



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 1.2

PROGRAMME OF WORK: AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Priority	Report to	Status
<i>Resolution / Decision number</i>	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i> (The Scientific Council shall/should)	<i>Further short description of activity (if necessary)</i>	<i>List of outputs</i>	<i>Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)</i>	<i>Name of lead person(s)</i>	<i>Names of other people involved</i>	<i>Core, High, Medium, Low</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>	<i>Status of the activity</i>
Aquatic Species Conservation Issues									
IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL AREAS (IMMAs)									
<i>Dec.13.56</i>	<i>a) upon request, support Parties to make use of the identified IMMAs posted on the website of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force (www.marinemammalhabitat.org) when identifying habitat at risk or designing threat mitigation measures for CMS-listed pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, Polar Bears and cetaceans;</i>	As per mandate	Parties make use of the info available on the website to identify conservation measures of CMS listed species of interest.	On request	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	
<i>Dec.13.56</i>	<i>b) collaborate with the IUCN SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force to include data on CMS-listed pinnipeds, sirenians, otters, polar bears and cetaceans in the identification of IMMAs;</i>	As per mandate	Scientific Data on CMS listed species provided.	Ongoing	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	Medium / High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	In progress
<i>Dec.13.56</i>	<i>c) provide advice to Parties on request on the scientific merits of including regional populations of Dugong dugon on Appendix I of CMS.</i>	As per mandate	Conservation measures recommended for IMMAs relevant for Dugong dugon (Draft Resolution / Decisions)	On request	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Donna Kwan, Jenny Renell)	Medium / High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	

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ADVERSE IMPACTS OF ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE ON CETACEANS AND OTHER MIGRATORY SPECIES									
Dec. 13.60	a) after it has received input from the CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Joint Noise Working Group, review the report on Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys, and Pile Driving, and, if required, develop voluntary noise mitigation guidelines on these activities of concern;	<p>Review Report on BAT and BEP.</p> <p>Review Parties' submissions regarding the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise. Develop guidelines if required.</p> <p>Collaborate with the IWC in support of the IWC's "global review of marine seismic surveys"</p> <p>[Liaise with IWC].</p>	Report on BAT and BEP reviewed. Guidelines on noise mitigation developed if required.	2021	Mark Simmonds, Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	JNWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	In progress
Dec. 13.60	b) assess the need for updating the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and/or its Technical Support Information prior to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	<p>Review Parties' submissions with respect to experiences and lessons-learned in the application of the EIA Guidelines (Dec.13.58 b).</p> <p>Request advice from JNWG.</p>	Draft Decision for COP14 developed, if deemed beneficial.	Prior to ScC-SC6	Mark Simmonds, Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	JNWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	Not started

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BYCATCH									
Dec. 13.62	<i>The Scientific Council and the Working Group on Bycatch are invited, subject to the availability of funds and in cooperation with other relevant organizations such as the Sharks Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Advisory Committee and regional fisheries management organizations to: a) review current data and knowledge about levels of bycatch of CMS-listed chondrichthyan species and existing measures to mitigate bycatch based on species, fishing area, fisheries, fishing season and gear type;</i>	<p>-Review current levels of bycatch of CMS-listed and Sharks MOU Annex 1-listed chondrichthyan species.</p> <p>- Review available knowledge of at-vessel and post-release mortality in those fisheries interacting with these listed chondrichthyan species.</p> <p>- Review existing measures to mitigate such bycatch.</p>	Reviews prepared on (i) current levels of bycatch, (ii) available knowledge of post release mortality and (iii) existing measures to mitigate bycatch of chondrichthyan species.	At ScC-SC6	Barry Baker, Rima Jabado	<p>CMS Bycatch WG (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)</p> <p>Sharks MOU Advisory Committee (Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)</p>	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	In progress, funding available
Dec. 13.62	<i>b) based on the above, identify priorities for bycatch mitigation and make recommendations to Parties and the CMS Sharks MOU on the most effective and appropriate measures to mitigate and reduce bycatch based on the above categories, while ensuring that recommended measures do not act to the disadvantage of other CMS-listed marine species.</i>	-Prepare guidelines that include recommendations to CMS Parties and Sharks MOU Signatories on the most effective and appropriate measures to mitigate and reduce bycatch of CMS-listed and Sharks MOU Annex 1-listed chondrichthyan species based on the above categories. (This will also address the mandate from Dec.13.72.)	Recommendations to Parties and Sharks MOU Signatories (Draft decisions/Resolutions)	At ScC-SC6	Barry Baker, Rima Jabado	<p>CMS Bycatch WG (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)</p> <p>Sharks MOU Advisory Committee (Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)</p>	Medium	ScC-SC6 – COP14	<u>In progress, funding available</u>

