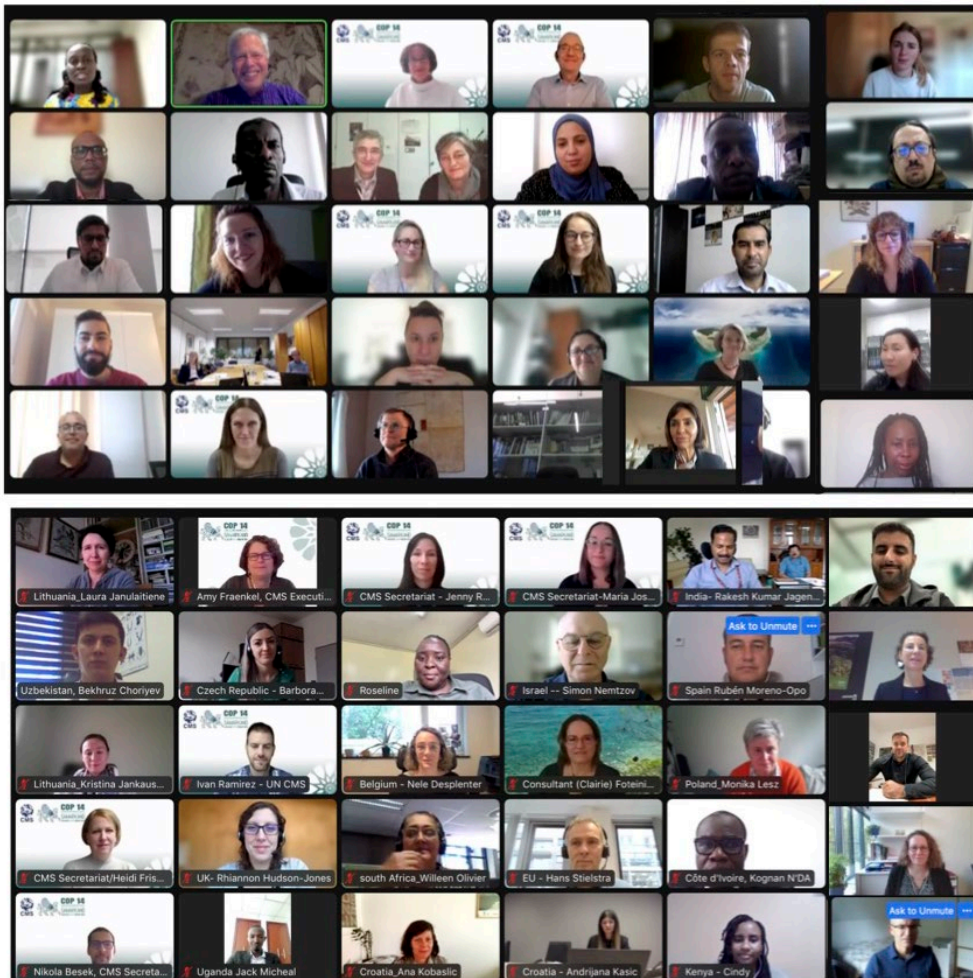




**Regional Workshop in Preparation for the Fourteenth Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species
(Pre-COP14)**

***Africa, Asia, Europe
26 - 27 October 2023***

Virtual format via Zoom



WORKSHOP REPORT
Tim Dodman, December 2023

CMS Pre-COPs were organized thanks to the generous contribution of the European Commission.



Workshop introduction, agenda and participation

The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) was being held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12-17 February 2024. In October 2023, the CMS Secretariat organised a series of regional workshops in preparation for COP14 (Pre-COPs14), which aimed to provide an opportunity for Parties, especially CMS National Focal Points (NFPs), to have an overview of priority COP14 issues for their regions and to discuss them beforehand. The Pre-COPs also aimed to provide a better understanding of the Convention and COP functioning, foster exchange of information among Parties, and strengthen institutional capacity by promoting participation in negotiations.

The online Pre-COP14 workshop for Africa, Asia and Europe, 26-27 October 2023, was structured around a series of presentations. There was a high level of participation during the workshop, with useful and engaging discussions. It was facilitated by Mr Tim Dodman, with support from Mr Miguel Xavier (NFP, Angola). The last hour (approximately) of each day was devoted to three closed sessions held in parallel: Africa, facilitated by Mr Xavier and Ms Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa); Asia, facilitated by Mr Rakesh Kumar Jagenia (India); and Europe, facilitated by Ms Céline van Klaveren-Impagliazzo (NFP, Monaco). The meeting received generous financial contributions from the European Union for providing funding through the third phase of the African, Caribbean and Pacific MEAs Programme (ACP).

The workshop was held online through Zoom, lasting for seven hours each day. The workshop agenda is shown in Annex 1. Participants comprised CMS NFPs and/or other government representatives of CMS Parties of the Africa, Asia and Europe regions, plus a representative of the African Union Commission (AUC), and members of the CMS Secretariat. The workshop was guided by a lead facilitator and three facilitators for each sub-region and supported by four interpreters and the CMS Secretariat. A full participant list is given in Annex 2.

Thursday 26th October

Opening Session

The facilitator, Mr Tim Dodman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the online workshop protocol and agenda, took a workshop participant photo and introduced the keynote presenters providing opening remarks.

Ms Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of CMS, welcomed everyone to the workshop. She highlighted that the Status of the World's Migratory Species Report would be launched at COP14, which would also adopt a new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and consider the addition of 14 more species to its appendices, new global guidelines and best practices on key issues and new Programmes of Work. A new CMS budget for the next triennium would also be adopted, and she hoped that Parties would support the third scenario included in the budget document to ensure that CMS was fit for purpose. She noted that the overall aim of the Pre-COPs was to provide CMS Parties with an opportunity to prepare for COP14 well ahead of the COP itself. She reminded the workshop that the COP14 slogan "Nature knows no borders" highlighted that the survival of migratory species was dependent on international collaboration. Ms Fraenkel thanked the European Union for providing funding for the Pre-COPs through the third phase of the African, Caribbean and Pacific MEAs Programme (ACP). She acknowledged the contributions of members of the Africa, Asia and Europe regions for their significant support to CMS, and thanked workshop participants, the Secretariat staff, facilitators and interpreters.

Ms Leah Naess Wanambwa, Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, AUC, highlighted that forming and maintaining strong exchanges between countries was essential for working together to achieve conservation across the regions, especially for migratory species. She urged participants to identify innovative solutions to reach the Convention's goals, and take a deep dive to implement them.

Session 1: Preparation for COP14

Overview of CMS and useful information for NFPs

Mr Tim Dodman provided an overview of CMS and useful information for NFPs, including a brief summary of NFP roles and responsibilities and the CMS implementation cycle.

