



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Report/Rev.1

13 April 2026

Original: English

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

DAILY MEETING REPORT: DAY 4 (26 MARCH 2026)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MORNING

363. On Thursday morning, the COW heard reports from the WG Chairs. They then considered several CRPs and continued with the items on the agenda.

Item 32.1 Report of the Credentials Committee

364. The Chair of the Credentials Committee said the Committee's had meeting validated 60 credentials, and asked that Parties who had not yet submitted their credential to please do so at their earliest convenience

Item 32.2 Reports of the Working Groups of the Budget Committee

365. The Budget WG Chair said the Group met two times to continue deliberations, read through the draft Resolution, and continued considering elements of the budget. The WG would continue meeting.

366. The Aquatic WG Chair reported progress on bycatch, FADs, marine pollution, underwater noise, deep sea mining, and priorities for area-based conservation of marine migratory species. He said a CRP had been finalized on FADs, and discussion would continue on the other issues.

367. The Terrestrial WG Chair completed discussions on all documents on proposals to amend the CMS Appendices and for Concerted Actions. On 30.2.2 *Proposal for the inclusion of the striped hyena on Appendices I and II*, she said many Parties expressed support but also had doubts on their migratory nature and on the sufficiency of data. However, there were no objections to the proposal. The WG supported 31.3.4 *Proposal for a Concerted Action for the striped hyena*. The WG supported 30.2.1 *Proposal for inclusion of cheetah populations on Appendices I and II*. On 30.2.4 *Proposal for the removal of the Bukhara deer from Appendix I*, she said many in the WG congratulated Uzbekistan for its conservation efforts which led to an increase in the population, but some expressed reservations on removal and suggested exploring other options. There was currently no consensus on this proposal.

368. The Avian Species WG Chair reported completion of discussions on six agenda items: 26.1 *Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*, 26.4.1 *Action Plans for Birds*, 26.5 *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region*, 26.6 *Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures*, 26.8 *Internationally Important Raptor Areas*, and 26.2 *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*. He hoped discussions on 26.3.1 *Flyways*, 26.3.2 *Seabirds and Marine Flyways*, and 26.7 *Saker Falcon Global*

Action Plan would conclude in the evening. He said there were no comments on 26.4.2 *Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (2026-2037)* and 26.4.3 *Global Action Plan for the Conservation of the Steppe Eagle* so no CRPs were issued.

369. The Institutional and Cross-Cutting Issues WG agreed to text on 28.5 *Wildlife health*, with the exception of remaining bracketed text related to resourcing, pending the outcome of the discussion on resources being addressed elsewhere. Text on 20.1/Rev.1 on development of the next Report on the State of the World's Migratory Species had been agreed to in the WG and a CRP had been prepared for 28.9 on cumulative effects assessments.

Item 28.1 Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species

370. The COW first considered [UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.1](#) in the morning.
371. Australia requested that comments arising from ScC-S8 be included as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.1/Add.1. She highlighted, among others, a new paragraph on urging Parties to engage with coordinating bodies of key user groups such as hunting and fishing organizations to increase compliance with laws and regulations, promote accurate reporting of take, implement sustainable principles, and provide n species identification training. She also requested inclusion of text on supporting and recognizing approaches based on multiple systems of knowledge and deleting reference to the prosecution of offenders and the pursuit of any illicit proceeds.
372. The COW Chair requested the Secretariat to draft a revised CRP based on these comments for consideration by the COW.

Item 28.11 Renewable Energy

373. The COW then considered [UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.11](#).
374. The EU requested more time to consider the document. He raised concerns regarding the concept of "nature safe design" and preferred reverting to the original text in other areas of the text.
375. Brazil also requested more time to evaluate the document and also questioned the term "nature safe design, supporting strengthening existing concepts like EIAs for which there was a better understanding. He proposed encouraging implementing voluntary guidelines rather than "urging".
376. Chile also requested more time.
377. The Chair said the COW would further consider this CRP at a later time.