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AQUATIC WILD MEAT									
Dec. 13.64	<i>The Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the Scientific Council should, subject to the availability of resources: a) work with the Bycatch Working Group to develop an analysis of the extent of instances where bycatch transitions to aquatic wild meat harvest and report on this for the Scientific Council to provide clear recommendations to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14).</i>	Review the report and recommendations from AWMWG.	Report activities and Recommendations to COP14 (draft Decisions/Resolutions)	ScC-SC6	Margi Prideaux (Chair) (supports Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	Not started, expected capacity for this work now unavailable.
Dec. 13.64	<i>b) undertake the following tasks over the course of the intersessional period and report to the Scientific Council with clear recommendations for CMS Parties for CMS COP14, ensuring that perspectives of species conservation, human health and sustainable livelihoods are taken into account:</i> <i>i. incorporate CMS Appendix I-listed Sharks and Rays into all relevant activities of the working group;</i> <i>ii. continue discussions to establish an online knowledge base as a repository of papers (journal articles, meeting documents etc.) and other information related to aquatic wild meat;</i> <i>iii. serve as an expert resource for CMS Parties, the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to contribute to the bushmeat/wild meat discussions within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Whaling Commission</i>	Review the report and recommendations from AWMWG.	Advice and support activities; Action Plans developed; Report activities and Recommendations to COP14 (draft Decisions/Resolutions)	ScC-SC6	Margi Prideaux, Chair (supports Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 - COP14	In progress Given unexpected capacity restrictions AWMWG focus will be addressed in the following order: ix, iii, iv, I, and v

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	<p><i>(IWC) and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), or when international coordination and cooperation about aquatic wild meat is required;</i></p> <p><i>iv. explore opportunities for greater engagement with the work of the CPW;</i></p> <p><i>v. develop a criterion for considering if some Appendix II-listed sharks and rays should be included within the scope of the Working Group;</i></p> <p><i>vi. share information with the IWC and participate in future Small Cetacean Subcommittee meetings with a focus on aquatic wild meat; vii. provide support to the Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership, where the development of the Action Plan to Combat Trade, Direct Consumption, Illegal Logging, and Other Uses of Endangered, Threatened or Protected Coastal and Marine Species overlaps with the conservation of CMS-listed species in the western African region;</i></p> <p><i>viii. collect and present information about seabird harvests as aquatic wild meat;</i></p> <p><i>ix. develop a sub-regional aquatic Wild Meat action plan for the Gulf of Guinea for consideration by Range State Parties in the region; and develop regional, sub-regional or national actions plans for Range State Parties that request assistance.</i></p>								

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MARINE WILDLIFE WATCHING									
Dec. 13.68	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to availability of resources, to: a) utilize the review of existing guidelines undertaken in partial fulfillment of Decision 12.51 (b) and presented to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13), develop guidelines, including a recommended code of conduct for operators on recreational in-water interactions with CMS-listed species;</i>	Develop guidelines including a recommended code of conduct for operators.	Guidelines and code of conduct developed	2021	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	In progress, funding available
Dec. 13.68	<i>b) consult with the Secretariats and Advisory Committees, where appropriate, of the CMS Memoranda of Understanding dealing with aquatic species, in the development of these guidelines;</i>	As per mandate	Guidelines developed	2021	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	
Dec. 13.68	<i>c) consult with the IWC Scientific Committee in the development of these guidelines and, if practical, consider agreeing a joint product, at least with respect to cetaceans;</i>	As per mandate	Guidelines developed	2021	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	IWC (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	High	ScC-SC6 - COP14	
Dec. 13.68	<i>d) present the guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operators concerning recreational in-water interaction to COP14, for formal consideration.</i>	As per mandate	Guidelines submitted to COP14 for consideration.	ScC-SC6 COP14	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	High	ScC-SC6 COP14	

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MARINE TURTLES									
Dec.13.70	<i>a) review, as far as feasible in collaboration with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles, such as climate change;</i>	Review relevant scientific information on marine turtles.	Information reviewed, key threats globally identified.	2021-2022		IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, IAC (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	Not started
Dec.13.70	<i>b) based on this review, develop new recommendations for the conservation of all species of marine turtle included in Appendix I or II of the Convention including the preservation of the current nesting beaches and the identification of new nesting beaches, for presentation at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</i>	Develop recommendations on the conservation of listed marine turtle species.	Recommendations developed (Draft decisions/Resolutions).	ScC-SC6		(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	
Dec.13.70	<i>c) develop, in collaboration with the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, CITES, Ramsar Convention and relevant non-governmental organizations and supported by the Secretariat, a draft Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of Hawksbill Turtles to be presented preferably at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to address their trade and use in South-East Asia, and the adjacent Western Pacific, and taking into account the 2019 CITES Report on Status, Scope and Trends of the Legal and Illegal International Trade in Marine Turtles, its Conservation Impacts, Management Options and Mitigation Priorities, as well as the Hawksbill Assessment under preparation by the Advisory Committee of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU.</i>	Develop a draft Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Hawksbill Turtle.	Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Hawksbill Turtle drafted.	2021-2023		IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	In progress

