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Agenda Item 25.2.1

MARINE POLLUTION

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

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 14.41–14.43 *Marine Pollution* and Decision 14.225 (b) *Impact of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Avian Species*. It proposes Decisions for adoption and a new Resolution on *Marine Pollution*.

The attached draft Decisions would support the achievement of Targets 2.3, 3.1, 3.3 and 4.1 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.

This document was revised by the Scientific Council at its 8th Meeting of the Sessional Committee in December 2025.

MARINE POLLUTION

Background

1. The following Resolutions related to Marine Pollution are in effect: Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*, Resolution 7.3 (Rev.COP12) *Oil Pollution and Migratory Species* and Resolution 14.9 *Conservation priorities for cetaceans.* Light Pollution is addressed in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.7, Underwater Noise in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.2.2 and Fish Aggregating Devices in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.3.

2. COP14 adopted the following Decisions on this issue:

14.41 Directed to Parties

Parties are requested to:

a) when developing conservation plans for migratory marine species, integrate the need to address the threat of marine pollution, by:
   i. considering pollution-induced threats to the survival, health and welfare of the taxa concerned, including sub-lethal effects on behaviour, health and reproduction;
   ii. describing and publicizing the threats to affected populations, species and their habitats; and
   iii. developing actions to address threats taking account of feeding, breeding and migratory grounds;
b) identify habitats and populations affected by chronic pollution threats, for example from legacy pollutants, and identify actions to mitigate such threats;
c) set up rapid-response systems to effectively deal with acute pollution problems, such as a chemical, oil or plastic pellet spills; and
d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the Decision.

14.42 Directed to the Scientific Council

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

a) identify priority forms of pollution affecting CMS-listed marine species, avoiding overlap with Decisions 14.44-14.47 on Marine Noise and Decisions 14.221-14.222 on Light Pollution, and develop a review of these threats, including cumulative impacts, and identify localities where marine pollution and migratory marine species significantly intersect;
b) seek to collaborate with relevant daughter Agreements, IWC, IMMA process for marine mammals, ISRA process for sharks and rays, and other fora where similar initiatives are being investigated;
c) with regard to plastic pollution as outlined in 14.42 (a), carry out the work in conjunction with implementing Decision 14.225 on Plastic Pollution;
d) hold an expert workshop to identify priority species, populations and habitats for immediate action, based on findings of the review, and develop recommendations for consideration by ScC-SC8; and
e) in support of the workshop outlined in 14.42 (d), establish a steering group of appropriate experts to guide the focus, agenda and other modalities of the workshop.

14.43 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

a) support the Scientific Council in developing the review convening the associated workshop and establishing the steering group foreseen in Decision 14.42; and
b) seek enhanced cooperation and coordination with other UN bodies and multilateral environmental agreements, including 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 (BBNJ) and the international treaty to end plastic pollution currently being negotiated.

3. COP14 also adopted a Decision on Plastic Pollution:

14.225 Directed to the Scientific Council

b) taking into account Decision 14.42 on Marine Pollution, collaborate with other scientific mechanisms such as those under the International Whaling Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral environmental agreements to exchange available scientific and other relevant data and information related to the prevention and reduction of the impact of plastics on migratory species, including the report developed under paragraph (a).

Activities to implement Decisions 14.42–14.43 and 14.225 (b)

4. A cross-disciplinary workshop on Marine Pollution was held on 28 and 30 May 2025. The workshop, chaired by the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution, explored a wide range of issues associated with marine pollution, with a particular focus on developing recommendations to guide the work of CMS going forward. The workshop was developed with the help of a small steering group of experts, as per Decision 14.42 (e). The report from the workshop can be found as UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.2.1.

5. Presentations addressed, inter alia, the impacts of plastic pollution on marine species; chemical compunds and threats, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs), emerging pollutants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and the impacts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); the role of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) as an area-based conservation tool; and emerging marine geoengineering techniques aimed at climate change mitigation.

6. Discussions covered a broad range of pollution threats, including plastic (macro-, micro-, nano-plastics and plasticizers), chemical pollution, pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), antibiotics, low-level radioactive pollution, anthropogenic radionuclides, unexploded ordnance, the interplay between marine pollution and climate change, light and noise pollution, and potential pollution from marine geoengineering activities. Nutrients, sediments and wastewater were recognized as topics requiring further consideration.

7. The workshop identified the need to:
   - promote effects-based monitoring frameworks for chemical pollution;
   - promote integrative conservation strategies that account for cumulative and synergistic threats;
   - strengthen the strategic use of stranding investigations;
   - address PFAS and other novel pollutants proactively;
   - better assess the impacts of plastic pollution at species and population levels;

- address the threat of legacy pollutants potentially becoming reintroduced into marine environments due to climate change, as well as the potential of climate change to increase the toxicity, sensitivity and bioaccumulation rates of pollutants within organisms;
- indentify hotspots of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG); and
- make use of IMMAs, Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs) and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) to identify and prioritize critical habitats in urgent need of protection where these areas overlap with pollution hotspots.

