

Fourth Meeting of the Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)

Bad Belzig, Germany, 14 – 15 March 2018

UNEP/CMS/GB/MOS4/Doc.4.1
Agenda Item 4.1

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general principle that the CMS Secretariat acts as the Secretariat for species Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Great Bustard MOU pursuant to MOU paragraph 1(e). It also acts as the MOU Depository (MOU Paragraph 19).
2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as Depository and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MOU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MOU's entry into effect and its efforts to generate an up-to-date list of contact points.
3. This note also provides a summary of relevant outcomes of the Eleventh and the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11 and COP12) to CMS. It includes species-specific provisions for the Great Bustard, other relevant avian-specific provisions, and relevant cross-cutting issues and overarching strategic and institutional matters such as Strategic Plan for Migratory Species for the period 2015-2023, the Review of Decisions process under CMS and the Process on the Review of Implementation.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

4. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the depository of the MOU. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MOU. It keeps the original version of the MOU on file, notifies the signatories of new signatures and transmits certified copies of the MOU to the various Signatory States and organizations that have signed the MOU.
5. Document CMS/GB/MOS4/Inf.4 notes that as of 1 March 2018 there are 13 State Signatories to the MOU. The last signature was that of the Czech Republic on 18 February 2008. In addition, four organizations have signed the MOU.
6. Pursuant to the 13th operational paragraph of the agreement text, the Great Bustard MOU was amended by a consensus of the Signatories at the Third Meeting of the Signatories held 8-12 April 2013 in Szarvas, Hungary to extend the geographical scope of the MOU to cover Italy, Montenegro, the Russian Federation and Serbia. The CMS Secretariat is active in

recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MOU. It regularly requests the seven remaining Range States to determine their ability to sign the MOU. Of the now 20 Ranges States eligible to sign the MOU, seven have not yet signed: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Slovenia.

List of Designated National Contact Points

7. MOU paragraph 5 invites Signatory States to officially designate an authority or an authorized scientist as a national contact point for all matters relating to the implementation of the MOU and to communicate the name and address to the Secretariat.

8. On the date when this document was finalized, twelve of the thirteen Signatories had provided the Secretariat with the name of their national contact points (document: CMS/GB/MOS4/Inf.5). Should there be any updates to this document, the Secretariat requests the Signatories to communicate the change as soon as possible.

9. The Secretariat appeals to the Signatory State that has not yet done so to please designate a national contact point and provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This should be done in writing from the Ministry competent for the Great Bustard's conservation and management.

CMS COP11 and COP12 Outcomes Relevant to the Great Bustard MOU

10. A summary of relevant outcomes of the Eleventh and the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11 and COP12) to CMS is included in Appendix 1 of the present document. COP11 took place 4-9 November 2014 in Quito, Ecuador, and COP12 23-28 October 2017 in Manila, the Philippines. These outcomes include resolutions and decisions on subjects such as:

Great Bustard-specific provisions:

- The inclusion of the global population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) on **CMS Appendix I**, adopted at COP11. The species also remains listed on CMS Appendix II (Proposal I/4, UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.4/Rev.1)
- The **Concerted Action** for the Asian Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) adopted at COP12 (Concerted Action 12.8; Decisions 12.103 - 12.104)
- Coverage of *Otis tarda* in Category A - *Globally threatened and near-threatened African-Eurasian migratory landbird species* of the **Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP; Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12))**

Other relevant avian-specific provisions:

- **Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds** (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.18-12.19)
- **The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds** (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.26-12.30)
- **Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP; Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.22 – 12.25)**
- **Flyways** (Resolution 12.11; Decisions 12.31, 12.33 - 12.35)
- **Taxonomy and Nomenclature** (Resolution 12.27; Decision 12.102)

Relevant cross-cutting issues and overarching strategic and institutional matters:

- **Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023** (Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12); Decision 12.105)
- Restructuring of the Scientific Council (Resolution 11.4 (repealed by COP12), Resolution 12.4; Decisions 12.2 - 12.3)
- Review of Decisions (Resolution 11.6 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.11 - 12.12)
- Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Convention through a Process to Review Implementation (Resolution 11.7 (repealed by COP12) and Resolution 12.9; Decisions 12.6 - 12.9)
- Communication, Information and Outreach Plan (Resolution 11.8 (Rev.COP12); Decision 12.15)
- World Migratory Bird Day (Resolution 11.9)
- **Renewable Energy and Migratory Species** (Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12))
- Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species (Resolution 12.3; Decision 12.105)
- National Reports (Resolution 12.5; Decisions 12.4 – 12.5)
- Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species (Resolution 12.6)
- **The Role of Ecological Networks** in the Conservation of Migratory Species (Resolution 12.7)
- Implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention (Resolution 12.8)
- **Climate Change** and Migratory Species (Resolution 12.21; Decisions 12.72-12.74)
- Sustainable Tourism and Migratory Species (Resolution 12.23; Decisions 12.89-12.90)
- Improving Ways of Addressing **Connectivity** in the Conservation of Migratory Species (Resolution 12.26; Decisions 12.91 - 12.93)
- **Transfrontier Conservation Areas** for Migratory Species (Decisions 12.94-12.97)
- Community Participation and Livelihoods (Decisions 12.98-12.100)

Action requested:

The Meeting is requested to:

- a. Take note of the Secretariat's report.
- b. Request representatives of non-Signatory States eligible to sign the MOU to inform the Meeting of their Government's intentions vis-à-vis signature of the MOU.
- c. Take note of the list of designated national contact points.
- d. Request representatives to provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if not been already forwarded to the Secretariat.
- e. Invite Signatories that have not yet designated a national contact point to provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible.
- f. Take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions and engage with their implementation as appropriate.

Appendix 1: CMS COP11 and COP12 Outcomes Relevant or of Interest to the Great Bustard MOU

1. The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to CMS took place 4-9 November 2014 in Quito, Ecuador, with important decisions reflected in the 34 Resolutions adopted by the Conference. The Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to CMS took place 23-28 October 2017 in Manila, the Philippines, with the outcome of 28 new Resolutions, 33 revised Resolutions, 107 Decisions and eight Concerted Actions adopted by the Conference.

2. This appendix outlines the key outcomes from COP11 and COP12 of relevance to the Great Bustard MOU (in the order of document numbers). The Resolutions and related documents can be found on the COP websites:

COP11: <http://cms.int/en/meeting/eleventh-meeting-conference-parties-cms>

COP12: <http://cms.int/en/cop12docs>

Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12); Decision 12.105: Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

3. At CMS COP11, Parties adopted Resolution 11.2 on the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS). A revised version was adopted at COP12. Through this Resolution, Parties took a major step forward by adopting a strategic plan, which is very closely aligned with the CBD Aichi Targets. The plan allows much more coherence, cooperation and synergies with CBD and the overall initiatives taken in conjunction with the Aichi Targets.

4. The SPMS focusses on the conservation of migratory animals (populations, species or lower taxonomic levels, as the context requires), rather than on the Convention itself. This approach shifted the focus from the institution to the issue, thereby broadening relevance and ownership among the CMS Family of instruments and beyond. It is also consistent with COP decisions regarding the CMS “Future Shape” process, which identified the need for a coordinated and coherent approach to migratory species conservation among CMS and its daughter agreements.

5. Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12) urges the CMS Family of instruments to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, and also to take action to raise awareness of the Plan. Furthermore, it encourages the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments, to identify existing or develop new sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments and organizations that support the achievement of the targets in the SPMS, and to inform the CMS Secretariat of such sub-targets.

6. A Companion Volume on implementing the SPMS and on indicators has been developed by a working group during the intersessional period as an evolving on-line resource on the CMS website as described in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.15. It is intended to help both country experts and other stakeholders to put in place and execute the necessary means of implementation towards reaching the goals and objectives of the SPMS. Both the Companion Volume and a set of fact sheets for the indicators (in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.26) are conceived as evolving documents which will be further updated and enhanced by the COP with support from the Secretariat in order to provide all Parties with the necessary tools to implement the Strategic Plan.

