

Notification 2024/024

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31 October 2024

## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

### **CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD BETWEEN COP14 AND COP15**

The Secretariat is pleased to share the final [Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15](#).

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP14, February 2024, Samarkand) endorsed, on an exceptional basis, a provisional Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, as contained in Annex 6 of [Resolution 14.2](#).

COP14 further requested the Secretariat to finalize the Programme of Work and to submit it to the Standing Committee for its consideration, and further requested the Standing Committee to adopt a final Programme of Work.

Following several rounds of consultations and revisions of a draft final Programme of Work and an informal online meeting of Standing Committee members, this final Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15 was adopted on 5 October 2024 by the Standing Committee through a written procedure.

The Secretariat has prepared a list of POW activities that require funding and that are pressing in terms of timeframe. The list is enclosed to the notification. The selection of these activities takes into account the limited timeframe for the POW implementation in view of COP15 (March 2026) and considers available resources.

The Secretariat invites Parties and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to allocate resources to support the implementation of activities of the Programme of Work.

For further information, please contact Mrs Laura Cerasi, Fundraising and Partnerships Officer, CMS Secretariat, at [laura.cerasi@un.org](mailto:laura.cerasi@un.org).

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# Key CMS Funding Priorities

as at October 2024



## 1. Improving the science base to support species conservation worldwide

Improving our understanding of the state of migratory species (Target 1.2), their movements and habitats (Target 2.1) and the threats facing them is crucial to assist priority-setting under CMS and decision-making to conserve species from local to global scales.



The Global Atlas on Animal Migration, the State of the World's Migratory Species report and other assessments and analyses are essential tools for the Convention and provide Parties with relevant information and evidence-based guidance to effectively implement Resolutions and Decisions in line with Target 4.1 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 (SPMS) and to address the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and threats under CMS (SPMS Target 5.3).



The Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14, February 2024, Samarkand) has 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 needs (€)
<b>State of the World's Migratory Species</b>	
Develop a focused report on major developments on conservation status for ScC-SC8 and COP15 and an Online CMS Data dashboard, as per Decisions 14.23-24	125,000
Update of Annex B of the Status of the World's Migratory Species report for shark and ray species with specific focus on the migratory status of sub-populations.	30,000
<b>Insect decline</b>	
Collect further information on the current insect decline, and assessing its cascading effects on migratory insectivorous animal species, including the role of insects in connectivity Decision 14.217	30,000
<b>Tangible and intangible cultural values and knowledge systems</b>	
Review the values, policy principles and concrete opportunities that exist in relation to the tangible and intangible cultural values associated with migratory species and their conservation as per Decision 14.10	15,000
<b>Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife</b>	
Undertake review of existing analysis, gaps and methods to address such gaps, as well as analysis of drivers, scale of impacts and measures used to ensure taking is legal and sustainable as per Decision 14.185	200,000
<b>Marine Pollution</b>	
Review the most significant types of pollution affecting CMS marine species, including cumulative impacts, and identify localities where such pollution and CMS-listed species significantly intersect as per Decision 14.42. This activity includes an expert workshop to develop recommendations for immediate action.	100,000



Initiative	Funding needs (€)
<p><b>Bycatch and Other Fisheries-Induced Mortality</b></p> <p>Assess and mitigate bycatch and fisheries-induced mortality in marine species as per Decision 14.33 through (i) development of regional bycatch reviews and bycatch mitigation measures for CMS-listed marine mammals and marine turtles; and (ii) review of current data and knowledge regarding the levels of fisheries-induced mortality of shark and ray species.</p>	300,000
<p><b>Deep-seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species</b></p> <p>Develop a report on the state of knowledge of the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems, including identifying knowledge gaps that should be addressed as per Decision 14.52 a).</p>	85,000
<p><b>Marine Wildlife Watching</b></p> <p>Develop a report to assess the long-term effects and biological significance of disturbances from boat-based and in-water interactions for all CMS-listed species (marine mammals initially) as per Decision 14.55 a).</p>	30,000
<p><b>Marine Noise</b></p> <p>Prepare a report on the state of knowledge of noise impacts and noise mitigation measures for CMS-listed freshwater mammal species and develop guidance as needed, as foreseen in Decision 14.46. Update the Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities on the scientific understanding of the effects of noise on different taxa as per Decision 14.47.</p>	40,000
<p><b>Marine Turtles</b></p> <p>Review threats to marine turtles in a region- and species-specific context, and based on it, development of recommendations, is required to ensure that marine turtle populations are made resilient to deal with effects of climate change and other human-induced threats, such as plastic and light pollution as per Decisions 14.93-95 and in collaboration with IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.</p>	100,000
<p><b>Production, sale and use of mist nets</b></p> <p>Develop a global analysis on production, sale and use of mist nets for trapping birds as per Decision 14.123.</p>	50,000



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



The CMS State of the World’s Migratory Species report found that species listed under the Convention are those at risk of extinction across all or much of their range, or in need of coordinated international action to boost their conservation status. CMS COP14 called for more work to support implementation of the many agreements, concerted actions and other initiatives tailored to the conservation needs of individual or groups of species listed in the CMS appendices (SPMS Target 5.5.). 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 the same threats in a region or along a flyway.

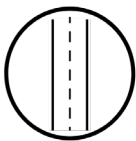
Initiative	Funding needs (€)
<b>Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales</b> Organize a regional workshop to improve capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (involves Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Namibia and South Africa), as per Decision 14.79	100,000
<b>European Eel</b> Support the Range States to the European Eel to finalize the Single Species Action Plan, through a meeting of Range States as per Decision 14.109.	45,000
<b>Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea region</b> Convene a Meeting of Range States to facilitate coordination across the region, stimulate implementation of priority actions in the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea region, agree a governance structure for implementation, and a monitoring scheme to assess progress. Recruit a coordinator to assist Range States and support conservation projects to implement high priority activities as per Decisions 14.101-105.	390,000
<b>Atlantic Humpback Dolphin</b> A Single Species Action Plan for this critically endangered, Appendix I-listed species was adopted through Resolution 14.10. To facilitate implementation of the urgent actions foreseen in a coordinated manner, a Range State meeting is needed, as well as some seed-funding to support priority actions as per Decisions 14.81-86.	220,000



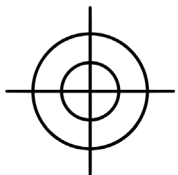
Initiative	Funding needs (€)
<b>Global Seagrass Conservation</b> Convene a global seagrass conservation workshop, building on the ongoing project in Southeast Asia, which spans six countries, to share best practices and lessons learned in seagrass conservation, build the capacity of our signatories and range states and elevate awareness and compliance with the reporting requirements in the latest CMS resolutions and decisions related to seagrass conservation in line with Resolution 14.8.	50,000
<b>Dugong Conservation Forum for the Western Indian Ocean</b> Convene a global seagrass conservation workshop, building on the ongoing project in Southeast Asia, which spans six countries, to share best practices and lessons learned in seagrass conservation, build the capacity of countries and elevate awareness and compliance with the reporting requirements on the implementation of relevant CMS resolutions and decisions in line with Resolution 14.8.	60,000
<b>Flyways Working Group</b> Coordinate the Working Group, and implement priority actions including the development of programme as per Decisions 14.140 and 14.142	100,000
<b>Multi species action Plan for Bustards</b> Support the consultative and drafting process of this multi-species action plan	80,000
<b>Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP)</b> Support the establishment and overall coordination of the Vulture MsAP Working Group, and on-the-ground activities aimed at providing support to the Range States in implementing the MsAP with a special focus on West Africa In line with Decision 14.155 and Resolution 12.10 (Rev.COP14).	139,665
<b>Saker Falcon Global Action Plan</b> Support the work of the Saker Falcon Task Force, and on-the-ground activities aimed at providing support to the Range States in implementing the Plan in line with Decisions 14.157-14.160 and Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP14).	72,000
<b>Sooty Falcon Action Plan</b> Support the Working Group for the implementation of the Sooty Falcon Action Plan (approved by the Scientific Council) and on the ground activities to support Range States in implementing the plan in line with Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP14).	112,625
<b>African Carnivores Initiative</b> Organization of the Third Range States Meeting of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative	150,000
<b>Jaguar Initiative</b> Range State meeting to discuss and agree a Joint CMS-CITES Programme of Work for the Conservation of Jaguars	150,000
<b>Central Asian Mammals Initiative</b> Develop Feasibility study for reintroduction of Cheetah in Uzbekistan	30,000
<b>Central Asian Mammals Initiative</b> Convene Fifth Meeting of Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope	40,000



### 3. Eliminating or significantly reducing threats affecting migratory species



The CMS State of the World's Migratory Species revealed that the huge extent to which the decline in migratory species is being caused by human activities. The two greatest threats to both CMS-listed and all migratory species were confirmed as overexploitation – which includes unsustainable hunting, overfishing and the capture of non-target animals such as in fisheries – and habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation – from activities such as agriculture and the expansion of transport and energy infrastructure. Other threats such as climate change, pollution and poisoning are also having profound impacts on migratory species.



The Samarkand Strategic Plan recognized the need to address these threats to improve the conservation status of species, through e.g. Targets 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, and COP14 passed several decision calling for specific measures to tackle these threats.

Initiative	Funding needs (€)
<b>Wildlife Disease</b> Support to the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and to the Working Group on Animal Health including by organising meetings, developing programmes of work and dedicated webpages, translating key documents as per Decision 14.119 and 14.120	100,000
<b>Infrastructure Development</b> Convene regional Workshops on Linear Infrastructure and Migratory Species to raise awareness of government representatives and increase their capacity to address the needs of migratory species in infrastructure planning and development as per Decision 14.203	210,000
<b>Pastoralism</b> Develop scoping study and Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Working Group on Pastoralism and Migratory Species as per Decision 14.180 and 14.181	100,000
<b>Energy Task Force</b> Coordinate the Task Force, convene its meetings and implement priority actions including review of impacts on cetaceans of offshore renewable energy as per Decisions 14.209 and 14,210	100,000
<b>Lead Poisoning</b> Support the coordination of the establish the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights, definition of tis proramme of Work and organization of its first meeting as per Decision 14.136	140,000
<b>Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA)</b> Support the coordination of the ITTEA and implementation of its workplan as per Decision 14.125	275,500
<b>Integration of biodiversity requirements into land degradation neutrality delivery</b> Convene a workshop on the integration of biodiversity requirements into land degradation neutrality delivery at appropriate scale for AEMLAP Range State and in cooperation with UNCCD Secretariat, as per Decision 14.133.	40,000



#### 4. Monitoring progress on implementation and guiding future strategic actions



Monitoring and reporting on activities to implement the Convention, including through National Reports (SPMS Target 5.2) are essential for tracking progress on the achievement of the CMS mandate, understanding challenges, and determining future actions. The newly adopted Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 is to guide 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 at every COP. Important elements of the Plan such as its monitoring framework are yet to be developed.



The Review Mechanism and the National Legislation Programme (SPMS Target 5.1) cuts across all CMS programmes and aims at supporting Parties through a facilitative process in addressing challenges related to specific implementation matters while.

Initiative	Funding needs (€)
<b>Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032</b> Development of a Monitoring Framework and the Evaluation of the monitoring data as per Decisions 14.2 and 14.4	60,000
<b>National Report</b> Analysis of the national reports.	40,000
<b>Review mechanism and National Legislation Programme</b> Management of the review process, including conducting missions to concerned Parties and hiring experts as necessary and further implementation of the National Legislation Programme as per Decision 14.29.	150,000



## 5. Promoting CMS objectives and supporting engagement in migratory species conservation



Communication efforts increase awareness of the importance of migratory species and their role in providing benefits for people (SPMS Target 6.1). They aim to support the objectives of the Convention and help demonstrate the role, purpose and achievements of CMS (SPMS Target 6.2) and how its work fits into the broader picture of global biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Among the various communication tools, the CMS website helps showcase the work of Parties, 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 needs (€)
<b>Information Management</b> Update of CMS online Species Databases	145,000
<b>Information Management</b> Streamlining contact management and the meeting registration tool	25,000
<b>Communication</b> Production of a series of informational videos/animations on CMS strategic priorities and findings / recommendations of the State of the World's Migratory Species Report as part of the implementation of COP14 Decision 14.16	20,000
<b>Communication</b> Production of a series of podcast episodes on CMS strategic priorities and findings / recommendations of the State of the World's Migratory Species Report as part of the implementation of COP14 Decision 14.16	10,000
<b>Communication</b> Production of a series of infographics on CMS strategic priorities and findings / recommendations of the State of the World's Migratory Species Report as part of the implementation of COP14 Decision 14.16	5,000