



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



## **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC1)**

*Bonn, Germany, 18 – 21 April 2016*

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC1/Doc.4

### **Development of a Programme of Work for the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for 2016-2017**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

#### Summary

The main objective of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council is to allow the Sessional Committee to develop its Programme of Work for the remaining part of triennium 2015-2017, and discuss and agree the modalities to deliver it.

The present document proposes a template for the development of the Programme of Work and an approach for its implementation, for the consideration of the Sessional Committee.

*For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting.  
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

## **DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. Through Resolution 11.4, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CMS decided that, for each intersessional period between two consecutive meetings of the COP, a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council, to be named the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, should be identified, composed of COP-appointed Councillors and Party-appointed Councillors selected regionally, to be appointed at each ordinary meeting of the COP. The Sessional Committee is primarily responsible for the implementation of the mandate assigned to the Scientific Council by the Conference of the Parties in the intersessional period for which it is appointed. All outputs of the Sessional Committee are considered outputs of the Scientific Council.

2. As a transitional measure aimed at implementing this organizational change in the intersessional period between COP11 and COP12, Resolution 11.4 requested the Standing Committee at its 44<sup>th</sup> meeting to select and appoint intersessionally the members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for the triennium 2015-2017.

3. Following the appointment of the Sessional Committee by the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee is being convened, with the main objective to allow the Sessional Committee to develop its Programme of Work for the remaining part of triennium 2015-2017, and discuss and agree the modalities to deliver it.

4. Annex 1 to this document includes a proposed template for the development of the Programme of Work, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Scientific Council. The Sessional Committee is expected to review and finalize the template at an early stage of the meeting, with a view to use it as a frame for the development of the Programme of Work throughout the rest of the meeting.

5. It is tentatively proposed to divide the Programme of Work into six main Thematic Work Areas, as follows:

- Institutional and legal matters
- Strategic issues
- Aquatic species conservation issues
- Terrestrial species conservation issues
- Avian species conservation issues
- Cross-cutting conservation issues

These Thematic Work Areas largely correspond to the current organization of work in the Secretariat, what should simplify the identification of responsibilities in providing assistance to the Sessional Committee in the implementation of the Programme of Work.

6. For each Thematic Work Area, a working group is expected to be established, with the task of implementing the activities foreseen under the Thematic Work Area or overseeing their implementation in the case of activities to be implemented with external input, and of delivering the expected outputs of the activities.

7. It is to be noted that there are currently a certain number of active working groups established under the Scientific Council. The relations between these working groups and the working groups to be established under the Programme of Work for the Sessional Committee should be considered and clarified as appropriate.

8. As the COP did not adopt a Programme of Work for either the Scientific Council or the Sessional Committee, the Secretariat has, with a view to support the Sessional Committee in identifying areas for action, filled the first column of the table in Annex 1 with the specific requests and recommendations addressed to the Scientific Council by the COP through resolutions. To facilitate consideration of these requests and recommendations in the overall context of the resolutions which include them, a hyperlink to the corresponding resolution is provided, together with an indication of the specific section of the resolution containing the request.

9. It is to be noted that many of the mandates are not time bound. In the opinion of the Secretariat, it is therefore not expected that the Sessional Committee, in developing its Programme of Work for 2016-2017, should necessarily identify implementation actions for each mandate. Conversely, the Sessional Committee might well identify additional areas for action and outputs within its general mandate, even if not covered by a specific mandate from COP resolution.

10. The Secretariat would also like to point out that, while the coding of this document associates it to a specific item of the provisional agenda for the meeting (Agenda Item 4), the document is expected to be relevant to a number of other items, for which one of the outcomes is expected to be the identification of activities to be included in the Programme of Work. This is reflected in the [Provisional Annotated Agenda](#), where relevant documents for each agenda item are identified.

***Action requested:***

The Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council is invited to

- i) Review and finalize the template for the Programme of Work 2016-2017;
- ii) Identify membership of the working groups responsible for the implementation of the Thematic Work Areas;
- iii) Develop and adopt its Programme of Work 2016-2017.