7. The Strategic Plan also entails amendments to the format of National Reports, in respect of assessing implementation of the SPMS and those indicators for which such reports are identified as a potentially important source of information, and the scope for streamlining existing processes to reduce reporting burdens.

Resolution 11.4 (repealed by COP12), Resolution 12.4; Decisions 12.2 - 12.3: Restructuring of the Scientific Council

8. Initially through Resolution 11.4, which has been superseded by Resolution 12.4, the Conference of the Parties agreed on a number of institutional and organizational changes for the Scientific Council. In particular, while reaffirming that the Scientific Council will continue to be composed of members appointed by individual Parties and members appointed by the Conference of the Parties, for each intersessional period between two consecutive meetings of the COP, a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council (Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council) should be identified, composed of:

- (a) nine COP-appointed Councillors with expertise in taxonomic and thematic issues; and
- (b) fifteen Party-appointed Councillors selected from within the Standing Committee's geographic regions, as follows: three from each of Africa; Asia; Europe; Oceania; and South and Central America and the Caribbean.

9. The members of the Sessional Committee are to be appointed by the COP at each of its ordinary meetings. Party-appointed members of the Sessional Committee shall normally be nominated for a minimum term of two triennia; half of the first appointees shall be nominated for a single triennium. Each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, starting from COP12, will decide upon the renewal of half of the Party-appointed membership of the Sessional Committee, in order to balance continuity and renewal.

10. The Sessional Committee is primarily responsible for the implementation of the mandate assigned to the Scientific Council by the Conference of the Parties for the intersessional period. All outputs of the Sessional Committee are considered outputs of the Scientific Council.

Resolution 11.6 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.11 - 12.12: Review of Decisions

11. As agreed at COP11, a review process of decisions was launched with regard to the preparations for COP12, including the consolidation of resolutions on identical issues (Resolution 11.6; see also UNEP/CMS/StC45/Doc.19/Rev.1). Resolution 11.6 adopts two definitions for decisions adopted by the Parties, "Resolutions" and "Decisions":

- *Resolution*: a decision of Parties, adopted at a Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, regarding the interpretation of the Convention or the application of its provisions. Resolutions are generally intended to provide long-standing guidance with respect to the Convention. Resolutions include decisions on how to interpret and implement the provisions of the Convention, establishing permanent committees, establishing long-term processes, and establishing the budgets of the Secretariat.
- *Decision*: a decision of the Parties, adopted at a Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, containing recommendations to Parties or instructions to a specific committee or the Secretariat. They are typically intended to remain in effect for a short period only, usually until a particular task has been completed. Decisions may, for example, request a report to be submitted to the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties following that at which they were adopted, and so would remain in effect from one Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the next.

With the adoption of these definitions, the Parties eliminated “Recommendations,” a name for some decisions adopted by the Parties at various times.

12. The review of every Resolution and Recommendation has also provided an opportunity to consolidate resolutions on the same or similar themes, drafting new resolutions and provisions in light of the distinction made at COP11 between “Resolutions” and “Decisions,” and other issues.

Resolution 11.7 (repealed by COP12) and Resolution 12.9; Decisions 12.6 - 12.9: Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Convention through a Process to Review Implementation

13. Resolution 11.7 launched an intersessional process, establishing a working group to explore possibilities for strengthening implementation of the Convention through the development of a review process, and the options for a review mechanism submitted to COP12. In accordance with the Resolution, the Secretariat drafted the terms of reference for the working group which were adopted by the Standing Committee at its 44th meeting.

14. Through Resolution 12.9, COP12 decided to establish a review mechanism to facilitate compliance with the obligations, and a National Legislation Programme to support strengthening the implementation of the Convention through national legislation. Both follow a supportive, non-adversarial approach. The review mechanism is based on the triennial review of National Reports and information submitted to the Secretariat (by Self-reporting by Party, Party-on-Party reporting, Secretariat, Standing Committee, accredited international and national non-governmental agency or body technically qualified in protection, conservation and management of migratory species), using the template accredited by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall perform the functions of the review body with the support of the Scientific Council.

