



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 14.182–14.185 *Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife*. It proposes the adoption of new draft Decisions and amendments to Resolution 11.31(Rev.COP14).

The actions included in the draft Decisions would support the achievement of Target 3.1 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.

## ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

### Background

1. Illegal and unsustainable<sup>1</sup> taking is a major, yet often under-addressed threat to many species of migratory animals (UNEP–WCMC 2023).<sup>2</sup> In this document the term ‘illegal and unsustainable taking’ refers to taking that may be either illegal, unsustainable or both. While the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) focuses on international trade, domestic motivations for removing animals from the wild, including subsistence use, cultural practices, pest control and domestic sale, drive significant levels of pressure on migratory species, including species already listed under Appendix I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). In line with Target 5 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), ensuring that any take of migratory species is legal, sustainable and safe, is essential for the survival of the species, as well as for the benefits that they provide to nature and to people.
2. According to the [IPBES 2019 Global Assessment](#), in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, direct exploitation of animals, plants and other organisms is one of the most significant direct drivers of biodiversity loss, second only to land use. It has been identified as a threat for 1,341 terrestrial mammal species. However, for some migratory species, it is the main direct pressure. Illegal and unsustainable taking threatens almost two thirds of CMS Appendix I species and is a threat to 70 per cent of CMS-listed terrestrial species. Illegal and unsustainable taking is mostly all ‘domestic’, though it is often difficult to determine whether the motivations are domestic or international. In marine ecosystems, direct exploitation, primarily from fishing, has the largest impact (Coad et al 2021;<sup>3</sup> [State of the World’s Migratory Species 2024](#)).
3. Aquatic species are subject to both intentional and unintentional (often referred to as bycatch) exploitation. The subject of bycatch, as well as fisheries-induced mortality more generally, is addressed in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.1
4. The harvest and hunting of CMS Appendix II-listed species is subject to regulation through national and regional management frameworks. However, in practice, these systems are often not adequate enough to ensure sustainability (see [State of the World’s Migratory Species 2024](#)). Weaknesses in governance, inadequate monitoring and enforcement, poorly designed or outdated quotas, and loopholes in existing legislation frequently undermine their effectiveness. In some cases, quotas are set without robust scientific data or fail to take into account cumulative pressures such as habitat loss, climate change and bycatch. As a result, harvest and hunting practices can continue at levels that jeopardize population viability.
5. Taking linked to domestic motivations affects a substantial proportion of CMS-listed species, yet national legal enforcement and data systems often lack the tools or capacity to monitor or manage it effectively. In many cases, there is little clarity on what levels of taking are sustainable, whether domestic take or trade (which includes sale) is legal, or

<sup>1</sup> Unsustainable taking is the taking of species at a rate or in a manner that leads to the long-term decline of biodiversity (or the population/viability of the species), thereby undermining the potential of those resources to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. This definition is grounded in the Convention on Biological Diversity’s definition of sustainable use (Article 2). Unsustainable taking (consumption and hunting) is also referenced in [CBD Decision 14.7](#).

<sup>2</sup> UNEP-WCMC, 2023. Assessment of the risk posed to CMS Appendix I-listed species by direct use and trade. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> Coad, L., Ingram, D.J., Abernethy, K., Milner-Gulland, E.J., & Fa, J.E. 2021. Towards a global assessment of the scale of illegal and unsustainable hunting and trade in Appendix I and II species listed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). UNEP-WCMC & University of Oxford.

how traditional and cultural practices intersect with conservation priorities (Hughes et al 2024<sup>4</sup>).

6. At COP11, CMS Parties adopted [Resolution 11.31](#) *Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences Within and Beyond Borders*.<sup>5</sup> While some illegal taking may constitute a crime, other illegal taking may be subject to administrative and other non-criminal sanctions, fees or other measures at the national level.
7. COP14 revised Resolution 11.31 and adopted Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP14) *Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife* to also address wider threats beyond only criminal offences.
8. COP14 adopted the following Decisions on this issue:

**Decision 14.182 Directed to the Parties**

*Parties are requested to:*

- a) *undertake efforts to identify the extent and drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction, including for use and sale of aquatic, avian and terrestrial wild meat;*
- b) *assess and, as needed, amend or adopt legislation, regulations and permitting measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention, including with respect to the taking of species listed in Appendices I and II;*
- c) *participate in the CMS National Legislation Programme;*
- d) *strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies to address wildlife trafficking and to monitor trade in specimens of species not currently listed in CITES Appendices;*
- e) *improve enforcement of legislation, regulations and other measures related to taking of migratory species, and strengthen the capacity of enforcement, prosecutorial, judiciary and conservation management personnel through training on wildlife crime and offences and integrating such training into the national curricula of relevant training academies/schools where possible;*
- f) *implement environmental education programmes to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of migratory species, and of laws concerning them;*
- g) *increase engagement of local communities in addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species;*
- h) *pursue other policies, initiatives and activities to address the direct and indirect drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking;*
- i) *collaborate with other Parties, relevant regional bodies such as regional fisheries management organizations and stakeholders to develop international and regional action approaches and plans for addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species;*
- j) *provide support for implementation of Decision 14.185, and cooperate with the Secretariat in implementing Decision 14.185 (b) - (d); and*
- k) *include updates on the implementation of this Decision and Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP14) in their national reports to be submitted in advance of the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting.*

<sup>4</sup> Hughes et al. 2024. Determining the sustainability of legal wildlife trade. *Journal of Environmental Management* 341 pp

<sup>5</sup> The term 'crime' is not defined by the Convention; a [CMS fact sheet](#) defines it as "acts committed contrary to national and international laws and regulations intended to protect natural resources and to manage their sustainable use. CMS, Fact Sheet: Wildlife Crime, available at [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/fact\\_sheet\\_wildlife\\_crime.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/fact_sheet_wildlife_crime.pdf). A similar definition has been used by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

**Decision 14.183 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations**

*Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:*

- a) *collaborate with the Secretariat and Parties in the implementation of activities set out in Decision 14.185 (b) – (c);*
- b) *support Range State Parties to effectively address the direct and indirect drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, including through provision of technical support and expertise;*
- c) *provide recommendations to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting; and*
- d) *implement the elements of the ACI Programme of Work directed to illegal and unsustainable taking, in accordance with the priorities set by the Range States.*

**Decision 14.184 Directed to the Scientific Council**

*The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:*

- a) *review the analysis commissioned by the Secretariat at the 7th or 8th meeting of its Sessional Committee and provide recommendations on further measures to be taken by Parties and other stakeholders to address the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species for consideration by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
- b) *establish a Working Group on the taking of migratory species for various uses, taking into account ongoing work under the Convention;*
- c) *consider the need to modify the terms of reference of any existing Working Groups to effectively address the issues of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species; and*
- d) *provide recommendations to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting.*

**Decision 14.185 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *review the various activities and programmes addressing illegal and unsustainable taking established under CMS and its Agreements to identify aspects that can be implemented in a cross-cutting and more coordinated manner; such as the development of guidance on the use of adaptive harvest management to ensure that any take of migratory species is sustainable;*
- b) *subject to the availability of external resources, undertake an analysis on:*
  - i. *the main drivers and scale of illegal and unsustainable take of species listed in CMS Appendices I and II, based on comparable and collatable data;*
  - ii. *the impacts of illegal and unsustainable take on the conservation status of such species, including cumulative impacts on species at the migration range and population level; and the consequences of these impacts on affected ecosystems and the services they provide;*
  - iii. *measures used by Parties, non-Parties and relevant international and regional organizations such as CITES and RFMOs aimed at ensuring that taking of wildlife is legal and sustainable, with a view to identifying case studies of effective practices; and*
  - iv. *priorities for increasing capacity of Parties for monitoring and enforcement of national legislation and regulations and other measures pertaining to the taking of migratory species;*
- c) *subject to the availability of external resources, support efforts to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, in collaboration with relevant entities, including:*
  - i. *facilitating educational and capacity building activities for Parties;*
  - ii. *mobilizing projects and initiatives aimed at developing effective measures for Parties and stakeholders to address illegal and unsustainable taking; and*

- iii. *engagement with local communities;*
- d) *raise awareness of the issue of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species among Parties and stakeholders and within regional and global forums;*
- e) *collaborate with partners, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, on the implementation of these Decisions;*
- f) *continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), in order to address illegal trade of wildlife specimens and to strengthen monitoring of trade in specimens of CMS-listed species not currently listed in CITES Appendices; and*
- g) *report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

#### Activities of the Scientific Council (Decision 14.184)

9. The Scientific Council, at its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, established the Working Group on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife. Noting that COP14 had requested the Scientific Council to review all work on this topic across the Convention, the Secretariat proposed that this additional Working Group look at terrestrial species as well as inputs from the aquatic and avian working groups, particularly to identify the main drivers and scale of wildlife take, to look at conservation status, and to help ensure, with other partners, that taking of wildlife was legal and sustainable.
10. The Working Group, co-chaired by Iraq and the Wildlife Conservation Society, and comprised of representatives from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, and several NGOs, became operational in June 2025 and met online on four occasions. The Working Group agreed on the Secretariat's approach to developing the analysis described in Decision 14.184 b) (see [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf. 28.1a](#) and Annex 2) (see also paragraph 15).
11. The Working Group expressed support for the institutionalization of a global initiative on illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, in fulfilment of Decision 14.185 c) and for the development of a road map to better support Parties in their efforts to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species.

#### Activities of the Secretariat (Decision 14.185)

##### **Decision 14.185 a)**

12. The CMS Secretariat has reviewed all activities and programmes addressing illegal and unsustainable take under CMS. This includes the CMS Decisions and Resolutions themselves as well as documents stemming from the various MOUs, agreements and special species initiatives.
13. The review (Annex 1) focuses on thematically grouping the various activities under CMS and presents possible cross-cutting aspects by analysing selected case studies. It also lists all the activities and programmes addressing illegal and unsustainable take under CMS, and provides links to relevant documents.

14. The review plays an important role in fulfilling Target 4.1 of the [Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032](#). The review's recommendations have been integrated into new Decisions and a proposed revision of Resolution 11.31.

#### **Decision 14.185 b)**

15. Due to the brief intersessional period and lack of external resources, the Secretariat, with the support of the Scientific Council Working Group on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking prepared a scoping analysis (see [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.28.1a](#) and Annex 2 for the summary and recommendations) to review the following:

- the main drivers and scale of illegal and unsustainable take of species listed on CMS Appendices I and II;
- measures used by Parties, non-Parties, NGOs and relevant international, intergovernmental and regional organizations such as CITES, CBD and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), including Regional Fisheries Maritime Organizations (RFMOs), aimed at ensuring that taking of wildlife is legal and sustainable;
- identified case studies of effective practices; and
- priorities for increasing capacity of Parties for monitoring and enforcement of national legislation and regulations and other measures pertaining to the taking of migratory species.

There was not sufficient time nor funding to carry out the review of impacts of illegal and unsustainable take on CMS-listed species. The analysis is intended to pave the way for a more in-depth study after COP15.

16. On 22 July 2025, [Notification 2025/019](#) was published soliciting examples of measures used by Parties for purposes of the analysis. At the time of drafting this document, several submissions had already been received and integrated into the scoping analysis. An update will be provided should additional responses be received.
17. Furthermore, thanks to funding from Switzerland, the Secretariat engaged BirdLife International for the preparation of a review on the *Impacts of Take and Trade of Migratory Birds for Consumption in Africa-Eurasia*. The final draft was delivered by BirdLife international in October 2025 (see executive summary in Annex 3; full report in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.28.1b](#)). It assessed all African-Eurasian avian species listed at species level on CMS Appendices I and II as well as those on the list of potential avian taxa for listing endorsed by CMS COP14 (Resolution 14.20). The findings highlight the urgent need for coordinated conservation efforts, improved legal frameworks, and enhanced data collection and reporting to address the unsustainable take and trade of migratory birds for consumption. In total, 70 per cent of CMS-listed species were recorded as consumed, with higher proportions for species listed under Appendix I only (95%) compared to Appendix II only or on the potential list (61%). Consumption of CMS-listed project species was recorded in 68 per cent of countries in the African-Eurasian range. Regarding direct impacts, the study found that 72 per cent of the CMS-listed project species were assessed as having decreasing populations globally, and 81 per cent of these species were threatened by hunting, with 56 per cent also used as food. Overall, 42 per cent of species recorded in the systematic review were reported as taken at unsustainable levels. In the context of governance and legal protection, the study found that 80% of take for consumption was reported as illegal. Only 20 of 72 Appendix I project species were reported by CMS Parties to have 100% protection at national level.

