



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP15)

Original: English

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

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

*Concerned* that avoidable detriment to migratory species often occurs through lack of adequate prior assessment of the potential environmental and social impacts of projects, plans, programmes and policies, carried out in a way that is systematic and formally taken into account in decision-making,

*Emphasizing* that migratory species are especially in need of international cooperation in this respect owing, inter alia, to their particular susceptibility to impacts which may manifest far beyond the territory of the country in which they originate, and to cumulative impacts,

*Desirous* that conservation of migratory species, their habitats and ecological connectivity be given high priority in biodiversity-related aspects of environmental impact assessment, including through cumulative effects assessments and strategic environmental assessments,

*Conscious* that Article I (1) (c) of the Convention defining favourable conservation status, Article II (2) regarding avoiding endangerment of species and Article III (4) regarding protection of Appendix I species all imply a need to anticipate and predict effects,

*Aware* that many Parties already operate legal and institutional systems of environmental impact assessment in various forms, but that most would benefit from international harmonization of guidance on principles, standards, techniques and procedures, and confirmation of their applicability to the conservation of migratory species,

*Aware* that environmental impact assessment is foreseen in other conventions concerned with biodiversity conservation, including the Rio Conventions and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and in CMS Agreements,

*Noting* that CBD Decision V/18 on impact assessment, liability and redress specifically encouraged similar cooperation in relation to the development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into legislation and/or processes on strategic environmental assessment, and included the CMS Scientific Council among those with whom cooperation was requested,

*Welcoming* the endorsement by CBD COP6 of the “Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment” annexed to its Decision VI/7,

*Taking note* of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Target 14 requesting governments to ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework,

*Welcoming* the adoption and entry into force 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), which provides a framework for processes, thresholds and other requirements for conducting and reporting on environmental impact assessments, including cumulative effects, in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and

*Desiring as always* to maximize synergy and joint working efficiencies between all biodiversity-related Conventions,

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

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of good quality environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), including cumulative effects assessment (CEA) as tools for implementing Article II (2) of the Convention on avoiding endangerment of migratory species and Article III (4) of the Convention on protection of Appendix I species, and as important elements to include in AGREEMENTS concluded under Article IV (3) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II species, and in agreements concluded under Article IV (4) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II and other species;
2. *Requests* Parties to include migratory species systematically in EIA/SEA screening and scoping, using CMS species lists and movement data;
3. *Acknowledges* that infrastructure may include, inter alia, linear, water-related, maritime and urban infrastructure, the impacts of which on migratory species and ecological connectivity may vary according to typology, scale, location and technology employed;
4. *Urges* Parties to include as complete consideration of possible effects involving impediments to migration, in furtherance of Article III (4) (b) of the Convention, of transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns (e.g. flight paths, swimways, timing, environmental cues and internal biological clocks) or on migratory ranges in EIAs by applying strategic environmental assessment in the early stages of planning and policy development in sectors linked to infrastructure, in planning for economic corridors, and infrastructure programmes taking into account the ecological connectivity, restoration and maintenance of key habitats in river sectors (upstream and downstream) and important coastal and marine habitat areas;
5. *Requests* Parties to conduct multi-season/multi-year baseline surveys on species distribution in areas where infrastructure development is planned, where feasible, including transboundary connectivity considerations;
6. *Requests* Parties, when applying critical habitat criteria, to ensure migratory species habitats are assessed for ecological connectivity and importance for movement, and not solely for population aggregation thresholds;

