



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.31.2.3

23 October 2025

Original: English

15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 31.2.3

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE PALLAS'S CAT (*Felis manul*)***

Summary:

The Pallas's cat International Conservation Alliance (PICA), Manul Working Group (MWG) and IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group have submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Pallas's cat (*Felis manul*), UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 14.3, adopted by the Conference of Parties at its 14th Meeting (COP14) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, February 2024.

*The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE PALLAS'S CAT

UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 14.3

CONCERTED ACTION

Title: CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE PALLAS'S CAT (*Felis manul*)

Document number: UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 14.3

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The Pallas's cat International Conservation Alliance (PICA), the Manul Working Group (MWG) and the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group

TARGET SPECIES/POPULATION

Class: Mammalia

Family: Felidae

Order: Carnivora

Species: *Felis manul* (Pallas, 1776)

Population: Range-wide

PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

The activities in the Concerted Action for the Pallas's cat are considered as complete. The main proposed objectives of the Concerted Action included (i) addition of the Pallas's cat to the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), (ii) development of an associated Programme of Work aligned with the Pallas's Cat Conservation Strategy 2018-2028, and (iii) effective implementation of the Concerted Action and Programme of Work to enhance the conservation status of the species.

Following adoption of the Concerted Action at the CMS COP14, the species has been officially recognised under CMS CAMI at the CAMI Third Range State meeting (24-26 June 2025, Tashkent, Uzbekistan) in a unanimous decision by the Range States. Consequently, the Pallas's cat is named as one of the target species of CAMI Work Programme 2026-2032, which encompasses the following activities of relevance to its conservation:

- All cross-cutting measures, in particular:
 - all actions under Section 10: Species Monitoring and Research
 - selected actions under Sections 3: Legislation, 4: Transboundary Cooperation, 5: Ecological Connectivity, 6: Protected and Conserved Areas, 7: Illegal Hunting, Possession and Trade, 8: Land Use and Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence, 9: One Health, and 11: Education, Community and Communication
- The Pallas's cat is listed as one of the target species under 7 (out of 12) CAMI Priority Transboundary Conservation Regions (PTCR), i.e.: 4. Kopetdag, 7. Northern and Inner Tian Shan, 8. High Pamirs, 9. Altai, 10. Daurian Steppe*, 11. Gobi, 12. Western Trans Himalaya
- Two species-specific activities for the Pallas's cat were agreed under the Altai and Daurian Steppe PTCRs: "Conduct transboundary and coordinated monitoring of Pallas's Cat populations"

- PICA (Pallas's cat International Conservation Alliance) and MWG (Manul Working Group) have been recognised as official partners to the framework, and will assist the CMS Secretariat and Range States in implementation, monitoring and reporting on the Pallas's cat-related activities of the current CAMI WP (in particular activities synergistic to those in the Pallas's cat Conservation Strategy 2018-2028)

Taken together, the above outcomes render the Concerted Action implemented, marking a hugely significant milestone in Pallas's cat conservation within the Central Asian region and beyond. Inclusion of this charismatic carnivore under CAMI will also complement the existing programme and extend its scope to the small/medium carnivore guild, their prey, and ultimately the conservation of the wider steppe ecosystem.

**The final decision on whether to include the Daurian Steppe PTCR in the final CAMI WP 2026 -2032 is still under revision at the time of writing*

CHANGES TO THE CONCERTED ACTION

No changes are proposed to the Concerted Action for the Pallas's cat.

REFERENCES

[Pallas's cat Status Review and Conservation Strategy](#) 2018-2028. Pallas's Cat Global Action Planning Group, 2019. *Cat News Special Issue* 13: 55-6

Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) Work Programme for 2026-2032

ACTION

The Concerted Action for the Pallas's cat is considered complete.

Lesson learned from undertaking the Concerted Action include:

- The Pallas's cat serves as an excellent example of how little-known species, otherwise rarely prioritised for conservation, can vastly benefit from listing on the CMS Convention Appendices and associated instruments, such as CMS CAMI.
- The listing marks a step-change in conservation efforts for the Pallas's cat, raising awareness and global profile of the species, coordinating conservation activities across its wide range, facilitating transnational collaboration, as well as raising of funds.
- It also provides organisations dedicated to Pallas's cat conservation with a robust framework for aligning their strategic goals with those of CAMI – these will revolve mainly around synergies with the Pallas's cat Conservation Strategy 2018-2028
- Support of Range States and transnational collaboration are crucial in protecting a wide-ranging species such as the Pallas's cat. As Pallas's cat ambassadors, we are immensely grateful for the ongoing support of the CAMI Range States, especially the Governments of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and we remain committed to assisting with the implementation of, and reporting on, the CAMI Work Programme 2026-2032
- Through the implementation of the Concerted Action and inclusion under CAMI, the Pallas's cat has become a flagship for other small species of Central Asia, all similarly lacking in research and capacity and in need of dedicated conservation action. It is hoped that inclusion of the Pallas's cat under CMS Appendix II and CAMI might also facilitate inclusion of other Central Asian small felids under these instruments in the future, as appropriate

A proposal for continuation or renewal of the Concerted Action for the Pallas's cat will be considered ahead of the CMS COP16, following conclusion of the current CAMI Work Programme (2026-2032)