



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Report

23 March 2026

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

## DAILY MEETING REPORT: DAY 1 (23 MARCH 2026)

### OPENING CEREMONY

1. The Opening Ceremony, held on Monday 23 March 2026, comprised ceremonial, cultural, and official elements, and a welcome to Campo Grande. A video presentation showcasing migratory species and habitats and the Pantanal biome preceded the opening statements.
2. Ms Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, thanked the people of Campo Grande for welcoming CMS COP 15 with generosity. She highlighted the Pantanal as an environment with many meanings and a place of transitions where life flowed. She also reflected on pressures like climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution that threaten migratory species and food and water quality. She called for courageous action to support all migratory species.
3. Ms Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), thanked the Government of Brazil for hosting CMS COP 15, observing that the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland ecosystem, was a living example of ecological connectivity in action. She stressed the urgency of coordinated, international action and shared responsibility to protect migratory species. She expressed UNEP's sincere appreciation to Ms Amy Fraenkel for her dedicated leadership as the CMS Executive Secretary since 2019, noting she had greatly strengthened the Convention's work and its community. She introduced Andrew Raine as the new CMS Executive Secretary as of 1 June 2026, noting confidence in a safe transition.
4. Ms Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, expressed appreciation to President Lula da Silva and the Government of Brazil for hosting COP15 at the gateway to the Pantanal, a critical habitat for migratory species. She thanked the Government of Uzbekistan for their leadership during the COP14 Presidency. She stated that the COP15 theme "Connecting nature to sustain life" underscored that ecological connectivity was not only essential for migratory species, but supported all life on earth, as well as our economies, livelihoods, health, and security. She highlighted the launch, at COP14, of the first [State of the World's Migratory Species](#) report, and said subsequent work underpinned much of the documentation for discussions taking place at COP15. She mentioned the [2026 Interim Report of State of the World's Migratory Species](#) report prepared for CMS by UNEP-WCMC, a global assessment on freshwater fish to be launched on 24 March, and the publication of studies on the impacts of deep-sea mining and the effects of climate change on migratory species, among others.
5. Ms Fraenkel also highlighted success stories achieved by international cooperation, including the recovery of the green turtle, the saiga antelope, and the emperor goose. She said the COP15 agenda had a record number of species proposed for listing under

the Convention's Appendices. On threats to migratory species, Ms Fraenkel highlighted overexploitation, including both targeted taking and incidental capture, and stressed that illegal or unsustainable taking for domestic purposes was a greater threat than international trade. She noted the launch this week of a new global initiative on taking of migratory species. She recognized habitat destruction and fragmentation as another threat, observing that CMS was a leader on ecological connectivity. Target 3 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), she added, could be achieved through well-connected and effectively managed systems of protected areas and other conservation measures. She said bycatch remained the greatest threat to endangered aquatic species.

6. Mr Mauricio Lyrio, Secretary for Energy, Climate and Environment, Brazil, welcomed everyone to Brazil. He said flyways, wetlands, and forest corridors acted as ecological highways, for which migratory species were central. Protecting them required climate, biodiversity, and development policies, he added. He stressed restoration, enforcement, and community engagement as critical for ecosystem services. However, he emphasized that financial mechanisms, capacity building, and technical assistance, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), must match political ambition to ensure connectivity. He said the Pantanal exemplified how climate change, biodiversity loss, and vulnerability converge, and that conserving migratory species goes beyond movement across borders, leading to positive development outcomes and strengthened ecosystems.
7. A cultural performance with Indigenous dance by the Terena People was followed by a statement by Adriane Quilombola, an indigenous leader from the Campo Grande region.
8. Dr Alexandre Zerbinin, Brazilian scientist, highlighted the importance of cetaceans as indicators of ocean health and emphasized international cooperation as critical in protecting migratory species. He called for moving from commitment to implementation, including by reducing bycatch through fishing gear modification, managing ship traffic to reduce underwater noise, and ensuring conservation actions are equitable and inclusive of coastal communities. He stressed that sufficient data exists and CMS now needs to scale action to match the scale of the challenge.
9. Ms Tatiana Neves, Brazilian biologist, said the case of the albatross appropriately reflected the COP15 theme, noting it was highly adapted to marine life, travelling from New Zealand to the Brazilian coast. She explained that albatrosses interact with fishermen by following boats to scavenge for food, resulting in their accidental capture or death. She urged global efforts and international cooperation to solve this problem and avoid capture. She suggested one solution is for fishers to work at night. She noted survival of the species depended, in part, on decisions made at COP15 and hoped this week would be guided by cooperation and a deep sense of purpose.
10. Mr Marcelo Loureiro, one of Brazil's greatest instrumentalists, performed several pieces, including one called Pantanal that became an anthem in the region.