Resolution 11.8 (Rev.COP12); Decision 12.15: Communication, Information and Outreach Plan

15. Resolution 11.8 endorsed the CMS Communication, Information and Outreach Plan 2015-2017. COP12 revised the resolution, urging Parties, CMS Family Instruments, the United Nations Environment Programme and all partners and stakeholders actively to assist in the implementation of the Communication, Information and Outreach Programme of Work for 2018-2020 and to provide both voluntary contributions and in-kind support, particularly for the identified priorities.

16. A joint Communication, Information Management and Awareness-raising Unit had been established in January 2014 to serve CMS and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). The joint Unit oversaw the successful 2015, 2016 and 2017 World Migratory Bird Day campaigns and has contributed to the design, editing and drafting of a number of in-house publications, including fact sheets and technical material.

17. The CMS Family website launched in March 2014 continues to be maintained with available in-house capacity and the joint Unit is also participating in the steering committee of several related information-management related initiatives, for example the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative.

Resolution 11.9: World Migratory Bird Day

18. This Resolution invites Parties, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations and relevant stakeholders to promote the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), and requests Parties and other relevant donors to provide voluntary contributions towards the annual organization of the event in order to raise greater public awareness of migratory birds and the multiple threats they face.

19. The recent very successful themes of WMBD have been “Energy – make it bird friendly” (2015), “... and when the skies fall silent? – Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade” (2016) and “Their Future is our Future – a healthy planet for migratory birds and people” (2017).

Proposal I/4 (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.24.1.4/Rev.1): Proposal for the Inclusion of the Global Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in CMS Appendix I

20. Great Bustard populations in Central Europe have been listed under Appendix I of CMS via the Memorandum of Understanding on the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard and have been increasing. In contrast, rapid declines and local extinctions have occurred in the eastern part of the species’ range, with particular concern for the eastern subspecies *O. t. dybowskii*. These isolated remnant populations have been suffering from a lack of genetic diversity (Tian et al. 2006). As infrastructure has developed and human settlement increased in Asia, they have become increasingly under threat. As a consequence, the Government of Mongolia submitted the proposal for the inclusion of the global population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in CMS Appendix I, which was adopted. The document also reported on important findings on the migration. Via satellite telemetry, it was shown that females of *O. t. dybowskii* breeding in north-central Mongolia migrate 2,000 km into Shaanxi Province of China, with multiple stopovers (Kessler et al. 2013). These females move nomadically across a broad wintering range. Great Bustards in the south east of the Russian Federation probably migrate through Mongolia into China. Differences in migratory behaviour across the wide distribution of the Great Bustard appear to be distinct features of local populations, representing adaptations to local climate and geography. It was proposed that priority should be placed on maintaining local populations of Great Bustards, as programmes involving the translocation of birds may face difficulty in this regard. Collisions with power lines, unregulated hunting, poaching, habitat destruction and fragmentation, agricultural intensification leading to destruction of eggs and chicks by farm machinery and indirect poisoning by pesticides and rodenticides, declining quality of breeding habitat, migratory stopover sites and wintering areas, loss of genetic diversity and climate change have been mentioned as threats.

Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.18-12.19: Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

21. Resolution 11.15 was adopted together with its annexed “Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds”, and the “Review of the ecological effects of poisoning on migratory birds” (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.34). The Guidelines tackle the risk to migratory birds resulting from insecticides, rodenticides, poison baits, veterinary pharmaceuticals and lead from ammunition, fishing weights and other sources of lead. Resolution 11.15 mandated the Inter-sessional CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) under the Scientific Council to continue its work under the Terms of Reference in the annex of the Resolution.

22. Based on the preparations provided through the 2nd Meeting of the PPWG, Resolution 11.15 has been revised at COP12, which adopted the Terms of Reference of a Task Group on Lead and the Programme of Work of the PPWG for the period 2017-2020. Decision 12.18 encourages Parties and other donors to provide financial and technical support for the coordination of the PPWG, and for the implementation of the Programme of Work, particularly for organizing regional workshops in high risk areas/flyways.

Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.26-12.30: The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds

23. At COP11, Resolution 11.16 established an Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and requested the Task Force to encourage monitoring of the trends on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds and the implementation of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade of Wild Birds, in cooperation with the Bern Convention Secretariat.

24. During its two meetings, the MIKT developed a Programme of Work 2016-2020 (Cairo, Egypt, 2016) and a Scoreboard to assess the national progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (Sliema, Malta, 2017).

25. During the 9th Meeting of Partners of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), an International Task Force to address the Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway was established with a focus on EAAFP species, e.g. mainly waterbirds.

26. Through Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12), COP12 adopted the Scoreboard as a voluntary tool for Parties to assess their own progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds, and the Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force to address the Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA). Decisions encourage Parties, organizations and stakeholders to implement the MIKT Programme of Work 2016-2020.

Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 12.22 – 12.25: Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)

27. Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12) on the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP) urges Parties and encourages non-Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa. *Otis tarda* is has been included in Category A: *Globally threatened and near-threatened African-Eurasian migratory landbird species* in the Annex of the AEMLAP, with a decreasing global population trend.

28. At the third meeting of the African Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 2015), a Programme of Work was agreed that gives top priority to tackling land use change in West Africa during the period 2016–2020.

29. At a workshop on “Sustainable Land Use in West Africa: National and International Policy Responses that Deliver for Migratory Birds and People” (Abuja, Nigeria, 2016), the Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity including Migratory Birds in West Africa was adopted. It identifies key land use changes and their drivers, and examples of good sustainable land use practices and supporting approaches, and provides guidance to countries for national policies and implementation in alignment with global commitments.

30. COP12 decisions invite Parties and organizations to provide financial support for the implementation of the AEMLAP, the Programme of Work 2016-2020 and an AEMLAP coordinator. The Secretariat shall consult with Range States on an institutional framework for the AEMLAP and to promote collaborative action for sustainable land use for migratory species and people. The Scientific Council should continue the Working Group and promote research that addresses key knowledge gaps relating to migratory landbird conservation in African landscapes.

Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12): Renewable Energy and Migratory Species

31. Resolution 11.27 instructed the Secretariat to establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force, ETF).

32. At its first meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (2016), the ETF adopted a Work Plan 2017-2018 and the Cape Town Declaration, as a tool to inform stakeholders about the objectives of the ETF and its approach to achieve them. It also established a Technical Working Group tasked to identify key research priorities, review existing guidance material, and prepare a series of technical notes to accompany the existing CMS/AEWA guidelines if needed, and convene a process to review existing sensitivity mapping tools. At the second meeting of the ETF (Bonn, Germany, 2017), priorities for future work and opportunities for collaboration have been identified.

33. COP12 encouraged Parties and stakeholders to support the work plan of the ETF, and the ETF to produce guidance for assessing cumulative impacts of (renewable) energy and power line developments on migratory species, including beyond national borders.

Resolution 12.3; Decision 12.105: Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species

34. The CMS High Level Panel Discussion on the interlinkages between sustainable development and the conservation of wildlife took place immediately before COP12. Resulting from the discussion, Resolution 12.3 was adopted inviting Parties and the Secretariat to engage in processes related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and raising awareness of high-level politics, the private sector and other stakeholders of the important contribution that the conservation of migratory wildlife makes to sustainable development. Engagement should also include contributing to the UN Biodiversity Summit in 2020. The resolution was transmitted to the Third Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3).

Resolution 12.5; Decisions 12.4 – 12.5: National Reports

35. Decisions related to this Resolution, through which COP12 repealed Resolutions 4.1, 6.5 and 9.4, instruct the Secretariat to convene an informal advisory group in order to develop a proposal to be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 48th meeting for a revision of the format for the national reports to be submitted to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently.

