UN environment programme

CMS

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.5
24 October 2025
Original: English

15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 25.6.5

MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR AMAZONIAN MIGRATORY CATFISH

(Prepared by Brazil)

Summary:

This document proposes a Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish. It contains a draft Resolution, a Multi-species Action Plan, and draft decisions for adoption.

MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR AMAZONIAN MIGRATORY CATFISH

Background

1. The Gilded Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) and the Laulao Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) were included in Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in 2024. These species undertake some of the longest freshwater migrations in the world, crossing multiple national borders within the Amazon Basin. Their conservation status is increasingly concerning due to pressures such as overfishing, barriers to migration, habitat degradation, and pollution.

2. Other species of Amazonian catfish undertake significant migrations within the Amazon Basin and would benefit from their inclusion in CMS and in this Action Plan.

3. In response, the Government of Brazil, together with the Amazon Waters Alliance (AAA), in coordination with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI) Brazil, and Amazon Sustainable Landscapes (ASL) Brazil, with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, began preparing a Multi-species Action Plan under the CMS. The draft Action Plan is included in Annex 2 of this document.

Multi-species Action Plan

4. The preparation of the draft Action Plan began with country-specific virtual consultations in which national authorities and experts reviewed the history, threats, and conservation status of the catfish. Each country also identified the measures already being implemented, as well as priorities for future implementation, which were compiled into a regional matrix.

5. In September 2025, a regional workshop was held with government and civil society representatives from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Colombia and Venezuela, despite not being Parties to CMS, expressed their willingness to collaborate and coordinate actions for the conservation and sustainable management of Amazonian migratory catfish. The workshop concluded with the identification of regional objectives, outcomes and actions for the regional Action Plan.

Discussion and analysis

6. The preparation of this Action Plan followed a collaborative process. The drafting was carried out in close consultation with national focal points and experts from each country. A draft resolution was prepared together with the draft Multi-species Action Plan. The draft resolution is contained in Annex 1 to this document.

Recommended actions

7. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:

   a) adopt the Resolution set out in Annex 1 to this document;

   b) adopt, as part of the draft Resolution, the Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish set out in Annex 2 to this document;

   c) adopt the draft decisions set out in Annex 3 to this document.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR AMAZONIAN MIGRATORY CATFISH

Recalling Articles II and IV of the Convention on Migratory Species,

Noting that two catfish species, the Gilded Catfish (Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii) and the Laulao Catfish (Brachyplatystoma vaillantii), were included in CMS Appendix II in 2024:

Recognizing the exceptional ecological, cultural and economic importance of migratory catfish in the Amazon Basin, including the Gilded Catfish and the Laulao Catfish.

Noting with concern the population decline linked to barriers to migration, overexploitation, habitat degradation, mercury and other pollutants, and the lack of data across their transboundary ranges.

Recognizing national and regional regulatory frameworks, as well as the value of coordination among Range States.

Taking note of the outcomes of the regional workshop “Regional Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish”, held in Brasilia in September 2025 in preparation for CMS COP15.

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

1. *Adopts* the “Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish (2026–2036)” contained in the annex to this Resolution;

2. *Urges* Parties and invites non-Party Range States to implement the relevant provisions of the Multi-species Action Plan;

3. *Urges* the States within the Amazon Basin to implement the Multi-species Action Plan in coordination with fisheries, energy, transport, environment and water authorities;

4. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, river-basin organizations, academia and the private sector to support the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan;

5. *Requests* Range States to facilitate a coordination mechanism and mobilize resources;

6. *Instructs* the Secretariat to circulate the Multi-species Action Plan to all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, and to monitor its implementation;

7. *Requests* Range States to report on progress made at future meetings of the CMS Conference of the Parties;

8. *Encourages* synergies with intergovernmental organizations, relevant international and regional treaties, regional and international projects, and the private sector; and,

9. *Urges* Parties and donors to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the activities described in the Multi-species Action Plan.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR AMAZONIAN MIGRATORY CATFISH

Note: The Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish is provided as a separate file here.

ANNEX 3

DRAFT DECISIONS

MULTI-SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR AMAZONIAN MIGRATORY CATFISH

Addressed to Parties that are Range States for the Multi-species Action Plan

15.AA Parties are requested to:

a) Implement the actions included in the Multi-species Action Plan, in particular those identified as “short-term” within three years as a priority;

b) Establish the necessary structures to ensure active collaboration among stakeholders in each Range State, to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, taking into account the proposed governance arrangements contained in the Multi-species Action Plan;

c) Maintain coordination with Range States that are not CMS Parties and encourage them to implement the actions contained in the Multi-species Action Plan; and,

d) Submit a brief report on the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan in a timely manner at COP16 and at future CMS COP meetings.

Addressed to Range States for the Multi-species Action Plan that are not Parties

15.BB Non-Party States are requested to:

a) Implement the actions contained in the Multi-species Action Plan; and,

b) Nominate a focal point for the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan.

Addressed to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multilateral cooperation bodies and donors

15.CC Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multilateral cooperation bodies and donors are encouraged to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan.

Addressed to the Scientific Council

15.DD The Scientific Council is requested to:

a) Review the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan;

b) Provide guidance on ways to effectively implement the Multi-species Action Plan.

Addressed to the Secretariat

15.EE The Secretariat should:

a) Encourage Range States that are not CMS Parties to adopt the actions identified in the Multi-species Action Plan;

b) Convene a meeting of Range States as soon as possible after COP15, subject to the availability of external resources, with regard to the implementation of priority actions and with a view to facilitating coordination across the region.