

**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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14th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12 - 17 February 2024

DAILY MEETING REPORT – DAY 4 (15 February 2024)

433. The Chair opened the COW and asked the Secretariat to provide an update on CRP availability and for the WGs to provide updates on their progress.

Item 33.1. Report of the Credentials Committee

434. The United Kingdom reported that the Credentials Committee had reviewed several additional credentials. Of the 92 registered Parties, it had received 74 credentials, 69 were acceptable, but of those, three Parties were in arrears.

Item 33.2. Report of the Working Groups

435. The Budget WG held three meetings and aimed to conclude its work on Thursday evening.
436. The Institutional and Crosscutting WG noted it had discussed several items and developed CRPs. The WG also agreed to include in the COP meeting report that the COP appreciated the work undertaken by the ScC on implementation of Decision 13.140 and noted the report contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc. 26/Rev.1 *Implementation of Decision 13.140: Guidance on the Use of the Term "Vagrant"*.
437. The Aquatic WG reported that it had addressed all its agenda items, and that three were outstanding, with 27.1.1 *Bycatch* and 27.3.1 *Recreational In-water Interactions*, expected to be resolved on Thursday. A subgroup on *Deep Sea Mining* was being coordinated by the United Kingdom.
438. The Avian WG reviewed all documents with the majority having been agreed on. The four outstanding issues were still awaiting minor comments: 28.1/Rev.1 *Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*, 28.4.1 *Flyways*, 28.4.2 *Initiative for Central Asian Flyways*, and 31.3 *Potential Avian Taxa for Listing*.
439. The Terrestrial WG agreed to recommend the listing of three species that it would finalize later on Thursday.

Conference Room Papers (CRPs)

440. The Secretariat noted that many CRPs had been posted on the website.
441. On the handling of CRPs, the United Kingdom noted some CRPs may have had more than one version online, and some may not have seen the latest version. It stressed the need to ensure everyone was reviewing and working off the same document.

442. The Secretariat responded that each CRP should have a date stamp but would follow up with the documents team.
443. Norway echoed the United Kingdom's statement, asked that changes be tracked, and noted that as a small delegation, it could not attend all WGs.
444. The Chair then went through the CRPs that could be recommended for adoption by the COP. The following CRPs were recommended for adoption by the COP in the morning:
445. On CRP13.3 *Resource Mobilization*, which contained the Draft Resolution on enhancing engagement with the Global Environment Facility, the United Kingdom proposed bracketing text referring to the SPMS for the period 2024-2032, as the Plan had not yet been agreed. They also proposed adding language on the need to avoid creating an additional reporting burden that would risk diverting attention from implementation. With these amendments, the Draft Resolution was recommended for adoption by the COP.
446. On CRP20/Rev.1 *Atlas on Animal Migration*, the Secretariat reported that the CRP had been prepared following comments made in the COW, and that some technical information had been updated. The United Kingdom reiterated its call to include "external" when referring to resource availability. It was recommended that the COP take note of the Atlas and adopt the Draft Decisions.
447. CRP27.1.2/Rev.1 *Fish Aggregating Devices* was recommended for adoption by the COP, and the COP was recommended to take note of the report in Annex.
448. CRP27.1.3/Rev.2 *Maltreatment and Mutilation of Seabirds in Fisheries* was recommended for adoption by the COP.
449. CRP27.2.3/Rev.1 *Vessel Strikes* was recommended for adoption.
450. With respect to CRP27.4.1 *Important Marine Mammal Areas*, the COP was asked to take note of Annex 1, and the Draft Decisions were recommended for adoption.
451. With no comments, CRP30.1.2/Rev.3 *Aquatic Wild Meat and Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa* was recommended for adoption.
452. The following CRPs were recommended to the COP for adoption in the afternoon:
453. On UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.26/Rev.1, it was recommended that the COP appreciated the work undertaken by the ScC on implementation of Decision 13.140 and noted the report contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.26/Rev.1 *Implementation of Decision 13.140: Guidance on the Use of the Term "Vagrant"*.
454. The United Kingdom suggested a minor modification in the text of the CRP24 *Review mechanism and National Legislation Programme* for accuracy, which was agreed on the floor, including by the EU. The adoption of the CRP was recommended subject to a revision to reflect the text amendment an accurate translation of Madagascar's intervention on 14 February 2024. The Chair noted that a revised CRP would be developed.
455. CRP27.2.2/Rev.1 *Marine Noise* was recommended for adoption, with the COP also recommended to take note of the report in Annex 1.

