

**Range States Meeting on the Institutional Framework and
next steps for the Central Asian Flyway**

New Delhi, India, 02 – 04 May 2023

UNEP/CMS/CAF4/Outcome 1

**DRAFT RESOLUTION:
CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY INITIATIVE**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the efforts by the Government of India to continue the collaborative process, in close consultation with the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) and with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to establish, by COP14, under the umbrella of CMS, an institutional framework, under the leadership of India and in consultation with the other range states and relevant stakeholders,

Recalling that the framework aims to focus on conservation priorities and related actions, and measures that support Parties in the implementation of conservation actions for migratory birds and their habitats in the region, through promoting research, studies, assessments, capacity-building and conservation initiatives, thereby further strengthening the implementation of CMS and its avian-related instruments,

Welcoming the BirdLife International 2023 Central Asian Flyway situation analysis, and overview of status, threats and opportunities, with recommendations as a baseline for future work to conserve the migratory birds and their habitats of this flyways, including to support prioritization of action, and the review and comments on the report provided by the Range States,

Welcoming the fruitful discussions and inputs of the Range States and stakeholders at the fourth meeting of the CAF Range States, hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi on 2 to 4 May 2023, agreeing on the next steps with regard to establishing a framework for international cooperation in the CAF,

Acknowledging the kind offer of the Government of India to host a coordinating unit for the CAF to support and facilitate the initiative, in coordination with the CMS Secretariat,

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

1. *Decides* to establish the Central Asian Flyway Initiative as a platform for international cooperation under the umbrella of CMS to build more coherence in the work that Range States, partner organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, are devoting to the conservation of all migratory bird taxa and their habitats in this region;
2. *Decides* to establish a Secretariat/Coordinating Office for the CAF Initiative;
3. *Adopts* the Terms of Reference of the Initiative annexed to this Resolution;

4. *Agrees* that the objectives of the Initiative are to enhance the conservation, including protection, restoration and sustainable management of migratory bird populations of taxa recognized by CMS and under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU), Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) and the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP) and for migratory bird species and populations which are not yet in the focus of existing instruments and which require urgent conservation action across the CAF as well as their habitats, by strengthening coordination and cooperation across the species' ranges in Central Asia including other frameworks and partnerships, and taking into consideration the needs and livelihoods of local communities, including research and capacity-building efforts;
5. *Recognizes* that the Initiative is an instrument to:
 - a) enhance cooperation and promote synergies among the existing CMS and non-CMS instruments and partnerships, such as AEWA, Raptors MOU, AEMLAP, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP);
 - b) increase scientific and technical expertise in the region;
 - c) address the conservation priorities identified and monitor the effectiveness of interventions;
 - d) apply targeted conservation approaches;
 - e) create opportunities for donors to allocate resources to internationally agreed priority conservation actions.
6. *Agrees* that the Initiative should be implemented through a Programme of Work (POW), which can be amended or adapted, as required, and which is characterized by commonalities of the different frameworks and instruments involved, that will implement the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for Migratory Birds by providing concrete, coordinated and synergistic conservation activities;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to convene regular meetings of the Initiative in cooperation with the Secretariats of CMS, AEWA and the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work, revise the Programme of Work as necessary, and monitor the functionality of the Initiative;
8. *Calls upon* the Range States to strengthen their transboundary cooperation and raising support to the CAF Initiative, *inter alia* by using other existing international and regional fora and thematic sub-initiatives;
9. *Encourages* Parties, other Range States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors to contribute to the objectives of the Initiative, and to support the Initiative through financial and technical resources; and
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of this Resolution to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.