



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 18

**SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document reports on progress on implementation of Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13) *Synergies and Partnerships* and Decision 13.9 *NGO participation in CMS processes*.

The document proposes amendments to Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13) and the adoption of new Decisions.

## SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP13, 2020), reaffirmed the importance of engagement in relevant processes and cooperation with partners through the adoption of [Resolution 11.10 \(Rev.COP13\) Synergies and Partnerships](#).
2. CMS Decision 13.9 *NGO participation in CMS processes* also provides specific mandates aimed at setting up a process for NGO accreditation as well as for ways to increase the engagement of indigenous peoples, youth groups and local communities in CMS processes:

#### **13.9 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall: a) establish an Intersessional Working Group comprising Parties, the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including members of the Civil Society Project Steering Group, and other relevant organizations to explore options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS, including a process and a template for reporting to the Conference of the Parties; b) present a proposal for NGO partners' accreditation to CMS under a) to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and adoption; c) subject to the availability of external resources, explore and propose ways to increase involvement of indigenous peoples, youth groups and local communities in CMS processes, building on the experiences from other multilateral environmental agreements, and present suggestions, including their cost implications, to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14).*

### Implementation of Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13) Synergies and Partnerships

#### **Engagement within the UN System**

3. The Secretariat engaged in numerous relevant processes and meetings of the UN, including those of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA), implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, preparations for the 2021 United Nations Food Summit, thematic dialogues convened by the UN Environment Management Group, and consultations around the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

#### *2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development*

4. [The Secretariat explored opportunities to engage in and contribute to the reform of the UN development system (UNDS) and the work of the UN Country Teams. These teams, led by Resident Coordinators, are responsible for coordinating the work of agencies, funds and programmes to support the achievement of development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level.]
5. In 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted a Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, providing guidance to countries on implementing the 2030 Agenda and responding to COVID-19. Among other things, the review calls for the inclusion of relevant provisions and obligations of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in sustainable development cooperation frameworks, which serve as the primary tool for achieving the SDGs at the national level.

6. The Secretariat held consultations with the Policy and Programme and the Law Divisions of UNEP, which are supporting this process, as well as with Secretariats of the other biodiversity-related conventions, to discuss a coherent approach to promoting a systemic understanding of MEA mandates and their significance for SDG implementation at national level.
7. The UN Development Cooperation Office convened an initial webinar with Resident Coordinators and MEA Secretariats to discuss expectations and exchange views on how best to cooperate strategically to advance the achievement of SDGs through the integrated implementation of MEAs.
8. The Secretariat is also collaborating with UNEP on the production of a series of knowledge products to help mainstream MEAs into UN Country Team processes and outputs.

#### *Other UN processes*

9. The Secretariat continued to engage in the UN Oceans process, a forum of UN entities working on ocean issues. In the past, this group often met in the margins of relevant UN conferences. The forum has moved online, which has proved to be more effective and inclusive. The Secretariat participated in a UN Oceans-organized side event at UNFCCC COP26. The Secretariat has also been involved in preparing statements and side events at other forums, such as UNFCCC COPs and the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon (2022), and in briefing other UN agencies on CMS's ongoing work.

#### *UNEP processes and initiatives, including UN Environment Assembly meetings*

10. Following the first online session of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1), which was held from 22 to 23 February 2021, the Secretariat attended the resumed in-person session of UNEA-5.2 between 28 February and 2 March 2022, followed by a special session to commemorate the founding of UNEP: UNEP@50 (3–4 March 2022).
11. In the run-up to and during UNEA-5.2, the Secretariat actively engaged in the development of the UNEA Ministerial Declaration and relevant Resolutions, especially Resolution 9 on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure.
12. The Secretariat took part in all consultations, including three meetings held from October 2021 to February 2022 on the follow-up to UN General Assembly resolution 73/333, which aims to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance. The process resulted in the adoption of a [Political Declaration](#) at UNEP@50, which reaffirms the need to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between UNEP and MEAs, while respecting their independence and respective mandates.
13. The Secretariat is also engaging in UNEA-6 (26 February to 1 March 2024), which will include a special focus on MEAs – with plans to hold a high-level dialogue among MEA Secretariats and Parties. In addition, a dedicated pavilion is being organized by UNEP to allow MEAs to showcase their work at side events, meetings and exhibitions.
14. The Secretariat has strengthened collaboration with UNEP under the framework of the UNEP Montevideo Programme, including through contributions to the development of a strategic document for the Law Division. It has also provided inputs to a UNEP Pollution Report to assess the state of the implementation of the UNEP plan, "Towards a Pollution-

Free Planet”, and to background documentation for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution. The Secretariat is a member of the internal UNEP working groups on polar issues and on Small Island Developing States (SIDs).

