



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
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Agenda Item 22

NATIONAL REPORTS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on the implementation of Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) *National Reports* and Decisions 14.25–14.27. The document proposes new draft Decisions and the deletion of Decisions 14.25–14.27.

Annex 2 contains an analysis of CMS National Reports to COP15.

NATIONAL REPORTS

Background

1. Monitoring and reporting on activities by Parties to implement the Convention, and on the outcomes of those activities, are essential for tracking progress, learning lessons from past experience (to guide future action), and assessing the status of both the Convention and of migratory species. An overview of the data provided helps highlight, inter alia, general patterns and trends, progress in implementing Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP), notable successes, and challenges that need to be addressed. The overview also helps to inform new or amended COP Resolutions and Decisions, while feeding into wider processes of international environmental governance.
2. Article VI, paragraph 3, of the Convention requires Parties that are Range States of migratory species listed in Appendices I and II to inform the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, of the measures they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention for those species.
3. COP14 amended Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) *National Reports*, which outlines the reporting process. COP14 further adopted Decisions on National Reports, which read as follows:

14.25 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is requested to consider and, as appropriate, endorse the revision of the National Report format and the guidance document produced by the Secretariat further to Decision 14.27, so that it can be issued at least a year (preferably more) in advance of the deadline for submission of reports to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and make any appropriate recommendations to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the National Report format, including on its subsequent use.

14.26 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is requested to review the reporting requirements under the Resolutions adopted by the Convention as part of the revisions to the National Report format under Decisions 14.25.

14.27 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to consider the need for, and, as appropriate, undertake a revision of the National Report format and its guidance document to reflect lessons learned during the reporting period and the outcomes of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to align with the goals and targets of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032.

4. COP14 also requested Parties to report on the implementation of a number of specific Decisions through the National Report process. These Decisions are summarized in Annex 3 of this document.

Activities

Revision of the National Report format for reporting to COP15

5. Through Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) and Decisions 14.25–14.27 *National Reports*, as well as paragraph (a)(iv) of Decision 14.2 *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species*, the Standing Committee (StC) and the Secretariat were tasked with developing a new format for National Reports that aligns with the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032 (SPMS). However, given that the indicators of the SPMS were not yet in place at the time of developing the National Reports format, and due to the exceptionally short intersessional period before COP15, there was insufficient time to substantially amend the National Report format to fully align it with the SPMS.
6. The StC therefore agreed to develop a new template for the reporting period after COP15, and to use the previous National Report template for the current reporting period, with only minor adjustments. These adjustments included a limited number of additional questions on topics that COP14 had specifically requested to be reported through National Reports.
7. Additionally, it was agreed not to attach the full list of species in Appendices I and II for verification by Parties, as this information was collected during previous reporting cycles and could not be fully assessed and reflected in the National Reports template due to a lack of resources. Instead, the StC agreed to collect information on Range States for species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 during this reporting cycle, in accordance with Decision 14.234.
8. A proposal for the National Reports format was circulated by the Secretariat to the StC members on 13 December 2024 and it was agreed through an electronic procedure, in line with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

Implementation of the national reporting cycle

9. With the assistance of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP–WCMC), an online version of the National Reports format using the Online Reporting System, as agreed by the Standing Committee, was made available to Parties on 14 March 2025, in the three languages of the Convention. The format was accompanied by a technical user guide to facilitate access to and usage of the system, to assist CMS focal points with submitting their reports. Regular communication was established to help CMS focal points resolve any technical issues and fill out and submit their reports.
10. The deadline for submission of National Reports was set for 24 September 2025.
11. Reports received up until 14 October 2025 were included in the analysis: a total of 59 National Reports (approximately 44 per cent response rate). Some reports received after this deadline could not be included in the analysis. All National Reports received are made available on the [CMS website](#).

Analysis of National Reports

12. Thanks to the voluntary contribution of the Government of Switzerland, the CMS Secretariat was able to commission an analysis of the National Reports by UNEP–WCMC. The full analysis is contained in Annex 2.

13. The analysis concludes that:

“Parties that submitted CMS National Reports are thanked for the considerable effort invested in completing the questionnaire. Collectively, these responses provide valuable insights into national implementation of the Convention and offer a snapshot of actions taken, achievements, challenges, and priorities for the conservation of migratory species globally.

Parties have reported progress across multiple areas. Achievements highlighted by reporting Parties include strengthened legislation policy and strategy development, measures to protect, manage, and restore habitats, and species-specific conservation successes. Many Parties reported strengthened inter-agency coordination, the establishment of committees to address CMS implementation, and active engagement in knowledge-sharing. International collaboration remains a key component, with a substantial proportion of Parties participating in Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, and wider initiatives to conserve migratory species.

Despite these achievements, notable implementation gaps remain. Some Parties have yet to fully prohibit the taking of Appendix I species, address obstacles to migration, or conserve and restore habitats in line with CMS Article III. The identification of critical habitats and important sites, particularly for understudied taxa and marine and freshwater ecosystems, remains a key gap in knowledge. Further progress is needed in phasing out harmful incentives, integrating migratory species considerations into national strategies and plans, and fostering community involvement in conservation.

