



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

Original: English

**DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CMS
IN EFFECT AFTER ITS 15TH MEETING**

This list of Decisions has been produced in accordance with UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.6 (Rev.COP12) on *Review of Decisions*. It contains the Decisions (other than Resolutions) adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP15, Campo Grande, 2026). The Decisions in this list are grouped by subject in accordance with the agenda of COP15.

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| Administrative and Budgetary Matters | | | |
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| 15.1 | Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility | Directed to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) | The GEF is invited to consider Decisions 15.2 and 15.3 of the CMS Conference of the Parties and support their implementation, including by engaging in a dialogue with the CMS Secretariat regarding options for strengthening support for CMS implementation. |
| 15.2 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee is requested to explore options for strengthening support of the GEF for implementation of CMS. |
| 15.3 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) convey Decision 15.1 to the Chief Executive Officer (and Chair) of the GEF; b) subject to the availability of resources, support the work of the Standing Committee to explore options for strengthening support of the GEF for implementation of CMS. |
| 15.4 | Resource Mobilization Strategy | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee is requested, with the support of the Secretariat, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) compile, within one year of COP15, information on the resources from all sources, for conservation of migratory species, to map existing funding sources and their availability, and to identify gaps and potential resource mobilization options, based, inter alia, on national reports and information available in other MEAs; b) taking into consideration the aforementioned compilation, develop a resource mobilization strategy, with special attention to the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States in implementing the Convention, and to submit it for consideration and approval at COP16. |
| 15.5 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall support the Standing Committee in compiling the relevant information and developing the resource mobilization strategy. |

| Strategic and Institutional Matters | | | |
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| 15.6 | Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implement the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2024–2032 and, where possible, make linkages with their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements; b) contribute to compilation of SPMS baselines needed to monitor its implementation ensuring data is provided according to agreed indicators and within timelines established by the Standing Committee; c) report on the implementation of the SPMS through their National Reports, as appropriate, using the standardized template and including measurable progress towards SPMS goals and targets. |
| 15.7 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | <p>The Standing Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide advice on the implementation of the SPMS and facilitate consultations to support Parties in aligning their actions, subject to the availability of resources; b) adopt a new template for National Reports for COP16, and periodically review its effectiveness to ensure clarity and usability; make it available to Parties at least 15 months in advance of COP16, aligned to the SPMS; c) provide advice on the implications of the implementation of the SPMS for the CMS Programme of Work, and recommend adjustments to better align it with SPMS priorities, including timelines and resource needs; d) assess implications of the advice in 15.8 for National Reports and ensure recommendations are transparent and publicly available to promote consistency and accountability. |

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| 15.8 | | Directed to the Scientific Council, Working Groups & Task Forces | The Scientific Council is requested to provide scientific advice to the Standing Committee on any potential changes to the Goals, Targets or Indicators of the SPMS , based on emerging scientific evidence and global trends. |
| 15.9 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) raise awareness of the implementation of the SPMS with other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant entities, inter alia, through targeted communication strategies, digital campaigns, workshops, and joint initiatives; b) identify data gaps that could be hindering progress in relation to indicators of the SPMS, and support the filling of those gaps, inter alia, through partnerships with research institutions, use of innovative technologies, and capacity-building for Parties; c) provide advice to the Standing Committee on the implications of the implementation of the SPMS for the CMS Programme of Work; d) undertake an assessment of the implementation of the SPMS using a transparent methodology, including periodic global and regional reports, and share findings with Parties to inform adaptive management. |
| 15.10 | Tangible and Intangible Cultural Values | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with interested Parties, UNESCO and other relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, undertake a concise review of the values, policy principles and concrete opportunities that exist in relation to the tangible and intangible cultural values associated with migratory species and their conservation. |
| 15.11 | Partnership Policy | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, develop a partnership policy tailored to the Convention and its instruments, depending on the outcome of the testing of the simplified UNEP policy. |

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| 15.12 | Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actively engage in relevant scoping and review processes of ongoing and upcoming IPBES assessments and, as appropriate, other deliverables of IPBES, in particular the second global assessment, the monitoring assessment and the methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, with a view to ensuring that CMS needs and priority elements are taken into account; b) review the scientific aspects of selected IPBES assessments and, as appropriate, other deliverables of IPBES and make recommendations on their relevance to the implementation of CMS for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting. |
| 15.13 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 15.12; b) engage with the IPBES Secretariat to further cooperate on issues of relevance to migratory species. |
| 15.14 | CMS Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that migratory species' needs and considerations are integrated in the revision, update and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national targets in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) including national action plans and in bilateral and regional cooperation as part of their KMGBF implementation, as well as the national reports to the CBD by reflecting the CMS objectives; b) consider engaging in the Bern Process, facilitated by UNEP, to contribute to effective and efficient implementation of the KMGBF, and consider its relevant outcomes. |

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| 15.15 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue contributing to the implementation of the KMGBF, as well as the global review of the collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF, including its involvement in the PMRR (Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review) of the KMGBF; b) continue actively engaging in the Bern Process, facilitated by UNEP, to contribute to effective and efficient implementation of the KMGBF; c) develop a new Joint Work Programme with the CBD Secretariat aiming to streamline indicators and outputs, d) report to the Standing Committee and to COP16 on the progress in implementing this Decision. |
| 15.16 | Communications, Outreach and Information Management | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide support, including financial and voluntary contributions specifically earmarked for the production of multilingual content, for the continued implementation of Strategic Communication Assessment recommendations endorsed by COP14; b) integrate communications components in the planning phase of relevant activities to contribute to the achievement of targets 6.1 and 6.2 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024 – 2032; c) designate or confirm National Communication Focal Points to facilitate the localized dissemination of global CMS campaigns, such as World Migratory Bird Day; d) utilize and promote the “State of the World’s Migratory Species” report findings within national educational and policy frameworks. |

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| 15.17 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue to implement the Strategic Communications Assessment recommendations, in particular that communications are tailored more specifically to the general public; b) continue to explore strategic partnerships on communications and information sharing with other entities, in particular other multilateral environmental agreements. |
| Scientific Assessments and Reports | | | |
| 15.18 | Development of the Next Report on State of the World's Migratory Species | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to provide technical and scientific support to the Secretariat in implementing Decision 15.19, including when possible, reviewing the scope and content of the second State of the World's Migratory Species Report, validating case studies, and advising on the development of the CMS Data Dashboard, ensuring alignment with the priorities of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2024–2032 and agreed indicators.</p> |

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| <p>15.19</p> | | <p>Directed to the Secretariat</p> | <p>The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and in consultation with the Scientific Council, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop the second report on the State of the World's Migratory Species and present it to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting, taking into consideration specific topics or issues of importance as identified in Annex 2 to document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.20.1/Rev.1, and ensuring the report includes trend analysis, emerging threats, and practical recommendations for Parties; b) prepare case studies to be included in the second report on the State of the World's Migratory Species taking into consideration the species identified in Annex 3 to document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.20.1/Rev.1, and ensure these studies reflect integrated approaches (e.g. connectivity, health, climate change) and replicable best practices; c) develop an outline for a CMS Data Dashboard, taking into consideration the possible structure set out in Annex 4 to document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.20.1/Rev.1, and include, inter alia, functionalities for tracking key indicators, interactive data visualization, and integration with global and regional sources, ensuring its practical utility for Parties and stakeholders; d) prepare and distribute targeted information material for CMS Parties to support their consideration of CMS Appendix I obligations in their CITES permitting processes, including practical guidance and examples to ensure coherence between both conventions; e) where information is requested from Parties as input to the second report on the State of the World's Migratory Species, provide simplified and standardized data submission templates and targeted technical support as needed, particularly to developing Range States, to facilitate coordinated data collection; f) make available communication material on the State of the World's Migratory Species Report to national focal points, to facilitate effective and wider dissemination of the report. |
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| 15.20 | | Directed to Parties | Parties are encouraged to forward the materials referred to in Decision 15.19.d) to their CITES Managements Authorities for information. |
| 15.21 | Atlas on Animal Migration | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) through its Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, make recommendations on the future development of the Atlas, including on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sharing experience from the Atlas of Bird Migration in the Eurasian-African Region and other existing Atlas modules with experts on other taxonomic groups regarding data hosting, methodology, analytical tools and the use of the best available data for the Atlas; ii. options for a more comprehensive and effective approach to ensure the Atlas fulfils its purpose, including for enhancing the interoperability of the various data sets, and for improving its usability for conservation policies and translating movement data into policy/conservation action; iii. how the existing and future modules of the CMS Atlas on Animal Migration can contribute to identification of key habitats, areas, corridors and networked sites that are of greatest global importance for the conservation of migratory species, taking into account the progress made in identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and other important habitats, such as Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and the List of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia; b) promote the knowledge and the use of existing modules of the Atlas; c) provide advice and guidance to the Secretariat on implementing Decision 15.22 a). |

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| 15.22 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) further develop additional modules of the Atlas, and update existing modules, as appropriate; b) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 15.21; c) promote dissemination of the Atlas including on the CMS website. |
| Interpretation and Reporting on Implementation of the Convention | | | |
| 15.23 | National Reports | Directed to the Standing Committee | <p>The Standing Committee is requested to review the provisions of Resolutions requesting Parties to report on implementation of specific activities through CMS National Reports, as summarized in Annex 4 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.22, and propose to COP16 their deletion or amendment, and to ensure that any information requested under existing Resolutions is appropriately integrated and consolidated within the National Reports template, in order to avoid duplication of reporting requirements, and that future reporting requests are, as far as possible, addressed through the National Reports mechanism.</p> |
| 15.24 | Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme | Directed to Parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parties that have submitted the National Legislation questionnaire and received a National Legislative Profile from the Secretariat are urged to take appropriate measures to implement Article III, paragraph 5, in line with the Secretariat's recommended actions, as indicated in the National Legislation Profile; b) Parties that have not completed and submitted the questionnaire are strongly encouraged to do so; c) Parties are reminded to inform the Secretariat of any exceptions made pursuant to Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention. |

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| 15.25 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) follow up with Parties that have completed and submitted the National Legislation Programme (NLP) questionnaire on their progress in implementing recommended actions, and provide technical support to assist Parties in drafting adequate national legislation, including providing legal advice during national legislative reform processes to implement the provisions of Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention, as possible and appropriate; b) invites Parties that have not yet joined the NLP to complete the NLP questionnaire and submit it to the Secretariat; c) commission a study to determine whether national legislation allows for effective, deterrent and proportionate penalties, including both criminal penalties and administrative sanctions, for Appendix I species taken in violation of the Convention, and to assess the use of other legal tools to strengthen compliance with the taking prohibition; d) prepare Terms of Reference for a CMS Intergovernmental and Multistakeholder Task Force on Legislation, for the consideration of the Standing Committee at its 59th meeting; e) continue the collaboration with existing initiatives facilitating national legislative review, such as UNEP's Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, CITES National Legislation Project and the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme led by FAO with a consortium of partners. |
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| Aquatic Species Conservation Issues | | | |
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| 15.26 | Bycatch and Other Fisheries-induced Mortality | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) apply the recommendations by Breimann and Baker (2025) on marine turtle bycatch mitigation provided in Annex 1; b) encourage Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and other relevant bodies, to undertake population assessments for species that are included in the Appendices of CMS so as to facilitate a more robust understanding of the current status and population trends of these taxa. Such analyses should be conducted at the species-level where practical for defined areas of study. If there are insufficient species-specific data for any given area, then analyses could be conducted at the genus-level. If analyses are conducted at the genus level, then relevant datasets that can be used to inform on the species composition in the area (or for the fleet(s) of interest) could usefully be provided. |
| 15.27 | | Directed to Parties | Parties are requested to review their existing legislation and enact new legislation, as required, with a view to addressing the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species. |

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| 15.28 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) regarding bycatch of CMS-listed marine mammals and marine turtles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. identify regions where reviews of relative levels of bycatch in commercial and artisanal fisheries would be a priority and/or beneficial; ii. collaborate with all relevant organizations, including fisheries management bodies, to develop regional reviews with a view to reducing the levels of bycatch in commercial and artisanal fisheries; iii. identify and prioritize fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are most severe; iv. cooperate with the relevant organizations, including fisheries bodies, to develop the most appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority; v. develop appropriate bycatch mitigation measures with associated timebound action plans; b) in collaboration with the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU, continue the ongoing review and appraisal of current data and knowledge regarding the levels of fisheries-induced mortality of CMS- and Sharks MOU-listed chondrichthyan species, and prepare recommendations on reducing fisheries-induced mortality; c) develop a report to quantify the contribution of bycatch and other fisheries-related mortalities of CMS-listed cetaceans to trophic downgrading and the health and function of marine ecosystems, and make recommendations to Parties; d) review current knowledge on existing measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch of freshwater fish for both commercial and artisanal fisheries, and make recommendations to Parties on the most effective and appropriate measures to mitigate bycatch, while ensuring that recommended measures do not act to the disadvantage of other CMS-listed species; |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, ensure cross-referencing with seabird bycatch work, to ensure consideration of cross-taxa implications, and identify opportunities for further collaboration on addressing fisheries-induced mortality across taxa; f) review and appraise, in collaboration with CMS's daughter Agreements, current data and knowledge regarding the impact (and potential impact) of maw fisheries on marine mammal, marine turtle, and chondrichthyan species; g) in conjunction with the International Whaling Commission Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, develop recommendations on the most effective and appropriate measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch in maw fisheries. |
| 15.29 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prepare a synthesis report to be published as part of the CMS Technical Series, in collaboration with the COP-appointed Councillor for Bycatch, to collate the experience gained from bycatch mitigation strategies for marine mammals as developed for COP13, sharks and rays as developed for COP14, seabirds as developed by AEWA and ACAP, and marine turtles as developed for COP15, as well as any new relevant scientific information that arises; b) work with the IWC, CITES and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, Parties and stakeholders to address the bycatch impacts of the trade in fish maw; c) contribute to a possible international expert workshop to review current knowledge on the impacts of the maw trade and the most effective and appropriate mitigation measures to reduce bycatch; d) support the Scientific Council with the implementation of Decision 15.28; e) prepare legislative guidance materials and model laws and provide technical support to assist Parties in drafting adequate national legislation to support the implementation of Article III (5) of the Convention regarding the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species. |
| 15.30 | Fish Aggregating Devices | Directed to Parties | Parties are encouraged to apply the recommendations contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.3. |

