirds the overall situation is actually becoming worse rather than showing signs of improvement.

The MoP expressed concern that “*the trend status of waterbirds in the Agreement area has worsened between 1999 – when the Agreement came into force – and 2008, with twice as many populations (41%) showing decreasing rather than increasing trends (21%).*” It further expressed deep concern as to the continued negative trend of the Red List Index for all AEWA species “*which indicates that the overall conservation status of all migratory waterbirds continues to decrease within the Agreement area.*” The main causes of these declines were identified as continued widespread habitat loss and degradation, and locally unsustainable waterbird harvesting. The effects of pollution, including the widespread continued use of toxic lead gun-shot throughout most of the Agreement area was highlighted, together with the consequences of climate change on habitats and species which will result in further unwelcome and unpredictable impacts.

Responses to the looming crisis were characterised in debates as inadequate with the Contracting Parties stressing “*the need to take such immediate action in light of the progressively worsening status of Africa’s and Eurasia’s migratory waterbirds, and that much more needs to be done by the Parties to this Agreement if [the 2010 biodiversity] targets are to be attained.*” In large part, this is because through much of the Agreement area, the sheer scale of the negative impacts (whether direct, such as locally unsustainable harvests, or indirect, such as wetland loss and degradation) is simply overwhelming the important and positive actions that have been stimulated by the Agreement. Actions are often too little and too late (despite the best intentions of the relevant governmental and other decision-makers).

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<sup>1</sup> A full report of the MoP is available at: [www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\\_docs/mop4\\_report.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/mop4_report.htm), with Resolutions at [http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\\_docs/mop4\\_final\\_resolutions.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/mop4_final_resolutions.htm) and information documents at [http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\\_docs/mop4\\_docs.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/mop4_docs.htm). An analysis by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin is at: [www.iisd.ca/cms/aewa-mop4](http://www.iisd.ca/cms/aewa-mop4).

Accordingly, a range of responses were identified for priority implementation, including the need to:

- undertake adequate Environmental Impact Assessments for development proposals that may have an impact on important wetland habitats;
- enhance monitoring and reporting so as better to understand the distribution and status of populations and thus improve their management;
- implement fully-funded Action Plans for most threatened species;
- develop greater human capacity and training within developing countries (and especially in Africa) so as to improve the development and implementation of effective national conservation policies and programmes; and
- enhance international co-operation concerning the conservation of shared migratory species.

Key wetlands continue to be threatened or even lost to development, and in recent years many sites of major importance for waterbirds have been lost or damaged. A proposal that would have severely damaged Lake Natron in Tanzania – home to 75% of the world’s lesser flamingos *Phoenicopterus minor* – was a topical example. The Parties agreed a new process which will allow the AEWA Secretariat to work with a country in the event of future threats to important sites or species. Whilst such things can appear to be creating further international bureaucracy, this was actually an enormously important step in defining the ways that the AEWA Secretariat, on behalf of the Contracting Parties, can enter a dialogue with a country concerning reported threats. A similar process established under Ramsar some decades ago has, on many occasions, used international expertise and experience to help find positive solutions to difficult national conservation problems.

The scientific assessment under-pinning most of the AEWA Resolutions was – in major part – a substantive review published by Wetlands International (AEWA/MOP 4.8: [Report on the conservation status of migratory waterbirds in the Agreement area](#)). This status review includes substantial UK data submitted by Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) to the International Waterbird Census.

Other major reviews informing MoP 4 conclusions are listed below including several which were prepared for AEWA by WWT and BTO:

- seven new species action plans, included those for Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* and Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*; and a progress report on the implementation of previously adopted action plans;
- progress report on phasing out lead shot for hunting in wetlands;
- review of the hunting and trade legislation;
- review of waterbird re-establishment projects in the AEWA area and best practice recommendations;
- review of the status of introduced non-native waterbird species;
- report on effects of climate change on migratory bird within the African-Eurasian flyways, together with AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change; and
- AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds.

MEA Briefing

# Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)



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## **Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **Briefing note: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)**

ACAP is an Agreement made under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The primary objective of the Agreement is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels (listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement), and for contracting Parties to take measures both individually and together, to achieve this objective. Currently, thirteen Parties have ratified ACAP, Uruguay and Brazil being the most recent parties to ratify. The UK, including on behalf of the relevant Overseas Territories (Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, the British Antarctic Treaty and Tristan da Cunha) ratified ACAP in 2004, soon after the Agreement was formally established.

