



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026  
Agenda Item 26.2

**PREVENTING POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) and related Decisions 14.134–14.136 *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*. It proposes draft amendments to Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14), and the deletion of Decisions 14.134–14.136 and adoption of new Decisions. The attached draft Resolution and Decisions would support the achievement of Targets 3.1 and 3.3 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.

## PREVENTING POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

### Background

1. Direct or indirect poisoning is recognized as one of the main threats affecting migratory birds globally. The incidental poisoning caused by the consumption of poisoned pellets or carcasses, and/or the continuous exposure to lead bullets and lead gunshot and fishing weights has been behind some of the declines of vulture and raptor species in several regions.
2. At its 14th meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP14, 2024) adopted [Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP14\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#), which proposes, subject to the availability of resources, the continuation of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) and of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force).
3. In 2024, COP14 adopted the following Decisions on this issue:

#### **14.134 Directed to Parties**

*Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *review, in light of the scientific evidence of the harms caused by lead ammunition to wildlife and the wider environment, the provisions and effectiveness of implementation of their legal instruments (legislation and policies) that regulate the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights, and modify these or introduce additional measures where necessary to restrict use of lead in ammunition and fishing weights;*
- b) *actively facilitate and support the development and availability of expanded product ranges of non-toxic alternative to lead ammunition and fishing weights, including through the innovative use of economic measures;*
- c) *implement ongoing national-level monitoring and collate and analyze information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance with any restrictions;*
- d) *collate national information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance; and map this information against at-risk migratory bird habitats to determine likely affected areas and scale of impacts;*
- e) *share this information with the Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force);*
- f) *take active measures to implement the recommendations set out in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2 to substitute lead ammunition and fishing weights for non-toxic alternatives; and*
- g) *enhance and continue efforts to prevent poisoning of migratory birds to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.*

#### **14.135 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and others**

*Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors are encouraged to nominate representatives to the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG), and provide financial support to the Secretariat for the organization of meetings of the PPWG and for the production of communication outputs linked to priority areas/flyways within the triennium 2024-2026.*

**14.136 Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) appoint a Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force) for the triennium 2024-2026, in collaboration with Parties and the PPWG, and convene the first meeting as early as possible after COP14;
- b) collate the information provided by Parties in response to Decision 14.134 through the Lead Task Force, and, based on this information, determine the efficacy of regulations, and develop guidance on the steps and procedures to adjust or develop legislation for a complete phase-out of the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights in all habitats, in line with the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2), and existing information on alternatives;
- c) support a discussion within the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group concerning possible action on minimizing the impact of agricultural pesticides on landbirds in line with the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, as well as the delivery of the pesticide mandate under Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14);
- d) organize regional workshops of the PPWG within the triennium 2024-2026 in high-risk areas/flyways, to promote the implementation of the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2) and to share best practices and lessons learned amongst its members and stakeholders; and
- e) report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its meeting before COP15 and to the COP15 itself on the progress in implementing these Decisions.

Activities to implement Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) and Decision 14.136

4. As instructed by Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14), during the intersessional period, the Secretariat continued to promote the [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2 Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) (PPWG Guidelines).
5. The Secretariat undertook efforts to prepare for the launch of the [Lead Task Force](#). A [factsheet](#), *Threats of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights to Migratory Birds*, was developed and promoted through a new Task Force [website](#), which also includes other relevant resource materials. Due to lack of financial resources and limited staffing capacities for coordination, to date, it has not been possible to launch and operationalize the Lead Task Force, nor hold any meetings or workshops of the Task Force or the PPWG.
6. In a parallel process and throughout 2025, the Secretariat undertook an internal review of the poisoning mandate to assess progress made in recent years, with particular consideration given to the role of the PPWG. The outcomes were shared with the Chair of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group (AEML WG) and its coordinators, and the prevention of poisoning from insecticides and rodenticides was regularly discussed during the online meetings of the Steering Group of the AEML WG.
7. Parties made progress in phasing out the use of lead ammunition. On 10 July 2025, the UK Government announced its decision to ban shot containing more than 1 percent lead and bullets with a lead content of more than 3 percent, with a three-year transition period.
8. Related to Decision 14.135, while not directly supported through the Secretariat, the [Campaign against criminal Poisoning of European Wildlife \(CPEW\)](#), a multi-stakeholder initiative of NGOs, private sector groups and other institutions, has grown since 2024, funded by the EU.

