



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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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 7 (29 MARCH 2026)

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MORNING

##### Item 14.2 Budget 2027-2029 and Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP15 and COP16

765. On Saturday morning, the COW addressed document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP14.2](#).
766. Brazil thanked the Budget WG Chair as well the delegations for their flexibility to reach an agreed outcome on the budget. He appreciated efforts to find a balanced outcome that would enable the Secretariat to keep its core functions and implement its mandate. Regarding the issue of arrears, Brazil stressed the importance of ensuring a practical solution that encourages the regularization of outstanding contributions while avoiding cumulative restrictions that could reduce Parties' participation in the Convention's work. While recognizing the importance of timely payments of assessed contributions, he believed the Convention should avoid punitive approaches that disproportionately affect developing countries facing genuine constraints. In many cases, the issue was due to inability to pay rather than unwillingness. He emphasized an outcome that addressed arrears in a constructive manner, including through continued engagement by the Secretariat, regular information to Parties, and support for payment plans where needed. He noted the agreed text moved in that direction and thanked the Budget WG for efforts to find a way forward on arrears. Brazil also welcomed the inclusion of language on securing funds to implement the resource mobilization strategy agreed to by Parties.
767. The Netherlands supported the document and thanked all for achieving a consensus document.
768. South Africa supported Brazil, agreeing that punitive measures should not prevent participation in the Convention, and enhanced resource mobilization could increase participation in the CMS and its bodies. He noted the resource mobilization strategy would be defined at COP16. Observing, in the POW, a wide funding gap in terms of programmes in the POW, he stressed resource mobilization must be key in the next triennium to COP16 and beyond.
769. Senegal supported Brazil and South Africa on the need to avoid punitive measures for arrears. He said while 60 Parties were allowed to vote through their credentials, some countries in arrears were prevented from voting; thus, a system is needed to enable participation.
770. The COW agreed to the send the document to the COP for final adoption.

771. The COW Chair thanked everyone for their commitment, spirit of solidarity, and the consensus that prevailed. He expressed thanks to Brazil, the staff, volunteers, technical teams, interpreters, translators, the entire Secretariat staff and especially Ms Melanie Virtue who had supported his work.
772. Brazil thanked the COW Chair for taking on the role and commended his ability to achieve consensus.
773. Ms Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, thanked Mr Khalid Cherki for his willingness to serve as Chair. She presented him with a handmade artisanal belt from the Pantanal region so he would have a memory of this COP in his home.
774. The COW Chair said it was a pleasure to have chaired the COW, declaring the COW closed at 10:05 am.

## **CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES – MORNING**

775. The COP Chair opened the closing plenary session of COP15.

### **Item 32. Report of in-session committees**

#### **Item 32.1 Report of the Credentials Committee**

776. The COP Chair invited the Chair of the Credentials Committee to present the Committee's final report.
777. Australia reported the Committee held daily meetings to analyze submitted credentials and had validated the credential of 60 Parties out of 77 who had attended.
778. The COP approved the report of the Credentials Committee.

#### **Item 32.2 Report of the Committee of the Whole and Working Groups**

779. The COP Chair reported that all the WGs, including budget, had successfully concluded their work. The Chair thanked the WG Chairs for their extraordinary work in shepherding the Parties through the agenda, and especially thanked the COW Chair, Mr Khalid Cherki.
780. The COW Chair reported that the COW completed its work in a congenial atmosphere with very good outcomes. The COW approved the listing 40 species on the Appendices, recommended the adoption or updating of 39 resolutions, agreed on 16 new Concerted Actions, and approved nine action plans for migratory species. He said these were all recommended for adoption by the COP.

#### **Item 16.1 and 17 Election and Appointments to the Scientific Council and Standing Committee**

781. The COP Chair recognized the StC and ScC Chairs and thanked them for their work in the last triennium. He thanked the outgoing StC and ScC-SC members, and COP-Appointed Councilors for their work in the last triennium. He then invited the regions to present their nominations for the StC members and their alternates for the next triennium.

782. Zimbabwe, on behalf of Africa, nominated Zimbabwe, Morocco, and Uganda to serve on the StC, and nominated Seychelles as an alternate for Zimbabwe, Ethiopia as an alternative for Uganda, and Senegal as an alternative for Morocco.
783. Saudia Arabia, on behalf of Asia, nominated India and said Bahrain would continue on the StC. He said the Maldives would serve as the alternate for Bahrain and Bangladesh would serve as the alternate for India.
784. Monaco, on behalf of Europe, nominated Belgium, Montenegro, and the UK to the StC, with France, North Macedonia, and Monaco as alternates.
785. Uruguay, on behalf of South and Central America and the Caribbean, nominated Costa Rica and Brazil to the StC, with Dominican Republic and Peru as alternates.
786. New Zealand, on behalf of Oceania, nominated the Cook Islands to the StC, with Australia as the alternate.
787. The nominations were accepted.