The third session of the Meeting of Parties took place in Bergen, Norway, from 27 April to 1 May 2009. Eleven of the thirteen Parties were represented at the meeting, Chile and Ecuador not being able to attend. Three non-Party Range States were also represented (the USA, Canada and Japan). The following NGOs and intergovernmental organisations attended the meeting as observers: United Nations Environmental Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the CMS, the Africa-Eurasia Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), BirdLife International, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). Of these, by far the most interventions came from BirdLife International who, through their albatross task force, have done an immense amount to advance the objectives of ACAP.

As with most Agreement MoPs, the main points of debate were the work programme of the Agreement's subsidiary bodies (Advisory Committee and Secretariat) and the associated budgets (including the scale of Parties contributions for the next triennium). A formal proposal from the UK (with Australia and South Africa) to list the three North Pacific albatrosses (black-footed, Laysan and short-tailed albatrosses) in Annex 1 of the Agreement was supported unanimously by Parties, and now means that all albatross species worldwide are covered by the Agreement and that the Agreement has moved from a southern Hemisphere focus to being truly global in its scope. The need to reduce seabird bycatch in longline and trawl fisheries was highlighted as the key priority for ACAP, together with the need to manage actively the critical threats (largely predation by introduced mammals) at breeding sites, especially where this has already been demonstrated to be a significant threat, such as at Gough Island, where introduced house mice threaten the survival of the endemic Tristan albatross and other seabird species. ACAP's Advisory Committee will be meeting in Argentina in the first half of 2010.

#### **Key Outcomes**

- The listing of the three North Pacific albatross species in Annex 1 of ACAP.
- A total budget of about £620,000 per annum for the next triennium.
- Adoption of the work programmes for the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat, including provision of scientific support for the one person Secretariat.
- Adoption of a template for ACAP to enter into formal (but not legally binding) arrangements with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other regional bodies. The

aim of these arrangements is to share relevant data and expertise, and thus to progress the objectives of ACAP.

- Support for the process to continue work on the development of a prioritisation framework for ACAP action coupled with a process to develop indicators to measure the success of the Agreement (this latter being led by the UK).
- Support for the process to finalise a capacity building strategy for ACAP.
- Agreement to adapt the annual reporting process by Parties so that it is easier to collate information (including data) and assess more effectively the extent to which actions are contributing to the Agreement's objectives.

MEA Briefing

**Memorandum of  
Understanding on the  
Conservation of  
Migratory Birds of Prey in  
Africa and Eurasia**



**Global Biodiversity Mechanisms**

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**Briefing note: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia**

First negotiating meeting (2007): the UK and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have jointly led an initiative to develop a new international treaty agreement to help conserve migratory birds of prey and owls in the Africa-Eurasian region. This followed decisions by the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls (Budapest 2003) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, Nairobi 2005) calling for action to tackle the threats faced by these birds.

The initiative was underpinned by a study commissioned by DEFRA in 2005 which found that more than half of migratory birds of prey in the African-Eurasian region have a poor conservation status and many are showing rapid or long-term population declines. A variety of human-induced threats are causing problems such as habitat loss and degradation, illegal shooting and poisoning, collisions with aerial structures and electrocution by power lines. Climate change will add to these problems.

A meeting to identify and elaborate an option for international cooperation on African-Eurasian migratory raptors under CMS was held in Loch Lomond, Scotland, from 22-25 October 2007. It was co-sponsored by DEFRA, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and CMS. This successful meeting negotiated text for a Memorandum of Understanding under the CMS and an associated Action Plan<sup>1</sup>.

Second and final negotiating meeting (2008): a second meeting to conclude the MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 20 – 22 October 2008<sup>2</sup> and was co-hosted by the Governments of UAE and UK. A total of 42 potential Signatories were represented. The MOU and Action Plan<sup>3</sup> were adopted by consensus on 21 October having first been revised to take account of the generous offer of UAE to host an interim Co-ordination Unit for the MoU (as part of a package of UAE support for CMS).

The Agreement area stretches across more than 130 countries from the African, Afrotropical, Palearctic and Indo-Malayan realms. More than 70 species of migratory birds of prey - Falconiformes, ospreys, eagles and owls - are included within the scope of the MoU.

The Action Plan agrees to foresee more research on species ecology and migratory behaviour, patterns and routes as well as data analysis. Collective efforts towards monitoring and establishing reliable population trends will be important to reveal the impacts of threats and necessary mitigation actions. Capacity building and training in institutions and local communities by developing knowledge of birds of prey will be important to create acceptance for necessary conservation actions.