## Discussion and analysis

9. The PPWG's role is to facilitate concerted efforts, actions and procedures to prevent the poisoning of migratory birds – with the exception of lead poisoning, which is dealt with by the Lead Task Force. The PPWG, inter alia, facilitates the implementation of the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) (the Guidelines) and other relevant COP Resolutions, as well as other frameworks on poisoning-related matters (other than lead poisoning). The PPWG covers various types of poisons: insecticides, rodenticides, poison baits and veterinary pharmaceuticals.
10. The role of the Lead Task Force (see [TOR](#)) is to assist and support Parties in the phase-out of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights. This also includes supporting the implementation of the relevant sections of the Guidelines.
11. The internal review carried out by the Secretariat, in consultation with the AEML WG, included interviews with relevant stakeholders. The objectives of the analysis were to a) determine the level of activity of the PPWG and Lead Task Force; b) identify synergies and overlaps with other CMS instruments that include work on poisoning; c) identify impediments to the implementation of Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14); and d) propose next steps and efficient ways forward. The results of the review are listed in the paragraphs below.
12. It should be noted that the PPWG is mainly an advisory body that reports to the Scientific Council and therefore has limited decision-making power to drive the process forward, in contrast to, for instance, intergovernmental task force fora. The broad mandate of the PPWG, encompassing several types of poisons under a global geographic scope, makes it a challenging undertaking in terms of prioritization, implementation – especially regarding the coordination of multiple sectors and activities under one umbrella – and monitoring.
13. The significant overlap with provisions under other instruments and workstreams (e.g. task forces on illegal taking; the Multi-Species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP); the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP), the Migratory Species and Health Working Group; and regional initiatives such as the Americas Flyways Task Force and the Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), creates further challenges to the PPWG's programme of work and core functions (if this working group would be continued). These overlaps and complexities may explain the lack of funding to date and the very limited engagement from Parties and stakeholders in the implementation of the PPWG's programme of work.
14. With regards to the Lead Task Force, the review found that, while its mandate is very distinct and does not overlap with other existing CMS instruments and workstreams, it has been largely inactive due to the lack of resources for coordinating its activities, including supporting Parties in the implementation of Decision 14.134.
15. As a consequence, the proposed amendments to Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) and draft Decisions recommend: i) the discontinuation of the PPWG; ii) a new study to analyze the current impacts and hotspots of poisoning of migratory wildlife; iii) a mapping exercise that determines the geographic areas and types of poisons already addressed by other CMS instruments and frameworks, and that identifies gaps (the results of which would help guide existing CMS Avian Instruments working on preventing poisoning in determining aspects they could tackle and consider in their workplans); and iv) a corresponding update of the Guidelines. The proposed amendments incorporate feedback from governments and stakeholders engaged in various working groups and task forces such as the AEML WG.

16. Based on an initiative taken by stakeholders involved in the CPEW, proposed amendments to the Resolution also include a provision to promote an 'International Day against Criminal Poisoning of Wildlife' to raise awareness and increase the engagement of governments and the general public, and promote the efforts taken by Parties and other relevant organizations.