Persistent anthropogenic pressures continue to affect migratory species. Climate change, habitat destruction and degradation, and illegal hunting were frequently reported as having severe impacts, and were also identified as key drivers of negative trends to the conservation status of migratory species. Disease outbreaks, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, have caused significant mortality among migratory species, highlighting their ongoing vulnerability.

Insufficient financial and technical capacity continues to constrain implementation. Many Parties identified a need for assistance in information exchange, research and monitoring, and capacity-building to meet their CMS obligations. Only a minority of Parties reported increased levels of resources for migratory species conservation, while others continue to face funding shortfalls.

The information provided through National Reports identifies key priorities for future action and offers valuable insights into both successes and ongoing challenges. The continued efforts to strengthen legislation, policy and strategies, international cooperation, and the availability of scientific knowledge and data emerged as recurring priorities, essential to achieving conservation outcomes for migratory species and their habitats. The National Reports provide a foundation for monitoring progress and guiding strategic actions in the next triennium.”

Revision of the National Report format for reporting to COP16

14. With the adoption of the SPMS at COP14, Parties agreed (through Decisions 14.1–14.4) to revise the National Report template to align with the new SPMS. UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.15 *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032* outlines a proposed monitoring framework with indicators to assess progress towards the 23 SPMS targets, with the National Reports envisaged as the primary mechanism for Parties to report on implementation. Eighteen (39%) of the proposed indicators would need to be informed by Parties through National Reports: five via

existing questions, six through modified questions, and seven through new questions. Informed by feedback from Parties on the current template, the revision process will also aim to streamline the questionnaire by reducing overall length and complexity, while ensuring it remains a robust and valuable tool for tracking Parties' actions to implement the provisions of the Convention and conserve migratory species.

15. As noted in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the new format for National Reports should be developed for reporting to COP16. A draft Decision 15.BB(b) contained in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.15 requests the Standing Committee to adopt a new template for National Reports – aligned with the SPMS – to be submitted to COP16.
16. Given this established procedure to revise the National Reports template, and the desire to streamline the reporting process and make it more user-friendly for Parties, the COP may consider whether Decisions should continue including requests to report back to COP through the National Reports (see current Decisions in Annex 3). The Secretariat is of the opinion that the inclusion of such Decisions may not be necessary as the revision of the template, focused on SPMS targets, will ensure that implementation of CMS is monitored. Any ad hoc reporting by Parties to the COP could be supported by a corresponding Decision addressed to the Secretariat to solicit responses through a notification or another process.
17. Given that only a limited revision of the National Reports format took place during this intersessional period, it was not possible to fully implement Decision 14.26, which requests the Standing Committee to review the reporting requirements under the Resolutions adopted by the Convention. In Annex 4 to this document, the Secretariat mapped the provisions contained in CMS Resolutions requesting Parties to report on implementation of specific provisions of these Resolutions through National Reports. For reasons summarized in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, the Secretariat recommends that the provisions on reporting contained in existing Resolutions, as listed in Annex 4, are removed or amended to ensure consistency with the revised National Report format, once available – as proposed in the draft Decision in Annex 1.

Recommended actions

18. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft Decision contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) note the analysis of National Reports contained in Annex 2 to this document; and
 - c) delete Decisions 14.25 to 14.27.

DRAFT DECISION

NATIONAL REPORTS

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 15.AA The Standing Committee is requested to review the provisions of Resolutions requesting Parties to report on implementation of specific activities through CMS National Reports, as summarized in Annex 4 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.22, and propose to COP16 their deletion or amendment, as appropriate, to ensure consistency with the revised National Reports format.

ANNEX 2

ANALYSIS OF CMS NATIONAL REPORTS TO COP15

NB: Due to its length, the Annex is presented in a separate file [here](#)

DECISIONS BY COP14 ON INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED BY PARTIES THROUGH NATIONAL REPORTS

Decision 14.31 Bycatch and Other Fisheries-Induced Mortality:

[...] c) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the implementation of Decision 14.31 (b) through their National Reports. [...]

Decision 14.44 Marine Noise:

[...] e) provide information on the implementation of Resolution 12.14 through National Reports. [...]

Decision 14.48 Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna:

[...] d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the Decision through their National Reports [...]

Decision 14.61 Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)

[...] c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the Decision to mitigate threats to ISRAs through their National Reports.

Decision 14.65 Seagrass Ecosystems:

[...] c) report, through the national reports, to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress. (on implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision which give a number of tasks to Parties on identifying migratory species using seagrass meadows and including seagrass meadows in marine protected areas).

Decision 14.69 Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans:

[...] b) report on progress through their National Reports [...] (on reviewing the regional priorities for cetacean conservation, as per paragraph a) of this Decision).

Decision 14.79 Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales

[...] Parties are requested to report through their National Reports on progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic region), including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting.

