

Notification 2021/002

1 February 2021

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

CALL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Secretariat is pleased to apprise you of progress and plans for the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13 - February 2020, Gandhinagar, India) successfully concluded with the adoption of a number of significant measures to address the conservation needs of migratory species and to guide the Convention's work in the intersessional period.

The ambitious Programme of Work (POW) 2020-2023 comprises the mandates falling under the responsibility of the Secretariat, Standing Committee and Scientific Council, as reflected in Resolutions, Decisions and Concerted Actions approved by COP13 as well as ongoing instruments and initiatives.

Since COP13, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Secretariat has been planning and working to advance numerous priorities of the POW, while taking into account travel restrictions and other limitations linked to COVID-19. The Secretariat has received generous contributions from several governments and other donors for certain elements of the POW. Nonetheless, significant funding gaps exist.

The Secretariat has prepared a list of priorities for funding for 2021 included in the Annex to the present Notification and invites Parties and other potential donors to explore opportunities to support them.

The Secretariat also encourages partner organizations to consider providing support for activities of common interest or to jointly mobilize resources for their implementation.

Please contact Ms. Laura Cerasi, Fundraising and Partnership Officer (laura.cerasi@un.org) to indicate your willingness to contribute to these efforts.

<http://www.cms.int/en/news/notifications>



Key Funding Priorities for the CMS Programme of Work – *as at January 2021*

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP13), held in February 2020, adopted an ambitious [Programme of Work](#) (POW) which sets forth all of the mandates and related financial needs for work during the intersessional period through 2023. Despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat has been advancing many programmatic activities under the Convention, with the generous support of its Parties and partners.

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of the relationship between people and nature. The same key threats to the conservation status of species also increase the risk of future zoonotic diseases: habitat destruction and fragmentation, and overexploitation of wild species of animals. Thus, an investment in reducing such risks provides multiple and far-reaching benefits.

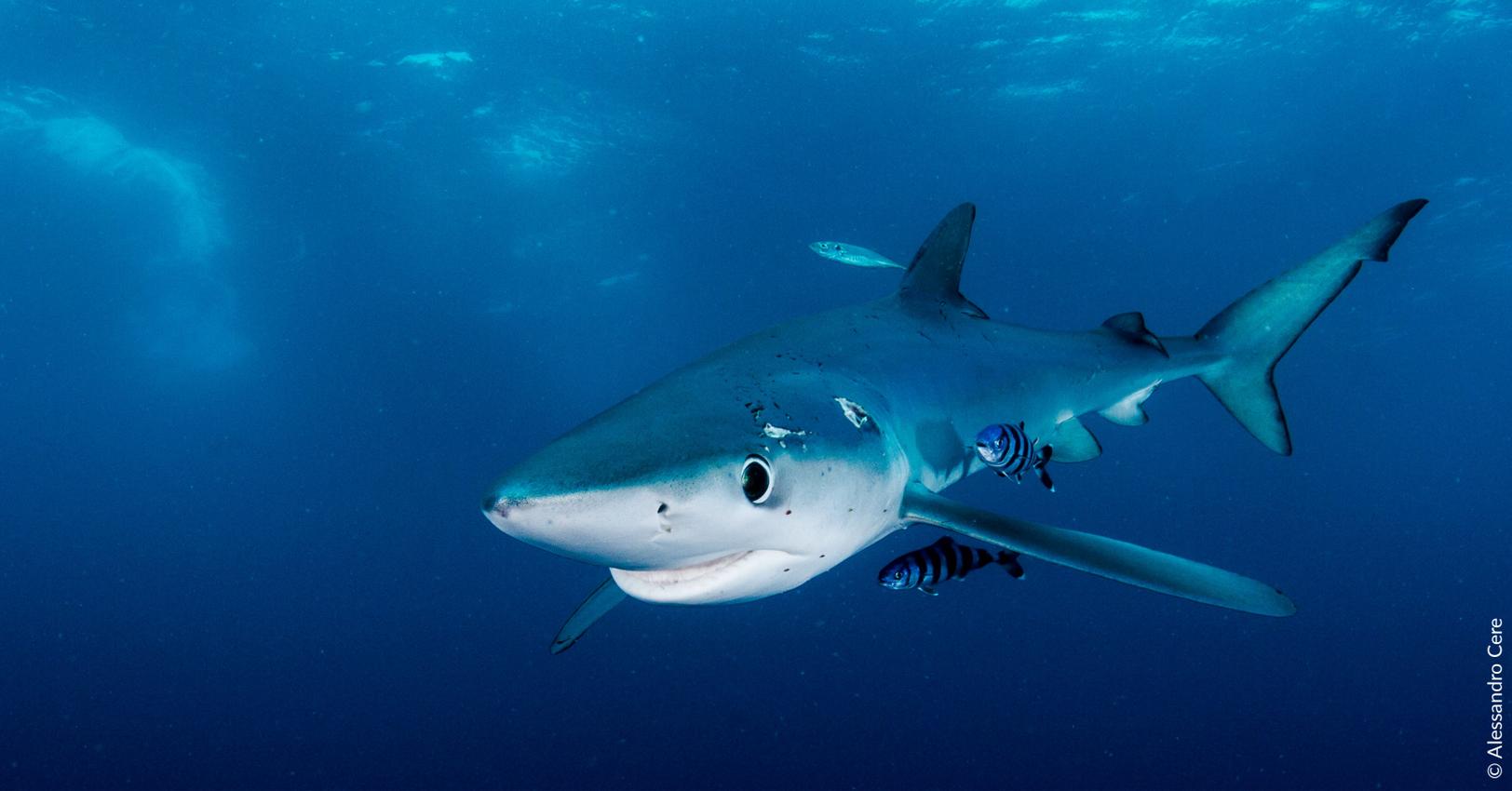
This document aims to provide some guidance on the pressing needs of CMS for the consideration of governments and other stakeholders in view of their spending and budgetary planning for 2021. Contributions are also welcomed beyond what is needed for 2021 in the case of initiatives that are to be implemented over the course of the entire intersessional period.

The areas of work listed below include mandates under Resolutions, Decisions, and Concerted Actions approved by COP13 as well as ongoing agreements and initiatives falling under the responsibility of the CMS Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council.

These initiatives have been identified on the basis of their priority ranking, which was determined in the POW; the timing and urgency related to their implementation (some activities are only foreseen in 2022 and/or 2023); existing budgetary gaps; and travel restrictions and other limitations linked to COVID-19.

The funding needs indicated in the tables below take account of available resources and show the resulting shortfall for 2021 and the remaining intersessional period.

For further information, please contact the CMS Secretariat: Ms. Laura Cerasi, Fundraising and Partnership Officer (laura.cerasi@un.org)



1. Improving the science base to support species conservation worldwide



Improving our understanding of the state of migratory species, their movements and threats facing them is crucial to assist evidence-based decisions taken to conserve them from local to global scales.



The Global Atlas on Animal Migration and the State of the World's Migratory Species report, which have not been produced to date, will provide vital tools for the Convention. In particular, the conservation status report will identify key threats, help set priorities, and serve as a baseline against which future, regular assessments could measure progress and assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts.



Parties have identified additional gaps in knowledge for a range of areas including those below and called for the delivery of specific assessments to inform national and international policy.

Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
State of the World's Migratory Species Report	30,000	130,000
Global Atlas on Animal Migration	200,000	200,000
Climate change (assessments, guidance and training courses)	200,000	400,000
Illegal killing, taking and trade of birds (addressing the issue in the main flyways)	720,000	1,620,000
Insect decline (assessment and guidance)	50,000	50,000



2. Improving the capacity to deliver on the commitments under CMS at all levels



CMS COP13 called for work to support implementation of the many agreements and concerted actions and other initiatives tailored to the conservation needs of individual or groups of species listed in the CMS appendices. The Convention applies a “migration systems approach” which involves holistic conservation strategies giving attention not only to species and their populations and habitats, but also to the functioning of the entire migration process.



Several initiatives have been established to safeguard in a coherent manner groups of species that share the same habitats and/or are affected by same threats.



Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
African-Eurasian Landbirds <i>(coordination and implementation of the Action plan)</i>	100,000	250,000
African-Eurasian Birds of Prey <i>(implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding)</i>	110,000	330,000
African-Eurasian Vultures <i>(coordination and implementation of the Action plan)</i>	120,000	365,000
African Carnivores Initiative <i>(implementation)</i>	150,000	530,000
Concerted Action for the Conservation of the Giraffe	100,000	400,000



Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
Conservation of the African Wild Ass <i>(implementation of roadmap)</i>	20,000	120,000
Conservation of the Western African Nutcracking Chimpanzee	80,000	100,000
Central Asian Mammals Initiative <i>(implementation)</i>	245,000	655,000
Conservation of Gorillas <i>(coordination and implementation of the Agreement)</i>	150,000	300,000
Migratory Sharks <i>(coordination and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding)</i>	200,000	780,000
Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia <i>(coordination and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding)</i>	200,000	550,000
Preventing Bird Poisoning <i>(coordination and operation of the Working Group and Task Force)</i>	260,000	780,000



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3. Promoting ecological connectivity as a road map for action including for investments in sustainable infrastructure for people and nature



Parties to CMS have underscored the importance of “ecological connectivity” not only for the survival of migratory species, but also for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and human well-being. Connectivity also provides a means by which multiple countries can agree on shared goals beyond national plans and priorities and provide a basis for cooperation across boundaries. COP13 also called for connectivity to be effectively reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The implementation of connectivity-related measures at species, ecosystem, migration systems and regional levels, would not only contribute to safeguarding migratory species but also help guide spatial planning for economic investment. Support and guidance to on-the-ground implementation are particularly needed as infrastructure investments and upgrades are a large part of many governments’ post-COVID crisis recovery strategies. It is essential that planning takes into account the needs of migratory species.

CMS has several mandates and initiatives to strengthen work on connectivity and ensure that adverse impacts on migratory species of key infrastructure developments are minimized.

Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
Ecological Connectivity and Migratory Species <i>(assessment and guidance, support to country implementation and promotion of transfrontier conservation areas)</i>	100,000	200,000
Energy Task Force <i>(coordination, operations and priority actions)</i>	190,000	690,000
Wildlife-friendly linear Infrastructure <i>(assessment and guidance)</i>	60,000	60,000



4. Addressing the causes of the COVID-19 crisis and preventing new pandemics



Zoonotic agents are found in a variety of migratory species of wild animal e.g., bats, ungulates, and waterfowl.



While some migratory species have been associated with the spread of zoonoses, most of these events have resulted from human activities, such as harvesting, handling and direct consumption of wild animals and destruction of their habitat along with increased proximity of humans and livestock to natural areas.



CMS seeks to further investigate links between animal migration and disease infection dynamics as well as to fill the knowledge gap of the role of migratory wildlife uses in the emergence of infectious zoonotic diseases.

Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
Migratory wild animals and zoonotic diseases (assessment and guidance)	100,000	150,000



5. Monitoring progress on implementation and guiding future strategic actions



Monitoring and reporting on activities to implement the Convention are essential for tracking progress, understanding challenges, and determining future actions.



The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 has been guiding efforts to conserve migratory species by the international community and has defined targets against which Parties and other stakeholders are expected to report on their actions and measure their outcomes. COP14 will review an assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and consider options for what follows, taking into account the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



The recently established Review Mechanism cuts across all CMS programmes and aims at supporting Parties through a facilitative process in addressing challenges related to specific implementation matters.

Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 and Follow-Up <i>(development of assessment and options for follow up)</i>	110,000	260,000
National Reporting <i>(revision of format and analysis)</i>	10,000	40,000
Review Mechanism <i>(implementation)</i>	25,000	100,000



6. Promoting CMS objectives and supporting engagement in migratory species conservation



Communication efforts support the objectives of the Convention and help demonstrate how the work of CMS fits into the broader picture of global biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Strengthening outreach activities through an improved media presence and engagement in activities, events and campaigns is needed in light of recent scientific assessments on species decline, the need for heightened awareness of the linkages between zoonotic diseases and the major threats to species, and the development of the new global biodiversity framework.

Among the various communication tools, the CMS website helps showcase the work of Parties, raise awareness, and provide up-to-date policy and scientific information that can be used by Parties for their planning and reporting activities. The maintenance and upgrade of the website together with improvements of the knowledge management system, including the interoperability with other systems e.g. the IUCN Species Red-list and Online National Reporting Tool, will help elevate the profile of the Convention and improve its effectiveness.

Initiative	Funding need 2021	Funding need 2021-2023
Outreach activities and events <i>(including World Wildlife Day, World Migratory Bird Day and other activities and events)</i>	120,000	380,000
Communications <i>(engagement with press and media, upgrade of tools, publications)</i>	50,000	150,000