**Decision 14.185 c)**

18. In April 2025, the Secretariat contracted a consultant to develop a global initiative on illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, presented at COP14, to support Parties and stakeholders to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, as well as raise awareness of the issue among Parties and stakeholders and within regional and global forums.
19. The proposed initiative was shared at the [Global Workshop on CMS Legislation](#) in June 2025. During the workshop, it was emphasized that the initiative was established in response to the growing threat posed by domestic taking of migratory species, noting that overexploitation is now the leading threat to many CMS-listed species, often surpassing habitat loss. The Initiative was welcomed by several participants at the workshop, with one noting its importance and timeliness in respect to the implementation of Target 5 of the KMGBF.
20. The proposed initiative was also shared at the July 2025 meeting of the [Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management](#) (CPW). The CPW is a voluntary partnership of 14 international organizations promoting the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. Established in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, the CPW provides a platform for addressing wildlife management issues that require national and supra-national responses, and works to promote and increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members and partners. The Secretariat is exploring collaborations with the Initiative with members of the CPW.
21. The proposed initiative is aimed at supporting work to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species by leveraging existing efforts addressing gaps and priorities. The core areas of work are to:
  - identify and address policy, legal and enforcement gaps related to domestic taking at national levels;
  - improve data and knowledge systems for understanding domestic use, supply chains and sustainability thresholds;
  - support stakeholder engagement, particularly local communities, Indigenous Peoples and national authorities;
  - enhance education, outreach and cross-sectoral awareness to build understanding of the threats and solutions surrounding illegal and unsustainable taking; and
  - strengthen institutional capacities to monitor, regulate and enforce provisions related to the illegal and unsustainable taking of CMS-listed species.
22. The proposed initiative will seek to work with key stakeholders such as CITES, FAO, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), RFMOs, UNDP and UNODC, as well as relevant NGOs.

**Decision 14.185 d)**

23. Illegal and unsustainable taking has been addressed in several workstreams of the Secretariat. It has been a topic of numerous meetings and work in this intersessional period, including:
  - the [3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Range States to the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative \(CAMI\)](#),

- the [joint CITES-CMS virtual meeting of the Jaguar Range States](#);
- the [Global Workshop on CMS Legislation](#);
- the [joint meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean](#);
- the [1st meeting of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force](#);
- the [5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Signatories to the Saiga MOU \(MOS5\)](#);
- the [virtual meeting of the ITTEA and EAAFP Task Forces on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#); and
- the [3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Signatories to the Bukhara Deer MOU \(MOS3\)](#).

#### **Decision 14.185 e) and f)**

24. The Secretariat is collaborating with the CBD Secretariat, the CITES Secretariat and the CPW in developing a new Global Guidance for Sustainable Wildlife Management. This initiative is grounded in CBD COP Decisions [15/7](#) and [16/15](#), which emphasize the need for coherent, science-based approaches to the sustainable use and management of wildlife. The latter Decision calls on CBD to strengthen collaboration and build synergies in the sustainable use of wildlife with key international partners, including CMS and CITES, and to work closely with the CPW, particularly CITES and CMS, in preparing draft global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife.
25. Cooperation with CITES on various topics has also included this issue through the Secretariats' Joint Programme of Work 2021–2025, the Joint CITES–CMS African Carnivores Initiative (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.1) and work on the saiga (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.3) and jaguar (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.4) as well as through the CPW.
26. The Secretariat has also contributed to the FAO Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme's Legal Hub and the most recent Legal Diagnostic Tool in relation to CMS-related questions.

#### **Amendments to Resolution 11.31(Rev. COP14) *Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife***

27. The proposed revisions to Resolution 11.31(Rev. COP14) aim to strengthen and harmonize its language and scope in light of evolving global priorities and new international developments. The revisions align the Resolution with the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (2024–2032), as well as the latest United Nations General Assembly resolution on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking. The revision seeks to create a more coherent, inclusive and actionable framework that recognizes the role of new knowledge, technologies and cooperative mechanisms to more effectively address the persistent challenges of illegal and unsustainable taking. The proposed revisions also call for the establishment of a CMS Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, with the aim of supporting the implementation of the Resolution, as well as changes to integrate it better with the proposed new Decisions.

## Illegal and unsustainable taking in other CMS workstreams

28. As described in paragraph 12 the CMS Secretariat has prepared a summary of various activities related to illegal and unsustainable taking (Annex 1). This work highlights the substantial efforts already undertaken by the Secretariat, and the preparation of numerous new related documents, including those described in paragraphs 23 and 24. Because this issue cuts across so many areas of work under CMS, numerous other documents prepared for COP15 are relevant to this topic, as summarized below:

### *a) Aquatic wild meat*

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.4 reports on progress to implement Decisions 14.186–14.189 *Aquatic Wild Meat* and Decisions 14.190–14.193 *Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa*. The document proposes the adoption of new draft Decisions.

### *b) The prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds*

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.1 reports on progress to implement Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (IKB)*, Decisions 14.119–14.124 *Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)*, [Decision 14.125 Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force](#) and [Decisions 14.126–14.129 South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force](#). The document proposes draft amendments to the Resolution and the adoption of new Decisions.

## Discussion and analysis

29. The scope and severity of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species continues to expand, driven by diverse motivations ranging from subsistence needs and cultural practices to commercial trade and recreational activities. Meanwhile, the adaptive capacity of species' populations is declining as a multitude of other threats ranging from habitat destruction to climate change-related impacts continues to rise. The overall pressure on populations is growing while the ability to cope with offtake is becoming more limited.
30. While CMS has advanced numerous species-specific and regional initiatives, the threats posed by illegal and unsustainable taking remain under-addressed. A cross-cutting, integrated approach is required to effectively reduce these pressures.
31. The review of cross-cutting aspects contained in Annex 1 underscores the need to explore how the different workstreams could be implemented in a more cross-cutting and coordinated manner.
32. A recent study (Challender et al 2023)<sup>6</sup> suggests that while 15 per cent of species that are subject to the threat of 'biological resource use' (a Threats Classification category used under the IUCN Red List) are likely to be impacted by international trade, a significantly larger proportion – around 79 per cent – are threatened by use and trade at local and/or domestic levels. This finding suggests that most species facing threats from exploitation are not primarily affected by international markets but by domestic activities, including local-scale hunting for profit, recreation or subsistence, national-scale commercial use, cultural practices, or other local harvesting practices. Global efforts to

<sup>6</sup> Challender D. W. S., Cremona P. J., Malsch K., Robinson J. E., Pavitt A. T., Scott J., Hoffmann R., Joolia A., Oldfield T. E. E., Jenkins R. K. B., Conde D. A., Hilton-Taylor C. & Hoffmann M. 2023. Identifying species likely threatened by international trade on the IUCN Red List can inform CITES trade measures. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, Volume 7, pages 1211–1220.

address international (legal and illegal) trade must be matched or exceeded by targeted measures addressing illegal and unsustainable taking at domestic levels.

33. Capacity-building has emerged as a consistent theme across species action plans and regional programmes. Enforcement agencies often lack the training, tools and institutional support to address illegal taking effectively, especially in remote or transboundary areas. The use of technologies such as camera traps, satellite tagging, portable DNA kits and digital monitoring platforms presents opportunities to enhance enforcement and monitoring but requires sustained investment and training.
34. Community engagement has proven to be an essential element in reducing illegal and unsustainable take. Experience from CMS initiatives such as the Central Asian Mammals Initiative and the West Africa Aquatic Wild Meat Action Plan indicate that community-based conservation, when paired with education, livelihood incentives and inclusion in management decisions, can lead to measurable reductions in illegal activity and improved species stewardship.
35. Although progress has been made in the enforcement of illegal taking through the efforts of CITES, UNODC and the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), many CMS Parties continue to face enforcement challenges due to weak penalties, limited coordination, and the rapid expansion of online trade. Strengthening deterrence through higher penalties (a study on penalties and deterrence is proposed in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.23), alongside enhanced enforcement capacity and the strategic use of new technologies, represents a critical path forward.
36. A coordinated framework, such as under the proposed global initiative on illegal and unsustainable taking, can be a vehicle to link efforts across species and regions, ensuring more coherent and impactful action.
37. Greater cooperation between CMS and other international organizations – including CITES, FAO, UNODC and ICWC – is essential to ensure that tools and policies across global conventions are complementary, and that gaps between international trade regulation and domestic enforcement and compliance are closed.
38. KMGBF Target 5 commits Parties to ensuring that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, thereby preventing overexploitation, reducing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and minimizing the risk of pathogen spillover. It emphasizes the application of the ecosystem approach and the protection of customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. CMS, through its efforts to address the illegal and unsustainable take of migratory species, is directly contributing to the implementation of this target. By addressing unsustainable exploitation, CMS not only advances species conservation but also safeguards ecological integrity, strengthens legal and sustainable wildlife use, and reinforces global commitments under the KMGBF.
39. Reversing trends in illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species requires action across policy, legal, institutional, ecological and socio-cultural dimensions. The workstreams initiated under COP14 and expanded for COP15 provide a strong foundation for advancing a comprehensive and coordinated CMS-wide response that supports national implementation, promotes best practices, and secures better outcomes for migratory species and the communities associated with them.

Recommended actions

40. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
- a) note the *Review of Cross-Cutting Aspects* in Annex 1;
  - b) note the Scoping Analysis Summary and Recommendations contained in Annex 2;
  - c) note the review on the *Impacts of Take and Trade of Migratory Birds for Consumption in Africa-Eurasia* executive summary in Annex 3;
  - d) adopt the proposed amendments to Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP14) contained in Annex 4 of this document;
  - e) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 5 of this document; and
  - f) delete Decisions 14.182–14.185.

## REVIEW OF CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

### Introduction

1. To identify potential cross-cutting aspects, the CMS Secretariat conducted a comprehensive review of existing activities within the CMS framework.
2. The aim of this review is to show Parties which aspects of existing CMS activities could be implemented in a more coordinated or cross-cutting manner to effectively address the issue of illegal and unsustainable take. By showcasing individual examples, this analysis hopes to provide a policy foundation for Parties to build upon and to provide Parties with the necessary information and guidance to implement effective measures to reduce illegal and unsustainable take.
3. Annex 1/Add.1 provides a comprehensive inventory of Decisions, Resolutions and programmes under CMS that address the issue of illegal and unsustainable taking of species. It categorizes activities by source (e.g., CMS Decisions, Resolutions, MOUs, and other initiatives). It serves as a practical tool for Parties to identify overlapping efforts, replicate best practices, and inform national strategies to combat illegal and unsustainable take.
4. The results of the review are to be presented to the Conference of the Parties for further discussion.

### Methodology

5. The Secretariat carried out this analysis by first assessing all activities that address illegal and unsustainable take within the CMS framework. Then examples were chosen to highlight potential cross-cutting aspects.
6. The analysed documents are:
  - [Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle \(\*Eretmochelys imbricata\*\) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region](#);
  - [Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa](#);
  - [Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin \(\*Sousa teuszii\*\)](#);
  - [African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\)](#);
  - [Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds \(IKB\)](#);
  - [Multi-Species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures \(Vulture MsAP\)](#);
  - [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#);
  - [Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative](#);
  - [African Elephant Action Plan](#); and
  - [Draft Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032](#);

By identifying the cross-cutting aspects in existing activities, this review hopes to contribute to the ongoing effort to reduce illegal and unsustainable take.

## **Capacity-building**

7. The [Action Plan on Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests \(West Africa\)](#) calls for the training of coastal authorities to detect and manage illegal aquatic meat harvesting, as well as capacity-building in enforcement and species identification.
8. The [African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\)](#) suggests undertaking a comprehensive gap analysis to identify and prioritize research needs as well as urgent issues for migratory landbird species conservation. By analysing crucial conservation topics and research gaps the AEMLAP highlights the need to identify areas that would benefit from capacity-building. The availability of information and information-sharing are central to the strategic planning of resource distribution.
9. The [Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds \(IKB\)](#), developed by the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), acts as a capacity-building framework, helping countries assess gaps in legal, enforcement, and monitoring systems. It also supports peer-to-peer learning and offers technical support for implementing effective national response strategies against IKB.
10. Capacity-building is a major objective of the [Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative](#). Specifically, the POW focuses on the review and expansion of existing capacities to conserve, sustainably manage and monitor populations of ACI species. Furthermore, it suggests transferring relevant conservation skills to the local wildlife and enforcement authorities. The recommendations of the POW regarding capacity-building are important first steps. Assessing current capacities and the ability to utilize them effectively, such as through knowledge transfer, is crucial to identifying areas requiring further development and investment.
11. The [African Elephant Action Plan](#) highlights the role of funding for capacity- building, which extends to all thematic conservation areas and should therefore be considered an important cross-cutting aspect. To this end, the African Elephant Action Plan recommends training and recruiting more staff if needed, and ensuring that wildlife authorities are equipped with the appropriate tools to carry out their missions as safely and effectively as possible.
12. The [Draft Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032](#) supports training of border officials, anti-poaching units and local communities in conflict mitigation, wildlife monitoring and enforcement. It also aims to support building technical capacity in government agencies and scientific training for species research and conservation planning.

## **Law enforcement**

13. The [Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle \(\*Eretmochelys imbricata\*\) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region](#) aims to provide further insights into enforcement of legislation and laws. As a basis for law enforcement, the Action Plan calls for a legislative review to identify possible gaps and overlaps in legislation between countries. The enactment of new legislation on the conservation of the hawksbill turtle should build on identified gaps and remove identified overlaps. Part of law enforcement is also to strengthen surveillance, confiscation, monitoring and reporting structures, especially in coastal areas and transaction points.

14. [AEMLAP](#) calls for international cooperation between enforcement authorities and other stakeholders in the regulation, implementation and enforcement of the taking and trade of migratory landbird species.
15. The [IKB Scoreboard](#) includes specific indicators for assessing law enforcement to combat IKB: the establishment of a national action plan, stakeholder participation in policy changes, sufficient staff resources and associated specialized training and surveillance efforts. The IKB recognizes the need for sufficient resources and trained officers as a basis for law enforcement.
16. The [African Elephant Action Plan](#) aims to assess and strengthen law enforcement capacities by providing training and appropriate tools and equipment for staff. It also highlights the need for harmonization of existing laws within and across Range States as key for law enforcement; building on the harmonization of existing laws, new laws can be enacted where necessary.
17. The [Draft Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032](#) calls for relevant organizations, in collaboration with the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, to identify priorities for increasing the capacity of Parties for monitoring and enforcement of national legislation and regulations and other measures pertaining to the illegal taking of CAMI species.

#### **The role of conservation innovation in supporting activities to prevent illegal taking of species**

18. The [Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle \(\*Eretmochelys imbricata\*\) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region](#) highlights the role of all available technologies in determining key trade routes, methods, volumes and trade 'hot-spots' that can be used for monitoring trade in hawksbill turtles.
19. The [Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin \(\*Sousa teuszii\*\)](#) emphasizes the use of spatial tools for assessing impacts from fisheries and human activities across its West African range.
20. The [Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa](#) notes that technological resources are not available for enforcement.
21. The use of assistive technology, such as surveillance equipment, is also emphasized in the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) as a tool for increasing enforcement capabilities.
22. [AEMLAP](#) integrates GIS mapping, satellite/GPS tagging, and digital citizen-reporting platforms to monitor migratory routes, detect illegal taking and facilitate data-sharing across countries, with the aim of assessing and reducing illegal landbird mortality.
23. The role of new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement (including SMART, portable DNA toolkits, point-to-point security camera networks, LoRa networks or satellite-powered AI camera traps) is highlighted in the [Draft Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032](#).
24. The [African Elephant Action Plan](#) calls for identifying the origin of seized ivory and determining the pattern of illegal trade routes and networks for ivory smuggling using available DNA analysis and other forensic techniques.

## **Community engagement**

25. The [Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa](#) addresses cross-cutting aspects related to community engagement. The fundamental view of the Action Plan is that community-based solutions for protecting aquatic wildmeat species can often be enforced more effectively than national legislation. A suggested strategy includes the identification and dissemination of these community-based approaches to other communities through dedicated programmes. Furthermore, the Action Plan highlights the need to better understand and transform community attitudes towards species protection by implementing environmental education programmes.
26. The topic of community engagement is also a cross-cutting theme in the [Multi-Species Action Plan to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures \(Vulture MsAP\)](#). To emphasize the importance of vulture conservation, local communities are engaged in identifying and investigating key nesting and roosting sites of vultures. In this way, local communities can help to ensure that sufficient habitats are available for the vultures. A specific strategy is to compensate local communities through insurance schemes for livestock endangered by wildlife and to share revenues in protected areas with local communities, thereby disincentivizing the poisoning or killing of wildlife.
27. The [Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative](#) calls for enhancing the coexistence of local communities with ACI species by including local stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable management and conservation plans for the ACI species and their prey.
28. The [Draft Work Programme for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative 2026-2032](#) calls for the involvement of local communities in the conservation and management of CAMI species. The recommended actions of the Draft Work Programme aim to create long-term benefits for both local communities and biodiversity, through support and expansion of incentive-based and conservation-linked livelihood-improvement projects and, where feasible, community-based wildlife-related tourism.

## **Awareness-raising**

29. The [Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin \(\*Sousa teuszii\*\)](#) provides further insights into the cross-cutting aspects related to awareness-raising. The Action Plan emphasizes the need to design awareness-raising materials tailored to different types of stakeholders, including materials for schools, social media, government and industry stakeholders. An important aspect of awareness-raising is also to design the resources, like posters, infographics and presentations, in a way that they can be easily translated into different languages to reach the targeted audience.
30. The [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) recommend raising awareness among stakeholders on the use of non-toxic alternatives for ammunition and livestock treatment to reduce the risk of bird poisoning. To combat the poisoning of migratory birds by lead ammunition for instance, they highlight the importance of providing informative resources, including visual materials, particularly in support of initiatives at key poisoning sites. They also emphasize product stewardship as a key awareness-raising strategy. By engaging manufacturers and stakeholders in responsible practices, stewardship ensures they recognize and address their products' environmental impact. In the veterinary pharmaceutical industry, initiatives like patent extensions for safer non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) incentivize eco-friendly innovation while educating professionals and consumers on risks to migratory birds.

31. The [Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative](#) calls for assessing and integrating conservation education into school, university and professional training curricula, while expanding public engagement efforts. Additionally, targeted awareness campaigns for communities living with carnivores, key stakeholders and consumer groups to address challenges of unsustainable take and contribute to solving human-wildlife conflict are recommended.

## **Recommendations**

32. Based on the review the following cross-cutting recommendations have been identified:

### *Strengthen national frameworks*

- Conduct regular legislative reviews to identify gaps in protection, enforcement and prosecution related to illegal and unsustainable take for all CMS-listed species;
- Harmonize national laws with relevant CMS Resolutions and improve coherence across borders for species protection;

### *Build enforcement and monitoring capacity*

- Allocate sustained funding for equipment and training for rangers, and customs and border authorities;
- Use tools like the IKB Scoreboard for all CMS-listed species to self-assess and address weaknesses in enforcement systems;
- Utilize tools such as AI-driven camera traps, DNA forensics, satellite tagging, and GIS mapping for species tracking and law enforcement;

### *Engage local communities*

- Develop community-based conservation initiatives that benefit multiple species, including livelihood incentives;
- Incorporate local knowledge and needs in planning;

### *Invest in awareness and education*

- Implement national awareness campaigns on all CMS-listed species present in a region tailored to different stakeholder groups; and
- Translate materials into local languages and promote conservation education in formal curricula.

## ANNEX 1/Add.1

**LIST OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES  
ADDRESSING ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKE UNDER CMS**

**CMS Decisions**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b><a href="#">Decision Number</a></b>
National Legislation Programme and Review Mechanism	February 2024	14.29
Bycatch and Other Fisheries-Induced Mortality	February 2024	14.31-14.34
The Maltreatment and Mutilation of Seabirds in Fisheries	February 2024	14.38-14.40
Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)	February 2024	14.119-14.124
Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force	February 2024	14.125
South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force	February 2024	14.126-14.129
Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds	February 2024	14.134-14.136
Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures	February 2024	14.148-14.157
Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife	February 2024	14.182-14.185
Aquatic Wild Meat	February 2024	14.186-14.189
Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa	February 2024	14.190-14.193

## CMS Resolutions

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative	February 2024	2-4	CMS Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14)	A framework initiative to protect several species inhabiting the Sahel, Sahara, and Danakil Desert and adjoining desert and semidesert.	The Action Plan for the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative focuses on: establishing the current status of all species; taking urgent action to prevent the extinction of the most threatened species; protecting known populations of all species effectively; establishing community programmes on SSMF species; involving local communities in the management of protected areas, recognizing the value of local practices and know-how in relation to SSMF species and habitats; promoting intercommunity dialogue and income-generating activities; promoting community initiatives for the conservation and valorization of SSMF.
Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes	October 2017	1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7	CMS Resolution 11.22 (Rev.COP12)	"At CMS COP 11, Parties noted that the IUCN recognizes that live capture can be a serious threat to local cetacean populations when poorly managed. The COP further urged Parties to implement stricter measures regarding the taking and transport of Cetaceans."	To limit the adverse effects of live capture, best practice guidelines for the commercial taking of cetaceans from the wild were established. These include recommendations for stricter domestic measures as well as recommendations for developing national legislation.
Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds	February 2024	1 & 3	CMS Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)	As part of the Resolution, Parties adopted the <i>Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds</i> . Parties were further encouraged to monitor and evaluate the impact of poisoning on migratory bird species regularly at the national level as well as to prevent and minimize poison impacts.	The <i>Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds</i> contain a number of useful recommendations, legislative and non-legislative. They include, for instance, the phase-out of the use of lead ammunition and the development of good practice for predator control.

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds	February 2024	1,2,3 & 5	CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14)	The Conference of Parties urged Parties to commit to a zero-tolerance approach to the illegal killing of birds. Furthermore, it decided to establish a number of task forces related to the issue and to strengthen international cooperation.	The web page of the <i>Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)</i> contains a number of useful resources, which could include cross-cutting aspects. These include, among others, the MIKT Workplan for the period 2021-2025, the Rome Strategic Plan, and the MIKT Programme of Work 2016-2020.  As part of MIKT, a Scoreboard has been adopted as a self-assessment tool by members, enabling them to track progress in eradicating IKB. The Scoreboard provides a standardized framework for data collection at the national level, allowing countries to assess their progress, guide action and set priorities. It also helps for sharing best practice and experience.
Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)	February 2024	1	CMS Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14)	Parties adopted the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) and its Annexes and encouraged non-Parties and stakeholders to implement the Action Plan as a matter of priority.	In the AEMLAP various recommendations are listed to tackle the issue of taking and trade of migratory landbirds. They can be found under 2.0 Taking and Trade in the list of actions.
Saker Falcon ( <i>Falco cherrug</i> ) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP)	February 2024	2 & 4	CMS Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP14)	At CMS COP 11, Parties decided to continue the implementation of the SakerGAP with the overall goal of reestablishing a healthy and self-sustaining wild saker falcon population throughout its range.	The SakerGAP is a comprehensive document, which provides extensive information about the saker falcon and the threats facing the species. Potential cross-cutting aspects can be found in the adaptive management framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the species.
Central Asian Mammals Initiative	February 2020	1	CMS Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13)	In June 2025, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Range States endorsed the Draft Work Programme 2026-2032 for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) to improve the conservation of large migratory	The CAMI Work Programme recommends various different actions to address the illegal or unsustainable take of mammals in Central Asia. Among them are actions aimed at strengthening enforcement capacity to address illegal taking, harnessing the use of conservation technology,

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife	February 2024	1-21	CMS Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP14)	mammals and their habitats in the Central Asian region. As part of the Resolution, Parties are urged to identify the drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction and develop strategies to effectively address such activities.	and involving local communities in the management of CAMI species. The document includes a list of steps and recommended actions, which are useful for Parties interested in limiting illegal and unsustainable taking of their wildlife. These include suggestions to strengthen domestic authorities and to increase international collaboration.
National Legislation Programme and Review Mechanism	October 2017	I. 1 & II. 1,2	CMS Resolution 12.9	At CMS COP12, the Parties established the review mechanism and a National Legislation Programme to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. The National Legislation Programme is a supportive, non-adversarial and facilitative activity, which aims to ensure long-term compliance with Article III, paragraphs 4(a) and (b) and 5.	COP13 took note of the Legislative Guidance Materials and Model Law prepared by the Secretariat to support Parties in long-term compliance with Article III.5, which prohibits the taking of CMS Appendix I-listed species.
Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures	February 2024	1,2 & 4	CMS Resolution 12.10 (Rev.COP14)	At CMS COP 14, Parties adopted the 12-year Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029. The Conference called upon Parties to strengthen national and local capacity in order to facilitate effective implementation of the Action Plan.	The Vulture MsAP provides a detailed overview over the threats Vultures face. Additionally, the plan proposes a number of actions to combat each threat, which also includes a list of relevant stakeholders who are most likely to be concerned with or affected by vulture conservation actions.
Flyways	February 2024	1-3	CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14)	As part of the Resolution, Parties agreed to continue the Americas Flyways Task Force, to coordinate the development and implementation of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Americas Flyways Action Plan.	The Resolution includes various recommended actions targeting illegal take and the unsustainable use of birds.

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the European Turtle-Dove ( <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> ) 2018-2028	May 2018	3	CMS Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP14)	The Conference acknowledged the adoption of the Action Plan for the European Turtle-Dove and urged Parties to implement the relevant provisions of the document.	The International Single Species Action Plan includes a number of specific measures targeting the illegal killing of these birds and recommendations for sustainably harvesting them.
Aquatic Wild Meat	October 2017	1-4	CMS Resolution 12.15	The Resolution provides a mandate for determining why aquatic wild meat is harvested and consumed, documenting traditional and taboo systems that may contribute to informal governance and conservation, and identifying funding gaps and technical needs in countries where aquatic wild meat use is prominent;	Recommends that Parties, non-Party Range States and other stakeholders, including NGOs, cooperate, as appropriate, to: a) increase collaboration and information-sharing among CMS Parties to better understand and monitor aquatic wild meat harvests; b) increase scientific knowledge and understanding of the impacts of subsistence use of CMS-listed species as aquatic wild meat on the survival and regeneration of these species, in the context of growing human populations and pressures on wildlife resources and ecosystems; c) provide adequate financial, technical and capacity support to ensure that the harvest of CMS-listed species for aquatic wild meat for subsistence purposes is legal and sustainable.
Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region	October 2017	1, 4	CMS Resolution 12.17	The Conference of the Parties adopted the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales and called upon Parties to strengthen national and local capacity for cetacean conservation.	The Action Plan includes a table of recommendations to improve their conservation status. Among these are measures such as the establishment of a non-take zone for stocks of all whales as well as actions targeting ship strikes.
Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan	February 2024	1	CMS Resolution 12.19 (Rev.COP14)	At CMS COP 14, the African Elephant Action Plan (2023) was endorsed, and African Elephant Range States were urged to make full use of the	The Action Plan includes a number of useful recommendations that address illegal take. A specific focus of the Action Plan are measures addressing the issue of poaching.

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Bycatch	October 2017	1-24	CMS Resolution 12.22	<p>funding opportunities provided through the African Elephant Fund to implement the plan effectively.</p> <p>"The Conference reaffirmed the obligation on all Parties to protect migratory species against bycatch, including seabirds, fishes, marine turtles and aquatic mammals. Furthermore, it requested all Parties to minimize as far as possible the incidental mortality of migratory species."</p>	<p>The Resolution calls on Parties to implement appropriate schemes (including, where appropriate, on-board observers or electronic monitoring systems) for fisheries within waters under their jurisdiction, or carried out by flagged fishing vessels under their jurisdiction or control, in order to determine the impact of fisheries bycatch on migratory species.</p>
Chondrichthyan Species (Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras)	February 2020	1-6, 9, 12	CMS Resolution 13.3	<p>Parties were requested to strengthen measures against illegal fishing and urged to eliminate finning among other measures to further the conservation of chondrichthyan species.</p>	<p>Parties' RFMOs and other relevant bodies, are asked to minimize the impact of fishing in migration corridors and other habitats deemed critical to the recovery and sustainability of chondrichthyan species populations.</p>
Joint CITES–CMS African Carnivores Initiative	February 2020	4	CMS Resolution 13.4	<p>By recognizing the Joint CITES–CMS African Carnivores Initiative as a framework to improve collaboration regarding the protection of African carnivores, the COP took an important step to further conservation measures in the region.</p>	<p>The newly established African Carnivores Initiative's Programme of Work includes a number of recommended activities to minimize illegal trade and illegal or incidental killing at local, national and global levels.</p>
Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin ( <i>Sousa teuszii</i> )	February 2024	1	CMS Resolution 14.10	<p>At CMS COP 14, Parties adopted the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (<i>Sousa teuszii</i>) with the goal of promoting the long-term sustainability of its populations and their habitats by reducing the negative effects of human activities through research, awareness-raising, capacity-building</p>	<p>The Single Species Action Plan provided Parties with detailed recommended actions for policies and regulations to ensure the conservation of the species.</p>

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region	February 2024	1-6	CMS Resolution 14.11	and conservation action. The Conference adopted the Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region and urged Parties to undertake actions addressing use and trade of the species.	The Single Species Action Plan contains 23 proposed actions, which are targeted at ensuring the conservation of the species.
Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> ) in the Mediterranean Sea	February 2024	1-8	CMS Resolution 14.12	CMS COP 14 adopted the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> ) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) with the goal of promoting the long-term sustainability of its populations and their habitats and urged Parties to implement the relevant provisions.	The SSAP Angelshark Med provides a framework of action with concrete proposals aimed at reducing the incidents of illegal take.
Central Asian Flyway Initiative	February 2024	6	CMS Resolution 14.13	Parties established an Initiative for Central Asian Flyway (ICAF) as a platform for international cooperation under the umbrella of CMS. Furthermore, they agreed to establish a Programme of Work (POW) that provides concrete, coordinated and synergistic conservation activities that can be amended or adapted, as required.	The ICAF POW lists numerous recommendations that deal with the sustainable management of waterbird species. The proposed actions range from measures against illegal trade to actions against poaching.
Jaguar Initiative	February 2024	1-7	CMS Resolution 14.14	The Initiative stems from recognition that the Jaguar needs concerted regional conservation, including knowledge and community awareness, due to loss and growing	Focus on conservation strategies that address threats to jaguars: trade in illegal parts, poaching, and retaliation due to human conflicts.

Name	Date	Paragraph	Source	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa	February 2024	1-7	CMS Resolution 14.15	fragmentation of its range and habitat, and increased poaching and trafficking in parts. The Conference of the Parties adopted the Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa and urged Parties to implement the provisions.	The Action Plan seeks to focus policy and science attention on these regional harvests, and where possible to take steps towards sustainable management of these activities.

### Other activities within the CMS Framework

Name	Date	Paragraph	Link	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Guidelines for Technical Measures to Minimize Cetacean-Fishery Conflicts in the Mediterranean and Black Sea	November 2024	1	ACCOBAMS Resolution 2.12	The Meeting of Parties established a working group with the aim of creating guidelines on minimizing mortality resulting from bycatch, among other things.	The Guidelines provides the Parties with a number of recommendations to lessen the negative effects of bycatch.
Update Report on the Use of Non-toxic Shot for Hunting in Wetlands	September 2008	1	AEWA Resolution 4.1	The 4 <sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of Parties urged contracting States to phase out the use of lead shot in wetlands as soon as possible, in accordance with the recommendations from the update report on the use of non-toxic shot for hunting in wetlands.	The Update Report contains recommendations on the use of non-toxic shot for hunting as well as an overview of additional informational resources regarding the issue.
Guidelines on Sustainable Harvest of Migratory Waterbirds	November 2015	4	AEWA Resolution 6.4	The 6 <sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of Parties urged Parties to ensure that harvesting is undertaken only in conformity with the recommendations of the respective International Species Action Plans.	The Guidelines include extensive information about how to sustainably harvest, which could also be useful for actions concerning other species.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Short description</b>	<b>Potential cross-cutting aspects</b>
Monitoring and Mitigation of Small Cetacean Bycatch	September 2020	4	ASCOBANS Resolution 8.5 (Rev.MOP9)	At the 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties of ASCOBANS, Parties were called upon to tackle the issue of bycatch and to minimize anthropogenic removals.	The <i>Review of Methods used to Reduce Risks of Cetacean Bycatch and Entanglements</i> contains an analysis of bycatch and several recommended measures to reduce its negative impact.
The Sustainable Use of Saiga Antelopes: Perspectives and Prospects	September 2021	3.11	Saiga MOU MOS4 - Outcome 1	In the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2021-2025) there are a number of actions that address the issue of illegal or unsustainable take.	The report on <i>The Sustainable Use of Saiga Antelopes: Perspectives and Prospects</i> includes a review of potential institutional arrangements for sustainable hunting as well as specific perspectives on this issue from different countries.
IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU Work Programme (2024-2028)	June 2024	6	MOS9 Outcome 9.1	At the 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Signatories, Signatories agreed a comprehensive Work Programme tailored to meet the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan.	The updated Programme of Work contains a number of measures aimed at reducing the unsustainable take of turtles such as actions against bycatch, illegal trade and illegal take.
IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU Working Group on Illegal Take and Trade	September 2014	4-5	MOS9 Document 10.1	At their 9 <sup>th</sup> meeting, the Signatories agreed to renew the mandate of the Illegal Trade Working Group.	The task list of the Illegal Take Working Group includes various action points addressing the overarching topic of the Working Group, including collaboration with relevant working groups under CMS.
Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa - Revised Conservation and Management Plan	September 2023	Objectives 3-5	CMS/Atlantic-Turtle-MOU/MOS3	At the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Signatories, Signatories revised the Conservation and Management Plan	The Revised Conservation and Management Plan outlines comprehensive strategies to mitigate human-induced threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats. Key priorities include identifying, adapting and promoting best practices that are culturally appropriate and grounded in traditional knowledge. The plan emphasizes correcting harmful economic incentives through socioeconomic and behaviour-change studies, and modifying incentives to reduce threats. It also focuses on minimizing the impact of both artisanal and industrial fisheries by developing safer fishing gear, training stakeholders and improving

Name	Date	Paragraph	Link	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
Medium-Term Implementation Priorities from the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2013-2017 for the Pacific Cetaceans MOU	2013	Themes 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7	/	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meetings of the Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MOU agreed that establishing medium-term implementation priorities would help prioritize work areas, assist partners identify where resources are most urgently needed and provide a tangible means of measuring collective progress.	legislation. The Plan outlines a broad regional strategy, with several priorities focused on addressing the illegal and unsustainable take of cetaceans. It emphasizes improving the reporting and documentation of direct takes – including hunting and live captures – as well as enhancing national legislation to ensure compliance with international conventions. The plan promotes development of management systems and mitigation strategies to ensure species’ sustainability, and supports training, enforcement and surveillance capacity for national protection measures. It calls for assessments of harvest impacts on targeted species and encourages community involvement, traditional knowledge integration, and education to shift cultural practices where necessary. Additionally, the Plan urges increased collaboration with fisheries to reduce bycatch and depredation, and the implementation of national and regional recovery plans that reflect the threats posed by illegal and unsustainable exploitation.
Conservation and Management Plan for The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs	October 2007	Objectives 1, 8, 9	/	The Conservation and Management Plan for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs ( <i>Dugong dugon</i> ) and their Habitats throughout their Range was formally adopted when the MOU entered into force on 31 October 2007	The Plan addresses illegal and unsustainable take of dugongs through a combination of threat assessment, legal enforcement and community engagement. It calls for monitoring and assessing the scale and drivers of illegal take, including customary use, while promoting culturally sensitive management strategies. The Plan emphasizes strengthening national legislation, enhancing enforcement capacity, and addressing gaps in legal frameworks. It also supports socioeconomic research to inform

Name	Date	Paragraph	Link	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
(Dugong Dugon) and their Habitats throughout their Range					incentive-based alternatives and encourages regional cooperation to combat illegal trade. Community-based monitoring, education and eco-guardian programmes are promoted to empower local stakeholders in conservation and enforcement efforts.
Sharks MOU: Programme of Work	February 2023	5	Sharks MOU MOS4 - Outcome 4.4	At the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Signatories, a Programme of Work for the triennium 2023-2025 (POW 2023-2025) was agreed upon to further improve the conservation status of sharks.	The POW includes several measures targeting, for example, fisheries-induced mortality of sharks and rays. Each action in the POW includes a priority ranking, a responsible entity, a time frame, funding needs, mandate, and an approximation of the estimated Secretariat staff required for implementation.
Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali	September 2024	/	/	At the Range State Meeting on the Conservation of the Argali, a new single species action plan was adopted, which provides recommendations for individual Argali populations living in different sites.	The Action Plan contains a list of measures that target a wide variety of issues such as poaching, hunting and illegal trade.
Range-Wide Action Plan for the Asiatic Wild Ass	June 2023	/	/	At the Technical Workshop for the Asiatic Wild Ass, the participants developed and adopted an action plan dedicated to the conservation of the Khulan.	The Action Plan includes measures targeting the illegal take of Khulan. Objectives 1 –14 are of particular relevance.
Work Programme for the Bukhara Deer (2025-2032)	September 2024	/	/	At the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Signatories to the Bukhara Deer MOU (MOS3), a new Programme of Work was adopted which focuses on differentiated measures for specific populations of the deer.	The Work Programme of the Bukhara Deer includes several measures aimed at limiting unsustainable take such as the introduction of sustainable hunting in certain areas.
West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan	September 2024	/	/	At the 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC7), Counsellors recommended the adoption of the	The Conservation Plan follows three main goals, which all include specific action points. Of particular relevance are those under Thematic Goal 1, which are dedicated to reducing

Name	Date	Paragraph	Link	Short description	Potential cross-cutting aspects
International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon ( <i>Falco concolor</i> )	September 2024	/	/	<p>West African Vulture Conservation Plan 2023-2043 at the next Standing Committee meeting.</p> <p>At the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC7), Counsellors recommended the adoption of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon 2024-2036 at the next Standing Committee meeting.</p>	<p>intentional killing of vultures linked to illegal take, use and trade.</p> <p>The International Single Species Action Plan includes a number of specific measures targeting the illegal killing of these birds.</p>

**ANNEX 2****ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES  
A SCOPING ANALYSIS**

*(Prepared by the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Species)*

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*(The full report can be found in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.28.1a](#))*

The illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species is a critical, escalating global challenge with severe consequences for biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and human well-being. Although there has been notable progress, illegal and unsustainable taking and trade continues to undermine conservation efforts. Importantly, while global attention often focuses on high-value international trafficking, the majority of exploitation occurs domestically, with all international trade originating within national borders.

This scoping analysis examines the multifaceted drivers behind illegal and unsustainable taking and use, including economic, social, cultural and governance factors. It highlights a representative set of CMS Appendix I and II species across terrestrial, avian and aquatic taxa that are among the most severely impacted. These profiles illustrate both the scale of the threat and the context-specific pressures that contribute to population declines.