#### **Item 16.1 Appointments to the Scientific Council**

788. The COP Chair informed that the COW had recommended the appointment of COP-appointed Councillors for the next intersessional period for the following subject areas:
- Aquatic Mammals
  - Birds
  - Bycatch
  - Climate Change
  - Connectivity/Networks
  - Fish
  - Marine Pollution
  - Terrestrial Mammals
  - Wildlife Health
789. As there were no objections, the COP Chair confirmed the appointments for the next intersessional period as agreed.
790. The COP Chair noted that the COW had recommended that the following experts be appointed: Mr Craig Stephen for Wildlife Health; and Ms Nandintsetseg Dejid for Terrestrial Mammals.
791. As there were no objections, the COP Chair confirmed the nominations were accepted.
792. The COP Chair then invited the regions to nominate the Party members of the ScC-SC.
793. Zimbabwe, on behalf of Africa, nominated Mr Kahsay Gebretensae Asgedom, Ethiopia; Professor Aziwianewi Benedict Makhado, South Africa; and Mr Kely Roger, Cote d'Ivoire. Zimbabwe noted the nomination of alternates as: Mr Erasmus Henaku Owusu, Ghana; Mr Sandiel Gumedze, Eswatini; and Mr Djibril LY, Mauritania, as alternates.

794. Saudia Arabia, on behalf of Asia, nominated Mr Elena Bykova, Uzbekistan; Dr Bayarbaatar Buuveibaatar, Mongolia; and Dr R Suresh Kumar of India. Asia nominated Mr Sergey Skylyarenko, Kazakhstan, and yet to be confirmed person from Saudi Arabia as an alternate.
795. Monaco, on behalf of Europe, nominated Mr Boris Nikolov, Bulgaria; Ms Caterina Fortuna, Italy; and Mr James Williams, UK. Mr Jean-Philippe Sibley, France, and Mr Ruben Moreno-Opo Diaz-Meco, Spain, were nominated as alternates.
796. Uruguay, on behalf of South and Central America and the Caribbean, nominated Mr Andrei Langeloh Roos, Brazil; Mr Hector Samuel Vera Alcaraz, Paraguay; and Mr. Carlos Polo, Panama. Mr Victor Eduardo Choco Sanchez, Ecuador, and Mr Franciso Concha, Chile, were nominated as alternates.
797. New Zealand, on behalf of Oceania, announced Krishneel Nand, Fiji; Samantha Kwan, Samoa; and a nominee yet to be confirmed from the Philippines. Ms Narelle Montgomery, Australia, was nominated as the alternate
798. As there were no objections, the COP Chair confirmed the acceptance of the nominations of the SC members.

### **ITEM 33. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE APPENDICES**

799. The COP Chair invited the COP to adopt the agreed amendments to the Appendices of the Convention. He noted that the COW had examined 17, including the recommendations emanating from their review by ScC-SC8. Two proposals were withdrawn during the course of deliberations. One proposal was adopted after a roll-call vote, while all others were adopted by consensus. The COP adopted 15 proposals, which resulted in the inclusion of the following 40 taxa on the CMS Appendices:

#### **800. MAMMALIA:**

- Cheetah (*Aciinonyx jubatus*) in Appendix I and Appendix II
- Striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) included in Appendix I and Appendix II
- Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) included in Appendix I and Appendix II

#### **801. AVES:**

- Gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma* sp.) on Appendix I and II (25 species)
- Flesh-footed shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*) included in Appendix II
- Hudsonian whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) included in Appendix I
- Hudsonian godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) included in Appendix I
- Lesser yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) included in Appendix I
- Snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) included in Appendix II
- Ibera seedeater (*Sporophila iberaensis*) included in Appendix II

#### **802. PISCES**

- Pelagic thresher (*Alopias pelagicus*)
- Bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*)

- Common thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*) included in Appendix I
  - Patagonian narrownose smoothhound (*Mustelus schmitti*) included in Appendix II
  - Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) included Appendix I
  - Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) included in Appendix I
  - Spotted sorubim (*Pseudoplatystoma corruscans*) included in Appendix II
803. **Document 14.1** - On Execution of the CMS Budget 2024-2025, the COP took note of the document.
804. **Document 14.2/Rev.1** - On Budget for 2027-2029 and Programme of Work for the Intersessional Period between COP15 and COP16, the COP adopted the draft Resolution and its annexes as contained in CRP14.2.
805. **Document 14.3** - On Resource Mobilization, the COP adopted the COW's recommendation on the provision of guidance to the Secretariat on resource mobilization and further engagement with the GEF. The COP also adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 10.25 (Rev COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP14.3/Rev.1.
806. **Document 15** - On Samarkand SPMS 2024-2032, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 14.1 and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP15/Rev.1.
807. **Document 16.2/Rev.1** - On Overview of the Working Groups and Task Forces Established under the CMS ScC and its SC, the COP noted the document.
808. **Document 18.1** - On Synergies and Partnerships, the COP adopted the draft Decisions contained in the Annex of the document.
809. **Document 18.2** - On Cooperation between the IPBES and CMS, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP18.2.
810. **Document 18.3** - On CMS Contribution to the GBF, the COP adopted the draft decisions as contained in CRP 18.3.
811. **Document 19** - On Communication and Information Management, the COP took note of document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.19 and adopted the draft Decisions as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP19/Rev.1.
812. **Document 20.1/Rev.1** - On Development of the next Report on State of the World's Migratory Species, the COP adopted the draft Decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP/CRP20.1.
813. **Document 20.2/Rev.1** - On the State of the World's Migratory Species - Interim Report (2026), the COP took note of the report.
814. **Document 21/Rev.1** - On Atlas of Animal Migration, the COP adopted the draft Decisions contained in Annex 1 of the document. and noted the *Overview of current modules of the CMS Atlas on Animal Migration* contained in Annex 2.

815. Providing clarification on this item raised by the EU, the Secretariat said that for Document 21, the COW recommended adopting draft Decisions as contained in Annex 1 of the document and noting the Overview contained in Annex 2. The COP adopted these recommendations.
816. **Document 22** - On National Reports, the COP adopted the draft Decision in CRP22 took note of the analysis of National Reports contained in Annex 2 of the document.
817. **Document 23** - On Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme, the COP adopted the draft decisions in CRP 23. The COP also adopted the COW's recommendation to consider the creation of a CMS Multistakeholder Legal Task Force on Legislation, and to request the StC59 to adopt its TOR.
818. **Document 24** - On Review of Decisions, the Committee recommended deletion of Decisions 14.38, 14.39, 14.54, paragraph (b) of Decision 14.56, Decisions 14.143, 14.223, 14.224, 14.225, 14.266. It also recommended the renewal of Decisions 14.40, 14.55, paragraph (a) of Decision 14.56, Decisions 14.65, 14.66, 14.67, 14.68, 14.87, 14.88, 14.89, 14.90, 14.91, 14.92. The COP agreed to delete and renew the recommended decisions.
819. Providing clarification on this item raised by the EU on Document 24, given that no CRP was issued, the Secretariat said Decisions 14.38, 14.39, 14.54, and 14.223 would also be renewed as the EU had requested. The COP agreed to delete and renew the recommended decisions.
820. **Document 25.1.1** - On Bycatch and Other Fisheries-induced Mortality, the COP noted the summary and recommendations in *A Review of Technical and Operational Measures to Mitigate Bycatch of Marine Turtles in Commercial Fisheries* in Annex 1 of the document. The COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.22 Bycatch and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.1.1/Rev.1.
821. **Document 25.1.2** - On Bycatch of Chondrichthyan Species, the COP took note of the summary "Bycatch of Chondrichthyan Species: Key Elements Found in Domestic Legislation" contained in the Annex.
822. **Document 25.1.3** - On Fish Aggregating Devices, the COP noted the summary and recommendations in Annex 1 of the report *Relationship between Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and Marine Debris in the Mediterranean Sea* in Annex 1 of the document and adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.1.3.
823. **Document 25.1.4/Rev.1** - On Aquatic Wild Meat, the COP noted the summary and recommendations of the *Global Review of the Direct Take of Seabirds* in Annex 1, adopted of the TOR for the WG on Aquatic Wild Meat in Annex 2, and adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.1.4.
824. **Document 25.2.1/Rev.1** - On Marine Pollution, the COP noted the recommendations of the Report of the CMS Marine Pollution Workshop in Annex 1 and adopted the TOR for the Marine Pollution WG and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP25.2.1.
825. **Document 25.2.2/Rev.1** - On Underwater Noise, the COP noted the Work Plan for the Joint Noise WG and the summary and recommendations of the report *Anthropogenic Underwater Noise Impacts and Mitigation Strategies for CMS-listed Freshwater*

