



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 15.3

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### PRIORITIES FOR AREA-BASED CONSERVATION OF MARINE MIGRATORY SPECIES

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

*Recalling* Resolutions 12.13 *Important Marine Mammal Areas*, 14.7 *Important Shark and Ray Areas*, and 14.16 (Rev.COP15) *Ecological Connectivity*,

*Recognizing* the continuing loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, including migratory species and their habitats, as underscored by the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment,

*Concerned* about the increasing pressure on marine and coastal ecosystems due to climate change, unsustainable development, vessel strikes, and other cumulative impacts and their perplexities that threaten the viability of migratory species and their critical habitats,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and its associated Targets, in particular Targets 1, 2, and 3,

*Further welcoming* the adoption of 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 Agreement),

*Affirming* the importance of coordinated and ecologically coherent networks of protected and conserved areas, including those beyond national jurisdiction,

*Further recognizing* the need for continuous development of conservation and management of critical sites and ecological networks for CMS-listed migratory species by taking into account the relationship between areas of importance and other areas that may be ecologically linked to critical sites and ecological networks,

*Also recognizing* the relevance of area-based tools such as Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs), Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), for identifying and conserving important habitats for migratory species,

*Further recognizing* that tools such as IMMAs and ISRAs are science-based, expert-driven processes that complement formal designation and conservation processes, and can support the identification of sites suitable for protection under national or international frameworks,

*Further recognizing* that area-based conservation of marine migratory species plays a key role in maintaining ocean health, reinforcing its importance in climate regulation and addressing the effects of climate change.

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

1. *Affirms* the value of area-based conservation management for the protection and recovery of migratory species and their habitats, in particular through the identification, delineation and effective management of ecologically important sites across all areas of national jurisdiction and areas beyond national jurisdiction;
2. *Recognizes* IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs as well as EBSAs and KBAs and other similar scientific frameworks as key advisory tools for guiding measures to mitigate threats, spatial conservation and management, including for marine spatial planning, environmental impact assessments and the design of marine protected areas;
3. *Urges* Parties to integrate CMS-relevant area-based tools and identified sites, such as IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs, and KBAs into national conservation planning, spatial planning and reporting processes, including their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1 and 3;
4. *Encourages* Parties to make use of the growing e-atlases of IMMAs and ISRAs, including in the designation of EBSAs and KBAs and engage in ongoing regional expert consultation processes to identify additional areas critical for migratory species;
5. *Further encourages* Parties to monitor habitat viability for all CMS-listed species, incorporating insights on aspects of sociality as contained in the advice from the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Learning;
6. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the BBNJ Agreement, and promote the use of CMS-relevant data and tools to inform the establishment of area-based management tools and to support environmental impact assessments under that Agreement;
7. *Invites* UN agencies and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including all those with an interest in the BBNJ Agreement, to collaborate with CMS to implement Target 3 of the KMGBF for migratory species;
8. *Further encourages* Parties to engage with IUCN Commissions for the identification of IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs and related tools as well as other relevant processes in the identification of EBSAs and KBAs;
9. *Further encourages* Parties to make use of the identified Important Areas when designating marine protected areas, assessing environmental impacts of economic activities, or generally for marine spatial planning processes and the mitigation of threats, to support the conservation of CMS-listed species; and
10. *Instructs* the Secretariat to facilitate information exchange between Parties and relevant bodies concerning area-based conservation management, and to regularly update Parties on newly identified areas relevant to CMS-listed species.