7. *Requests* Parties, according to national legislation, to publicly disclose and share information on infrastructure development plans and impact assessments affecting migratory species, taking as an example the 1997 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its 2003 Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv Protocol), and to share expertise and resources to support other Parties and non-Party Range States in applying EIA methodologies based on the best available science;
8. *Encourages* Parties to move beyond minimum flow requirements and consider the full natural flow regime of rivers (magnitude, timing, duration, frequency, and rate of change of flows) when assessing impacts on habitats and migratory species;
9. *Asks* Parties to include migratory species when revising legal requirements for impact assessment and when generating considerations for screening criteria, in particular for infrastructure that might be an impediment for ecological connectivity, including longitudinal connectivity of streams or rivers, longshore and across-shore connectivity, and related impacts such as from underwater noise;
10. *Requests* Parties to consider the recovery potential of CMS-listed species when planning new infrastructure or when mitigating for the impacts of existing infrastructure;
11. *Requests* Parties to establish monitoring systems of the effectiveness of mitigation measures in infrastructure that include movement-based indicators and cumulative effects tracking, and to adopt adaptive management approaches in the design of infrastructure projects, including regular review of flow regimes and ecological responses, in order to address uncertainties and account for the impacts of climate change;
12. *Encourages* Parties to establish and maintain long-term monitoring systems for cumulative effects on migratory species, with the aim of ensuring the maintenance or achievement of a favourable conservation status in line with Article I of the Convention;
13. *Recommend* Parties, when not formally required, to encourage project proponents to prepare and implement biodiversity management plans for infrastructure developments and other activities that may impact CMS-listed species;
14. *Asks* Parties to implement urban growth management strategies to reduce urban sprawl, such as greenbelts, urban growth boundaries, targets and limits to urban sprawl, and the protection of greenspaces within urban areas, in particular those that are used by CMS species;
15. *Requests* Parties to consider the relationship between transport infrastructure and urban expansion in order to avoid further increases in urban sprawl and the danger of a locked-in effect, and to better protect the ecological connectivity of habitats within and around urban areas;
16. *Requests* Parties, when designing and implementing urban growth management strategies, to take measures to avoid/minimize infrastructure collision from migratory species, in particular birds and bats;
17. *Further urges* Parties to make use, as appropriate, of the "Impact Assessment: Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-inclusive Impact Assessment" endorsed by Decision VIII/28 of CBD COP8;

18. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue collaborating with secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements in evaluating the potential implications of the decisions of their Conferences of the Parties on the conservation of migratory species;
19. *Urges* Parties and the Scientific Council to promote and support further research into cumulative effects, with particular attention to the interactions between different types of impacts on migratory species and their habitats;
20. *Encourages* the use of best available technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning methods, to enhance the accuracy, efficiency and predictive capacity of environmental and cumulative impact assessments;
21. *Further requests* the Secretariat to cooperate with other biodiversity-related conventions and raise the issue of the impact of infrastructure development on migratory species, as well as ecosystem services benefiting from migratory species, within the Biodiversity Liaison Group to foster synergies and jointly engage with sectors relevant to infrastructure development to contribute to and influence infrastructure planning and design;
22. *Instructs* the Secretariat to explore opportunities for engaging with and contributing expertise on migratory species to policies and processes of relevant international and regional forums<sup>1</sup>;
23. *Instructs* the Secretariat to engage with the Global Environment Facility, development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, bilateral donors, and commercial banks to explore opportunities for including CMS guidelines in, and sourcing relevant expertise in support of, their policies, guidance materials, strategic plans, periodic country strategies, and performance indices to encourage the consideration of migratory species both at strategic and project levels;
24. *Requests* Parties, the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to seek to align and strengthen impact assessment approaches under the Convention and the BBNJ Agreement;
25. *Encourages* Parties to establish contact with relevant national contact points from within the networks of the International Association for Impact Assessment with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with migratory species-related impact assessment as part of impact assessment procedures in general;
26. *Encourages* project proponents that are designing mitigation measures for the impacts of infrastructure or proposed activities for migratory species, to take into account benefits for associated species and their habitats; and
27. *Instructs* the Secretariat to engage with relevant financial institutions to raise awareness of CMS guidance and available expertise on migratory species, as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as, but not limited to, multilateral development bank safeguards systems, G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles, the Belt and Road Initiative, the EU Green Deal, Global Gateway and Green Infrastructure, Blue Dot Network, Regional Economic Communities, UN Economic and Social Commissions, the Scientific and Technical Body to be established under the BBNJ Agreement, International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), SOURCE (the Multilateral Platform for Sustainable Infrastructure), infrastructure ecology networks and knowledge-sharing platforms (e.g. IENE, ICOET, [www.TransportEcology.info](http://www.TransportEcology.info)), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Future Earth, and the Hydropower Sustainability Standard managed by the Hydropower Sustainability Alliance.