456. CRP27.4.2/Rev 1 *Important Shark and Ray Areas* was recommended for adoption.
457. On CRP27.4.3/Rev.1 *Seagrass Ecosystems*, the European Union had minor amendment to include a reference to GBF Target 1 where Targets 2 and 3 were already mentioned. It was recommended for adoption with this amendment.
458. On CRP27.5.1 *Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans*, Draft Decisions and Resolutions were recommended for adoption by the COP and it was recommended that the COP take note of the report contained in Inf.27.5.1.
459. CRP27.5.3 *Sirenians, Pinnipeds and Otters* was recommended for adoption by the COP.
460. On CRP27.6.1 *Marine Turtles*, Brazil noted it was a party to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC); urged that the IAC and CMS cooperate and coordinate to implement decisions, review threats, share expertise, and make the best use of resources; and that the Secretary of the IAC was attending a CMS COP for the first time at COP14. The document was recommended to the COP for adoption.
461. CRP27.6.2 *SSAP for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region* was recommended for adoption.
462. CRP27.7.1 *SSAP for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea* was recommended for adoption by the COP.
463. On CRP27.7.2/Rev.1 *Freshwater Fish, including the European Eel*, the United Kingdom indicated it had several amendments it would send to the Secretariat. The proposed amendments related to, among others: not dictating actions taken by the StC; facilitating Secretariat and Party leadership to progress work ahead of the COP; how sharing of data would occur; development and dissemination of guidelines and management tools; and collaboration with the CITES Secretariat on the European Eel. The Chair noted that a revised CRP would be developed.
464. CRP29.1 *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative* was recommended for adoption.
465. CRP29.7 *Pastoralism and Migratory Species* was recommended for adoption.
466. CRP30.5 *Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity* recommended the decisions for adoption and that the COP take note of the reports and the recommendations of the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity.
467. CRP30.2.2 *Trans-frontier Conservation Areas* was recommended for adoption.
468. On CRP30.2.3/rev.1 *Community Participation and Livelihoods*, the United Kingdom, supported by the EU, asked that an amended preambular paragraph on communities be reverted back to the original language. The Snow Leopard Conservancy, supported by Conservation Force, urged including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in decision-making processes. Israel proposed a new preambular paragraph on recognizing that traditional interactions by IPLCs with wildlife could sometimes be harmful to wildlife populations. Conservation Force responded that such language with negative connotations could do more harm than good for conservation. Zimbabwe did

not agree with the submission by Israel. The Chair noted that the COW would return to this issue.

469. On CRP30.3.2 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*, the United Kingdom proposed replacing “requested” with “encouraged” in the provision in 14.AA on integrating biodiversity and migratory species conservation needs into national energy and climate policy and action plans. BirdLife encouraged increased resourcing from Parties for the CMS Energy Task Force. The European Union requested time for further reflection on the CRP, so it was not yet recommended for adoption.
470. On 30.4.2 *Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations*, it was recommended that the COP take note of the summary report.

VI INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (continued)

ITEM 28. AVIAN SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES (continued)

Item 28.5. Action Plan for Birds

Item 28.5.1. Action Plans for birds

471. The Secretariat introduced UNEP/COP/CMS/Doc.28.5.1/Rev.2 *Action Plans for Birds*, noting it was discussed in the Avian WG and a CRP was produced. The document highlighted the development processes for three new SSAPs, namely for the Christmas Island Frigatebird and the Great Bustard in Asia, while an Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon was contained in 14.BB in Annex 2.
472. Bangladesh, supported by India, proposed adding text to reflect that it was developing, with India, a proposal for listing the Indian Skimmer under Appendix I and an SSAP for consideration at COP15.

Item 28.5.2. Action Plan for the Christmas Island Frigatebird

473. Australia introduced the document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.5.2/Rev.1 *Christmas Island Frigatebird Single Species Action Plan*. Australia and the Philippines were the only two Range States for this species that were Parties to CMS.
474. The Philippines supported Australia for its efforts to move the Christmas Island Frigatebird from listing to the development of an SSAP.
475. BirdLife stated it was ready to support implementation of the SSAP.
476. With no further comments, it was recommended for adoption.

Item 28.5.3. Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia

477. Mongolia introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.5.3/Rev.1 *Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia*, prepared by the Mongolian Government, along with the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre of Mongolia. The Action Plan, which was prepared in consultation with Range States, researchers and organizations and reviewed by Hungary, would promote urgent work needed in Asia and mobilization of resources.