<sup>1</sup> See papers and final meeting report at [www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/raptors/raptor\\_meeting.htm](http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/raptors/raptor_meeting.htm)

<sup>2</sup> The final report of the Negotiating Meeting MoP is available at: [www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/birdsofprey/Abu\\_Dhabi\\_Meeting/report\\_of\\_the\\_meeting\\_050109.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/regional/birdsofprey/Abu_Dhabi_Meeting/report_of_the_meeting_050109.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The final text of the MoU and Action Plan is at: [http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/birds\\_preym.htm](http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/birds_preym.htm).



MEA Briefing

# Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



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## Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

### Briefing note: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Ramsar Convention on wetlands is the only global environmental treaty concerned with a specific biotope. It is one of the oldest of the global biodiversity conventions (1971) and as the UK was an early signatory, there has been a long history of implementation within the UK (and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies), and support for the activities of the Convention internationally.

The Convention has moved away from an early focus on the protection of wetlands solely for biodiversity conservation. Over the last decade it has developed a more holistic approach which sees wetland conservation as a central means of achieving sustainable development through the delivery of ecosystem services to human populations living, not only within wetlands, but also further afield. For the vast majority of countries, Ramsar provides the only international framework for the designation of important wetland sites.

The Convention is implemented around three 'pillars':

- ◆ the conservation and wise-use of designated sites;
- ◆ the wise-use of all wetlands; and
- ◆ international co-operation.

In 1998, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) determined that its programme of work on inland waters biodiversity would be delivered through the Ramsar Convention, and a joint work plan was developed to this end. This, and its subsequent updates, has proved an effective means of encouraging implementation of CBD-related activity in those Ramsar Contracting Parties that are not signatories to CBD.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP 10) was convened in Changwon, Republic of Korea from 28 October - 4 November 2008<sup>1</sup>. The Convention significantly extended its reach between CoP 9 in 2005 and CoP 10, growing in Convention membership from 146 to 158 Contracting Parties (currently 159), with the number of Ramsar sites increasing from 1,505 (126.5 million ha) to 1,758 (161.3 m ha) over the period. Currently there are 1,842 sites, totalling c. 180 m ha, in May 2009.

CoP 10 adopted 32 Resolutions<sup>2</sup> including those related to:

- ◆ the Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands;
- ◆ principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector;
- ◆ a framework for Ramsar data and information needs;
- ◆ a framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character;

<sup>1</sup> A full report of the CoP is available at: [http://ramsar.org/cop10/cop10\\_conf\\_rpt\\_e.htm](http://ramsar.org/cop10/cop10_conf_rpt_e.htm), with analysis by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin at: <http://www.iisd.ca/ramsar/cop10>.

<sup>2</sup> [http://ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_x\\_index\\_e.htm](http://ramsar.org/res/key_res_x_index_e.htm)

- ◆ Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance;
- ◆ wetlands and river basin management - consolidated scientific and technical guidance;
- ◆ guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza;
- ◆ promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways;
- ◆ climate change and wetlands;
- ◆ wetlands and "biofuels";
- ◆ wetlands and extractive industries
- ◆ small island States and the Ramsar Convention.

The UK actively contributed to the drafting and negotiation of many of these. Particularly notable were:

- ◆ major debates on draft Resolutions regarding climate change (following two triennia where the issue had not been discussed by the CoP), and also regarding biofuels and wetlands;
- ◆ adoption of a substantive 'guide to guidance' related to highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, including new guidance for wetland site managers;
- ◆ a major Resolution regarding the conservation of international flyways for migratory waterbirds highlighting the particular importance of inter-tidal mudflats on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, and which calls for global exchange of good practise between different international flyway initiatives;
- ◆ initial discussion on the important and emerging issue of the impacts of extractive industries on wetlands worldwide; and
- ◆ agreement on a framework for assessing, monitoring and reporting the ecological character of both listed Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

MEA Briefing

# IUCN World Conservation Congress



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## Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

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### Briefing note: IUCN World Conservation Congress

This meeting convened in Barcelona from 5-14 October 2008 and attracted some 8000 delegates from the Secretariat, Commissions and the wider IUCN membership to participate in both the Forum and the Members' Assembly. In addition to electing a new President, Ashok Khosla, and Council, and adopting a new work programme, a wide range of issues were discussed resulting in the adoption of over 130 Resolutions and Recommendations. These ranged from those on the governance of the Union to species and regional specific topics. The overall theme of the Congress was *A diverse and sustainable world* with three subsidiary themes of:

- a new climate for change
- healthy environments - healthy people
- safeguarding the diversity of life

Amongst the issues under discussion, climate change and biodiversity figured prominently, especially as the impacts of climate change affect people through the impact on ecosystems. In turn, healthy, viable ecosystems offer the best hopes to mitigate, and adapt to the impact of, climate change. However, it was also recognised that economic mechanisms to conserve forests, and their role in carbon sequestration, need to ensure that issues of equity, land tenure and benefit sharing were addressed.