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CHONDRICHTHYAN SPECIES (SHARKS, RAYS, SKATES AND CHIMAERAS)									
Dec.13.72	<i>The Scientific Council shall review a synthesis of National Reports, to be prepared by the Secretariat, to examine information provided on bycatch of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species and provide advice to Parties as warranted on measures to reduce bycatch to sustainable levels.</i>	Examine information from the synthesis of National Reports. Advice to Parties to be given in context of Dec.13.62.		2021	Barry Baker, Rima Jabado	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly) Sharks MOU Advisory Committee	Medium	ScC-SC5	Guidance on measures to reduce bycatch to be combined with Dec.13.62. StC52 will discuss revised National Reporting Format.
GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR CETACEANS									
Dec.13.81	<i>The Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to: a) review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals not included in the Global Programme of Work (POW) for Cetaceans and undertake a revision of the POW leading up to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14), including a review of the implementation of the POW to date, preparation of a gap analysis and identification of the priorities going forward;</i>	Review output of the AMWG (review of regional threats for CMS listed aquatic mammals not included in POW for Cetaceans; review and update of the POW).	Global POW for Cetaceans reviewed, revised Global POW for Cetaceans developed. Regional threats for other aquatic mammals reviewed.	2021-2022	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	Not started, dependent on funding
Dec.13.81	<i>b) based on this assessment of threats and regional priorities, prepare work programmes for these other aquatic mammal species for consideration by the Scientific Council at its 5th or 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee;</i>	Prepare Work Programmes for CMS listed aquatic mammals not included in POW for Cetaceans.	Work Programmes prepared	Prior to ScC-SC6	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	

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Dec.13.81	<i>c) if applicable, provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region.</i>	As per mandate		If requested.	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Abu Dhabi Office)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	
Dec. 13.82	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to: a) review the assessments of regional threats and resulting work programmes developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and provide recommendations to COP14;</i>	Review of the above activities (Dec.13.81 a and b).	Recommendation Developed (Draft Decisions / Resolutions)	ScC-SC6	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Melanie Virtue)	Medium	ScC-SC6 COP14	Expected later
Dec. 13.82	<i>b) if applicable, review the draft Action Plan for the cetaceans in the Red Sea region and provide recommendations to COP15;</i>	As per mandate	Draft Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region reviewed (if available).	2026	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue, Abu Dhabi Office)	Medium	COP15	
Dec. 13.82	<i>c) promote work in collaboration with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions to support the implementation of the Action Plan and other conservation measures in the South Atlantic area.</i>	As per mandate		ongoing	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara;	IWC, AMWG (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	Medium	COP14	

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MARINE POLLUTION									
	<i>CMS/Res.12.2 0; CMS COP13/ Doc.15.1</i>	<i>Newly established COP-Appointed Councillor position in accordance with COP13/Doc.15.1.</i>	Preparation of a document with appropriate background information and including draft decisions for further work will be prepared focused on the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine debris (including FADs), • evidence of the effects of persistent organic pollutants on marine migratory species, and • nutrient pollution. 	Reviews prepared for consideration by ScC-SC6.	Prior to ScC-SC6	Mark Simmonds + for FADs Barry Baker and Rima Jabado	Secretariat	ScC-SC6 COP14	
FRESHWATER FISH									
	<i>Res.10.12</i>	<i>Issue raised by Councillors</i>	Provide advice in response to the review conservation status of freshwater fish prepared by South America	Recommendations for conservation action	Prior to ScC-SC6	Zeb Hogan	Héctor Vera-Alcaraz (Secretariat FP : Melanie Virtue)	ScC-SC6 COP14	

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INTENTIONAL KILLING AND MUTILATION OF SEABIRDS									
<i>Article III (5) Res.12.22</i>	<i>Emerging issue raised by Councillors</i>	Establish intersessional WG to further investigate the issue in collaboration with ACAP Review information submitted by Parties on measures undertaken to address the issue in the Southwest Atlantic	Review and recommendations	Prior to ScC-SC6	Barry Baker Graeme Taylor	(Secretariat FP: Andrea Pauly)		ScC-SC6 COP14	