## **I. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

11. Otabek Babamuradov, Uzbekistan, on behalf of the COP14 Presidency, delivered introductory remarks. He said the Pantanal was a vital ecological artery for the Americas, and said it was fitting that the Government of Brazil initiated the Pantanal Declaration, which mirrored the spirit of the Samarkand Declaration. He commended advances made on the Samarkand SPMS 2024-2032 and regional cooperation within the Central Asian

Mammals Initiative (CAMI) by adopting a comprehensive Work Programme for 2026-2032. He explained that, at the national level, Uzbekistan expanded protected areas to 14% of our territory, launched a USD 10 million Bioheritage project, and became the first Central Asian country to submit national targets aligned with the GBF. He said he would oversee the transition of the COP Presidency to take forward this vital work.

## **ITEM 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

12. Mr João Paulo Ribeiro Capobianco, Deputy Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Brazil, was elected COP President, Mr Khalid Cherki from Morocco was elected COP Vice-Chair and Chair of the COW, and Ms Inka Gnittke from Germany was elected Vice-Chair of the COW. The COP President said with these elections the Bureau was complete, and would be comprised of members of the Standing Committee (StC), the Chair of the ScC, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the COP and the Vice-Chair of the COW. Mr Capobianco then took over the meeting as COP President.

## **ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **Item 3.1 Provisional Agenda and Documents**

### **Item 3.2 Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule**

13. The Chair of the COP presented documents [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.3.1/Rev.1 Provisional Agenda and Documents](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.3.2/Rev.1 Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Schedule](#). There were no comments, and the documents were adopted.

## **ITEM 4. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COP**

14. The Chair informed delegates that the applicable [Rules of Procedure](#) for this meeting would be those adopted by COP13. There were no comments, and the Rules of Procedure were adopted.

## **ITEM 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF IN-SESSION COMMITTEES**

### **Item 5.1 Credentials Committee**

15. The COP President recalled that Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Procedure provided for the establishment of a Credentials Committee comprised of five members of at least three regions. In line with the practice of the COP to elect one representative from each of the five CMS regional groups, each region was called on to nominate their representatives. At the invitation of the Chair, the following nominations were made: Australia for Oceania; Zimbabwe for Africa; Peru for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Netherlands for Europe. There being no objections, the COP confirmed by consensus the constitution of the Credentials Committee.

### **Item 5.2 Committee of the Whole**

16. In accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure, the COP established the Committee of the Whole (COW).

## **ITEM 6. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

17. The COP President introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.6 Admission of Observers](#), stating that consistent with the criteria set out in the Convention and the Rules

of Procedure, UN Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and any State not a Party to the Convention, may be represented by observers at COPs. The COP was invited to admit international and national agencies or bodies listed in the document that informed the Secretariat of their desire to be represented at the meeting by observers. As there were no objections, the COP President confirmed that organizations listed in Document 6 were permitted to be represented at COP15.

## **II. REPORTS**

### **ITEM 7. REPORT OF THE OUTGOING COP PRESIDENCY**

To be added later

### **ITEM 8. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **Item 8.1 Standing Committee**

18. Ms Rhiannon Hudson-Jones, Chair of the Standing Committee (StC), presented on activities undertaken by the Committee since COP14. She highlighted strengthened measures against illegal taking and species conservation programmes, including the International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon and the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan, mentioning new WGs and recommendations that led to their adoption. She also mentioned constraints, including recruiting delays, and said the StC Chair had approved the movement of funds among calendar years to ensure travel for COP participants. She described the first ever Review Mechanism case concerning an airport project in Albania where conservation measures were inadequate to protect to protect Appendix 1 species. Given that Albania had failed to respond to an initial letter, she said StC57 had agreed to send a follow up letter to the Government of Albania, requesting the deficiencies in mitigation measures be addressed.