The Congress also saw the launch of IUCN's latest version of the Red List (which concluded that at least 1,141 of the 5,487 mammals on Earth are known to be threatened with extinction) and gave the UK IUCN Committee the chance to showcase its work with the launch of its report on *Funding for Biodiversity: an analysis of the UK's spend towards the 2010 target*<sup>1</sup>.

Key outcomes included Resolutions and Decisions on:

- measures to enhance governance of the Union;
- costed work programme;
- climate change with respect to biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation, human rights, and reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD);
- sustainable biomass-based energy and industrial agro-fuels;
- the sustainable use of renewable natural resources and specific resolutions on European plan of action for sharks;
- on ensuring effective IUCN engagement on protected area issues and encouraging the creation of more marine protected areas, especially beyond national jurisdiction;
- the Overseas Territories of the European Union, in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, and related issues for small island States more widely.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.iucn-uk.org/pdf/IUCNFundingUKBiodiversity\\_ExecutiveSummary.pdf](http://www.iucn-uk.org/pdf/IUCNFundingUKBiodiversity_ExecutiveSummary.pdf)



MEA Briefing

# Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species



## Global Biodiversity Mechanisms

A thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs

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## **Global biodiversity mechanisms: a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

**Strand Palace Hotel, London 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **Briefing Note: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species**

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is one of the oldest MEAs, having been agreed in Washington DC in 1973. It entered into force in 1975, with the UK becoming a Party in 1976. Currently 175 countries are a Party to CITES, and work collectively to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. 33,000 species are listed on its Appendices and benefit from regulation in their trade. CITES held its 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in 2007 in the Hague, the Netherlands. Around 1600 participants attended the meeting, including a sizeable number of international NGOs. CITES COPs occur every 3 years, the next is due in March 2010.

Inter-sessionally, it works through a Standing Committee, and two Scientific Committees (the Animals and the Plants Committees). A range of decision making functions and the furtherance of working groups established by the COP are delegated to these Committees.

In addition to considering the listing, and protection via a complex permitting regime, of numerous species of plants and animals the CoP14 agenda included items on:

- Introduction from the Sea
- Livelihoods
- Enforcement
- Capacity Building
- Invasive alien species

At CoP14, and a parallel Ministerial session, consideration was given to the issues and benefits associated with CITES increasingly regulating the trade in marine and timber species. Subsequently the Standing Committee, at its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2008 sought to take forward the working groups on livelihoods, introductions from the sea, as well as workshops to consider enhanced enforcement; internet trade; and took decisions restricting or allowing trade (most notably elephant ivory).

A large volume of CITES listed species are traded with or through the UK and/or the EU, and thus we have a potentially significant footprint on ecosystems and people. Most recently the UK has been active in considering the impacts of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of poor people, to ensure assessments of such effects are robust and where necessary mitigation measures are considered. CITES species are often sourced from biodiversity rich but economically poor regions of the world including Overseas Countries & Territories and Small Island Developing States.

The control of trade in endangered animals and plants has the potential to impact negatively on poor people's livelihoods and thus their ability to protect the ecosystems in which the species play various roles. If managed poorly such trade can additionally increase pressures from invasive alien species and spread wildlife diseases. For example, as a result of concerns

about the spread of avian influenza, the EU introduced in 2006 a ban on the import of wild-taken birds. CITES addresses concerns about alien invasive species through Res. Conf. 13.10 which, amongst other things, encourages consultation with importing countries if potentially invasive species are being exported by CITES Parties.

## Information Paper

# Latest MEA decisions / resolutions associated with major common cross-cutting issues



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Latest MEA decisions / resolutions associated with major common cross-cutting issues

<u>MEA</u>					
<u>Cross-cutting Issue</u>	<u>AEWA - MOP4</u>	<u>Ramsar - COP10</u>	<u>CMS - COP9</u>	<u>CBD - COP9</u>	<u>IUCN 4th World Conservation Congress</u>
Climate change	Resolution 4.14: The Effect of Climate Change on Migratory Waterbirds	Resolution X.24: Climate Change and Wetlands	Resolution 9.7: Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species	CoP 9 Decision IX/16: Biodiversity and Climate Change	Resolution 4.016: Development of climate change guidelines for Red List assessments  Recommendation 4.134: Responding to deforestation and land degradation related to climate change and desertification Resolution 4.074: Climate change and overexploitation of natural resources - inclusion in the IUCN Programme Resolution 4.075: Climate change mitigation targets for biodiversity conservation Resolution 4.076: Biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policies and strategies Resolution 4.077: Climate change and human rights Resolution 4.079: The European Union and its overseas entities faced with climate change and biodiversity loss Resolution 4.080: Mobilizing action to build resilience and assist adaptation to climate change of coral reefs and marine ecosystems and people that
Biofuels	Resolution X.25: Wetlands and "biofuels"			CoP 9 Decision IX/2: Agricultural biodiversity, biofuels and biodiversity	Resolution 4.082: Sustainable biomass-based energy Resolution 4.083: Industrial agrofuel production
Alien Invasive species	Resolution 4.5: Introduced Non-Native Waterbird Species in the Agreement Area			CoP 9 Decision IX/4: In-depth review of ongoing work on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species CoP 9 Decision IX/1: In-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity CoP 9 Decision IX/5: Forest Biodiversity	
Sustainable Use				Resolution 4.013: Sustainable use and accountability Resolution 4.026: Trust building for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in line with the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity	