1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ExCOP1)

The Secretariat presented information on the ExCOP1, scheduled to take place remotely from 28 to 30 November 2023. CMS COP13 had adopted Resolution 13.2 on Financial and Administrative matters covering the budget period until 31 December 2023. Only the COP could adopt a CMS budget, and due to the COP14 postponement into 2024, the ExCOP was needed to ensure the continuous operation of CMS by adopting an interim budget for 2024. The Secretariat confirmed that enough letters from CMS NFPs requesting to convene an ExCOP had been received to enable it to go ahead, and that the budget requiring adoption was only for continuing operations.

COP14/Doc. 3.1: Overview of CMS COP14

The Secretariat next introduced COP14, which would take place in the Silk Road Congress Center, Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 12 to 17 February 2024. [Information for Participants](#) was available on the CMS website. It was important to register early for COP14 using the [registration form](#) on the CMS website. The Secretariat indicated that it might be in a position to fund one representative from each eligible Party. Travel funded delegates should request funding as early as possible. Participants were invited to reserve their accommodation by 20 December 2023 at the latest. Parties were requested to pay particular attention to the credentials of their representatives.

There was a discussion relating to logistics of the COP, the proposed side events and the timing of and facilities for regional meetings during the COP. It was agreed that maintaining good communication would be important for organising the regional meetings. The Secretariat confirmed that there would be an excursion during the COP on 16 February 2024, open to all delegates.

Session 2: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Strategic and Institutional matters

Scientific Council

COP14/Doc. 15.1: Evaluation of the results of the restructuring of the Scientific Council

The Secretariat introduced the document. The Sessional Committee of the SC (ScC-SC) had confirmed that the restructuring of the Scientific Council (SC) was effective and suggested increasing the number of Party-appointed Councillors from 3 to 4 per region.

COP14/Doc. 15.2: Scientific Council Membership

The Secretariat introduced the document, clarifying that the ScC-SC was composed of nine COP-appointed Councillors with specific expertise and 15 Party-appointed Councillors - three from each Standing Committee (StC) region. Party-appointed members should normally be nominated for a term of two triennia, and at each COP half of the Party-appointed membership was renewed. There were currently three alternate members to the StC from the Africa region, none from the Asia region and two from the Europe region. In answer to questions relating to appointment of representatives from each region, the Secretariat confirmed that members of the Sessional Committee were appointed by the COP at each of its ordinary meetings. The Secretariat also clarified that the terms of office of regional representatives and their alternates commenced at the close of the COP at which they were elected and expired at the close of the second ordinary COP thereafter.

COP14/Doc. 16: Election of Parties to the Standing Committee

The Secretariat informed that there were 12 Regional members to the StC, including three members from the Africa region, currently Algeria, Kenya and Mali, with alternates Seychelles, Uganda and Zimbabwe; two members from the Asia region, currently Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan, with alternates Bangladesh and Pakistan; and three members from Europe, currently Italy, Monaco and Georgia, with alternates Switzerland, France and Croatia.

COP14/Doc. 23: National Reports

The Secretariat reported that only 41% of CMS Parties had submitted their National Reports in time for inclusion in the analysis of reports; 30% of CMS Parties of the Africa region had submitted their reports in time, 48% of CMS Parties of the Asia region and 45% of CMS Parties of the Europe region. Although National Reports submitted after the initial deadline of 11 June 2023 could not be included in the analysis, Parties were strongly encouraged to submit their National Reports by the extended deadline of 14 November 2023, so that they would be available online for COP14.

It was recommended that resources be mobilised to support some Parties to write their National Reports, including for analysing data and workshops. Parties welcomed the new online reporting system, which could be used to contribute information on migratory species to updating NBSAPs.

COP14/Doc. 21: Conservation Status of Migratory Species

The Secretariat presented the document, noting that this report should be presented to each second COP as a basis for species status review.

COP14/Doc. 14.1: Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023

The Secretariat presented the evaluation of implementation of SPMS 2015-2023, noting that progress had been made on mainstreaming migratory species priorities across government and society, although actions to reduce direct pressures had, so far, not proved sufficient. Further, many species still had an unfavourable conservation status, and a substantial proportion were undergoing population declines. Only moderate progress had been made on reaching the favourable conservation status of migratory species, and in enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building.

COP14/Doc. 14.2: New Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS)

The Secretariat presented the SPMS 2024-2032, which had six goals and specific targets, focused on the conservation status, habitats and ranges of and threats affecting migratory species and on

implementation and synergies. Parties thanked the intersessional Working Group that reviewed and further developed the draft SPMS. It was noted that the next steps included developing a monitoring framework and defining baselines and indicators for targets. In relation to lessons learned, the Secretariat considered that the new plan was more pragmatic and focused, and it should be easier to monitor its implementation. It was recommended to ensure that ecological connectivity was clearly reflected in the SPMS, and to establish targets and indicators that aligned with the GBF.

COP14/Doc. 17: CMS Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Secretariat presented the document, reminding the workshop that CMS participated in all consultations leading to the adoption of the post-2020 GBF, including the Bern process on collaboration among biodiversity-related Conventions and that some steps to contribute to the implementation of the framework had already been undertaken. The COP was recommended to adopt the draft consolidated Resolution and new Decisions that enabled CMS to effectively contribute to the implementation of the GBF, further input to the Monitoring Framework (AHTEG) on indicators, a new Joint Work Programme with CBD, and further engagement through the Bern Process. The Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF was scheduled to take place from 23 to 25 January 2024 in Bern, Switzerland. Funds should be available for the participation of one eligible member per region.

Interest was expressed in further engagement in the GBF implementation, including in resource mobilisation. Parties agreed to consider nominations for the meeting in January 2024 during the closed session, noting that there would be resource limitations for participation.

Session 3: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 – Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

COP14/Doc. 24: Review Mechanism and National Legislation programme

The Secretariat presented the document. Participants from the region expressed interest in the mechanism, including the potential link to legislation under CITES. It was commented that review of legislation needed to be an ongoing process, as legislation changed over time.

COP14/Doc. 26: Definition of the Terms "Range State" and "Vagrant"

The Secretariat reported that the ScC-SC6 (2023) could not agree to recommend the guidance for adoption by the COP, but nevertheless agreed to present the report to the COP for further consideration. It was hoped that Parties from the region would look closely at the document. Further explanation was sought, and provided, on the issues relating to disagreement within the ScC-SC, and a discussion was held relating to the process of adopting the document at COP14.

Session 4: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 – Administrative and Budgetary Matters

COP14/Doc. 13.2: Budget 2024-2026 for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15

The Secretariat presented the draft proposed budget 2024-2026, outlining three future budget scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Zero nominal growth (status quo compared to 2021-2023 budget); no funds would be allocated for meetings of governing bodies nor the travel of Secretariat staff to COP15.

- Scenario 2: Zero real growth; this scenario would include Umoja costs and an increase in the cost of meetings plus 2% inflation.
- Scenario 3: Strengthening Secretariat staff capacity and addressing needs related to information management and communications.

Session 5: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 – Interpretation and implementation of the Convention – Crosscutting Conservation Issues

Intentional Take

COP14/Doc. 30.1.1: Priorities for addressing illegal and unsustainable intentional taking of migratory species; COP14/Doc. 30.1.3: Terrestrial and avian wild meat

The Secretariat presented both documents, and highlighted that domestic use and trade were not covered by CITES. Further, whilst the taking of some CMS species was tied to international trade, for many CMS species, taking primarily related to domestic activities, use or sale, and most CMS-listed species were taken. Intentional taking of species was considered a critical issue in Egypt. It was essential to take socio-economic aspects and local perceptions into account. Encouraging behavioural changes through alternative income-generation or other incentives could be very costly. Changes in trade patterns were also underway in some countries, as well as in animal capture, with an increasing use of nets, especially for birds.

COP14/Doc. 30.1.2: Aquatic wild meat

The Secretariat presented the document, which included a report of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group (AWMWG), which focused on building the knowledge base and collaborations. It had also published a paper: *Widespread use of migratory megafauna for aquatic wild meat in the tropics and subtropics* and developed a draft Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa, for adoption at COP14.

This was considered to be a significant issue for marine turtles in Egypt, where there were some long-held beliefs relating to the benefits of turtle consumption; enhancing awareness and addressing legal aspects were needed. Angola and Senegal stressed the need to work closely with local communities to address issues pertaining to aquatic wild meat.

Conservation Planning and Management

COP14/Doc. 30.2.2: Transfrontier conservation areas

The Secretariat presented the document, describing an ecological network as an area or component of a large ecological region that straddled the boundaries of two or more countries and was within their national jurisdiction, which might encompass one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resource use areas. Implementation focused on regions in Africa.

COP14/Doc. 30.2.3: Community participation and livelihoods

The Secretariat presented the document; the draft Resolution urged Parties and other stakeholders to enhance the participation of local communities in the implementation of the Convention, and to submit case studies on community engagement in the conservation of migratory species. Georgia considered that the Guiding Principles on the involvement of communities in the conservation of migratory species provided in the Annex to the Resolution were useful for 'the ideal situation', but more support might be needed from the Secretariat and NGOs to implement them in countries where

relevant ministries lacked resources for effective community engagement. It was recommended that (informal) best practice guidance be developed to encourage adoption and implementation of these principles. Such guidelines would also facilitate monitoring implementation across the different regions. It was noted that a key reason for resource depletion in many countries was poverty.

COP14/Doc. 30.3.1: Infrastructure: Infrastructure and impact assessment

The Secretariat presented the document, questioning if the proposed draft amendments to Resolution 7.2 (Rev. COP12) and Decisions were appropriate to address the issue. These included increasing awareness and capacity of infrastructure planners, considering migratory species in planning and increasing data accessibility. The importance of engaging with those responsible for infrastructure developments in Egypt was highlighted, including encouraging them to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), to assure safe transit areas for birds and to stop wind turbines during sensitive seasons. The workshop highlighted the need for specific guidelines for mitigating migratory species impacts with respect to infrastructure.

Threats

COP14/Doc. 30.4.5: Plastic Pollution

The Secretariat presented the document, which included a request to support negotiations for a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution under UNEP. The importance of the anticipated treaty on plastic pollution was highlighted by participants, as well as the need to address land-based sources of plastic pollution that ultimately affected the marine environment. Italy was involved in drawing attention to ghost gear in the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and welcomed the action for CMS to engage with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative; this form of pollution was an important and often overlooked issue.

COP14/Doc. 30.4.1: Climate Change and Migratory Species

The Secretariat highlighted the role of migratory species in ecosystem functions and services, the impact of climate change on migratory species, and the importance of Nature-based Solutions to climate change. It was anticipated that the report would be launched at a side event at UNFCCC COP26 and presented at a side event during CMS COP14.

Participants stressed the need for urgent action in relation to climate change, and urged CMS to strengthen the needs of migratory species in the GBF, especially linked to GBF Target 8: *Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience*. The needs for Nature-based Solutions and an ecosystem approach were also noted.

COP14/Doc. 30.4.3: Wildlife Disease

The Secretariat introduced the document, which included a new draft Resolution on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and draft amended Resolution 12.6 on Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species. Several countries considered that HPAI was as a key issue to address. Clarity was sought on what kinds of recommendations were envisaged within the new Resolution on HPAI on the provision of recommendations to Parties on how to prevent and address Avian Influenza in a manner not detrimental to wildlife. The Secretariat clarified that the recommendations were, *inter alia*, to establish systems to prevent and monitor the spread of HPAI and reinforce timely diagnosis, and to make use of existing guidelines and approaches. A further question related to mass mortality events, which were not specifically mentioned in the document. The Secretariat invited the submission of text proposals in relation to this document.

COP14/Doc. 30.4.4: Light Pollution guidelines for wildlife

The Secretariat introduced the document, which included guidelines on how to effectively avoid and mitigate the indirect and direct negative effects of light pollution on migratory species. The workshop considered best practice guidelines to be useful to Parties, and should also be linked to infrastructure guidance (COP14/Doc. 30.3.1), including mitigating measures and impact assessments.

Close of the Workshop, Day 1

The plenary online meeting was closed, and guidance provided for joining the closed session groups. The facilitator also reminded Parties to register for COP14.

Closed Session

Three closed sessions, one each for Africa, Asia and Europe, were held in parallel at the end of the day, without participation of the Secretariat.

Friday 27th October

Session 6: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention - Aquatic species

Fisheries-induced threats

COP14/Doc. 27.1.1: Bycatch

The Secretariat introduced the document, including the report “*Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks: there is no silver bullet*”. It was considered that the shift to the broader term “fisheries-induced mortality” for sharks and rays, which covered all forms of mortality, could give a better estimate of impacts.

COP14/Doc. 27.1.2: Fish aggregating devices (FADs)

The Secretariat introduced the document, which included an annex “*An Introduction to FADs as a Source of Marine Debris*”. The role of CMS was to enhance and support actions by other international bodies dealing with FADs (defined as objects, structures or devices of any material, man-made or natural, which were deployed, and/or tracked, and used to aggregate fish for subsequent capture). It was reported that FADs would be addressed at a forthcoming meeting of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM), when guidelines on FADs would be discussed; the results of this meeting could potentially be integrated into the draft Decisions of this document.