478. Kazakhstan supported adoption of the Action Plan and thanked Mongolia for its leadership.
479. IUCN supported adoption of the Action Plan, and noted the input of experts from every Asian Range State, including members of the IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group. Noting that the Action Plan included a comprehensive overview of the status of the species and conservation actions, IUCN urged Parties to adopt the plan and encouraged partners to provide resources for its implementation and to find ways to mitigate the threat of power lines.
480. The COW recommended the document for adoption.

Item 28.6. African-Eurasian vultures

481. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.6/Rev.1 *Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures*, prepared by the Secretariat, which ScC-SC6 recommended for adoption. Three NGOs supported implementation of the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (Vulture MsAP), facilitated by the Secretariat, which prepared a mid-term Implementation Review launched at COP14. A West African Vulture Action Plan was under development. Significant progress had been made in regions where funding was available, but enhance coordination capacity was needed. The document recommended to adopt the Draft Decisions and delete Decisions 13.50-53.
482. The Chair reported that this document would come back to the COW when the CRP was available.

Item 28.7 Saker Falcon Global Action Plan

483. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/7Doc.28.7/Rev.1 *Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan (SAKERGAP)*, prepared by the Saker Falcon Task Force in cooperation with the Secretariat. Annex 1 included a proposed amendment to Resolution 11.18, Annex 2 included the Draft Decisions. ScC-SC6 recommended COP14 to adopt the document. The Saker Falcon had high cultural significance across much of its range, but suffered rapid decline due to electrocution, habitat degradation and other threats, with rapid decline of the Central Asian population. There was a need to design an adaptive management framework to provide renewed focus for its conservation.
484. The Chair informed that this item would be reviewed when the CRP was available.

ITEM 29. TERRESTRIAL SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES

Item 29.1. Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI)

485. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.1/Rev.1 *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative*, prepared by the Secretariat, which had one annex with a set of decisions, plus an addendum with comments by ScC-SC6, which recommended the document for adoption. The CMS and CITES Secretariats had developed the initiative in close consultation with Range States, and worked on a Joint POW in relation to the African Lion, Cheetah and African Wild Dog, as well as organizing the second ACI Range States meeting. Priority issues revolved around funding, partnership and cooperation, and addressing conflict and co-existence, illegal trade, disease management and a lion database. There was one small change proposed in the document directed to Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

486. CITES stated that it was in the process of implementing decisions, and acknowledged the support of donors and Uganda for hosting the second Range States meeting. Prioritised results were noted by the CITES Animals Committee at its meeting in 2023. CITES would continue to support the Range States within its mandate and in cooperation with CMS.
487. Noting that it had hosted both Range State meetings and the support from partners, Uganda urged all Range States to support implementation of the decisions outlined in the document.
488. India noted that the Joint Initiative was a welcome mechanism for conservation of emblematic species, and highlighted its lead in the conservation of big cats in Asia, including the reintroduction of Cheetah into India in partnership with African countries. India had launched a Big Cat Alliance for seven cats, which aimed to reach out to all Asian Range States to conserve species in the wild, and invited partners to join this alliance. India encourage Parties to support the POW and the actions being undertaken following adoption of Resolution 13.4.
489. As an ACI Range State, Senegal commended this important initiative coordinated by two conventions, which would strengthen conservation of threatened carnivores in Africa. Senegal supported the Initiative and adoption of Draft Decisions.
490. The Chair informed that a CRP would be available, which would be reviewed by the COW.

Item 29.2. Sahelo-Saharan megafauna

Item 29.2.1. Sahelo-Saharan megafauna Concerted Action

491. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.1/Rev1 *Report on the Implementation of the Concerted Action for Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna*, prepared by the Secretariat, which contained a recommendation to extend the range of CMS work on Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna and to close the Concerted Action (CA), carrying over incomplete activities to the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMI), as proposed by Morocco. Activities undertaken included stock-taking of activities, preparation of an action plan and organization of the third regional seminar in March 2023 in Morocco, when Range States agreed to extend the CA to the Danakil and adjoining desert and semidesert and add the African Wild Ass. It noted potential for future addition of Soemmerring's Gazelle. The Terrestrial WG agreed with the recommendations.
492. Noting that the African Wild Ass was a top priority for Range States, Ethiopia welcomed the document and supported the Draft Decision and called on Parties to also support it.
493. Highlighting the threatened status of the species and the low level of awareness, Egypt welcomed extending the CA to cover the Danakil and adjoining deserts and semideserts, and addition of the Road Map for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass to the Action Plan. Egypt approved establishment of the SSMI, and noted its interest in addition of other species present in Egypt.
494. UAE commended the collective effort under the CMS Framework, and was proud to contribute significant to these efforts. They had spearheaded reintroductions of Scimitar-horned Oryx, Addax and Dama Gazelle in Chad, leading to an increase in

their populations in the wild, with positive impacts on the conservation status on these species. They supported formation of the SSMI and including recognition of the UAE support, which would highlight the conservation strategies underway and encourage support for similar initiatives.

495. Conservation Force highlighted the possible benefits of game rangers in Texas, United States of America, that have contributed to reintroduce species to the wild. The hunters relied on legal regulated hunting of Sahelian animals on their ranches to be able to boost and restore their populations in the wild, including research, also for Barasingha in India. It was ready to contribute to the Initiative.
496. Noting that it had supported reintroduction efforts of Sahelian antelopes and ostriches to Senegal, Israel welcomed the Initiative and other efforts. However, it was concerned by the reintroduction approach of ranchers in Texas, who could only gain authorization for hunting if they could demonstrate their support for conservation. Whilst resources for reintroduction programmes were welcomed, it considered this approach as a form of greenwashing, and preferred reintroduction schemes in which animals were raised specifically for that purpose.
497. Senegal had contributed to this CA, with reintroduction programmes for Damas Gazelle, Dorcas Gazelle and Scimitar-horned Oryx, and noted sites where oryx were reproducing in the wild. Senegal supported the addition of the African Wild Ass to the Initiative, noting its reduction in range and population size.
498. The Chair proposed the COW to recommend the document for adoption, noting that this would result in deletion of Decision 13.101, closure of the CA on Sahelo-Saharan megafauna, and removal of species from the list in Resolution 12.28 Concerted Actions. The paper was recommended for adoption.

Item 29.2.2. Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMI)

499. Morocco introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.2 *Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna*, which included Annex 1 with proposed amendments to Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP13). A meeting was held in Morocco in 2023 with Range States, partner organizations and experts to evaluate progress. The 16 Range States were encouraged to learn from a successful series of reintroductions and protection measures. The SSMI considered addition of other species and geographical extension, to enable improved coordination of activities across the Sahara and Danakil area. Amendments brought to the CA included extension into the Horn of Africa, with nine species included under the SSMI.
500. Belgium, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, requested a minor amendment to change position of wording 'subject to availability of resources.
501. Noting that it was a SSMI Range State, Algeria encouraged transfrontier projects and supported the document as proposed. It had conducted surveys and managed hunting reserves to ensure the mammals were protected, including in captivity and semi-captivity, and organised awareness raising.
502. Senegal supported the SSMI, which was aligned to threatened species.
503. Egypt supported the SSMI and the interventions made by other Parties.
504. The Chair noted the change to paragraph 4: "instruct the Secretariat to take up the role of coordination the Initiative and Action Plan and, subject to availability of external

resources, to convene regular range state meetings.” With this small amendment, the COW recommended the paper for adoption.

Item 29.3 Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)

505. The Secretariat introduced UNEP/COP/CMS/Doc.29.3/Rev.2 *Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)*, noting discussions would continue in the WG, which highlighted two studies on “Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative” and on “Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management of CAMI Species”.
506. Turkmenistan noted that implementation of the One Health system would be helpful for CAMI.
507. The Draft Decisions were recommended to the COP for adoption.

Item 29.4 African Elephant

Item 29.4.1 African Elephant Action Plan

508. Zimbabwe introduced UNEP/CMS/COP/Doc.29.4.1 *Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan*, which was jointly submitted by Cameroon. Zimbabwe noted amendments to the Plan, including considering separating the mono-specific African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) into two species: Savanna Elephant (*L. africana*) and Forest Elephant (*L. cyclotis*). Also new in the Plan was: the ranking of the Priority Objectives to reflect the continental consensus that conflict between humans and elephants was a priority that must be addressed with urgency; and the increased recognition of the need to understand and address the impacts of climate change in management planning for African Elephant conservation. Zimbabwe also stated that the Plan could facilitate a manner in which Range States could submit proposals for funding to the African Elephant Fund and other funding sources.
509. Kenya supported the proposed amendments, asked that the Secretariat get actively involved, and proposed amending the resolution to reflect that any new and innovative funding should be to support implementation of the Action Plan.
510. The European Union preferred reference to new and innovative funding “instruments” rather than “models”.
511. Uganda stressed the need for continued monitoring and observation, and collaboration with other range states, and mentioned hybrid elephants in particular.
512. Benin, noting both Forest and Savannah Elephants were in their country, urged CMS and Parties to support the Action Plan.
513. Senegal supported Uganda’s proposal to strengthen studies and monitoring, particularly in countries where both species of Elephant occurred, and highlighted the potential for hybrid species.
514. Côte d’Ivoire stated that, in their country, elephants lived in protected areas and nature reserves but were still threatened due to a decrease in surface area. They mentioned the signing of an MOU among 13 countries in Western Africa, and that most elephants in Côte d’Ivoire were tagged so their movements could be tracked.