					CoP 9 Decision IX/7: Ecosystem Approach	Resolution 4.029: Conservation and sustainable use of fish in the River Plate Basin  Resolution 4.039: Cross-Commission collaboration on sustainable use of biological resources
Avian Influenza	Resolution 4.15: Responding to the Spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza  Resolution 4.16: Adoption and Implementation of International Single Species Action Plans Resolution 4.4: Developing International Best Practice for the Conservation of Threatened Waterbirds through Action-planning and Re-establishment	Resolution X.21: Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1  Resolution 9.20: The saker falcon  Recommendation 9.1: Central Eurasian aridland mammals  Recommendation 9.2: Sahel-Saharan megafauna  Recommendation 9.3: Tigers and other Asian big cats  Recommendation 9.5: Co-operative action for the Elephant ( <i>Loxodonta africana</i> ) in central Africa	Resolution 9.8: Responding to the Challenge of Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases in Migratory Species, Including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1  Resolution 9.20: The saker falcon  Recommendation 9.1: Central Eurasian aridland mammals  Recommendation 9.2: Sahel-Saharan megafauna  Recommendation 9.3: Tigers and other Asian big cats  Recommendation 9.5: Co-operative action for the Elephant ( <i>Loxodonta africana</i> ) in central Africa			
International & National species action plans					CoP 9 Decision IX/20: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	Resolution: 4.031: Achieving conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions  Resolution 4.045: Accelerating progress to establish marine protected areas and creating marine protected area networks
Marine Biodiversity					CoP 9 Decision IX/18: Protected Areas	Resolution 4.035: Strengthening IUCN's work on protected areas  Resolution 4.045: Accelerating progress to establish marine protected areas and creating marine protected area networks
Protected areas					CoP 9 Decision IX/21: Island Biodiversity	Resolution 4.067: Advancing island conservation and sustainable livelihoods  Resolution 4.079: The European Union and its Overseas Entities faced with Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss
Island Biodiversity						

Waterbird flyway conservation	<u>Resolution 4.9: African Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in Africa</u>	<u>Resolution X.22: Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways</u>			
Extractive Industry		<u>Resolution X.26: Wetlands and extractive industries</u>			<u>Resolution 4.084: Mining exploration and exploitation in and near Andean protected areas</u>  <u>Resolution 4.087: Impacts of infrastructure and extractive industries on protected areas</u> <u>Resolution 4.088: Establishing the IUCN Extractive Industry Responsibility Initiative</u>
Urbanisation		<u>Resolution X.27: Wetlands and urbanization</u>		<u>CoP 9 Decision IX/28: Promoting engagement of cities and local authorities</u>	
Poverty reduction		<u>Resolution X.28: Wetlands and poverty reduction</u>		<u>CoP 9 Decision IX/12: Access and benefit-sharing</u>	<u>Resolution 4.058: Conservation and poverty reduction</u>

Information Paper

**Operative paragraphs in AEWAs,  
Ramsar and CMS Resolutions  
(2008) relevant to the work of  
the Scientific Task Force on Avian  
Influenza and Wild Birds**



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## Annex 1: Operative paragraphs in AEWA, Ramsar and CMS Resolutions (2008) relevant to the work of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

### THE RESOLUTIONS

- **AEWA Res 4.15:** Responding to the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1  
[http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4\\_docs/final\\_res\\_pdf/res4\\_15\\_responding\\_threat\\_ai\\_final.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_15_responding_threat_ai_final.pdf)
- **Ramsar Res X.21:** Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza  
[http://www.ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_x\\_21\\_e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_x_21_e.pdf)
- **CMS Res 9.08:** Responding to the challenge of emerging and re-Emerging diseases in migratory species, including HPAI H5N1  
[http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/documents/meeting\\_docs/Res\\_and\\_Rec/Post\\_session\\_Pre\\_final/Res\\_9\\_08\\_Wildlife\\_Disease\\_E.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/documents/meeting_docs/Res_and_Rec/Post_session_Pre_final/Res_9_08_Wildlife_Disease_E.pdf)

