Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

8 September 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia

INVITATION
Deadline for Response: 31 July, 2012

Apia / Bonn, 17 July 2012

The UNEP/CMS and SPREP Secretariats are very pleased to invite your representative to the 23rd Annual SPREP Meeting of Officials, to also attend the Third Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (PI Cetaceans MoS3).

This meeting will be held on **8 September 2012 in Noumea, New Caledonia**.

For Signatory countries, territories or collaborating partners who are not attending the 23rd SPREP Meeting, please do consider this invitation and send through your nominations.

Since the Pacific Cetaceans MoU opened for signing in 2006, there has been considerable progress made, and we look forward to the opportunity to review progress and set our priorities for the coming period.

The objectives of the Third Meeting of Signatories will be to *inter alia*:

1. Adopt the SPREP regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2013-2017 for the MoU;
2. Review the status of implementation of the MoU and the Action Plan;
3. Set future priorities for the MoU; and
4. Discuss strengthened collaboration at the national, regional and international level for the implementation of the MoU Action Plan.

All Range States are invited to nominate a representative to attend the meeting. The representative should be a governmental official knowledgeable about the MoU and capable of taking decisions with respect to it on behalf of your Government. Please note that both CMS and SPREP national contact points have received this invitation. There may therefore be a need for national coordination before a nomination can be made.

The representative should be endowed with a letter of credentials demonstrating their ability to speak on behalf of your country or sign the MoU if your country has not signed the MoU but intend to do so at this meeting.

Please find in attachment to this invitation a sample for your convenience.

Please submit the official nomination letter of the representative of your country / territory / collaborating organization to the SPREP Secretariat no later than 31 July 2012.

UNEP/CMS Secretariat * UN Campus * Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
53113 Bonn * Germany * Tel: (+49 228) 8152401 * Fax: (+49 228) 8152449 * E-mail: secretariat@cms.int * www.cms.int

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
P.O. Box 240, Apia * Samoa * Tel: +685 21 929 * Fax: +685 20 231
E-Mail: sprep@sprep.org.ws * www.sprep.org.ws

Observers

Non-CMS Parties and non-Signatories to the MoU from the Pacific Islands Region, as well as non-collaborating organizations to the MoU that are concerned with the conservation, protection and management of cetaceans in the Pacific Islands Region, are very welcome to attend the Meeting as observers. Please provide details of your intention to participate in the meeting. It should reach the SPREP Secretariat no later than **31 July 2012.**

Signing of the Memorandum

There will be opportunity to sign the Memorandum of Understanding if your country, territory or organization has not yet done so. In this case, the letter of credentials presented to the Secretariat must specify the authority to sign the MoU on behalf of the government. Please contact the CMS Secretariat or SPREP about details.

Meeting Documentation

The Provisional Agenda for the Meeting is attached with an annotated version to be circulated closer to the actual meeting. Meeting documentation will be sent directly to officials who will be attending the meeting and will also be made available on the CMS website (www.cms.int) shortly. You will find a link on the start page taking you to the relevant section of the website.

Reports of the two previous Signatory Meetings can be downloaded from the following link http://www.cms.int/species/pacific_cet/pacific_cet_meetings.htm

We do hope that your delegation can be identified and registered for the meeting as soon as possible. **Your country's official nomination letter should reach SPREP by 31 July, 2012 or earlier. The letter can be sent by fax (+685 20231) or a scanned copy can also be sent by email to SPREP (peninas@sprep.org).**

For additional information please contact:

- SPREP - Ms. Penina Solomona (peninas@sprep.org; T: + 685 21929 Ext 277)
- CMS - Ms Heidrun Frisch (hfrisch@cms.int; T: +49 228 815 2418)

We look forward to seeing your delegation in Noumea in September.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

Bert Lenten
Officer in Charge
Convention on Migratory Species

David Sheppard
Director General
SPREP

Attachment:

1. Sample Letter of Credentials
2. Provisional Agenda

Attachment 1:

SAMPLE LETTER OF CREDENTIALS [AND FULL POWER]

THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE PACIFIC CETACEANS MOU

Executive Secretary
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
United Nations Campus
Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
D-53113 Bonn
Germany

In the name of the Ministry* of [*name of ministry*], the undersigned [*name of the Minister*] does hereby appoint:

[*Full Name of Representative*], [*Title*], [*Organization*] – Head of Delegation and alternate if more than one

to represent the Ministry of [*name of ministry*] in the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU to be held in Noumea, New Caledonia, on 8 September 2012.

The said representative is fully authorized to take part in the meeting and to transact all such matters as may pertain to its work in accordance with the agreed procedures, vote [and sign the MoU], on behalf of the Ministry of [*name of ministry*].

In witness whereof, I, [*name of Minister*], have signed this Letter of Credentials and have affixed hereto my official seal.

Done in [*City*], Date

Signature

Official Seal

* Focal Ministry for the CMS MoU on Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

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THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
Noumea, New Caledonia, 8 September 2012
Agenda Item 4.0

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(as at 17 July 2012)

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS
   - 1.1 Welcoming remarks
   - 1.2 Signing ceremony
   - 1.3 Election of Officers
   - 1.4 Adoption of the Agenda and Meeting Schedule

2. OPENING STATEMENTS
   - 2.1 Signatories
   - 2.2 Collaborating Organizations
   - 2.3 Observers

3. REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU AND ACTION PLAN
   - 3.1 Secretariat
   - 3.2 SPREP
   - 3.3 Technical Advisory Group

4. ADOPTION OF WHALE AND DOLPHIN ACTION PLAN
   - 4.1 Endorsement of SPREP WDAP as MoU Action Plan
   - 4.2 Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery Plan
   - 4.3 2014 Pacific Year of the Whale

5. CO-ORDINATION OF THE MOU
   - 5.1 Technical Advisory Group
   - 5.2 Reporting
   - 5.3 Funding

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM CMS COP10

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

7. ALLIANCES, SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
   - 7.1 Regional
   - 7.2 International
   - 7.3 CMS Small Grants Programme

8. NEXT MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING