



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Report

ANNEX 2

Original: English

15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026

**OPENING AND CLOSING STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES / DÉCLARATIONS
D'OUVERTURE ET DE CLÔTURE ET DISCOURS / DISCURSOS DE
APERTURA Y DE CLAUSURA DE LA REUNIÓN**

Note:

This annex only contains the opening and closing statements that were submitted to the Secretariat electronically. The statements are presented in their original language.

Remarque:

Cette annexe ne contient que les déclarations d'ouverture et de clôture qui ont été soumises au Secrétariat par voie électronique. Les déclarations sont présentées dans leur langue originale.

Nota:

En el presente anexo figuran únicamente las declaraciones de apertura y de clausura que se presentaron a la Secretaría en forma electrónica. Las declaraciones se presentan en su idioma original.

I. OPENING STATEMENTS

**OPENING STATEMENT, MS AMY FRAENKEL – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CMS /
DÉCLARATION LIMINAIRE, MME AMY FRAENKEL – SECRÉTAIRE EXÉCUTIVE DE CMS
/ DISCURSO DE APERTURA, SRA AMY FRAENKEL – SECRETARIA EJECUTIVA DE
CMS**

Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil
Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP Deputy Executive Director
João Paulo Capobianco, Deputy Minister
Mauricio Lyrio, Secretary for Energy, Climate and Environment of Brazil
Eduardo Riedel, Governor of Mato Grosso do Sul
Adriane Lopes, Mayor of Campo Grande

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to welcome you all to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to President Lula da Silva and the Government of Brazil, the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, the City of Campo

Grande and the people of Brazil for hosting COP15, here at the gateway to the Pantanal – the world's largest tropical wetlands and a critical habitat for migratory species.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Uzbekistan for their leadership and COP Presidency since COP14 in Samarkand.

I would like to thank you Elizabeth, for your kind words, but I will save my goodbyes for my closing remarks – we have a COP to deliver!

The theme for COP15, "Connecting nature to sustain life", underscores that ecological connectivity is not only essential for migratory species, it supports all life on earth, including our own – and our economies, our livelihoods, our health, our security and our future.

The work of CMS is firmly grounded in science and knowledge.

At COP14, we launched the first *State of the World's Migratory Species* report. In the two years since, Parties, partners and the Secretariat have already undertaken a tremendous amount of work to address its findings and recommendations. This body of work underpins much of the documentation for the discussions before us this week.

CMS is incredibly fortunate to have the most dedicated scientific experts in our Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, who advance our work throughout the intersessional period. And CMS attracts the scientific community all around the world, who actively contribute to our shared objectives at the global and national level, including here in Brazil. CMS is unique and special, and I know that this COP will be no different.

We are continuing to bring cutting-edge scientific assessments to assist the work of this body.

In addition to an *Interim State of the World's Migratory Species* report prepared for CMS by UNEP-WCMC, tomorrow we will be launching a global assessment on freshwater fish, led by one of our COP-appointed Councilors. We have also published important studies on the impacts of Deep-Sea Mining, and the effects of climate change on migratory species, to name just some new assessments.

The Interim Report of the State of the World's Migratory Species finds that while there have been positive changes in the conservation status of some CMS-listed species, the overall trends are concerning: 24% of CMS-listed species are now globally threatened – up 2% since COP14 – and 49% have declining populations – up 5%.

Against these trends, there are success stories that demonstrate what we can do when we work persistently and collaboratively together. The comeback of the green turtle, the saiga antelope and the emperor goose stand as powerful examples of what international cooperation can achieve. Four decades after being classified as 'Endangered', the green turtle has recently been reclassified by the IUCN as a species of 'Least Concern'. Similarly, populations of saiga antelope in Kazakhstan have shown a remarkable recovery after a 95%

crash in the global population numbers that dropped to a low of about 50,000 in the early 2000s.

Today they have surged to more than 3 million. The population of Emperor Geese has increased by about 2% every year since the 1980's due to strict harvest closures and conservation management.

Both the alarming trends and the success stories underscore that the recommendations from the 2024 report remain not only valid, but increasingly urgent.

The Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species was built on the findings of the *State of the World's Migratory Species* report.

Through the leadership of the Chair of our Standing Committee and of its working group, the Strategic Plan has been fully developed and will serve as an important measure of our progress.