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OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Responses</b></p> <p>12. STRONGLY REAFFIRMS the conclusion of Resolution IX.23 that attempts to eliminate HPAI in wild bird populations through lethal responses such as culling are not feasible and may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds and that destruction or substantive modification of wetland habitats and waterbird nest sites in order to reduce contact between wild birds and humans and their domestic birds does not amount to wise use as urged by Article 3.1 of the Convention; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collate information on examples of such inappropriate responses</li> <li>- Provide advice whenever such responses are considered or undertaken</li> </ul>
<p>13. ENCOURAGES all stakeholders to plan and test response strategies at various spatial scales, including national, subnational, and site scales according to level of risk, and where possible to collect and incorporate lessons learned from associated habitat management responses, and to conduct this planning at times of low risk prior to disease outbreak situations; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible</li> <li>- Collate lessons learned</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<b>Integration across government</b>	
<p>1. CALLS on Contracting Parties and other governments to further strengthen efforts to integrate responses across government departments, ministries and agencies both with regard to HPAI contingency planning and in responding to outbreaks in both domestic and wild birds; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. OEP guidelines</li> </ul>
<p>2. FURTHER ENCOURAGES collaboration among those Ministries responsible for agriculture, livestock, environment and health in integrated responses and investigations of outbreaks that include concurrent assessment of the wild bird species present at outbreak sites, sampling of wild birds at outbreak sites, and monitoring for dead wild birds at outbreak sites and in wetlands or other appropriate habitats near outbreak sites; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. sampling, OEP, photography, identification</li> </ul>
<p>6. URGES the Contracting Parties to integrate wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health issues into a) contingency planning, b) monitoring and surveillance, c) outbreak investigations and responses to morbidity and mortality events; and d) current and future capacity building activities; [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. sampling, OEP, photography, identification</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Establishment of OEPs</b></p> <p>1. <b>STRONGLY ENCOURAGES</b> Contracting Parties and other governments, and using the guidance appended to this Resolution, to establish arrangements to involve those with specialist ornithological expertise to advise governments on the gathering, use and interpretation of relevant data and information in developing risk assessments, wild bird surveillance strategies and programmes, appropriate response strategies and the implementation of epidemiological investigations in the event of outbreaks of HPAI in either domestic or wild birds, so that such responses are made on the basis of best available information; and Requests Contracting Parties and others to make further good practice available to the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and wild birds, so that this may be shared more widely; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance and guide-to-guidance accessible</li> <li>- Paper on the importance of integrated responses?</li> <li>- Disseminate shared good practice</li> </ul> <p>Issue: how to identify and gather?</p>
<p>14. <b>STRONGLY ENCOURAGES</b> Contracting Parties and other governments to establish emergency response measures that involve those with relevant scientific expertise including specialist ornithologists and ensure the provision of timely advice to governments on the gathering, use, and interpretation of relevant data and information in developing risk assessments, wild bird surveillance strategies and programmes, appropriate response strategies, and the implementation of epidemiological investigations in the event of outbreaks of HPAI, so that these responses are made on the basis of best available information, and that wild birds are not automatically assumed to be the sources of infection; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. OEP guidelines</li> <li>- Paper on the importance of integrated responses?</li> </ul>
<p>1. <b>REAFFIRMS</b> the provisions of Resolution 8.27 on Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and in particular: (i) the need for fully integrated approaches, at both national and international levels, to address HPAI and other animal-borne diseases by bringing ornithological, wildlife and wetland management expertise together with those traditionally responsible for public health and zoonosis, including veterinary, agricultural, virological, epidemiological, and medical expertise; and [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. OEP guidelines</li> <li>- Paper on the importance of integrated responses?</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)</b></p> <p>4. ADVOCATES the development of communication programmes aimed at promoting balanced understanding and awareness of actual risks and appropriate responses in a range of stakeholder groups including the keepers of poultry, gamebirds and waterfowl (to reduce risks to human health and increase early disease diagnosis); the public and media to reduce inappropriate responses; and the public to aid in public reporting for surveillance programmes; and wetland site managers to improve contingency planning; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media pack?</li> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. photography, identification</li> </ul>
<p>19. ADVOCATES the development of integrated communication programmes aimed at promoting balanced understanding and awareness of actual risks and appropriate responses in a range of stakeholder groups, including poultry keepers, to reduce risks to human health and increase early disease diagnosis; the public health sector, the public and media, to improve accuracy and availability of messages so as to reduce inappropriate responses; the public, to aid in public reporting for surveillance programmes; and wetland site managers, to improve contingency planning; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media pack?</li> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. photography, identification</li> </ul>
<p>8. ENDORSES the Scientific Summary of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Wildlife and Conservation Considerations prepared by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and attached as Appendix 1 of this resolution as similarly endorsed by AEWA Resolution 4.15 and Ramsar Resolution X.21; calls on other relevant bodies including FAO, UNEP and MEAS also to endorse this statement, and requests the Secretariat to ensure maximum circulation, translation and understanding of the statement; [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disseminate and keep up-to-date the scientific summary</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Development of information tools</b></p> <p>1. <b>STRONGLY URGES</b> the further development of information tools for decision makers who collect and then synthesize relevant data and information on waterbirds and wetlands (such as preparation and use of wetland inventories, information on distribution, abundance and movements of birds), as well as that related to the movements of poultry and poultry products as a critical part of preparing risk assessments at various scales, as well as a part of essential contingency planning: [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disseminate shared good practice</li> </ul> <p>Issue: how to identify and gather?</p>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Surveillance</b></p>	
<p>2. CALLS on Contracting Parties and other governments to develop strategic approaches to enhance their national capacity to detect and respond to emergent and re-emergent waterbird diseases, involving both relevant specialists, institutions and non-governmental organisations, and using, inter alia, experience gained in responding to the spread of HPAI H5N1; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper on best-practice surveillance?</li> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible, e.g. sampling, field-techniques</li> </ul>
<p>12. ...STRESSES that surveillance should be undertaken within the context of normal legal regulations regarding wildlife and should have minimal impact on threatened and other populations concerned; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide advice whenever inappropriate surveillance is considered / undertaken</li> </ul>
<p>16. STRESSES the need for surveillance programmes in poultry to follow international scientific guidance as described in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, and in wild birds as described by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and also using initiatives such as the Global Avian Influenza Network for Wild Bird Surveillance (GAINS) to ensure that high quality data can inform successful epidemiological investigations; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance accessible</li> </ul>
<p>3. WELCOMES the broad consensus on approaches and responses developed between UN agencies, international conventions and other international organisations; Accordingly strongly encourages the continuing work of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to keep this developing situation under review especially as regards waterbirds, and instructs the Secretariat to continue to contribute to the Task Force, engaging with relevant expertise within AEWA's Technical Committee and Contracting Parties; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seek funds for continued work of the TF</li> </ul>
<p>1. REAFFIRMS the provisions of Resolution 8.27 on Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and in particular: (ii) the need for governments to support coordinated, well-structured and long-term monitoring and surveillance programmes for migratory birds to assess, inter alia, current and new disease risks, making best use of, and building on existing schemes, including those developed since 2005; [CMS]</p>	

