

Launch of the Global Initiative on the Taking of Migratory Species (GTI)

March 25, 2026
 13:45 – 14:30 hrs
 Campo Grande Room



SPEAKER:

- **Aziz Abdukhakimov**, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Environmental Issues and Chairman, National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
- **Amy Fraenkel**, Executive Secretary, Convention on Migratory Species
- **Mariano Castro Jimenez**, UNDP consultant on behalf of the Secretariat, Convention on Biological Diversity
- **Susan Lieberman**, Vice President, International Policy, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- **Melanie Heath**, Senior Director, Global Programmes, TRAFFIC
- **Aline Kuehl-Stenzel**, Senior Policy Manager, Marine, BirdLife International

Illegal and unsustainable domestic taking of migratory species, whether for food, subsistence, trade, medicine, or in response to human-wildlife conflict, remains one of the most widespread yet under-addressed drivers of biodiversity loss. Growing evidence shows that domestic use threatens a significantly larger proportion of migratory species than international trade, with far-reaching consequences for species conservation, ecosystem integrity, and human well-being.

This side event will introduce the Global Initiative on Taking of Migratory Species (GTI), a new multi-stakeholder initiative under CMS. It will highlight how the GTI aims to support governments and partners in addressing illegal and unsustainable taking at domestic levels, and how coordinated global action can help respond effectively to local pressures.