



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.25

17 October 2019

Original: English

13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 25

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATLAS ON ANIMAL MIGRATION

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document summarises progress towards the development of an atlas on animal migration, an activity that is included in the CMS Programme of work 2018-2020.

The Conference of the Parties is recommended to take note of the update on progress and support the further development of this work.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATLAS ON ANIMAL MIGRATION

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) at their eleventh meeting (Quito, 2014) identified the development of an atlas on animal migration as an activity to pursue within the CMS Programme of Work for 2015-2017. The production of the atlas was foreseen as a long-term initiative, expected to be continued also in future triennia and to be implemented with a modular approach.
2. While some actions were already undertaken during the triennium 2015-2017, continued work on an atlas was included in the CMS Programme of Work for 2018-2020 adopted by COP12, with specific reference to the development of two modules: (i) an atlas on the migration of Central Asian mammals, and (ii) an atlas on bird migration in the Eurasian-African region. The latter module is also referenced in Decision 12.91 *Improving ways of addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species* (see also document COP13/Doc.26.4.4 on *Improving ways of addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species*).

Atlas for migratory mammals in the Central Asian region

3. Resolution 11.24 *The Central Asian Mammals Initiative* (CAMI) endorsed the concept of CAMI and adopted a comprehensive Programme of Work (PoW) annexed to the Resolution. It also adopted *Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia*.
4. During a priority-setting workshop for CAMI in August 2016, co-organized by CMS and the International Nature Conservation Academy of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany (BfN), with funding from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMU), several priority projects were identified and proposed for immediate funding and fundraising to support implementation of the CAMI PoW. Funding from the Swiss Government supported the development of a migration atlas for migratory mammals in the Central Asian region as a significant contribution to the implementation of CAMI.
5. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) led the development of the atlas. The atlas is aimed at mapping the distribution and movement corridors of migratory mammals, and threats from linear infrastructure, such as railways, roads, pipelines, and border fences, across the entire Central Asian region. It features the distribution of ten of the most affected species in ten countries as well as constructed and planned infrastructure. Having this information available will help to more effectively inform and influence decision makers to take the needs of migratory species into account when building and planning such infrastructure.
6. The atlas was finalized in 2019 and will be provided to COP13 as document COP13/Inf.19. Funding is currently being sought to continuously update, expand and further develop the atlas to cover the whole CAMI region, to include the most accurate and recent information available and to further develop the atlas into an interactive online webtool to facilitate greater accessibility and usability.

Atlas of bird migration in the Eurasian-African region

7. Following COP11, the Secretariat liaised with the Chair of the Scientific Council and other stakeholders to build support for this initiative, and develop terms of reference and a detailed project concept. A concept, which proposed the development of an atlas on bird migration that would use as a main source of data the databank of the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING), was endorsed by the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its first meeting in 2016. The Government of Italy agreed to pledge €1 million, in the context of the Migratory Species Champion Programme, for producing this module based on EURING data.
8. In March 2018, the Secretariat signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of the Government of Italy, and a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the Institute of Avian Research acting on behalf of EURING. With the signing of the PCA the project entered into its operational phase. Its completion is expected in early 2021. More information regarding the project and its individual components is presented to COP13 in document COP13/Inf.20.

Further development of the Atlas on Animal Migration

9. With a view to providing a consistent framework for the development of further modules of the Atlas, the Secretariat is developing a concept for the Global Atlas of Animal Migration, building on the experience gained and the analytical tools developed within the modules already being realized. To this effect, the Secretariat has convened a workshop in the margins of the 4th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, in which the participation of members of the Sessional Committee, interested observers and partners in the development of current modules is foreseen.

Recommended actions

10. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) take note of this report;
 - b) support the further development and use of the modules being developed.