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| 15.31 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) utilize, in related work, the summary and recommendations of the report, <i>Relationship between Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and Marine Debris in the Mediterranean Sea</i>, contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.3; b) continue to monitor FADs as a source of plastic pollution, under the marine pollution work stream of the Scientific Council. |
| 15.32 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, in collaboration with the IWC, compile information from the relevant RFMOs, when applicable, on management and implementation of measures to regulate the use of FADs such as limiting how many are deployed, improving their design to be less harmful, tracking their movements and testing new FAD designs.</p> |
| 15.33 | Aquatic Wild Meat | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States of the <i>Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa</i> for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan, as well as the support required for the activities of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group; b) consider the development of regional action plans to reduce aquatic wild meat hunting and consumption in East, South-East and South Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands Region; c) improve the scientific knowledge of seabird take and the understanding of its drivers; d) implement mechanisms for co-management of seabird harvest with indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly for communities where health risks from seabird consumption may be present. |
| 15.34 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council, with support from the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group and Secretariat, is requested to collaborate with the relevant IUCN Specialist Groups to assess the migratory nature of crocodylians (Genera: <i>Gavialis</i>, <i>Crocodylus</i>, <i>Mecistops</i>, <i>Caiman</i>, <i>Melanosuchus</i>) and freshwater chelonians, and the potential relevance of CMS to their conservation and management, including whether or not they may fit the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices.</p> |

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| 15.35 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate exchanges between the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the Scientific Council and other international forums, such as the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, CITES, IWC, AEWA and ACAP regarding mutual workstreams; b) bring the outcomes of the review of the potential suitability for listing on the CMS Appendices of crocodylians and freshwater chelonians to the attention of the Scientific Council. |
| 15.36 | <p>Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West-Africa</p> | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties that are Range States to the Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review which actions are nationally relevant and urgently address priorities for implementation; b) set up the structures required, for example through the formation of national working groups, to ensure active collaboration between stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise; c) provide a brief report on the implementation of the Action Plan in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council before the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) using a template provided by the Secretariat. |
| 15.37 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council, where applicable with support from the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) investigate how to improve support to Parties regarding implementation and reporting; and b) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Action Plan, prepare a brief summary and analysis, and make recommendations on the further implementation of the Action Plan. |
| 15.38 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall disseminate a simple reporting form to Parties that are Range States to the Action Plan to enable reporting sufficiently in advance of the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP16.</p> |

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| 15.39 | The Maltreatment and Mutilation of Seabirds in Fisheries | Directed to Parties | Parties bordering the south-west Atlantic Ocean are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work with their fisheries management agencies to identify ways to address this issue impacting seabird populations; b) endeavour to prevent further injuries to threatened and at-risk migratory species in their Exclusive Economic Zones; c) report to the Standing Committee at its 59th meeting on any further developments on this issue. |
| 15.40 | | Directed to Parties | Other Parties are requested to report back to the Scientific Council if they become aware of this issue occurring within their jurisdiction or elsewhere in the future. |
| 15.41 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to keep the issue of the maltreatment of seabirds in fisheries under review in case any further instances of mutilation are brought to its attention. |
| 15.42 | Marine Pollution | Directed to Parties | Parties are encouraged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) apply the recommendations from the Report of the CMS Marine Pollution Workshop contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.2.1; b) facilitate collaboration between CMS and other relevant bodies, including the IWC, the BBNJ Agreement¹, CBD², the Stockholm³, Basel⁴, and Minamata⁵ Conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, IPBES⁶, IMO⁷ and its treaties on marine pollution prevention⁸, the Global Framework on Chemicals, Regional Sea Conventions and Action Plans, Regional Fisheries Bodies, where applicable, and the future legally-binding instrument on plastic pollution, to better address marine pollution risks to migratory species. |

¹ Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

² Convention on Biological Diversity.

³ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

⁴ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

⁵ Minamata Convention on Mercury.

⁶ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

⁷ International Maritime Organization.

⁸ Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and its London Protocol, and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

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| 15.43 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish a working group on marine pollution (with a focus on chemical pollution); b) identify and evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. species and populations, habitats and migratory/life stages that are most at risk, noting the preliminary list referenced in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.2.1; ii. global hotspots where marine pollution and critical habitat for migratory species overlap; c) consider the application of ‘vulnerability matrix’ approaches that integrate species’ sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity to both marine pollution and climate change to help prioritize conservation actions under future environmental scenarios d) give further consideration to the effects of pollution on marine birds, including potentially through a dedicated workshop. |
| 15.44 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, seek to strengthen cooperation between CMS and other relevant bodies, including the IWC, the BBNJ Agreement, CBD, the Stockholm, Basel, and Minamata Conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, IPBES, IMO and its treaties on marine pollution prevention, the Global Framework on Chemicals, Regional Sea Conventions and Action Plans, Regional Fisheries Bodies, where applicable, and the future legally-binding instrument on plastic pollution, to better address marine pollution risks to migratory species.</p> |
| 15.45 | Underwater Noise | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to assess whether CMS-listed freshwater mammals within their jurisdiction are negatively affected by underwater noise, and in view of the concerning conservation status of many of these species, develop and/or apply mitigation measures, as applicable, while awaiting the development of specific guidance for freshwater habitats.</p> |

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| 15.46 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources and where applicable through the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop guidance on mitigation of noise affecting CMS-listed freshwater mammals and their prey; b) review the National Anthropogenic Underwater Noise Guidelines developed by the Government of Australia once they become available to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. evaluate whether an update of the Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities is still required to provide additional guidance to Parties; ii. conduct a comprehensive review of sources of underwater noise of concern, including an assessment of existing guidance and knowledge available from CMS and other relevant forums, to identify gaps in current guidance related to the mitigation of underwater noise impacts specifically on migratory species and their prey, and provide recommendations to Parties, including suggestions for effective mitigation measures; c) if needed, provide a peer review of the updated Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities. |
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| 15.47 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate an update of the Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and publish it as a Technical Series, if needed in view of the National Anthropogenic Underwater Noise Guidelines developed by the Government of Australia; b) convene an in-person workshop to assist the Joint Noise Working Group with advancing priority activities of the Work Plan and as outlined in Decision 15.46; c) in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group, continue providing up-to-date information on the CMS website on marine noise to assist Parties and other stakeholders in effective mitigation of impacts of underwater noise on marine species; d) support the Scientific Council and the Joint Noise Working Group in developing the requested reports and any further guidance on mitigation of the effects of marine noise, as required. |
| 15.48 | Deep-sea Mining and Migratory Species | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the report on <i>Impacts of Deep-sea Mining on Migratory Species: Review and Knowledge Gaps</i>, contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.2.3; b) disseminate the CMS Technical Series publication <i>Impacts of Deep-sea Mining on Migratory Species: Review and Knowledge Gaps</i>, once produced by the Secretariat as requested under Decision 15.51 a), to all national departments involved in deciding on deep-sea mining activities; c) facilitate further research of marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles, chondrichthyans, bony fishes, and other migratory species, as well as their respective habitats, to better understand how deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities impact animal migration, behaviour, and their prey. |
| 15.49 | | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are urged to implement Resolution 14.6 <i>Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species</i>, acknowledging the potential harmful effects from such activities.</p> |

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| 15.50 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources, collaborate with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to share expertise, and contribute to the development of EIA guidance being developed by the ISA, to ensure it considers the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems. |
| 15.51 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in order to implement Decision 15.48 b), produce a CMS Technical Series publication of the report <i>Impacts of Deep-sea Mining on Migratory Species: Review and Knowledge Gaps</i> that does not contain the recommendations on pages 3, 30, 34, 36, 39 and 43, and disseminate to Parties; b) subject to the availability of resources, continue to collaborate with the ISA and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, to raise awareness of the relevance of migratory species in relevant discussions on deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities and to promote collaboration and data exchange; c) facilitate the work of the Scientific Council as directed in 15.50. |
| 15.52 | Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species | Directed to Parties | Parties are requested to make use, as appropriate, of the identified Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs), Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) when identifying habitat at risk or designing threat mitigation measures, assessing environmental impacts, and when designating marine protected areas, or generally for marine spatial planning purposes, including through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). |

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| 15.53 | | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties that are also members of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) are requested to encourage those bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to make existing fisheries and observer data available and/or support with analysis of these data for the purpose of ISRA, IMMA, IMTA, and KBA delineation, and to increase efforts to undertake additional research on the habitats of relevant species, including reproductive areas (e.g., nursery or mating grounds); b) to collaborate closely with CMS and relevant CMS daughter agreements to ensure that ISRA, IMMA, IMTA, and KBA identification and conservation measures are appropriately reflected into fisheries research and management frameworks. |
| 15.54 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to actively engage with and provide financial and technical support to IUCN Commissions and the KBA Partnership for the process of identifying IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs, and KBAs globally.</p> |
| 15.55 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop a report about improving the long-term effectiveness of protected areas dedicated to marine migratory species in the face of climate change, and make recommendations to Parties; b) collaborate with IUCN Commissions and the KBA Partnership to include data on CMS-listed species in the identification of IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs, and KBAs. |

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| 15.56 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) inform Parties of newly identified IMMAs, ISRAs and IMTAs, and the relevant CMS-listed species; b) reach out to other relevant regional and international organizations to bring to their attention the value of identifying IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs, and KBAs for conservation planning; c) continue to liaise with IUCN Commissions to promote the value of IMMAs, ISRAs, IMTAs, and KBAs for the conservation of CMS-listed species, and continue to engage in the Blue Corridors for Turtles partnership; d) continue to engage in the process around the BBNJ Agreement, including attending upcoming meetings. |
| 15.57 | Vessel Strikes | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties identified in Table 1 of UNEP/CMS/Doc.25.3.2 <i>Vessel Strikes</i> are requested to implement actions to reduce the risk of vessel strike on at-risk CMS-listed cetacean populations identified by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) undertaking risk analysis and assessment of potential mitigation options where this has not yet been done; b) introducing mitigation measures through national regulations or the International Maritime Organization (IMO); c) implementing monitoring measures to evaluate their effectiveness, including awareness of and compliance with such measures by industry; d) taking advantage of existing initiatives under IWC and IMO to enhance the protection of marine megafauna. |

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| 15.58 | | Directed to Parties that are Range States to CMS-listed species of marine megafauna that are subject to vessel strikes | Parties that are Range States are requested to reach out to relevant stakeholders engaged in commercial, recreational or other vessel activities to encourage systematic reporting of all vessel strike incidents involving whales, dolphins or porpoises to the Ship Strike Database of the IWC. |
| 15.59 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify further populations of CMS-listed species and areas where they are at risk of vessel strike by mapping shipping lanes against Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), in collaboration with IUCN Commissions, as well as the IWC and IMO; b) for cetacean species develop advice, in collaboration with IWC and IMO, on appropriate placement of re-routing measures, such as area avoidance (ATBA) and/or the establishment of vessel speed restrictions for key cetacean habitats, and make recommendations to Parties. |
| 15.60 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council with the implementation of Decision 15.59; b) liaise with the Secretariats of IWC and IMO on their process to develop guidance on risk assessment for vessel strikes. |

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| 15.61 | Conserving Seamount Ecosystems | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prioritize the protection of seamount ecosystems from multiple threats, including but not limited to overfishing and destructive fishing practices that threaten their conservation and, as necessary, identify and implement appropriate area-based protection measures, including marine protected areas; b) focus research efforts on the role of seamount ecosystems in supporting migratory species throughout their life cycles and habitat ranges; c) strengthen and enhance cooperation with and promote cooperation among relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies in the achievement of the conservation of seamount ecosystems. |
| 15.62 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to collaborate in the protection of seamount ecosystems from multiple threats, including but not limited to overfishing and destructive fishing practices.</p> |
| 15.63 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) collaborate with international experts to identify vulnerable seamount ecosystems which should be given priority, considering both the ecological connectivity between these ecosystems and migratory species, and appropriate protection measures, if required; b) review, taking into account best available data and information on impacts and biodiversity, any guidelines and management tools for the conservation, sustainable management, and research of seamount ecosystems developed as foreseen in Decision 15.64. |