Resolution 12.6: Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species

36. In the process of consolidation, through Resolution 12.6, COP12 repealed several Resolutions on Wildlife Diseases (8.27, 9.8 and 10.22). Among others, the consolidated Resolution provides the provisions with regard to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1, and requests the CMS Secretariat and FAO to continue to act as co-convenors of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds with the engagement of the CMS Scientific Council.

Resolution 12.7: The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species

37. Resolution 12.7 consolidates the Resolutions 10.3 and 11.25 (see also Resolution 12.26). It includes a number of recommendations and calls on Parties *inter alia* to consider the network approach in the implementation of existing CMS instruments and initiatives, in policy-making, application of planning tools, international cooperation, monitoring and addressing of threats to migratory species.

Resolution 12.8: Implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention

38. Resolution 12.8 consolidates four Resolutions (Resolution 2.6, *Implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention*; Resolution 2.7, *Administration of Agreements*; Resolution 3.5, *Implementation of Article IV, Paragraph 4, of the Convention concerning Agreements*; Resolution 11.12, *Criteria for Assessing Proposals for New Agreements*) that provide advice to the Parties relating to the implementation of Agreements under the Articles IV and V of the Convention. It includes provisions and advice on the interpretation of these Articles, on the development and administration of agreements, and sets criteria for assessing proposals for new agreements.

Resolution 12.11; Decisions 12.31, 12.33 - 12.35: Flyways

39. Based on the work of the open-ended Flyways Working Group, Resolution 12.11 consolidates and repeals previous documents on Flyways (Recommendation 7.7, *American Pacific Flyway Programme*; Resolutions 10.10, *Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements*, and 11.14, *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*). The Resolution reaffirms the “Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023” and calls for its implementation. It also reaffirms the “Americas Flyways Framework” and adopts the Action Plan for the Americas Flyways.

40. The Programme of Work for the world’s flyways brings together all major actions required to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and keeps with the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023. It encourages cooperation and streamlining of actions. It identifies and promotes implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide by providing a framework for protection of migratory birds throughout their life-cycles and enhancing synergies among relevant flyway-related instruments and programmes. Thereby, it assists countries in establishing national programmes of work through identifying priority actions, indicators, key stakeholders and time frames.

Resolution 12.21; Decisions 12.72-12.74: Climate Change and Migratory Species

41. Resolution 12.21 consolidates and repeals previous documents on the issue of climate change and migratory species (Recommendation 5.5 and Resolutions 8.13, 9.7, 10.19, and 11.26). The Resolution reaffirms the “Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species” and urges Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments and encourages non-Parties to put in place, as appropriate, legislative, administrative, management or other measures necessary to implement the actions, including considering the incorporation of such measures in national climate change strategies and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as a matter of priority. Related to Article I (1) (c) (4) of the Convention, on the definition of “favourable conservation status”, it was approved that conservation action beyond the historic range of species is compatible with, and may be required in order to meet the objectives and the obligations of Parties under the Convention with a view to climate-induced range shifts. The Secretariat is requested to promote synergies with other MEAs related to climate change policies affecting migratory species

42. The “Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species” covers short, medium and long-term actions with regard to measures to facilitate species adaptation in response to climate change; vulnerability assessment; monitoring and research; climate change mitigation, human adaptation, and land use planning; knowledge exchange and capacity-building; and cooperation and implementation.

Resolution 12.23; Decisions 12.89-12.90: Sustainable Tourism and Migratory Species

43. Noting that sustainable tourism can contribute to global biodiversity and sustainable development goals and targets, Resolution 12.23 urges Parties to adopt, as they consider appropriate measures and legislation, aiming to ensure tourism activities do not negatively affect species anywhere within their migratory range. It further recommends basic philosophies for Parties to take into account in promoting tourism or recreational activities involving wildlife interaction.

Resolution 12.26; Decisions 12.91 - 12.93: Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species

44. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species emphasizes that migratory species exhibit special forms of dynamic connectivity that make them keystone components of ecosystems, while also exposing them to particular vulnerabilities. With the adoption of Resolution 11.25 on *Advancing ecological networks to address the needs of migratory species*, Parties at COP11 expressed deep concern at the increasing fragmentation of habitats for migratory species and identified a list of matters requiring further work in relation to ecological networks, including improved understanding of connectivity issues and improved ways of addressing these issues in actions for the conservation of migratory species.