15. The Secretariat has been striving to renew cooperative efforts with UNEP regional offices. In March 2021, a letter was sent to all offices to promote discussion on areas of possible joint work, including:
  - Support for national-level implementation of CMS commitments – for example, through promoting Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for CMS national priorities that are integrated into biodiversity and other programmes of the GEF.
  - Collaboration in implementing the Secretariat’s mandates in the region – such as CMS participation in the second phase of the CounterMeasure project on plastic pollution and its impacts on freshwater and terrestrial species in the Mekong River basin, led by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
  - Strengthening engagement in regional forums and with regional entities. The regional offices can play a key role in highlighting the work of CMS and its related agreements in relevant forums and initiatives, and in strengthening the engagement of key entities in the work of CMS. For example, best practices developed under the CMS Energy Task Force could be disseminated in the regions for uptake by entities such as Regional Development Banks.
  - Accession and political outreach. The number of CMS Parties has grown rapidly over the last few years, and several regional offices have played a key role in building political support and promoting country accession. Further efforts are needed to address gaps in membership of CMS and its instruments to ensure cooperation and implementation of measures for migratory species across all Range States.
  - Communications and special events. Building on successful past collaborations, the close involvement of regional offices in the preparations for future key meetings as well as outreach and communication initiatives and awareness campaigns (e.g., World Migratory Bird Day) is especially welcome. Collaboration with regional offices is particularly sought after in the run-up to COP14 and for associated regional preparatory workshops. They play a useful role in helping to liaise with the host country, assist Parties and partners in navigating through the agendas of these meetings, and rally political support if necessary.
  
16. The Secretariat also engaged on specific initiatives with various UNEP Regional Offices, including with:
  - The North America Office, on issues related to ecological connectivity under the framework of the North America Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN). The Office is a member of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group (ScC WG) on Connectivity on behalf of NAMPAM.
  - The Regional Office for West Asia, in collaboration with the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Kuwait Environment Public Authority, to organize a capacity-building workshop on environmental diplomacy and negotiations with a focus on biodiversity-related MEAs – namely, CMS, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The workshop took place between 30 and 31 May 2022 in Kuwait and brought together 25 government representatives from the Gulf region and experts from the Secretariats of the three conventions.
  - The India Office, to support collaboration with the Indian Government to help provide leadership and support to the implementation of CMS and the delivery of priority commitments and actions during India’s CMS COP Presidency (2020–2023).

- The Regional Office for Europe, including its branch in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to support preparations for COP14.
  - All regional offices, to support the CMS regional workshops in preparation for COP14 (Pre-COPs) held in October 2023.
17. The CMS Secretariat and the Secretariats of its relevant MOUs also work with the UNEP-administered Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. The two CMS turtle MOUs as well as the Sharks and the Dugong MOUs work closely with the Nairobi Convention and the Abidjan Convention Secretariats. The Secretariat also participates in the species working group of the Cartagena Convention.
  18. The Secretariat is also engaging in the third phase of the capacity-building project to support the implementation of MEAs in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions (ACP MEAs III). The project is funded by the European Union and led by UNEP. The current phase of the project aims to support ACP countries to enforce and comply with MEAs, including CMS. Programme partners include the regional hubs – the African Union, the Caribbean Community and Common Market, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) – through which most of the activities are implemented.
  19. The CMS Secretariat received financial support from the ACP MEAs III project to organize Pre-COPs in advance of CMS COP14. In collaboration with UNEP and the regional hubs, the Secretariat is also contributing to implementation of activities that cut across the three regions and that aim to promote country accession or build national and institutional capacity and influence policies and legislative frameworks for effective implementation of CMS obligations. Additional activities of specific relevance to the regions are also envisaged, such as support for the implementation of the CMS Pacific Islands Cetacean MOU in collaboration with SPREP.
  20. The Secretariat is an active member of the UN Environment-supported MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative. A flagship project of the initiative is InforMEA ([www.informe.org](http://www.informe.org)), a web-portal that provides centralized, organized access to a wide array of MEA information such as COP decisions and resolutions, national reports and focal point contact information. For CMS and the wider CMS Family, the initiative has significantly helped to strengthen their knowledge and information management capacity, while also being an excellent forum for exchange and collaboration with other MEAs on key common MEA topics such as e-learning, standardized terminology and online national reporting.
  21. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) became a member of the Working Group on the CMS Family inputs to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and of the CMS ScC WG on Connectivity, and took part in their meetings and informal consultations. UNEP-WCMC has been providing support for the national reporting processes of CMS and its Family instruments and was commissioned to produce a number of key documents for consideration by COP14.

### **Strengthening existing collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements**

#### *Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions*

22. Collaboration with the Secretariats of the other seven biodiversity-related conventions (Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions - BLG) increased significantly in the intersessional period, particularly in relation to the development of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This resulted in a number of joint statements in different forums, including the CMS Executive Secretary's address to the UN Biodiversity Summit

in September 2020, which highlighted the role of the BLG conventions in helping achieve the SDGs and for the effective implementation of an ambitious GBF.

23. The Secretariats also convened a joint side event in the margins of the CBD meetings held in Geneva in March 2022 to highlight the contributions of these conventions to the GBF.
24. A ministerial-level event was organized with the Secretariats of CMS, CITES, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the World Heritage Centre at Stockholm+50, to commemorate the birth and celebrate the achievements of four key biodiversity-related conventions, the foundations for which were laid at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972.
25. The Secretariat took part in the meetings and informal consultations of the BLG, which took place over the course of the intersessional period. Further information can be found here: <https://www.cbd.int/blg/>.

#### Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements

26. Bilateral cooperation with individual BLG members and other MEAs continued through the implementation of joint workplans and other areas of cooperation.
27. The Secretariat collaborated with the Secretariats of the MEAs administered by UNEP to organize a side event at UNEP@50 on 35 years of implementation of the compliance mechanisms established under these Agreements. At the event, the Secretariat had the opportunity to present the CMS Review Mechanism and associated National Legislation Programme. A similar event will take place at UNEA-6 in 2024.
28. Following the endorsement of the 2021–2025 CMS–CITES Joint Work Programme, the Secretariats of the two conventions worked closely to further the conservation of a number of common species including the African Wild Dog, Cheetah, Leopard and Lion under the framework of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI), and the Jaguar. Further details are included in: [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.1 Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.1 Jaguar Conservation Measures](#). Cooperation was also undertaken on shared aquatic species including marine turtles, including on the development of an Action plan for the Hawksbill Turtle [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.6.2 Single Species Action Plan For The Hawksbill Turtle \(\*Eretmochelys imbricata\*\) in South-East Asia and The Western Pacific Ocean Region](#). The Secretariat is now in the process of exploring similar tools with the Secretariats of CBD and Ramsar.
29. The CMS Secretariat took part in CBD COP15 and several consultations and meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to promote current and future collaboration, particularly on the development of the GBF. Further details are included in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.17 CMS Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).
30. CMS and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) have been collaborating closely on a number of areas including the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale Concerted Action, aquatic wild meat, marine wildlife-watching and the Global Programme of Work on Cetaceans, as reported in several COP14 documents. CMS and IWC have co-hosted



two expert workshops on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning in 2020 and 2023 respectively.

31. Through a two-year joint consultancy, the Secretariat worked closely with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on matters of common interest, with a special focus on ecological connectivity.

### **Engaging in and pursuing strategic cooperation**

32. Joint work is ongoing with various entities on matters related to the implementation of activities of common interest.

#### *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

33. The Secretariat has been working in close collaboration with UNDP in support of Jaguar conservation. Further details are contained in Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.1 Jaguar Conservation Measures](#).
34. Talks are also under way with UNDP on a number of other areas for potential collaboration including (i) the United Nations Biodiversity Lab; (ii) the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP to identify areas and initiatives of common interest that could be the focus of upcoming calls for projects; (iii) the Equator Initiative and Prize organized by UNDP, which recognizes outstanding community efforts and whose thematic priorities for this year's call included the CMS core objectives to "*protect and restore nature in order to ensure food and water security; mitigate and adapt to climate change; reduce risks from natural disasters, and safeguard biodiversity, including through ensuring habitat connectivity and species migration*". Further details can be found in [Notification 2023/006: Equator Prize and Migratory Species](#).