The analysis also presents a selection of case studies showcasing measures that CMS Parties and partners have successfully implemented to improve compliance, strengthen enforcement, reduce bycatch and support community-led conservation, demonstrating that effective solutions exist and can be scaled.

Finally, the analysis provides a set of targeted recommendations.

*On legislation:*

To CMS Parties, with the support of the CMS Secretariat

- Adopt and implement national legislation in accordance with Articles III.5 and V.1 of CMS to strengthen measures addressing the illegal take of CMS species (participation in the CMS National Legislation Programme, implementation of the recommendations provided in the National Legislation Profile, use of the CMS Legislative Guidance Relating to Implementation of Article III.5);
- Strengthen the national regulatory framework through support for the integration of CMS listings into national legislation for listed species; and
- Promote policy coherence and inter-agency coordination to harmonize legislative measures under CMS with related obligations and objectives under other biodiversity-related MEAs, minimizing overlaps and maximizing synergies in addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of species.

*On international cooperation:*

To CMS Parties, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, scientific institutions and NGOs

- Establish collaborative mechanisms, including MOUs, in particular with neighbouring countries and those on migratory routes of shared species, to jointly address illegal and unsustainable trade in CMS species, enhancing regional conservation impact (e.g. reduce demand, confiscate illegal shipments, and share intelligence and enforcement data, strengthening cross-border responses);
- Participate and contribute in CMS Task Forces on Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds for the Mediterranean, Asia-Pacific and South-West Asia respectively ([MIKT](#), [ITTEA](#) and [SWAITB](#)), as well as consult and use legislative guidance developed by MIKT as relevant; and
- Establish regional cooperation through networking of research institutes and management agencies, and harmonization of protocols for monitoring migratory species between states.

*On monitoring of species and illegal take and trade:*

To CMS Parties, with the support of scientific institutions and NGOs

- Strengthen monitoring and data collection including through developing identification guides for CMS species, training in monitoring techniques, and using new technologies; and
- For aquatic species, train observers on fishing vessels and landing centre staff.

*On capacity-building and improving detection of illegal take and trade:*

To CMS Parties, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, scientific institutions and NGOs

- Build capacity among enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities to effectively detect and address illegal take and trade in CMS species, integrating training on wildlife crimes into the national curricula of relevant academies and institutions;
- Share experience and adopt international best practice as regards setting of deterrent penalties for wildlife crime;
- Share experience on the use of new technologies for detection, evidence gathering, enforcement and prevention of wildlife crime;
- Improve monitoring and enforcement for aquatic species, through on-board observers and electronic monitoring on 100% of vessels to detect bycatch and infringements (including illegal trade), through port-based outreach, training for port, customs and maritime authorities, and deployment of onboard observers to reduce bycatch and other non-target catch of migratory species; and
- Address illegal online trade in CMS species (including policies and legislation regulating online wildlife trade, regular monitoring of digital platforms, and public awareness campaigns promoting responsible online behaviour).

*On addressing unsustainable take:*

To CMS Parties, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, scientific institutions and NGOs

- In line with CMS Article V.1, establish robust and clear procedures for scientifically set quotas for sustainable taking of migratory species that address risks of

compounded harvesting pressure, ensuring that transboundary populations of CMS species are not overexploited by different countries due to lack of coordinated assessment/decision-making. Where appropriate, apply bycatch mitigation measures where threatened CMS-listed species are being bycaught in fishing gear and beach seines;

- Strengthen and coordinate national and international monitoring of size and trajectory of populations of migratory species to improve understanding of what levels of cumulative offtake can be supported and how populations are responding to any management measures in place; and
- Strengthen international systems that gather information on levels of take of migratory species in all the countries supporting a population, assess sustainability and advise on which countries need to address levels of take of particular species as a priority.

*On involvement of local communities:*

- Implement effective community-led approaches to address illegal and unsustainable taking of species, including co-management of wildlife, participatory monitoring of taking, and inclusive consultation on legislation; and
- Develop strategies to effectively address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species based on identified drivers in engagement with local communities (e.g. supporting behaviour change, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and integrating other locally relevant measures).

## IMPACTS OF TAKE AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS FOR CONSUMPTION IN AFRICA-EURASIA

(Prepared by BirdLife International; full report in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.28.1b](#))

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overexploitation is the most prevalent threat to migratory and CMS-listed birds, with the 2024 *State of the World's Migratory Species* report finding that nearly half of CMS-listed birds are threatened by overexploitation due to intentional use. Consumption for food is thought to be a major driver of unsustainable take and trade, but the scale and impacts have not been systemically reviewed to inform policy and management. Recognizing this information gap, CMS Parties requested a review of the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption for avian species listed in CMS Appendices I and II, following on from equivalent reviews conducted for terrestrial mammals and aquatic megafauna.

Given the large number of CMS-listed birds, the review focused on the African-Eurasian region, as defined by the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). It assessed **all African-Eurasian avian species listed at species level in CMS Appendices I and II as well as those on the list of potential avian taxa for listing endorsed by CMS COP14**, recognizing that many additional species meet the criteria for listing and so an understanding of consumption of these species would also be useful. The **project species list is comprised of 302 species** from 18 orders: **224 species listed under the CMS appendices** (16 listed under Appendix I only, 59 listed under both Appendix I and II, and 149 listed under Appendix II only) and 78 species on the potential list.

The review addressed questions related to the scale and type of take for consumption, motivations, direct impacts on species populations including a selection of globally threatened avian species, indirect impacts on other species, ecosystems and people including zoonotic disease risks, governance frameworks, conservation action and policy needs, and knowledge gaps. Information was obtained through a systematic online literature review including relevant data from a public call for information and expert input, a review of information in the IUCN Red List database, a review of three regional assessments of the illegal killing of birds (IKB) coordinated in the Africa-Eurasia region by BirdLife International and an unpublished dataset on legal killing in the European Union, a search of relevant hunting, trade and use databases (the TRAFFIC Wildlife Trade Portal, WILDMEAT database and Sustainable Use Database – SpUD), and a review of national reports submitted by Parties to CMS. Finally, a brief review of international and national governance frameworks, and analyses of the national interpretation of CMS and other relevant frameworks in relation to the take and consumption of Appendix I-listed species, including in case study countries, was conducted.

The main findings and recommendations of the review are:

#### 1. Widespread consumption of migratory birds

- **Species impacted:** 70% of CMS-listed species (157 out of 224) were recorded as consumed, with higher proportions for species listed under Appendix I only (95%) compared to Appendix II only or on the potential list (61%).
- **Geographical scope:** Consumption of CMS-listed project species was recorded in 84 (68%) of the 123 AEMLAP countries, with limited overlap between data sources.

- **Scale of consumption:** Around 11-37 million birds are estimated to be illegally killed per year in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Caucasus, including around 3.5 million individual birds of CMS-listed species, of which the majority (97%) were consumed as food, with considerable variety between countries and sites. Legal hunting in areas such as the European Union is however far higher than this number (nearly 90% of a sample of species studied). These data are, however, not consistently collected, collated or published to enable calculation of a clear quantitative total estimate of numbers of birds of all project species taken, both legally and illegally, across this region.

## 2. Motivations for take and trade

- **Primary reasons:** Where consumption was compared with other motivations for take, food consumption was a major driver, though often with sport/recreation the primary driver, alongside taxidermy/egg collection. Reasons for consumption vary by region; consumption for subsistence dominates outside Europe, with consumption as a delicacy important in Europe and for trade in the Middle East and Africa, which may be for medicinal use as well as wild meat. Use was relatively more important at national and international scales (i.e. trade) for raptors compared to other groups.
- **Non-food uses:** Belief-based use, particularly for vultures, was significant in some areas, especially in West Africa.
- **Illegality:** 80% of the 69 CMS-listed species recorded as taken for consumption in the systematic review were reported as taken illegally, with the majority of take being recorded as being illegal for all regions apart from Europe. Reference to knowledge of CMS/relevant legislation in the publication may slightly improve the level of enforcement.

## 3. Direct impacts

- **Population declines:** The majority of the CMS-listed project species were assessed under the Red List as having decreasing populations globally (72% or 94 of 131 species with an assessment), of which most (81% or 76/94 species) were threatened by hunting and over half also used as food (56% or 53/94 species).
- **Unsustainable take:** 42% of species recorded in the systematic review were reported as taken at unsustainable levels.
- **Impacts on globally threatened species:** Examples where take for consumption is at least a major contributory factor to global population declines are the European turtle-dove, sociable lapwing, yellow-breasted bunting, yellow-casqued and other hornbills, marbled duck (previously marbled teal) and other birds in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq, and West African vultures.

## 4. Indirect impacts

- **Ecosystem services:** Declines in bird species, including hornbills, seabirds and vultures, disrupt ecosystem functions such as seed dispersal, nutrient cycling and disease control. Wider ecosystems are impacted by poisoning from lead shot in the UK and EU, and deliberate carbofuran pesticide poisoning of wetland birds including Black-tailed Godwit in Kenya.
- **Zoonotic disease risks:** While consumption of wildlife including birds is linked to risks of zoonotic disease transmission, evidence from the systematic review on direct links with the project species was limited. Conversely, many studies reported the positive role played by vultures in reducing disease risk from carrion and opportunistic scavengers such as dogs and rats, and thus the indirect negative impacts of vulture declines as a result of consumption.

## 5. Governance and legal protection

- **Weak implementation:** Many countries lack specific legal frameworks for migratory birds, and where species are legally protected, enforcement is often inadequate, with 80% of take for consumption reported as illegal in the publications reviewed in the systematic review.
- **Risks from direct use and trade to Appendix I species:** A large number of Appendix I species, including birds, are considered 'higher risk' in terms of vulnerability and threat from direct use and trade (including white-backed and Rüppell's vultures, which are at 'highest risk'). Birds were subject to less management than other taxa, and were more likely to be harvested for domestic than international use.
- **Appendix I protections:** Only 20/72 Appendix I project species were reported by CMS Parties to have 100% protection at national level, with average protection as low as 25% across all countries for one species (Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres*; caveated by incomplete submission of reports and the inclusion of CMS non-Parties (Range States)). Only 40% of CMS Appendix I species in six African case study countries could be considered protected under national laws (though often not fully covering the CMS definition of 'take'), and where derogations for traditional subsistence needs existed these were vague with potential for misuse.

## 6. Knowledge gaps

- **Challenges with CMS listings:** Discrepancies in species lists and lack of clarity on which species are protected hinder monitoring, legislative updates and effective implementation.
- **Data limitations:** Patchy and inconsistent data on consumption, hunting (even where this is legal), trade and impacts make comprehensive analysis and impact evaluation difficult.
- **Zoonotic links:** Limited research on the role of migratory bird consumption in zoonotic disease transmission.
- **Legal frameworks:** Weak or vague legislation in many countries, with gaps in enforcement and species-specific protections.

## 7. Conservation and policy examples

- **Cyprus:** Increased surveillance and enforcement reduced illegal bird trapping in the Eastern Sovereign Base Areas by 87% between 2002 and 2024.
- **Lake Chilwa, Malawi:** Community self-regulation of waterfowl hunting in this Important Bird and Biodiversity Area was found to be more effective at ensuring sustainability than an outright ban.
- **West Africa:** The West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan has been developed to address severe declines in large part due to consumption for belief-based use.
- **Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA):** This provides a model for population management of migratory birds.

## 8. Recommendations

- **Clarity on CMS listings:** Ensure consistency and clarity on which species are listed on the CMS appendices, with listings restricted to individual species; regularly review and update this list in accordance with COP Decisions and ensure it is publicly accessible and communicated to and used by CMS Parties and Range States.
- **Strengthened legislation:** Update national laws to align with CMS provisions including through the CMS National Legislation Programme, regularly review and closely regulate any exceptions to the general prohibition of take for Appendix I species, and ensure species-specific protections.

- **Strengthened penalties:** Ensure deterrence of illegal activity and training of prosecutors and judiciary in wildlife crime cases.
- **Improved enforcement:** Allocate adequate resources and personnel with appropriate training, skills and legal powers, and ensure necessary political will and backing, with a high priority given to detecting and pursuing wildlife crime including that related to migratory birds, working with other stakeholders (for example within the framework of a National IKB Action Plan and committee).
- **Improved compliance:** Conduct awareness-raising and training among hunter communities and ensure consistent messaging from international and national hunting organizations.
- **Alternative livelihoods:** Develop alternatives within communities reliant on subsistence consumption of wild birds.
- **Improved outreach and awareness-raising:** Target areas with high levels of consumption of wild birds to help reduce demand.
- **Improved monitoring:** Enhance data collection and reporting on both legal and illegal killing, taking and trade (including through market surveys), with a greater focus on collecting and synthesizing data to assess cumulative impact of take at population scale, including through employing adaptive harvest management approaches where possible. Improve monitoring of population size and trends to help in assessment of impact of take and track effectiveness of action.
- **International cooperation:** Promote coordinated conservation efforts across flyways, supporting frameworks like AEWA, and CMS action plans and task forces, supported with development of guidance, training and exchange of experience on best practice.