45. At two workshops held in Italy in September 2015 and May 2017, under the auspices of the CMS Scientific Council, available scientific evidence and experiences were reviewed, and recommendations made for further work on migratory species connectivity in both terrestrial and marine environments. Discussions for a new Resolution continued during the first and the second meetings of the Sessional Committee of CMS Scientific Council (Bonn, Germany, 2016 and 2017) emphasizing the potential for connectivity to be a hallmark of CMS.

46. Resolution 12.26 urges Parties to give special attention to connectivity when planning, implementing and evaluating actions to support the conservation and management of migratory species, both at national level and in the context of international cooperation, by an approach towards whole migration systems and processes, which *inter alia* includes prioritization of protected areas, strengthening and expanding ecological networks and addressing threats to connectivity.

Resolution 12.27; Decision 12.102: Taxonomy and Nomenclature

47. With regard to birds, Resolution 12.27 adopts the following standard references:
- Non-passerine species: Del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2014). Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Non-passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona;
 - Passerine species: Del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2016). Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 2: Passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona

48. Following Decision 12.102, the Secretariat has adapted the CMS Appendices according to the new reference for birds.

Decisions 12.94-12.97: Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species

49. Parties are invited, with support of the Secretariat, to identify transboundary habitats of CMS-listed species, which could be considered as transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), i.e. an area or component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries and is within their national jurisdiction; and to consider developing jointly with neighbouring Range States bi- or multilateral arrangements and management plans, to improve the conservation of the habitats and species concerned, with participation of local communities and stakeholders for the benefits of wildlife and a sustainable development.

Decisions 12.98-12.100: Community Participation and Livelihoods

50. Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall prepare best-practice cases of community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species. Where feasible, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretariat shall organize workshops and side-events to showcase livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations.

Concerted Action 12.8; Decisions 12.103-12.104: Concerted Action for the Asian Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)

51. Based on the outcomes of the workshop “Advancing the Conservation of the Great Bustard in Asia” (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, May 2017), the Government of Mongolia, in collaboration with the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and the Wildlife Research and Conservation Center of Mongolia, proposed through this document the Great Bustard populations in Asia for Concerted Action under CMS for the triennium 2018-2020, with a clear timeline for future meetings and actions. Implementation will cover IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), MONGOLIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN, Turkmenistan, China and the Russian Federation (Parties to CMS in capitals).

52. In the past, Great Bustards breeding in Kazakhstan and western Russian Siberia overwintered in large numbers in Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and north-east Iran. Sightings in these countries are now uncommon (Kessler and Smith 2014). The eastern subspecies, which breeds in Mongolia, eastern Russia, and north-east China, is fully migratory, though a small number of older males may overwinter on breeding grounds if there is no snow cover. In north central Mongolia, females migrate 2,000 km over the course of four months to wintering grounds in central China (Kessler et al. 2013).

53. Threats to the species across the migration range in Asia include illegal hunting, poisoning, collisions with overhead cabling, poor reproductive rates, increasing isolation of breeding populations, agricultural intensification, and habitat loss and fragmentation. They have led to rapid population declines across most of the range and in consequence to the identification as a priority for conservation action and is listed as vulnerable by IUCN.

54. Under the Concerted Action, the existing Action Plan from 1998 will be revised and updated and the new version submitted to COP13 for adoption. Actions are foreseen in the areas of legislation, law enforcement, communication, education, participation of local communities, establishment and enlargement of protected areas, compatible agricultural measures and research. Expected outcomes include the improvement of knowledge on the status of the Asian Great Bustard populations, establishment of a network of experts across the region, a better understanding of threats, promotion of transboundary cooperation and the stopping and reversal of the population decline. It has been assessed that the conservation of the species can only be secured through multilateral action.