- Mammals (Cetaceans, Sirenians, Otters) and Their Prey*. The COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.2.2/Rev.1.
826. **Document 25.2.3** - On Deep-Sea Mining, the COP noted the report contained in Annex 1 of the document and adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.2.3.
827. **Document 25.3.1** - On Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species, the COP adopted the draft Resolutions and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.3.1/Rev.1.
828. **Document 25.3.2/Rev.2** - On Vessel Strikes, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.3.2.
829. **Document 25.3.3** - On Conserving Seamount Ecosystems, the COP adopted the draft Resolution and draft Decisions as contained CRP 25.3.3.
830. **Document 25.4.1/Rev.1** - On Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans, the COP noted the summary and recommendations of the report on *Contemporary Whaling and Aquatic Wild Meat Take of CMS Appendix I-Listed Cetaceans*, noted the summary and recommendations of the report on the *Impacts of Climate Change on Cetacean Welfare and Conservation*, and noted the summary and recommendations of the report on *Out of Habitat Cetaceans*. The COP noted the *Compilation of Recommendations that could be Directed to the Scientific Council at COP15 and Future COPs* contained in Annex 4 Document 25.4.1/Rev.1. The COP also adopted the TOR for the Aquatic Mammals WG and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.4.1.
831. **Document 25.4.2** - On Cetacean Action Plans, responding to a request for clarification from the EU on why there was no CRP, Secretariat said the COW agreed to recommend that the COP: note the summaries and analyses of the *Implementation Reports for the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales* and the *Implementation Reports for the SSAP for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin*, as contained in Annexes 1 and 2, respectively; endorse the *Conservation Management Plan for Arabian Sea Humpback Whales* contained in Annex 3; and adopt the draft Decisions in Annex 4.
832. **Document 25.5** - On Marine Turtles, the COP noted the *Report on Relevant Scientific Information on Conservation and Threats to Post-hatchling Sea Turtles*, note the *Recommendations for the Conservation of Sea Turtles through appropriate Beach Protection Measures in the face of Climate Change*, and the *Summary and Analysis of the Implementation Reports for the SSAP for the Hawksbill Turtle* contained in Annex 1, 2 and 3 of Document 25.5. The COP also adopted the draft Decisions contained in CRP 25.5.
833. **Document 25.6.1/Rev.1** - On Freshwater Fish, the COP noted the report, *Global Assessment of Migratory Freshwater Fishes*, the summary and recommendations, and the list of *Migratory Freshwater Fishes that meet the criteria for listing on CMS* contained in Annex 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The COP also adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 10.12 and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.6.1.
834. **Document 25.6.2** - On European Eel, the COP adopted the SSAP contained in Annex 2 of Document 25.6.2 and adopted of the draft Resolution and draft Decisions contained in CRP 25.6.2.

835. **Document 25.6.3** - On Sharks and Rays, the COW adopted the *Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med* as contained in Annex 1 of the document, noted the summary and recommendations of the *Analysis of Implementation Reports on the SSAP Angelshark Med* in Annex 2, noted the summary and recommendations of the *Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-listing for the oceanic whitetip shark* contained in Annex 3, and adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 25.6.3.
836. **Document 25.6.4/Rev.1** - On the SSAP for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the Tope Shark, the COP adopted the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of the document, including the Action Plan annexed to the Resolution. The COP also adopted the draft Decisions as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP 25.6.4/Rev.1.
837. **Document 25.6.5** - On the Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish, the COP adopted the draft Resolution, the Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish and the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 1, 2 and 3 of Document 25.6.5.
838. **Document 26.1** - On Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds, the COP noted the summary of the report on Assessing the use and impact of nets on wild bird populations in Asia and the Mediterranean as contained in Annex 3 of the Document and adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14), including the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA) contained in the Annex of the Resolution and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.1. The committee also agreed to recommend the deletion of Decisions 14.119 –14.129.
839. **Document 26.2** - On Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.2. It further agreed to recommend the deletion of Decisions 14.134 –14.136.
840. **Document 26.3.1** - On Flyways, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.3.1. It further agreed to recommend the deletion of Decisions 14.137 –14.142.
841. **Document 26.3.2/Rev.1** - On Seabird and Marine Flyways, the COP noted the Executive Summary and High-Level Recommendations of the Policy Gap Analysis contained in Annex 2 of the document and adopted the draft Resolution and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.3.2.
842. **Document 26.4.2** - On Multi-species Action Plan for Bustards, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP14), including the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (2026-2037).
843. **Document 26.4.1** - On the Action Plans for Birds, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.4.1.
844. **Document 26.3.2/Rev.1** - On Seabirds and Marine Flyways, the COP agreed to recommend noting the Executive Summary and High-Level Recommendations of the Policy Gap Analysis contained in Annex 2 of the document and agreed to recommend the adoption of the draft Resolution and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.3.2.