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| 15.64 | | Directed to the Secretariat | Where appropriate, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with Parties and subject to the availability of resources, develop and disseminate guidelines and management tools for the conservation, sustainable management, and research of seamount ecosystems that are particularly important for migratory species, with a focus on maintaining ecological connectivity and migratory pathways. |
| 15.65 | Seagrass Ecosystems | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify, at the national level, migratory species that use seagrass meadows, the most important seagrass ecosystems for migratory species, the most important ongoing threats to seagrass and drivers of seagrass loss, the main historical reasons that have resulted in the loss of seagrass beds, the most important activities that prevent their recovery, and the conservation actions necessary to reduce seagrass loss and restore it, including the conservation of migratory species that support healthy seagrass ecosystems; b) include identified seagrass meadows in marine protected areas, locally managed marine areas, or other effective conservation measures, as well as in marine spatial plans. |
| 15.66 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide technical support to conservation, sustainable management and research in seagrass ecosystems that are of particular importance to marine migratory species globally. |

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| 15.67 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide technical support to Parties to identify an inventory of migratory species that use seagrass ecosystems and those that contribute to their functioning, the most important seagrass meadows for migratory species globally, the most important past and current threats to seagrass and drivers of seagrass degradation and loss, and the conservation actions necessary to reduce seagrass loss and restore it; b) collaborate with the Dugong MOU and other intergovernmental organizations or initiatives such as UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the IUCN SSC Seagrass Specialist Group, to accelerate the process described in paragraph 15.67 a). |
| 15.68 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>Where appropriate, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with Parties and subject to availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide technical support to Parties on conservation, sustainable management and research in seagrass ecosystems that are of particular importance to marine migratory species; b) develop and disseminate guidelines and management tools for conservation, sustainable management and research in seagrass ecosystems that are of particular importance to marine migratory species. |
| 15.69 | Marine Wildlife Watching | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to disseminate the Guidelines on Recreational In-water Interactions with Marine Wildlife to relevant organizations and operators in their countries, and to utilize them in national planning.</p> |

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| 15.70 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop a report to assess the long-term effects and biological significance of disturbances from boat-based and in-water interactions for all CMS-listed marine species, and make recommendations to Parties; b) recommend in which areas activities should be strictly limited to boat-based activities from an increased distance for particularly vulnerable populations, and make recommendations to Parties; c) investigate the desirability of developing guidance regarding the use of unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles, and other relevant technologies used around marine wildlife during recreational activities. |
| 15.71 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 15.70.</p> |

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| 15.72 | Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) include cetaceans within their respective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and ensure that the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are applied in such a way that positively aligns with the conservation priorities for cetaceans; b) assess whether any take of Appendix I-listed cetaceans occurs within their jurisdiction, and if so, review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.4.1 to address this; c) increase data collection efforts for all CMS Appendix I-listed species for which they are Range States, in particular population abundance and trends, migratory patterns, and domestic and regional trade, to further the understanding of the extent to which populations are subject to contemporary take as well as other threats; d) assess the extent to which the welfare and conservation of cetaceans that occur within their jurisdiction is impacted by climate change, and review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.4.1 to address this; e) prepare, in advance, for the appearance of out of habitat cetaceans by creating protocols covering topics such as communication, stakeholder consultation, responder training and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) resolution, taking into account, as appropriate, the recommendations included in Annex 3 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.4.1. |
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| 15.73 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources and where applicable with support from the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) synthesize research on the emerging understanding of how cetacean welfare can impact conservation outcomes, and make recommendations to Parties; b) in collaboration with the IWC, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, review impacts of climate change on cetacean conservation and welfare, and make recommendations to Parties; c) investigate the impacts of mass die-offs of cetaceans, including those linked to the presence of algal toxins, and make recommendations to Parties; d) undertake, in cooperation with the IWC, a quantification of the contemporary whaling and aquatic wild meat takes of all CMS Appendix II-listed cetaceans in all regions, and make recommendations to Parties; e) review the <i>Compilation of Recommendations that could be Directed to the Scientific Council at COP15 and Future COPs</i> contained in Annex 4 of UNEP/CMSCOP15/Doc.25.4.1 and make recommendations to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on priority actions to progress in the following intersessional period. |
| 15.74 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, in the development of the reports and recommendations requested in Decision 15.73; b) investigate the development of a joint work programme with the IWC Secretariat on the conservation of cetaceans, noting the MOU between both organizations. |
| 15.75 | Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, through the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, to provide advice to the Secretariat with regards to the work on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning, noting the work done at the IWC, and provide input to the IWC as needs arise.</p> |

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| 15.76 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall continue to liaise with the IWC Secretariat regarding work on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning. |
| 15.77 | Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region | Directed to Parties | Parties, with support of the Secretariat, are requested to develop an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region and organize a regional workshop. |
| 15.78 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council, with support from the Aquatic Mammal Working Group, is requested to provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region. |
| 15.79 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources and at the request of Range States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) organize a workshop of interested Parties, scientists and conservation organizations working in the Red Sea region to identify how best to take forward cetacean conservation there and assist in the development of an Action Plan; b) consult with relevant regional and technical bodies such as the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group to seek their support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea; c) present the draft Action Plan to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for review before COP16. |
| 15.80 | | Directed to Parties | Parties are requested to report on progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 <i>Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region</i>), including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting. |

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| 15.81 | Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support Parties in organizing a regional workshop to improve capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 <i>Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region</i>); b) continue to collaborate with the IWC on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales. |
| 15.82 | Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (<i>Sousa teuszii</i>) | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties that are Range States to the Atlantic humpback dolphin are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) undertake those actions of the SSAP specified for immediate implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing activities, and start implementation of those actions of the SSAP specified to be addressed within five years; b) set up the necessary structures to ensure active collaboration among stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, for example through the formation of national working groups; c) actively engage with stakeholders in neighbouring <i>Sousa teuszii</i> Range States to facilitate knowledge-sharing and effective collaboration, especially where cross-border populations are suspected to occur; d) provide a brief report on their implementation of the SSAP in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP16 using a template provided by the Secretariat; e) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP for their use. |
| 15.83 | | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties that are not Range States to the Atlantic humpback dolphin are requested to provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan.</p> |

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| 15.84 | | Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support implementation of the SSAP, including through provision of technical support and expertise. |
| 15.85 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council, where applicable with support from the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP and prepare a brief summary and analysis; b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP16. |
| 15.86 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) subject to the availability of resources, convene a meeting of Range States regarding implementation of priority actions and to facilitate coordination across the region; b) request national implementation reports from Range States and support the Scientific Council and its Aquatic Mammals Working Group in reviewing and analyzing these responses to assess progress in the implementation of the SSAP. |
| 15.87 | Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale | Directed to the Parties | Parties that are IWC members are requested to engage in the IWC process for establishing the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, and support its finalization. |
| 15.88 | | Directed to the Parties | Parties are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) report on progress in implementing the CMP, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting; b) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the CMP for their use. |

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| 15.89 | | Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale. |
| 15.90 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee is requested to adopt the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, once finalized, in the intersessional period between the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties. |
| 15.91 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall continue to collaborate with the IWC and other relevant partners, such as the Arabian Sea Whale Network, for the implementation of the CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale. |
| 15.92 | Sirenians, Pinnipeds and Otters | Directed to Parties | Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to consider the possibility of proposing for listing the East African and New Caledonia Dugong populations, which have been listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered in the IUCN Red List, on Appendix I of CMS. |
| 15.93 | | Directed to Parties | Parties are requested to support the Secretariat in securing the external expertise required to develop draft reviews of conservation status and threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammal species and recommendations for the consideration of the Scientific Council as foreseen in Decision 15.95. |
| 15.94 | | Directed to non-governmental organizations | Non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide in-kind and technical support to the development of draft reviews of conservation status and threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammal species and recommendations. |

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| 15.95 | | Directed to the Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group | <p>The Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals other than cetaceans, with priority given to species or populations not currently covered by CMS agreements and/or with a less favourable conservation status; b) based on this assessment of threats and regional priorities, prepare detailed recommendations for these other aquatic mammal species for consideration by the Scientific Council; c) assess whether any additional sirenian, pinniped or otter species might meet the criteria for listing on the CMS Appendices I or II and might benefit from being so listed. |
| 15.96 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to review the assessments of regional threats and resulting recommendations developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group. |
| 15.97 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, facilitate the development of draft reviews of conservation status and threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammal species and recommendations for the consideration of the Scientific Council as foreseen in Decision 15.95. |
| 15.98 | Marine Turtles | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to use the guidance developed under the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU available at https://iosea-turtles.cms.int/page/capacity-building-resources to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review existing national beach management guidelines to ensure sea turtle protection needs are met; b) identify and map existing nesting sites. |

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| 15.99 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the work of the joint CMS/IOSEA Nesting Beach Management Steering Group, in collaboration with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles as appropriate, aimed at expanding the existing guidelines on the management of beaches as an ecosystem and as important habitat for marine turtles and other migratory species that depend on coastal soft sediment habitats, and make recommendations on their implementation to COP16; b) develop guidance for the identification of potential new nesting beaches, taking into account expected effects of climate change, as these habitats may require increased conservation effort over time, as appropriate in collaboration with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. |
| 15.100 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, support the Scientific Council in implementing activities foreseen under 15.99, as required.</p> |

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| <p>15.101</p> | <p>Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region</p> | <p>Directed to Parties that are Range States to the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP)</p> | <p>Parties that are Range States to the SSAP are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) nominate, if not yet done, one national government representative (Focal Point) and one national expert per Range State to serve on the Steering Group, and support activities of the Steering Group; b) establish or maintain National Working Groups consisting of National Focal Points, local stakeholders and scientists, particularly those who would be involved in implementing actions; c) develop or update a national work plan focusing on priority actions relevant to their country or territory; giving particular attention to essential and high-priority SSAP actions, and start implementation of relevant medium-priority actions; d) actively encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP for their use; e) when requested, provide a national implementation report, using the reporting template provided by the Secretariat. |
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| 15.102 | | Directed to non-Party Range States of the SSAP | <p>Non-Party Range States of the SSAP are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) adopt the SSAP; b) once the SSAP is adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. nominate one national government representative (Focal Point) and one national expert per Range State to serve on the Steering Group; ii. establish National Working Groups consisting of National Focal Points, local stakeholders and scientists, particularly those who would be involved in implementing actions; iii. when requested, provide a national implementation report, using the reporting template provided by the Secretariat; iv. develop or update a national work plan focusing on priority actions relevant to their country or territory; giving particular attention to essential and high-priority SSAP actions, and start implementation of relevant medium-priority actions. |
| 15.103 | | Directed to Parties that are not Range States to the SSAP | Parties that are not Range States to the SSAP are requested to provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan. |
| 15.104 | | Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the SSAP. |

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| 15.105 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the report received from the Steering Group on implementation of the Action Plan; b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP16. |
| 15.106 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the Action Plan for their use; b) support States that have adopted the Action Plan in its implementation by facilitating meetings of the Steering Group at intervals decided upon by that group; c) request national implementation reports from Range States, compile the information received, and support the Steering Group in reviewing and analysing these responses to assess progress in the implementation of the Action Plan. |
| 15.107 | Migratory Freshwater Fish | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider proposing species identified in the <i>Global Assessment of Migratory Freshwater Fishes</i> for listing on CMS Appendices at future COPs; b) consider the vulnerability of freshwater fish when looking at issues relating to linear infrastructure, hydropower dam construction, connectivity, bycatch and illegal take of species and apply appropriate measures to minimize the associated impacts; c) initiate and promote cooperation instruments for listed species where appropriate, such as Concerted Actions, Species Action Plans (single or multi-species) MOUs and Initiatives, with clear work plans and technical advisory structures as well as promote the exchange of monitoring and surveillance data and any other ongoing actions in transboundary river basins. |

