



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 15.1

Original: English

**CONCERTED ACTION FOR
THE STRIPED HYENA (*Hyaena hyaena*)¹**

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

Proponents

Republic of Tajikistan & Republic of Uzbekistan

Target species, lower taxon or population, or group of taxa with needs in common

- 1.1. Class: Mammalia
- 1.2. Order: Carnivora
- 1.3. Family: Hyaenidae
- 1.4. Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year:
Hyaena hyaena (Linnaeus, 1758)
- 1.5. Scientific synonyms: None
- 1.6. Common name(s), in all applicable languages used by the Convention:
 - English: Striped Hyena
 - Spanish: Hiena Rayada
 - French: Hyène rayée

¹ The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Geographical range

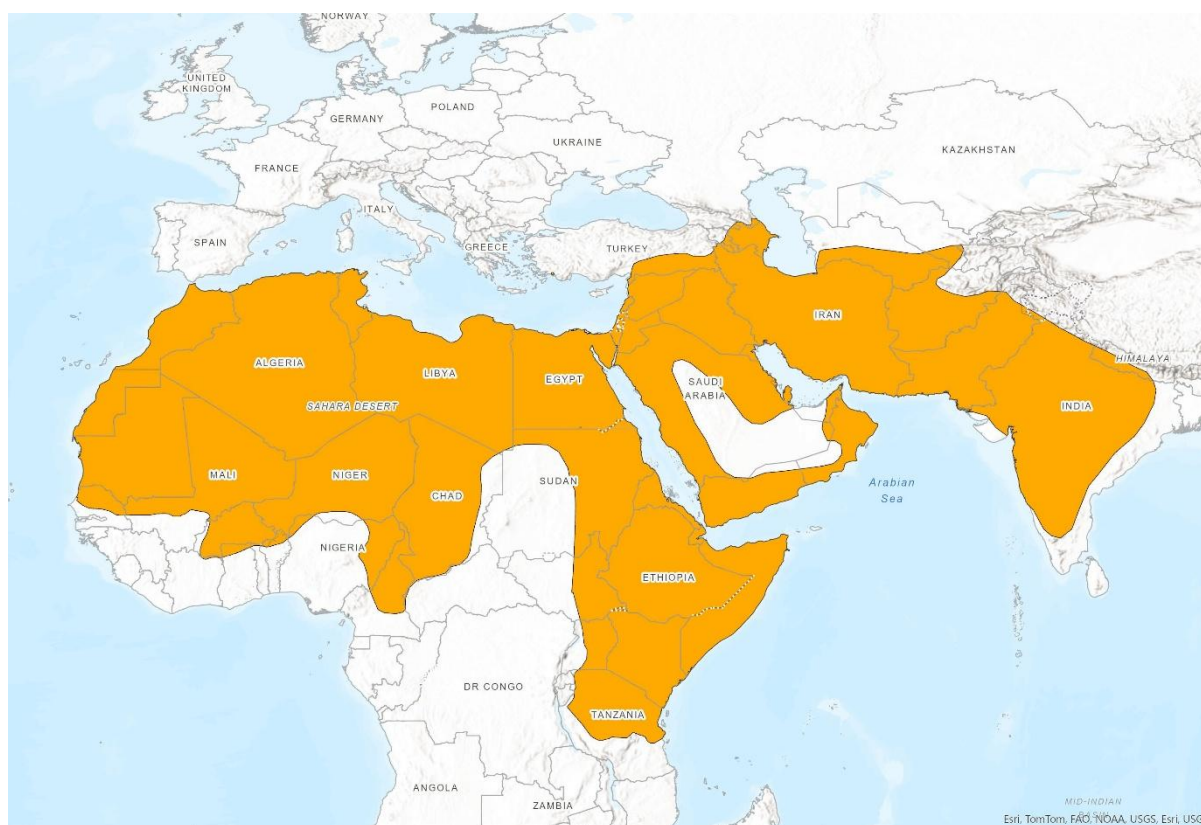


Figure 1. Range map of the striped hyaena (source: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2025-1) (The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map might not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.)

The striped hyena has a wide but increasingly patchy distribution, spanning parts of Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and the Mediterranean basin as far as Türkiye (AbiSaid & Dloniak, 2015; Hofer & Mills, 1998; Kasperek et al., 2004). In Africa, it occurs north of and including the Sahel, with more continuous populations in countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, but missing in the Congo basin and southern Africa (AbiSaid & Dloniak, 2015). Although no records exist from the Central African Republic, the species may potentially occur within the northern savannah ecosystems (Wagner, 2006). Elsewhere, particularly in West Africa, the Sahara, and parts of the Middle East, the Arabian Peninsula, the Caucasus region, and Central Asia, populations tend to be small (Hofer & Mills, 1998). In South Asia, the species, extends across the Indian subcontinent but is absent from regions such as Assam, Bhutan and Myanmar and did not enter the Himalayan range or the Hindukush in Afghanistan. However, recent studies indicate a historical distribution extending into Bangladesh and the species is currently recorded as far east as 87° longitude, thereby extending the currently documented range of striped hyenas by nearly 1,000 km² (Akash et al., 2021). Although historically present, there are few reliable recent records of occurrence in Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (AbiSaid & Dloniak, 2015; Cunningham, 2004).

The species occurs within the following Range States of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI): Afghanistan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In addition, there are confirmed records from the Kopetdag and Western & Southern Ustyurt region, which are identified as Priority Transboundary Conservation Regions (PTCRs) under the CAMI Work Programme (WP) 2026–2032. Other potential occurrences within CAMI defined PTCRs may include Koytendag/Kugitang, which lies within the species possible range. However, actual confirmation of its presence in this

region is still required. The species occurs in the transboundary areas of Tajikistan (Khatlon Region) and Uzbekistan (Surkhandarya Region) together with CAMI-listed urial (*Ovis vignei*).

Summary of activities

The activities of this Concerted Action will result in the formal inclusion of the striped hyena in CAMI, which provides a common strategic framework for the conservation of CMS-listed mammals and their habitats in the wider Central Asian region. An inclusion will ensure that the cross-border occurrence, migratory behaviour and resulting conservation needs of striped hyenas are considered in conservation planning in CAMI Range States. The concerted action will also lead to the integration of the striped hyena into CAMI Work Programme facilitating coordinated efforts among Range States to monitor populations, assess threats and implement conservation measures.

Key steps include compiling and sharing existing data on the species' distribution and movement patterns across Range States, identifying presence of hyena in already defined PTCRs relevant to the species, and assessing further where the species occurs, determine conservation activities and consider these areas as potential new PTCRs. Moreover, the inclusion in CAMI will promote collaboration among national authorities, research institutions, and conservation organizations. By formalizing the species' inclusion, this proposed Concerted Action will consequently strengthen transboundary cooperation, support the development of standardized monitoring protocols, and guide targeted conservation interventions. Furthermore, it will enhance awareness of the species' conservation needs at national and regional levels.

Associated benefits

The ranges of many Central Asian mammals overlap extensively, exposing them to similar threats. The CAMI WP includes a set of cross-cutting activities designed to benefit multiple migratory species simultaneously. These measures include targeting habitat connectivity, human–wildlife conflict and coexistence, sustainable use and trade, sustainable land-use practices and trade practices, population monitoring (including health and disease), anti-poaching efforts, and community engagement. Integrating the striped hyena into CAMI will not only enhance conservation actions for the species itself but also contribute to the protection of other migratory mammals sharing overlapping ranges, such as urial (*Ovis vignei*) and Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*).

An inclusion in CAMI will raise recognition of the conservation needs among Range States and promote coordinated transboundary efforts to reduce barriers to movement, thereby also benefiting other migratory species. It will strengthen legislative and policy frameworks, encourage prioritization of the species in national strategies and management plans, and provide general guidance for managing human–wildlife conflict in peri-urban and agricultural areas where coexistence challenges are most acute.

