



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.29.2c

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Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 29.2

**SPECIES+ DATABASE: CURRENT FEATURES AND OPTIONS FOR FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT**

*(Prepared by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
(UNEP-WCMC))*

Summary:

This document has been prepared by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to support document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.29.2 *Maintaining lists of species included in CMS Appendices*. It provides additional information on Species+ - the species database maintained by UNEP-WCMC - including an overview of its current functionality, and potential options for enhancing its infrastructure and expanding its capabilities.

Species+ Database: Current features and options for future development



The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a global Centre of excellence on biodiversity. The Centre operates as a collaboration between the UN Environment Programme and the UK-registered charity WCMC. Together we are confronting the global crisis facing nature.

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A large, solid green circle containing white text. The text describes UNEP's commitment to environmental soundness and carbon footprint reduction.

UNEP promotes environmentally sound practices globally and in its own activities. Our distribution policy aims to reduce UNEP's carbon footprint.

Background

This document has been prepared by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to support CMS COP15 Doc. 29.2 on *Maintaining the lists of species included in the CMS Appendices*. It provides additional information on Species+ - the species database maintained by UNEP-WCMC - including an overview of its current functionality, and potential options for enhancing its infrastructure and expanding its capabilities.

Species+

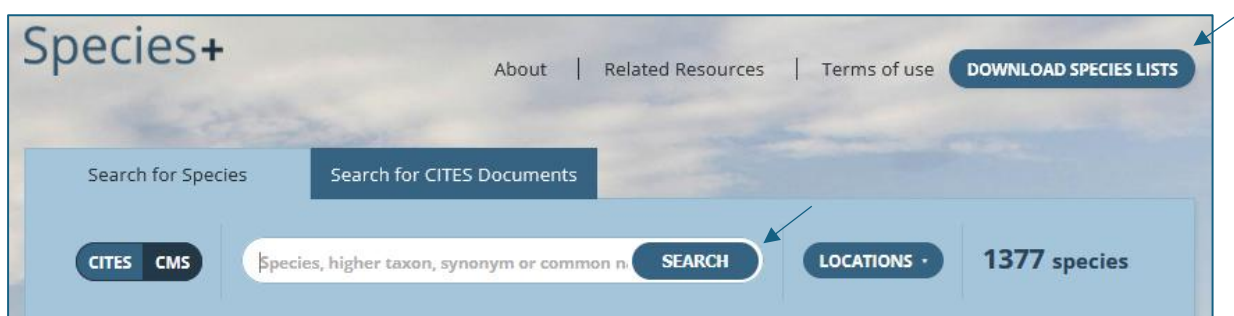
The [Species+](#) database is designed to assist Parties with implementing CMS and CITES. It provides a centralised portal for accessing key information on species listed in the CMS and CITES Appendices, as well as other CMS Family listings and species included in the Annexes to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. CMS and CITES taxa are held separately in the database, ensuring that information relating to each Convention is clear when navigating around the site; this distinction is also important as the taxonomies differ across the two Conventions.

Species nomenclature

CMS species nomenclature in the Species+ database follows the CMS Standard References adopted by Parties through Resolution 12.27 on *Taxonomy and Nomenclature*. Accepted names, synonyms and common names are systematically updated in Species+ after each COP, following the adoption of new CMS Standard References and amendments to the CMS Appendices. Where the taxonomy used by CMS Family instruments differs from that of the CMS Appendices, the CMS taxonomy takes precedence, and a nomenclature note is added to the relevant species account¹.

Search functionality

To find information on a particular species, users can search by the species' scientific or common name (in a variety of languages where the data are available), or by higher taxonomy.



The "Locations" filter can be used separately or in conjunction with the search bar. Selecting a location and searching with a blank search bar will return a list of all the listed species that occur within that country, territory or region. Alternatively, the "Locations" filter can be applied

¹ For example, EUROBATS recognises *Myotis crypticus* as a separate species from *Myotis nattereri*. As this split has not been adopted under CMS, only *M. nattereri* is listed as the accepted name in Species+, with *M. crypticus* included as a synonym. A nomenclature note is added to the Names tab in the *M. nattereri* species account to indicate the taxonomy recognised by EUROBATS.

to a specific species/taxonomic search, for instance, if users are only interested in a species or group of species that occur in a particular country, territory or region.

