



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026  
Agenda Item 25.2.1

**ScC-SC8 CRP 8.2.1**

**MARINE POLLUTION**

*(Prepared by the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution and the Secretariat)*

## ANNEX 3

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

## MARINE POLLUTION

*Acknowledging* that migratory species face multiple, and potentially interacting, cumulative or synergistic threats caused by chemical and other marine pollution with potential effects over vast areas,

*Mindful* of the fact that pollution is recognized by [the United Nations FCGG](#) as one of the three threats constituting the triple planetary crisis severely affecting our planet and its wildlife,

*Noting with concern* the widespread occurrence and impacts of chemical pollution, including legacy and emerging persistent organic pollutants (POPs), toxic metals, antibiotics from human, agricultural, and aquaculture use, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), as well as pollution caused by nutrients, sediments, wastewater/sewage, low-level radioactive substances, anthropogenic radionuclides, unexploded ordnance and shipwrecks, and, potentially, marine geoengineering and mining activities,

*Recalling* that the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 has as Target 3.3 “By 2032, the negative impacts of pollution including transboundary effects, and poisoning on migratory species and their habitats are reduced to levels that are not harmful to species’ viability”,

*Acknowledging* other related CMS Resolutions including Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*, Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) *Oil Pollution and Migratory Species*, Resolution 12.14 *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*, and Resolution 13.5 (Rev. COP14) *CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species*,

*Recognizing* also related resolutions adopted by CMS [daughter] [subsidiary] agreements including ACCOBAMS Resolution 8.20 *Marine Litter and Chemical Pollution*, ASCOBANS Resolution 7.4 *Impacts of Chemical Pollution on Small Cetaceans*, ASCOBANS Resolution 8.7 *Impacts of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)*, ASCOBANS Resolution 8.8 *Addressing the Threats from Underwater Munitions*, ASCOBANS Resolution 9.3 *Marine Debris*, ACCOBAMS Resolution 8.17 *Anthropogenic Noise* and its predecessors,

*Recalling* that United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/79/314 *Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action* “reaffirm[s] our shared commitment to accelerating action to prevent, significantly reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds”,

*Concerned* about the many documented negative impacts of marine pollution on migratory species with regard to their health and survival, reproductive, endocrine and immunological systems, conservation and welfare,

*Alarmed* about the potential of climate change to increase remobilization rates and the release of legacy chemicals into the marine environment as well as enhancing other mechanisms of toxicity,

*Recognizing* that chemical pollutants and toxic metals are not only linked to historical industrial pollution but are also being remobilized due to processes such as permafrost thawing, the increase in forest fires and alterations to biochemical cycling in warming oceans, and that these processes may intensify exposure risks for long-lived migratory species in polar and low-latitude regions,

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

1. *Urges* Parties to address the following pressing issues, due to their significant impacts and, when remedied, immediate rewards for conservation:
  - a) the securing of land-based sources of pollution (e.g., landfills, open dumps, contaminated sites) from inundation caused by coastal flooding/storm surges, extreme storms/rainfall and sea level rise;
  - b) the prevention and abatement of nutrient, sediment and sewage/wastewater discharges from land into the marine environment via rivers, estuaries, water catchment areas or directly;
  - c) the prevention and abatement of emissions, spills and leakages from coastal industries (e.g., petrochemical and refinery industries, oil pipelines, transferring stations, tankers), including during transfer of materials, and abandoned military bases as sources of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs), primarily including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs);
  - d) the prevention and abatement of spills and losses of (raw) materials from ships during transportation and transfer in harbours, as well as following accidents (e.g., spills of nurdles and other types of plastics, fuel and oil);
  - e) the enforcement of swift implementation of precautionary bans of emerging chemical pollutants;
  - f) the recognition of PFAS as a transboundary emerging threat, now widely detected in apex predators, and still poorly regulated under international conventions, including by
    - i. advocating for broader and precautionary action on ~~the entire class of~~ PFAS that are known for ~~due to~~ their persistence, bioaccumulation potential and detection in migratory species;
    - ii. advocating for the inclusion of ~~all~~ appropriate PFAS under the Stockholm Convention; and
    - iii. calling for harmonized monitoring of PFAS in migratory species;
  - g) the regulation and reduction of pollution caused by fisheries and maritime traffic, especially abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and other forms of pollution from fisheries, as well as littering, noise and light pollution from fishing and commercial vessels, especially when and as they exacerbate chemical pollution (e.g., by acting as vectors for chemicals and diseases);