Recommended actions

17. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
- a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) contained in Annex 1 of this document;
  - b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document and delete Decisions 14.134 to 14.136.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 11.15 (Rev.COP14)

**PREVENTING POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS**

*NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.*

*Recognizing* that Article III (4)(b) of the Convention requires Parties that are Range States of migratory species listed in Appendix I to endeavour “*to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species*”,

*Recognizing* that Article III (4)(c) of the Convention requires such Parties to endeavour, “*to the extent feasible and appropriate, to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger such species*”,

*Concerned* that very large numbers of migratory birds are killed annually as a result of poisoning and that this unnecessary mortality can severely affect the conservation status of vulnerable species, including many listed under CMS and its associated instruments, and that for some species poisoning is the primary cause of their unfavourable conservation status,

*Highlighting* the need to provide practical guidance on preventing, reducing or controlling poisoning from, inter alia, agriculture pesticides, poison bait, veterinary pharmaceutical treatments and use of lead for hunting and fishing, and potential synergistic effects of different poisons through ingestion from various food sources such as prey species,

*Welcoming* the CMS Migratory Species and Health Review (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.3) which also highlights the importance of non-infectious diseases such as toxicity from poisons as substantive causes of mortality of migratory birds and the impacts on other species including humans, and the need for preventative measures,

*Aware* that international measures and concerted actions to address migratory bird poisoning are urgently needed and should involve CMS Parties, Range States, international and national organizations, the private sector and relevant stakeholders,

*Further aware* of the important role of industries involved in the manufacture of substances that can result in the poisoning of migratory birds; organizations involved in their sale and distribution; and representational bodies of those whose use of such substances can result in migratory bird mortality or morbidity,

*Aware* of the important role of national legislation and its enforcement regarding categorization and selling of such substances, which can result in mortality or morbidity in bird species through permission regime,

*Aware* that deliberate poisoning events could remain undetected or unregistered,

*Underlining* the need of qualified authorities to improve detection and a prosecution of criminal acts of bird poisoning,

*Recalling* ~~Resolution 10.26<sup>1</sup> on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds, which called on the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to establish an intersessional working group, the~~

~~Preventing Poisoning Working Group, to undertake a detailed assessment of the severity and scope of poisoning for migratory birds; significant knowledge gaps; and where sufficient knowledge exists to recommend suitable responses to address the problems, potentially including areas where enhanced legislation may be required, features of effective regulatory regimes, and understanding socio-economic drivers of poisoning,~~

*Acknowledging* the positive actions undertaken by some Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands,

*Further recalling* that the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia highlights the many African-Eurasian migratory raptors with an unfavourable conservation status at a regional and/or global level as a result of poisoning, which in some cases is connected to poaching endangered species such as elephants and rhinoceroses,

*Acknowledging* the work of the Vulture Working Group and the development of the CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP), adopted by Resolution 12.10 (Rev.COP14), which provides a comprehensive strategic conservation action plan covering the geographic ranges of all 15 migratory Old World vulture species and to promote concerted, collaborative and coordinated international actions towards the recovery of these populations to a favourable conservation status by 2029,

*Recalling* that the diclofenac molecule contributed to the catastrophic collapse of vulture populations of the *Gyps* species in South Asia and concerned that other new non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) molecules in use can have a similar effect on Vulture species or other scavenging raptors,

*Noting* the objectives of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which promotes the environmentally sound use of hazardous chemicals and shared responsibility to protect the environment from harm,

~~*Noting with satisfaction* Recommendation 164 (2013), adopted by the Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), which raises concern regarding the widespread use of poisons to kill protected species, and calls for strengthened cooperation to enhance national and international actions to eliminate this damaging practice,~~

*Acknowledging* the Ramsar Convention's Resolution XI.12 on ecosystem approaches to wetlands and health, which recognizes the interactions between disease – including poisoning – in wildlife, human and domestic animals, which stresses the urgent need to ensure that policy responses are better integrated in a 'One Health' approach across these sectors for most effective outcomes,

*Acknowledging* also the Resolutions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress WCC-2016-Res-014 on combatting the illegal poisoning of wildlife, WCC-2016-Res-022 on conservation measures for vultures, including banning the use of veterinary diclofenac, and WCC-2016-Res-082 on a path forward to address concerns over the use of lead ammunition in hunting,

*Noting* that poisoning is a problem affecting taxa other than birds as well, and *highlighting* the importance of a global analysis of the impact of this cause of mortality for wildlife and a need of appropriate prosecutions for illegal cases of poisoning,

*Recognizing* that whilst activities associated with some substances toxic to birds can have social and/or economic significance, such as the protection of agricultural crops from pests, experience shows that strategies to minimize and prevent the risk of poisoning of birds can be, nonetheless, sustainably implemented with benefits to the provision of wider ecosystem services,

*Noting* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food transmitted to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations General Assembly (A/HRC/34/48), which highlights the adverse impacts of pesticides used in agriculture on human rights, the negative consequences of pesticide practices on human health, environment and society, which were underreported and monitored in the shadow of a prevailing and narrow focus on “food security”; and its recommendations on the regulation of hazardous pesticides and promotion of agroecology as an alternative to the extensive use of pesticides,

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and targets, in particular Target 3.9 calls for the substantial reduction of the number of human deaths and illnesses from (a) hazardous chemicals and (b) air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030, and Target 12.4 calls for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, and the significant reduction of their release into the air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment by 2020,

*Noting* that UNEP/EA.3/Resolution 4 *Environment and Health* and UNEP.EA.4/3 Implementation Plan *Towards a Pollution-free Planet* encourage Member States and the Executive Director, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness of [...] the dangers to the environment of lead in ammunition, and to encourage research regarding alternatives to such chemicals and drugs that are toxic to wildlife, as well as safety testing thereof,

*Welcoming* the adoption of an EU-wide ban (Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/57) on the use of lead shot in and around wetlands under the REACH regulation (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals; (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006) to address the estimated one million waterbirds that succumb annually to lead poisoning within the EU,

*Welcoming* the ongoing wider restriction ~~process~~proposal to amend Annex XVII under the REACH regulation of the EU (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006) and the opinions adopted in 2022 by the expert committees of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which will be the basis for the European Commission to enact a restriction on lead use in outdoor shooting and fishing in the European Union, ~~and further~~

~~*Welcoming*~~*Commending* the decision of the United Kingdom to ban shot containing more than one percent lead and bullets containing more than three percent lead, similar REACH process being undertaken in the United Kingdom to restrict lead ammunition for outdoor shooting,

*Recognizing* that under strictly supervised conditions and on a selective basis, the legal and regulated use of poison baits can have important conservation benefits through the control of alien invasive species,

*Concerned* that there is a serious geographical bias in relevant research and knowledge, and *emphasizing* that further research on and monitoring of migratory birds and sources of poisoning are urgently required for some poisoning sources, and that studies should be designed so as to better assist in formulating and monitoring policy,

*Acknowledging* that a number of Parties are already applying relevant policies, for example, the removal of certain toxic pesticides from the market, use of canine patrols to deter and detect poison baits, implementation of training programs for relevant bodies and authorities on investigation and prosecution, implementation of programmes of Integrated Pest Management, and promotion of the use of non-toxic ammunition for hunting and *commending* those Parties for such actions,

*Noting* the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) 'Migratory Soaring Birds Project' implemented by BirdLife International, and its document "Preventing the Risk to Migratory Birds from Poisoning by Agricultural Chemicals: Guidance for Countries on the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway", which aims to ensure that the conservation needs of migratory soaring birds are addressed by industry, including the agriculture sector, along the Red Sea/Rift Valley Flyway, and *recognizing* the potential this project has to promote the implementation of this Resolution and the associated "Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds" nationally and locally,

~~*Further noting* the Sub-regional Implementation Plan to Prevent Poisoning of Migratory Birds in Southern African Countries 2017-2020, developed at the Regional Workshop on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds, held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 24 August 2015, in response to Resolution 11.15,~~

*Further noting* the European Action Plan to Prevent Risk from Poison-Baits of the 'European Network on Environmental Crime' (ENEC), funded by the Criminal Justice Support Programme of the European Union to improve the implementation and application of the Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law, and

*Stressing* that capacity-building at national and regional level is of fundamental importance for the effective implementation of this Resolution, ~~and~~

~~*Noting* the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.8) and its Programme of Work (POW; UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.9),~~