Species information displayed

Once on a species page, the database contains the following information on each CMS species:

- **Legal:** Details of the CMS Appendix listing (including Appendix, date of listing and listing note, which includes any relevant comments on the history of the listing, specific populations to which the listing may apply, and if the listing is at a higher taxonomic level²). A separate field indicates whether the species is also listed in any of the CMS Family Agreements and/or MoUs. Species listed only under CMS Family instruments are also included in Species+.
- **Names:** Synonyms and common names, including any relevant notes on species nomenclature or taxonomy
- **Distribution:** Geographic distribution at the country and territory level (where available)³
- **References:**
 - CMS Standard Taxonomic Reference
 - Scientific literature references that relate to the species distribution

² For avian species listed at genus or family levels, Species+ contains all species identified as meeting the CMS movement criteria, as determined by the COP-appointed Councillor for Birds. As proposed in COP15 Doc. 29.2, the listing of these species in Species+ will be annotated to clarify whether or not this species has also been determined to be of conservation concern and is therefore included in Resolution 14.19.

³ Consistent with CMS, Species+ uses UN-accepted country names.

Vicugna vicugna
 (Molina, 1782)
 Chordata ▶ Mammalia ▶ Artiodactyla ▶ Camelidae ▶ Vicugna

LEGAL	NAMES	DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCES
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CMS

CMS LISTING

APPENDIX	DATE	NOTES
I	01/01/1979	Except Peruvian populations
II	01/01/1979	

CMS Agreements and MoUs

This species is not currently listed in any CMS Agreement or MoU.

Vicugna vicugna
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 Chordata ▶ Mammalia ▶ Artiodactyla ▶ Camelidae ▶ Vicugna

LEGAL	NAMES	DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCES
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COMMON NAMES

LANGUAGE	NAME
English	Vicugna, Vicuña
French	Vigogne
Spanish	Vicuña

[SHOW MORE LANGUAGES](#)

SYNONYMS

Camelus vicugna Molina, 1782

Vicugna vicugna

(Molina, 1782)

Chordata ▶ Mammalia ▶ Artiodactyla ▶ Camelidae ▶ Vicugna

LEGAL	NAMES	DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCES						
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LEGAL	NAMES	DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCES				
<p>CMS STANDARD REFERENCE</p> <hr/> <p>Wilson, D.E. and Reeder, D.M. (Eds.). 2005. <i>Mammal species of the world, a taxonomic and geographic reference</i>. 3rd Edition, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 2, 142pp.</p>							
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Distribution

Geo entities: Occurrence information is collated at country-level; if relevant and available, presence is also identified in overseas territories. The full range of CMS-listed species is considered, including both CMS Parties and non-Parties.

Distribution tags: Species+ provides a mechanism for tagging distribution records with one of the following labels:

- Distribution uncertain
- Extinct
- Extinct (?)
- Introduced
- Introduced (?)
- Reintroduced

Additional tags could be added/applied, as appropriate, for the CMS context.

Downloadable outputs

Species+ provides a mechanism for downloading key species information in an Excel-ready format as a csv file. Currently, the downloads for CMS species can be filtered by Appendix, Taxon, and Location.

Downloads are available on the home page (main button under the search facility) or on individual species pages (upper right-hand corner). To download data relating to all CMS species and species listed in CMS Family instruments, users can simply click on CMS and then click “Download Species Lists”.



Selecting the “Download Species Lists” option on the homepage opens the following pop up. This allows users to narrow the focus of the download further by additionally filtering on “**Appendix**” (the default is all, but users can select Appendix I or II); on “**Taxon**” (to select

taxonomic groups down to the “Family” level); or “Locations” (to filter by country, territories or Regions as per main “Locations” filter).



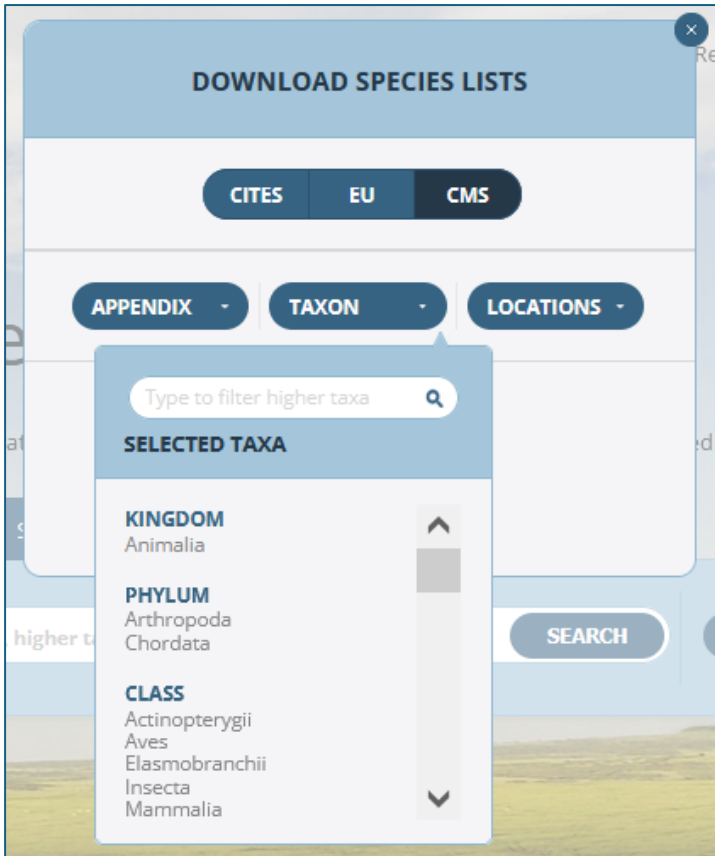
Sample output (default – all CMS Family species)