The agenda at this COP15 contributes directly to the recommendations of the SoWMS report and achievement of the SPMS.

There are a record number of species proposed for listing under the Convention's Appendices – 42 in total – alongside targeted measures and concerted actions.

There are many important areas for work related to avian, terrestrial and aquatic species alike.

There are also many cross-cutting issues to consider.

One of the main threats to migratory species is overexploitation, including both targeted taking and incidental capture. Of great concern is that fact that illegal or unsustainable taking for domestic purposes is a GREATER threat to migratory species than international trade. COP14 strengthened our focus on this and here at COP15 we have proposed additional ways to advance our work, including the launch of a new global initiative on taking of migratory species.

Habitat destruction and fragmentation is the other main top threat. CMS has been a leader on ecological connectivity and has helped to elevate this issue as a top conservation priority, underscored yesterday by President Lula, President Pena of Paraguay and other distinguished speakers. But we must go further to ensure that. Target 3 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for 30% of the planet to be conserved through well-connected and effectively managed systems of protected areas and other conservation measures. We need to identify, protect and connect important habitats international borders.

Addressing bycatch remains a critical area of work. It remains the greatest threat to endangered aquatic species, and with 97% of all CMS-listed fish species globally threatened with extinction, the time has come to radically improve how we are addressing this threat.

The jaguar, one of the most iconic species of the Americas, depends on connected landscapes across borders to maintain viable populations. Without these ecological corridors, their populations become isolated and fragmented, placing them at greater risk.

Looking out at the room, I am inspired and confident when I see all of the representatives of governments, UN agencies, biodiversity-conventions, scientists, conservation experts, civil society groups, indigenous peoples and local communities, and many others who are here to work together to advance progress under CMS. Together, I know we are up to the task.

Thank you all for your dedication, your expertise, and your unwavering commitment to migratory species.

I wish everyone a productive and successful conference.

PARTY STATES (INCLUDING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS)

OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE OCEANIA REGION / DECLARATION D'OUVERTURE POUR LA REGION OCÉANIE / DISCURSO DE APERTURA POR LA REGIÓN OCEANÍA

Tēnā koutou katoa. Good morning dignitaries and colleagues. New Zealand is speaking on behalf of Oceania Parties to CMS.

Firstly, we'd like to express our sincere thanks to the Government of Brazil for hosting us in this splendid venue in the beautiful city of Campo Grande. Thank you also to the Secretariat for all your work intersessionally and in supporting this COP.

Since the last COP, Oceania Parties have been actively progressing actions, on our own and collaboratively, to conserve migratory species in our region. As a region of island nations where the ocean plays a critical role in our livelihoods and cultural identities, our focus is on species of seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, fish and turtles that migrate across our oceans.

I'd like to share a small number of highlights with you from the last intersessional period:

1. Oceania Parties have demonstrated strong leadership on seabird conservation in this last triennium, reflecting the importance of seabirds to our ecosystems, as well as their cultural importance. For COP15, Oceania Parties, including New Zealand, Australia, Cook Islands and Fiji, have led the development of two seabird listing proposals, which will help to foster international cooperation and ensure the survival of some of the world's most endangered seabirds like the Fiji petrel.
2. Oceania Parties have been actively involved in several CMS working groups and task forces. A face-to-face meeting of the Asia-Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force in Cebu, Philippines was a particular highlight in 2025 and outcomes from this meeting will inform further conservation action in our region to address illegal hunting of migratory birds.

3. In the Pacific region, our Parties have been active, from a regional Seabird Monitoring Workshop held in the Cook Islands, to the launch of Samoa's Marine Spatial Plan which explicitly integrates migratory corridors particularly for marine mammals, to the financial support from Australia on key areas of the CMS workplan such as the report on the potential impacts of deep-sea mining on migratory species.
4. In the north of our region, the Philippines has been very active fostering regional cooperation on migratory species. A highlight is the Coral Triangle Initiative covering six countries which focusses on marine protected area networks.
5. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) continues to play a central role in advancing migratory species conservation across the South Pacific. Four workshops focusing on cetaceans were held recently in New Caledonia and Fiji through a collaboration between WWF, International Whaling Commission and SPREP. SPREP continues to play an important role in CMS-related capacity building with Pacific Island countries, both CMS Parties and non-Parties. It has also worked to strengthen synergies between CMS and CITES in the Oceania region.