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Guidance</b></p> <p>4. URGES Contracting Parties, other governments and organisations to use the guidance appended to this Resolution and to further disseminate it to other interested parties (including its translation into local languages); and Further requests the Secretariat and Technical Committee to work, with the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and others, to continue to collate guidance that will assist countries effectively to respond to the continued spread and re-emergence of HPAI H5N1, making this available via the Task Force website (<a href="http://www.aiweb.info">www.aiweb.info</a>), and to report progress to the Standing Committee and the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties; [AEWA]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance and guide-to-guidance accessible</li> <li>- AEWA to continue to assist TF</li> <li>- Report to AEWA MOP5 and Standing Committee</li> <li>- Seek funds for translation</li> </ul>
<p>22. ADOPTS the guidance annexed to this Resolution on responding to the issues raised by the spread of HPAI H5N1; URGES Contracting Parties and other governments to implement this guidance and further disseminate it to other interested parties (including its translation into local languages); and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat and STRP to assist, with relevant international agencies and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, in continuing to develop guidance that will assist countries effectively to respond to the spread and re-emergence of HPAI H5N1, and to report progress to the Standing Committee and COP11. [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance and guide-to-guidance accessible</li> <li>- Ramsar STRP to continue to assist TF</li> <li>- Report to Ramsar COP11 and Standing Committee</li> <li>- Seek funds for translation</li> </ul>
<p>8 bis. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to utilise, as appropriate, in relation to issues for migratory species the guidance available in Ramsar Resolution X.21: guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1; [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make relevant guidance and guide-to-guidance accessible</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Capacity development</b></p> <p>5. FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties to focus future capacity-building activities on developing and enhancing monitoring programmes to include establishing linkages with agricultural and livestock ministries and ensuring that training on HPAI and other disease-sampling techniques are incorporated, as well as encouraging the participation of agricultural ministries in these capacity-building activities. [AEWA]</p>	
<p>18. EMPHASISES the need for improving capacity for surveillance and response strategies where such capacity is not adequate, understanding that structures and capability for effective avian influenza control may aid control of future disease issues that affect wetland biodiversity, viability and livelihoods; [Ramsar]</p>	