#### *World Bank*

35. The Secretariat has been working closely with the World Bank, specifically in the context of the Steering Committee for the implementation of the GEF-8 Integrated Programme on Wildlife Conservation for Development (WCD IP). Further information is contained in Document: [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.13.3 Resource Mobilization](#).

#### *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*

36. The CMS Secretariat continued to engage in IPBES processes and participate in its meetings, including the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary sessions. Details are contained in Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.2 Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#).

#### *ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*

37. The Secretariat and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) have collaborated to promote the objectives and goals of CMS among local and subnational governments. These joint activities have fostered mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives, including campaigns on World Migratory Bird Day, collaboration on CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature Partnership initiatives, and synergies with other MEAs such as profiling the work of the Convention at the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments in the margins of CBD COP15 and the GBF webinar series, "From Agreement to Action: The key role of subnational and local

governments in the Global Biodiversity Framework implementation”. These collaborative endeavours aim to harness the collective strength of local governments, organizations and stakeholders to protect migratory species and preserve biodiversity.

38. The cooperation with ICLEI and the CitiesWithNature team in the context of the World Migratory Bird Day 2022 campaign also led to the development of the online [City Guide on Light Pollution](#), which was published by CMS and ICLEI in April 2023.
39. The collaboration between ICLEI and CMS highlights the impact that conservation initiatives can have at the local and subnational level and the important contribution that these make to the implementation of CMS. This partnership not only raised the profile of the Convention at the grassroots level but also facilitated knowledge exchange and the development of knowledge products such as the light pollution guidelines.

### **Strengthening existing collaboration with civil society**

40. CMS continued to benefit from the support of numerous NGOs in the implementation of memorandums of understanding and initiatives for specific species as well as from their contribution to various processes, working groups and task forces. Details of this work are contained in several other COP14 documents.

#### *Cooperation on outreach activities*

41. In March 2023, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) became an official partner of the World Migratory Bird Day campaign. The new [partnership agreement](#) was signed during the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners (MOP11) of the EAAFP, which took place in Brisbane, Australia. With the addition of EAAFP, the campaign has now grown to four main partners, also including CMS, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
42. The new partnership unites efforts to raise global awareness on migratory birds, the threats they face and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them. Since COP13, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats have worked closely with EFTA and EAAFP to organize World Migratory Bird Day, which is now being celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturdays in May and October. Another example of this joint cooperation was the launch, in March 2023, of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address the Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway (ITTEA), done in coordination with the EAAFP Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds.
43. In 2020, the theme of World Migratory Bird Day was “[Birds Connect Our World](#)”, highlighting the importance of connectivity. In 2021, the theme was “[Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!](#)”, focusing on the phenomena of *bird song* and *bird flight*, which took on added significance at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. World Migratory Bird Day 2022 focused on [light pollution](#), with the theme “[Dim the Lights for Birds at Night](#)”, while the theme for 2023 highlighted the importance of water for migratory birds: “[Water: Sustaining Bird Life](#)”.
44. Close collaboration with the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM), based in Senegal, resulted in the joint convening of the [CMS Marine Megafauna Week: Atlantic Coast of Africa](#), in September 2023. Highlights of the week included convening the [3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Signatories of the MOU Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa](#), and advancing draft regional



Action Plans addressing sharks, cetaceans and aquatic wild meat, some of which are presented to COP14.

45. As a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) the Secretariat contributed to a number of awareness building and outreach activities, such as side events during CBD COP15 and CITES COP19, as well as statements issued by the Partnership. In 2023, the CPW agreed on a work plan comprised of various activities that will be carried out through various collaborative approaches. Activities of the partnership include contributing to the development of an indicator underpinning Targets 5 and 9 of the KMGBF. CBD SBSTTA25 adopted a decision calling for the CBD Secretariat to collaborate with the CPW in supporting work to identify gaps in guidance on sustainable wildlife management.
46. With regards to the CMS Energy Task Force, the Secretariat worked alongside BirdLife International (through the definition of a Project Cooperation Agreement) to coordinate and implement its Programme of Work. As a result, several activities have taken place, both in person and online, aimed at promoting the various guidance produced, increasing the awareness about the ETF and/or expanding its geographical focus. A summary of the activities of the ETF can be found in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.3.2.