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| <p>15.108</p> | | <p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p> | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish an expert working group to provide advice on migratory freshwater fishes (status reviews, listings, connectivity guidance and monitoring standards, key habitat identification such as free-flowing rivers, effectiveness of fish passage mechanisms as mitigation actions); b) undertake further work to resolve regional and taxonomic gaps in the <i>Global Assessment of Migratory Freshwater Fishes</i> by working with IUCN and the expert group to compile evidence for Not Evaluated, Data Deficient and Least Concern (decreasing trend) species flagged as likely meeting CMS criteria; c) undertake Green Status (Green List) assessments for CMS-listed freshwater fishes and priority candidates identified in the <i>Global Assessment of Migratory Freshwater Fishes</i>; d) identify free flowing rivers which are key habitats for migratory freshwater fishes that are threatened by future hydropower dam construction; e) produce a status report summarizing the current conservation status and management progress for Appendix I freshwater fish; f) commission a global status review of migratory marine bony fish (teleosts), mirroring the freshwater approach, to inform potential cross-realm actions; g) conduct targeted regional reviews (with expert consultation) in basins and regions with numerous transboundary migrants, especially in Africa where transboundary migrants are under-represented in current analyses and data gaps are likely; h) engage Lower Mekong, Orinoco, Nile, Okavango, Zambezi basin countries to explore pathways for coordinated management and potential accession/participation in CMS instruments; i) work closely with the Secretariat on the possibility of developing a dedicated freshwater fishes module for the <i>Atlas of Animal Migration</i>; |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) incorporate relevant data into the <i>Status of the Worlds Migratory Species</i> report to be developed for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and other related CMS communication products; k) undertake a gap analysis of activities undertaken by CITES, CBD, Ramsar, FAO, IUCN and river-basin organizations to identify where CMS adds the most value and to align actions on monitoring, connectivity safeguards and sustainable harvest/trade. |
| 15.109 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) integrate the needs of migratory freshwater fishes into future CMS work, including Decisions, Resolutions and cross-cutting initiatives on ecological connectivity, energy, climatic change, linear infrastructure and bycatch reduction; b) support the Scientific Council with the implementation of Decision 15.108. |

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| 15.110 | Single Species Action Plan for the European Eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>) | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) complete the national threat matrix, outlined in the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the European Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) contained in Annex 2 to document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.2; b) provide information to the Secretariat regarding national legislation specific to the European eel, to be included in Annex 2 of the SSAP, including, where appropriate, information relevant to strengthening legal protection mechanisms; c) undertake those actions of the SSAP specified for immediate and short-term implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority; d) continue ongoing and medium-term activities, and start implementation of long-term activities within five years; e) establish a governance structure, including a Working Group of Range States, to support and monitor implementation and to facilitate cooperation and communication among Range States, including enhanced exchange of information on monitoring programmes and management plans; f) provide a brief report on the implementation of the SSAP in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties using a template provided by the Secretariat; g) encourage non-Party Range States to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP. |
| 15.111 | | Directed to non-Party Range States | Non-Party Range States are encouraged to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP. |
| 15.112 | | Directed to intergovernmental organizations | Intergovernmental organizations, in particular the European Commission, the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and its Advisory Committee, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), are encouraged to engage with the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP. |

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| 15.113 | | Directed to non-governmental organizations | Non-governmental organizations, in particular the Sargasso Sea Commission, are encouraged to support the implementation of the SSAP, including through research and awareness-raising. |
| 15.114 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources, review the summary of information provided by Range States on the implementation of the SSAP and make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. |
| 15.115 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) encourage non-Party Range States to contribute to the implementation of the SSAP; b) develop and disseminate to Range States a simple reporting form to enable assessment of progress in the implementation of the SSAP and facilitate reporting in advance of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and prepare a summary for review by the Scientific Council and for consideration by the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; c) assist Range States in establishing a governance structure and monitoring system and provide a platform for communication upon request; d) collaborate with the CITES Secretariat on relevant activities relating to the European eel to be included in the next CITES–CMS Joint Work Programme. |

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| 15.116 | Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) undertake, to the extent possible, those actions of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) specified for immediate and short-term implementation and for delivery within two years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing and medium-term activities, and start implementation of long-term activities within four years; b) apply the recommendations from the summary of reports on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med provided in Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.3; c) when taking and implementing relevant decisions in the regional cooperation frameworks, consider and apply the recommendations on area-based management of the Angelshark in the Mediterranean provided in UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.25.6.3f and in line with UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.3.1 on Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species; and d) provide a brief report on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) using a template provided by the Secretariat. |
| 15.117 | | Directed to non-Party Range States | Non-Party Range States are requested to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med. |
| 15.118 | | Directed to intergovernmental organizations | Intergovernmental organizations, in particular the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks and its Advisory Committee, are encouraged to continue to engage with the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med. |

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| 15.119 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP Angelshark Med and become members of the International Working Group on the SSAP Angelshark Med; b) in collaboration with the Angel Shark Conservation Network, develop a data-sharing protocol to facilitate data sharing among Range States in the Mediterranean Sea region; c) convene, subject to the availability of resources, a meeting of Range States to stimulate implementation of priority actions and facilitate coordination across the region; d) compile reports on implementation provided by Range States under 15.116 c). |
| 15.120 | <p>Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-listing for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>)</p> | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish national legislation to prohibit the taking of <i>C. longimanus</i> and other Appendix I-listed shark and ray species, including measures to mitigate bycatch, both in national waters and in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and participate in the National Legislation Programme if not already doing so; b) require the safe handling and release of <i>C. longimanus</i> and other Appendix I-listed shark and ray species caught in fisheries and prohibit retention on board to make every effort to remove incentives for the retention of incidentally caught specimens that are still alive; c) strengthen enforcement and monitoring of existing domestic legislation and regional obligations to fully implement Articles III (5) and III (4c); d) consider taking further actions in response to the information provided by Parties and the outcomes of the assessments of trade and fisheries data as required. |
| 15.121 | | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are reminded of their obligations to prohibit taking of all Appendix I-listed shark and ray species, and to endeavour to prevent, reduce or control factors that endanger such species.</p> |

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| 15.122 | List of Shark and Ray Species that Meet the Criteria for Inclusion in CMS Appendices | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to review the <i>List of shark and ray species that meet the criteria for listing on CMS</i> and provide advice on species that would benefit from listing at the 9th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC). |
| 15.123 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee is requested to review and adopt the <i>List of shark and ray species that meet the criteria for listing on CMS</i> at an intersessional meeting before COP16. |
| 15.124 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat is requested to develop a <i>List of shark and ray species that meet the criteria for listing on CMS</i> for the consideration of the Scientific Council, and subsequently forward to the ScC-SC for review, and then to the Standing Committee for review and adoption at an intersessional meeting before COP16. |
| 15.125 | Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the Tope Shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>) | Directed to Parties | Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) undertake those actions of the Single Species Action Plan for the for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the tope shark (SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med) specified for immediate and short-term implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority; b) continue ongoing and medium-term activities, and start implementation of long-term activities within five years; c) establish a governance structure, including a Working Group of Range States, to support and monitor implementation and to facilitate cooperation and communication among Range States; d) provide a brief report on the implementation of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) using a template provided by the Secretariat; e) encourage non-Party Range States to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med. |
| 15.126 | | Directed to non-Party Range States | Non-Party Range States are encouraged to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med. |

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| 15.127 | | Directed to intergovernmental organizations | Intergovernmental organizations, in particular the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks and its Advisory Committee, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) are encouraged to engage with the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med. |
| 15.128 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to review the summary of information provided by Range States on the implementation of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med and make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med to COP16. |
| 15.129 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) encourage non-Party Range States to contribute to the implementation of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med; b) develop and disseminate to Range States a simple reporting form, to enable assessment of progress in the implementation of the SSAP Tope shark NEA/Med to facilitate reporting in advance of COP16 and prepare a summary for review by the Scientific Council and for consideration by COP16; c) assist Range States in the establishment of a governance structure and monitoring system and provide a platform for communication upon request and subject to the availability of resources. |
| 15.130 | Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish | Directed to Parties that are Range States for the Multi-species Action Plan | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement the actions included in the Multi-species Action Plan, in particular those identified as “short-term” within three years as a priority; b) Establish the necessary structures to ensure active collaboration among stakeholders in each Range State, to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, taking into account the proposed governance arrangements contained in the Multi-species Action Plan; c) Maintain coordination with Range States that are not CMS Parties and encourage them to implement the actions contained in the Multi-species Action Plan; d) Submit a brief report on the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan in a timely manner at COP16 and at future CMS COP meetings. |

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| 15.131 | | Directed to Range States for the Multi-species Action Plan that are not Parties | <p>Non-Party States are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement the actions contained in the Multi-species Action Plan; b) Nominate a focal point for the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan. |
| 15.132 | | Directed to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multilateral cooperation bodies and donors | Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multilateral cooperation bodies and donors are encouraged to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan. |
| 15.133 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Multi-species Action Plan; b) Provide guidance on ways to effectively implement the Multi-species Action Plan. |
| 15.134 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage Range States that are not CMS Parties to adopt the actions identified in the Multi-species Action Plan; b) Convene a meeting of Range States as soon as possible after COP15, subject to the availability of resources, with regard to the implementation of priority actions and with a view to facilitating coordination across the region. |

| Avian Species Conservation Issues | | | |
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| 15.135 | Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) | Directed to Parties | Parties that are members of the MIKT are invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) periodically use the Scoreboard, as a national self-assessment tool, to evaluate progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds (IKB); b) provide to the Secretariat, the information requested in the Scoreboard, to inform discussions within the MIKT and to facilitate the sharing of information and best practice among Parties. |
| 15.136 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) compile the information provided by the Parties under Decision 15.135; b) share that information with MIKT members for the purposes outlined in Decision 15.135; c) ensure collaboration and coordination with the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Take (Resolution 11.31 (Rev. COP15)). |
| 15.137 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to provide feedback and inputs to relevant draft outputs produced from the Decision 15.136 b) and 15.136 c). |
| 15.138 | Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force | Directed to Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant organizations | Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to actively participate in and engage with the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA), including by contributing relevant data and expertise on the illegal taking of migratory birds in their territories. |

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| 15.139 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, shall support the coordination and organization of ITTEA meetings, as appropriate, in line with the Task Force's Terms of Reference. |
| 15.140 | South-west Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force | Directed to Parties | Parties that are Range States of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (SWAITB) are invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actively participate, support and engage in the operations and coordination of the SWAITB; b) support the adoption and implementation of the Action Plan to Eradicate the Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Birds in South-West Asia 2024-2032; c) set up the necessary structures, for example through the elaboration of National Action Plans against the illegal taking of migratory birds, to ensure active collaboration between stakeholders to address this threat. |
| 15.141 | | Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant organizations | Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others are invited to engage, as observers, in the SWAITB, and to contribute with relevant data and tools on the illegal taking of migratory birds in the South-West Asia region. |
| 15.142 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, shall support the coordination and organization of SWAITB meetings, as appropriate, in line with the Task Force's Terms of Reference. |
| 15.143 | Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds at Global Level | Directed to Parties and other Range States | Parties and other Range States are invited to undertake national reviews of the production, sale, use and regulation of mist nets and other nets that are used for illegally trapping wild birds, as an input to the tasks directed to the Secretariat under Decision 15.145. |
| 15.144 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to provide feedback and inputs to relevant draft outputs of the mist nets situation analysis produced under Decision 15.145. |

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| 15.145 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in conjunction with Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP15) <i>Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife</i>, and subject to the availability of resources, undertake a scientific review of the scope and scale of illegal taking and trading of birds across sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia to enable Parties, policy instruments and NGOs to set appropriate priorities to address the issue; b) in cooperation with relevant bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements, and subject to available resources, build on the 2024–2025 BirdLife International analysis “<i>Assessing the use and impact of nets, including mist-nets, on wild bird populations in Asia</i>” and expand this work to a global level, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. compiling global data on the use of nets for killing, capturing and trading birds, including the legality of such use, and its impact on CMS-listed species; ii. identifying production and sale locations for mist nets, drawing on existing ringing schemes such as EURING and others worldwide; iii. providing an overview of national legislation and developing guidance for governments and enforcement authorities on the regulation of production, sale, possession and use of mist nets and other nets used for bird trapping; iv. developing guidance for national assessments on the production, sale, use and regulation of mist nets and other trapping nets; v. offering guidance for online and other retailers on the legal aspects of trade in mist nets and other nets that could be used for illegal bird killing, capture and trade. |
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| <p>15.146</p> | <p>Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds</p> | <p>Directed to Parties</p> | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) undertake national review and monitoring exercises to encourage implementation of the phase-out of all types of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights, and in doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. review, in light of the scientific evidence of the harms caused by lead ammunition and fishing weights to wildlife and the wider environment, the provisions and effectiveness of implementation of their legal instruments (legislation and policies) that regulate the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights, and modify these or introduce additional measures where necessary to restrict use of lead in ammunition and fishing weights; ii. actively facilitate and support the development and availability of expanded product ranges of non-toxic alternative to lead ammunition and fishing weights, including through the innovative use of economic measures; iii. implement ongoing national-level monitoring and collate and analyze information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance with any restrictions and map this information against at-risk migratory bird habitats to determine likely affected areas and scale of impacts; iv. share information on progress made on activities i. and ii. above, and the information collated from activities iii. and iv. with the Secretariat for use by the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force); b) nominate representatives to the Lead Task Force; c) take active measures to implement the recommendations set out in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2 to substitute lead ammunition and fishing weights for non-toxic alternatives; d) enhance and continue efforts to prevent poisoning of migratory birds to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. |
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| 15.147 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and others | <p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors are encouraged to provide financial support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an analysis of the current impacts and hotspots of poisoning of migratory wildlife; b) an update of the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2); c) meetings of the Lead Task Force and the production of communication outputs linked to priority areas/flyways; d) Regional workshops of interested vulture range states with priority given to Asia in collaboration with the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit and WOAHP to progress national implementation of existing mandates in restricting veterinary use of NSAIDs including development of guidelines on how to regulate NSAIDs in line with Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15). |
| 15.148 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to provide feedback and inputs to relevant draft outputs produced under Decision 15.149 d) and e). |