Marine pollution and other threats

COP14/Doc. 27.2.1: Effects of marine pollution on migratory species

The Secretariat introduced the document, which included the annex “*Migratory species and marine pollution: a brief overview of issues*”. The primary role of CMS was to complement actions by other bodies that dealt directly with source reduction, or control of pollutant release. It was noted that a lack of resources would limit developing and implementing national jurisdiction relating to marine pollution for many countries. The workshop welcomed the review of the threats from all forms of

pollution to CMS-listed species, including cumulative impacts. It was questioned if this review would cover light pollution in the marine environment.

COP14/Doc. 27.2.3: Vessel strikes

The Secretariat introduced the document on vessel or ship strikes, which impacted marine megafauna, including Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*), which were at high risk of collisions in major shipping routes during their migrations, and in specific aggregation sites. Specific guidance was provided on measures to reduce the collision risk of Whale Sharks from ship traffic.

Vessel strikes could be the second most important threat to Whale Sharks. Vessel strikes had been observed in Egypt, especially for marine mammals. The need for guidance for conservation management was emphasised, and it was recommended that potentially sensitive areas should be identified and the IMO informed about them. Many sensitive areas might also need upgrading in terms of their conservation status. It was further recommended to look at the migratory patterns of whale species globally and identify overlap with shipping routes. It was noted that WWF had published the report "*Protecting Blue Corridors: Challenges and solutions for migratory whales navigating national and international seas*" in 2022.

The Pre-COP14 workshop supported the role of the CMS Secretariat to engage with the IMO to reduce vessel strikes on CMS-listed marine species and to highlight high collision risk areas.

COP14/Doc. 27.2.4: Deep-sea mining (DSM)

The Secretariat informed that DSM was the process of retrieving mineral deposits from the deep seabed (ocean floor below 200m). The draft Resolution urged Parties not to engage in DSM until sufficient and robust scientific information had been obtained to make informed decisions as to whether mining and related activities caused harmful effects to the marine environment and its fauna.

The workshop considered that there was a strong need to determine the threats to migratory species from this emerging issue, around which political conflicts could potentially arise, for instance in international waters. It was recommended that CMS strengthen links with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council in relation to the potential impacts of DSM on migratory species. Taking a precautionary approach and preventative measures were essential.

COP14/Doc. 27.3.1: Marine Wildlife Watching: Recreational in-water interactions (RIWI)

The Secretariat introduced the document, which included an annex on the proposed "*Guidelines for Recreational In-water Interactions with Marine Wildlife*". Seychelles fully supported the proposed amendments to Resolution 12.16 in Annex 1 of the document and the guidelines in Annex 2, and would investigate if some specific guidance could be shared, as translating the CMS guidelines to specific contexts was required. South Africa considered that guidelines would be useful, but would prefer to keep Boat-based Whale Watching (BBWW) and Shark Cage Diving as they were at present; these were permitted restricted activities with limited exclusivity, that were well-developed in the country.

COP14/Doc. 27.4.2: Area Based Conservation Management: Important shark and ray areas (ISRAs)

The Secretariat introduced the document, including a new initiative already endorsed by the Signatories of the Sharks MOU, which aimed to identify and conserve critical habitats for shark and

ray populations. The Secretariat further encouraged all Range States of the CMS Sharks MOU that were not yet Signatories to consider signing the MOU during COP14.

COP14/Doc. 27.4.3: Seagrass Ecosystems

The Secretariat noted that the CMS MOU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range acknowledged seagrass ecosystems as the most important habitat for Dugong populations, as well as several other marine migratory species. Seagrass was declining at 7% per year due to pollution, coastal development, climate change, unregulated fishing activities and dredging.

The workshop highlighted the role of seagrass beds as carbon sinks, and the potential of financial support for their conservation via trade in blue carbon. Seagrass beds had a high economic value in terms of carbon storage, as well being a key ecosystem supporting biodiversity, including migratory species. It was recommended that CMS should research further the economic values of seagrass, and use remote sensing for monitoring these ecosystems.

Marine Mammals

COP14/Doc. 27.5.1: Conservation priorities for cetaceans

The Secretariat noted that the draft Resolution of this document integrated cetacean conservation across government sectors and included priority actions relating to bycatch, aquatic wild meat, marine debris, chemical pollution, marine noise, vessel strikes, live capture, RIWI, disease, DSM, involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), habitat protection and restoration, connectivity, animal culture and collaboration. A potential overlap with documents on other marine issues was noted, and a question raised relating to progress in the development of plans for a Red Sea Action Plan, including a regional workshop.

COP14/Doc. 27.5.2: Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)

The Secretariat updated the workshop about progress, which included the development of the action plan and a one-day in-person meeting in September 2023 in Senegal. CMS Parties were requested to implement the SSAP, establish national working groups, engage with stakeholders and submit reports to the Secretariat for analysis. Senegal supported the adoption of the SSAP. Morocco highlighted the need to protect key habitats for this species, including the Baie de Dakhla in Morocco, and to implement national legislation to conserve marine mammals. Further research was needed to determine the impact of bycatch on this dolphin.

COP14/Doc. 27.6.1: Marine Turtles

The Secretariat introduced the document, which included mandates to review relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles (in collaboration with the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and the Inter-American Convention), to develop recommendations including the preservation of the current nesting beaches.

The relationship between rising sea temperatures and the sex ratio of turtles was discussed in the context of climate change. Improved awareness of breeding beaches was needed in many countries. Support for the Hawksbill South-east Asia and Western Pacific Ocean Region SSAP was noted, but conservation plans were also needed for other areas, such as the Red Sea.

Session 7: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention – Avian species and crosscutting issues

Crosscutting Conservation Issues

COP14/Doc. 30.3.2: Infrastructure: Renewable energy and powerlines

The Secretariat informed about the mandate and activities of the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF) and highlighted the guidelines for sustainable deployment and the need to produce guidance for assessing and mitigating the impact on migratory, including aquatic, species. Workshop participants were also encouraged to contact the Secretariat if they were interested in joining the ETF.

The experience of mitigating impacts of power lines on Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*) in Central Europe was noted; it was hoped that lessons learned could be shared with other regions. It was recommended that the ETF consider the impact of solar power plants on migratory species. The workshop noted the importance of new guidance, such as AVISTEP. The success of the Migratory Soaring Bird Project of BirdLife International in convincing some energy companies to implement mitigation measures for migratory birds was also noted.

Avian Species Conservation issues

COP14/Doc. 28.1: Prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB)

The Secretariat highlighted the work of the Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the establishment of the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA). IKB was noted as a key concern for Egypt, which supported the recommendations, highlighting the need to continue the important work of MIKT.