845. **Document 26.4.3** - On the Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP14), including the Global Action Plan for the Conservation of Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) (2025-2035).
846. **Document 26.5** - On the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.5. It further agreed to recommend the deletion of Decisions 14.130–14.133.
847. **Document 26.6** - On the Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.6 and the deletion of Decisions 14.148 – 14.155.
848. **Document 26.7** - On the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan, the COP adopted the proposed CMS decision-making structure for the conservation and adaptive management of the saker falcon as contained in Annex 3 of the document and the draft amendments to Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.7 and the deletion of Decisions 14.157 –14.160.
849. **Document 26.8** - On Internationally Important Raptors Areas, the COP adopted the draft Resolution and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP26.8.
850. **Document 27.1** - On the Joint CITES-CMS Africa Carnivores Initiative, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP.27.1.
851. **Document 27.2** - On Sahelo Saharan Megafauna, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP27.2.
852. **Document 27.3** - On the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13) and the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 1 and 2 of the document, respectively.
853. **Document 27.4/Rev.1** - On Jaguar, the COP noted the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation and adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 14.14 and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP27.4.
854. **Document 28.1** - On Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species, the COP noted *the Review of Cross-Cutting Aspects, the Scoping Analysis Summary and Recommendations*, and the review on the *Impacts of Take and Trade of Migratory Birds for Consumption in Africa-Eurasia* executive summary presented as annexes of Document 28.1.
855. **Document 28.2/Rev.1** - On Ecological Connectivity, the COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 14.16 and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP28.2. It also took note of the summary of the analysis of the CMS Survey on Ecological Connectivity and Infrastructure.
856. **Document 28.3:** - On Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP 28.3.
857. **Document 28.4** - On Communities and Livelihoods, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP28.4/Rev.1.

858. **Document 28.5/Rev.1** - On Wildlife Health, the COP noted the “Key Messages” and the activities of the CMS–FAO Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds since COP14. The COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP28.5/Rev.1.
859. **Document 28.6/Rev.1** - On Pastoralism, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP28.6.
860. **Document 28.7/Rev.1** - On Light Pollution, the COP noted the report found in Annex 2 of the document. The COP also adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 13.5 as contained in CRP28.7/Rev.1.
861. **Document 28.8/Rev.1** - On Insect Decline and its Threats to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations, the COP noted the summary contained in Annex 2 of the document. The COP also adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 13.6 as contained in CRP28.8/Rev.1.
862. **Document 28.9/Rev.1** - On Cumulative Effects Assessments, the COP noted the report contained in Annex 1 of the document and adopted the draft Decision as contained in CRP28.9.
863. **Document 28.10/Rev.1** - On Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP14) and Decisions as contained in CRP28.10/Rev.1.
864. **Document 28.11** - On Renewable Energy and Migratory Species, the COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) and the draft Decisions as contained in CRP28.11/Rev.2.
865. **Document 28.12/Rev.1** - On Climate Change and Migratory Species, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) and the draft Decisions contained in CRP28.12/Rev.1. The COP also noted the findings of the Expert Workshop and of the WG meeting as contained in Annexes 3 and 4, respectively, of Document 28.12/Rev.1.
866. **Document 28.13/Rev.1** - On Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity, the COP adopted the TOR for the Expert WG on Animal Culture and Social Learning and the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 and 2, respectively, of Document 28.13/Rev.1. The COP also adopted the draft Decisions as contained in CRP28.13/Rev.1.
867. **Document 28.14/Rev.1** - On Multiple Systems of Knowledge, the COP noted the report contained in Annex 2 of Document 28.14/Rev.1. The COP also adopted the draft Decisions contained in CRP28.14/Rev.1.
868. **Document 29.1** - On Treatment of Species included within Aggregated Families listed in Appendix II, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 14.19 and the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 1 and 2 of the document.
869. **Document 29.2/Rev.1** - Maintaining Lists of Species included in CMS Appendices, the COP adopted the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 1 of the document. The COP noted the *Preliminary findings of the review of the taxonomy, nomenclature and Range State information for species listed on CMS Appendix I and II and CMS Instruments and*

the *Assessment of migratory movements of birds for the purpose of disaggregating families under Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species*.

