



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP15)

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### FLYWAYS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Campo Grande, March 2026)

*Recognizing* that a flyway is a flight path used by large numbers of birds, including landbirds, raptors, waterbirds and seabirds, while migrating between their breeding grounds and their non-breeding areas, generally spanning continents and often passing over oceans,

*Recognizing* that flyways are to be considered as ecological networks, since although there may be no direct physical links between their component parts, the populations of migratory birds using them provide an ecological link themselves, as recognized in Resolution 14.16 (Rev.COP15) *Ecological Connectivity*,

*Recognizing* that a flyways approach is necessary to ensure adequate conservation of migratory birds throughout their ranges, and that any use of migratory birds is sustainable, combining species- and ecosystem-based approaches and promoting international cooperation and coordination among States, the private sector, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), United Nations institutions, non-governmental organizations, local communities and other stakeholders,

*Also recognizing* that there are specific threats of particular significance to migratory birds along flyways, as identified in *A Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management CMS Technical Series No. 27*, that continue to have an impact on these species and their habitats including:

- destruction and degradation of inland wetlands, inter-tidal and associated coastal habitats (Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*);
- loss of forests and grasslands, including through agricultural intensification, overgrazing and desertification (Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP15) *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)*);
- inappropriate development of renewable energy including wind turbine development (Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*);
- power lines causing collisions and electrocutions (Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*);
- illegal and/or unsustainable killing, taking and trade (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*);
- overfishing and the bycatch of seabirds (Resolution 6.2, Recommendation 7.2, Resolutions 8.14, 9.18 and 10.14<sup>1</sup>);
- lead shot and other poisoning (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*);

<sup>1</sup> All consolidated in Resolution 12.22 (Rev.COP15) *Bycatch and Other Fisheries-induced Mortality*.

- invasive alien species (Resolution 11.28 *Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species*), avian influenza and other disease (Resolutions 8.27, 9.8 and 10.22 on wildlife disease<sup>2</sup> and Resolution 14.18 *Avian Influenza*); and
- marine debris (Resolution 11.30 *Management of Marine Debris*<sup>3</sup>),

*Recognizing also* that climate change is already having an adverse impact on migratory birds and their habitats, as reflected in Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP15) *Climate Change and Migratory Species*,

*Recognizing also* the vital importance of the Arctic as the location of breeding and moulting areas of the world's major migratory waterbird flyways and that the region is undergoing rapid change driven by climate effects, development of activities of major extractive industries, land and water transportation routes and other threats,

*Acknowledging* the 2013 Resolution of Cooperation signed between the Secretariats of CMS and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF) of the Arctic Council and tripartite CAFF/CMS/AEWA joint workplan to encourage information sharing to assist in the conservation of migratory species along all the world's flyways and to assist cooperation with non-Arctic countries on these issues, and welcoming the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) and its associated 2019-2027 Work Plan,

*Noting with appreciation* the broad participation and work undertaken by the Ramsar Convention and the African–Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Center for Biodiversity for its establishment of the (ASEAN) Flyway Network, international NGOs, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), AMBI, the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and international experts as well as a wider consultative group contributing to the work of the Flyways Working Group,

*Taking further note* of the Americas Flyways Action Plan adopted as a result of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) Task Force, which took place in Florianopolis, Brazil in July 2018, and subsequently updated at its second meeting in December 2024, and noting discussions held at the third meeting of the Task Force in Campo Grande, Brazil in March 2026 regarding the development of a CMS Initiative for Americas Flyways and the many ongoing activities in the Americas for the conservation of migratory birds,

*Welcoming* the progress made by the Government of India, hosting, in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Range States in May 2023 to establish the institutional framework and a road map to update the CAF Action Plan through Resolution 14.13 *Initiative for Central Asian Flyway* and to advance the creation of a CMS-CAF Coordinating Unit for this flyway, and congratulating India for its National Action Plan on the CAF for migratory birds and progress in implementing the Action Plan,

*Recognizing* the ongoing efforts of various NGOs and regional inter-governmental fora to advance seabird conservation and identify marine flyways, as well as the opportunity to advance the designation of Marine Protected Areas for seabirds and other marine fauna through the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ),

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<sup>2</sup> All consolidated in Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP15) *Wildlife Health and Migratory Species*.

<sup>3</sup> Consolidated as Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*.

*Appreciating* World Migratory Bird Day as a joint global campaign of CMS, AEWA, Environment for the Americas (EFTA) and the EAAFP, under a partnership established during the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, Manila, 2017 (Res. 11.09 (Rev.COP13) *World Migratory Bird Day*), to strengthen recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation,