COP14/Doc. 28.2: Action Plan for migratory landbirds in the African-Eurasian region (AEMLAP)

The Secretariat informed that AEMLAP aimed to improve the conservation status of migratory landbird species in the African-Eurasian region through international coordination of actions and catalyzing action at the national level. The draft decisions encouraged Parties and stakeholders to engage in the implementation of AEMLAP along with the new Programme of Work 2021-2026 endorsed by the Landbirds Working Group. The future status of AEMLAP was discussed, as to whether it should be taken to a higher level through a specific framework, such as an MOU or an Agreement. The Secretariat welcomed feedback on this, but clarified that this was a decision for Parties.

COP14/Doc. 28.3: Preventing poisoning of migratory birds

The Secretariat informed that direct and indirect poisoning were recognized as some of the main threats affecting migratory birds globally. Proposed amendments included extending the Terms of Reference of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) until COP15. In the draft Decisions, Parties were encouraged to nominate representatives to the PPWG, support the organization of PPWG meetings and the production of communication outputs, and to actively engage with the Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Fishing Weights. It was recommended that the Secretariat should consolidate records of all migratory bird poisoning incidences to identify hot spots and take the appropriate mitigating actions. Some progress was being made in this regard for vultures, including developing a map of threats and of known cases of vulture poisoning.

COP14/Doc. 28.4.1: Flyways

The Secretariat noted advancement in establishing an initiative for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) and enhanced cooperation with the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). The Secretariat had also participated in the World Coastal Forum as an Observer.

COP14/Doc. 28.4.2: Initiative for Central Asian Flyway

The Secretariat introduced the document, which contained proposals to establish this initiative as a platform for collaboration under CMS, and to adopt its Terms of Reference, with the goal to maintain and/or enhance the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable management of all migratory bird species occurring in the Central Asian Flyway (CAF), and their habitats. The draft Decision invited Parties, Range States and NGOs to provide financial resources for the establishment and functioning of a Secretariat; to plan a meeting to endorse a Programme of Work; and to provide resources for the update of the CAF Action Plan. India was taking a lead in the process to establish the initiative and had offered to host a CAF Secretariat; it was now looking to establish institutional mechanisms and urged other Parties to lend their support.

Action Plans for birds

COP14/Doc. 28.5.3: Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia

The Secretariat informed that the Great Bustard, which was listed on CMS Appendix I and Appendix II, was continuing to decline in Asia, with population estimates of 500-1,000 for the Western Great Bustard and 1,300-2,200 for the Eastern Great Bustard. Major threats were agricultural intensification, collision with power lines, poaching and poisoning. COP14 was recommended to adopt the Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia and related draft Decisions.

COP14/Doc. 28.6: African-Eurasian vultures

The Secretariat informed that 93% of African Eurasian vultures were globally threatened or Near Threatened, and initiatives underway through CMS included the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP), the Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan Mid-Term Review, the Vulture MsAP Mid-Term Implementation Review and the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan. Poisoning uses were also being addressed. Egypt reported that globally important proportions of six raptor populations had been recorded migrating through the Galala Plateau in 2022, including Egyptian Vultures, and supported the actions requested. It was considered that integrating conservation needs into NBSAPs was a practical way forward to address threats to vulture and other raptors, for which guidance would be useful.

Session 8: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention – Terrestrial species

Terrestrial Species Conservation Issues

COP14/Doc. 29.1: Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI)

The Secretariat introduced the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, with priority actions to develop and seek funds for implementation of the Joint Programme of Work, and to address the urgent conservation needs for the North-East African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus soemmeringii*), which was threatened by illegal taking and trade. Another meeting of the ACI Range States was required in 2025. The workshop noted its support for the initiative and draft Decisions.

Sahelo-Saharan megafauna

COP14/Doc. 29.2.1: Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action; COP14/Doc. 29.2.2 Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna; COP14/Doc. 29.5: Conservation of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*)

The Secretariat presented three documents relating to Sahelo-Sahara Megafauna and African Wild Ass. There were 16 Sahelo-Sahara Megafauna (SSMF) Range States and eight species, which were all globally threatened and had suffered severe reductions in range size. The main threats to SSMF species were direct killing, habitat degradation, overgrazing, wood collection, climate change, insecurity and armed conflicts, against a background of severe development pressure, as well as under-resourcing and lack of awareness. It was recommended to extend the SSMF Concerted Action to the Danakil and adjoining desert and semidesert, to include the African Wild Ass and the Road Map for its conservation, and to establish the SSMF Initiative. The African Wild Ass was Critically Endangered, numbering around 200 mature individuals.

The workshop expressed concern for the status of antelopes, gazelles and African Wild Ass in the Sahelo-Sahara region, and supported the actions requested. The urgency of restoring populations was also conveyed, noting efforts underway to restore oryx populations in West Africa.

COP14/Doc. 29.3: Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

The Secretariat reported on implementation of the CAMI Programme of Work, which included meetings focused on Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus yarkadensis*), Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*), Asiatic Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus*) and Linear Infrastructure. The fourth meeting of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga spp.*) MOU (Saiga MOS4) had also taken place and a Saiga Conservation and Management Strategy agreed for Kazakhstan. COP14 was requested to review studies on the Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for CAMI and on the Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management of CAMI Species; to consider adding species newly listed on CMS to CAMI; to revise, for adoption by COP15, the CAMI POW for the period 2027-2033 to focus on cross-cutting activities; and to develop a strategy to promote implementation of guidance developed under CAMI.

The support of CMS in developing the Saiga Conservation and Management Strategy for Kazakhstan was welcomed, which assisted in addressing conflict issues, in helping to restore the Saiga population and in establishing a system for sustainable use. The need for management actions for Bukhara in Uzbekistan was also noted.

African Elephant

COP14/Doc. 29.4.1: African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP); COP14/Doc. 29.4.2 West African Elephant MOU

The Secretariat introduced both documents relating to African Elephants. The AEAP (2023) presented a framework of conservation priorities and objectives, representing the issues identified and experienced by Range States. An important development was the recognition of two species - Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and Forest Elephant (*L. cyclotis*). The AEAP (2023) ranked Priority Objectives to reflect the continental consensus that conflict between humans and elephants was a priority that needed to be addressed with considerable urgency, as well as the need to understand and address the impacts of climate change. Signatories of the West African Elephant

MOU had agreed to amend the MOU so as to adopt the AEAP as the core strategy for African Elephant conservation under the MOU.

The workshop welcomed the work underway for African Elephant conservation. Although issues relating to trade in ivory fell largely under CITES, the AEAP (2023) included an objective to reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products. The workshop agreed with this objective. Potential hybridization between elephant species and ongoing nomenclature research were not considered to be issues for CMS, as all elephants in Africa (i.e. both recognised species) were covered by the AEAP (2023). Senegal noted its support for the West African Elephant MOU.