870. **Document 29.3/Rev.1** - On Taxonomy and Nomenclature, the COP adopted the draft amendments to the Annex to Resolution 12.27 (Rev.COP14) *Taxonomy and Nomenclature* and the draft Decisions contained in Annex 1 and 2 of the document. The COP also adopted the changes to taxonomy and nomenclature of species listed in Appendix I and II as contained in Annex 3.
871. **Document 29.4/Rev.1** - On Species that meet the Criteria for Listing on CMS, the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 14.20 as contained in Annex 1 of the document. The COP also adopted the draft Decision as contained in CRP 29.4.
872. **Document 29.5** - On Towards Harmonization of Taxonomy and Nomenclature, the COP adopted the draft Decision as included in the Annex of the document.
873. **Document 30.1/Rev.1** - On Guidelines for preparing and assessing Proposals for the Amendment of CMS Appendices, the COP adopted of the draft amendments to Resolution 13.17 as contained in CRP30.1.
874. **Document 30.2/Rev.1** - On Proposals to COP15 for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention, the COP Chair noted that the COW considered proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention for 40 species.
875. **Document 31.1/Rev.1** - On Concerted Actions, which recommended the adoption of amendments to Resolution 12.28 (Rev. COP14), the COP adopted the draft amendments to Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP14) as contained in CRP 31.1.
876. **Document 31.2** - On Progress in the Implementation of Concerted Actions, the Chair explained that the COW had considered reports of implementation of Concerted Actions for 11 species or groups of species. The COP noted the reports found in Documents 31.2.1 to 31.2.11.
877. **Document 31.3/Rev.1** - The COP Chair noted the COW had considered Proposals for Concerted Actions for the Triennium 2026-2029 and in the interests of time the Concerted Actions would be considered as a block.
878. **Documents 31.3.1 to 31.3.16** - The COP adopted the 16 proposed Concerted Actions concerning the following species or groups of species:
- Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
  - Straw-Coloured Fruit Bat (*Eidolon helvum*)
  - Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx* and *Lynx lynx balcanicus*)
  - Striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)
  - Masai giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi*), Northern giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*) and Southern giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*).
  - Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*)
  - Franciscana Dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*)
  - Lahille bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*)
  - Antipodean albatross (*Diomedea antipodensis*)
  - Flesh-footed shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*)

- Peruvian or Humboldt pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*)
- Magellanic plover (*Pluvianellus socialis*)
- Sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*)
- Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)
- Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*)
- Devil and Manta rays (*Mobulidae*)

879. The proposal for the Masai giraffe was considered as CRP31.3.5/Rev.2.

880. The COP Chair said it was refreshing to see these Concerted Actions become concrete proposals with the enthusiastic engagement of the Parties involved and thanked the proponents for developing them.

#### **ITEM 34: DATE AND VENUE OF COP16**

881. After consulting with the Bureau, UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP34 was posted on 27 March 2026 with an expression of interest in the hosting of COP16.

882. Germany announced it was delighted to offer to host COP16 in 2029 and welcomed all to Bonn, where the Convention was signed, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the CMS.

883. Ms Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, expressed gratitude to the Government of Germany for this offer, which had already been confirmed. She stressed the importance of Bonn as the birthplace of the CMS and that it was fitting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Convention there.

884. The COP adopted UNEP/CMS/COP15/CRP34, accepting the offer of Germany to host COP16 in 2029 and instructing the Secretariat and StC to engage in the planning of the meeting.

#### **ITEM 35: ANY OTHER MATTERS**

885. There were no other matters of other business.

#### **Closing Statements**

886. Uruguay, on behalf of GRULAC, thanked Brazil for its exemplary leadership and an inclusive Presidency, which facilitated an effective space for participation of young people, indigenous peoples and local communities. She highlighted the adoption of key decisions regarding the movement of resources and celebrated the inclusion of new species in the Appendices of the Convention as well as the adoption and strengthening of Concerted Actions. She reiterated that important challenges persist, especially on the availability of financial, technical, and human resources, and called for continued strengthening of international support to ensure the effective implementation of COP15 decisions.

