

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON  
TAXONOMIC AND NOMENCLATURAL ISSUES AND ON POTENTIAL TAXA FOR  
LISTING**

The Seventh Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC7) held in September 2024, decided to establish a Working Group on the above subject. The ScC-SC8 (December 2025) amended paragraph 4. *Duration*.

**1. Purpose**

The Working Group shall have the mandate to:

- a) Support the Scientific Council in implementation of Decisions 14.233 and 14.236.
- b) Support the Scientific Council in implementation of Decision 14.231,
- c) The Working Group will provide a platform to discuss and exchange information and scientific findings on
  - the suitability of the Catalogue of Life as a source of species lists for CMS.
  - expanding the list of potential taxa for listing from birds to other groups and to develop a strategic approach to listing.
- d) Investigate the governance, financial and operational processes used by the Catalogue of Life created under the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, to provide standardized taxonomy and nomenclature for faunal groups of interest to CMS, and on the quality of the list generated by it.
- e) Investigate the taxonomic checklists used by other Conventions, with special attention to those used at CITES and IUCN, and to provide recommendations on synergies.
- f) Develop recommendations in collaboration with experts and on the best ways to ensure a standardised approach to animal taxonomic and nomenclatural information in CMS.

**2. Membership**

A. The Working Group should consist of the following members:

- a) Sessional Committee members;
- b) Experts from Parties and other Observers;
- c) Representatives of other MEAs, such as CITES, as appropriate.

B. The Working Group strives to maintain a balance of gender, regional representation and taxonomic categories of expertise.

C. If and when needed, experts external to the Working Group and interested in contributing to the objectives of the Working Group may be invited to join meetings or to support specific tasks.

### **3. Organization of work**

- A. The Working Group will be chaired by the COP-Appointed Councillor for Birds. If the Chair leaves her/his position, a new Chair will be appointed from among the remaining Sessional Committee / Scientific Council members of the Working Group.
- B. The Working Group will mainly operate electronically by communicating via email and possibly making use of a dedicated workspace or virtual meetings. In-person meetings may be held in the margins of Sessional Committee meetings.
- C. The Chair of the Working Group will report on progress to the Sessional Committee.
- D. The CMS Secretariat will identify the members of the Working Group, keep the membership list, and will support and facilitate the coordination of the activities and the organization of meetings of the Working Group.

### **4. Duration**

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