

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 13

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON LINEAR
INFRASTRUCTURE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES**

The Fifth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5) held from 28 June to 9 July, decided to establish a Working Group on the above subject.

1. Background

The Conference of the Parties through Decision 13.131 requests the Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, to establish a multi-stakeholder Working Group on linear infrastructure composed of stakeholders with experience and knowledge on the impact of linear infrastructure development on migratory species and options for mitigation. The Working Group is asked to:

- a) *review available information relevant to linear infrastructure development and potential impacts on migratory species, the compilation of responses received under Decision 13.130 as compiled by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 13.133 (a), and other relevant information;*
- b) *identify areas where further assistance is needed to enhance the implementation of Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) Impact Assessment and Migratory Species paragraph 2, which urges Parties to include in EIA and SEA, wherever relevant, as complete a consideration as possible of effects involving impediments to migration, in furtherance of Article III (4) (b) of the Convention, of transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns or on migratory ranges;*
- c) *develop a workplan and identify priority tasks for the Working Group based on the existing information, such as standards, guidelines, best practices related to addressing the impact of linear infrastructure development as well as the review of the compilation under paragraph (a);*
- d) *provide recommendations on the future direction of work under the Convention to support Parties in addressing the impact of linear infrastructure on migratory species.*

2. Membership

Members of the Working Group should be recruited from representatives of the following categories:

- Scientific Council members;
- Environmental Ministries and Wildlife Agencies;
- CMS Family Working Groups and Task Forces;
- Infrastructure sector;
- Impact assessment community, such as through the International Association for Impact Assessment;
- International Financial Institutions;
- Scientific community involved in migratory species and infrastructure issues;
- Global biodiversity data portals, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, IPBES and infrastructure platforms;
- National Governments, preferably represented by ministries responsible for the planning of major linear infrastructure works (e.g. transport or energy department);
- International NGOs.

3. Governance

The Working Group will select a Chair from among its members. The Working Group will operate by seeking consensus among the Group members. The Working Group will report to the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

4. Operation

The Working Group should build on existing work done under CMS that is related to linear infrastructure, such as outputs of the Energy Task Force, the *Guidelines for Reducing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Migratory Mammals in Central Asia*, the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities*.

The Working Group will generally work through electronic means. It is envisaged to have one face-to-face meeting, taking place in the second quarter of 2022 in Germany, pending actual travelling possibilities.

The CMS Secretariat will assist with organizing meetings and the administration of the Group.

The Chair will coordinate the work with the Secretariat on issues such as outreach and communication.