



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 15.6

Original: English

SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE EUROPEAN EEL (*Anguilla anguilla*)

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

Noting that the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) was listed on CMS Appendix II at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11),

Alarmed by the population decline of the European eel across its range and by the complex combination of threats including barriers to migration, over-exploitation, illegal trade, bycatch, habitat loss and degradation, pollution, parasitic infection, and changes in oceanic conditions,

Concerned that the species is assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and that recruitment levels remain at historical lows despite management measures in place in several Range States,

Recognizing that the European eel is a unique catadromous migratory species connecting inland and coastal waters of Europe and North Africa with the Sargasso Sea, playing a vital ecological, economic and cultural role,

Noting the complementary work undertaken within other relevant frameworks including the European Union, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), CITES and the Sargasso Sea Commission,

Acknowledging the urgent need to strengthen conservation, management, monitoring, and enforcement measures to reverse the decline of the species and ensure the long-term recovery of its population,

Recognizing the importance of coordinated, transboundary action across the full migratory range, including inland waters, coastal zones, and the high seas, and

Emphasizing the necessity of enhanced traceability, control of fishing activities, improved habitat connectivity, and stronger action against illegal trade,

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

1. *Adopts* the Single Species Action Plan for the European Eel annexed to this Resolution;
2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to implement the relevant provisions of the Action Plan and integrate its objectives into national and regional management frameworks;

3. *Calls on* Range States to strive for active collaboration among governmental, scientific and non-governmental stakeholders to maximize effective use of resources and to enhance the collection and exchange of information on monitoring programmes and management plans, ensuring that results of research and monitoring inform adaptive management and policy;
4. *Further calls on* Range States and partners to facilitate regional collaboration, particularly between European, North African, Eastern Mediterranean and Sargasso Sea stakeholders, to coordinate measures across the full migratory range of the species, including consideration of strengthened legal protection mechanisms where appropriate;
5. *Requests* the Range States to consider appropriate coordination mechanisms.
6. *Requests* Range States to report on progress and implementation of this Action Plan to future Conferences of the Parties;
7. *Encourages* synergies with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and regional initiatives to strengthen conservation and management measures for the European eel;
8. *Further encourages* Parties to share experience and knowledge and best practices with each other; and
9. *Calls upon* Parties, donors and other stakeholders to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan.