

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES**

The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties requested the Scientific Council to reestablish a Working Group on Climate Change and Migratory Species under the Scientific Council. The aim is to enhance the scientific understanding of climate change issues in relation to migratory species, provide advice to Parties on actions they can take to mitigate the impacts of climate change on migratory species, and promote the benefits of migratory species conservation for enhancing action to combat climate change. The ScC-SC7 (September 2024) reestablished the WG, and the ScC-SC8 (December 2025) amended paragraph 4. *Duration*.

**1. Background**

Climate change is a key pressure affecting migratory species. Increasing attention and importance are being given to the role that climate change plays in nature conservation in the face of the biodiversity crisis. The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CMS (COP14) adopted a revised Resolution and several Decisions on climate change and migratory species.

**2. Purpose**

- A. The Working Group will support the implementation of relevant Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Scientific Council, as contained in the Programme of Work of the Sessional Committee.
- B. The Working Group will support implementation of climate change-related goals and targets within the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032, including their contribution to climate-related goals and targets of the [Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and the further development of its [monitoring framework](#), and, where relevant, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC.
- C. The Working Group will provide a platform to discuss and exchange CMS-related information and scientific findings on climate change-related matters.
- D. The Working Group will advise on an update of the CMS webpage on Climate Change<sup>1</sup>.

**3. Membership**

- A. Membership of the Working Group can include both members of the Scientific Council and observers; in line with the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council.
- B. The Working Group will strive to maintain a balance of gender, regional representation and taxonomic categories of expertise.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/workinggroup/working-group-climate-change>

- C. The involvement of Working Group members is entirely on a voluntarily basis.
- D. If needed, experts external to the Working Group and interested in contributing to the objectives of the Working Group may occasionally be invited to join meetings or to support specific tasks.

#### **4. Organization of work**

- A. The Working Group will be chaired by the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change. If the Chair has to leave her/his position, a new Chair will be appointed from among the remaining Sessional Committee / Scientific Council members of the Working Group until a new COP-appointed Councillor is appointed.
- B. The Working Group will mainly operate electronically by communicating via email and, if appropriate/available, by making use of a dedicated workspace. Meetings (in-person or virtual) may be held in the margins of Sessional Committee meetings, or, if resources are available, may be held in the intersessional period between the Conferences of the Parties.
- C. The Chair of the Working Group will report on progress to the Sessional Committee.
- D. The CMS Secretariat will support and facilitate the coordination of the activities and the organization of meetings of the Working Group.

#### **5. Duration**

The Working Group will remain in place until the Sessional Committee decides its work is completed, or an alternative arrangement is made.