Item 25.6.3 Sharks and Rays

378. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.3/Rev.1](#) *Sharks and Rays* and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.3/Add.1](#) *ScC Comments*.
379. The EU supported adoption of the draft Decisions with the ScC comments. The EU proposed several additions to the text to consider and apply the recommendations of area-based management of the angelshark in the Mediterranean and encourage cooperation with the International Working Group of the SSAP Angelshark Med.

380. Kenya expressed concern that the oceanic whitetip shark continued to be caught despite its listing on Appendix I. He supported the draft Decision and called for Parties to strengthen domestic legislation to prohibit the taking of the oceanic whitetip shark and to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of trade and fisheries data. Kenya supported the proposal to develop a comprehensive list of shark and ray species that meet the criteria for CMS listing by COP16 and urged the ScC to prioritize species found in the Western Indian Ocean in this assessment.
381. The COW Chair said the Secretariat would prepare a CRP.

Item 25.6.4 Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the Tope Shark

382. The EU introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.4/Rev.1](#), noting that the In-Depth Review of the Conservation Status of Individual CMS-listed species concluded that the tope shark had an elevated extinction risk and would benefit from continued international cooperation. The EU underlined the need for comprehensive international conservation action to improve the conservation status of the tope shark and its habitats.
383. The UK supported the **Action Plan**, draft **Resolution and draft Decisions**, and noted existing protections for the tope shark in the UK.
384. The Dutch Elasmobranch Society strongly supported the SSAP.
385. As there were no text changes, the COW Chair said the document would be submitted to the Plenary.

Item 25.6.5 Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish

386. Brazil introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.5 MSAP for Amazonian Migratory Catfish](#).
387. Bolivia supported the Decision, noting the Action Plan was a clear example of the importance of coordinated work between States and consideration of local knowledge in conservation.
388. Ecuador, Peru, and the EU also strongly supported the Decision.
389. Venezuela reaffirmed its support for the Action Plan, explaining that while Venezuela was not a Party to CMS, it was a Range State.
390. Amazon Waters, with 30 organizations working in the Amazon River Basin, welcomed the Action Plan, underscoring its willingness to contribute to its implementation.
391. The COW Chair said the document would be submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 26.1. The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds

392. The Secretariat introduced documents [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.1 The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.1/Add.1 ScC comments](#), and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.26.1a](#) and b.

393. Ghana underscored the importance of strengthened enforcement measures and increased awareness to reduce illegal bird hunting. He appreciated under AEWA' efforts to improve monitoring and reporting and said that sustainable solutions could only be achieved once communities were empowered.
394. Australia, in the TOR for the Asia-Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA), requested reference to migratory water birds. Australia commended the ITTEA for bringing together experts and fostering collaboration and best practices and said Task Force operations were the cornerstone of regional cooperation to address this threat.
395. Chile said it was essential to integrate the Task Force's work with emerging approaches, including One Health, avoid duplication of existing efforts, and strengthen existing mechanisms.
396. EAAFP highlighter the problem of illegal take and trade in their region, and, highlighting the problems of mist nets, emphasized the need for the Task Force to gather data on the use and trade of mist nets and provide guidance for enforcement priorities.
397. The CRP was submitted to the Plenary for final adoption.

Item 26.2 Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds

398. The Secretariat presented document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.2](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.2/Add.1](#) *ScC comments*.
399. Argentina cited progress made with ammunition producers, including addressing lead in ammunition. She also underscored the need to address the use of toxic bait and supported the ScC's comments .
400. The EU questioned deletion of the WG on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds, and wanted to retain the WG but narrow its mandate. She supported the ScC comments. The EU requested more time to consider the document.
401. The Chair said the COW would consider this CRP again at a later time.