#### **Item 8.2 Scientific Council**

19. Ms Narelle Montgomery, Chair of the ScC, provided an update on activities undertaken by the ScC since COP14, explaining that the vast majority of COP15 papers were either actively produced, or reviewed, by the ScC during this intersessional period. She highlighted a few issues of particular note, including: production of the interim State of the World's Migratory Species Report; identification of a suite of avian species that may benefit from inclusion in the CMS Appendices; considerable work to refine and strengthen CMS's Flyways agenda; identification of an important gap in relation to seabirds; and a proposal to formally recognize marine flyways under CMS. She mentioned the leadership shown by the COP-Appointed Councillor for Climate Change, Des Thomson, in reestablishing the Climate Change WG, convening an expert workshop in Edinburgh in early 2025, and advancing technical guidance on climate barriers and adaptation strategies. She also underscored the need for a global transition to renewable energy in a way that minimises impacts on migratory species and protects ecological connectivity. On freshwater fish, she thanked the COP-Appointed Councillor for Fish, Mr Zeb Hogan, for his leadership in bringing this issue to COP15.
20. Ms Montgomery cited additional activities advanced through WGs and task forces addressing, for example: illegal hunting and unsustainable take; animal culture; and deep-sea mining. She recognised Ms Ruth Cromie, COP-Appointed Councillor for Wildlife Health, who would be stepping down after COP15. Thus, COP15 would need to appoint a new COP-Appointed Councillor for Wildlife Health. In addition, the COP was expected

to appoint an additional expert to share the responsibilities of the COP-Appointed Councillor for Terrestrial Fauna.

21. Ms Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, recognized the work undertaken by Ms Montgomery for two terms as ScC Chair.

## **ITEM 9. REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY AND HOST COUNTRY**

22. Germany, as Depository of the Convention, presented document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.9 Report of the Depository](#), and said the CMS currently has 133 Parties. Since the last Report of the Depository in January 2025, Germany had received no notification from a Party regarding accessions or withdrawals. He said the Czech Republic informed Germany of the withdrawal of its reservations made with respect to the Amendments of the Appendices of the Convention adopted at COP14. He said the Depository was not aware of any reservations. He noted efforts to get more countries to accede to the Convention.

## **ITEM 10. STATEMENTS**

### **Item 10.1 Parties (including REIOs)**

23. The Chair of the COP invited Parties to make brief statements and encouraged providing written statements.
24. India, on behalf of the Asia, highlighted the establishment of an initiative for the Central Asian Flyway and provided updates on progress since COP 14, including the creation of a national project management team to support national implementation.
25. Cyprus, on behalf of the EU, highlighted the implementation of the GBF as a key tool in conserving migratory species. The EU welcomed the entry into force of the BBNJ, noting it will also play an important role for the protection of migratory species. The EU highlighted their proposal for the SSAP for the Tope Shark in the NE Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea and the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve Africa, Eurasian and Australian bustards, expressing hope that Parties would support them.
26. Panama, on behalf of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, highlighted growing coordination among countries in the region, including on jaguar conservation strengthened action for marine mammals, significant progress on sharks and whales through national and regional plans, progress on freshwater fish, and implementation of action plans and strengthening routes for migratory birds. They appealed for building multilateral financing, including through innovative mechanisms.
27. New Zealand, on behalf of Oceania, shared national and regional progress to conserve migratory species, including on seabird conservation, shorebirds, marine mammals, and fish and turtles that migrate across oceans.
28. Zimbabwe, on behalf of Africa, recognized challenges faced by wild animals that need to cross borders for their survival. She highlighted that the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2033) clearly connect Africa's prosperity to its rich biodiversity and unique wildlife. She underscored the importance of regional and global cooperation, highlighting partnerships to prevent illegal killing and trade, and the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and women.
29. Brazil highlighted its role as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and home to migratory species such as the jaguar, the Amazonian catfish, and migratory sharks and

birds. During the High-Level Segment, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed three decrees that, together, expanded protected areas in the country by 148,000 hectares and strengthened connectivity among them. Brazil also submitted proposals to include shark and bird species in the CMS Appendices, including the Pantanal seedeater in Appendix II, and expressed support for the Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish, developed in partnership with countries of the Amazon Basin, including countries that are not yet Parties to the Convention. They called for deepening the dialogue on resource mobilization within the CMS to respond to the needs of all migratory species, including those that move exclusively among developing countries, which often face more limited capacities and resources to implement conservation measures. Brazil stressed that progress at COP 15 on financing, capacity-building, and technology transfer could play a decisive role in advancing the universalization of the Convention.