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| <p>15.149</p> | | <p>Directed to the Secretariat</p> | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) appoint a Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force) for the triennium 2026-2029, in collaboration with Parties, and request Parties through a notification to nominate representatives for the Task Force, and convene the first meeting as early as possible after COP15; b) provide guidance to Parties on the implementation of Decision 15.146 a), including through a notification; c) collate the information provided by Parties in response to Decision 15.146 a) through the Lead Task Force, and, based on this information, determine the efficacy of regulations, and develop guidance on the steps and procedures to adjust or develop legislation for a complete phase-out of the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights in all habitats, in line with the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2; the Guidelines), and existing information on alternatives; d) to help guide decisions on the future of the work, and nature, of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group, including consideration of whether to extend its scope to other relevant CMS taxa affected by poisons, prepare an analysis on the current impacts and hotspots of poisoning of migratory wildlife, including a mapping exercise that identifies the geographic areas and types of poisons already addressed by existing CMS instruments, as well as gaps and links to existing structures and instruments providing recommendations on CMS institutional frameworks to facilitate appropriate action to prevent further poisoning; e) prepare an update of the Guidelines, in close cooperation with relevant CMS instruments, other MEAs and other relevant international organizations; f) organize regional workshops of interested vulture range states with priority given to Asia in collaboration with the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit and WOHAI to progress national implementation of existing mandates in restricting veterinary use of NSAIDs including development of guidelines on how to regulate NSAIDs in line with Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15). |
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| 15.150 | Flyways | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are requested to implement the new Flyways Programme of Work 2026-2029 and share progress at the Flyways Working Group, with special focus on ensuring synergies with CMS and non-CMS instruments addressing migratory flyways globally; b) are urged to promote and support the development of online tools for mapping migratory flyways, such as IUCN or BirdLife International online databases and the AVISTEP spatial planning tool, and the threats affecting and ecosystem services provided by migratory bird species. |
| 15.151 | | Directed to the Range States of the Americas Flyway | <p>Range States of the Americas Flyways are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) collaborate with the CMS Secretariat, in coordination with existing CMS avian-related instruments such as the MOUs for High Andean Flamingos, for Ruddy Headed Goose and for Southern South American Grassland Birds, to develop a new CMS initiative for the Americas Flyways to be adopted at COP16 that coordinates and facilitates the implementation of the Americas Flyways Framework and Action Plan; b) support the work of the Americas Flyways Framework Task Force to finalize the review of the Framework and Action Plan for the Americas; c) implement the Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) Action Plan; d) support the work started by the AAF to develop a new CMS institutional framework for the Americas Flyways that could enhance cooperation among CMS Parties, non-Parties and relevant stakeholders in the region; e) support the development, adoption and implementation of a multi-species action plan for priority species of Vultures of the Americas in line with CMS priorities, within the Americas Flyways Framework; f) support the implementation of the revised action plan within the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf. 40). |

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| 15.152 | | Directed to the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway | <p>Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Government of India and the Secretariat to set up the Coordination Unit of the CAF in India, under the umbrella of CMS, by the end of 2026; b) support the development and implementation of a CAF Programme of Work to identify the gaps and challenges in the region, including the need for further capacity-building and conservation initiatives. |
| 15.153 | | Directed to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others | <p>Non-Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, international financial institutions, donors and other stakeholders are invited to support the Flyways Working Group, and to jointly cooperate in the implementation of its strategic priorities.</p> |
| 15.154 | | Directed to the Flyways Working Group | <p>The Flyways Working Group is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) act as a platform that ensures the exchange of best practices and the identification of global synergies and gaps across the different flyway-related initiatives, developed either within the framework of the CMS or outside, in alignment with the priorities identified in the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and with those of other relevant MEAs working in areas linked to migratory bird conservation; b) review relevant scientific and technical reports, international initiatives and processes linked to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and develop guidance to help Parties raise awareness of the importance of migratory flyways and the ecosystem services they provide; c) help to ensure coordination between the various CMS Working Groups and Task Forces (e.g., Illegal Killing of Birds, Poisoning, Landbirds, Energy) on flyway-related actions and priorities, and enhance synergies in their implementation; d) report progress to the Scientific Council. |

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| 15.155 | | Directed to the Americas Flyways Task Force | <p>The Americas Flyways Task Force is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) finalize the review and update of the Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) and Action Plan for the Americas; b) support the implementation of the AFF Action Plan, seeking synergies with other CMS and non-CMS Parties and instruments. |
| 15.156 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) organize subregional meetings aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learned on flyway-scale conservation, awareness-raising, and on the development of adequate institutional frameworks to protect them; b) support the work of the Flyways Working Group, in particular by organizing its meetings, aiding the development of a monitoring tool to provide Parties with an objective, fact-based national self-assessment of the current status of flyways and helping to raise awareness of flyways conservation; c) support the Americas Flyway Task Force work, in particular by organizing the Task Force's meetings and helping to update the AFF Action Plan; d) support Range States of the Americas and other stakeholders in the development of a new CMS Initiative for the Americas Flyways (IAF), including the convening of an in-person constitutive meeting, subject to the availability of resources; e) support the establishment of the Central Asian Flyway Initiative, including by supporting the Government of India in setting up the coordination unit of the CAF in India, by the end of 2026. |

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| 15.157 | Seabirds and Marine Flyways | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are urged to support meetings of the Flyways Working Group and the appointment of a marine flyways coordinator for the triennium 2026–2029; b) are encouraged to undertake, based on Annex B of Resolution 15.9 <i>Seabirds and Marine Flyways</i>, all necessary consultations with Range States, and to submit proposals for Concerted Actions for the consideration of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; c) are encouraged to engage in the processes 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), as relevant, to support the development and implementation of area-based management tools that benefit seabirds across the marine flyways; d) are urged to report progress in implementing Resolution 15.9 <i>Seabirds and Marine Flyways</i> in their National Reports, including monitoring the efficacy of measures taken, to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16). |
| 15.158 | | Directed to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others | <p>Non-Parties, organizations, the private sector, donors and other stakeholders are invited to collaborate and engage in partnerships to support the work of the Flyways Working Group, including through technical contributions, and to cooperate in the implementation of its priorities on marine flyways.</p> |

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| 15.159 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council, through its Flyways Working Group, is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate a discussion among Parties, non-Party Range States, relevant regional instruments and stakeholders to explore options for a preferred collaborative framework for the marine flyways under CMS, as outlined in the high-level recommendations (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.3.2/Annex 2 - <i>Policy Gap Analysis on Marine Flyways</i>); b) review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes linked to migratory seabirds, their habitats within marine flyways, the threats associated with them and evidence for effective solutions, and make recommendations on priority actions and gaps in information to be addressed; c) develop situation analyses for individual marine flyways in order to advance targeted conservation action with the relevant stakeholder groups; d) identify critical networks of sites within the six flyways that represent key areas associated with important life-history stages of migratory seabirds, including breeding, foraging, stop-over and wintering, noting that the sites may encompass both national and international waters, for consideration for protection, management and restoration by the 10th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council and subsequently the 16th Conference of the Parties; e) facilitate the development of an implementation plan for each marine flyway that identifies roles and responsibilities and priorities for implementation. |
| 15.160 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) organize subregional meetings aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learned on marine flyway-scale conservation, awareness-raising of marine flyways and migratory seabirds, and on the development of adequate institutional frameworks to protect them; b) facilitate dialogue between the BBNJ Agreement and the relevant CMS processes on seabirds to ensure relevant area-based management tools can benefit migratory seabirds; |

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| | | | c) encourage a focus on marine flyways and migratory seabirds as a theme for World Migratory Bird Day. |
| 15.161 | Action Plans for Birds | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) bring the action plans to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, invite those Range States that are not yet Parties to ratify or accede to the Convention (or at least support the relevant action plan) and to report on the implementation of these action plans, and monitor the implementation of these action plans, to the extent possible, during the intersessional period up to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16); b) coordinate with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) regarding the implementation of the Action Plans for Baer's Pochard, the Christmas Island Frigatebird, the Far Eastern Curlew, the Dalmatian Pelican and the White-headed Duck, and with the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the Action Plans of the Dalmatian Pelican and the White-headed Duck, both of which expire in 2027, and in doing so determine the steps towards their evaluation, further extension, revision, update or retirement for decision by COP16. |
| 15.162 | Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustard MsAP) | Directed to Party Range States and Non-Party Range States | <p>Party Range States are requested and Non-Party Range States are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) integrate the Bustard MsAP into national legislations and strategies, and sectoral policies concerning wildlife protection, game management and related law enforcement, agriculture, energy, transportation, land-use planning; b) engage with each other and share best practices for the effective implementation of the Bustard MsAP; c) report on the progress of the implementation of this decision and report progress to the Secretariat before the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. |

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| 15.163 | | Directed to Party Range States, Non-Party Range States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Party Range States, Non-Party Range States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implement priority actions, including habitat protection and management, collision prevention, reduction of illegal and unsustainable take and anthropogenically increased levels of predation including through existing relevant CMS thematic working groups and task forces; b) strengthen research, monitoring and awareness; c) provide financial and technical support to the implementation and the assessment of the implementation of the Bustard MsAP, notably in relation to the activities foreseen in Decisions 15.162 and 15.163. |
| 15.164 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to review the scientific content of progress reports submitted by Range States, pending availability of resources.</p> |
| 15.165 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) assist the Coordination Unit that implements the Bustard MsAP; b) support the coordination of the implementation of the Bustard MsAP within the frame of other relevant CMS instruments and activities, such as the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) and the Energy Task Force (ETF); c) strengthen cooperation with relevant MEAs, including CITES and CBD, and other relevant organizations, such as BirdLife International, IUCN and FAO; d) assist in the development and dissemination of capacity-building materials, and of a template for progress report of the Bustard MsAP and decisions 15.162 and 15.163; e) include bustard conservation in communication and PR activities to raise awareness and support the implementation of the Bustard MsAP. |

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| 15.166 | Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP) | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are urged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) engage actively in the implementation of the AEML Action Plan; b) contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the AEMLAP Programme of Work; c) ensure synergies are sought across Range States of both AEMLAP and the Initiative for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF). |
| 15.167 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are requested to engage in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the AEML WG, namely by facilitating the exchange of information on key species and habitats, in particular to tackle the barriers to sustainable land use and conservation of habitats in Africa, including the priorities for West Africa and Central Asia, and through the provision of technical assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity-building; b) are requested to support and cooperate on existing international approaches to retain and enhance tree cover (e.g., Bonn Challenge, Trillion Trees, Great Green Wall) and local aid and development projects around agriculture and forestry, through monitoring outcomes, enabling comparisons between sites and across years, where possible in properly designed experiments, to provide insights on interventions that can create win-win scenarios for birds as a proxy for biodiversity, for local communities in terms of socioeconomic benefits, and for land degradation neutrality and nature-based climate solutions, or that, at the least, can benefit birds without detriment to these other objectives; c) are invited to promote the enrichment of vegetation cover (including but not limited to trees) through the use of native species and promotion of ecologically sustainable land management practices and wise use of water. |

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| 15.168 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds until COP17, extending its membership and incorporating expertise from regions currently absent, to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, developing indicators to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work 2026-2032; b) provide support to the Working Group, its Steering Group and Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Working Group Programme of Work. |
| 15.169 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Working Group to organize at least one meeting within the intersessional period between COP15 and COP16 to, among other activities, review the implementation of the Action Plan and the Programme of Work; b) organize a workshop on the integration of biodiversity requirements into land degradation neutrality delivery at appropriate scale in cooperation with UNCCD. |
| 15.170 | Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures | Directed to Parties, non-Party Range States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Parties, non-Party Range States and stakeholders are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop partnerships with anti-poaching initiatives and conservation groups concerned with the poisoning of other taxonomic groups, including developing training courses, translating and disseminating examples of best practice, sharing protocols and regulations, transferring technology, and promoting the use of online tools to address specific issues that are relevant to the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP); b) actively engage with and support the Vulture MsAP Working Group; c) support the upcoming Mid-term Review of the Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan; d) ensure the national implementation of the Vulture MsAP integrates the findings of the Mid-term Reviews into their (revised) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); e) provide the Secretariat with information on the activities carried out towards the implementation of the Vulture MsAP in time for the Secretariat to report at the 16th Conference of the Parties. |

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| 15.171 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) subject to the availability of resources, support the implementation of capacity-building activities to support the West African Range States in implementing the Vulture MsAP; b) subject to the availability of resources, develop a study on belief-based use and its impact on vultures in Africa to guide decisions on which countries to concentrate efforts and how; c) subject to the availability of resources, support the upcoming Mid-term Review of the Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan; d) continue efforts to operationalize the mandated Vulture Working Group and facilitate the continuation of the Vulture Coordination Team in the interim. |
| 15.172 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of these Decisions to the next Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Raptors Memorandum of Understanding and CMS COP16.</p> |
| 15.173 | Saker Falcon (<i>Falco cherrug</i>) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) | Directed to Parties | <p>Party Range States are requested and Non-Party Range States are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) contribute to the review of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP) during the coming triennium; b) develop and implement monitoring programmes, in order to close the existing data and information gaps. |

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| 15.174 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) convey Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP15) to the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular CITES, seeking their support and contributions to the implementation of the SakerGAP; b) subject to the availability of resources, organize regional workshops of the Saker Falcon Task Force in the coming triennium in countries within the breeding range, to promote the implementation of the SakerGAP and assist them to develop and implement monitoring programmes; c) subject to the availability of resources, review and update the SakerGAP; d) invite Range States to renew their Saker Falcon Task Force Membership. |
| 15.175 | Internationally Important Raptor Areas (IIRAs) | Directed to Parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parties within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU are requested to support the identification of new IIRAs by proposing new areas to the Technical Advisory Group of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU); b) Parties beyond the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU are requested to support the identification of IIRAs with the support of the Flyways Working Group. |
| 15.176 | | Directed to Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actively contribute to the identification of proposed IIRAs within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU and support Parties to submit proposals to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Raptors MOU; b) actively engage with and provide support to the TAG for the process of identifying IIRAs; c) support, beyond the Raptors MOU geographic scope, the identification of IIRAs, and support Parties to submit proposals for listing to the Flyways Working Group. |
| 15.177 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to support the TAG in identifying IIRAs for CMS-listed raptor species within the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU, through sharing information and data and support the Flyways Working Group, in the development of equivalent processes for identifying IIRAs and listing the resulting sites for other flyways outside the geographic scope of the Raptors MOU.</p> |

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| 15.178 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) assist the Flyways Working Group to develop mechanisms for identifying, assessing and listing IIRAs in flyways beyond the geographical scope of the Raptors MOU; b) inform the Parties of newly identified IIRAs; c) facilitate consultation and coordination between the TAG in the African-Eurasian Flyway, equivalent processes in other flyways, Parties, Range States, and relevant international and regional organizations with a view to establishing a mutually supported, science- and ecosystem-based approach to conservation and sustainability of IIRAs; d) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting on the implementation of this Decision. |
| Terrestrial Species Conservation Issues | | | |
| 15.179 | Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative | Directed to Party and non-Party Range States to the Joint CITES–CMS African Carnivores Initiative | <p>Parties and non-Parties that are Range States to the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) revise the Programme of Work (POW) as necessary, and monitor the functionality of the Initiative in line with Resolution 13.4 and the objectives of the revised ACI POW; b) report to the Conference of Parties at its 16th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision and the monitoring findings; c) review the ACI POW to reflect any amendments to the listing of species by CMS COP15; d) extend the resource kit for the cheetah for the newly listed cheetah population by CMS COP 15. |

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| 15.180 | | Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the ACI, its POW and the Range States meeting. |
| 15.181 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support Range States with the implementation of the ACI POW, specifically the results and activities prioritized by the Range States at their second meeting, as set out in CITES-CMS/ACI2/Outcomes; b) in close cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, convene the third meeting of the ACI Range States to support them with the implementation of Decision 15.179. |
| 15.182 | Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative | Directed to Parties and Range States | <p>Parties are requested and Range States are invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Djibouti, Egypt, and Somalia, as former Range States, are requested and Sudan is invited to conduct research into whether naturally occurring extant populations of African Wild Ass remain in their territories, as set out in the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass (<i>Equus africanus</i>) 2017-2027, and to report findings to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. b) Parties that are Range States to the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative are invited to articulate the challenges encountered in the implementation of Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14) and the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass in order to evaluate the current status and progress, identify factors hindering progress, and explore potential solutions to overcome these challenges, where possible. |

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| 15.183 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) share the Sahelo-Saharan <i>Megafauna Funding Mechanism Concept and Strategy</i> with the Range States and review the feasibility of the mechanisms and approaches proposed in the document; b) discuss the implementation of the funding concept and strategy with potential partners and donors such as the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency (AFD), the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working on ecosystem restoration and development cooperation, to foster collaboration under the Initiative and secure the necessary technical and financial support; c) subject to the availability of resources, support confirmed and former Range States with the implementation of the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass (<i>Equus africanus</i>) 2017-2027; d) support the Ranges States to the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative in exploring potential solutions as deemed appropriate by the Range States and in addressing the challenges identified in 15.182 b) and compose a report on the outcomes to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. |
| 15.184 | Central Asian Mammals Initiative | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conclude, where needed, transboundary agreements to strengthen the conservation of specific priority transboundary conservation regions (PTCRs) as identified in the CAMI Work Programme 2026–2032; b) nominate Government Focal Points for specific PTCRs; c) develop joint funding proposals and innovative financial mechanisms to advance transboundary cooperation on PTCRs and other activities for the implementation of the CAMI Work Programme 2026–2032, with support and facilitation from the CMS Secretariat, where needed. |

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| 15.185 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide political, financial and technical support in the implementation of the CAMI Work Programme 2026–2032 and the activities foreseen in Decision 15.184 a) and c), 15.187 and 15.188. |
| 15.186 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee is requested to review and endorse, if needed, changes proposed by Parties during the intersessional period to the CAMI Work Programme 2026–2032 to reflect listing of new species by CMS COP15. |
| 15.187 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in accordance with agreed procedures and terms of reference, facilitate the nomination of Government Focal Points for each PTCR of the CAMI Work Programme 2026–2032, technical support organization(s) covering all PTCRs and CAMI Species Focal Points (SFPs); b) identify synergies between CAMI and the Central Asian Flyway Initiative, the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia, the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program, the International Big Cat Alliance, and other relevant regional platforms to enhance joint conservation goals, save costs and reduce carbon footprints when organizing meetings; c) organize an online meeting between relevant sector representatives in Mongolia to discuss mitigation of the impact of planned/existing railways on migratory species; d) in cooperation with the CMS Energy Task Force, organize an online meeting to facilitate discussion of mitigation measures for wind and solar energy infrastructure on the Ustyurt Plateau; e) if requested by Parties, conduct other online meetings to facilitate discussion of the issues related to barriers to migration and identifying solutions involving infrastructure developers and planners, the CMS Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, CAMI SFPs and NFPs of CAMI Range States; f) report to the Conference of Parties at its 16th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision. |

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| 15.188 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) produce and disseminate a brochure and a promotional video (for different audiences) to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of the region for the conservation of migratory species and the role of CAMI and the Central Asian Flyway Initiative; b) conduct a workshop to build the capacity and increase the awareness of decision makers and local communities in applying the IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-wildlife Conflict and Coexistence, and the recommendations of the CMS report, <i>Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management in Central Asia</i>, as well as the recommendations of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Pastoralism and CMS-listed species; c) in cooperation with the CMS Energy Task Force, conduct a workshop to build the capacity of relevant decision makers and stakeholders and to develop guidance with a view to reducing the impacts of linear infrastructure on CAMI species and CMS-listed avian species; d) conduct workshops to strengthen transboundary cooperation in specific PTCRs; e) support the efforts of the Government of Uzbekistan to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study on re-introduction of the cheetah using cheetahs and prey base from appropriate sources that assesses, inter alia, the restoration of the prey base, habitat suitability and extension of available space for cheetahs, by providing capacity-building and support to fundraising efforts; f) organize a mid-term meeting in 2028 or 2029 to assess the implementation of the CAMI Work Programme 2026-2032, identify successes and address challenges; g) report to the Conference of Parties at its 16th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision. |
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| <p>15.189</p> | <p>Jaguar</p> | <p>Directed to Jaguar Range States that are Parties to CMS, other Range States and other Parties</p> | <p>Jaguar Range States and other Parties, as relevant, are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actively implement the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation agreed at the second Jaguar Range States Meeting (Mexico, September 2025), with a focus on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. identify and prioritize important conservation areas, habitats and ecological corridors for jaguar (Priority Landscapes for Jaguar Conservation) and its wild prey species (including transboundary), and define respective conservation measures, including infrastructure mitigation; ii. recover populations and reintroduce jaguars and wild prey species in key/priority areas within the historical range; iii. understand, prevent and mitigate negative human–jaguar interactions and promote coexistence, and prevent, combat and reduce illegal killing of jaguars and illegal domestic and international trade; iv. strengthen national legal frameworks for jaguar conservation, its habitats and migration routes, including by participating in the CMS National Legislation Programme; v. establish innovative, sustainable and long-lasting finance mechanisms, including by mobilizing funding from relevant international financial institutions, public and private funding sources; b) participate in and support the work of the intersessional working group under the CITES Standing Committee as established by CITES Decision 20.188; c) taking into consideration the discussions in the CITES Standing Committee, finalize and operationalize an intergovernmental platform for jaguars, as well as a monitoring system for the illegal killing and illicit trade of jaguars; d) identify areas for support from the Secretariat in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation. |
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| 15.190 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee is requested to review the new Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work developed by CMS and CITES Secretariats and provide guidance, if needed, in line with Resolution 14.14 (Rev.COP15) and the overarching objective of maximizing synergies and complementarity between the two Conventions to achieve maximum practical impact. |
| 15.191 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue its joint work with the CITES Secretariat in their ambitious CMS-CITES Joint Programme of Work to facilitate strengthened collaboration among all Jaguar Range States, in line with Resolution 14.14 (Rev.COP15) and the overarching objective of maximizing synergies and complementarity between the two Conventions to achieve maximum practical impact; b) identify relevant activities in the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation that may be carried out in collaboration with the Secretariat of CITES and incorporate them in their next CMS–CITES Joint Programme of Work in line with Resolution 14.14 (Rev.COP15) and the overarching objective of maximizing synergies and complementarity between the two Conventions to achieve maximum practical impact; c) provide support to Range States in implementing the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the members of the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap Committee and the IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group; d) convene meetings among Range States, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, as appropriate, to support the identification of transboundary Priority Landscapes for Jaguar Conservation, associated conservation measures and mechanisms that ensure long-term and sustainable cooperation; e) work with Range States and partners towards the establishment of a range-wide network of jaguar habitat, connected through corridors; f) participate in the intersessional working group under the CITES Standing Committee, and contribute to the finalization of an intergovernmental platform for range-wide jaguar conservation, as well as a monitoring system for the illegal killing and illicit trade of jaguars. |

| Crosscutting Conservation Issues | | | |
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| 15.192 | Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species | Directed to Parties | Parties are requested to provide support for implementation of Decision 15.195, and cooperate with the Secretariat in implementing Decision 15.195. |
| 15.193 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to collaborate with the Secretariat and Parties in the implementation of activities set out in Decision 15.195. |
| 15.194 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) renew the Scientific Council Working Group on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking and, as needed, amend the Terms of Reference, b) review the in-depth analysis described in Decision 15.195 b) and provide recommendations on the analysis and on further research and conservation priorities, if needed, for consideration by the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; c) support the Secretariat for the other actions in Decision 15.195. |

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| 15.195 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) on the basis of the review in Annex 1, develop a more integrated approach to effectively support Parties in addressing pressures from illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species; b) building on the scoping analysis, conduct, subject to the availability of resources, an in-depth analysis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the scale of illegal and unsustainable take of migratory species listed on CMS Appendices I and II; ii. the impacts of illegal and unsustainable take on the conservation status of such species, including cumulative impacts on species at the migration range and population level, and the consequences of these impacts on affected ecosystems and the services they provide; c) develop priorities for the work of the Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species during the intersessional period; d) support measures to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species identified in the scoping analysis; e) conduct a workshop (online) on the utility of a scoreboard for a wider range of taxa (e.g. similar to the Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) Scoreboard) and on means to improve weaknesses in enforcement systems; f) support Parties in the development of a strategy to combat illegal taking using best practices which may include the use of a scoreboard; g) convene a forum on illegal and unsustainable taking of species to showcase positive examples, existing challenges and solutions, as well as the role of the different CMS initiatives and instruments in supporting Parties in addressing these threats; h) support the Scientific Council in its work to implement Decisions 15.194. |
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| 15.196 | Ecological Connectivity | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, pending availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide guidance to the Secretariat and support the implementation of Decision 15.197; b) make any further recommendations, as appropriate, that may be needed within the framework of CMS to address migratory species connectivity, in particular with respect to activities undertaken under Decision 15.197, including identifying data gaps revealed by the Ecological Connectivity and Infrastructure Survey, advising on priority taxonomic groups and regions, and providing scientific direction on assessing links between connectivity, ecosystem integrity, and climate resilience. |
| 15.197 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) convene, in cooperation with the Scientific Council and its Working Group on Infrastructure and Migratory Species, an expert workshop to consider options and develop proposals for creating relevant data- and knowledge-holding capacity and for enhancing analysis capabilities under the auspices of the CMS, building, inter alia, on the outcomes of the Survey on Ecological Connectivity and Infrastructure and the recommendations from the Scientific Council's Working Group on Infrastructure; b) commission a comprehensive study on the linkages between migratory species connectivity and ecosystem integrity and resilience, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an assessment of research needs relating to key connectivity issues affecting the conservation status of major migratory wildlife taxonomic groups in terrestrial, marine and freshwater regions; ii. identification of emerging threats and key barriers to connectivity; iii. recommendations for further scientific research and collaboration; iv. preparation of a report presenting the findings for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; c) support Parties, including through the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity, in implementing Resolution 14.16 (Rev.COP15) <i>Ecological Connectivity</i> through: |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the development and dissemination of targeted guidance to further strengthen the effective implementation of measures to maintain, enhance and restore ecological connectivity; ii. creation of practical tools for terrestrial, freshwater and marine connectivity; iii. promotion of the integration of ecological connectivity into national policy processes, including spatial planning frameworks and NBSAPs; iv. strengthened coordination with other multilateral environmental agreements and processes relevant to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. |
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| 15.198 | Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>Taking into account the recommendations emanating from the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee and recognizing that the tool <i>Identifying opportunities for transboundary conservation</i> (the 'tool'), is a pilot tool, which may or may not be used by Parties for the identification of transboundary areas for cooperative conservation, the Scientific Council is requested to establish a Working Group, which should include representatives from the Southern African Development Community region (the lead region for establishing Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs)), to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) determine potential target users of the tool for identifying opportunities for transboundary conservation, based on the TFCA model of cooperation, in close consultation with Parties and other stakeholders; b) taking into account the recommendations emanating from the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee, conduct joint consultations with potential target users to identify their needs, the applicability of the tool, taking into account that the TFCA model goes beyond conservation, and any technical adjustments required to improve it; c) based on the outcomes of a) and b), identify, in close consultation with target users, technical requirements, parameters and functions to be considered in the development of the tool. |
| 15.199 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with UNEP–WCMC, support the Working Group established under Decision 15.198 and assess the costs and benefits of further developing and maintaining the tool, based on the needs and requirements as identified.</p> |