887. Zimbabwe, on behalf of Africa, appreciated Brazil for hosting COP15 and especially praised the youth volunteers. She observed that the COP15 commitments and resolutions were only as good as their implementation. She called for changing undesirable species trajectories and increasing the number of species eligible for downlisting at future COPs. Africa highlighted the catalytic potential of the Concerted

Actions, which she said contained “brilliant ideas and ambitious commitments” that could help deliver positive progress under the SPMS. She encouraged Parties to establish more TFCAs to promote collaboration across borders, improve flyways, remove barriers in wildlife corridors, and innovate beyond current imaginations to create a better environment for nature and people.

888. The EU was pleased with the COP15 outcomes, noting the adoption of a range of important decisions that would bring tangible benefits to migratory species and their habitats. The EU appreciated the dedication and flexibility of the Parties, which enabled COP15 to achieve so many positive outcomes. The EU especially appreciated the adoption of actions on the European eel, the tope shark, and the bustard, and the listing of the giant otter. The EU welcomed all additions to the Appendices, which he said would enhance protection, foster international conservation, and raise awareness.
889. Monaco, on behalf of the non-EU European countries present at the COP, thanked Brazil and the Secretariat, underscoring the commitment and professionalism of the Secretariat, which made for a constructive and inclusive COP. Monaco explained that the decisions adopted demonstrated a collective commitment to addressing international challenges and strengthening international cooperation, confirming that this COP was indeed “a happy COP”. The non-EU European countries urged elevating the spirit of dialogue and compromise that guided COP15, thanked Ms Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, for her vision and her unwavering commitment to COP15, and looked forward to COP16 in Germany.
890. New Zealand, on behalf of Oceania, thanked Brazil for hosting the meeting and appreciated the Secretariat and the Chairs for their work. They noted that the region especially wished to thank Ms Amy Fraenkel for her tireless work and careful navigation which had had a profound effect on the Convention’s effectiveness. Oceania welcomed the outcome of the seabird listing proposals, highlighting seabirds as among the most threatened bird groups and their extraordinary migrations spanning entire ocean basins, which make them powerful indicators of ocean health and connectivity. Oceania urged Parties to help them elevate these species in national, regional, and international initiatives and cooperation to prevent them from sliding into extinction. They also welcomed the Resolution on seabirds and marine flyways as well as the recognition of multiple systems of knowledge. Oceania underscored the importance of addressing key pressures on migratory species, including bycatch, habitat degradation, and emerging health risks, and called for recognizing the special circumstances and needs of Pacific small island developing States, including effective financial resources, resource mobilization, strengthened capacity, and streamlined and harmonized reporting.
891. India thanked the CMS Secretariat for supporting the CAF Initiative and said India was establishing a Coordination Unit to implement the CAF Initiative. He commended progress made on SSAPs, including on the steppe eagle, saker falcon, and seabirds. He said that India would host a meeting of the International Big Cat Alliance in June and looked forward to collaboration among by partner countries.
892. Argentina thanked Brazil for hosting COP15, highlighted Argentina’s role as a co-sponsor of several proposals, and noted its intent to cooperate with Brazil and Uruguay to advance conservation of the angelshark, Argentina underscored the importance of strengthening synergies between the CMS and other agreements, stressing the need to respect mandates to ensure a coherent multilateral system. She emphasized the BBNJ Agreement as the appropriate forum for conserving areas and species outside national jurisdictions and the ISA as the appropriate forum for discussing deep sea mining. On gender, Argentina reiterated that it interprets the term gender in accordance with Article

