



Decision 10

Standardized Taxonomy for Migratory Waterbirds

Submitted by the Australian Government

Summary

Partners at the 10th Meeting of the Partners are requested to adopt this Decision that seeks to adopt standardized taxonomy for migratory waterbirds for matters that relate to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

It is proposed that Partners adopt the *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).

Adopting a single taxonomy will strengthen global efforts to harmonize species lists between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other frameworks.

The harmonization of taxonomy can lead to a more integrated process, reduction of duplication and greater sharing of information between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other frameworks.

This agenda item is consistent with UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.9, adopted by the CMS Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014) and UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.25.3 adopted by the 12th Meeting (Manila, 23-28 October 2017) concerning the taxonomy and nomenclature of migratory bird species as well as Resolution 6.1 adopted by the 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties (Bonn, 9-14 November 2015) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), which, *inter alia*, adopted a standard reference for waterbird taxonomy and nomenclature.

1. The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a flyway wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration between a range of stakeholders including all levels of governments, site managers, multilateral environmental agreements, technical institutions, UN agencies, development agencies, industrial and private sector, academe, non-government organisations, community groups and local people to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
2. For practical reasons this resolution proposes the adoption of standardized taxonomy and nomenclature to ensure consistency within the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership and to work towards the harmonization of species taxonomy between biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements and other frameworks.

3. The harmonization of taxonomy can lead to a more integrated process, reduction of duplication and greater sharing of information between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other frameworks.
4. As such, this proposal seeks the agreement from Partners to adopt the *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).
5. By adopting this proposal it will enhance the harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature between global efforts between biodiversity related frameworks and be consistent with UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.9, adopted by the CMS Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014) and UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.25.3 (Manila, 23-28 October 2017) concerning the taxonomy and nomenclature of migratory waterbird species as well as Resolution 6.1 adopted by the 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties (Bonn, 9-14 November 2015) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), which, *inter alia*, adopted a standard reference for waterbird taxonomy and nomenclature.
6. Consultation with Partners and the Secretariat occurred between 3 April and 25 May 2018. No comments were received. Comments from the interim EAAFP Technical Sub-Committee were received on 19 August 2018 and were incorporated into the draft resolution.

Decision:

Partners at the 10th Meeting of the Partners are requested to adopt the Draft Decision (Annex 1).

Annex 1

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Noting that biological taxonomy and nomenclature are dynamic,

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 can present particular challenges for activities such as the implementation of conventions which have legal implications,

Recognizing that the 4th meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB, Gland, Switzerland 13 February 2011) expressed its support for the idea of moving towards harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy in lists of species used by the biodiversity-related conventions, and praised the harmonization process undertaken by CITES and CMS,

Acknowledging that in order to strengthen the global effort to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2020, it would be sensible to try to ensure greater harmonization between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in the field of taxonomy and nomenclature,

Acknowledging that the harmonization of nomenclature can lead to a more integrated process, reduction of duplication and greater sharing of information between biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs),

Aware that a harmonization of bird taxonomy and nomenclature among MEAs and other partners, such as CMS, CITES, Ramsar, AEWA, IUCN, BirdLife International and Wetlands International, can improve synergies benefitting migratory species conservation,

*The 10th Meeting of the Partners
of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership:*

1. *Adopts* a 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).