COP14/Doc. 29.7: Pastoralism

The Secretariat informed that there was no existing CMS mandate on pastoralism, which had been identified as a recurring threat across avian and terrestrial species programmes. Impacts had been noted especially on antelopes in the Sahel of Africa. Parties were requested to submit information on national measures for rangeland management and pastoralism and share information on challenges, lessons learned and needs for further capacity development.

It was agreed that livestock outcompeted wild animals in many areas, and that this was an important issue for Sahelo-Saharan species, while disease spread between livestock and wild animals was also a concern and needed to be monitored. Rift Valley Fever was of particular concern. It was noted that some grazing policies in Angola could potentially benefit migratory species through the protection of waterholes. However, pastoralism remained a widespread threat to migratory species. South Africa recommended that CMS look at the Herding for Health programme being implemented in Southern Africa by Conservation International and the Peace Parks Foundation.

Session 9: Closing session

Mr Tim Dodman thanked everyone for their active participation, highlighting the support of the Secretariat in coordinating the workshop and in preparing very clear presentations, and of the interpreters, who had provided an excellent service. There was a discussion in relation to outputs of the workshop. Parties thanked the facilitator for steering the workshop, the Secretariat for bringing the interesting items to their attention and for organising the workshop, and the interpreters. Participants looked forward to meeting at COP14 in Uzbekistan in 2024.

Closed Session

To conclude the workshop, three final closed sessions, one each for Africa, Asia and Europe, were held in parallel at the end of the day, without participation of the Secretariat.

CMS COP14 Regional Preparatory Workshop (Pre-COP14)
Africa, Asia, Europe
 26 - 27 October 2023
 Online

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1st Day 9.30 – 15.30 CEST			
TIME	MIN	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT
Opening Session			
09.30 - 09.45	15 min	Welcoming Participants; Opening Remarks	No document
09.45 - 9.50	5 min	Organization of work: Presentation of the workshop Agenda and Schedule	Pre-COP14 Provisional Agenda / Schedule
Session 1: Preparation for COP14			
9.50 - 10.05	15 min	Overview of CMS and useful information for NFPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brief Introduction on CMS; – Brief summary of the role and responsibilities of CMS NFPs 	CMS Family Manual
10.05 - 10.20	15 min	Overview of CMS COP14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – COP14: dates and location – Theme and logo; – COP Schedule; – Registration; – Travel for eligible delegates – Accommodation – Credentials; – Visa; – Presentation of the COP Agenda 	COP14/Doc.3.1

Session 2: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Strategic and Institutional matters			
10.20 - 10.35	15 min	Scientific Council: Evaluation of the results of the restructuring of the Scientific Council Scientific Council Membership	COP14/Doc.15.1 COP14/Doc.15.2
10.35 - 10.45	10 min	Election of Parties to the Standing Committee	COP14/Doc.16
10.45- 10.55	10 min	Break	
10.55 - 11.05	10 min	National Reports	COP14/Doc.23
11.05 - 11.15	10 min	Conservation Status of Migratory Species;	COP14/Doc.21
11.15 - 11.35	5 min	With the aim of framing the discussion on the new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species key findings of the following will be presented: - Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023;	COP14/Doc.14.1
	15 min	New Strategic Plan for Migratory Species	COP14/Doc.14.2
11.35 - 11.45	10 min	CMS Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	COP14/Doc17
Session 3: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 – Interpretation and implementation of the Convention			
11.45 – 11.55	10 min	Review Mechanism and National Legislation programme	COP14/Doc.24
11.55 – 12.05	10 min	Definition of the Terms "Range State" and "Vagrant"	COP14/Doc.26
12.05 - 13.05	1 hour	Break	
Session 4: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Administrative and Budgetary Matters			
13.05 - 13.30	25 min	Budget 2024-2026 for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15	COP14/Doc.13.2

Session 5: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention – Crosscutting Conservation Issues			
13.30 - 13.41	11 min	Intentional Take Priorities for addressing illegal and unsustainable intentional taking of migratory species	COP14/Doc.30.1.1
13.41 – 13.52	11 min	Terrestrial and avian wild meat	COP14/Doc.30.1.3
13.52-14.03	11 min	Aquatic wild meat	COP14/Doc.30.1.2
14.03 - 14.13	10 min	Break	
14.13 - 14.24	11 min	Conservation Planning and Management Transfrontier conservation areas	COP14/Doc.30.2.2
14.24- 14.35	11 min	Community participation and livelihoods	COP14/Doc.30.2.3
14.35 – 14.46	11 min	Infrastructure Infrastructure and impact assessment	COP14/Doc.30.3.1
14.46 - 14.57	11 min	Threats Plastic Pollution	COP14/Doc.30.4.5
14.57 - 15.08	11 min	Climate Change	COP14/Doc.30.4.1
15.08-15.19	11 min	Wildlife Disease	COP14/Doc.30.4.3
15.19 – 15.30	11 min	Light Pollution guidelines for wildlife	COP14/Doc.30.4.4
15.30 - 16.30	1 hour	Regional groups discussion in break-out rooms: time available to each region for a possible closed discussion. The group may discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agreed priority issues for the region; - appointment of members for StC and ScC; - selection of representatives in groups and committees at COP (e.g. Credential Committee) 	

2nd Day 9.30 -15.30 CEST			
TIME	MIN	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT
Session 6: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention - Aquatic species			
Aquatic Species Conservation Issues			
9.30 – 9.42	12 min	Fisheries-Induced Threats Bycatch	COP14/Doc.27.1.1
9.42 – 9.54	12 min	Fish aggregating devices	COP14/Doc.27.1.2
9.54 – 10.06	12 min	Marine pollution and other threats Effects of marine pollution on migratory species	COP14/Doc.27.2.1
10.06 – 10.18	12 min	Vessel strikes	COP14/Doc.27.2.3
10.18 – 10.30	12 min	Deep-sea mining	COP14/Doc.27.2.4
10.30 – 10.42	12 min	Marine Wildlife Watching Recreational in-water interactions	COP14/Doc.27.3.1
10.42 - 10.47	5 min	Break	
10.47 – 10.59	12 min	Area Based Conservation Management Important shark and ray areas	COP14/Doc.27.4.2
10.59- 11.11	12 min	Seagrass	COP14/Doc.27.4.3
11.11 – 11.23	12 min	Marine Mammals Conservation priorities for cetaceans	COP14/Doc.27.5.1
11.23 – 11.35	12 min	Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (<i>Sousa teuszii</i>)	COP14/Doc.27.5.2