Priority issues for Oceania Parties at COP 15 include the seabird listing proposals, the agenda items that relate to our marine migratory species, the draft resolution of Seabirds and Marine Flyways, and the draft resolution on Multiple Systems of Knowledge, including Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge.

Coming from island nations in the Oceania region, the COP15 theme “*Connecting Nature to Sustain Life*” has very different implications for us, compared to large continents like South America. However, for all of us here, we are united in our need for cooperation to conserve our migratory species. Oceania Parties are looking forward to working with you all this week.

Thank you.

OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION /

DÉCLARATION D'OUVERTURE POUR LA RÉGION DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD, DE L'AMÉRIQUE CENTRALE ET DES CARAÏBES /

DECLARACIÓN DE APERTURA PARA LA REGIÓN DE AMÉRICA DEL SUR Y CENTRAL Y EL CARIBE

Señor Presidente, distinguidas delegaciones, Secretaría, colegas:

Tengo el honor de tomar la palabra en nombre de los países de Centroamérica, Sudamérica y el Caribe.

En primer lugar, deseamos felicitar y agradecer profundamente a Brasil por su liderazgo en la organización de esta Conferencia de las Partes; así como, por su compromiso sostenido con la conservación de las especies migratorias, y valoramos especialmente su rol como articulador de iniciativas clave en nuestra región. Los países partes de la región reafirman su firme compromiso con la implementación de la Convención y destacan el liderazgo regional, reflejado en el impulso y el desarrollo de numerosas resoluciones, mecanismos de articulación y propuestas de enmienda de los apéndices, que abordan prioridades clave para nuestras especies migratorias y sus hábitats.

Nuestra región ha demostrado avances concretos y resultados tangibles. Queremos resaltar algunos de los principales ejes de trabajo:

- En relación con los grandes mamíferos terrestres, destacamos el progreso en la conservación del jaguar, a través de esfuerzos coordinados entre países para su protección y la conectividad de hábitats.
- En el ámbito marino, hemos fortalecido acciones en torno a los mamíferos marinos, incluyendo el monitoreo, la mitigación de las capturas incidentales y la cooperación científica regional.
- En cuanto a tiburones y rayas, la región ha avanzado significativamente mediante planes nacionales y regionales, lo que ha fortalecido la base científica para su manejo y conservación.
- Referente a especies de agua dulce mediante planes de acción que buscan fortalecer la gestión transfronteriza y la conectividad de estas especies vitales para el equilibrio ecosistémico y las comunidades locales de nuestra región.
- Respecto a las aves migratorias, destacamos la implementación de planes de acción, el fortalecimiento de las rutas migratorias y la cooperación mediante memorandos de entendimiento regionales.

Estos logros reflejan una creciente coordinación entre los países de la región, así como sinergias con otros acuerdos multilaterales ambientales.

Pero la ambición por sí sola no es suficiente. La conectividad tiene costos. Traducir este nivel de ambición en acción requiere medios de implementación adecuados y previsibles. Muchos países en desarrollo, incluidos los de nuestra región, a pesar de albergar ecosistemas de importancia global, enfrentan limitaciones en la capacidad técnica, así como en los recursos financieros y humanos.

Para cerrar esta brecha, los mecanismos financieros, la cooperación técnica y el fortalecimiento de capacidades deben estar a la altura de la ambición política; de lo contrario, la conectividad seguirá siendo una promesa incumplida, con consecuencias directas para el desarrollo y la seguridad alimentaria.

En este sentido, nuestra región hace un llamado claro a fortalecer el financiamiento multilateral, incluyendo mecanismos innovadores y accesibles, que permitan a nuestros países:

- Implementar plenamente las decisiones de la Convención
- Fortalecer las capacidades nacionales y regionales
- Mayor claridad sobre las brechas y necesidad de financiación y cooperación técnica para implementación de la Convención
- Asegurar la continuidad de los programas de monitoreo e investigación y el uso de esta información en la toma de decisiones

Así mismo, queremos subrayar la importancia de avanzar en nuevas prioridades regionales, incluyendo el desarrollo e implementación de planes de acción para especies clave, cuya conservación requiere cooperación transfronteriza y apoyo técnico y financiero sostenido.