30. Ukraine lamented destruction of natural habitats in its territory by the Russian Federation and noted it remains committed to implementing the CMS.

### **Item 10.2 Non-Parties**

31. There were no statements from non-Parties.

### **Item 10.3 CMS Agreements**

32. The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) reported on progress made since COP14 as reflected in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.10.3.1 Report of ASCOBANS](#). They highlighted outcomes from the 10th Meeting of the Parties, which adopted a new ASCOBANS work plan and resolutions on the conservation of beaked whales, maritime spatial planning, mitigating impacts of recreational activities on small cetaceans, and shallow-water mining. She said ASCOBANS only had 1.5 staff members and was able to undertake its activities with support from Parties, IGOs, and NGOs. ASCOBANS encouraged more Range States to join ASCOBANS.
33. The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) reported on its activities since COP14 as reflected in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.10.3.2 Report by ACAP](#), noting that ACAP has 13 Parties with several others taking an interest in ACAP activities. ACAP welcomed consideration by the COP of proposals to: include the Flesh-footed Shearwater on Appendix II; include 22 gadfly petrel species, subspecies and geographic populations on Appendix I and II; continue the Concerted Action for the Antipodean Albatross; and consider adoption of a Concerted Action for the Flesh-footed Shearwater.
34. The Agreement on the Conservation of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) presented on activities since COP14 as reflected in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.10.3.3 Report by ACCOBAMS](#), mentioning MOP9's endorsement of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative II and long-term monitoring of the cetacean population and work undertaken on: bycatch; strandings and emergency response; and underwater noise, in collaboration with several national navies.
35. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) reported on activities since COP14, as reflected in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.10.3.4 Report of AEWA](#). He said AEWA marked its 30th anniversary in 2025, which represented not only a celebration of three decades of international cooperation, but also a moment of reflection. He recalled commemoration of the Slender-billed Curlew, the first, and hopefully the last, AEWA-listed species to be declared extinct in October 2025. He highlighted capacity-building efforts to support

Parties, especially in Africa, and strengthened cooperation with CMS and other MEAs and flyway initiatives, particularly the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

36. The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) presented on progress since CMS COP14 in protecting 55 bat species occurring in the EUROBATS area and listed under the Agreement as described in [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.10.3.5 Report of EUROBATS](#). She noted advancements in critical work on, among others, bat habitat conservation, climate change and the impact of heatwaves on roosting bats, renewable energy impacts, light pollution, and online trade in bats. She cited two new guidance documents addressing bats in transport infrastructure and building insulation, and the preparing of further guidance on reducing the impacts of offshore wind turbines and on bat rescue and rehabilitation.

#### **Item 10.4 IGOs and NGOs**

37. WWF, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, the Benin Environment and Education Society, Birdlife, Born Free, the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Fundación Cethus, Humane World for Animals, IFAW, the Irish Basking Shark Group and the Marine Research and Conservation Coalition, the Manta Trust, Oceancare, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Panthera, Pro Wildlife, Save our Seas, TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF, reflected that lack of protected and conserved areas is a key factor in continued species decline and welcomed CMS's emphasis on the importance of ecological connectivity. WWF welcomed the initiatives on illegal and unsustainable take of and trade in CMS-listed species, supported all proposals to add new species to Appendices I and II, and urged parties to take necessary steps to scale up implementation of both CMS and the GBF.
38. The Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) welcomed its longstanding partnership with CMS, highlighting the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme and collaboration on many agenda items, including coordinating conservation actions for shared species like jaguars, cheetahs, lions, leopards, marine turtles, sharks and rays, saiga, and Saker falcon.
39. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) called for stronger alignment between CMS and the GBF to enhance and restore ecological connectivity and build resilient ecosystems and for strengthened action on the main drivers of species decline, particularly bycatch. IUCN encouraged strengthened efforts to address human-wildlife conflict and to support nature-positive planning, including Key Biodiversity Areas, Important Marine Mammal Areas, and Important Shark and Ray Areas.
40. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability highlighted the unique role of local governments in promoting and supporting the protection of migratory species through awareness raising, regulating and reducing light pollution, restoring ecosystems or creating ecological corridors, and considering migratory species in land use planning and frameworks. ICLEI encouraged local governments to take actions in line with national targets to support Parties in protecting migratory species.
41. Born Free Foundation described how its efforts on habitat protection, community engagement, wildlife law enforcement support, and promoting coexistence between people and wildlife help advance international efforts to conserve migratory species and maintain ecological connectivity.
42. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) welcomed its close collaboration with CMS and shared its institutional evolution over its 80-year history. IWC looked forward to further strengthening synergies with CMS.