#### Implementation of Decision 13.9 *NGO participation in CMS processes*

##### **NGO accreditation**

47. Decision 13.9 aims to set up a process to explore options for a special accreditation for NGOs, considering that numerous NGOs play an important role in contributing to the work of the Convention. Although the Secretariat has done some preliminary work to collect information on similar processes and experiences under other conventions, due to a lack of capacity it has been unable to make significant progress to implement this decision.

##### **Engaging with other sectoral groups including indigenous peoples, local communities and youth groups**

48. During the current intersessional period, the Secretariat undertook efforts to identify and prepare a compilation of best practice case studies and ongoing initiatives related to community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species. The results are described in Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.3 \*Community Participation and Livelihoods\*](#). Within the framework of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, the Secretariat commissioned a study on Community-based Wildlife Management for selected species, described in more detail in Document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.3/Rev.2. The Secretariat also supported the Government of Kazakhstan with the development of a strategy for the conservation and sustainable management of Saiga, through conducting multi-stakeholder consultations, including local community representatives, farmers' and hunters' associations, government authorities as well as national and international experts on Saiga and human wildlife conflict.
49. Representatives of the Global Biodiversity Youth Network (GYBN) attended CMS COP13, and the Secretariat is reaching out to encourage their participation at COP14. Outreach has also taken place with youth organizations, including the Major Group for Children and Youth in the context of the World Migratory Bird Day campaign, with a view to engaging them at COP14.

### Discussion and analysis

50. The CMS Secretariat has invested significant effort in engaging with other organizations and partners, and is appreciative of the positive collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions, other UN entities, NGOs, and other stakeholders to further the work of CMS.
51. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat will continue to engage with these key organizations to advance the implementation of CMS. The Secretariat also proposes to continue work to explore ways to establish a dialogue with other key stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, local communities and youth groups, and to increase the engagement and recognition of those NGO partners whose activities make a significant contribution to CMS.

### Recommended Actions

52. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
  - a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP13) contained in Annex 1 of this document;
  - b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document;
  - c) Delete Decisions 13.9–13.10.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO UNEP/CMS/RESOLUTION 11.10 (Rev.COP13)

**SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

NB. Proposed new text to Resolutions originating from COP13 is underlined.  
Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

*Recalling* Resolution 7.9 *Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes*, Resolution 8.11 *Cooperation with other Conventions*, Resolution 9.6 *Cooperation with Other Bodies* and Resolution 10.21 *Synergies and Partnerships*, as well as Resolution 11.11 *Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society* ~~Resolution 10.25 *Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility*~~,

*Acknowledging* the importance of cooperation and synergies with other bodies, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector,

*Noting* that while the responsibility for implementation of the Convention rests with Parties, the engagement of subnational and local governments can significantly support Parties in implementing the Convention,

*Recognizing* the instrumental role of partner organizations in the development and implementation of CMS and its related initiatives and outreach campaigns, ~~including the negotiation of the Convention itself,~~

*Appreciating* the value of such partnerships in reaching a wider audience and raising public awareness of the Convention and the importance of conserving migratory species on a global scale,

*Noting with appreciation* all the individuals and organizations that contributed to the achievements of the Year of the Turtle (2006), Year of the Dolphin (2007/8), Year of the Gorilla (2009) and Year of the Bat (2011/12) and contribute to the annual campaign of the World Migratory Bird Day,

*Expressing* its gratitude to the many partner organizations that have assisted in promoting CMS and its mandate, for example, by facilitating the negotiation and implementation of species agreements under the Convention,

~~*Welcoming* the report on *Synergies and Partnerships* (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18), prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme/CMS Secretariat, and the progress made by the Secretariat in enhancing cooperation, coordination, synergies as well as and partnerships with biodiversity-related Conventions, and other relevant institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders,~~