- 515. BFF, urging adoption of the amended Action Plan, stated that elephants occurred in 37 African countries, and that it was working on a novel funding mechanism.
- 516. Conservation Force commented that the Action Plan would strengthen dialogue among African countries, and should help Range States develop national management plans, particularly in West and Central Africa, where such national plans were still lacking.
- 517. CITES noted its Standing Committee had adopted a resolution on the Action Plan and, supporting the exploration and innovative funding mechanism, pointed to a CITES paper on this issue.
- 518. With the above proposed amendments, it was recommended that the COP adopt the Draft Resolution and endorse the AEAP.

Item 29.4.2. West African Elephant MOU

- 519. The Secretariat introduced UNEP/COP/CMS14/Doc.29.4.2 *African Elephant*, which addressed the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (West African Elephant MOU). A meeting of the Signatories discussed three options: Option A terminate the MOU; Option B adopt the AEAP as the core strategy for African Elephant conservation under the MOU; and Option C maintain the status quo. The Signatories agreed on Option B, and also decided to recognize the two Elephant species separately in the MOU.
- 520. The issue was recommended to the COP for adoption.

Item 29.5. African Wild Ass

- 521. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.5/Rev.2 *Conservation of the African Wild Ass (Equus africanus)*, prepared by the Secretariat. The Terrestrial WG recommended the document for approval without amendments, and the ScC recommended approval of the Draft Decisions. It was proposed to include the Road Map into the SSMI, which included setting out activities of former Range States, Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan, where efforts to confirm the possible presence of African Wild Ass were ongoing.
- 522. There being no comments, the Chair proposed to recommend the document for adoption, noting the deletion of Decision 13.98. The COW recommended the document for adoption.

Item 29.6. Jaguar

Item 29.6.1. Jaguar Conservation measures

- 523. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.1 *Jaguar Conservation Measures*, which followed a request of support from Costa Rica on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The CMS and CITES StCs had approved the Joint CMS-CITES Work Programme for 2021-2025. The Secretariat proposed to merge Decisions with those submitted by Dec of Parties. The COP was recommended to merge Decisions of document 29.6.1 with those in document 29.6.2.
- 524. Brazil noted that conservation of the Jaguar was a high priority for Brazil, and the productive discussions of the workshop in Brazil in 2023.

525. CITES reported that it had adopted a number of decisions on Jaguar, including establishment of a coordination committee for the Jaguar 2030 Road Map and a Range States meeting. The CITES Secretariat had been requested to develop a joint work programme with Range States and others establishing specific activities for Jaguar conservation. This would be submitted to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and the CITES StC. CITES recommended that both Secretariats organize a second meeting of Jaguar Range States.
526. The Chair noted that a CRP would be available in due course, combining Items 29.61 and 29.62.

Item 29.6.2. Initiative for the Jaguar

527. Costa Rica introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.2/Rev.1 *CMS Jaguar Initiative (Panthera onca)*, which included in Annex 1 a draft Resolution for setting up the initiative. Range States had worked with the Secretariat to set up an inter-governmental mechanism that would help them meet obligations under the Convention. A CMS Jaguar initiative would act as a platform for conservation action for Jaguar, working on maximising existing synergies between CMS, CITES and others, and in light of the Jaguar 2030 Road Map. It called on Parties to adopt the Resolution, on Parties and NGOs to support the work programme and provide funds for its implementation, and on the ScC to report on progress.
528. The Chair indicated that there would be a combined CRP that would come back to committee.

Item 29.7. Pastoralism

529. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.7 *Pastoralism and Migratory Species*, prepared by the Secretariat. Discussions had taken place in the Terrestrial WG, and a CRP was available. CMS identified pastoralism as a threat to different species groups. Considering complexities, additional analyses are needed to identify priority areas of work under the auspices of CMS, a multi-stakeholder approach was recommended. The Terrestrial WG had made some additions to the text in the CRP and recommended it for adoption by the COP.
530. The Chair informed that a CRP was available, and this item would come back to the COW.

Signing Ceremony for the MOU on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and their Habitats

531. Argentina and the Secretariat were invited to the podium for the signing of the High Andean Flamingos MOU. Argentina noted that its signing of this MOU had been pending for some time, and was convinced that its signing of the MOU would strengthen conservation of flamingos in the High Andes through coordinated actions of all Signatories.