Incorporating the striped hyena in the CAMI Work Programme will enhance national and subnational conservation efforts and facilitate multilateral and bilateral collaboration across Range States, enabling more effective management of cumulative threats. Conservation actions such as habitat protection, anti-poaching measures, and the mitigation of barriers to migration will benefit the species and other migratory species covered under CAMI. In addition, the inclusion will help to identify additional PTCRs, thereby enhancing conservation outcomes for all migratory species in the area.

Furthermore, inclusion will improve access to technical expertise and financial support, stimulate research to address critical data gaps. It will also strengthen awareness and education initiatives, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of striped hyena populations

across their Central Asian range.

Timeframe

As the primary objective of this Concerted Action is the inclusion of the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) within the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (CAMI) framework, no specific completion timeframes are applicable to this objective. The timeframes and elements of action are to be defined accordingly in the CAMI WP. The decision regarding its inclusion will be taken at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the CMS, scheduled to take place in Campo Grande, Brazil, from 23–29 March 2026.

Accordingly, elements of this Concerted Action are intended to be integrated into the revised CAMI WP for implementation over the 2026–2032 period, with long-term measures aimed at maintaining and improving the conservation status of the species considered open-ended. The CAMI WP is scheduled for revision for the period 2026–2032, in accordance with CMS Decision 14.167, adopted at COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (12–17 February 2024).

Relationship to other CMS actions

The striped hyena is not yet listed under CMS. However, a proposal has been jointly submitted by the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan to include the species in Appendices I and II, which will be decided at COP15 in Campo Grande, Brazil. This proposal for a Concerted Action to integrate the striped hyena into the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (CAMI) is intended to complement and align with the proposal for its inclusion in both Appendices. The proposal to list the striped hyena under CMS Appendices I and II underscores the urgent need for stronger international protection.

CAMI and its associated Programme of Work were established at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11) through Resolution 11.24. CAMI serves as a coordinated framework to guide the conservation of CMS-listed mammals and their habitats across the broader Central Asian region. Functioning as a form of agreement under Article V of the Convention, CAMI is open to participation of all Range States of CAMI species, including those that are not Parties to the Convention. Since its inception, the Programme of Work has been periodically revised, on a six-year cycle, to reflect new priorities and ensure the initiative remains effective and adaptive.

Additionally, following its listing in Appendices I and II of the Convention, the potential inclusion of the striped hyena within the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI), established under Resolution 13.4 and its Programme of Work (Agreed Outcomes of the 2nd ACI Range State Meeting, 2023), could be considered by Range States to ACI at their next meeting.

Conservation priority

The striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) is currently listed as *Near Threatened* on the global IUCN Red List (AbiSaid & Dloniak, 2015), while a regional assessment for the Mediterranean population classifies the species in this region as *Vulnerable* (Jdeidi et al., 2010). These assessments reflect continuing population declines driven by deliberate and incidental persecution, depletion of prey resources, and a small wild population. The species is considered to be approaching the global threshold for *Vulnerable* status under Criterion C1, indicating a projected population decline of at least 10% over the next three generations (AbiSaid & Dloniak, 2015). The Mediterranean assessment already meets this threshold based on observed declines exceeding 10% over three generations (Jdeidi et al., 2010). Moreover, the global assessment, last updated in 2015, is marked as “needs updating” due to reliance on outdated data, information and literature. This is a clear basis for precautionary action for a coordinated, range-wide reassessment and monitoring framework under CMS.

Across its range, the conservation status of the striped hyena varies considerably between countries and is frequently more severe than the global IUCN assessment of *Near Threatened* suggests. Many national Red List or legal protection designations do not align fully with IUCN criteria, complicating comparison and regional prioritization. Within the CAMI range, the species is assessed as *Critically Endangered* in Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; *Endangered* in Nepal; and *Vulnerable* in Turkmenistan. In India, it is listed under Schedule III of the Wildlife Protection Act, a status roughly equivalent to *Near Threatened*. In Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the species currently lacks an official protection status and is considered *Data Deficient* due to limited survey data.

