

**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the  
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC6)**

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**ASSESSMENT OF THE RISK POSED TO CMS APPENDIX I-LISTED SPECIES  
BY DIRECT USE AND TRADE**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

**Summary:**

Pursuant to decisions 13.17, 13.24 b) and 13.26 b), this document submits to ScC-SC6 for consideration the final draft of a rapid assessment of the risk posed to CMS Appendix-I listed species by direct use and trade.

ScC-SC6 is recommended to review the assessment and provide comments and recommendations to the Secretariat with a view to the submission of the document to COP14.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE RISK POSED TO CMS APPENDIX I-LISTED SPECIES BY DIRECT USE AND TRADE

### Background

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13; Gandhinagar, 2020) highlighted concerns about the direct use and trade of Appendix I taxa, particularly in the context of Article III, Paragraph 5 of the Convention, which prohibits the taking of Appendix I-listed taxa except under specific circumstances ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.21](#)). In this regard, a study submitted to COP13 that analysed CITES trade data over the period 2015-2018 found that “CMS Parties have engaged in trade across a range of species that are included in CMS Appendix I, both as importers and exporters” ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.37](#)). In addition, intentional biological resource use was identified as one of the most prevalent threats facing Appendix I taxa in a preliminary review of conservation status of CMS-listed taxa, submitted to COP13 ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.24](#)).
2. As a result, several Decisions were adopted to explore the threats posed to Appendix I taxa from direct use and trade, including international trade and domestic sales. In particular, Decisions [13.17](#) and [13.24 c](#)), [13.109 a](#)) direct the CMS Secretariat to:
 

**Decision 13.17:** [...] “with the support of the Scientific Council and within the scope of the Conservation Status Report (Decision 13.24): a) develop criteria, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, to determine the scope and feasibility of assessing the impact of international trade in Appendix I species on their conservation status; and b) based on these criteria, assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species, including but not limited to, international trade regulated by CITES.”

**Decision 13.24 c):** “undertake, in consultation with the Scientific Council and in collaboration with competent organizations, and in synergy with other relevant initiatives under the Convention, an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of species listed on Appendix I.”

**Decision 13.109:** [...] “working within the Convention’s remit: a) prepare an analysis on the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of terrestrial and avian species listed on CMS Appendices I and II”.

### Progress in the implementation of decisions 13.17, 13.24 c) and 13.109

3. Fundraising activities undertaken after COP13 by the Secretariat in respect to the implementation of Decisions 13.24 and 13.17 have succeeded in raising significant resources. In particular, resources have been provided by the Government of Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), the Government of Switzerland (Federal Office for the Environment FOEN), and by the Government of the United Kingdom (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA). Thanks to the abovementioned contributions, the Secretariat has been able to establish an agreement with the UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to assist with undertaking the activities foreseen in Decisions 13.24 (a) - (c) and 13.17.
4. As an initial step, the CMS Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC developed in collaboration with IUCN a methodology for a rapid assessment of Appendix I-listed taxa to provide further insights on the impact of direct use and trade on the conservation status of those taxa. Pursuant to Decision 13.25 a), a draft of the methodology was submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5, 2021), that reviewed and endorsed it.
5. Based on the agreed methodology, WCMC, in close consultation with the Secretariat, has developed a draft rapid assessment of the risk posed to CMS Appendix I-listed species by direct use and trade. A first draft of the assessment was submitted to the members of the

Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for consultation and advice in July 2022. A final draft of the report is submitted to the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for consideration, in line with Decision 13.24 d) and 13.26 b).

6. The report is reproduced in Annex to this document. It provides a descriptive summary of the results of the rapid assessment, as well as additional reflections on international trade and domestic use and sales of Appendix I taxa. A full output of the CMS Appendix I rapid assessment results, along with corresponding data and metadata, is provided in an accompanying Excel document, made available as [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.7.2](#).
7. With a view to the submission of the report to COP14 for consideration, the Secretariat would welcome in particular any comments and advice on i) possible factual inaccuracies in the report; ii) any clarification that may be required concerning the content of the report; iii) possible conclusions to be drawn and recommendations to be brought to the attention of COP14, including any gap to be filled.

#### Recommended Actions

8. The Scientific Council is recommended to:
  - a) review the draft rapid assessment of the risk posed to CMS Appendix I-listed species by direct use and trade included in the annex to this document;
  - b) provide comments and advice to the Secretariat concerning the submission of the report to COP14, including any conclusions and recommendation to be brought to the attention of the COP.