Item 26.3 Flyways

402. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.3.1](#) *Flyways* and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.3.1/Add.1](#) *ScC comments*.
403. Costa Rica, on behalf of GRUCLAC, said Central and South America and the Caribbean had proposed an initiative to strengthen work and foster cooperation and would share the text in the Avian WG.
404. The EU supported the Decisions, with the addition of a mandate for the Secretariat to support the establishment of the Central Asian Flyway Initiative.
405. Australia supported the recommendations and draft Decisions and strongly supported exploring a permanent instrument under the CMS for the East Asia-Australian Flyway.
406. New Zealand and the Cook Islands also supported the Decision.

407. Mongolia noted that some EEAFP members are not CMS Parties and, expressing concern about duplication, opposed exploring a new CMS instrument. Bangladesh also expressed concerns about duplication of work.
408. Australia explained that such an instrument would not be a duplication of existing work and looked forward to further discussing the proposal in the Avian WG.
409. The EEAFP said the Partnership had already delivered effective conservation outcomes, engaged both CMS Parties and non-Parties, and called for avoiding duplication of efforts.
410. The Central Asian Conservation Network said EEAFP had proven effective in a region that spanned many country contexts and supported avoiding duplicating work. AAFP supported EEAFP, expressing concern about institutional fragmentation.
411. BirdLife International and the National Audubon Society welcomed the proposal and offered support to the Americas Flyway WG.
412. Wetlands International welcomed language on enhanced monitoring of migratory bird populations and their habitats, underscoring the importance of such efforts in conservation and sustainable management.
413. WWF observed the EEAFP had provided a well-established, voluntary, and highly inclusive platform that delivered meaningful conservation outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats, underlining the Partnership's ability to engage both CMS and non-Parties. WWF expressed concern that a new permanent flyaway instrument under CMS could risk unintended duplication.
414. The COW Chair referred the topic back to the Avian WG.

Item 26.4 Action Plans for Birds

415. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/26.4.1](#) *Action Plan for Birds*.
416. Kazakhstan supported the Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan, noting his country hosted the majority of the global breeding population of the steppe eagle.
417. Saudi Arabia and India also supported the Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan. Saudi Arabia shared that his country conducted a census of the steppe eagle during its 2025-2026 wintering season, strengthening scientific understanding of the species within Saudia Arabia.
418. The EU, the Cook Islands, and EEAFP welcomed the Action Plans for Birds.
419. The COW Chair observed that this topic was connected to the agenda item on MSAP to conserve Africa, Eurasian, and Australian Bustards (2026-2037) and the Global Action Plan for the Conservation of the Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and proposed discussing the documents as a package. As there were no objections, the Secretariat introduced documents [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.4.2](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/26.4.3](#).
420. Saudia Arabia, Mongolia, the EU, IUCN, Senegal, and Burkina Faso supported adoption of the MSAP. Senegal shared its development of a national action plan to conserve bustards.
421. Uganda supported the Global Action Plan for the Conservation of the Steppe Eagle.

422. The COW Chair proposed sending all three documents to the Plenary for adoption, and delegates agreed. However, the Secretariat later noted that there is a CRP.26.4.1 for discussion on Friday, 27 March.

26.3.2. Seabirds and Marine Flyways

423. The Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.3.2/Rev.1](#) *Seabirds and Marine Flyways* and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.26.3.2](#) *Policy Gap Analysis on Marine Flyways*, noting ongoing discussion in the Avian WG.

424. Australia noted seabirds were powerful indicators for ocean health and ecological connectivity but were threatened by bycatch, marine pollution, habitat loss, and climate change. They supported the CMS Flyways WG and proposed appointing a marine flyways coordinator, and active engagement with the BBNJ Agreement.

425. The EU noted that the development of offshore energy facilities and related infrastructure could affect migratory species, and the assessment of appropriate design was an essential part of the permitting process and must be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, they called for clarification regarding the text on "inappropriately designed and/or sited" when referring to offshore energy infrastructure.

426. The UK said it had proposed within the Avian WG the removal of maps in the Annex that showed the six marine flyways, noting limitations in the extent of the data used, including that it excluded high breeding areas and the Arctic Ocean. BirdLife International noted resolution with the UK on this issue, and the UK proposed textual amendments to reflect that, as new seabird tracking data and further knowledge became available, the delineation and species composition of the marine flyways could be updated, particularly to reflect changes in distribution or movements as species adapt to pressures such as climate change.

427. New Zealand noted BirdLife International's valuable contribution regarding seabird tracking data and their leading role on a recent journal article on marine flyways. She acknowledged that it was an early document and there would be updates as more information became available.

428. Norway expressed concern for the decreasing populations of migratory seabirds and supported the document.

429. EAAFP highlighted the value of a flyway-based, partnership-driven approach, and welcomed the recognition of the six global marine flyways as a basis for stronger, coordinated action. She also supported the proposed listing of multiple species of gadfly petrels and flesh-footed shearwater to strengthen global conservation efforts. She highlighted the EAAFP Seabird Working Group and World Migratory Bird Day, as ongoing coordinated efforts to halt seabird declines.

430. BirdLife International said COP15 presented an opportunity to close the gap with respect to flyways and supported the document, noting marine flyways would also benefit other fauna, such as whales and turtles, and support area-based management and other CMS targets.

431. Panama believed that existing instruments focused too heavily on breeding sites and did not focus on broader migratory routes. He observed poorly sited offshore energy could lead to habitat loss and that offshore planning was a critical issue for Latin America and community impact must be considered.

432. South Africa said the identification of six global marine flyways, based on robust tracking data, represented a major scientific and policy advance, as these flyways demonstrated ecological connectivity at an ocean-basin scale and provided an essential framework for coordinated conservation action across national jurisdictions. South Africa was a key Range State for seabirds, supporting globally significant breeding populations and foraging habitat across the Benguela and Agulhas Current systems, which form part of marine flyways extending through the Southern Ocean and beyond. South Africa supported formal recognition of marine flyways under CMS, and adoption of the draft Resolution and Decisions. She welcomed the emphasis on multi-species, flyway-scale approaches, which better reflect seabird ecology and cumulative threats than site-based measures alone. However, she noted the current flyways were not representative of all flyways and said they would be updated when new data became available. South Africa stressed the importance of addressing fisheries bycatch, and said the marine flyways framework offered a practical mechanism to strengthen coherence between CMS, RFMOs, and national fisheries authorities.
433. Senegal noted the creation of more than 15 MPAs in his country.
434. ACAP supported the concept of marine flyways, mentioning the albatrosses and petrels as in particular as those that would benefit. He looked forward to new technologies and other ways to protect seabird species.

Intervention by the CMS Executive Secretary

435. Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, noted the budget document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.14.2/Rev.1 included language stating that the Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the COP that established, *inter alia*, bodies, mechanisms or activities with financial implications not provided for in an Annex were subject to available funds from voluntary contributions. She clarified this statement should be implicit throughout all the Resolutions and Decisions whether or not “subject to the availability of resources” was explicitly mentioned.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – AFTERNOON

Ceremony for Signature of Sharks MOU

436. The Secretariat welcomed the Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change (LIV) as a new cooperating partner to the Sharks MOU. She said LIV had contributed to the Sharks MOU for over a decade, including through work on area-based conservation.
437. Ms Eva Meyers, co-lead of the LIV Angel Shark Project, signed the MOU on behalf of LIV, noting LIV looked forward to further implementation of the MOU.

Item 28.13 Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity

438. The Chair then introduced discussion on [UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.13](#).
439. South Africa proposed several amendments, including replacing “requested” with “encouraged” noting that the concepts are not yet mature enough to be prescriptive. In paragraph 15.CC v), South Africa proposed replacing “hunting” with “illegal and unsustainable use”.

440. Senegal argued that hunting could be a form of management and preferred retaining reference to hunting in the CRP. Zimbabwe and CLLC supported this position.
441. Reflecting on the intention of paragraph 15CC v), the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution, Mark Simmonds, suggested replacing “hunting” with “removals”. The UK, Senegal, and BFF supported this suggestion. BFF stressed the decision was not intended to prevent hunting or taking, but was simply requesting Parties to monitor the impact on the social behaviour of the remaining animals.
442. South Africa said it could agree with the COP-appointed Councillor’s suggestions.
443. The COW Chair said the Secretariat would draw up a new CRP for consideration.

Item 28.11 Renewable Energy

444. The COW considered document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.11](#), Brazil supported language “encouraging”, rather than “urging”, Parties and non-Parties to implement voluntary Guidelines as applicable depending on the particular circumstance of each Party.
445. Chile asked, on integrating biodiversity and migratory species considerations into national energy and climate policies, action plans, and regulatory frameworks, for explicit reference to national biodiversity conservation frameworks. She also asked for deleting a reference to the assessment of EIAs beyond national borders considering the limitations of competencies. In 15.CC a), she called to remove reference to assessing and mitigating impacts beyond national jurisdiction. She also proposed alternative wording to emphasize operationalization of the use of mapping and detection tools of each Party, specifying existing national tools, and supported a sustainable energy transition, based on interinstitutional interagency coordination.
446. The EU proposed deleting reference to nature safe design, noting it was not a well-understood term.
447. The COW Chair said a revised CRP would be prepared based on these comments.

Item 19. Communications, Outreach and Information Management

448. The COW considered UNEP/COP/CMS/COP15/CRP19/Rev.1. As there were no comments, the CRP was forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 23. Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme

449. The COW considered UNEP/COP/CMS/COP15/CRP23. As there were no comments, the CRP was forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 25.1.3 FADs

450. The COW considered UNEP/COP/CMS/COP15/CRP25.1.3. As there were no comments, the CRP was forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 25.5 Marine Turtles

451. The COW considered UNEP/COP/CMS/COP15/CRP25.5. As there were no comments, the CRP was forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 28.4 Communities and Livelihoods

452. On UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.4, the EU, on 15.AA a), proposed deleting “joint” and “innovative” in reference to funding proposals to not limit the scope of the provision of finance to mobilize funding resources that integrate community-based wildlife management with sustainable livelihood opportunities.
453. The COW agreed to the amendments, and the CRP was forwarded to the Plenary for adoption as a Rev.1, taking into account these changes.

Item 28.10 Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species (Infrastructure)

454. On UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.10, the EU requested further clarification on text referring to the conduct of multi-season/multi-year baseline surveys on species distribution in concerned development areas. The Secretariat responded that the baseline surveys would be conducted several times to determine whether a species occurred in certain areas. Regarding concerned development areas, the Secretariat said it referred to areas where infrastructure projects were under development. The EU said these clarifications were not fully reflected in the text.
455. In 15.AA, Brazil, on developing technical guidance for adapting critical habitat criteria to migratory species, including ecological connectivity and subpopulation considerations, proposed deleting reference to “beyond population aggregation thresholds, and precautionary triggers in the absence of adequate data”.
456. The COW Chair proposed that the EU and Brazil develop consensus wording and submit it to the Secretariat so a revised CRP could be prepared.

Item 28.14 Multiple Systems of Knowledge

457. The COW considered UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP28.14. The EU, in 15.BB b), proposed deleting reference to “in accordance with national circumstances” with respect to incorporation of multiple systems of knowledge.
458. South African opposed this deletion.
459. The Chair noted that the COW will come back to this issue.

Item 25.5. Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region

460. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.5](#), noting that discussions took place in the Avian WG and a CRP had been posted the day before.
461. Switzerland supported the amendments made by the Avian WG.
462. The COW Chair said the CRP would be submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 26.6 Avian Species Conservation Issues

463. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.6](#) *Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures* noting that discussions took place in the Avian WG and a CRP had been posted the day before.
464. Ghana, Senegal, and Burkina supported the draft Decision.