Item 31.4. Proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention

532. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4/Rev.1 *Proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention*, which was a summary of proposals including comments from INGOs, that provided information to use in making decisions concerning proposals submitted.

Item 31.4.1. Proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) in Appendix I of the Convention

533. North Macedonia introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.1/Add.1 *Proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*)* in Appendix I of the Convention. North Macedonia, as a proponent of the proposal, informed that the European Lynx populations were fragmented and the Balkan Lynx sub-species highly threatened. It expected that the proposal would build on current actions to maintain populations, improve connectivity, and remove barriers to migration. The Convention required that listed species demonstrated migratory behaviour; both European Lynx and Balkan Lynx met these criteria, as they engaged in altitudinal migration and dispersal. Cooperation between Range States would contribute to improve their status, address threats, conduct research and build capacity for monitoring and conservation activities.
534. Albania, reporting that Balkan Lynx had been strictly protected in Albania since 1969 and was fully protected under national legislation, fully supported the proposal.
535. Turkmenistan reported that there was a small population of Eurasian Lynx between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan located in the southern part of both countries, and inclusion of this species would strengthen cooperation between both countries. Turkmenistan supported the proposal.
536. BFF considered the proponents had made a strong case for these listings clearly demonstrating their migratory status, and indicating how the species would benefit from international cooperation. BFF urged Parties to adopt this proposal.
537. While applauding the efforts of proponents to increase the conservation status of this apex predator, Conservation Force requested the proponent for more information about the predictable movements of the species. Whilst it was clear that the species dispersed, including young animals, and exhibited altitudinal movement, it did not consider these movements to be an indication of migration.
538. North Macedonia informed that male Eurasian Lynxes foraged large distances in different directions, while females also showed long philopatric behavioural movements. While research was lacking from Asia, it expected that adoption of this proposal would promote conservation actions and improve knowledge.
539. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.2. Proposal for the inclusion of the Pallas's Cat (*Felis manul*) in Appendix II of the Convention

540. Kazakhstan, also on behalf of Uzbekistan, introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.2/Rev.1 *Proposal for the inclusion of the Pallas's Cat (*Felis manul*) in Appendix II of the Convention*, and urged Parties to support the proposal for this rare species in strong decline across its wide range. Many populations were transboundary, with home ranges covering large distances, and prone to numerous threats, including habitat degradation. Twenty per cent of its range was covered by the CAMI area. Appendix II listing would enhance conservation measures and raise its profile at national and regional levels.

541. Uzbekistan supported the listing, which would enhance the species' conservation, and was ready to collaborate in its recovery.
542. Turkmenistan noted presence of different populations of the species in its Protected Areas, while the majority of animals were transboundary, with animals moving between Turkmenistan and Iran, and Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. Implementation of its conservation strategy developed in 2019 would be enhanced by species listing.
543. BFF believed the proponents had adequately met requirements to demonstrate the relevance of the species to CMS, which was in a strong position to foster collaboration to support this initiative.
544. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.3. Proposal for the inclusion of the Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) in Appendix II of the Convention

545. Chile introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.3 *Proposal for the inclusion of the Guanaco (Lama guanicoe)*, highlighting that Guanaco, a species of arid and semiarid regions of South America, had a broad but fragmented distribution, with isolated populations threatened. Migratory movements were essential for connectivity between populations, which were often blocked by human activities, including fencing, mining and oil and gas development. It noted that Appendix II listing would help to drive action to maintain connections, restore populations and safeguard habitat.
546. Noting that it had a large population of Guanaco that had suffered major decline, Argentina supported the proposal of Peru, Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay, which would help to conserve the species through agreements between Range States.
547. WCS supported the adoption of the proposal and was committed to continue collaboration with the Range States and local communities for its conservation, to address illegal trade and to equitably manage shared populations.
548. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.4. Proposal for the inclusion of Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) in Appendix I and II of the Convention

549. Argentina, also on behalf of Brazil and Uruguay, introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.4 *Proposal for the inclusion of Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin (Tursiops truncatus gephyreus) in Appendix I and II of the Convention*. This sub-species estimated at 600 individuals, endemic to coastal waters of southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, and under marked decline in the Rio Plata Estuary, was classified as VU by IUCN and EN in the three countries. Recent studies had confirmed movements of the species between countries. Listing would help drive improvements in national and regional management, and the Range States would take forward a CA if the proposal was adopted.
550. Noting the dolphin's occurrence in two of its protected areas and inclusion in its national plan for marine cetaceans, Brazil noted that it was working on bycatch issues, but that population decline would only be halted by cooperation between all Range States, which would be enhanced by adoption of this proposal.