These findings highlight the urgent need for increased action at national scale as well as coordinated conservation efforts, improved legal frameworks, and enhanced data collection and reporting to address the unsustainable take and trade of migratory birds for consumption. Understanding the stakeholder groups involved in consumption of migratory birds and their motivations is key to devising and prioritizing effective actions nationally. By facilitating coordinated international action through relevant thematic, flyway-level and/or often multi-species Agreements, Task Forces, Action Plans and the like, with adequate resourcing and political support, CMS and its Range States can and must play a vital role in addressing the unsustainable take and trade of avian species for consumption, ensuring they and the ecosystems on which they and people depend, continue to thrive

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 11.31(Rev.COP14)

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

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><b>ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF <del>WILDLIFE</del> <u>MIGRATORY SPECIES</u></b></p> <p><del>Concerned that illegal and unsustainable taking<sup>1</sup> <u>use and trade of migratory species, especially at the domestic level, including wildlife crime</u>, is a growing threat to migratory species and the benefits they provide to ecosystems and people,</del></p>	<p>Title amended to make it clear that this Resolution refers to illegal and unsustainable taking and applies to all affected terrestrial, aquatic and avian species</p> <p>Revised to highlight the concern concerning growing taking, use and trade at the domestic level</p>	<p><b>ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES</b></p> <p><i>Concerned</i> that illegal and unsustainable taking<sup>1</sup>, use and trade of migratory species, especially at the domestic level, is a growing threat to migratory species and the benefits they provide to ecosystems and people,</p>

<sup>1</sup> In this document, the term “illegal and unsustainable taking” refers to taking that may be illegal, unsustainable, or both

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Recognizing</i> that wildlife crime and offences continue to take place at an unprecedented scale with global reach, as wildlife trafficking continues to be highly lucrative with little risk of prosecution and thus ranks right behind arms and drug smuggling and human trafficking worldwide,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Recognizing</i> that wildlife crime and offences continue to take place at an unprecedented scale with global reach, as wildlife trafficking continues to be highly lucrative with little risk of prosecution and thus ranks right behind arms and drug smuggling and human trafficking worldwide,</p>
<p><i>Further recognizing</i> that the illegal <u>and unsustainable</u> taking and trade of <u>migratory wildlife species</u> can increase the risk of zoonoses and pathogen spillover from wildlife to humans, <u>other wildlife, livestock, and other animals</u>;</p>	<p>Revised to indicate risk of transmission not just to humans but also livestock, which has implications for peoples' livelihoods.</p>	<p><i>Further recognizing</i> that the illegal and unsustainable taking and trade of migratory species can increase the risk of zoonoses and pathogen spillover from wildlife to humans, other wildlife, livestock, and other animals;</p>
<p><i>Concerned</i> that illegal and unsustainable taking of <del>wildlife</del> <u>species</u> cause an immense loss of revenue for States and local communities, severely damage livelihoods and ecosystems, negatively impact on sustainable utilization and tourism, and in some cases, lead to threats to human lives and fund organized criminal and other violent groups,</p>	<p>Small changes for consistency as we refer to illegal and unsustainable taking; as well as species</p>	<p><i>Concerned</i> that illegal and unsustainable taking of species cause an immense loss of revenue for States and local communities, severely damage livelihoods and ecosystems, negatively impact on sustainable utilization and tourism, and in some cases, lead to threats to human lives and fund organized criminal and other violent groups,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><del>Urges Parties and non Parties to strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies on wildlife trafficking and to monitor trade of specimens of species currently not listed in Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),</del></p>	<p>This is an operative paragraph and is deleted from preamble now operative paragraph 20 – see below for edits</p>	
<p>Acknowledging that “The Future We Want”, adopted at Rio+20 and endorsed by consensus of the United Nations General Assembly, “recognize[d] the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides”,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Acknowledging</i> that “The Future We Want”, adopted at Rio+20 and endorsed by consensus of the United Nations General Assembly, “recognize[d] the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides”,</p>
<p><u>Noting the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which highlighted direct overexploitation as one of the two key drivers of biodiversity loss,</u></p>	<p>Spelled out IPBES.</p>	<p><i>Noting</i> the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which highlighted direct overexploitation as one of the two key drivers of biodiversity loss,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Noting</i> that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted <del>six</del> <u>seven</u> Resolutions on wildlife trafficking, most recently Resolution <u>A/79/L.96 77/325</u>, adopted on <del>25 30 August</del> <u>June 2025</u> <del>3</del> on <i>Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife</i> which, <i>inter alia</i>, calls upon Member States to <u>“take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife; make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora a serious crime, and to review and amend national legislation, as necessary and appropriate, so that offences connected to the illegal trade in wildlife are treated as predicate offences; strengthen appropriate capacity for law enforcement agencies to monitor and investigate illegal online wildlife trade; work in cooperation with relevant organizations to identify and promote the use of solutions that utilize technology, including artificial intelligence, to support criminal prosecutions; recognize and support the crucial role played by rangers and guards, across the world, in the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking; and increase the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable and, as appropriate, alternative livelihood opportunities, in order to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking in wildlife”</u>,</p>	<p>Updated this with the adoption of the most recent Resolution</p>	<p><i>Noting</i> that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted seven Resolutions on wildlife trafficking, most recently Resolution A/79/L.96 77/325, adopted on June 2025 on <i>Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife</i> which, <i>inter alia</i>, calls upon Member States to “take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife; strengthen appropriate capacity for law enforcement agencies to monitor and investigate illegal online wildlife trade; work in cooperation with relevant organizations to identify and promote the use of solutions that utilize technology, including artificial intelligence, to support criminal prosecutions; recognize and support the crucial role played by rangers and guards, across the world, in the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking; and increase the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable and, as appropriate, alternative livelihood opportunities, in order to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking in wildlife”,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Welcoming</i> the discussions taking place under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Welcoming</i> the discussions taking place under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife</p>
<p><i>Taking note</i> of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council Decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Taking note</i> of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council Decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability,</p>
<p><i>Recognizing</i> the role of the CITES as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species' survival,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Recognizing</i> the role of the CITES as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species' survival,</p>
<p><i>Welcoming</i> the adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/3), acknowledging the role of CMS in countering such illegal activities and including the call for strengthened cross-agency cooperation,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Welcoming</i> the adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/3), acknowledging the role of CMS in countering such illegal activities and including the call for strengthened cross-agency cooperation,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Further welcoming</i> the continued work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), which includes UNODC, the Secretariat of CITES, Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Bank, as an important collaborative effort to strengthen enforcement,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Further welcoming</i> the continued work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), which includes UNODC, the Secretariat of CITES, Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Bank, as an important collaborative effort to strengthen enforcement,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Noting</i> the declaration and agreed urgent measures of the African Elephant Summit (Gaborone, December 2013), the Declaration of the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa (Paris, December 2013), the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade (London, February 2014), the anti-poaching declaration of African Ministers of Tourism and United Nations World Tourism Organization (Berlin, April 2014), and the declaration of the Conference to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and Illicit Trade (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, May 2014), <u>and the Declaration “Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action” of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Nice, France, June 2025).</u></p>	<p>Added reference to Ocean Conference declaration</p>	<p><i>Noting</i> the declaration and agreed urgent measures of the African Elephant Summit (Gaborone, December 2013), the Declaration of the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa (Paris, December 2013), the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade (London, February 2014), the anti-poaching declaration of African Ministers of Tourism and United Nations World Tourism Organization (Berlin, April 2014), and the declaration of the Conference to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and Illicit Trade (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, May 2014), and the Declaration “Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action” of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Nice, France, June 2025),</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><del>Further noting that the species listed on the CMS Appendices include many of those most affected by illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife, including African Elephants, Argali mountain sheep, Saiga antelopes, Snow leopards, Cheetahs, Gorillas, Saker falcons, Sharks, Sturgeons, Manta rays and marine turtles, and that their decline has severe negative impacts, both ecological and socio-economic,</del></p>	<p>Repeal. Its not a comprehensive list and does not add much.</p>	
<p>Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes numerous Goals and Targets related to the conservation, and sustainable, <u>safe and legal</u> use of wildlife, with particular relevance to migratory species, in particular Targets 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and 9,</p>	<p>Added reference to legal use and target 9</p>	<p>Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes numerous Goals and Targets related to the conservation, and sustainable, safe and legal use of wildlife, with particular relevance to migratory species, in particular Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9,</p>
<p>Also welcoming the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>Also welcoming the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Recognizing</i> the specific role of CMS in the global response to the illegal and unsustainable taking of <del>wildlife</del> <u>migratory species</u> by strengthening population management <i>in situ</i>, including population monitoring, awareness-raising, capacity-building, national law enforcement and creation of community-based approaches, both within Range States and across national borders where illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife is often hardest to control,</p>	<p>Small edit to reflect consistent use of term migratory species</p>	<p><i>Recognizing</i> the specific role of CMS in the global response to the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species by strengthening population management <i>in situ</i>, including population monitoring, awareness-raising, capacity-building, national law enforcement and creation of community-based approaches, both within Range States and across national borders where illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife is often hardest to control,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Further recognizing</i> the ongoing work of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to provide mechanisms for structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making and implementation to ensure the sustainable use of species, while maintaining them at a favourable conservation status, and the work of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) to ensure sustainability of any harvest of Saker Falcons including through development of an adaptive management framework under the CMS Saker Falcon Global Action Plan,</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p><i>Further recognizing</i> the ongoing work of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to provide mechanisms for structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making and implementation to ensure the sustainable use of species, while maintaining them at a favourable conservation status, and the work of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) to ensure sustainability of any harvest of Saker Falcons including through development of an adaptive management framework under the CMS Saker Falcon Global Action Plan,</p>
<p><u><i>Acknowledging</i> the work under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in providing best practice advice and strengthening regulation towards reducing the take of seabirds in the southern hemisphere by closely working with CMS Parties, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and non-Parties;</u></p>	<p>New paragraph recognizing ACAP in providing important guidance</p>	<p><i>Acknowledging</i> the work under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in providing best practice advice and strengthening regulation towards reducing the take of seabirds in the southern hemisphere by closely working with CMS Parties, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and non-Parties;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><u>Further recalling Art. III (5) of the Convention, which obliges Range States of Appendix I-listed migratory species to prohibit the taking of animals belonging to such species, except for specific and limited purposes, namely scientific research, enhancement of propagation or survival, traditional subsistence use, or in extraordinary circumstances, with such exceptions being precise in content and restricted in space and time, and ensuring that any such taking does not operate to the disadvantage of the species,</u></p>	<p>New paragraph.</p>	<p><i>Further recalling</i> Art. III (5) of the Convention, which obliges Range States of Appendix I-listed migratory species to prohibit the taking of animals belonging to such species, except for specific and limited purposes, namely scientific research, enhancement of propagation or survival, traditional subsistence use, or in extraordinary circumstances, with such exceptions being precise in content and restricted in space and time, and ensuring that any such taking does not operate to the disadvantage of the species,</p>
<p><u>Noting the relevant guidance and success stories available across several of the CMS instruments to achieve the recovery of migratory species;</u></p>	<p>New paragraph, highlighting guidance and success stories from CMS instruments.</p>	<p><i>Noting</i> the relevant guidance and success stories available across several of the CMS instruments to achieve the recovery of migratory species;</p>
<p><u>Recalling Target 3 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032, which focuses on addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species the value of CMS instruments, including its regional agreements and action plans, and its role in creating a platform for engaging all relevant stakeholders in addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management,</u></p>	<p>Adding reference to CMS SSPMS</p>	<p><i>Recalling</i> Target 3 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024 – 2032 which focuses on addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Further recalling</i> that CMS Parties have adopted Resolutions on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)), on <u>preventing</u> the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14)) and on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13)), which includes a programme of work for the conservation of large mammal migrations in Central Asia providing, <i>inter alia</i>, for anti-poaching and other actions to minimize wildlife crime,</p>	<p>Small clarification on name of Resolution</p>	<p><i>Further recalling</i> that CMS Parties have adopted Resolutions on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)), on preventing the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14)) and on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13)), which includes a programme of work for the conservation of large mammal migrations in Central Asia providing <i>inter alia</i> for anti-poaching and other actions to minimize wildlife crime,</p>
<p><u><i>Acknowledging</i> the work of the Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force, and the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force,</u></p>	<p>Paragraph added to recognize work of avian task forces</p>	<p><i>Acknowledging</i> the work of the Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force; and the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force,</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><del>Recognizing that illegal and unsustainable taking of <u>wildlife-migratory species</u> are not confined to terrestrial <u>and freshwater biomes landscapes</u>, but also have an impact on the marine environment, <del>where Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing and other forms of illegal and unsustainable taking (IUU) and other forms of illegal and unsustainable taking such as bycatch especially in the High Seas</del> <u>but also in areas within national jurisdiction, where bycatch of non-target species constitutes a severe threat to migratory species, in addition to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) constitute a severe threat to migratory species, especially in the High Seas but also in areas within national jurisdiction,</u></del></p>	<p>Revised language to clarify that bycatch of non-target species is a severe threat to migratory species in addition to IUU</p>	<p><i>Recognizing</i> that illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species are not confined to terrestrial and freshwater biomes but also have an impact on the marine environment, especially in the High Seas but also in areas within national jurisdiction, where bycatch of non-target species constitutes a severe threat to migratory species, in addition to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU).</p>
<p><del>Further recognizing the efforts and the initiative of Parties to develop and implement legislative provisions and programmes and to ensure that any utilization of <u>migratory species wildlife</u>, where it occurs, is sustainable, recognizing that in some circumstances utilization of <u>species wildlife</u> may contribute to conservation and is <u>allowed to secure community livelihoods of importance to the subsistence and culture of traditional communities, and</u></del></p>	<p>More accurate language</p>	<p><i>Further recognizing</i> the efforts of Parties to develop and implement legislative provisions and programmes and to ensure that any utilization of migratory species, where it occurs, is sustainable, recognising that in some circumstances utilization of species may contribute to conservation and of importance to the subsistence and culture of traditional communities, and</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><i>Welcoming</i> the close collaboration between CMS and CITES in working to ensure that the <u>taking and use of transboundary wildlife species</u> is legal and sustainable, including measures to eradicate illegal and unsustainable taking of <u>wildlife migratory species</u>, and calling for <del>the</del> <u>a new CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2024-2030</u> to be adopted <u>which addresses this area of work</u>,</p>	<p>Updated language for consistency and meeting/document information</p>	<p><i>Welcoming</i> the close collaboration between CMS and CITES in working to ensure that the taking and use of species is legal and sustainable including measures to eradicate illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species and calling for a new CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 20216-2030 to be adopted which addresses this area of work,</p>
<p><del><i>Recalling the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) and its Programme of Work, which includes objectives and actions addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of the ACI species;</i></del></p>	<p>Repeal. The paragraph above is meant to reflect all CITES-CMS collaborative work</p>	
<p><del>Instructs the Secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Customs Organization (WCO) in order to address illegal trade in wildlife and to strengthen the monitoring of trade in specimens of species currently not listed in CITES Appendices,</del></p>	<p>This is an operative paragraph in the preambular section. It is repealed because there is a more comprehensive operative paragraph</p>	