**Programme of Work for the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for 2016-2017**

Thematic Work Area: Institutional and Legal matters (Working Group 1)

WG1 lead(s) and participants: XX, YY

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
Scientific Council, with advice from the Secretariat, to develop and establish a revision of its Rules of Procedure, as well as elements of its <i>modus operandi</i> in accordance with Res. 11.4 <a href="#">(Res. 11.4, para. 12)</a>	Analysis of sections of the Rules of Procedure requiring revision pursuant to Res. 11.4 prepared by the Secretariat.						
Scientific Council to submit a report on the implementation of Res. 11.4 to COP12 <a href="#">(Res. 11.4, para. 12)</a>							
Scientific Council and Secretariat to update Res.1.5 by developing a new template and guidelines for the drafting of listing proposals in line with the Annex of this Resolution, for adoption by the Standing Committee in time for its use for proposals to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting <a href="#">(Res.11.33 para.5)</a>	Draft revised template and guidelines for proposals to amend CMS Appendices prepared by the Secretariat. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for consideration <a href="#">(Doc.7.1.1)</a>						
Scientific Council to clarify the meaning of the phrase “significant proportion” in Article I, paragraph 1 (a) of the Convention Text, and report back to the COP <a href="#">(Res.11.33 para.6)</a>							

Thematic Work Area: Strategic issues (Working Group 2)

WG2 lead(s) and participants: XX, YY

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
Preparation of a report on the conservation status of species included in CMS Appendices ( <a href="#">Res. 11.1</a> , Annex V, Activity 30)	Funding obtained for a scoping workshop with key partners to develop a concept note and Terms of Reference. Workshop currently being planned						
Development of Atlas on Animal Migration - Starting with the African Eurasian region migratory birds atlas and taking into consideration already existent ones ( <a href="#">Res. 11.1</a> , Annex V, Activity 32)	Discussion at first technical workshop on connectivity mediated by migratory species (Albarella, September 2015)						
CMS Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) to consult the Scientific Council as appropriate, including on the scientific evidence underpinning relevant indicators ( <a href="#">Res. 11.2</a> , Annex 2, para. 8)	Zero draft of the Indicator Factsheets for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species being developed by the SPWG. To be ready for consultation before ScC-SC1						

Thematic Work Area: Aquatic species conservation issues (Working Group 3)

WG3 lead(s) and participants: XX, YY

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
<p>Scientific Council to nominate, for each species and/or taxonomic group listed for concerted or cooperative action, a member of the Council or a designated alternative expert to be responsible for providing a concise written report to each meeting of the Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned. Confirm at each subsequent meeting of the Scientific Council that these nominations remain valid or agree alternative nominations as necessary.  <a href="#">(Res. 10.23, para. 6)</a></p>							
<p>Scientific Council to identify candidate species for designation for Concerted or Cooperative Action, and action to take in response to Concerted or Cooperative Action listing, taking fully into account the recommendations summarized in Annex 3 to Res. 11.13.  <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, para. 5)</a></p>							
<p>Species previously listed for cooperative action, but for which no activity has yet begun, would be automatically transferred into a new unified Concerted Actions list. The list would be subject to review by the</p>							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
Scientific Council and the COP, to determine whether each such species should remain listed or be deleted. <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, Annex 3, para. 3)</a>							
Projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions under earlier COP decisions would continue unaffected. These too would be subject to review by the Scientific Council and the COP. Such reviews may conclude, <i>inter alia</i> , that the objectives of a given action have been achieved and it has been completed, or that it should continue within the terms of the unified Concerted Actions mechanism (and be re-named accordingly). <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, Annex 3, para. 4)</a>							
Scientific Council to seek to enhance cooperation and collaboration with CITES and the IWC on small cetacean species targeted by live captures from the wild <a href="#">(Res. 11.22 para. 3)</a>							
Action to address the impact on CMS-listed species that are likely to be subject to utilization as aquatic bushmeat <a href="#">(Res. 10.15)</a>	Discussion paper drafted by the Aquatic Mammal WG. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for consideration <a href="#">(Doc. 10.2.2)</a>						
Development of CMS Family Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Noise-generating Offshore Industries <a href="#">(Res. 9.19 para. 3)</a>	Development of guidelines contracted out by the Secretariat in consultation with the Joint CMS / ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Noise Working Group.						