- 551. Uruguay was committed to protect this threatened dolphin, and was working with all types of industrial fisheries and had set out protection measures. Listing on CMS Appendices would support regional management between the Range States.
- 552. The United Kingdom supported the listing proposal, which would promote conservation.
- 553. Peru supported the proposal recognizing the threats the dolphin faced.
- 554. Concerned about this dolphin since 2018 due to bycatch and disease, IWC recommended it as a priority for a conservation management plan and supported the proposal.
- 555. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.5. Proposal for the inclusion of the Baltic Proper population of the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Appendix I of the Convention

- 556. The EU introduced document *Proposal for the inclusion of the Baltic Proper population of the Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) in Appendix I of the Convention*. The main threats to this population of some 500 individuals across nine countries were bycatch and contaminants, while underwater noise could cause displacement and behavioural impacts. Regular movements between countries had been identified. As measures had so far proven insufficient, its inclusion on CMS Appendix I would promote more efforts to improve its conservation status.
- 557. The UK supported the proposal, noting that this population was highly threatened.
- 558. Noting significant decline of this small population, OceanCare considered that the new listing would help to generate new conservation actions, building on work being done by ASCOBANS and other partners.
- 559. WDC supported the proposal, while maintaining the porpoise's status in CMS Appendix II.
- 560. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.6. Proposal for the inclusion of the Peruvian Pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*) in Appendix I and II of the Convention

- 561. Peru introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.6 *Proposal for the inclusion of the Peruvian Pelican (Pelecanus thagus) in Appendix I and II of the Convention*, which it had submitted jointly with Chile, Ecuador and Panama. As a guano bird, this species had important ecosystem functions, contributing to trophic flows. El Niño patterns greatly influence its prey and movements, hence promoting movements of birds from Peru to Ecuador and other countries. With a significantly decreased population, and threats including bycatch and disease the species was classified as CR. Listing on CMS Appendix I and II would improve its status and lend support for protection of its coastal habitats.
- 562. Argentina, supported by Brazil, considered that listing would promote more effective conservation among Parties, and supported the proposal.
- 563. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

31.4.7. Proposal for the inclusion of the Magellanic Plover (*Pluvianellus socialis*) in Appendix I of the Convention

564. Chile, also on behalf of Argentina, introduced document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.7/Rev.1 *Proposal for the inclusion of the Magellanic Plover (*Pluvianellus socialis*) in Appendix I of the Convention*. This migratory plover restricted to southern South America had an estimated population of between 1,500 and 1,700 individuals, and possibly as low as 500. Its global conservation status was currently being evaluated, and wide threats were identified. The proposal intended to promote collaboration between Chile and Argentina, create a WG, recovery plan and guidelines to evaluate energy impacts, and create and protect a binational migratory corridor.
565. Brazil supported the proposal submitted by Argentina and Chile, which it considered important to ensure bilateral cooperation.
566. Peru supported the proposal and the need for Range States to work together.
567. The COW recommended the proposal to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.8 Proposal for the inclusion of the Southern African population of the Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis*) in Appendix I of the Convention

568. South Africa introduced this proposed listing contained in UNEP/CMS/CMS14/31.4.8. noting it was classified as Critically Endangered due to its small and declining population size, restricted range, range contraction, and susceptibility to several threats in Lesotho and South Africa. South Africa explained that the population was distinct from Bearded Vultures elsewhere in the world, including populations of the same sub-species in Sub-Saharan Africa, and should be managed and conserved as such. The population size was estimated to be 334, including approximately 100 breeding pairs. Movements were predictable, cyclical and cross border between Lesotho and South Africa, with the baseline model estimating there would only be 62 birds (20 breeding pairs) remaining in the wild in 50 years if no further interventions were implemented.
569. Zimbabwe, Uganda, Senegal and Malawi noted that South Africa had consulted with the Africa Group and supported the proposed listing. Uganda noted that, in addition to listing, measures also needed to be implemented.
570. The listing was recommended to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.9 Proposal for the inclusion of the Sand Tiger Shark (*Carcharias taurus*) in Appendix I and II of the Convention

571. Brazil introduced this proposed listing contained in UNEP/CMS/CMS14/31.4.8, which was put forward by Brazil and Panama, stating that the latest data showed that in some areas the species had not been observed in a long time. Although there was no protection at the global level, there was some indication of recovery. However, Brazil said the proposed listing in Appendix II would ensure coordinated protected measures in regions where there is transboundary movement and help species conservation.