465. The Chair said the CRP would be submitted to Plenary for adoption.

Item 26.8 Internationally Important Raptor Areas

466. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.8](#) *Internationally Important Raptor Areas*, and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.8/Add.1](#), *ScC Comments*, noting discussions took place in the Avian WG.

467. As there were no comments, the Chair said the COW would consider a CRP for this issue on Friday.

Item 27.1 Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative

468. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.1](#), noting discussion had taken place in the Terrestrial WG and several amendments were now reflected in the CRP.

469. Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) supported the document as a policy framework that provided useful guidance and potential to serve as a useful conservation platform. CCF underlined the urgent need to ensure that the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) had the resources to become fully functional and to implement its Programme of Work.

470. The Chair said the COW would discuss the CRP on Friday.

Item 27.2 Sahelo Saharan Megafauna Initiative

471. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.2](#), *Sahelo Saharan Megafauna Initiative*, noting that discussions took place in the Terrestrial WG and a CRP had been posted the day before.

472. The Chair said the CRP will be submitted to Plenary for adoption.

Item 27.3 Central Asian Mammals Initiative

473. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.3](#), *Central Asian Mammals Initiative*, and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.3/Add.1](#), *ScC Comments*, noting discussion took place in the Terrestrial WG and the document was supported with no amendments.

474. As there were no comments, the Chair said the document would be submitted to Plenary for adoption.

Item 27.4 Jaguar

475. The Secretariat introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.4/Rev.1](#) *Jaguar* and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.27.14/Add.1](#) *ScC Comments*, noting discussion took place in the Terrestrial WG.

476. The EU asked if the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean could confirm sustainable funding for hosting the Joint Work Programme. He lamented the severe fragmentation of the current species range, noting the jaguar was continuing to decline. The EU supported the new Action Plan and its six objectives as critical for addressing the decline of the species.

477. The Chair noted that the CRP would be discussed on Friday.

VIII. APPENDICIES AND CONCERTED ACTIONS

Item 30.2 Proposals to COP15 for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention

478. The Secretariat introduced documents [UNEP/CMS/COP/Doc.30.2/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP/Doc.30.2/Rev.1/Add.1](#), and UNEP/CMS/COP/Inf.30.2, noting the COP would take decisions regarding the approval or rejection of proposals contained in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.2 through Doc.17.

479. The COW noted the document and forwarded it to the Plenary.

Item 30.2.1 Proposal for the inclusion of the Populations of Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) of Zimbabwe on Appendix I and II of the Convention

480. Zimbabwe introduced the proposal contained in document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/30.2.1/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP15/30.2.1/Add.1](#), *ScC comments*, noting his country had an existing cheetah management plan and planned to reintroduce the species in certain areas.

481. Senegal, Algeria, Panama, Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and the EU supported the proposal. Kenya noted that Namibia and Botswana were not CMS Parties but were encouraged to cooperate with other countries in the region. The EU commended Zimbabwe for its moratorium on hunting for cheetah. South Africa noted it would share its best practices in cheetah management with other countries.

482. Saudi Arabia mentioned that more than 50 cheetah mummies had been found in a cave in his country and that Saudi Arabia was exploring reintroduction of the species.

483. The Cheetah Conservation Foundation noted that fewer than 7,000 wild cheetahs remained and that governments needed to take action on a country-by-country basis. He also said there was a clear need for a Concerted Action on the cheetah.

484. The COW Chair said the proposal would be forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 30.2.2 Proposal for the inclusion of the Striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) on Appendix I and II of the Convention

485. Uzbekistan introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.2](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.2/Add.1](#) which was prepared by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. She noted a higher threat level than in the current global assessment, which was considered outdated. She said addressing data gaps required stronger international cooperation and that the striped hyena qualified as endangered in significant parts of its range. She noted that the ScC had highlighted data deficiencies.

