



*AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS*

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*“Making flyway conservation happen”*

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**UNEP/CMS Resolution 11.19**

**TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES**



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.19

Original: English

## THE TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE OF BIRDS LISTED ON THE CMS APPENDICES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

*Recalling* Resolution 10.13 on Standardized Nomenclature of Birds Listed on the CMS Appendices that requests the Chair of the Scientific Council to liaise with the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the Secretariats of relevant MEAs and relevant international organizations, including IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, with the aim of evaluating the possible adoption of a single nomenclature and taxonomy for birds, and to inform the Scientific Council at its eighteenth meeting with a view to adopting an appropriate Resolution at COP11;

*Taking note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Harmonization of Bird Taxonomy which took place in Formia (Italy) on 8 October 2013 (UNEP/CMS/ScC18/Inf.9.1) and *thanking* the Chair of the Scientific Council for convening that Meeting;

*Taking note* also of the report of the CITES Animals Committee that took place in Veracruz (México) from 28 April to 3 May 2014;

*Noting* that regarding albatrosses and petrels, COP10 adopted the taxonomy used by ACAP as the Convention's standard nomenclatural reference, and that ACAP takes account of the most recent taxonomic information on species of albatrosses and petrels;

*Aware* that international efforts to take coherent action to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity at the species level can be significantly hampered if there is no common understanding of which animals or plants are included under a particular species name and that this lack of understanding can present particular challenges for activities such as the implementation of conventions, potentially with legal implications;

*Further aware* that a harmonization of bird taxonomy and nomenclature among MEAs and other partners, such as CMS, CITES, Ramsar, IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and UNEP-WCMC, can improve synergies benefitting migratory species conservation and better implementation of CMS Family instruments;

*Recognizing* that the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) have repeatedly expressed their support for the idea of moving

towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in the lists of species that they use, and requested stronger cooperation among MEAs towards that goal;

*Emphasising* that stability over time in the taxonomy and nomenclature of species listed under CMS is essential to ensure legal security for the implementation of the Convention;

*Acknowledging* that the adoption of a new reference for birds may imply cases of synonymy, species aggregation (lumping) and/or splitting of species, and that CMS has agreed rules on how to act in such cases and their consequent reflection in the Appendices; and

*Noting* the recommendation provided by the CMS Scientific Council at its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Bonn, 1-3 July 2014), on a standard nomenclature reference for non-passerine birds, and *also noting* that the taxonomy of albatrosses and petrels in this reference is consistent with that adopted by ACAP;

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the reference recommended by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council as the CMS standard reference for bird taxonomy and nomenclature for non-Passerine species:

Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool (2014);

2. *Confirms* that for Passerine birds, the standard references for taxonomy and nomenclature remain for the time being as outlined in Resolution 6.1, namely:

For taxonomy and nomenclature at the level of orders and families:

Morony, J.J., Bock, W.J. and Farrand, J. (1975). Reference List of the Birds of the World. Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York.

For taxonomy and nomenclature at the level of genera and species:

Sibley, C.G. and Monroe, B.L. (1990). Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world. Yale University Press, New Haven.

Sibley, C.G. and Monroe, B.L. (1993). A supplement to distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world. Yale University Press, New Haven.

3. *Requests* the Scientific Council to consider the implications of adopting in future as a standard reference for Passerine bird taxonomy and nomenclature the Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 2: Passerines, due to be published in 2016;

4. *Reaffirms* the rules adopted by the Convention for the treatment of cases of synonymy, species splitting and species aggregation (lumping) as a result of a change of standard nomenclatural reference, as follows:

- Synonymy: corrections can be made automatically as there is no change of status for any listed population;
- Splitting: when a listed taxon is split into two or more, each of the resulting taxa retains the listing status of the former aggregate taxon; and
- Aggregation (lumping): if a taxon listed in either Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention is merged with one or more unlisted taxa, under its name or that of one of the unlisted taxa, the entire aggregate taxon will be listed in the Appendix that included the originally listed, narrower taxon in all cases where the unlisted entity thus added has the same conservation status as, or a worse one than, that of the previously listed taxon. In all other cases, a taxonomic or geographical restriction will be introduced, pending consideration by the Scientific Council and the Conference of the Parties of extended listing proposals;

5. *Instructs* the Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Council and the Depositary, to adapt the CMS Appendices according to the new bird reference adopted and the rules outlined above;

6. *Further instructs* the Secretariat to transmit this Resolution to the secretariats of CITES and the Ramsar Convention for consideration by their scientific bodies, and to continue to liaise with the avian CMS instruments and MEA Secretariats with a view to strengthening harmonization of taxonomic references; and

7. *Urges* other MEAs to adopt the same standard taxonomic reference for non-Passerine species of birds.