Given this pattern of regional endangerment, data deficiency, and outdated global assessment, the inclusion of the striped hyena within the Central Asian Mammal Initiative represents a clear conservation priority. It would provide the necessary framework for the implementation of collaborative conservation measures among Range States, consistent with CMS objectives and Resolutions calling for strengthened efforts towards species with unfavorable or declining conservation status.

Relevance

Striped hyenas occupy large home ranges and frequently move between different habitats and close to human settlements. These movements expose them to several threats directly related to migration. Habitat loss and fragmentation, particularly due to urban expansion and infrastructure development, disrupt essential movement corridors. This is especially critical as striped hyenas occur at low densities and isolated populations can become small and non-viable (Hofer & Mills, 1998). In Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, striped hyenas inhabit arid landscapes, which makes them dependent on water sources. Ongoing reductions in water availability, driven by climate change, are likely to increase their movement across larger areas. This may include cross-border dispersal in search of water resources. Moreover, the risk of mortality to striped hyenas at watering places is exacerbated by the perceived conflict with livestock and encounters with herders' dogs. In addition, the consumption of melons as a water source by striped hyenas results in conflict with farmers.

Linear infrastructure, such as roads and highways, also poses a significant risk. Striped hyenas are disproportionately involved in wildlife-vehicle collisions due to their scavenging behavior, and such incidents are increasing locally (Hadad et al., 2023). Given their low population densities, such mortality events can have a considerable local impact on isolated populations.

Furthermore, the species' large home ranges and long-distance dispersal movements lead to crossing international borders. In such areas, physical barriers such as border walls and fences can severely hinder natural dispersal and genetic exchange between populations. This not only intensifies habitat fragmentation but also increases the risk of local population decline or extinction.

Addressing these threats requires collective, transboundary action consistent with the mandates of CMS Article II and IV, Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP14) on Concerted Actions, and Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP14) on the Central Asian Mammal Initiative. The proposed inclusion of the striped hyena under CAMI will enable coordinated regional monitoring, the identification and mitigation of cross-border barriers, and collaborative management of shared habitats, fulfilling CMS's strategic goals to enhance connectivity, prevent further fragmentation, and promote international cooperation for species with an unfavorable or declining conservation status

Absence of better remedies

The conservation needs of the striped hyena in Central Asia are best addressed through an inclusion within the framework of CAMI. The species faces transboundary threats that require coordinated monitoring, research and management among Range States.

Inclusion under CAMI provides an established and regionally integrated mechanism for species that require collective but flexible cooperation. This approach aligns with CMS Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP14) on Concerted Actions and CMS Decision 14.167 on the revision of the CAMI WP 2026–2032. It enables the immediate integration of the species into an existing transboundary cooperation framework, supporting coordinated research and shared conservation planning. Accordingly, the proposed Concerted Action represents the most efficient and appropriate mechanism to advance the conservation of the striped hyena across its Central Asian range.

Readiness and feasibility

The striped hyena remains a largely overlooked and misunderstood species, often affected by local superstitions, with limited data on its local distribution and population status. A major constraint to research and conservation is the lack of dedicated funding and attention at both national and regional levels.

Listing the species under CMS Appendices I and II and its inclusion within CAMI would enhance its recognition in national and international conservation programs and open new opportunities for targeted funding to address key threats. The species would also benefit from ongoing conservation initiatives for other migratory species and from activities within protected areas and PTCRs where it occurs.

The formal inclusion of the striped hyena into the CAMI framework entails no direct costs and presents no significant practical obstacles. On the contrary, its integration into this established regional program will generate synergies, strengthen the feasibility for implementing coordinated conservation measures among Range States, and allow access to existing technical and logistical support under CAMI.