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the *Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds* (the Guidelines) Annex 2 to document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2, agreeing that it is for each Party to determine whether or how to implement the recommended actions, considering the extent and type of poisoning risk, whilst having regard to their international obligations and commitments, including those under the Convention;
2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to further discuss this issue at meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly, recognizing that this is an issue which has wider environmental impacts;
3. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Parties to disseminate and implement the Guidelines, as appropriate, across all flyways, where necessary translating the Guidelines into different languages for their wider dissemination and use;
4. *Encourages* CMS Parties and *invites* Parties and Signatories of CMS Family instruments to identify within flyways, those geographical areas where poisoning is causing significant mortality or morbidity in migratory birds, and address these as a matter of priority applying the Guidelines as appropriate;

5. *Urges* CMS Parties and invites Parties, Signatories and non-Parties of CMS Family instruments that are Range States of vultures and other scavenging raptors to:
  - a) ensure safety testing of existing veterinary NSAIDs on live, captive Old World vultures, eagles and other scavenger birds;
  - b) withdraw licensing of vulture-toxic NSAIDs (including diclofenac) for veterinary use or implement comprehensive risk assessment with particular reference to known regional threats to vultures and other scavenging raptors;
  - c) ensure that safety testing on vultures of new veterinary NSAIDs is made a mandatory part of the protocol of research and development and wholly financed by the pharmaceutical industry, making licensing conditional on the results of these tests; and
  - d) contribute to identification and promotion of safe alternative drugs;
6. *Urges* the Secretariat to consult regularly with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, non-governmental organizations and the agricultural, pharmaceutical, hunting and fishing sectors, in order to monitor the impacts of poisoning on migratory birds and to support the elaboration of national strategies and sector implementation plans as necessary to minimize detrimental impacts;
7. *Encourages* CMS Parties to monitor and evaluate the impact of poisoning on migratory bird species regularly at national level, as well as the effectiveness of measures put in place to prevent, minimize, reduce, or control poisoning impacts, as appropriate;
8. *Calls on* Parties and non-Parties, including inter-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to elaborate strategies to address poisoning or to include measures contained in this Resolution and in the Guidelines in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or relevant legislation as appropriate to prevent, minimize, reduce or control the impact of poisoning on migratory bird species and for this purpose involving relevant enforcement authorities;
9. ~~*Instructs* the Secretariat, in close cooperation with relevant CMS instruments, to liaise with the Bern Convention Secretariat, the European Commission and other relevant international organizations in order to update the Guidelines as necessary, and *invites* Parties to contribute to the dissemination and updating of the Guidelines;~~
10. *Invites* the IUCN and its Species Survival Commission (SSC) to cooperate actively with CMS ~~and the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG)~~ on a global analysis of the impact of poisoning on wildlife, resources permitting;
11. *Invites* the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade to cooperate actively with CMS on matters related to poisoning of migratory birds, and in particular on the question of clarifying existing guidelines used in decision-making processes under that Convention as appropriate;
12. *Invites* the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to consider conducting an evaluation of the risk that veterinary medicinal products pose to migratory bird species and other species, that might be poisoned by their food resources containing such products through either lethal or sub-lethal impacts, and using the results to provide guidance to the veterinary sector;

13. *Encourages* all those concerned with preventing poisoning of migratory birds to engage with such groups and create active partnerships – at appropriate scales – as a priority in implementing the Guidelines;
14. *Invites* Parties to note that neonicotinoid insecticides have become a main replacement for the organophosphates and carbamates reviewed; and to consider conducting further research on and monitoring migratory bird mortality incidents associated with the use of these and other insecticides;
- 14.bis *Invites Parties, organizations and stakeholders to promote and contribute to the International Day against Criminal Poisoning of Wildlife, held on 1 March each year, to raise awareness and showcase efforts and achievements in preventing poisoning of migratory wildlife;*
15. *Calls on* Parties and *invites* non-Parties and stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat, to strengthen national and local capacity for the implementation of this Resolution including, inter alia, by developing training courses, translating and disseminating examples of best practice, sharing protocols, experiences and regulations, transferring technology, forensic techniques and promoting the use of online tools to address specific issues that are relevant to prevent, reduce, or control poisoning of migratory birds protected under the Convention;
16. *Urges* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international organizations, as well as the industry, bilateral and multilateral donors and others, to consider supporting financially the implementation of this Resolution and the Guidelines, including through the coordination provided by ~~the PPWG and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights as per operative paragraph XX, support of regional workshops, and the provision of financial assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity-building;~~
17. *Further invite* those Parties that have made progress in improving the availability of lead-free ammunition and fishing weights to assist Parties that are in the early stages of this transition by facilitating the export of such products at lower prices, where possible;
18. ~~*Agrees to continue* the PPWG, subject to the availability of resources, under the terms of reference annexed to this Resolution, ensuring its membership incorporates expertise from all geographical regions as well as representatives of industry and governments, and focuses on facilitating concerted efforts to prevent the impact of other sources of poisoning, address geographic gaps, and to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines;~~
19. *Agrees* to continue, subject to availability of resources, the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights to take forward the implementation and update of the Guidelines in its relevant sections, as appropriate, also promoting actions to raise awareness among hunters and anglers on the risk related to the use of lead in ammunition and fishing weights and on the availability of non-toxic alternatives and to engage in discussions with the Olympic Committee and the International Shooting Federation to seek consensus on regulating the use of lead ammunition in international sports shooting; and
20. *Calls on* Parties to report progress in implementing actions taken under this Resolution, and results achieved to future COPs through their National Reports.

**Annex to Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PREVENTING POISONING WORKING GROUP  
(PPWG)  
(for the intersessional period until COP15)**

**1. Background and purpose**

This Working Group was established by Resolution 10.26<sup>4</sup> to assist the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its associated instruments, relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Conventions to review the causes and consequences of poisoning of migratory birds, and to recommend suitable responses to address the problems.

**2. Role and Scope**

The role of the Working Group is to facilitate concerted efforts, actions and procedures to prevent poisoning of migratory birds other than lead poisoning which is dealt with by the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights. Its geographical scope is global. The Working Group will cover all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS and its relevant associated instruments.

The Working Group, resources permitting, must report taking into account the regional aspects.

**3. Remit**

The Working Group will:

**Support implementation of the Preventing Poisoning Guidelines**

- a. facilitate implementation of the Preventing Poisoning Guidelines and other relevant Resolutions adopted by COP as well as other relevant frameworks for action on relevant issues other than lead poisoning;
- b. set and implement priorities for its work;
- c. keep the Guidelines actively under review in the light of developing research findings and other relevant information and report relevant developments to the Scientific Council;
- d. assist in resource mobilization for priority actions, in collaboration and through the creation of synergies with other initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, the Vulture Working Group, and the Landbirds Working Group;
- e. actively seek engagement from and with relevant agrochemical and veterinary pharmaceutical industries so as to develop alternative less detrimental solutions;
- f. review, take account of, and communicate best practice when poisons are used as management tools in the protection of migratory birds and other biodiversity;
- g. encourage the translation and dissemination of the Guidelines widely within

<sup>4</sup> Under the name Minimizing the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds Working Group. Resolution 10.26 has been superseded by Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*.

- relevant networks, as well as to end-users and others;
- h. ~~monitor the implementation of the relevant decisions and plans and their effectiveness and submit progress reports to the governing bodies of the participating MEAs;~~
  - i. ~~stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how;~~
  - j. ~~strengthen relevant regional and international networks; and~~

#### **Assess other causes of migratory bird poisoning**

- k. ~~resources permitting, consider the need for additional guidance for preventing impacts on migratory birds from other types of poison (for example pheromone-type substances) and geographic gaps, and how these might be developed.~~

For effective working, the Working Group will establish task groups addressing either thematic issues (e.g., for different poison types) and/or geographical regions to progress its work.

