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24.1.3/Rev.2 The Prevention of Bird Poisoning

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Introduction



CMS



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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THE PREVENTION OF BIRD POISONING

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

- This document reports on the implementation of Resolution 11.15 on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds
- It includes a revision of Resolution 11.15, which proposes the establishment of a Lead Task Force as a sub-group under the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group
- Concern about very large numbers of migratory birds are killed annually as a result of poisoning
- The document states the need to provide practical guidance on preventing, reducing or controlling poisoning



Main sources of poisoning (global)



Insecticides



Rodenticides



Veterinary pharmaceuticals (Diclofenac)



Poison baits



Lead ammunition, fishing weights and other sources of lead



Main CMS documents

- Resolution 10.26 «Minimising the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds» (COP10, Bergen 2011)
 - Creation of the **Preventing Poisoning Working Group**
 - Review of the Ecological effects of Poisoning on Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.34)
 - Resolution 11.15 «Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds» (COP11, Quito 2014)
 - Adopts Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2)
 - The Prevention of Bird Poisoning (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.3/Rev.2)
 - Cross-cutting: **Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures** (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.4)
- **Poisoning, in its various forms, is by far the most significant threat that impacts vulture species!**



Main recommendations

(Guidelines - UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2)

| Insecticides | Rodenticides | Poison-baits | Veterinary pharmaceuticals | Lead ammunition and fishing weights |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Legislative | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute certain toxic agricultural insecticides • Reduce risk of imports (Rotterdam Convention) • Adopt programs of integrated pest management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict/ban the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in open field agriculture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the use of poison-baits for predator control • Enhance the enforcement of the legislation (Restrict access to highly toxic substances) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the use of veterinary diclofenac • Introduce mandatory safety-testing of new and existing products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase-out the use of lead ammunition in 2017 and substitute with non-toxic alternatives • Report to CMS COP12 • Remediation of contaminated environments |
| Non-legislative | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify local risk hot spots • Work with local stakeholders to reduce risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use best practice to prevent and manage rodent irruptions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify drivers of the problem • Educate • Resolve human-animal conflicts + Best practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance surveillance in high risk areas • Develop vulture safe zones • Raise awareness on alternatives to diclofenac | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with stakeholders on non-toxic alternatives • Promote leadership from ammunition users |



Role of Parties in preventing poisoning

As Resolution 11.15 states, it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions, considering the extent and type of poisoning risk, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments. Examples:

- **Implement and Disseminate** the Poisoning Guidelines
- **Identify** geographical areas of significant poisoning and apply the Guidelines there
- **Monitor and evaluate** the impact of poisoning on a national level
- **Elaborate** national strategies to address poisoning
- **Create active partnerships** with hunting organizations, cattle breeders and the industry
- **Monitor and evaluate** the effectiveness of measures put in place to prevent, minimize, reduce, or control poisoning impacts
- **Report** on progress
- **Strengthen** national and local capacity for the implementation of this Resolution (i.e. by developing training courses, workshops, examples of good practice, etc)



Conclusion

Poisoning constitutes a risk for migratory birds and can severely affect the conservation status of vulnerable species. The main species affected are:

- Raptors (vultures and eagles)
- Landbirds (bustards, songbirds, birds that live in agriculture areas where pesticides are used)
- Waterbirds (ducks, geese, in areas where lead ammunition is used for hunting)

As a consequence, international measures and concerted actions are urgently needed. The Parties should take action, including the implementation of the Guidelines, the identification of high-risk areas and the elaboration of national strategies.

