UN environment programme

CMS

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 15.2

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MARINE POLLUTION

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

Acknowledging that migratory species face multiple, and potentially interacting, cumulative or synergistic threats caused by marine pollution including chemical pollution and other forms of pollutants with potential effects over vast areas,

Mindful of the fact that pollution is recognized by the United Nations as one of the multiple crises severely affecting our planet and its wildlife,

Noting with concern the widespread occurrence and impacts of chemical pollution, including, among others, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), toxic metals, antibiotics, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), plastic pollution as well as pollution caused by nutrients, the release of contaminants from sediments, wastewater/sewage, radioactive substances, anthropogenic radionuclides, unexploded ordnance and shipwrecks, and, potentially, marine geoengineering and mining activities,

Recalling that the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 has as Target 3.3 “By 2032, the negative impacts of pollution including transboundary effects, and poisoning on migratory species and their habitats are reduced to levels that are not harmful to species’ viability”,

Acknowledging other related CMS Resolutions including Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*, Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) *Oil Pollution and Migratory Species*, Resolution 12.14 *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species,* Resolution 13.5 (Rev. COP15) *CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species,* and Resolution 14.6 *Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species*,

Recognizing also related resolutions adopted by CMS daughter agreements including ACCOBAMS Resolution 9.18 *Marine Litter*, 8.20 *Marine Litter and Chemical Pollution,* ASCOBANS Resolution 7.4 *Impacts of Chemical Pollution on Small Cetaceans*, ASCOBANS Resolution 8.7 *Impacts of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)*, ASCOBANS Resolution 8.8 *Addressing the Threats from Underwater Munitions*, ASCOBANS Resolution 9.3 *Marine Debris,* ACCOBAMS Resolution 9.15 *Anthropogenic Underwater Noise,* and its predecessors,

Recalling that United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/79/314 *Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action* “reaffirm[s] our shared commitment to accelerating action to prevent, significantly reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds”,

Concerned about the many documented negative impacts of marine pollution on migratory species with regard to their health and survival, reproductive, endocrine and immunological systems, conservation and welfare,

Alarmed about the potential of climate change to increase remobilization rates and the release of legacy chemicals into the marine environment as well as enhancing other mechanisms of toxicity,

Recognizing that chemical pollutants and toxic metals are not only linked to historical industrial pollution but are also being remobilized due to processes such as permafrost thawing, the increase in forest fires and alterations to biochemical cycling in warming oceans, and that these processes may intensify exposure risks for long-lived migratory species in polar and low-latitude regions,

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

1. *Urges* Parties to address the following pressing issues, due to their significant impacts and, when remedied, immediate rewards for conservation:

   a) the securing of land-based sources of pollution (e.g., landfills, open dumps, contaminated sites) from inundation caused by coastal flooding/storm surges, extreme storms/rainfall and sea level rise;

   b) the prevention and abatement of nutrient discharges, the release of contaminants stored in sediments and effluents (e.g. industrial or domestic) into the marine environment via rivers, estuaries, tidal waters and similar bodies of water or directly;

   c) the prevention and abatement of emissions, spills, leakages and discharges from coastal industries (e.g., petrochemical and refinery industries including land based mining, oil pipelines, transferring stations, tankers), including during transfer of materials, and abandoned military bases as sources of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs), primarily including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs);

   d) the prevention and abatement of spills, losses and discharges of (raw) materials from vessels during transportation and transfer in harbours, as well as following accidents (e.g., spills of nurdles and other types of plastics, fuel and oil);

   e) the swift attention to chemical pollutants harmful to migratory species, including through cooperation with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions on banned or restricted hazardous chemicals under these Conventions;

   f) the recognition of PFAS as a transboundary emerging threat, now widely detected in apex predators, and still being discussed and partially regulated under the BRS Conventions, including by

      i. advocating for action on PFAS that are known for their persistence, bioaccumulation potential, toxicity, and detection in migratory species; and

      ii. calling for harmonized monitoring of PFAS in migratory species;

   g) the regulation and reduction of pollution caused by fisheries and maritime traffic, especially abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and other forms of pollution from vessels including discharge of wastes and litter, discharges from chemical gas scrubbers, toxic chemicals, or microplastics used in vessel paints, physical and other impacts such as noise, air and light pollution, taking into account the need and special circumstances of artisanal and small-scale fishers, and in accordance with the respective international commitments;

2. *Further urges* Parties to develop conservation strategies for migratory animals that address pollution, especially during particularly vulnerable stages of the migratory cycle, including at foraging/feeding grounds, where breeding occurs, along migratory corridors (especially along coasts) and regional biological corridors, and, where appropriate, during oceanic life stages (e.g., for sea turtles);

3. *Calls on* Parties to prioritize taking effective and sustainable action in areas where critical habitats overlap with pollution hotspots, including:

   a) coastal areas, especially in the vicinity of industrial zones, cities and pollution sources, and with regard to macro-plastic, trace metals, PPCPs, chemical and light pollution;

   b) the great ocean gyres and other possible 'ecological traps', including frontal areas;

   c) the open ocean areas where feeding activities, high ocean productivity, biodiversity and plastic pollution overlap;

   d) migratory corridors, especially along coasts (noting that some migratory routes are already changing due to climate change) and oceanic seascape migratory corridors (e.g., the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor);

   e) the Clarion-Clipperton Zone;

   f) the Mediterranean Sea;

   g) the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans; and

   h) the Eastern Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

4. *Urges* Parties to ensure that pollution does not result in displacement of migratory species from critical habitats or long-term negative impacts to natural behaviours or biological processes such as foraging, reproduction and migration;

5. *Encourages* Parties to recognize and develop dedicated conservation plans (such as single- and multi-species action plans and conservation management plans) to mitigate the vulnerability of migratory species to combined threats from chemical pollutants and disrupted migration cues and other pressures exerted globally;

6. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Parties to explicitly incorporate the cumulative, synergistic and interactive nature of anthropogenic threats to migratory species (especially, between marine pollution and climate change) into their risk analyses, impact assessments and conservation plans;

7. *Encourages* Parties to promote the adoption of monitoring frameworks, which move beyond traditional chemical concentration thresholds to focus on the biological impacts of pollutant mixtures on migratory species;

8. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in promoting the recognition and strategic use of stranding investigations as a valuable, cost-effective and ethical method for assessing the health of migratory species; and:

   a) encourage the development and use of standardized protocols for the collection and archiving of biological, toxicological and pathological data and samples across Parties;

   b) support international collaboration to integrate data into long-term health surveillance networks for migratory species; and

c) recognize stranded individuals as sentinels of ocean health, providing insight into the cumulative and synergistic impacts of pollution, disease and other stressors;

9. *Reminds* Parties to implement Resolution 14.6 *Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species,* recognizing the potential harmful effects from such activities.