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| 15.200 | Communities and Livelihoods | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, work with partners, including Parties, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, to support Parties with the implementation of the ten Guiding Principles annexed to Resolution 14.17 on <i>Community Participation and Livelihoods</i> and the recommendations from the study, <i>Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management in Central Asia</i>. This support shall include the application of relevant recommendations, as appropriate, beyond the Central Asian region, taking into account regional contexts and national circumstances, while ensuring that the implementation of these principles is compatible with the conservation objectives of the Convention, guaranteeing ecological sustainability and where there are uncertainties on the conservation status of the migratory species, apply a precautionary approach and, in particular, the Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop funding proposals to mobilize funding resources that integrate community-based wildlife conservation and management with sustainable livelihood opportunities; b) organize exchange visits for decision makers to successful community-based conservation initiatives; c) organize and deliver targeted capacity-building workshops and technical support for decision makers to enable the establishment, strengthening, and scaling-up of community-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species; d) support capacity building at the community level, including for indigenous peoples and local communities, to enhance governance, institutional arrangements, skills development, sustainable resource use, value-chain development, and equitable benefit-sharing, with a view to improving livelihoods, promoting economic resilience, and reinforcing positive incentives for the conservation of migratory species; e) facilitate broader consultations with CMS Parties, indigenous people and local communities, civil society organizations, relevant experts and other competent stakeholders in order to support an inclusive and effective implementation of the Guiding Principles considering that migratory species of animals are shared resources and heritage. |
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| 15.201 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to establish a dedicated working group that deals with scientific issues related to conflicts and coexistence between communities and CMS-listed species. |
| 15.202 | Wildlife Health | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) update, as appropriate, the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health; b) through the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health and the CMS-FAO Co-Convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wildlife, provide any recommendations on issues related to migratory species and health, as appropriate; c) convene a workshop to further develop the niche of the Working Group to maximize wildlife health impacts; d) further develop and implement the Programme of Work of the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health and prioritize activities; e) strengthen the mainstreaming of health into other Scientific Council workstreams and CMS activities; f) strengthen collaborative relationships with other intergovernmental initiatives that can deliver conservation and health benefits; g) task the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health and the Working Group on Climate Change, as well as other relevant workstreams in CMS family agreements to jointly collate and discuss measures to monitor, prevent and mitigate mass mortality events of populations of migrating species and recommend actions that can be taken in that regard. |

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| 15.203 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council in the implementation of Decision 15.202; b) develop a devoted section on the CMS website with resources and guidance to support Parties in implementing Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP15); c) liaise with FAO to finalize the Terms of Reference of the CMS–FAO Co-Convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wildlife. |
| 15.204 | Pastoralism | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) observe, in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/253, the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (YRP) in 2026, and raise awareness of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of rangelands for the conservation of CMS-listed species through communication, outreach, events and activities, collaboration, educational materials and programmes; b) support the implementation of the actions related to the conservation of CMS-listed species within the IYRP Global Action Plan endorsed by the IYRP Steering Committee; c) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 15.205 by providing information, data and resources. |

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| 15.205 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Pastoralism and CMS-listed Species until such time as the Sessional Committee decides that its work is complete or an alternative arrangement is made. The Working group is asked to, in cooperation with the UNCCD Secretariat, where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) under the lead of a dedicated specialist and through at least one in-person meeting, subject to the availability of resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. overlay, to the extent possible, maps of pastoral rangelands and key habitats of selected CMS-listed species to identify overlaps and showcase positive and negative interactions and the actions needed to support the coexistence of wildlife and domestic animals; ii. define information/data needed by decision makers in the agricultural and forestry sectors to ensure migratory species are taken into account in the planning and management of pastoral land use; iii. develop guidelines on sustainable pastoralism in migratory species' habitats for decision makers based on (i) and (ii), taking into account the recommendations contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.6, existing CMS mandates, the rights of pastoralists, cultural considerations, the negative impacts of unsustainable practices and positive impacts of sustainable pastoralism on migratory species, including wildlife health and One Health aspects; iv. develop recommendations on how to mainstream the guidelines into land-use and conservation policies at the national and international levels to achieve benefits for both conservation of migratory species and pastoralists; b) building on the above, prepare a draft Resolution on Pastoralism and Migratory Species for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting. |
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| 15.206 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) consolidate information from various CMS mandates related to interactions between pastoralism and CMS-listed species, and develop tailored communication products to convey this information to relevant sectors and organizations, with the aim of promoting implementation of CMS mandates;b) liaise with the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Rewilding Alliance's Rangelands Working Group and the Global Grasslands and Savannas Dialogue Platform, the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Global Alliance and other partners to explore possibilities for cooperation, including through joint activities highlighting pastoralism and its relevance to the conservation of CMS-listed species, with the support of the Working Group established by the Scientific Council under Decision 15.205;c) support the Scientific Council with the implementation of Decision 15.205. |
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| 15.207 | Cumulative Effects Assessments | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) integrate provisions for cumulative effects assessments (CEA) into relevant national environmental legislation, with specific consideration for migratory species, particularly those listed in CMS Appendices I and II; b) develop and implement national policy and guidance on the application of CEAs, ensuring that the impacts on migratory species are systematically assessed and addressed; c) support the development of robust, modern and uniform environmental impact assessments, including CEAs, for activities with potential impacts on migratory species in areas within and beyond national jurisdictions under 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); d) collaborate and share information to jointly develop and implement CEA frameworks for local, national, regional or international application, and to collaborate and share information with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of these efforts; e) strengthen methodologies and criteria for identifying, evaluating and mitigating cumulative impacts on CMS-listed migratory species and their habitats, including cross-border cumulative effects and effects in underrepresented ecosystems. |
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| <p>15.208</p> | | <p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p> | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop, subject to the availability of resources, guidance for the assessment of cumulative effects on migratory species, including the establishment of common standards and methodologies suitable for application across CMS Parties, which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an assessment of the current terminology used in the context of CEAs and recommendations for a harmonized vocabulary, including clear definitions of 'cumulative effects', 'cumulative effects assessment', 'pressures' and other key terms, for use across CMS guidance and other international frameworks; ii. advice on when and how migratory species should be assessed within CEAs, and best practices, including those specific to challenging contexts such as marine environments, or species- or sector-specific challenges; iii. consideration of technological advances relevant to CEA methodologies, including the potential use of artificial intelligence, machine learning and other innovative tools to support the assessment and interpretation of cumulative effects, as well as advice on the applicability and limitations of such technologies, outlining potential use cases and associated data or capacity requirements; iv. recommendations for adapting existing CEA frameworks to better accommodate the needs of migratory species; b) in collaboration with its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, investigate the potential of social impact assessment methodologies for understanding impacts of human activities on social structure and culture of migratory species. |
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| 15.209 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the development of guidance materials on the implementation of CEA for migratory species, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and expert bodies; b) promote and facilitate collaboration between Parties and relevant organizations such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and other scientific or technical bodies engaged in the development or implementation of CEA frameworks; c) engage in processes to operationalize the BBNJ Agreement, in order to promote coherence and ensure consideration of migratory species, and explore ways for the Scientific Council to contribute to such processes. |
| 15.210 | Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested to extend the Working Group as established until the Sessional Committee decides its work is complete or an alternative arrangement is made, focusing its work on the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop technical guidance for adapting critical habitat criteria to migratory species, including ecological connectivity and subpopulation considerations; b) prepare standard scoping checklists for inclusion of migratory species in EIAs/SEAs, with recommended survey methods and data sources; c) identify best-practice, cost-effective monitoring methods for infrastructure impacts on migratory species; d) support the Secretariat, as appropriate, in the delivery of Decision 15.211. |

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| 15.211 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) compile and disseminate examples of adapted critical habitat methodologies incorporating ecological connectivity for migratory species; b) liaise with multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) on updating their guidance, and with relevant bodies maintaining the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the GEO Portal to ensure alignment and data sharing; c) update, regularly, the Online Library of Existing Databases on Movements, Habitats, and Presence and Absence of Migratory Species accessible to Parties and practitioners; d) convene, in cooperation with the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, holders of databases on migratory species distribution and movements, including those used by MDBs, to explore the potential for harmonizing data standards and optimizing visualization for targeted data users; e) organize regional and national workshops to raise the awareness and increase the capacity of government representatives who are working in sectors concerned with infrastructure development of the needs and requirements of migratory species, in close collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders, multilateral development banks, bilateral development banks, donors and other organizations and institutions that are involved in linear infrastructure development; f) identify infrastructure databases for spatial data on existing and planned linear infrastructure in cooperation with Parties, relevant organizations and experts; g) review the implementation of <i>Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia</i> by Parties and update the Guidelines on the basis of the lessons learned from their review and other sources; |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) develop guidelines for preparing and using ecological connectivity plans as tools for migratory species conservation; i) develop and circulate among Parties impact assessment (including strategic environmental assessment) screening guidelines, taking into consideration existing international, regional or national tools, including requirements of migratory species, ecological connectivity and ecological restoration in linear infrastructure development, as guidance materials for the implementation of CMS Resolution 07.02 (Rev.COP15) <i>Impact Assessment and Migratory Species</i>; j) develop guidelines where gaps exist, including checklists, on the impact of infrastructure on migratory species for all geographic regions on the basis of the lessons learned from the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) infrastructure guidelines review, the CMS Energy Task Force and other sources, and translate CMS guidelines into national languages; k) compile available information, in cooperation with partners, on the effectiveness of CMS-listed species-specific mitigation solutions, including lessons learned, for landscapes and types of infrastructure barriers and identify those species that need further analysis/research; l) include in its communication strategy engagement with the financial and infrastructure-related sectors; m) include in its communication programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. development of fact sheets and policy briefs based on CMS guidance materials in collaboration with relevant CMS Initiatives, Task Forces and Scientific Council Working Groups; ii. visualization of species distribution, and existing and planned infrastructure extracted from interactive online tools (including the CAMI Atlas and Bird Migration Atlas). |
| 15.212 | Renewable Energy and Migratory Species | Directed to Parties | Parties are invited to report progress on implementing Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15) to the Energy Task Force meetings and/or through their National Reports, including monitoring of the efficacy of measures taken. |

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| 15.213 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-government organizations, and others | Parties, including their representatives from both environment and energy ministries and authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to support the implementation of Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15), the work of the Energy Task Force and the implementation of its Workplan. |
| 15.214 | | Directed to the Energy Task Force | <p>The Energy Task Force (ETF) is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review, update, and promote tools and guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments on migratory species across flyways and marine migratory routes, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, in accordance with relevant legal instruments and frameworks, and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectorial bodies. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects; ii. active promotion of existing sensitivity mapping tools, such as AVISTEP; iii. the development of regionally tailored guidance and events, in relevant local languages where suitable, and designed to be clear, accessible and easy to locate for stakeholders in different world regions; b) coordinate the outputs produced by the ETF Working Groups and ensure synergies with other CMS task forces working on similar initiatives, such as the CMS Saker Falcon Task Force, the CMS Task Forces on illegal taking of migratory birds and the Scientific Council Infrastructure Working Group; c) advance engagement with the corporate sector and international financial institutions to support the integration of best practices and mainstreaming of migratory species into industry policies and safeguards. |