11.35 – 11.47	12 min	Marine Turtles Marine Turtles	COP14/Doc.27.6.1
Session 7: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention – Avian species and cross-cutting issues			
Cross-cutting Conservation issues			
11.42 - 11.59	12 min	Infrastructure Renewable energy and powerlines	COP14/Doc.30.3.2
12.00 - 13.00	1 hour	Break	
Avian Species Conservation issues			
13.00 - 13.10	10 min	Prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds	COP14/Doc.28.1
13.10- 13.20	10 min	Action Plan for migratory landbirds in the African-Eurasian region	COP14/Doc.28.2
13.20 - 13.30	10 min	Preventing poisoning of migratory birds	COP14/Doc.28.3
13.30 – 13.40	10 min	Flyways Flyways	COP14/Doc.28.4.1
13.40 – 13.50	10 min	Initiative for Central Asian Flyway	COP14/Doc.28.4.2
13.50 – 14.00	10 min	Action Plans for birds Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia	COP14/Doc.28.5.3
14.00- 14.10	10 min	African-Eurasian vultures	COP14/Doc.28.6
14.10 - 14.15	5 min	Break	
Session 8: Priority topics and key issues of COP14 - Interpretation and implementation of the Convention - Terrestrial species			

		Terrestrial species Conservation issues	
14.15 - 14.25	10 min	Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative	COP14/Doc.29.1
14.25 – 14.35	10 min	Sahelo Saharan megafauna Sahelo Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action	COP14/Doc.29.2.1
14.35 – 14.50	15 min	Sahelo Saharan Megafauna Initiative Key findings of the following will be presented: African Wild Ass	COP14/Doc.29.2.2 COP14/Doc.29.5
14.50 - 15.00	10 min	Central Asian Mammals Initiative	COP14/Doc.29.3
15.00 – 15.15	15 min	African Elephant African Elephant Action Plan Key findings of the following will be presented: West African Elephant MOU	COP14/Doc.29.4.1 COP14/Doc.29.4.2
15.15 - 15.25	10 min	Pastoralism	COP14/Doc.29.7
Session 9: Closing session			
15.25 - 15.30	5 min	Workshop conclusions: - Looking ahead to COP14 and beyond - Closing remarks	
15.30 - 16.30	1 hour	Regional groups discussion in break-out rooms: time available to each region for a possible closed discussion. The group may discuss: - agreed priority issues for the region; - appointment of members for StC and ScC; - selection of representatives in groups and committees at COP (e.g. Credential Committee).	

**AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE Pre-COP14
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

PARTIES		
AFRICA		
ALGERIA		
Fifi Mouhoubi	Direction Générale des Forêts	mou.fifi@gmail.com
ANGOLA		
Miguel Xavier	Instituto Nacional da Biodiversidade e Areas de Conservação	miguel_xavier2003@yahoo.com.br
BURUNDI		
Obed Ntineshwa	Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement (OBPE)	obed.ntineshwa@yahoo.fr
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		
Kognan Degrâce N'da	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable	ndakognan@yahoo.f
EGYPT		
Moustafa Fouda	Ministry of Environment	drfoudamos@gmail.com
ERITREA		
Zekeria Zekeria	Mai Nefhi College of Science	z.a.zekeria@gmail.com
KENYA		
Cindy Mwangi	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage	cindymbess@gmail.com
Mercy Akwede		akwedemercy@gmail.com
Mohamed Mohamed	Kenya Wildlife Research and Training Institute	msaid@wrti.go.ke
Monicah Njogu	Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife	monicah.njogu@gmail.com
Solomon Kyalo	Kenya Wildlife Service	cites@kws.go.ke
MADAGASCAR		
Rivosoa Rabenandrianina	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable	rivosoa.raben@gmail.com
MOROCCO		
Hayat Mesbah	Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts	mesbah_ef@yahoo.fr
Khaled Cherki	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts	khalidcherki@gmail.com
Latifa Sikli	Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts	latifasikli@gmail.com
Zouhair Amhaouch	Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts	zouhairamhaouch@yahoo.fr
MOZAMBIQUE		
Anselmo Gaspar	Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development	anselmogaspar.ag.65@gmail.com
NIGERIA		
Mathew Olufemi Okunuga	Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja	okunugamo@gmail.com
SENEGAL		
Djibril Diouck	Direction des Parcs Nationaux, MEDDET	djibrildiouck2000@gmail.com

Ndeye Senethiam	Direction des Parcs Nationaux, MEDDET	ndeyesenethiam2003@yahoo.fr
SEYCHELLES		
Frauke Fleischer-Dogley	Seychelles Islands Foundation	ceo@sif.sc
SOUTH AFRICA		
Humbulani Mafumo	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	hmafumo@dffe.gov.za
Khuthadzo Mahamba	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	kmahamba@dffe.gov.za
Millicent Makoala	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	MMakoala@dffe.gov.za
Sarika Singh	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Sasingh@dffe.gov.za
Sonja Krueger	Ezemvelo Kzn Wildlife	sonja.krueger@kznwildlife.com
Tshilidzi Edward Netshithothole	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	enetshithothole@dffe.gov.za
Willeen Olivier	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	wolivier@dffe.gov.za
Zintle Langa	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	ZMapekula@dffe.gov.za
UGANDA		
Jack Micheal Mutebi		
Stephen Fred Okiror	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities	sfokiror@gmail.com
ZIMBABWE		
Dickson Chitupa	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	dchitupa@gmail.com
Roseline Lilian Mandisodza	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority	rmandisodza@zimparks.org.zw
ASIA		
BAHRAIN		
Ali Abdulla	Supreme Council for Environment	aabbas@sce.gov.bh
BANGLADESH		
Fa-Tu-Zo Khaleque Mila	Bangladesh Forest Department	mila_zohra1720@yahoo.com
Gobinda Roy	Bangladesh Forest Department	gobinda_dcf@yahoo.com
INDIA		
Rakesh Kumar Jagenia	MoEFCC, Government of India	diqwl-mefcc@gov.in
Sasikumar Cherukulappurathu	MoEFCC, Government of India	sasi.kumar@nic.in
IRAQ		
Arif Alsalm	Iraqi ministry of environment	arif.iraq@yahoo.com
JORDAN		
Bilal Qteshat	Ministry of Environment	bqtishat@yahoo.com
KAZAKHSTAN		
Vera Veronova	Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan	vera.voronova@acbk.kz
MONGOLIA		
Khandarmaa Batjargal	Minister of Environmental and Tourism	khandarmaa@met.gov.mn
Munkhdush Judaa	Minister of Environmental and Tourism	munkhdush@met.gov.mn

SAUDI ARABIA		
Abdullah Alsalem	National Center for Wildlife	A.Alsalem@Ncw.Gov.Sa
Ahmed Alzahrani	National Center for Wildlife	A.H.Alzahrani@Ncw.Gov.Sa
Mohammed Alshamlan	National Center for Wildlife	Alshamlan@Ncw.Gov.Sa
Tareq Alqahtani	National Center for Wildlife	T.Alqahtani@Ncw.Gov.Sa
UZBEKISTAN		
Bekhruz Choriev	Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change	Bekhruz.choriev1@gmail.com
Elena Bykova	Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan	ebykva67@mail.ru
Jakhongir Talipov	Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change	jakhongirtalipov@gmail.com
Javokhir Abdukhalikov	Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change	javokhirabdukhalikov@gmail.com
Mariya Gritsina	Institute of Zoology Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan	mgritsina@gmail.com
EUROPE		
AUSTRIA		
Andreas Ranner	Amt der Burgenländischen Landesregierung	andreas.ranner@bgld.gv.at
Birgit Michaela Leitner	Federal Ministry for Climate Action	Birgit.Leitner@bmk.gv.at
BELGIUM		
Arno Verhasselt	Federal Public Service Environment	arno.verhasselt@health.fgov.be
Catherine Debruyne	Public service of Wallonia	catherine.debruyne@spw.wallonie.be
Manon Morelle	Public Service of Wallonia	manon.morelle@spw.wallonie.be
Nele Desplenter	FPS Health - Marine Environment Department	nele.desplenter@health.fgov.be
CROATIA		
Ana Kobaslic	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	ana.kobaslic@mingor.hr
Andrijana Kasic	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	andrijana.kasic@mingor.hr
Ivana Jelenic	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	ivana.jelenic@mingor.hr
Jelena Uros	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	jelena.uros@mingor.hr
CZECH REPUBLIC		
Barbora Krizova	Ministry of the Environment	barbora.krizova@mzp.cz
Libuse Vlasakova	Ministry of the Environment	libuse.vlasakova@mzp.cz
ESTONIA		
Merike Linnamagi	Ministry of Climate	merike.linnamagi@kliimaministeerium.ee
EUROPEAN UNION		
Hans Stielstra	European Commission	hans.stielstra@ec.europa.eu
Juan Pérez Lorenzo	European Commission	juan.perez-lorenzo@ec.europa.eu
FINLAND		
Esko Hyvärinen	Ministry of the Environment	esko.o.hyvarinen@gov.fi
Penina Blankett	Ministry of the Environment	penina.blankett@gov.fi
FRANCE		

Charles-Henri de Barsac	Ministère Ecologie	charles-henri.de-barsac@developement-durable.gouv.fr
GEORGIA		
Salome Nozadze	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture	salome.nozadze@mepa.gov.ge
IRELAND		
Ainle Ni Bhriain	National Parks & Wildlife Service	ainle.nibhriain@npws.gov.ie
ISRAEL		
Simon Nemtsov	Israel Nature and Parks Authority	simon@npa.org.il
ITALY		
Elisabetta Raganella Pelliccioni	ISPRA	elisabetta.raganellapelliccioni@isprambiente.it
Gaia Bonanno	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	Bonanno.Gaia@mase.gov.it
Lorenzo Senni	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	senni.lorenzo@mase.gov.it
Lorenzo Serra	ISPRA	lorenzo.serra@isprambiente.it
Riccardo Piraccini	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	piraccini.riccardo@mase.gov.it
Silvia Giardina	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	giardina.silvia@mase.gov.it
Silvia Sartori	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	sartori.silvia@mase.gov.it
LATVIA		
Vilnis Bernards	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	vilnis.bernards@varam.gov.lv
LITHUANIA		
Kristina Jankauskaite	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	kristina.jankauskaite@am.lt
Laura Janulaitiene	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	laura.janulaitiene@am.lt
MALTA		
Luke Young	Environment and Resource Authority	luke-peter-george.young@era.org.mt
MONACO		
Céline Impagliazzo	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	cimpagliazzo@gouv.mc
NETHERLANDS		
Anne-Marie Svoboda	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	a.m.svoboda@minlnv.nl
Nick Warmelink	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	n.g.warmelink@minlnv.nl
NORTH MACEDONIA		
Isuf Fetai	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	isuf.fetai@yahoo.com
POLAND		
Monika Lasz	Ministry of the Climate and Environment	monika.lesz@mos.gov.pl
SPAIN		
Borja Heredia	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	bheredia@miteco.es
Celia Álvarez Doncel	Tragsa	celiaaad@gmail.com
Eugenio de las Heras	Tragsa	edelash1@tragsa.es
Rubén Moreno-Opo	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge	rmorenoopo@miteco.es
SWEDEN		

Jessica Nilsson	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	jessica.nilsson@havochvatten.se
Johan Abenius	Swedish EPA	johan.abenius@naturvardsverket.se
SWITZERLAND		
Sabine Herzog	Federal Office for the Environment	sabine.herzog@bafu.admin.ch
UNITED KINGDOM		
Caroline Daisley	Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs	Caroline.Daisley@defra.gov.uk
Rhiannon Hudson-Jones	Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs	Rhiannon.Hudson-jones@defra.gov.uk
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION		
Leah Naess (Wanambwa)	Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy	WanambwaL@africa-union.org
CMS SECRETARIAT		
Amy Fraenkel	Executive Secretary CMS Secretariat	Amy.fraenkel@un.org
Andrea Pauly	CMS Secretariat	andrea.pauly@un.org
Clara Nobbe	CMS Secretariat	clara.nobbe@un.org
Dagmar Zikova	CMS Secretariat	dagmar.zikova@un.org
Enkhtuya Sereenen	CMS Secretariat	enkhtuya.sereenen@un.org
Fariza Adilbekova	CMS Secretariat	fariza.adilbekova@un.org
Heidrun Frisch-Kwakanma	CMS Secretariat	heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org
Iván Ramírez	CMS Secretariat	ivan.ramirez@un.org
Jenny Renell	CMS Secretariat	jenny.renell@un.org
Leah Kirangu	CMS Secretariat	leah.kirangu@un.org
Marc Attallah	CMS Secretariat	marc.attallah@un.org
María José Ortiz	CMS Secretariat	maria-jose.ortiz@un.org
Nikola Besek	CMS Secretariat	nikola.besek@un.org
Philippa Loates	CMS Secretariat	philippa.loates@un.org
Rouba Abou-Atieh	CMS Secretariat	fariza.adilbekova@un.org
Thilan Mannan	IT Technical support	thilan.mannan@un.org
Tilman Schneider	CMS Secretariat	tilman.schneider@un.org
Tim Dodman	Facilitator and Report writer	tim@timdodman.co.uk
Umberto Gallo-Orsi	CMS Secretariat	Umberto.galloorsi@un.org
Vittoria Semplici	CMS Secretariat	vittoria.semplici@un.org
INTERPRETERS		
Alison Tippetts		alisontippetts@gmail.com
Anne-Marie Arbaji Sfeir		Arbajianna@gmail.com
Christine Victorin		christine.victorin@wanadoo.fr
Meegan Davis		m.davis@aic.net