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

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p>1. <i>Encourages</i> Parties and non-Parties to take measures to increase awareness among relevant authorities, including enforcement, legislative, prosecution and judicial authorities, <del>the private sector and the public of illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife</del> <u>migratory species</u> and the negative impacts that it has on <del>migratory species</del> <u>them</u> and the benefits they provide;</p>	<p>Small language changes for consistency.</p>	<p>1. <i>Encourages</i> Parties and non-Parties to take measures to increase awareness among relevant authorities, including enforcement, legislative, prosecution and judicial authorities, the private sector and the public of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species and the negative impacts that it has on them and the benefits they provide;</p>
<p>2. Urges Parties and non-Parties to identify <u>and share the information on the drivers and scale</u> of illegal <u>and</u> unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction and <u>to develop and implement conservation strategies</u> to effectively address such activities, including <u>through</u> engagement with local communities <del>in identifying drivers and developing and implementing conservation strategies to address them;</del></p>	<p>Small clarificatory changes</p>	<p>2. <i>Urges</i> Parties and non-Parties to identify and share information on the drivers and scale of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction and to develop and implement conservation strategies to effectively address such activities, including through engagement with local communities;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p>3. <i>Recommends</i> that Parties and non-Parties provide greater information and training for their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities with respect to the significant threat of illegal and unsustainable taking of and trade in migratory species; including integrating training on wildlife crimes and offences into the national curricula of relevant training academies/schools where possible;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>3. <i>Recommends</i> that Parties and non-Parties provide greater information and training for their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities with respect to the significant threat of illegal and unsustainable taking of and trade in migratory species; including integrating training on wildlife crimes and offences into the national curricula of relevant training academies/schools where possible;</p>
<p>4. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders to increase national efforts on population estimates, <u>developing and maintaining</u> management and <u>science-based</u> monitoring <u>plans</u> <del>of for migratory species and develop and implement science-based management plans for CMS-listed species;</del></p>	<p>Small clarificatory changes</p>	<p>4. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders to increase national efforts on population estimates, developing and maintaining management and science-based monitoring plans for species;</p>
<p>5. <i>Urges</i> Parties and non-Parties to develop and implement effective and transparent systems for collecting data on the scale of exploitation of migratory species, and make public accurate data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>5. <i>Urges</i> Parties and non-Parties to develop and implement effective and transparent systems for collecting data on the scale of exploitation of migratory species, and make public accurate data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p>6. <i>Calls on</i> the Scientific Council to work with relevant stakeholders regularly to analyze data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species to identify those species for which cumulative take is clearly unsustainable and make recommendations;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>6. <i>Calls on</i> the Scientific Council to work with relevant stakeholders regularly to analyze data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species to identify those species for which cumulative take is clearly unsustainable and make recommendations;</p>
<p>7. <i>Urges</i> all Parties to take all necessary actions to prevent the illegal and unsustainable use and take of CMS-listed species <u>as well as conduct regular legislative reviews to identify gaps in protection, compliance, enforcement and prosecution to take appropriate measures to</u> and ensure that their legislation fully implements the provisions of the Convention, <del>is communicated to the public and provides for</del> <u>including penalties of</u> <del>for</del> wildlife crime that are effective, act as a deterrent, and reflect the gravity of the offence, and provide for the confiscation of specimens taken in violation of the Convention <u>and prosecution of offenders and pursuit of any illicit proceeds</u>;</p>	<p>Further important language</p>	<p>7. <i>Urges</i> all Parties to take all necessary actions to prevent the illegal and unsustainable take of CMS-listed species as well as conduct regular legislative reviews to identify gaps in protection, compliance, enforcement, and prosecution and ensure that their legislation fully implements the provisions of the Convention, including penalties for wildlife crime that are effective, act as a deterrent and reflect the gravity of the offence and provide for the confiscation of specimens taken in violation of the Convention, prosecution of offenders, and pursuit of any illicit proceeds;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><u>Urges Parties to use, where feasible, new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement to prevent illegal taking of migratory species;</u></p>	<p>New operative paragraph highlighting the use of technologies etc to prevent illegal taking etc</p>	<p>8. <i>Urges Parties to use, where feasible, new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement to prevent illegal taking, use and trade of migratory species;</i></p>
<p>8. <i>Urges Parties and invites non-Parties to strengthen national and transboundary law enforcement, <u>through participation, when possible, in transnational enforcement networks</u>, with emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and intelligence-sharing between relevant stakeholders, such as rangers, wildlife management <u>authorities</u>, <u>border authorities</u>, customs, police and the military;</i></p>	<p>Add for clarity and inclusiveness</p>	<p>9. <i>Urges Parties and invites non-Parties to strengthen national and transboundary law enforcement, through participation, when possible, in trans-national enforcement networks, with emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and intelligence sharing between relevant stakeholders, such as rangers, wildlife management authorities, border authorities, customs, police and the military;</i></p>
<p>9. <i>Suggests that Parties and non-Parties establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the management of shared wildlife populations and habitats with common <u>shared</u> boundaries, in order to minimize/<u>mitigate</u> illegal and unsustainable taking, use, sale and trafficking;</i></p>	<p>Clarifying language added</p>	<p>10. <i>Suggests that Parties and non-Parties establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the management of shared wildlife populations and habitats with shared boundaries, in order to minimize/mitigate illegal and unsustainable taking, use, sale and trafficking;</i></p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><del>Encourages Parties, where relevant and appropriate, and where posing no risk to human, wildlife or other animal health, to enhance cooperation for the repatriation of live, illegally traded wildlife with due consideration for the welfare of live wild animals, and promote the establishment of legal frameworks in recipient countries that ensure a timely and cost-efficient repatriation of live animals and eggs, ensuring that any such framework is consistent with Parties' obligations under CITES and national legislation and subject to relevant biosecurity and environmental concerns and policies, including relevant IUCN Guidelines for the management of confiscated, live organisms;</del></p>	<p>Repeal. This is under purview of CITES</p>	
<p>11. Encourages Parties and non-Parties, funding agencies and CMS Partners to support capacity-building nationally, across borders and in the High Seas for rangers, <u>border authorities</u>, customs, police, the military and other relevant bodies;</p>	<p>Added language for consistency</p>	<p>for 11. Encourages Parties and non-Parties, funding agencies and CMS Partners to support capacity-building nationally, across borders and in the High Seas for rangers, border authorities, customs, police, the military and other relevant bodies;</p>
<p>12. Calls upon Parties, <u>and</u> non-Parties and relevant development agencies to <u>promote support and recognize</u> community-based approaches in order to <u>that contribute to reducing and ideally eliminating</u> minimize the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species;</p>	<p>Revised for clarity</p>	<p>12. Calls upon Parties, and non-Parties to support and recognize community-based approaches that contribute to reducing and ideally eliminating the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><u>Urges Parties to treat the reduction of any illegal and unsustainable take of Appendix I species as a priority, and to report back at subsequent COPs;</u></p>	<p>New paragraph to underscore urgency when Appendix I species face declines</p>	<p>13. <i>Urges</i> Parties to treat the reduction of any illegal and unsustainable take of Appendix I species as a priority, and to report back at subsequent COPs;</p>
<p>13. <i>Suggests</i> the enacting of national laws that prohibit the possession and trade in illegally obtained wildlife specimens and products, including those obtained in contravention of legislation in their country, and ensuring that confiscated wildlife specimens are disposed of in the best possible manner aligned with the purposes of the Convention, and that does not stimulate further illegal trade;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>14. <i>Suggests</i> the enacting of national laws that prohibit the possession and trade in illegally obtained wildlife specimens and products, including those obtained in contravention of legislation in their country, and ensuring that confiscated wildlife specimens are disposed of in the best possible manner aligned with the purposes of the Convention, and that does not stimulate further illegal trade;</p>
<p>14. <i>Recommends</i> that Parties and non-Parties work to reduce demand for illegally <u>and unsustainably</u> obtained wildlife specimens and products within their domestic markets and utilize CMS to exchange knowledge and lessons learned regarding successful demand-side reduction strategies;</p>	<p>Added reference unsustainably</p>	<p>to 15. <i>Recommends</i> that Parties and non-Parties work to reduce demand for illegally and unsustainably obtained wildlife specimens and products within their domestic markets and utilize CMS to exchange knowledge and lessons learned regarding successful demand-side reduction strategies;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p>15. <i>Proposes</i> that Parties and relevant funding agencies provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support for implementing the provisions of this Resolution;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>16. <i>Proposes</i> that Parties and relevant funding agencies provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support for implementing the provisions of this Resolution;</p>
<p>16. <i>Calls upon</i> Parties and other Range States that have not already done so, to sign the CMS instruments relevant to species particularly affected by illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, <del>such as the Gorilla Agreement, AEWA, and the MOUs on Sharks, Raptors and IOSEA marine turtles</del> and to implement the relevant provisions <u>and guidance on best practice of those instruments</u>;</p>	<p>Deleted reference to specific examples since list not exhaustive and added reference on guidance such instruments provide</p>	<p>17. <i>Calls upon</i> Parties and other Range States that have not already done so, to sign the CMS instruments relevant to species particularly affected by illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, and to implement the relevant provisions and guidance on best practice of those instruments;</p>
<p>17. <i>Further calls</i> upon the Scientific Council to facilitate the use of best practice developed across relevant CMS instruments, including ensuring a consistent approach to addressing unsustainable take through adaptive harvest management;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>18. <i>Further calls</i> upon the Scientific Council to facilitate the use of best practice developed across relevant CMS instruments, including ensuring a consistent approach to addressing unsustainable take through adaptive harvest management;</p>
<p>18. <i>Welcomes</i> the cooperation between the Secretariat and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and <i>encourages</i> the Secretariat to continue working closely with the CPW;</p>	<p>Maintain</p>	<p>19. <i>Welcomes</i> the cooperation between the Secretariat and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and <i>encourages</i> the Secretariat to continue working closely with the CPW;</p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><u>Establishes a CMS Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, with the aim of supporting the implementation of this Resolution, associated Decisions and activities under CMS instruments related to illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, and supporting Parties in coordinated actions to prevent, monitor and reduce illegal and unsustainable taking of species;</u></p>	<p>New paragraph on establishment of Global Initiative</p>	<p>20. <i>Establishes a CMS Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, with the aim of supporting the implementation of this Resolution, associated Decisions and activities under CMS instruments related to illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, and supporting Parties in coordinated actions to prevent, monitor, and reduce illegal and unsustainable taking of species;</i></p>
<p><del><i>Encourages Parties and the Secretariat to engage actively with the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), at both the Secretariat and national levels, on issues that relate to illegal use and <u>take and use</u> of CMS-listed species;</i></del></p>	<p>Repealed because reflected in para. 22</p>	
<p><u><i>Urges Parties and non-Parties to strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies on wildlife trade and trafficking and to monitor trade of CMS-listed species currently not listed in the CITES Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and</i></u></p>	<p>This is from the preambular section, now para. 21.</p>	<p>21. <i>Urges Parties and non-Parties to strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies on wildlife trade and trafficking and to monitor trade of CMS-listed species currently not listed in the CITES Appendices; and</i></p>