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| 15.215 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) include in its communication strategy the guidance and tools produced by the ETF, as well as the engagement with international financial institutions and the full range of renewable energy stakeholders; b) support the ETF, including organizing annual ETF meetings and specific workshops, and ensure its membership is increased and its scope regularly reviewed to address all potential threats from renewable energy infrastructure to migratory species; c) advance partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), other relevant intergovernmental organizations, and entities to expand the role and awareness of the ETF, and to support the implementation of safeguards, spatial planning tools, and guidance aimed at avoiding negative impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on migratory species; d) support the production of technical guidance tailored to the geographical, technical and species-related needs identified by ETF members. |
| 15.216 | Climate Change and Migratory Species | Directed to Parties | <p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify case studies evidencing successful actions that have supported migratory species' adaptation to climate change; b) identify case studies evidencing ecosystem services provided by migratory species that contribute to addressing climate change; c) share them with the Secretariat. |

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| 15.217 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | <p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) use the guidance on barriers as summarized in Annex 5 of document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.12/Rev.1 to identify and mitigate barriers likely to impede the movements of migratory species, including potential range shifts in response to climate change, and share any observations with the Secretariat; b) use the recommendations contained in the <i>Report on the Impacts of Climate Change on Cetacean Welfare and Conservation</i>, summarized in Annex 2 to document CMS/COP15/Doc.25.4.1/Rev.1, to improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on cetacean species and support their conservation in the face of climate change, and share any experiences and lessons learned in applying the recommendations with the Secretariat. |
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| 15.218 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) re-establish its Climate Change Working Group and update its Terms of Reference as needed; b) undertake a horizon scan of potential impacts of climate change on migratory species, including the identification of threats, opportunities and disruptors, as well as potential conservation actions and how they can be pragmatically implemented; c) convene a workshop, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. identify those migratory species most likely to be impacted by climate change, including by changes to their migration routes, and therefore most in need of conservation interventions, with a focus on those listed on Appendix I, as well as species for which interventions might have wider benefits; ii. conduct a review of the impacts of migratory species' range shifts on ecosystem functioning, including through the loss and introduction of migratory species and their associated ecosystem services, as well as potential policy implications; d) develop case studies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. showcase how migratory species have adapted to barriers to migration in the context of their adaptation to climate change, and how management interventions have helped migratory species overcome such barriers; ii. demonstrate effective actions to prepare for and respond to extreme climate events likely to impact vulnerable migratory species, including early-warning systems and response protocols; e) organize webinars outlining synergies between migratory species conservation and the delivery of wider international goals and targets, including the IPBES Nexus Assessment response options; |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) promote knowledge exchange and collaboration between the CMS Scientific Council Working Groups on Climate Change and on Ecological Connectivity on overlapping areas of work; g) identify overlaps between CMS activities related to migratory species and climate change and those of related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including both synergies and trade-offs; h) develop fact sheets on the benefits of migratory species conservation to the implementation of goals and targets under other MEAs, tailored for different audiences; i) address youth concerns in discussions related to migratory species and climate change; j) through the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health and Working Group on Climate Change as well as other relevant workstreams in CMS family agreements to jointly collate and discuss measures to monitor, prevent and mitigate mass mortality events of populations of migrating species and identify actions that can be taken in that regard. |
| 15.219 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council in the implementation of Decision 15.218; b) bring to the attention of the Scientific Council any case studies shared by Parties under Decision 15.216; c) collect and bring to the attention of the Scientific Council any feedback from Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their experience with using the guidance materials and recommendations referred to in Decision 15.217; d) engage and cooperate with other MEAs and organizations, including in particular the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the IUCN, at relevant meetings, to provide information about climate change and migratory species, and invite Parties to reinforce the coordination between MEAs focal points. |

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| 15.220 | Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Learning | Directed to Parties | Parties are encouraged to consider the insights from the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Learning to enhance work under CMS instruments, emphasizing the conservation value of 'cultural capacity' in accordance with national circumstances and capability. |
| 15.221 | | Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the Expert Group on Animal Culture, specifically in relation to hosting an in-person workshop during the next triennium as foreseen in Decision 15.222. |

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| <p>15.222</p> | | <p>Directed to the Scientific Council, through its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Learning</p> | <p>The Scientific Council, through its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Learning, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote the practical application of the increasing knowledge about animal culture and social learning in conservation management by working to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. assess and provide advice on possible shortcuts for incorporating social learning into management, complementing traditional management techniques, including developing advice on phylogenetic inference; ii. continue to identify and compile instances in which social learning may be involved in animal behaviours and mitigation measures for human–wildlife conflict and explore opportunities to collaborate with the IUCN Human–Wildlife Conflict & Co-existence specialist group; iii. conduct a review, in collaboration with the Working Group on Climate Change, of any examples of social learning-related changes in behaviour as a result of climate change that increase human–wildlife conflict; iv. provide advice on the potential link with Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and other area-based conservation tools that identify sites or seascapes of biodiversity importance; v. explore and prepare a report on the impacts of removals on social structure and cultural capacity, focusing on where it is an identified threat; vi. investigate and provide advice on the potential of social impact assessment methodologies for understanding impacts of human activities on social learning, social structure and culture in migratory species; b) convene an expert workshop to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide best practice advice on identifying specific conservation targets in different settings; |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. categorize and develop parameters for designating cultural units in different migratory species; iii. distil practical advice that can be implemented by relevant managers and decisionmakers; iv. suggest any further culture-based Concerted Actions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) develop user-friendly guidance for scientists on the practical aspects of detecting social learning, based on the special issue, <i>Animal culture: conservation in a changing world</i>; d) identify for which CMS instruments animal culture and social learning are likely to be most relevant, compile examples from the special issue, <i>Animal culture: conservation in a changing world</i>, into a document or brochure outlining the relevance for species covered by these instruments, and make use of upcoming meetings to bring this to their attention; e) seek to convene a workshop in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Human–Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group and the IUCN CEESP-SSC Conservation of Animal Cultures Task Force to further explore human–wildlife interactions in connection with social learning; f) engage in the five-year initiative (2025-2030) led by IUCN to advance the consideration of animal culture in guiding conservation policy and practice. |
| 15.223 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to review the work under CMS to date on animal culture and social learning, including consideration of its relevance to implementation of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032 and to provide advice to COP16 on the direction of further work on this subject under CMS. |

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| 15.224 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) convene an in-person workshop to assist the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture with the tasks outlined in Decision 15.222 b); b) support the Scientific Council and its Expert Working Group with the dissemination of guidance developed as foreseen in Decision 15.222; c) support the Scientific Council with implementation of Decision 15.223; d) approach the Secretariat of the GEO BON global biodiversity observation network to explore opportunities for linking work on animal culture and social learning with the network. |
| 15.225 | Multiple Systems of Knowledge | Directed to the Standing Committee | <p>The Standing Committee is requested, subject to the availability of resources, and as appropriate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the information provided in document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.14/Rev.1 regarding the benefits of multiple systems of knowledge to the conservation of migratory species; b) identify whether there are areas where there may be opportunities to incorporate multiple systems of knowledge, including relevant indigenous and local knowledge, in areas other than scientific and technical processes operating under the Convention, in a non-binding manner, subject to national circumstances, and with due regard to free, prior and informed consent, the protection of traditional knowledge, and respect for cultural specificities. |
| 15.226 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) when undertaking outreach to stakeholders, where appropriate and feasible, include organizations or networks of relevant indigenous and local knowledge holders, as appropriate, of relevance to the United Nations, recognizing that exploration of different communication techniques may be required to effectively reach target audiences, in accordance with national circumstances and with due regard to free, prior and informed consent, and the protection of traditional knowledge; b) add a section on how relevant indigenous and local knowledge holders can contribute to CMS key topics on the CMS website, for example under the <i>Community Participation and Livelihoods</i> tab. |

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| <p>15.227</p> | <p>Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species</p> | <p>Directed to Parties</p> | <p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) fully support the negotiations for a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution currently ongoing in response to UNEP/EA.5/Res.14 <i>End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument</i>, by raising issues associated with plastic pollution of importance to migratory species and identify locally appropriate solutions, striving to ensure that communities actively participate, taking into account relevant provisions of CMS Resolution 12.20 <i>Management of Marine Debris</i> and the recommendations of the report, <i>Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region</i>; b) disseminate the findings of the report, <i>Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region</i>, within their Governments and among other stakeholders, and take steps to address the conclusions; c) engage with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, in line with the recommendation contained in Resolution 12.20, implement strategies to increase gear traceability through the implementation of fishing gear marking schemes in line with the FAO voluntary guidelines and participate in the ongoing FAO global assessment of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG); d) encourage further research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders on the impact of plastic pollution, including plastics of all sizes and materials, on marine, freshwater and terrestrial CMS-listed species with a view to providing clear recommendations; e) develop, in collaboration with relevant agencies, a harmonised standard and guidance relating to the circular design of fishing gears in order to prepare for their re-use, repair or recycling, and sharing best practices, including in relation to the collection of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears. |
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| CMS Appendices | | | |
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| 15.228 | Treatment of Species Included within Aggregated Families Listed in Appendix II | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to review the list of species in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 (Rev.COP15) in advance of COP16 and make proposals for any revisions. |
| 15.229 | Maintaining Lists of Species Included in CMS Appendices | Directed to the Parties | The Parties are invited to inform the Secretariat about changes in their status as Range State of species listed in CMS Appendices, either through their National Reports or via another appropriate mechanism. |
| 15.230 | | Directed to the Scientific Council | <p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) re-establish, with appropriate Terms of Reference, its Working Group on Maintaining Lists of Species Included in CMS Appendices; b) provide recommendations to the Secretariat in implementation of Decision 15.231; c) discuss and exchange information and scientific findings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. mapping the different uses of the online databases, and defining the information needed for different purposes and by relevant users; ii. species to be displayed in the CMS Species List and Species+ databases, with specific focus on Appendix II species listed at family and genus level; iii. information to be displayed for each species; iv. search options and other recommended functionalities of the databases; v. integration of the lists requested under Resolution 14.19 (Rev.COP15), paragraph 1, and Decision 15.231.f) into the online databases; vi. practical issues in implementing any options considered. |

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| 15.231 | | Directed to the Secretariat | <p>The Secretariat is requested, with support from the Scientific Council, as appropriate, and subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consult the Range States concerned in cases where information available to the Secretariat differs from scientific sources, as appropriate, and update the CMS Species List database in line with the procedure described in Annex 2, paragraph 3 of UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.29.2/Rev.1; b) bring to the attention of the Scientific Council any cases where differences between data available to the Secretariat and scientific sources could not be resolved through consultations; c) prepare an overview of all changes made and propose possible additional changes to the data displayed in the CMS Species List database; d) present recommendations on adjustments to the workflow, including a possible permanent mechanism for updating species names and Range State data, for information or consideration by the Standing Committee; e) liaise with UNEP–WCMC to support and provide recommendations with respect to the continued development of the CMS section of the Species+ database as an advisory source of information to support the Secretariat in maintaining the list of Range States for CMS species, as per Article IX f) of the Convention; f) in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, develop a list of species included on CMS Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are also on the CITES Appendices (and, if so, on which CITES Appendix they are listed), taking into account possible differences in nomenclature used in the two Conventions, and publish this list on the CMS website and revise it as necessary; g) commission studies and liaise with holders of data on species and their distribution, as appropriate, in support of implementation of Decision 15.230. |
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| 15.232 | CMS Standard References | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the standard reference for terrestrial mammals as established by Resolution 12.27 (Rev.COP15) and make any recommendations for its update to COP16; b) review the standard reference for birds as established by Resolution 12.27 (Rev. COP15) once the Avilist is completed as a unified checklist of the birds of the world, and make any recommendations for its adoption as the standard reference. |
| 15.233 | Species that Meet the Criteria for Listing on CMS | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the list of species in the Annex to Resolution 14.20 (Rev.COP15) in advance of COP16 and make proposals for any revisions; b) produce a report, or reports, that identify how CMS may support the conservation of migratory invertebrate species, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. considering which families or genera of invertebrates contain species that would meet the CMS definition of migratory; ii. identifying species that would meet the criteria within the Guidelines for Preparing and Assessing Proposals for the Amendment of CMS Appendices (Resolution 13.7 (Rev. COP15)); c) develop equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups including freshwater fish, based on the list of Migratory Freshwater Fishes that meet the criteria for listing on CMS contained in Annex 3 of document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.6.1/Rev.1, marine fish and mammals. |
| 15.234 | | Directed to the Secretariat | The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, support the Scientific Council in the implementation of Decision 15.233. |
| 15.235 | Towards Harmonization of Taxonomy and Nomenclature | Directed to the Scientific Council | The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of the resources, to review utility of the Catalogue of Life as a potential harmonized repository for taxonomic and nomenclatural information, including evaluating the processes for updating nomenclature within the Catalogue of Life. |

| Date and Venue of the 16th Meeting of the COP | | | |
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| 15.236 | Date and Venue of the 16th Meeting of the COP | Directed to Parties | Parties decide to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2029. |
| 15.237 | | Directed to the Standing Committee | The Standing Committee shall engage with the Host Government and the Secretariat to progress the planning of the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be hosted by the Government of Germany in 2029. |