*Welcoming also* the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.3), which aims to promote the interlinkages between sustainable development and the conservation of wildlife with a special focus on migratory species and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

~~Further taking note of the results of the United Nations Environment Programme's project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies,~~

~~Welcoming the decisions taken by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions,~~

~~Welcoming also the continuing and important cooperation among the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions including through memoranda of understanding between the CMS Secretariat and the Secretariats of the International Whaling Commission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Bern Convention, and CITES and CBD, and their decisions on cooperation and synergies,~~

~~Recognizing the importance of ongoing cooperation among secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group to support the development and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and *noting* the Bern Process to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Framework the road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020 provided by the informal advisory group on synergies,~~

~~Highlighting the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 2024-2032 as a strategic framework for synergies and partnerships with other MEAs, organizations and stakeholders, which provides an important contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and will support the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and achievement of the SDGs,~~

~~Aware of the ongoing discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the formalization of a memorandum of cooperation, and *appreciating* the important efforts made by CMS to enhance relationships with organizations that have different mandates or goals, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which provides multidisciplinary solutions currently aimed at currently achieving food security, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and ecosystem health,~~

~~Further recognizing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, The Future We Want, which recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the MEAs, and which encouragingencourages the Parties to MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation and coordination amongst MEAs,~~

~~Recognizing the collaboration with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability to promote the objectives and goals of the Convention on Migratory Species among local and subnational governments through joint activities such as awareness-raising campaigns and profiling the role of local and subnational governments in strengthening ecological connectivity.~~

*Convinced* of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherent national-level implementation of each of the conventions,

*Recalling* Resolution 11.11, which invited the Secretariat, Parties, other Governments, civil society organizations and non-governmental organization (NGO) Partners to review options for furthering the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society,

*Appreciating* the efforts of the Secretariat in promoting the use of remote/video conferencing technology to enable Parties, agreements, NGOs, and non-Party Range States partial or full remote access to all CMS and CMS agreement full and intersessional meetings, and  
and

*Recognizing the establishment of the World Coastal Forum, a global partnership initiative to enhance coastal ecosystems, as called for by CMS Resolution 12.25 Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal & other coastal Habitats for Migratory Species, and by resolutions and decisions of several other biodiversity-related conventions,*

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Stresses* the importance of supporting the objectives of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to improve national collaboration, communication and coordination with relevant organizations and processes;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), and other relevant partners about the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 ~~2015-2023~~ and pursue further activities related to synergies and partnerships within that framework;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue developing effective and practical cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including other biodiversity instruments, international organizations, subnational and local governments and NGOs;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to identify potential strategic partners and engage with them when developing campaigns and other outreach activities and encourages all relevant stakeholders to contribute to these initiatives;
5. *Notes* the recommendations contained in UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18/Annex.3 aimed at enhancing the relationship between the CMS Family and ~~C~~civil ~~S~~society both at international and national levels;
6. *Recognizes* that formal partnerships with biodiversity-related NGOs have the potential to significantly increase the delivery of ~~the Convention's~~ CMS objectives and may be deserving of a formal recognition;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue providing letters of endorsement for NGO funding requests relating to projects that contribute to the implementation of any plans, actions or initiatives under the CMS Family;
8. *Encourages* Parties, the Secretariat, NGOs, and other stakeholders to continue strengthening engagement with indigenous peoples, youth groups and local communities across the CMS Family;
- 8bis. *Further encourages* Parties and the Secretariat to promote the active engagement of subnational and local governments in efforts to protect migratory species;
9. ~~*Further r*~~*Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate collaborations with partners such as the FAO and the ~~United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)~~, that can help to extend the multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary scope of approaches to collaboration;
10. ~~*Further*~~ *Also requests* the Secretariat to pursue strengthened partnerships with the private sector in accordance with the CMS Code of Conduct;
11. *Further requests* the Secretariat, its daughter Agreements, within the mandates given by their Parties/Signatories, and the Scientific Council to enhance their engagement with expert committees and processes initiated by partners, as appropriate;
12. *Welcomes* the joint work ~~plan~~ programme between the CMS and CITES Secretariats and *further requests* the Secretariat to prepare proposals to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions, including through joint work ~~plans~~ programmes with clear targets and timetables aligned with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032, for consideration at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
13. *Requests* the Secretariat to take action to strengthen implementation of CMS through the processes on the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), including through cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices and the United Nations Development Programme;
14. *Also requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Secretariats of other conventions to continue liaising with the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices and make best use of their role in assisting the implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs;
15. *Further requests* the Secretariat and invites the Secretariats of CBD and of other relevant MEAs to consider and advise on ways and means of more coherently addressing the conservation and sustainable use of animal species in CBD processes, including in relation to the ~~development-implementation of the Kunming-Montreal~~ a post-2020 Gglobal Bbiodiversity Fframework; and further requests the Secretariat to report on progress to each meeting of the COP;
16. ~~*Further requests*~~ *Calls on* the Secretariat to enhance cooperation through the BLG and the biodiversity indicators partnership to support further development improve of the monitoring framework ~~a global set of biodiversity indicators in view of the development of the Kunming-Montreal~~ a post-2020 Gglobal Bbiodiversity Fframework;