8. Pollution hotspots identified by the workshop include coastal industrial zones; great ocean gyres; frontal areas; open ocean areas where feeding activities of migratory animals, high ocean productivity and plastic pollution converge; migratory corridors; the Mediterranean Sea, the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans, the Eastern Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia; and potential deep-sea mining areas such as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. Recommendations resulting from the workshop can be found in Annex 1.

9. Close collaboration was established with relevant processes, including the CMS daughter Agreements, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the IMMA initiative and the ISRA process, as well as other forums where similar initiatives are under way.

10. Work related to plastic pollution under Decision 14.42 (c) was carried out in conjunction with the implementation of Decision 14.225 (b). CMS continues to collaborate closely with the IWC, and with UNEP on the development of the Plastic Treaty.

11. The Secretariat collaborated with other multilateral environmental agreements and UN bodies. This included active participation in meetings under the BBNJ Agreement[1] and engagement with the negotiating process of the international treaty on plastic pollution. As part of UN Oceans, CMS worked closely with other entities and liaised with partners such as the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Discussion and analysis

12. Significant progress was made to implement Decisions 14.42 and 14.43. The Scientific Council held a workshop, supported by a dedicated steering group, to finalize a review of priority pollution threats. Coordination with CMS daughter Agreements, the IWC, IMMA and ISRA processes ensured complementarity across related initiatives. Plastic pollution work was aligned with Decision 14.225, promoting synergies across mandates. The Secretariat actively engaged in BBNJ negotiations and the global treaty on plastic pollution, and collaborated with UN partners through UN Oceans.

[1] Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Recommended actions

13. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:

a) note the recommendations of the *Report of the CMS Marine Pollution Workshop* contained in Annex 1 of this document;

b) adopt the Terms of Reference for the Marine Pollution Working Group contained in Annex 2 of this document;

c) adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 3 of this document;

d) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 4 of this document; and

e) delete Decisions 14.41-14.43 and 14.225 b).

ANNEX 1

MARINE POLLUTION WORKSHOP: RECOMMENDATIONS

(The full report can be found in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.2.1)

CMS Parties should be encouraged to address these important issues in the immediate future:

- The regulation and reduction of pollution caused by fisheries, vessels and maritime traffic, especially ALDFGs and other forms of (plastic) pollution from fisheries, as well as littering from fishing/commercial vessels.[2]
- The securing of land-based sites of pollution (e.g., landfills, open dumps, contaminated sites) from inundation caused by coastal flooding/storm surges, extreme storms/rainfall (atmospheric rivers) and sea-level rise.
- 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.
- 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 transfers of material, and abandoned military bases as sources of petrogenic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), primarily including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and flame retardants (polybrominated diphenyl ethers/PBDEs and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances/PFASs).
- The urgent prevention and abatement of spills and losses of (raw) materials from ships during transportation and transfers in harbours, as well as following accidents (e.g., spills of plastic nurdles and other types of plastics, fuel and oil).
- The development of innovative product designs and just-transition processes to substitute plastic polymer or synthetic fibres and textiles (e.g. polyester and nylon) with greener, more environmentally sustainable and biodegradable products to address the growing impact of the apparel and clothing industries as a diffuse source of marine pollution through multiple pathways.
- The need to recognize PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) as an emerging transboundary threat, now widely detected in apex predators and still poorly regulated under international conventions, including by:
  - advocating for the inclusion of all PFAS under the Stockholm Convention;
  - calling for harmonized monitoring in migratory species; and
  - advocating for broader action on the entire class of PFAS due to their persistence, bioaccumulation potential and detection in migratory species.
- The urgent development of conservation strategies for migratory animals that address pollution, especially during particularly vulnerable stages of the migratory cycle (e.g., at foraging/feeding grounds, where breeding occurs, in migration corridors (especially along coasts) and regional biological corridors, and, where appropriate, during oceanic life stages (e.g., for sea turtles)).

[2] Noting that CMS Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris* "Calls upon Parties and invites other stakeholders to address the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), by following the strategies set out under the Food and Agriculture Organization's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries".

- Urgent action in areas where critical habitat overlaps with pollution hotspots including:
    - coastal areas (especially in the vicinity of industrial zones, cities, pollution sources) with regard to macro-plastics, trace metals, PPCPs, chemical pollution, light pollution, etc.,
    - the great ocean gyres – and other possible 'ecological traps' including wavelines and frontal areas,
    - open ocean areas where feeding activities, high productivity, biodiversity and plastic pollution converge,
    - migratory corridors, especially along coasts (noting that some migratory routes are already changing due to climate change),
    - oceanic seascape migratory corridors (e.g., Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, comprising the Galápagos, Malpelo, Coiba and Cocos Islands),
    - Clarion-Clipperton Zone (and other regions where deep-sea mining may occur),
    - the Mediterranean Sea (with regard to macro- and micro-plastic pollution, PCBs and POPs, pollution risks from vessel traffic),
    - the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans (with regard to macro-plastics, shipping and pollution, etc.),
    - the East Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia (with regard to macro-plastic and entanglement of sea turtles).

