



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Quito, Ecuador, 4-9 November 2014  
Agenda Item 23.4.7

## **FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME WITHIN AND BEYOND BORDERS**

### Summary:

Poaching and illicit trade of wildlife either for local consumption or the rising international demand pose a growing threat to the survival of several migratory species listed in the Appendices of CMS. The detrimental effect of this development is not limited to global biodiversity alone, as it undermines good governance, livelihoods of local communities and causes regional safety concerns in many parts of the world. This trend is alarming and justifies immediate and joint actions by the community of States, relevant international bodies and MEAs. The role of CMS in this regard has been recognized by the UNEA resolution on Illegal Trade in Wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/L.16).

In order to define the role of CMS a draft Resolution, “Fighting of Wildlife Crime within and beyond Borders” has been prepared for the consideration of the COP11. This draft Resolution is in line with the CBD Aichi Targets 6 and 12, the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014 and the upcoming Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

## **FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME WITHIN AND BEYOND BORDERS**

*(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)*

1. Poaching of wildlife and illicit trade in their parts and products have been identified as growing threats to the conservation status of several migratory species included in the CMS Appendices. Due to increased professionalism and militarism of criminals involved, the detrimental effects on biodiversity, good governance and regional security are worse than have ever been noticed before. If the situation remains unaltered, drastic population declines and the regional extinction of affected species are to be expected.
2. The current situation is challenging countries worldwide and necessitates coordinated and interdisciplinary response, involving all relevant international bodies and MEAs. The UNEA resolution on Illegal Trade in Wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/L.16) has recognized the role of CMS as a valued partner in the global alliance to combat wildlife crime to that effect.
3. Wildlife crime is a severe problem at global scale, whereby specific regions are preliminarily hard hit, such as West, Central and East Africa or Central Asia. Several CMS instruments are attempting to address this issue, such as AEWA, the MoU Concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant, the Sharks and the Saiga MoUs. For the benefit of nature and humankind, countering poaching and wildlife trafficking urgently requires an integrated and unified approach under the broader CMS framework.
4. To that effect a draft Resolution on fighting of wildlife crime within and beyond borders has been prepared for the consideration of COP11. This draft Resolution contributes to achieving CBD Aichi Target 6 and 12, the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2014 and the upcoming Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

### **Action requested:**

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- Review and adopt the draft Resolution “Fighting of Wildlife Crime within and beyond Borders” annexed to this cover note.

**ANNEX**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME WITHIN AND BEYOND BORDERS**

*(Submitted by Ghana and Monaco)*

*Recognizing* that wildlife crime has reached an unprecedented scale and global reach, with wildlife trafficking being highly lucrative with little risk of prosecution and thus ranks right behind arms and drug smuggling and human trafficking worldwide;

*Concerned* that wildlife crime causes an immense loss of legal revenue for States and local communities, severely damages livelihoods and ultimately undermines good governance and the rule of law, which in turn poses a serious threat to national and regional security;

*Acknowledging* that “The Future We Want”, adopted at Rio+20 and endorsed by consensus of the UN General Assembly, “recognize[d] the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides”;

*Recognizing* the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species’ survival;

*Welcoming* the adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of a Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/L.16), acknowledging the role of CMS in countering such illegal activities and including the call for strengthened cross-agency cooperation;

*Further welcoming* the creation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which includes the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the secretariat of CITES, Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Bank, as an important collaborative effort to strengthen enforcement;

*Appreciating* the declaration and agreed urgent measures of the African Elephant Summit (Gaborone, December 2013), the declaration of the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa (Paris, December 2013), the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade (London, February 2014), the anti-poaching declaration of African Ministers of Tourism and UN World Tourism Organization (Berlin, April 2014) and the declaration of the Conference to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and Illicit Trade (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, May 2014);

*Noting* that the species listed on the CMS Appendices include many of those most affected by wildlife crime, including African elephants, Argali mountain sheep, Saiga antelopes, Snow leopards, gorillas, Saker falcons, sharks, sturgeons, Manta rays and marine turtles, and that their decline has severe negative impacts, both ecological and socio-economic;

*Concerned* that African elephants are particularly affected by wildlife crime including as a result of poor governance, poverty and growing demand for ivory, with poaching rates surpassing the species' natural growth rate and an estimated annual loss of more than 20,000 individuals in 2013 alone, which will result in an overall population decline of 20 per cent within the next 10 years, if the situation is not altered.

*Recognizing* the specific role of CMS in the global response to wildlife crime by strengthening population management *in situ*, including population monitoring, awareness raising, capacity-building, national law enforcement and creation of alternative livelihoods, both within Range States and across national borders where wildlife crime is often hardest to control;

*Recalling* the value of CMS instruments, including its regional agreements and action plans, and its role in creating a platform for engaging all relevant stakeholders in addressing wildlife crime in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management;

*Further recalling* that CMS Parties have adopted Resolutions on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds (Res.10.26), [on the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (Res.11.x) and on the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (Res.11.x), which includes a programme of work for the conservation of large mammal migrations in Central Asia providing *inter alia* for anti-poaching and other actions to minimize wildlife crime];

*Recognizing* that wildlife crime is not confined to terrestrial landscapes but also has an impact on the marine environment, where Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) constitutes a severe threat to migratory species, especially in the High Seas but also in areas within national jurisdiction; and

*Welcoming* the close collaboration between CMS and CITES in working towards the sustainable use of transboundary wildlife including measures to eradicate wildlife crime, and *noting* the adoption of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 at the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee [and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee];

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

1. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties to take measures to increase awareness of wildlife crime among their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities and the civil society;
2. *Urges* Parties to take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention, ensure that penalties for violating the Convention are adequate and harmonized to deter wildlife crime effectively, and provide for the confiscation of specimens taking in violation of the Convention;
3. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to strengthen national and transboundary law enforcement with emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and intelligence sharing between relevant stakeholders, such as rangers, wildlife management, customs, police and the military;

4. *Suggests* that Parties and non-Parties establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the management of shared wildlife populations and habitats with common boundaries, in order to minimize illegal taking and trafficking;
5. *Requests* Parties, and *encourages* non-Parties, funding agencies and CMS Partners to support capacity-building nationally, across borders and in the High Seas for rangers, customs, police, the military and other relevant bodies;
6. *Calls upon* Parties, non-Parties and relevant development agencies to promote alternative livelihoods in local communities in order to minimize wildlife crime;
7. *Recommends* that Parties and non-Parties work to reduce demand within their domestic markets and utilize the CMS framework to exchange knowledge and lessons learned regarding successful demand-side reduction strategies;
8. *Proposes* that Parties and relevant funding agencies provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support for implementing the provisions of this Resolution;
9. *Calls upon* Parties and other Range States that have not already done so, to sign the CMS instruments relevant to species particularly affected by wildlife crime, such as the Gorilla Agreement, AEWA, and the MoUs on Sharks, Raptors and IOSEA marine turtles, and to implement the relevant provisions;
10. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and *encourages* the Secretariat to continue working closely with the CPW;
11. *Encourages* the many stakeholders addressing wildlife crime affecting migratory species to collaborate closely, including Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental, international and national organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and established networks, such as ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the WCO), Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), and regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs); and
12. *Instructs* the Secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant stakeholders in order to address wildlife crime.