17. ~~Further~~ *Requests* the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to pursue the most effective actions for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats;
18. *Further Requests* the Secretariat to continue to engage with the process on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with the BLG;
19. *Invites* the members of the BLG to strengthen cooperation and coordination with a view to increasing synergies among their respective explorations and developments of online reporting systems as a means to increase synergies on national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions;
20. *Also invites* the members of the BLG to consider ways and means to increase cooperation on their outreach and communication strategies;
21. *Further invites* the BLG to take into due consideration the need to optimize monitoring efforts and improve effectiveness through the use of coherent monitoring frameworks and indicator systems;
22. *Requests* the Secretariat, as far as possible, to avoid duplication of work ~~on the same issues~~ among MEAs dedicated to nature protection issues, and *invites* the BLG to address, at its future meetings, options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, wild meat and invasive alien species, including through exploring the possibility of identifying lead MEAs in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes;
23. Also Requests the Secretariat to continue to report to the Standing Committee on progress made, including on results of joint activities as discussed and agreed in the BLG;
24. *Recognizes* that adequate resources are required to allow partnerships to be developed, and such resources could be provided, in part, through voluntary contributions from Parties, and requests Parties to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Secretariat to allow partnerships to be developed and strengthened;
25. *Urges* Parties to establish close collaboration at the national level between the focal point of the CMS and the focal points of other relevant conventions in order for governments to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts, for example, by developing national biodiversity working groups to coordinate the work of focal points of relevant MEAs and other stakeholders, inter alia, through relevant measures in NBSAPs, harmonized knowledge management and national reporting by making use of the Data Reporting tool (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme as well as through adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA;
26. ~~Also~~ *Urges* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns related to migratory species into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national ~~positions~~ commitments among the various conventions and other international fora in which they are involved;

27. *Encourages* Parties and other governments and organizations to make use of the web-based tools, such as InforMEA, when developing and implementing mutually supportive activities among CMS Agreements and biodiversity-related conventions so as to improve coherence in their implementation; and
28. *Urges* partner organizations to continue to promote and publicize the benefits to them, to CMS, and to conservation arising from effective collaboration; and
29. ~~Notes that the present Resolution has repealed Resolution 7.9 Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes, Resolution 8.11 Cooperation with other Conventions, Resolution 9.6 Cooperation with Other Bodies, and Resolution 10.21 Synergies and Partnerships and Resolution 11.11 Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society.~~

**ANNEX 2**

**DRAFT DECISIONS**

**NGO AND OTHER GROUPS PARTICIPATION IN CMS PROCESSES**

***Directed to the Secretariat***

14.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) establish an Intersessional Working Group comprising Parties, the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other relevant organizations to explore options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS, including a process and a template for reporting to the Conference of the Parties;
- b) present a proposal for accreditation for NGO partners to CMS to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and adoption;
- c) subject to the availability of external resources, continue exploring and proposing ways to increase the involvement of indigenous peoples, youth groups and local communities in CMS processes, building on the experiences from other multilateral environmental agreements, and present suggestions, including their cost implications, to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15).

***Directed to Parties, IGOs & NGOs, Others***

14.BB Parties, NGOs and other relevant organizations are invited to support the Secretariat in exploring options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS for the consideration of COP15.