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Wider disease issues</b></p> <p>21. REQUESTS the STRP to determine whether lessons learned from responses to HPAI H5N1 have implications for Ramsar guidance relating to wetlands and their wise use, and to suggest that any such resulting modifications to guidance be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration at COP11; and FURTHER REQUESTS the STRP in collaboration with other relevant organizations to consider how best to develop practical guidance on the prevention and control of other diseases of either domestic or wild animals in wetlands, especially those diseases that have implications for human health, and how such guidance can be best incorporated into management plans at Ramsar sites and other wetlands; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task for Wildlife Disease Task Force</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<b>International co-operation</b>	
<p>17. URGES Contracting Parties and other governments and relevant international organizations to cooperate internationally in research programmes, surveillance, risk assessments, training in the epidemiology of wildlife diseases, exchange and sharing of relevant data and information, and collection of samples from surveillance programmes especially at times of heightened risk; [Ramsar]</p>	
<p>15. URGES relevant national and international organizations to work with Contracting Parties to further develop and exchange information for decision makers, since the collection and synthesis of data and information on waterbirds and wetlands (such as the preparation and use of wetland inventories; information on the distribution, abundance and movements of birds; and the movements of poultry and poultry products) is a critical part of preparing risk assessments at various scales, as well as a part of essential contingency planning; [Ramsar]</p>	<p>- Collate such information and make accessible</p>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p><b>Scientific task forces</b></p> <p>20. WELCOMES the broad consensus on approaches and responses developed between UN agencies, international conventions, and other international organizations; accordingly STRONGLY ENCOURAGES the continuing work, resources permitting, of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to keep this developing situation under review especially as regards wetlands; identify issues for which relevant guidance is lacking (such as for example, appropriate management responses when infection is confirmed on wetlands); and particularly, to collate and synthesise further 'lessons learned' from past and current outbreaks with regard inter alia, to contingency planning and response strategies; and REQUESTS the continued participation in the work of the Task Force by the Convention working through the STRP and the Secretariat; [Ramsar]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seek funds for continued work of the TF</li> </ul>
<p>2. CALLS on the CMS Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to co-convene a new task force, the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease; and the Convention requests this task force, once convened, to work with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of Ramsar in its work to develop guidance on responding to wildlife diseases of importance to people, domestic animals and wildlife that are dependent on wetlands; [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task for Wildlife Disease Task Force</li> </ul>
<p>3. ALSO CALLS on the CMS Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases to become part of the broader focused Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease and to provide guidance related to past accomplishments and future needs; [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task for Wildlife Disease Task Force</li> </ul>
<p>4. REQUESTS FAO to a) identify diseases that have an impact on both domestic and wildlife species, and that are of greatest concern in regards to food security, economics and sustainable livelihoods; and b) integrate into their "One World One Health" approach, disease and management issues that can be brought to the attention of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease for consideration and action; [CMS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Task for Wildlife Disease Task Force</li> </ul>

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<p>5. ALSO REQUESTS the CMS Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to identify the relevant members and observers that would comprise the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease, and to determine the relationship between the existing Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and the proposed Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease; [CMS]</p>	<p>- Task for Wildlife Disease Task Force</p>
<p>7. CONGRATULATES AND THANKS the members of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds for their unstinting efforts and output during the period 2005 – 2008 which have made a significant contribution to improving understanding and awareness of the causes of, and responses to, the spread of HPAI H5N1; and requests that the CMS Secretariat and FAO continue to act as co-convenors of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds with the engagement of the CMS Scientific Council, building on international activities already undertaken, and responding to new developments related to the spread of HPAI H5N1 and other subtypes as they occur; [CMS]</p>	
<p>9. AGREES to provide appropriate funding in the CMS budget 2009 - 2011 for the work of CMS in relation to the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and related aspects of work on avian influenza including awareness-raising and capacity building activities; urges other organisational members of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to continue to contribute to its work, through financial or in-kind support; and consents to provide appropriate funding in the CMS budget 2009 – 2011 for the development of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease; [CMS]</p>	

OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	TASK FORCE ACTIONS
<b>Reporting</b> 10. REQUESTS CMS Secretariat to report progress and developments to COP 10	- Report to CMS COP10