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
	Progress report submitted to ScC-SC1 ( <a href="#">Doc. 10.2.3</a> )						
Scientific Council to identify candidate species for listing on, or delisting from the CMS Appendices, and assist in the preparation of proposals for amendment as appropriate (Art.VIII para. 5.c of the Convention)							



Thematic Work Area: Terrestrial species conservation issues (Working Group 4)

WG4 lead(s) and participants: XX, YY

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
<p>Scientific Council to nominate, for each species and/or taxonomic group listed for concerted or cooperative action, a member of the Council or a designated alternative expert to be responsible for providing a concise written report to each meeting of the Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned. Confirm at each subsequent meeting of the Scientific Council that these nominations remain valid or agree alternative nominations as necessary.  <a href="#">(Res. 10.23, para. 6)</a></p>							
<p>Scientific Council to identify candidate species for designation for Concerted or Cooperative Action, and action to take in response to Concerted or Cooperative Action listing, taking fully into account the recommendations summarized in Annex 3 to Res. 11.13.  <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, para. 5)</a></p>							
<p>Species previously listed for cooperative action, but for which no activity has yet begun, would be automatically transferred into a new unified Concerted Actions list. The list would be subject to review by the</p>							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
Scientific Council and the COP, to determine whether each such species should remain listed or be deleted. <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, Annex 3, para. 3)</a>							
Projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions under earlier COP decisions would continue unaffected. These too would be subject to review by the Scientific Council and the COP. Such reviews may conclude, <i>inter alia</i> , that the objectives of a given action have been achieved and it has been completed, or that it should continue within the terms of the unified Concerted Actions mechanism (and be re-named accordingly). <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, Annex 3, para. 4)</a>							
Scientific Council and the Secretariat to continue and strengthen efforts to collaborate with other relevant international fora with a view to strengthening synergies and implementation of CMS and the CAMI in these fora. <a href="#">(Res. 11.24 para. 7)</a>	Progress report on CAMI implementation submitted to ScC-SC1						
Scientific Council to identify candidate species for listing on, or delisting from the CMS Appendices, and assist in the preparation of proposals for amendment as appropriate (Art.VIII para. 5.c of the Convention)							

Thematic Work Area: Avian species conservation issues (Working Group 5)

WG5 lead(s) and participants: XX, YY

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
<p>Scientific Council to nominate, for each species and/or taxonomic group listed for concerted or cooperative action, a member of the Council or a designated alternative expert to be responsible for providing a concise written report to each meeting of the Council on progress in the implementation of actions for the species or taxonomic group concerned. Confirm at each subsequent meeting of the Scientific Council that these nominations remain valid or agree alternative nominations as necessary.  <a href="#">(Res. 10.23, para. 6)</a></p>							
<p>Scientific Council to identify candidate species for designation for Concerted or Cooperative Action, and action to take in response to Concerted or Cooperative Action listing, taking fully into account the recommendations summarized in Annex 3 to Res. 11.13.  <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, para. 5)</a></p>							
<p>Species previously listed for cooperative action, but for which no activity has yet begun, would be automatically transferred into a new unified Concerted Actions list. The list would be subject to review by the</p>							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
<p>Scientific Council and the COP, to determine whether each such species should remain listed or be deleted.  <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, Annex 3, para. 3)</a></p>							
<p>Projects and initiatives already begun as Cooperative Actions under earlier COP decisions would continue unaffected. These too would be subject to review by the Scientific Council and the COP. Such reviews may conclude, <i>inter alia</i>, that the objectives of a given action have been achieved and it has been completed, or that it should continue within the terms of the unified Concerted Actions mechanism (and be re-named accordingly).  <a href="#">(Res. 11.13, Annex 3, para. 4)</a></p>							
<p>Continuation of the open-ended Flyways Working Group to (a) monitor the implementation of the POW and the Americas Flyways Framework, (b) review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes, (c) provide guidance on and input into the conservation and management of flyways at global and flyway level during the intersessional period until COP12 and (d) review and update the POW, as a basis for the continued prioritization of the CMS activities on flyways  <a href="#">(Res. 11.14 para. 7)</a></p>							
<p>Flyways Working Group to support the establishment of a Task Force,</p>	<p>Draft Action Plan for the Americas Flyway</p>						