Text from Existing Resolution	Commentary	Clean New Text Proposed (including new numbering of operative paragraphs)
<p><del>Encourages the Secretariat, the many stakeholders addressing the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species to collaborate closely, including Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental, international and national organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and established networks, such as the ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the <u>World Customs Organization (WCO)</u>), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), <u>Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)</u> and regional <u>Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)</u>, <u>the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)</u> and the <u>United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)</u>, - to collaborate closely, as well as <u>through engaging in the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Species</u> and in specific task forces <del>to address the issue</del>, such as the <del>various</del>-avian task forces to address illegal killing, hunting, and <u>unsustainable</u> taking and trade.;</del></p>	<p>Made this paragraph more comprehensive</p>	<p>22. <i>Encourages</i> the Secretariat, Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental, international and national organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and established networks, such as the ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO)), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and regional WENs, the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), to collaborate closely as well as through engaging in the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Species and in specific task forces, such as the avian task forces to address illegal and unsustainable taking and trade;</p>
<p><del>Instructs the Secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders in order to address the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species.</del></p>	<p>Repealed because redundant</p>	

## CLEAN TEXT OF THE AMENDED RESOLUTION 11.31

### ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Campo Grande, March 2026)

*Concerned* that illegal and unsustainable taking,<sup>1</sup> use and trade of migratory species, especially at the domestic level, is a growing threat to migratory species and the benefits they provide to ecosystems and people,

*Recognizing* that wildlife crime and offences continue to take place at an unprecedented scale with global reach, as wildlife trafficking continues to be highly lucrative with little risk of prosecution and thus ranks right behind arms and drug smuggling and human trafficking worldwide,

*Further recognizing* that the illegal and unsustainable taking and trade of migratory species can increase the risk of zoonoses and pathogen spillover from wildlife to humans, other wildlife, livestock, and other animals;

*Concerned* that illegal and unsustainable taking of species cause an immense loss of revenue for States and local communities, severely damage livelihoods and ecosystems, negatively impact on sustainable utilization and tourism, and in some cases, lead to threats to human lives and fund organized criminal and other violent groups,

*Acknowledging* that “The Future We Want”, adopted at Rio+20 and endorsed by consensus of the United Nations General Assembly, “recognize[d] the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides”,

*Noting* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which highlighted direct overexploitation as one of the two key drivers of biodiversity loss,

*Noting* that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted seven Resolutions on wildlife trafficking, most recently Resolution A/79/L.96 77/325, adopted on June 2025 on *Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife* which, *inter alia*, calls upon Member States to “take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife; strengthen appropriate capacity for law enforcement agencies to monitor and investigate illegal online wildlife trade; work in cooperation with relevant organizations to identify and promote the use of solutions that utilize technology, including artificial intelligence, to support criminal prosecutions; recognize and support the crucial role played by rangers and guards, across the world, in the fight against illicit wildlife trafficking; and increase the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable and, as appropriate, alternative livelihood opportunities, in order to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking in wildlife”,

*Welcoming* the discussions taking place under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife,

*Taking note of* the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council Decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability,

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<sup>1</sup> In this document, the term “illegal and unsustainable taking” refers to taking that may be illegal, unsustainable, or both.

*Recognizing* the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as the principal international instrument for ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species' survival,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution on illegal trade in wildlife (UNEP/EA.1/3), acknowledging the role of CMS in countering such illegal activities and including the call for strengthened cross-agency cooperation,

*Further welcoming* the continued work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which includes UNODC, the Secretariat of CITES, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Bank, as an important collaborative effort to strengthen enforcement,

*Noting* the declaration and agreed urgent measures of the African Elephant Summit (Gaborone, December 2013), the Declaration of the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa (Paris, December 2013), the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade (London, February 2014), the anti-poaching declaration of African Ministers of Tourism and United Nations World Tourism Organization (Berlin, April 2014), and the declaration of the Conference to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and Illicit Trade (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, May 2014), and the Declaration "Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action" of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Nice, France, June 2025),

*Welcoming* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes numerous Goals and Targets related to the conservation, and sustainable, safe and legal use of wildlife, with particular relevance to migratory species, in particular Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9,

*Also welcoming* the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

*Recognizing* the specific role of CMS in the global response to the illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife by strengthening population management *in situ*, including population monitoring, awareness-raising, capacity-building, national law enforcement and creation of community-based approaches, both within Range States and across national borders where illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife is often hardest to control,

*Further recognizing* the ongoing work of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to provide mechanisms for structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making and implementation to ensure the sustainable use of species, while maintaining them at a favourable conservation status, and the work of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) to ensure sustainability of any harvest of Saker Falcons including through development of an adaptive management framework under the CMS Saker Falcon Global Action Plan,

*Acknowledging* the work under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in providing best practice advice and strengthening regulation towards reducing the take of seabirds in the southern hemisphere by closely working with CMS Parties, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and non-Parties;

*Further recalling* Art. III (5) of the Convention, which obliges Range States of Appendix I-listed migratory species to prohibit the taking of animals belonging to such species, except for specific and limited purposes, namely scientific research, enhancement of propagation or survival, traditional subsistence use, or in extraordinary circumstances, with such exceptions being precise in content and restricted in space and time, and ensuring that any such taking does not operate to the disadvantage of the species,

*Noting* the relevant guidance and success stories available across several of the CMS instruments to achieve the recovery of migratory species,

*Recalling* Target 3 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024 – 2032 which focuses on addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species,

*Further recalling* that CMS Parties have adopted Resolutions on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14)), on preventing the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14)) and on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13)), which includes a programme of work for the conservation of large mammal migrations in Central Asia providing *inter alia* for anti-poaching and other actions to minimize wildlife crime,

*Acknowledging* the work of the Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean, the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force; and the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force,

*Recognizing* that illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species are not confined to terrestrial and freshwater biomes but also have an impact on the marine environment, especially in the High Seas but also in areas within national jurisdiction, where bycatch of non-target species constitutes a severe threat to migratory species, in addition to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU),

*Further recognizing* the efforts of Parties to develop and implement legislative provisions and programmes and to ensure that any utilization of migratory species, where it occurs, is sustainable, recognizing that in some circumstances utilization of species may contribute to conservation and is of importance to the subsistence and culture of traditional communities, and

*Welcoming* the close collaboration between CMS and CITES in working to ensure that the taking and use of species is legal and sustainable including measures to eradicate illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species and calling for a new CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021-2030 to be adopted which addresses this area of work,

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

1. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties to take measures to increase awareness among relevant authorities, including enforcement, legislative, prosecution and judicial authorities, the private sector and the public of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species and the negative impacts that it has on them and the benefits they provide;

2. *Urges* Parties and non-Parties to identify and share information on the drivers and scale of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction and to develop and implement conservation strategies to effectively address such activities, including through engagement with local communities;
3. *Recommends* that Parties and non-Parties provide greater information and training for their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities with respect to the significant threat of illegal and unsustainable taking of and trade in migratory species; including integrating training on wildlife crimes and offences into the national curricula of relevant training academies/schools where possible;
4. *Encourages* Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders to increase national efforts on population estimates, developing and maintaining management and science-based monitoring plans for species;
5. *Urges* Parties and non-Parties to develop and implement effective and transparent systems for collecting data on the scale of exploitation of migratory species, and make public accurate data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species;
6. *Calls on* the Scientific Council to work with relevant stakeholders regularly to analyze data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species to identify those species for which cumulative take is clearly unsustainable and make recommendations;
7. *Urges* all Parties to take all necessary actions to prevent the illegal and unsustainable take of CMS-listed species as well as conduct regular legislative reviews to identify gaps in protection, compliance, enforcement, and prosecution and ensure that their legislation fully implements the provisions of the Convention, including penalties for wildlife crime that are effective, act as a deterrent and reflect the gravity of the offence and provide for the confiscation of specimens taken in violation of the Convention, prosecution of offenders, and pursuit of any illicit proceeds;
8. *Urges* Parties to use, where feasible, new technologies, methods and tools for enforcement to prevent illegal taking, use and trade of migratory species;
9. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to strengthen national and transboundary law enforcement, through participation, when possible, in trans-national enforcement networks , with emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and intelligence sharing between relevant stakeholders, such as rangers, wildlife management authorities, border authorities, customs, police and the military;
10. *Suggests* that Parties and non-Parties establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements for the management of shared wildlife populations and habitats with shared boundaries, in order to minimize/mitigate illegal and unsustainable taking, use, sale and trafficking;
11. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties, funding agencies and CMS Partners to support capacity-building nationally, across borders and in the High Seas for rangers, border authorities, customs, police, the military and other relevant bodies;
12. *Calls upon* Parties, and non-Parties to support and recognize community-based approaches that contribute to reducing and ideally eliminating the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species;
13. *Urges* Parties to treat the reduction of any illegal and unsustainable take of Appendix I species as a priority, and to report back at subsequent COPs;

14. *Suggests* the enacting of national laws that prohibit the possession and trade in illegally obtained wildlife specimens and products, including those obtained in contravention of legislation in their country, and ensuring that confiscated wildlife specimens are disposed of in the best possible manner aligned with the purposes of the Convention, and that does not stimulate further illegal trade;
15. *Recommends* that Parties and non-Parties work to reduce demand for illegally and unsustainably obtained wildlife specimens and products within their domestic markets and utilize CMS to exchange knowledge and lessons learned regarding successful demand-side reduction strategies;
16. *Proposes* that Parties and relevant funding agencies provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support for implementing the provisions of this Resolution;
17. *Calls upon* Parties and other Range States that have not already done so, to sign the CMS instruments relevant to species particularly affected by illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, and to implement the relevant provisions and guidance on best practice of those instruments;
18. *Further calls* upon the Scientific Council to facilitate the use of best practice developed across relevant CMS instruments, including ensuring a consistent approach to addressing unsustainable take through adaptive harvest management;
19. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and *encourages* the Secretariat to continue working closely with the CPW;
20. *Establishes* a CMS Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, with the aim of supporting the implementation of this Resolution, associated Decisions and activities under CMS instruments related to illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, and supporting Parties in coordinated actions to prevent, monitor, and reduce illegal and unsustainable taking of species;
21. *Urges* Parties and non-Parties to strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies on wildlife trade and trafficking and to monitor trade of CMS-listed species currently not listed in the CITES Appendices; and
22. *Encourages* the Secretariat, Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental, international and national organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and established networks, such as the ICCWC and each of its partner agencies (CITES, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO)), UNEP, Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and regional WENs, the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), to collaborate closely as well as through engaging in the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Species and in specific task forces, such as the avian task forces to address illegal and unsustainable taking and trade.

**ANNEX 5****DRAFT DECISIONS****ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES****Directed to Parties**

15.AA Parties are requested to provide support for implementation of Decision 15.DD, and cooperate with the Secretariat in implementing Decision 15.DD.

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

15.BB Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:

- a) collaborate with the Secretariat and Parties in the implementation of activities set out in Decision 15.DD.

**Directed to the Scientific Council**

15.CC The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- a) renew the Scientific Council Working Group on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking and, as needed, amend the Terms of Reference,
- b) review the in-depth analysis described in Decision 15.DD b) and provide recommendations on the analysis and on further research and conservation priorities, if needed, for consideration by the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) support the Secretariat for the other actions in Decision 15DD.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

15.DD The Secretariat shall:

- a) on the basis of the review in Annex 1, develop a more integrated approach to effectively support Parties in addressing pressures from illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species;
- b) building on the scoping analysis, conduct, subject to the availability of external resources, an in-depth analysis of:
  - i) the scale of illegal and unsustainable take of migratory species listed on CMS Appendices I and II; and
  - ii) the impacts of illegal and unsustainable take on the conservation status of such species, including cumulative impacts on species at the migration range and population level, and the consequences of these impacts on affected ecosystems and the services they provide;
- c) develop priorities for the work of the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species during the intersessional period;

- d) support measures to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species identified in the scoping analysis;
- e) conduct a workshop (online) on the utility of a scoreboard for a wider range of taxa (e.g. similar to the Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) Scoreboard) and on means to improve weaknesses in enforcement systems;
- f) support Parties in the development of a strategy to combat illegal taking using best practices which may include the use of a scoreboard;
- g) convene a forum on illegal and unsustainable taking of species to showcase positive examples, existing challenges and solutions, as well as the role of the different CMS initiatives and instruments in supporting Parties in addressing these threats;
- h) support the Scientific Council in its work to implement Decisions 15.CC; and
- i) report to the Conference of Parties at its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.