572. Israel, Senegal, United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Maldives and others voiced their support for the proposal. Senegal noted it was sometimes threatened by bycatch.
573. Maldives, while not a range state, informed that their country was a shark sanctuary.
574. Australia, noting it was a range state, where the species was known as Grey Nurse Shark, reported it had discussed the proposal with Brazil and Panama after it was submitted. They noted some inadvertent errors, including that the distribution map was an accurate reflection of the distribution of the two populations in Australia. They underscored that it would be useful for the proponents to consult with all range states before proposals were submitted.
575. Australia explained that its population was genetically distinct and geographically isolated, and that the country had a high level of protection. The east coast population of the species did not leave Australian waters and, thus, did not meet the definition of migratory. However, for the west coast population, movements were less clear and they stressed that a precautionary approach was needed. They reiterated that including species that would not benefit from cooperation would weaken the Convention and divert attention from those that needed it.
576. IUCN noted an 80 per cent decline in the species in the Indian Ocean and Australia, noted it could travel quickly across international boundaries, and that it had an unfavourable conservation status. Several other organizations spoke to the need for the listing.

Item 31.4.10. Proposal for the inclusion of the Blackchin Guitarfish (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I of the Convention

577. Israel introduced this proposal contained in UNEP/CMS/COP/Doc,31.4, explaining that the species was assessed by IUCN in 2019 as Critically Endangered globally, since populations have undergone over 90 per cent reduction in three generations. Israel thanked the Chair of the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group for work on this assessment and on shark and ray conservation. Israel further mentioned that the species was subject to targeted and untargeted fishing, especially illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) artisanal fishing in West Africa, and their high-quality fins were in high demand and exported. Israel mentioned that all species of the genus *Glaucostegus* spp. (which included this species) were listed in Appendix II of CITES in 2019. The species was listed on the IUCN Red List.
578. Senegal noted confusion between this species and the Common Guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*).
579. It was recommended that the COP amend the Appendices to include the proposed listings.

Item 31.4.11 Proposal for the inclusion of the Bull Ray (*Aetomylaeus bovinus*) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I of the Convention

580. Israel introduced this proposed listing as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP/Doc.31.4.11, and explained that it was assessed by IUCN in 2016 as Critically Endangered globally

and in the Mediterranean Sea, as populations had undergone a greater than 80 per cent reduction in three generations. They noted that the species was not targeted, was usually taken as bycatch, and discarded or kept for local human consumption. It was recently listed on Annex II of the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol for the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention.

581. Senegal and Egypt expressed support for the proposal, which was then recommended to the COP for adoption.

Item 31.4.12 Proposal for the inclusion of the Lusitanian Cownose Ray (*Rhinoptera marginata*) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I of the Convention

582. Israel introduced this proposed listing as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.12, noting that the species was first analyzed in 2007 by the ScC, which recommended its inclusion in the Appendices of the Convention, but no one ever submitted a listing proposal. They noted it had a generational length of 27 years, one offspring per year, and, according to a 2021 assessment by IUCN, a 90 per cent reduction in three generations.

583. Egypt supported the proposal, which was then recommended for adoption by the COP.

Item 31.4.13. Proposal for the inclusion of the Gilded Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) in Appendix II of the Convention

Item 31.4.14. Proposal for the inclusion of the Laulao Catfish or Piramuta (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) in Appendix II of the Convention

584. Brazil introduced both proposals (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.13 and UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.13), noting they were similar Amazonian fish, and that efforts to protect freshwater species were rare. Brazil explained that the Secretariat had requested a reassessment of freshwater species to see which could benefit from listing under the Appendices. Brazil noted they had some of the longest migration routes for warm, freshwater species, and were threatened by deforestation, mining and hydroelectric dams, and overfishing. Brazil noted that all but one range state were Parties to the Convention.

585. The European Union noted evidence of increasing harm to the species. Uruguay supported both proposed listings.

586. WCS underscored efforts of local and other organizations and the need to improve management throughout migratory routes.

587. Both proposals were recommended to the COP for adoption.

Item 27. Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (revisited)

588. Mongolia understood that the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan had not been discussed on Day 4, but noted that the Mongolia delegation was leaving on Day 5. It believed that the EU had some comments on the document and that the CRP would be concluded on Day 4. Mongolia was an important Range State for the Saker Falcon and supported the document. It proposed minor amendments to the text.

589. The Chair requested Mongolia to send changes to the Secretariat and to discuss with the EU before the delegation left.