Decision 14.130 Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)

Parties [...] g) are requested to report on progress in implementing the AEMLAP and integrating it into delivery against other relevant agreements, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to COP15, via their National Reports, in order to achieve CMS objectives; [...]

Decision 14.137 Flyways

Parties: [...] d) are urged to report progress in National Reports in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) Flyways, including monitoring the efficacy of measures taken, to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15).

Decision 14.182 Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife

Parties are requested to [...] 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.

Decision 14.194 Ecological Connectivity

[...] c) report on actions undertaken in line with (a) and (b) in the National Report to be submitted to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 14.207 Renewable Energy and Migratory Species

[...] d) Parties are requested to report to COP15 on the above activities in their National Reports (these include integrating biodiversity and migratory species into national energy and climate policy action plans, spatial planning and legislation, etc.).

Decision 14.21 Conservation Status of Migratory Species:

Parties shall report progress in National Reports on implementing Resolution 14.4, to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 14.211 Climate Change and Migratory Species

[...] f) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision through the provision of case studies, and via their National Reports.

Decision 14.213 Climate Change and Migratory Species:

The Standing Committee is requested to:

- a) review/amend the National Report format to capture Parties' responses to Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) and the climate change-related Decisions agreed at COP14; and
- b) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.

Decision 14.215 Climate Change and Migratory Species:

The Secretariat and the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change, subject to the availability of external resources, should:

[...] c) propose revisions to the National Report format for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 56th and/or 57th Meeting

Decision 14.232 Guidance on the Creation of an Advisory List of Species Aggregated in Families and Genera Listed Under Appendix II

Parties are invited to use the list annexed to Resolution 14.19 to assist with their national reporting of which species they are a Range State for.

PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING PARTIES TO REPORT THROUGH CMS NATIONAL REPORTS

Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) Preventing poisoning of migratory birds (proposed for amendment under COP15 agenda item 26.2)

“Calls on Parties to report progress in implementing actions taken under this Resolution, and results achieved to future COPs through their National Reports”

Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) Power lines and migratory birds

“Urges Parties and invites non-Parties, inter-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions, as appropriate, to include the measures contained in this Resolution in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation, if applicable, in order to ensure that the impact of power lines on bird populations is minimized, and calls on Parties to report progress in implementing this Resolution to each Conference of the Parties as part of their National Reports”

Resolution 12.10 (Rev.COP14) Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures

“Calls on Parties to report progress in implementing the Vulture MsAP, including monitoring the efficacy of measures taken, to each Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, including through their National Reports.”

Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP14) Action Plans for Birds

(proposed for amendment under COP15 agenda item 26.4.1)

“Requests Parties to report on progress in the implementation of the action plans at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties via their national reports, including with regard to the Yellow-breasted Bunting Action Plan and the Sooty Falcon Action Plan upon its finalization.”

Development, adoption and implementation of species action plans for priority species. List refers to action plans for the following species: Yellow-breasted Bunting, Baer’s Pochard, Far Eastern Curlew, European Turtle Dove, European Roller, Dalmatian Pelican, White-headed Duck, Christmas Island Frigatebird, Great Bustard, Sooty Falcon.

Resolution 12.28 (Rev. COP14) Concerted Actions

(proposed for amendment under COP15 agenda item 31.1)

“Parties that are Range States of species covered by accepted proposals for Concerted Actions should report as part of their National Reports on progress in implementation of Concerted Actions.”

This implies that the National Report template should include a dedicated section/question asking for summaries of:

- Which concerted actions the Parties are involved in
- The activities undertaken under each action during reporting period
- The results or progress achieved (including any challenges or lessons learned)

However, this information is already contained in reports on implementation of Concerted Actions which are presented to the COP and its inclusion in the National Report duplicates this reporting.

Resolution 14.18 Avian Influenza

Secretariat is requested to *“include information on implementation of this Resolution in the format of the National Reports.”*

This would include reporting by Parties on concrete actions to prevent and respond to HPAI outbreaks, including:

- Developing national wildlife contingency plans
- Avoiding lethal or habitat-destructive responses
- Reducing transmission risks between wildlife and poultry
- Supporting research, monitoring, surveillance, early warning, and international cooperation

Resolution 14.19 Guidance on Treatment of Species Included within Aggregated Families Listed under Appendix II

(proposed for amendment under COP15 agenda item 29.1)

“Parties should provide information on species listed in the CMS Appendices for which they are a Range State, and”

“Invites Parties to consider the list mentioned in paragraph 1 when, for example, preparing National Reports.”

Resolution 12.20 Management of Marine Debris

“Requests that Parties provide – if available – information on the amounts, impacts and sources of marine debris in waters within their jurisdiction on marine species listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention in their National Reports”

May also be relevant: *“Also calls upon Parties to report on measures taken and their relative success”*

Resolution 12.22 Bycatch

(proposed for amendment under COP15 agenda item 25.1.1)

“Requests Parties to improve reporting of bycatch information and data in their CMS National Reports, or via their reports to CMS daughter agreements, particularly on bycatch mitigation methods that have proved to be effective”.