43. Amazon Waters Alliance highlighted the migratory catfish as emblematic of the urgent need for transboundary cooperation and stronger commitments for rivers and communities. He encouraged regional cooperation for Amazonian aquatic ecosystems.

#### **ITEM 11. REPORT OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

44. A representative of UNEP introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.11](#) *Report of the UNEP Executive Director*, emphasizing its commitment to ensuring conservation of migratory species and connectivity are driving forces in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the GBF, the Samarkand Plan, and national and regional plans. They highlighted the long-standing collaboration between UNEP and CMS and welcomed the contributions of CMS to the GBF.

#### **ITEM 12. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT**

45. Ms Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, reported on the Secretariat's activities since COP14, including those in the Programme of Work. She highlighted the great amount of work that has taken place to advance CMS objectives and implementation of the current Programme of Work. On the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, a StC WG undertook significant work for the development of the monitoring framework for the Plan. On the Review Mechanism, she reported that StC57 reviewed its first case and agreed on next steps. The Secretariat also continued to support Parties in strengthening implementation of the Convention, with the total number of Parties participating in the National Legislation Programme growing to 70 Parties.
46. With respect to resource mobilization, Ms Fraenkel explained that the Secretariat had worked to secure and diversify funding for CMS implementation, including through the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and has secured approximately €7 million in voluntary contributions since COP14. She thanked those who contributed. On country accession, she noted intensified efforts to promote accession to the Convention through targeted outreach and engagement, with several non-Party States beginning internal processes toward joining CMS.
47. On transparency, accountability, and efficiency, the Secretariat reported that an audit of the CMS, AEWA, and EUROBATS Secretariats in 2024 did not include any findings of concern. The Secretariat has implemented recommended actions to strengthen internal procedures and strategies. With respect to cross-cutting achievements, the Secretariat shared accomplishments, including the launch of key modules for the Migratory Species Atlas; the finalization of the first phase of the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC) and the first meeting of GPEC partners; and an expert workshop to advance scientific understanding and policy coordination on climate change.
48. On taxonomic groups, the Secretariat has advanced species-focused conservation, including through the development and implementation of Single Species Action Plans including for Aquatic species such as Mediterranean Angelsharks, European eel, Arabian Sea humpback whale, South Atlantic whales, Atlantic humpback dolphin, and the protection of hawksbill turtles in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific. She highlighted: engagement in the implementation process of the Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ); strengthened efforts to combat illegal bird taking; efforts on Global Flyways and the Americas Flyways Framework; progress in supporting Birds of Prey; development and endorsement of the new work programmes and action plans for all species covered by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative; and, in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, can in-person Range State meeting of jaguar Range States, resulting in the development

of the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation, which was adopted by StC57 and would be considered at this COP.

## OPENING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

49. The COW Chair thanked the Government of Brazil for hosting the COP and the Secretariat for their work in preparing for the COP. He stressed strict time management throughout the week, requesting delegates to keep their interventions focused. He said interventions should not exceed three minutes for Parties and two minutes for observers. He encouraged regional and coordinated statements where possible.
50. He proposed establishing the following WGs: a Budget WG; an Aquatic WG; an Avian WG; a Terrestrial WG; and an Institutional and Cross-Cutting Issues WG, which would convene to discuss items not resolved in the COW. He said the COP15 website had a document with the proposed initial order that agenda items would be taken in the three taxonomic WGs. He said the COW could establish additional contact groups as needed.
51. The Secretariat appointed the Chairs for each of the WGs, as follows:
  - the Budget WG, chaired by the United Kingdom;
  - the Aquatic WG, chaired by COP-appointed Councilor Barry Baker;
  - the Avian WG, chaired by COP-appointed Councilor Rob Clay;
  - the Terrestrial WG, chaired by Zimbabwe; and
  - the Crosscutting WG, chaired by the two COP-appointed Councilors, Des Thompson and Ruth Cromie.
52. He recognized that smaller delegations may not be able to attend every WG and encouraged regional coordination for input to the relevant WGs. He proposed each session begin with reports from the Credential Committee and the WGs, and approval of any available CRPs.
53. The Secretariat drew attention to two proposed changes of terminology across all affected CMS COP15 documents for consistency as proposed by the Chair of the ScC. First, the term 'indigenous peoples and local communities' will be lower case in COP documents. Second, when there was a reference to needing additional resources to undertake a proposed activity, the text would be standardized to read 'subject to the availability of resources.'