#### **4. Membership**

The membership of the Working Group will comprise the Secretariats of the participating MEAs, as well as academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

The following representatives will also be invited to contribute to the Working Group:

- ~~Representatives of CMS Parties;~~
- ~~Representatives of the CMS Scientific Council, the Technical Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), Technical Advisory Group of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptor MOU), Bern Convention Expert Group on Birds;~~
- ~~Representatives of the CMS Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean Task Force, the Asia-Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force, the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group and Flyways Working Group;~~
- ~~Independent experts on an ad hoc basis as necessary and appropriate; and~~
- ~~ECHA.~~

#### **5. Governance**

The Working Group will elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from amongst its members and will operate by seeking consensus among the Group. The Working Group will report to the Scientific Council on its actions, membership and other related issues.

#### **6. Operation**

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed with the following functions:

- ~~organizing the meetings of the Working Group and preparing the background documents;~~
- ~~maintaining and moderating the Working Group's communications;~~
- ~~facilitating fundraising and resource mobilization; and~~
- ~~facilitating engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Working Group.~~

Meetings of the Working Group will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting. Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically, which will provide the primary mode of communication.

~~The Working Group, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, will organize regional workshops in trouble spot areas to assist in developing appropriate local or regional solutions to prevent the poisoning of migratory birds.~~

**ANNEX 2****DRAFT DECISIONS****PREVENTING POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS*****Directed to Parties***

15.AA Parties are encouraged to:

- a) undertake national review and monitoring exercises to encourage implementation of the phase-out of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights, and in doing so:
  - i. review, in light of the scientific evidence of the harms caused by lead ammunition to wildlife and the wider environment, the provisions and effectiveness of implementation of their legal instruments (legislation and policies) that regulate the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights, and modify these or introduce additional measures where necessary to restrict use of lead in ammunition and fishing weights;
  - ii. actively facilitate and support the development and availability of expanded product ranges of non-toxic alternative to lead ammunition and fishing weights, including through the innovative use of economic measures;
  - iii. implement ongoing national-level monitoring and collate and analyze information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance with any restrictions;
  - iv. collate national information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance; and map this information against at-risk migratory bird habitats to determine likely affected areas and scale of impacts;
  - v. share information on progress made on activities i. and ii. above, and the information collated from activities iii. and iv. with the Secretariat for use by the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force);
- b) nominate representatives to the Lead Task Force;
- c) take active measures to implement the recommendations set out in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2 to substitute lead ammunition and fishing weights for non-toxic alternatives; and
- d) enhance and continue efforts to prevent poisoning of migratory birds to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

***Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and others***

- 15.BB Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors are encouraged to provide financial support for:
- a) an analysis of the current impacts and hotspots of poisoning of migratory wildlife;
  - b) an update of the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2); and
  - c) meetings of the Lead Task Force and the production of communication outputs linked to priority areas/flyways.

***Directed to the Scientific Council:***

- 15.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to provide feedback and inputs to relevant draft outputs produced under Decision 15.DD d) and e).

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 15.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:
- a) appoint a Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force) for the triennium 2026-2029, in collaboration with Parties, and request Parties through a notification to nominate representatives for the Task Force, and convene the first meeting as early as possible after COP15;
  - b) provide guidance to Parties on the implementation of Decision 15.AA a), including through a notification;
  - c) collate the information provided by Parties in response to Decision 15.AA a) through the Lead Task Force, and, based on this information, determine the efficacy of regulations, and develop guidance on the steps and procedures to adjust or develop legislation for a complete phase-out of the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights in all habitats, in line with the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2; the Guidelines), and existing information on alternatives;
  - d) prepare an analysis on the current impacts and hotspots of poisoning of migratory wildlife, including a mapping exercise that identifies the geographic areas and types of poisons already addressed by existing CMS instruments, as well as gaps and links to existing structures and instruments; and
  - e) prepare an update of the Guidelines, in close cooperation with relevant CMS instruments, other MEAs and other relevant international organizations.