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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcome of the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12)
(Manila, the Philippines 23-28 October 2017)
- Report by the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex a report by the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject.

**Outcome of the twelfth Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12)
(Manila, the Philippines 23-28 October 2017)**

- Report by the Presidency and the Commission -

The twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Migratory species of wild animals took place between 23 and 28 October 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The Conference was attended by over 1000 participants, including 91 Parties and many non-Parties, 21 EU Member States participated (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom). COP 12 was the first CMS COP to be held in Asia.

Before the start of the COP, on Sunday, 22 October, the events for the High-Level Segment took place. Participants of the High-Level Segment addressed the question of how the implementation of CMS can help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A leaders' breakfast was held in the morning, followed by a high-level panel discussion in the afternoon. At Champions Night, the Migratory Species Champion Programme recognized five new champions (including the European Commission and Germany) for their contributions to advancing wildlife conservation.

It was a historical COP, as there was a record number of decisions and resolutions approved. COP 12 adopted 54 resolutions. In general most of the EU proposals for amendments to draft CMS resolutions and decisions were accepted. There were 6 working groups- review of decisions, institutional, aquatic, terrestrial, avian, and budget committee.

COP 12 endorsed both of the EU listing proposals: The Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor excubitor*) and The Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) in Appendix II. All the other listing proposals were also approved except for the proposal concerning the Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*) which was withdrawn, the COP adopted 34 proposals to amend the Convention's Appendices. Four listing proposals (lion, chimpanzee, leopard and giraffe) were subjected to a vote—for the first time in the Convention's history. Certain African countries will introducing reservations concerning these listings.

The COP approved an African Elephant Action Plan and also the Action Plans for Birds.

Many crosscutting and essential issues were addressed at the COP like the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds, sustainable boat-based marine wildlife watching, energy and migratory species, community participation and livelihoods, aquatic wild meat.

COP 12 also established a review mechanism and a national legislation programme that together will help improve the full implementation of the relevant elements of the Convention. The national legislation programme will enable the Convention to help parties to implement the convention to the fullest by improving the national legislation so that it will cover the legal obligations set out in the Convention text.

The review mechanism will give an opportunity to raise issues of non-implementation to be analysed by the review body (Standing Committee). Issues can be raised both by Parties and also relevant international NGOs and accredited national non-governmental agencies or bodies. The review process itself is confidential, unless the Party concerned waives the confidentiality, although the final report of the review is made public.

The budget adopted for the triennium 2018-2020, represents a 2.3% increase over the zero real growth budget with budgets of €2,559,888 for 2018, €2,611,088 for 2019, and €2,985,226 for 2020. This includes the upgrading of the part-time position of associate information officer to full-time.

The EU and its Member States supported Dr. Jean-Philippe Sibley and Dr. Fernando Spina to continue as Party-appointed Councillors in the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for Europe. As a third member the European Region proposed to nominate Dr. Anatoli Poluda from Ukraine. We also proposed to elect Dr. James M. Williams from the United Kingdom and Daliborka Stankovic from Serbia as alternate members of Party-appointed Councillors for Europe in the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

COP 12 also adopted the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species, a proposal introduced by the host country Philippines. Elements from the High-Level discussions were added to the declaration text, before the final declaration was adopted on Saturday, 28 October. The Manila Declaration highlights the interconnectivity between the SDGs and CMS, and urges parties to align relevant national efforts and development strategies with the SDGs and CMS agreements and targets.

The Presidency would like to thank all the EU delegates for their help during the COP 12.