- 7.3 of the Rome Statute, referring to the male and female sexes. Argentina distanced itself from all paragraphs in the documents that may contain references to the Pact for the Future, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
893. IUCN thanked Brazil and welcomed the adoption of the SPMS and its monitoring framework, and new listings and Concerted Action for protection of species. She said IUCN was ready to help support implementation and science.
894. BirdLife International spoke on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, BEES, BirdLife International, Born Free Foundation, Charles Darwin Foundation, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Fondation Franz Weber, Fundación Cethus, Humane World for Animals, IFAW, Irish Basking Shark Group and Marine Research and Conservation Foundation, Law of the Wild, Manta Trust, OceanCare, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Panthera, Pro Wildlife, Save our Seas Foundation, WWF. They commended efforts to mitigate bycatch and not engage in mineral exploration, applauded the America Flyways Initiative, and the new initiative on illegal and unsustainable take, and welcomed measures to protect seamounts from destructive fishing practices, and including the snowy owl on Appendix II.
895. The Instituto Baleia Jubarte (Humpback Whale Institute), also on behalf of Divers for Sharks, welcomed the courage shown in conserving migratory species at CMS, underscoring biodiversity as a shared heritage and calling on continued courage to address threats to migratory species.
896. Born Free Foundation underscored the challenge of financing for implementation. He requested participants to discuss the importance of natural capital with their finance ministers, and called for adopting “Payment for the Ecosystem Services of Animals (PESA)”, which would measure the value of individual animals to ecosystem function over the course of their lives. They proposed that the PESA concept could help solve the biodiversity funding gap.
897. A representative of indigenous peoples of Brazil expressed appreciation for the contribution of traditional knowledge and practices to COP15. She reaffirmed that the IPLCs of Brazil understood habitats to mean traditional territories and called for including this term in CMS. She proposed a permanent space for indigenous peoples in future COPs and called for Parties to include their IPLCs in their conversations on migratory species conservation.

### **ITEM 36: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

898. The Chair invited the COP to adopt the Report of the Meeting, saying comments on the daily reports published on the website could be sent to the Secretariat and that delegates would have one month from the date of the posting of the final report on the CMS website to submit written comments, corrections, or other proposed amendments to the Secretariat.

### **ITEM 37. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

899. In her closing statement, Ms Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, said that despite the shorter-than-usual intersessional period, an enormous amount of work was accomplished, building on the foundation set by COP14, the State of the World’s Migratory Species (SoWMS) report and advancing implementation of the Samarkand

SPMS. She highlighted the addition of 40 new species to the CMS Appendices to advance work over the next three years.

900. Ms Fraenkel said in the world of MEAs, a sort of hierarchy had been constructed by governments and stakeholders and as a result, within the UN system, with all addressing growing pressures from human activities on natural systems. She said that CMS was one of the most important international agreements dealing with the environment, addressing the same pressures as the three Rio Conventions, CITES, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the chemical conventions, and others. Yet it did so from the perspective of the extraordinary living creatures found all over the world, that carry out the most remarkable natural phenomenon of migration – connecting countries, continents, and communities. She noted that the need for CMS was agreed in 1972 at the first UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm.
901. Ms Fraenkel said one her main goals as Executive Secretary had been to elevate CMS to its proper place in the mosaic of MEAs, believing CMS was not only stronger than when she first took up her post. She said it had also affected her deeply and in only positive ways. She cited several accomplishments during her tenure, including:
- the first SoWMS report in 2024;
  - a new SPMS adopted in Samarkand;
  - elevating the term ‘Ecological Connectivity’ which was now being used by Heads of State, including Brazilian President Lula da Silva one week ago;
  - the launch of two new global initiatives to address the top two threats to migratory species– one on ecological connectivity, the other on the major threat of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species tied to domestic motivations; and
  - firmly integrating CMS into the GBF, GEF programming, and a new IPBES assessment on ecological connectivity.
902. She explained the raising of awareness on the importance of migratory species and of CMS among media around the world. She cited significant press coverage at COP15, including 4,213 articles, in 26 languages at 1,153 different news sites, across 78 countries, with potential online impressions of over 6 billion.
903. She noted that several non-Party governments had joined CMS under her watch, and COPs were attracting a greater representation of Parties and observers from around the world.
904. Looking to the future, she underscored five key priorities:
- implementing the clear recommendations of SoWMS;
  - continuing to mainstream ecological connectivity and the importance of migratory species across government, the business sector, and other decision makers;
  - the need for a stronger, more holistic approach to wildlife management that spans the issues related to CMS, CITES, and domestic priorities;
  - more meaningful engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities; and
  - increasing the number of Parties to CMS.
905. She thanked everyone, including the Government of Brazil, State, City, people, indigenous peoples and local communities, CMS national focal points, the StC Chair and members, the ScC Chair, Scientific Councillors and SC members, the COP-appointed Councillors, the local Brazilian staff and volunteers, technicians, interpreters, report writers, and the CMS Secretariat Staff. She was honored by the privilege to have

served as the CMS Executive Secretary. She thanked the Government of Germany for hosting the CMS Secretariat and for its offer to host COP16.

906. The Secretariat thanked Ms Fraenkel for her contributions to multilateralism, after almost 20 years in the UN, including roles at UNEP and the CBD, and guiding the CMS through three COPs.

907. The COP Chair gavelled COP15 to a close at 3.16 pm.