In addition, CMS Parties should also be encouraged to:

- Recognize that mercury and other chemical pollutants (e.g., PCBs) are not only linked to historical industrial pollution but are also being remobilized due to, for example, permafrost thawing, an increase in forest fires and altertions to biogeochemical cycling in warming oceans. These processes may intensify exposure risks for long-lived migratory species in polar and low-latitude regions.
- Recognize and respond to the vulnerability of diadromous species (e.g., European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) and hilsa herring (*Tenualosa ilisha*)) to combined threats from chemical pollutants (e.g., mercury, PCBs, PFAS, PPCPs) and disruptions to migration cues, which might also be adversely affected by light pollution. These species are often overlooked in marine frameworks yet carry high contaminant loads and face steep population declines.
- Strengthen cooperation between CMS and the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions to address pollutant risks to migratory species.
- Improve strategic engagement with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), including:
    - supporting OSPAR-style pollutant surveillance in under-monitored regions (e.g., Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia); and
    - exploring the potential for CMS to serve as a platform to translate OSPAR science into species-specific conservation actions by, for example, using OSPAR's outputs to help identify hotspots and populations/species at risk.
- Seek better engagement with regional seas conventions.

- 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.
- Promote conservation approaches that explicitly account for the cumulative, synergistic and interactive nature of anthropogenic threats to migratory species (especially interactions between marine pollution and climate change).
- Promote the recognition and strategic use of stranding investigations as a valuable, cost-effective and ethical method for assessing the health of migratory marine species.
- Share data gathered on impacts of marine pollution, e.g., from strandings networks.
- Mitigate the impacts of light pollution on migratory species in the offshore oceans.
- Recognize the value of IMMAs (for cetaceans), ISRAs (for elasmobranchs) IBAs (for birds) and IMTAs (under development for marine turtles) for determining areas where action may be urgently needed. The overlap of these areas with spatial observations of current and modelled future areas of high accumulation/presence of marine pollution can be used to identify potential impact hotspots.

The CMS Scientific Council should continue its work on this issue including:

A. Identifying and evaluating:
   - species/populations, habitats and migratory/life stages that are most at risk, noting the preliminary list provided in Annex 1 of the workshop report; and
   - global hotspots where marine pollution and critical habitat for migratory species overlap.

B. Promoting the use of standardized methodologies for fieldwork methods and sampling, archiving of samples, and the open-source publishing and sharing of results.

C. Developing or applying a 'vulnerability matrix' that integrates species' sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity to both marine pollution and climate change, to help prioritize conservation actions under future environmental scenarios.

D. Giving further consideration to the threat posed by chemical pollution to marine birds (i.e. seabirds and shorebirds), potentially via a further dedicated workshop.

ANNEX 2

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MARINE POLLUTION WORKING GROUP

1. Background

In addition to its review of priority pollution threats, the CMS workshop on marine pollution recommended, inter alia, the establishment of an open-ended working group to support the work of CMS on this broad topic. Such a group will allow expert opinion to inform the development and delivery of an appropriate work programme.

2. Purpose

a) The primary objective of the Working Group is to support the delivery of relevant tasks as identified by the COP related to marine pollution, with a particular focus on chemical pollution and marine debris.

b) In addition, the Working Group will advise the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution and assist her/him in developing ways for CMS to further develop work in this area.

c) The Working Group will also help to monitor relevant scientific literature and facilitate the provision of timely advice to the Parties.

3. Membership

a) Membership of the Working Group can include both members of the Scientific Council and observers. The Working Group will strive to maintain a balance of gender, regional representation and taxonomic categories of expertise.

b) The involvement of Working Group members is entirely on voluntarily basis.

c) If and when needed, experts external to the Working Group and interested in contributing to the objectives of the Working Group may occasionally be invited to join meetings or to support specific tasks.

4. Organization of work

a) The Working Group will be chaired by the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution. If the Chair has to leave her/his position, a new Chair will be appointed from among the remaining Sessional Committee/Scientific Council members of the Working Group.

b) The Working Group will mainly operate electronically by communicating via email and making possible use of a dedicated workspace.

c) The Chair of the Working Group will report on progress to the Sessional Committee.

d) The CMS Secretariat will support and facilitate the coordination of the activities and the organization of meetings of the Working Group.

5. Duration

The Working Group will remain in place until the Sessional Committee decides that its work is complete or an alternative arrangement is made.

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 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 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 PFAS that are known for their persistence, bioaccumulation potential and detection in migratory species;

      ii. advocating for the inclusion of 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 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

b) facilitate collaboration between CMS and the BBNJ Agreement[3], CBD[4], the Stockholm[5], Basel[6], and Minamata[7] 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 a 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.

[3] Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
[4] Convention on Biological Diversity
[5] Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
[6] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
[7] Minamata Convention on Mercury

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, and Minamata 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; and

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