

Study Report on the Framework for Multilateral Cooperation for the Conservation of Migratory Birds

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Conclusions

The time and other conditions are ripe to develop and establish a framework for multilateral cooperation for the conservation of migratory birds in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of the experiences in the bilateral treaties for the conservation of migratory birds and other arrangements. These experiences illustrate the contents such a framework should have. Also, the past international experiences illustrate that the process to establish such a framework can be (a) initial agreement at an international meeting of the countries concerned about the start of negotiations, (b) subsequent negotiations hosted by an appropriate intergovernmental organization or a government, and (c) eventual adoption of an instrument at a diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries hosted by an appropriate government or an organization. Accordingly, it is very likely that if a decision is made on at which of the existing international meetings or at a special meeting the States concerned agree on the start of the negotiation, a regional framework for cooperation for the conservation of migratory birds in Asia and the Pacific will be effectively developed.

The choice of the international meeting depends on the coverage of the species as well as on international politics. If the framework covers only waterbird species, then a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention or another meeting for which the Conference takes an initiative may be appropriate. On the other hand, if the framework covers all migratory bird species, an independent international meeting on migratory birds or a meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP which deals with all environmental issues and has been hosting negotiations for many environmental treaties may be more suitable rather than a Ramsar meeting.

It is hoped that political and diplomatic considerations be integrated into the identified facts and recommendations contained in this report and that a best decision be made on that basis.