## III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

### ITEM 14. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION

#### Item 14.1 Execution of the CMS Budget 2024-2025

54. The Secretariat presented document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.14.1](#) *Execution of CMS Budget 2024-2025*, highlighting the status of assessed contributions for 2024 and 2025 as of 22 March 2026, distinguishing for contributions paid by 31 October 2025 (5,187,371 EUR) and after 31 October (593,345 EUR). For 2024, they said 45 Parties still had outstanding dues and for 2025, 58 Parties had outstanding dues, for a combined 328,977 EUR in contributions still due for 2024 and 2025. On the status of arrears prior to 2024, as of 22 March 2026, 34 Parties were in arrears for 2021-2023, 23 for 2018-2020, and 14 prior to 2018. She noted an execution rate of 95% for the 2024-2025 period. Actions requested included: taking note of the report on the Execution of the CMS Budget and providing comments and advice as necessary to the Secretariat; and urging Parties in arrears to settle their outstanding contributions in accordance.

#### **Item 4.2. CMS Budget for 2027-2029 and Programme of Work for the Intersessional Period between COP15 and COP16**

55. Ms Amy Frankel presented document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.14.2/Rev.1](#) *CMS Budget for 2027-2029 and Programme of Work for the Intersessional Period between COP15 and COP16*. On execution and arrears, she noted several countries had paid off their arrears but more needed to do so. She highlighted that the CMS: played a unique role and was a good investment, working on the ground to bring about change; contributed directly to implementation of the GBF; and was a leader on the cross-cutting issue ecological connectivity. She said the CMS had been able to effectively utilize its core budget, always aimed to be fiscally responsible, delivered on its mandates, and multiplied its impact globally through diverse partnerships.
56. She explained that while the budget was published on time in December, it had to be adjusted after the UN undertook monitoring of the Bonn duty station regarding cost of living in January. As a result, a revised budget proposal was produced and requests for funding in some areas had to be reduced. She reviewed the three budget scenarios in the revised document and described the changes that had to be made to the originally proposed budget.
57. For Scenario 1 with zero nominal growth, she noted: the updated standard cost with a 2% increase; proposed cuts from the core budget for meetings of governing bodies and travel; and the need for significant fundraising efforts for in-person meetings and other unfunded areas.
58. Scenario 2 with zero real growth applied the 2% increase for all budget items except for servicing of the Governing Bodies and travel for COP16. She said the budget was too low for StC and SC meetings, as more delegates were eligible for funding and costs for servicing meetings in Bonn had increased. Scenario 2 included a small level of funding for two core Secretariat responsibilities: an analysis of national reports and upgrading of online reporting systems; and keeping information on Range States for CMS species up to date.
59. Scenario 3 reflected moderate growth and included funding for several key positions, including: a P2 Programme Officer for the Aquatic Unit, given the significant need; an additional person for the science team, originally envisioned as a P2 Programme Officer, but revised as a contractor for a P2-level position; and one contractor, at the G level, for information services, including for the website. She stressed the need for a documents officer but said it had to be cut in the revised budgets. She hoped such a position could be established through a consultancy. She clarified that the original funding proposal was for a P2 Documents Officer and P2 Programme Officer, both of which were now converted to a contractor.
60. For the draft resolution, Ms Fraenkel highlighted new operative text that would authorize the Executive Secretary to be able to transfer money between the years of the budget, between years within the triennium, and between meetings of Convention bodies. This adjustment would provide more flexibility and avoid having to go back to the StC.
61. There were no comments from the floor.
62. The Secretariat introduced the Programme of Work (POW), which covered the period 2026-2029, and was based on a template approved by the StC 56 in March 2025. The POW followed a results-based methodology linked to SPMS goals and targets and

contained specific mandates and budgets itemized by estimates of expenditure. The Secretariat further informed the COW that the POW would be updated during COP 15 to reflect COP 15 decisions.

63. The Chair opened the floor for comments or interventions on the POW; as there were no comments, the meeting was adjourned.