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
in conjunction with WHMSI, to coordinate the development and implementation of an action plan to achieve the global Programme of Work and Americas Flyways Framework including provisions for concerted conservation action for priority species, and to report to COP12 onwards and WHMSI ( <a href="#">Res. 11.14</a> para. 3)	developed under the lead of the Scientific Councillor for Ecuador in consultation with the CMS Americas Regional Group. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for consideration ( <a href="#">Doc.10.1.1.3</a> )						
Development and adoption of a Species Action Plan (SAP) for Baer's Pochard in Asia ( <a href="#">Res. 11.14</a> , Annex 1)	Action Plan developed by WWT. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for provisional endorsement ( <a href="#">Doc.10.1.1.1</a> )			WWT; EAAFP			
Development and adoption of a multi-species action plan for all African-Eurasian Vultures (except Palm-nut Vulture ( <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i> )) via the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey (Raptors MoU) ( <a href="#">Res. 11.14</a> , Annex 1)	Coordinating Unit for the Raptors MOU developed a Project Charter for the Vulture MsAP and circulated it to all Range States, partners and interested parties, with a call for nominations to the Vulture WG and for financial or in-kind support to ensure the development of the MsAP. Substantial funds and in-kind support already secured ( <a href="#">ScC-SC1/Inf.2</a> )			Raptors MOU / IUCN SSC Vulture SG; BirdLife Int.			
Continuation of the open-ended Preventing Poisoning Working Group until COP12 under the Terms of Reference annexed to Res. 11.15, renewing its membership to incorporate expertise from							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
geographical regions currently absent as well as representatives of industry and governments, to address the impact of other sources of poisoning, and geographic gaps, and to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines <a href="#">(Res.11.15 para.15)</a>							
Scientific Council and the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds, in liaison with the Migrant Landbirds Study Group to promote work to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions, in particular through the analysis of existing long-term and large-scale datasets, the European Atlas of Bird Migration, the use of new and emerging tracking technologies, field studies of migrant birds in Sub-Saharan Africa, use of survey and demographic data from the Eurasian breeding grounds and use of remote sensing earth observation data of land cover change in sub-Saharan Africa <a href="#">(Res. 11.17 para. 6)</a>	Draft Programme of Work for the implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan for the period 2016-2020 developed by the Working Group. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for consideration <a href="#">(Doc.10.1.3.1)</a>						
Scientific Council and the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds, in liaison with the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan to promote and encourage increased public awareness of, and support for, migratory landbird conservation along the length of the flyway among the general public and stakeholders, including about how individual birds are	Draft Programme of Work for the implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan for the period 2016-2020 developed by the Working Group. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for consideration						

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
shared across countries and act as indicators of the overall health of the environment, of people and all biodiversity (Res. 11.17 para. 7)	(Doc.10.1.3.1)						
Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds and the CMS Scientific Council, in liaison with the Migrant Landbirds Study Group and the Friends of the Landbirds Action Plan, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, to develop as an emerging issue Action Plans for a first set of species including the Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i> , Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> and European Roller <i>Coracias garrulous</i> (Res. 11.17 para. 11)	Draft Programme of Work for the implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan for the period 2016-2020 developed by the Working Group. Submitted to ScC-SC1 for consideration (Doc.10.1.3.1)						
Saker Falcon Task Force to report on progress in the implementation of its mandate to the intersessional meeting of the Scientific Council (Res. 11.18 para. 6)	Progress report submitted to ScC-SC1 (ScC-SC1/Inf.3)						
Scientific Council to consider the implications of adopting in future as a standard reference for Passerine bird taxonomy and nomenclature the Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 2: Passerines (Res. 11.19 para.3)							
Scientific Council to identify candidate species for listing on, or delisting from the CMS Appendices, and assist in the preparation of							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
proposals for amendment as appropriate (Art.VIII para. 5.c of the Convention)							