#	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	Id	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	ScientificName	Author	Rank	Agreem	Listing	Listed under
	11598	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Addax	Addax nasomaculatus	(de Blainville, 1	SPECIES	CMS	I	Addax nasomaculatus
	12100	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Ammotra	Ammotragus lervia	(Pallas, 1777)	SPECIES	CMS	II	Ammotragus lervia
	11979	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Bos	Bos grunniens	Linnaeus, 1766	SPECIES	CMS	I	Bos grunniens
	12088	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Bos	Bos sauveli	Urbain, 1937	SPECIES	CMS	I	Bos sauveli
	66497	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Eudorcas	Eudorcas rufifrons	(Gray, 1846)	SPECIES	CMS	I	Eudorcas rufifrons
	11784	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Gazella	Gazella cuvieri	(Ogilby, 1841)	SPECIES	CMS	I	Gazella cuvieri
	11668	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Gazella	Gazella dorcas	(Linnaeus, 175	SPECIES	CMS	I	Gazella dorcas
	12044	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Gazella	Gazella erlangeri	Neumann, 1906	SPECIES	CMS	II	Gazella erlangeri
	11971	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Gazella	Gazella gazella	(Pallas, 1766)	SPECIES	CMS	II	Gazella gazella
	11299	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Gazella	Gazella leptoceros	(F. Cuvier, 184	SPECIES	CMS	I	Gazella leptoceros
	11322	Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodact	Bovidae	Gazella	Gazella subgutturosa	(Gmelin, 1793)	SPECIES	CMS	II	Gazella subgutturosa

cont.

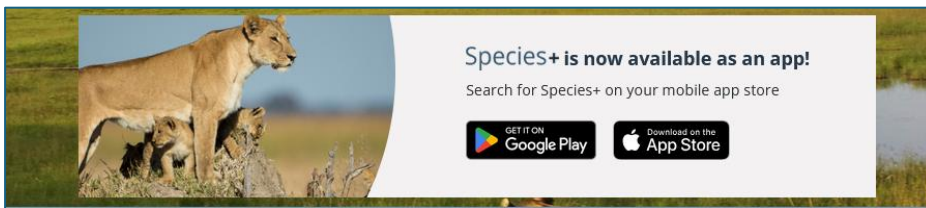
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
Date	Note	All_Distribution	All_Distrib	NativeDistrib	Introduc	Introduc	Reintroc	Extinct_I	Extinct(?	Distribution_Uncertain		
I 01/01/1979		Algeria,Chad,Egy	DZ,TD,EC	Chad,Mali,Mauritania,Niger,Sudan				Algeria,Egypt,Libya,Morocco,Tunisia				
II 05/03/2009		Algeria,Chad,Cze	DZ,TD,CZ	Algeria,Chad,Ei	Czech Republic,Mexico,Spain,United States of America							
I 24/01/1986		China,India,Nepal	CN,IN,NP	China,India				Nepal				
I 01/01/1979		Cambodia,Lao Pe	KH,LA,TH,VN						Cambodia,Lao People's Democratic Repu			
I 08/02/2015		Burkina Faso,Cai	BF,CM,Cf	Burkina Faso,Cameroon,Central African Rep				Ghana				
I 01/01/1979		Algeria,Morocco,	DZ,MA,TI	Algeria,Morocco,Tunisia								
I 01/0	**I** Only	Algeria,Burkina F	DZ,BF,TD	Algeria,Burkina Faso,Chad,Djibouti	Senegal	Senegal	Nigeria					
II 01/0	**II** Forn	Saudi Arabia,Ye	SA,YE	Saudi Arabia,Yemen								
II 01/0	**II** Only	Egypt,Iran (Islami	EG,IR,IL,J	Israel,Oman,Sa	Iran (Islamic Republic of)			Egypt		Jordan,Lebanon,Syrian Arab Re		
I 24/01/1986		Algeria,Chad,Egy	DZ,TD,EC	Algeria,Chad,Egypt,Libya,Mali,Niger,Sudan,Tunisia								
II 23/12/2002		Afghanistan,Arm	AF,AM,A	Afghanistan,Azerbaijan,Bahrain,China,Iran (I	Armenia,Georgia,Kuwait							

Note: To narrow the focus to only CMS-listed species (without details on CMS Family instruments), users can select Appendix I and II in the “Appendix” dropdown.