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

1. *Requests* the continuation of the open-ended Flyways Working Group, extending membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions, technical groups and relevant CMS bodies currently absent;
2. *Notes* the Programme of Work for the triennium 2026-2029 to enhance the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along flyways, within and outside protected areas, especially by addressing key threats, and integrating their requirements into land-use and marine policies;
3. *Calls on* Parties to effectively implement the priorities set by the Flyways Working Group in accordance with the circumstances of each Party and invites non-Parties and other stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat to strengthen national and local capacity for flyway conservation including, *inter alia*, by developing partnerships with key stakeholders and organizing training courses; translating and disseminating documents, sharing protocols and regulations; transferring technology; protecting and improving management and restoration of critically and internationally important sites; ensuring any use of migratory birds is sustainable, understanding the ecological functionality of flyways through research of migratory birds and their habitats to help determine threats and identify effective solutions; strengthening monitoring programmes; and promoting the conservation of migratory birds;
4. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the CMS Parties of the Americas at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to establish the Initiative for the Americas Flyways (IAF), in close coordination with all Americas Flyways Range States, other stakeholders, and any existing multilateral frameworks, under the umbrella of CMS and as an institutional framework to support the implementation and monitoring of the Americas Flyways Framework and Action Plan;
5. *Notes* that, until the establishment of the Initiative for the Americas Flyways (IAF), the Americas Flyways Task Force will continue to coordinate the development and implementation of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Americas Flyways Action Plan, developed in full alignment with the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), CMS instruments such as the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for High Andean Flamingos, for Ruddy Headed Goose and for Southern South American Grassland Birds, and to report to meetings of the Scientific Council;
6. *Welcomes* progress in the African-Eurasian Flyway to address threats and develop transboundary solutions for the conservation of migratory birds through CMS instruments such as AEWA, the MOUs for Aquatic Warbler, for Birds of Prey (Raptors) and for Middle-European Great Bustard, and the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan;

7. *Further welcomes* the commitment by the Government of India to provide resources and further efforts to continue the collaborative process, in close consultation with the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Range States and with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to establish the Central Asian Flyway Initiative under the CMS as an institutional framework, with a coordinating unit provided by the CMS Secretariat and hosted by the Government of India, to support the implementation of increased conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the CAF, as well as to support this initiative with resources, in coordination with the existing CMS avian-related instruments;
8. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway (EAAF) to explore the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing a flyway instrument/s for migratory birds in coordination with existing CMS avian-related instruments such as the MOUs for Birds of Prey (Raptors), Siberian Crane, the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, and other relevant mechanisms in the EAAF such as but not limited to the EAAFP, the ASEAN Flyway Network, and AMBI;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat, Parties and all others involved with CMS, to actively foster closer synergies, cooperation and coordination among secretariats of CMS instruments, relevant MEAs and processes within and beyond the United Nations, international organizations, international conservation initiatives, NGOs, partnerships, the private sector and government institutions (including bodies whose prime objective is not wildlife conservation), for example by organizing back-to-back meetings and joint activities;
10. *Urges* Parties, invites Range States and calls upon other partners and stakeholders, including the private sector, through formal designations and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) as appropriate, and through effective management and restoration, to afford high priority to securing ecological connectivity through the conservation of sites and habitats identified as being of importance to migratory birds, expanding and strengthening existing flyway site networks (including *inter alia* the EAAF Site Network, Raptors MOU Site Network, African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement Site Network, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, West/Central Asian Site Network, Emerald Network, Ramsar Sites and World Heritage Sites, Special Protection Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, BirdLife International's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas);
11. *Further requests* Parties to better understand the role of existing networks of protected areas at the species/population flyway scale and to contribute to identifying gaps in these networks so that appropriate conservation action can be taken for these sites to ensure the coherence of the flyway site networks to include all important habitat for migratory birds, giving particular attention to tidal flats and associated coastal habitats (see Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*) as well as marine ecosystems;
12. *Urges* Parties to foster transboundary and transnational collaboration within flyway networks to address threats to migratory birds and to implement existing site management plans and develop new ones, where needed, at key sites;
13. *Recommends* that Parties enhance and strengthen monitoring of migratory bird populations and the important sites upon which they rely (including surveying new sites to fill information gaps), and to increase capacity for and sustainability of such monitoring in the long term, where appropriate, in order to maintain up-to-date information on the distribution, status and trends of migratory birds and the sites and habitats that they need;

14. *Requests* Parties to support enhanced understanding of patterns of bird migration, including through analyses of existing datasets on individual bird movements and support for the development, maintenance and use of innovative tools and techniques, including data-management software, geo-locators, radio and satellite tracking, remote sensing, and genetic and connectivity analyses, in order to help identify migration strategies, and important sites and routes whether of regular or occasional importance, covering the entire life cycle of species, and to compile and analyse multi-species datasets to understand the relative importance and the geographical distribution of threats;
15. *Invites* Parties to implement Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP15) *Climate Change and Migratory Species* and continue taking action to mitigate the impacts of climate change on migratory bird species, including addressing immediate threats that might reduce adaptive potential, ensuring adequate environmental safeguards for renewable energy projects, monitoring the impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on migratory birds and their habitats (Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*), developing indicators to identify the effects of climate change, promoting adaptive management, seeking new partnerships with other international bodies and considering how to assist species to adapt to climate change (e.g. through securing critical site networks);
16. *Encourages* Parties to promote the conservation and management priorities defined by the Flyways Working Group as global tools to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in relation to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and to ensure a strong level of support for its implementation by working closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity and developing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that include migratory birds;
17. *Requests* Parties, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector and others to provide financial assistance for the implementation of this Resolution including to developing countries for relevant capacity-building and conservation action;
18. *Notes* that the following recommendations and resolutions were repealed by previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties:
  - a) Recommendation 7.7, *America Pacific Flyway Programme*;
  - b) Resolution 10.10, *Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements*, and
  - c) Resolution 11.14, *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*.