486. Mongolia, the EU, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Brazil, and WCS supported the proposal. Kenya noted the movement of the species between protected areas and human areas, and said this listing would help stop the trade in hyena body parts for use in traditional medicine.

487. The COW Chair said the proposal would be forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 30.2.3 Proposal for the inclusion of the Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) on Appendix I and II of the Convention

488. France introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.3](#), noting difficulties in tracking this species, which he said was found in the lower Amazon countries and was considered endangered by the IUCN Red List. He noted that in French Guyana, gold mining had led to a decline in habitat and in the three types of fish it feeds on. He stressed the need for improving knowledge of the otter's transboundary movements, and that only around 1000 giant otters remained.
489. Peru, Bolivia, Panama, Ecuador, Brazil, Paraguay, Senegal, the EU, and Venezuela supported the proposal. The EU highlighted threats to the species and that the species was expected to decline more by more than 50% over the next 25 years.
490. IUCN noted the giant otters' dependence on continuous freshwater systems and increased pressures from climate change. She explained the case of Argentina, where extreme drought had impacted the river corridors that connect many South American countries, and thus, their migratory routes. She said conservation required international action and financial support for managing shared river basins and monitoring and habitat protection.
491. The COW Chair said the proposal would be forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

Item 30.2.4 Proposal for the removal of Bukhara deer (*Cervus elaphus yarkandensis*) from Appendix 1 of the Convention

492. Uzbekistan introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.4 Proposal for the removal of Bukhara deer \(*Cervus elaphus yarkandensis*\) from Appendix 1 of the Convention](#), noting the Bukhara deer population had increased and would still be retained on Appendix II.
493. Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe supported the proposal to remove of the Bukhara deer from Appendix I.
494. The UK opposed removal, observing that despite increases in the Bukhara deer population, the overall population remained quite small.
495. The EU also opposed removal of the Bukhara deer from Appendix I, expressing concern that opening the door to taking of this species could result in significant loss of protection and in the Bukhara deer becoming further endangered. He stressed that, although the population trend of the Bukhara deer was increasing or stable across most of its range, the numbers were still low. The EU also noted that the information in the initial proposal and in the subsequent document replying to the remarks made by the ScC did not provide a clarification of taxonomy nor a satisfactory justification for the delisting of the species while still ensuring adequate protection.
496. Observing a lack of consensus, the COW Chair requested the interested Parties to continue discussion.

Item 30.2.5 Proposal for the inclusion of Gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma sp*) on Appendix I and II of the Convention

497. New Zealand introduced document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.5/Rev.1 Proposal for the inclusion of Gadfly petrels \(*Pterodroma sp*\) on Appendix I and II of the Convention](#)

and [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.30.2.5/Add.1](#) *Consultations by the Secretariat with Parties and IGOs*. New Zealand stressed the significant threat to the species, stressing that some breeding sites for the species were still being identified and underscoring that petrels as a species in need of further conservation.

498. Fiji and the Cook Islands, co-proponents, aligned with New Zealand, with Fiji stressing the urgency of locating breeding grounds.
499. Chile, as a co-proponent, said not acting today would risk extinction of the species. Brazil, also a co-proponent, stressed that conserving petrels supported CMS's global efforts to safeguard migratory species.
500. The Dominican Republic, a co-proponent, described the challenges of conserving the species and stressed its listing as a fundamental step to conservation of the highly migratory species. Australia, a co-proponent, stressed the benefits of listing the species, such as reducing bycatch and enhancing ecological connectivity.
501. The EU, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, UK, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Norway, Monaco, SPREP, and ACAP supported the inclusion of Gadfly petrels on Appendices I and II, with Peru stressing the urgency of protection.
502. Observing no objections to the proposed listing, the Chair said the proposal would be forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.