Thematic Work Area: Cross-cutting conservation issues (Working Group 6)

WG6 lead(s) and participants: XX, YY

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
Scientific Council to establish an intersessional expert working group dealing with the conservation implications of culture and social complexity, with a focus on, but not limited to cetaceans <a href="#">(Res.11.23 para. 6)</a>	Expert Group established. Progress report submitted to ScC-SC1 <a href="#">(Doc.10.4.1)</a>						
Scientific Council to support Parties, as appropriate, to promote ecological networks and connectivity through, for example, the development of further site networks within the CMS Family or other fora and processes, that use scientifically robust criteria to describe and identify important sites for migratory species and promote their internationally coordinated conservation and management <a href="#">(Res.11.25 para.7)</a>	First technical workshop on connectivity mediated by migratory species organized under the auspices of the Scientific Council.						
Scientific Council to assess the relevance of the concept of important marine mammal areas (IMMAs) to CMS and advise CMS COP accordingly	Report on the development of the concept, criteria for identifying IMMAs and an IMMA Toolkit submitted to ScC-SC1 by the AMWG <a href="#">(Doc.10.4.2.1)</a>						
Scientific Council and the Working Group on Climate Change to promote work to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions, in particular through the							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
analysis of existing long-term and large-scale datasets ( <a href="#">Res. 11.26</a> para.3)							
Parties and the Scientific Council to report progress in implementing the POW on Climate Change and Migratory Species, including monitoring and the efficacy of measures taken, to COP12 in 2017 ( <a href="#">Res. 11.26</a> para.11)							
Convene meetings of the Climate Change Working Group ( <a href="#">Res. 11.1</a> , Annex V, Activity 33)							
Scientific Council to ensure that the following are addressed: the improvement of understanding of interactions between IAS and threatened migratory species; the development of priorities for intervention; and the improvement in international cooperation and development of adaptable management strategies when discussing topics for which IAS might be relevant ( <a href="#">Res. 11.28</a> para.2)							
Scientific Council to address at its future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, policy coherence and implementation with regard to work on IAS, in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of the Scientific Council and other MEAs ( <a href="#">Res. 11.28</a> para.8)							

Mandate	Progress till ScC-SC1	Description of SC intersessional actions (ScC-SC1 – ScC-SC2)	Expected Output	Lead / Contributors	Priority	Funding needed	Comments/Notes
<p>Scientific Council, subject to availability of resources, to review existing agreed guidelines, existing good practice and underpinning scientific evidence of the issues of concern, and based on this review develop guidelines as appropriate on marine boat-based wildlife watching for different taxonomic groups, differentiated if necessary by geographic areas  <a href="#">(Res.11.29 para.9)</a></p>							
<p>Scientific Council, subject to availability of resources, to conduct periodic reviews of the state of knowledge of the impacts of boat-based wildlife watching activities on migratory species and to recommend refined and adjusted measures or guidelines as appropriate.  <a href="#">(Res.11.29 para.10)</a></p>							
<p>Scientific Council, with support from the Secretariat, to further the Convention’s work on the marine debris issue and investigate the feasibility of close cooperation with other biodiversity-related agreements by means of a multilateral working group  <a href="#">(Res. 11.30 para.11)</a></p>							
<p>Working groups established under the Scientific Council incorporate the issue of marine debris where relevant, drawing on the work already undertaken by the Convention  <a href="#">(Res. 11.30 para.11)</a></p>							