Access

Species+ is available via the website and as a mobile app.



Options for future development

Subject to available funding for development and maintenance, there is scope to enhance the Species+ infrastructure and expand its functionality beyond the current capabilities, allowing users to extract targeted information efficiently and support informed decision-making.

Enhance search functionality to enable more refined data downloads

- **Expand the filters available** for species list downloads to enable filtering by:
 - CMS Instrument, with the option to include additional data on the CMS Appendices in the same download.
 - The avian species included in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 on *Guidance on the treatment of species within aggregated Families listed under Appendix II*.
 - CMS Appendix I species that are also listed in CITES.
- **Allow download of distribution information for all species** covered by CMS Family instruments, as currently this information is only available for species listed in the CMS Appendices.

Create a central, searchable repository of CMS-related documents

- Develop a searchable library for official CMS documents that contain species-specific information, following a similar model to the document library in Species+ for CITES (see Annex). This would complement the existing document libraries on the CMS website by offering further search and filtering options, making species information easier to locate, compile and use. Maintenance could be integrated into UNEP-WCMC's ongoing species information workflows to ensure regular updates.

The library could include:

- CMS COP proposals to amend the Appendices
- Action plans /Conservation and management plans
- Concerted actions
- Technical reports, factsheets and guidelines
- Species relevant meeting documents (for example, Conservation priorities for cetaceans).

Annex

Overview of Species+ document library for CITES information

The **Species+ document library** is a part of the Species+ website, built and maintained by UNEP-WCMC in partnership with the CITES Secretariat. It contains a variety of materials, including:

- Meeting documents e.g. CITES CoP proposals, documents related to the CITES Review of Significant Trade, documents considered by the EU Scientific Review Group
- Identification materials for enforcement purposes
- Other documents not associated with meetings that are still relevant for use e.g. Non-detriment findings

It is accessible in two ways:

1. Via a stand-alone document-search page, where users can browse or query across a large repository of CITES-relevant documents:

The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to Species+' page with a search interface for CITES documents. The page has a light blue background with a white search area. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Search for Species' and 'Search for CITES Documents', with the latter being selected. Below the tabs, there is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Species, higher taxon, synonym or common name...'. To the right of the search bar, there are several filter buttons: 'ALL LOCATIONS', 'ALL MEETING TYPES', 'ALL IDENTIFICATION MATERIALS', and 'DOCUMENT TYPES'. Below these filters, there is another search bar with the placeholder text 'Search by title keyword(s)' and an example 'e.g. NDF'. At the bottom of the search area, there are 'CLEAR' and 'SEARCH' buttons. A note at the bottom of the page states: 'Note: Changes have been made to the Species+ search function, to improve how it handles typographical errors and names in different languages.'

2. Via individual species pages, so that for any given taxon users can quickly view relevant documents:

Panthera leo

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Chordata ▶ Mammalia ▶ Carnivora ▶ Felidae ▶ Panthera

LEGAL
NAMES
DISTRIBUTION
REFERENCES
DOCUMENTS

CITES CoP Proposals
CITES Review of Significant Trade
Identification materials
EU SRG
Other docs

CITES CoP Proposals

MEETING	DATE	TITLE	LANG	COUNTRIES	TAXA	OUTCOME	📄
CoP17	24/09/2016	Prop 4: Amendment to Prop. 4: Transfer all African popula...	EN	9 countries ¹	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Accepted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/>
CoP17	24/09/2016	Prop 4: Original: Transfert de toutes les populations d'A...	FR	9 countries ¹	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Accepted as amended	<input type="checkbox"/>
CoP13	02/01/2004	Prop 6: Transfer of the populations of West and Central A...	EN	Kenya	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Withdrawn	<input type="checkbox"/>
CoP1	02/11/1976	Prop 89: Deletion from Appendix I (if proposal 89 approved)	EN	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	12 taxa ¹	Accepted	<input type="checkbox"/>

Search & Filter Options

On the document search page, users can refine their search by:

- Taxon (species or higher-level grouping)
- Country/territory (to find documents relevant to specific Range States)
- Type of document
- Keywords in the title

How is it maintained?

- Documents are tagged by UNEP-WCMC for the relevant species and countries/territories, ensuring that only documents relevant to the species appear on its species page.
- The system uses current accepted standard nomenclature, so documents using older or alternative synonyms are still associated with the correct accepted name in Species+.
- Confidential or restricted-access documents are protected, ensuring users only see documents they are authorised to access.