



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Cape Town, 10-16 November 1999

DATE, VENUE AND FUNDING OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in 1985 at the invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The second (1988), third (1991) and fifth (1997) meetings were held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland. The fourth meeting was held in 1994 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. The present gathering in South Africa is thus the first occasion since 1985 that the COP has been hosted by a Contracting Party, instead of taking place at a United Nations venue. This has been facilitated, in part, by the fact that the COP is being held in conjunction with the first meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, which is receiving generous financial support from the Government of the Netherlands.
2. According to Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Convention, meetings of the Conference of the Parties should take place at intervals of no more than three years, unless the Conference decides otherwise. In keeping with recommendations of the Conference of the Parties (at COP4 and COP5) that future meetings be scheduled at intervals of roughly 2 ½ to 3 years, the Secretariat recommends that the seventh meeting take place in the first half of 2002. In so doing, the budget agreed by COP7 for the years 2003 and beyond would take effect within a reasonable period of time following its adoption.
3. The Conference of the Parties has, in the past, encouraged Parties to the Convention to host meetings of the COP in order to raise the profile of CMS outside of the traditional meeting venues. Apart from making the Convention and its objectives better known in different parts of the world, there are both political and economic advantages to countries that host meetings of the Conference. These may be measured in terms of recognition and support for conservation initiatives in the country, as well as immediate financial benefits for the local economy of the meeting venue.
4. To this end, the Secretariat reminds interested Parties to consult within their Governments with a view to indicating at the time of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, whether they would be prepared to offer to host the seventh meeting or whether such an expression of interest would be submitted for consideration by the Standing Committee intersessionally.
5. The procedure for consideration of any offers from Parties is outlined in draft Resolution 6.9, *Date, Venue and Funding of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties*.

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.