Likelihood of success

The main objective to include the striped hyena within the framework CAMI is underpinned by broad indicated support from several Range States. During the CAMI Technical Workshop held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), and at the 3rd Meeting of Range States to the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative, convened in June 2025 in Tashkent, participating countries expressed their general support in principle for the species' inclusion. Although no formal decision has yet been taken, this positive engagement demonstrates a shared recognition of the species' transboundary conservation relevance and provides a strong foundation for the successful implementation of the proposed action.

Given limited knowledge, small population size, and a likely fragmented distribution under ongoing threats, overall success is difficult to assess. In the short term, however, progress is expected through increased conservation activities and strengthened political support. The proposed activities build on established CAMI structures and existing cooperation among Range States, directly addressing key knowledge gaps and management challenges. Integration within the CAMI framework ensures institutional support and enhances opportunities for joint funding and technical assistance.

While full implementation depends on available resources and national priorities, even partial execution is likely to yield meaningful conservation benefits. Potential risks include limited funding, uneven technical capacity, and field implementation challenges. However, CAMI's coordination mechanism and CMS Secretariat support provide a lasting framework for sustaining results.

Magnitude of likely impact

The CAMI WP focuses on area-based activities grounded in geographical areas of high importance for the conservation of CAMI species rather than on species-based actions. The WP includes complementary CAMI instruments addressing particular species, and some activities in the PTCRs are intended to target individual species. Therefore, the proposed activities (pp. 9-10) in the PTCRs where striped hyenas occur will also benefit other species, as outlined under "Activities and Expected Outcomes. Hyena-specific coordinated monitoring across different PTCRs will likewise benefit other CAMI species sharing the same habitats, contributing to Point 10: *Species Monitoring and Research*, which represents an overarching activity for all CAMI species within the WP.

The proposed activity to assess the feasibility of establishing a new PTCR encompassing the Babatag Mountain Range and the Panj River Valley, including the Beshai Palangon Nature Reserve spanning Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan, will also benefit other CAMI species, such as Bukhara deer, urial and goitered gazelle while the presence of the Persian Leopard remains uncertain in this area. Overall, inclusion in CAMI would provide a framework for coordinated, cross-border conservation action.

Cost-effectiveness

High-cost efficiency is expected, because the species is integrated into existing CAMI mechanisms and builds on ongoing activities, institutional frameworks, and transboundary collaborations. This approach maximizes conservation impact while minimizing additional resource requirements.

Consultations planned / undertaken

This Concerted Action proposal follows the potential listing of the striped hyena in CMS Appendices I & II, to be considered at the upcoming COP15. For the CMS listing, consultations with Range States and the IUCN Hyaena Specialist Group were officially conducted in accordance with CMS procedures. Information from the CMS proposal, including input from Range States and the IUCN HSG, was incorporated into this Concerted Action Proposal, particularly in the section on "Geographical Range." In addition, consultations with the CMS Secretariat clarified formal requirements.

Further input was obtained from CAMI Programme experts to ensure the proposed activities properly reflect the structure of the CAMI WP. Additional consultations involved international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs and NGOs), including the Germany-based Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Conservation X-Labs, and the Tajikistan Nature Foundation (TNF).

Activities and expected outcomes

The main objective of this proposal is the formal inclusion of the striped hyena within the framework of the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (CAMI). The activities outlined below are suggested for integration into the CAMI WP 2026-2032 and are intended to be implemented following the species' official inclusion in the initiative. These proposed activities are structured in accordance with the CAMI WP 2026–2032. With the official inclusion in the CAMI WP, the striped hyena will fall under the general sections 1 – 11 of the WP, applicable to the entire CAMI range. In addition, following the structure of the WP, the striped hyena should also be integrated into the relevant PTCRs, as well as into the general multi-species activities associated with these PTCRs within the Work Programme. The striped hyena will be integrated into following PTCRs:

- **12. Western and Southern Ustyurt (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) -1**
Species: Asiatic wild ass, goitered gazelle, Persian leopard, urial, saiga, **striped hyena**
- **15. Kopetdag (Iran, Turkmenistan) – 4**
Species: Asiatic cheetah, Asiatic wild ass, goitered gazelle, lynx, Pallas's cat, Persian leopard, urial, **striped hyena**
- **16. Koytendag/Kugitang (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) - 5**
Species: goitered gazelle, lynx, urial, **striped hyena**

	Activity	Outputs/Outcomes	Timeframe	Responsibility	Funding
12. Western and Southern Ustyurt (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) - 1					
Species: Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle, Persian Leopard, Urial, Saiga, Striped Hyena					
12.8	Assess local perceptions towards striped hyenas and the extent of human-hyena conflict to inform mitigation strategies and awareness campaigns	Comprehensive understanding of social attitudes and local key hotspots		GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions	Tbd.
12.9	<i>Based on 12.8:</i> Strengthen the involvement of different stakeholders, including local communities through awareness campaigns, education and participatory community monitoring	Increased community participation, improved public attitudes.	Implemented by 2032	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, IUCN SSC, local communities	Tbd.
12.10	Implement coordinated monitoring and data collection of population size, distribution and movement of striped hyenas using appropriate methods (including genetic analysis, camera trapping, satellite tracking, remote sensing)	Standardized data collected and shared; knowledge gaps reduced	Implemented by 2032	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions	Tbd.
15. Kopetdag (Iran, Turkmenistan) - 4					
Species: Asiatic Cheetah, Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle, Lynx, Pallas's Cat, Persian Leopard, Urial, Striped Hyena					
15.11	<i>(Add Striped Hyena to the existing point 15.11 ->)</i> Develop joint action plans between Iran and CAMI countries for the conservation of the Pallas's cat and Eurasian lynx and striped hyena	Action plans between Iran and CAMI countries for the conservation of the Pallas's cat and Eurasian lynx and striped hyena has been developed.	Implemented by 2032	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions	Tbd.
15.13	Implement coordinated monitoring and data collection of population size, distribution and movement of striped hyenas using appropriate methods (including genetic analysis, camera trapping, satellite tracking, remote sensing)	Standardized data collected and shared; knowledge gaps reduced	Implemented by 2032	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions	Tbd.
16. Koytendag/Kugitang (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) - 5					
Species: goitered gazelle, lynx, urial, striped hyena					
16.12	Confirm presence of striped hyenas and integrate the species into existing or planned monitoring programmes	Verified occurrence records of striped hyenas in the PTCR; baseline population and distribution data available	Implemented by 2032	GOs, NGOs, scientific institutions	Tbd

In addition to the proposed activities for inclusion in the CAMI WP, an evaluation should be conducted to establish a new Priority Transboundary Conservation Region (PTCR) important for the striped hyena. The proposed PTCR would encompass the Babatag mountain range, Beshai Palangon Nature Reserve, and the Panj River Valley, spanning Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan.

Within this region, the striped hyena has been confirmed, alongside other CAMI species such as the Bukhara deer, goitered gazelle and urial. The presence of the Persian leopard remains uncertain. Small-scale conservation measures for the striped hyena are already being implemented in Tajikistan in that area. Notably, the Panj River Valley – Beshai Palangon and Babatag areas were already identified as potential transboundary conservation hotspots in the document “Mapping Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative” (Michel, 2024), underscoring their importance for coordinated transboundary conservation activities

Assess the feasibility of establishing a new PTCR, including the Babatag and Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserves + Panj River Valley spanning Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan	Feasibility studies completed; recommendations for new PTCR supporting striped hyena conservation is prepared	Implemented by 2032	GOs, NGOs, CMS Secretariat, scientific institutions.	Tbd.
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Additionally, following its listing in Appendices I and II of the Convention, the potential inclusion of the striped hyena within the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI), established under Resolution 13.4 and its Programme of Work (Agreed Outcomes of the 2nd ACI Range State Meeting, 2023), could be considered by Range States to ACI at their next meeting.

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