2. *Further urges* Parties to develop conservation strategies for migratory animals that address pollution, especially during particularly vulnerable stages of the migratory cycle, including at foraging/feeding grounds, where breeding occurs, along migratory corridors (especially along coasts) and regional biological corridors, and, where appropriate, during oceanic life stages (e.g., for sea turtles);
3. *Calls on* Parties to prioritize taking decisive, fast and sustainable action in areas where critical habitats overlap with pollution hotspots, including:
  - a) coastal areas, especially in the vicinity of industrial zones, cities and pollution sources, and with regard to macro-plastic, trace metals, PPCPs, chemical and light pollution;
  - b) the great ocean gyres and other possible 'ecological traps', including frontal areas;
  - c) the open ocean areas where feeding activities, high ocean productivity, biodiversity and plastic pollution overlap;
  - d) migratory corridors, especially along coasts (noting that some migratory routes are already changing due to climate change) and oceanic seascape migratory corridors (e.g., the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor);
  - e) the Clarion-Clipperton Zone and other regions where deep-sea mining may occur;
  - f) the Mediterranean Sea;
  - g) the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans; and
  - h) the Eastern Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia;
4. *Urges* Parties to ensure that migrating species are not disrupted within, or displaced from, such critical habitats and are able to undertake vital behaviours such as foraging, reproduction and migration;
5. *Encourages* Parties to recognize and develop dedicated conservation plans (such as single species action plans) to mitigate the vulnerability of migratory species to combined threats from chemical pollutants and disrupted migration cues;
6. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to explicitly incorporate the cumulative, synergistic and interactive nature of anthropogenic threats to migratory species (especially, between marine pollution and climate change) into their risk analyses, impact assessments and conservation plans;
7. *Encourages* Parties to promote the adoption of ~~effects-based~~ monitoring frameworks, which move beyond traditional chemical concentration thresholds to focus on the biological impacts of pollutant mixtures on migratory species;
8. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in promoting the recognition and strategic use of stranding investigations as a valuable, cost-effective and ethical method for assessing the health of migratory species, and:
  - a) encourage the development of standardized protocols for the collection and archiving of biological, toxicological and pathological data and samples across Parties,
  - b) support international collaboration to integrate data into long-term health surveillance networks for migratory species, and

- c) recognize stranded individuals as sentinels of ocean health, providing insight into the cumulative and synergistic impacts of pollution, disease and other stressors; and
9. *Urges Parties to apply the precautionary principle with respect to deep-sea mining in line with the provisions of Resolution 14.6 Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species.*

## ANNEX 4

## DRAFT DECISIONS

## MARINE POLLUTION

**Directed to Parties**

15.AA Parties are encouraged to

- a) apply the recommendations from the *Report of the CMS Marine Pollution Workshop* contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.2.1, and-
- a)b) facilitate collaboration between CMS and the BBNJ Agreement<sup>1</sup>, CBD<sup>2</sup>, the Stockholm<sup>3</sup>, Basel<sup>4</sup>, and Minamata<sup>5</sup> Conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, the Global Framework on Chemicals, and any future plastics treaty, to better address marine pollution risks to migratory species.

**Directed to the Scientific Council**

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

- a) establish an open-ended working group on marine pollution (with a focus on chemical pollution);
- b) identify and evaluate:
  - i. species and populations, habitats and migratory/life stages that are most at risk, noting the preliminary list referenced in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.2.1; and
  - ii. global hotspots where marine pollution and critical habitat for migratory species overlap;
- c) consider the application of 'vulnerability matrix' approaches that integrate species' sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity to both marine pollution and climate change to help prioritize conservation actions under future environmental scenarios; and
- d) give further consideration to the effects of pollution on marine birds, including potentially through a dedicated workshop.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

15.CC The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) seek to strengthen cooperation between CMS and the BBNJ Agreement, CBD, the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions, Intergovernmental Science-policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution,

<sup>1</sup> Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

<sup>2</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity

<sup>3</sup> Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

<sup>4</sup> Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

<sup>5</sup> Minamata Convention on Mercury

the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#), and ~~any~~ future ~~p~~Plastics ~~t~~Treaty to better address marine pollution risks to migratory species; and

- b) seek better engagement on marine pollution with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.