Finalmente, reiteramos que nuestra región seguirá siendo proactiva, comprometida y constructiva dentro de la CMS, promoviendo soluciones basadas en la ciencia, la cooperación, la coordinación y el enfoque ecosistémico.

Reafirmamos nuestra voluntad de trabajar junto a todas las Partes, la Secretaría y los socios internacionales para fortalecer esta Convención y asegurar un futuro sostenible para las especies migratorias. Muchas gracias.

OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE AFRICA REGION /
DÉCLARATION D'OUVERTURE POUR LA RÉGION AFRICAINE /
DECLARACIÓN DE APERTURA PARA LA REGIÓN DE ÁFRICA

Good afternoon to you all, thank you for giving Africa the opportunity to make a statement

Africa is delighted to be here in The Pantanal. We congratulate the Government of Brazil for successfully organising this COP15, including a historic High-Level Segment graced by several Heads of States, Ministers and other Dignatories yesterday, we feel the warm welcome to your beautiful country.

This COP15 is happening at a time when we all need to join hands together to tackle the urgent conservation challenges faced by the thousands of migratory species of wild animals that have to cross international borders as part of their survival rhythm. We still need more concerted action, partnerships, technology and resources to achieve our collective agenda, Connecting Nature to Sustain Life is a call to action on its own. What a beautiful theme for COP15!

Distinguished Delegates, African Union Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (2023-2033) makes it very clear that Africa's prosperity is intimately connected to its rich biodiversity and unique wildlife endowment which need cooperation and collaboration across frontiers. We cannot achieve the desired goals and targets in isolation, we need each other and to learn from the species we seek to conserve and protect...they break barriers, they cross borders; they adapt, they have shown resilience, they exhibit teamwork for survival of their kind, demonstration of unquestionable determination to persist even as the climate and other odds are against the desirable. That is our understanding of this Convention, and we firmly believe in the unique role CMS plays in the global architecture for nature conservation synchronised with the KM-Global Biodiversity Framework 4 goals and 23 targets.

Conscious of the global trends in the Global Report on the Status of Migratory Species and other human-induced trajectories, Africa is looking forward to take bolder action commensurate with the magnitude of challenges we are facing, and such action needs your support with means of implementation for Species and Ecosystems due to our unique circumstances. Advancing concerted actions and formalising partnerships to address the most pressing threats to migratory species and strengthen measures to prevent illegal killing and illegal trade, bycatch and habitat destruction. Various African Governments are making commendable progress to enhance ecological connectivity through taking decisive steps to safeguard vital migratory corridors and habitats, including those at transboundary level and also making legal provisions among other measures. In November 2025, the Government of Botswana hosted the inaugural Africa Biodiversity Summit and African Heads of States and Governments adopted an ambitious Gaborone Declaration which shows commitment of Africa to this global conservation agenda that we are pursuing under CMS and other Treaties.

As we have gathered here, Africa looks forward to reviewing progress on the Samarkand Strategic Plan (2024–2032) and adopting decisions and resolutions that scale-up species-specific conservation action at global level. This process requires governments, scientists, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, civil society and intergovernmental institutions from around the world and we are happy we see they are all represented at this CMS COP15.

Africa is grateful to the supportive & selfless leadership of Amy (the outgoing Executive Secretary) and looking forward to working with Andrew (the incoming Executive Secretary) in same positive and mutually supportive spirit. We are grateful to Elizabeth and the rest your Team in UNEP for handling this leadership transition in an exemplary manner. Best wishes from us all!

Africa is here in solidarity for the species that have lived with our ancestors since time immemorial, a precious heritage we must pass on to future generations. We are looking forward to a successful COP15, not forgetting to acknowledge successes recorded on our journey from Samarkand to The Pantanal. It is not all gloom and doom for migratory species listed in the CMS Appendices, despite challenges and set backs, particularly affecting the global finance landscape where we have seen the unfortunate reduction of budgets and other resources that should be supporting the CMS noble agenda.

With Warm African Regards from all those we are privileged to represent at this meeting. Thank you.

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES /
DECLARATION DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE ET DE SES ÉTATS MEMBRES /
DISCURSO DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA Y SUS ESTADOS MIEMBROS

Mr(s) Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ms Executive Secretary, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Cyprus on behalf of the EU and its Member States would like to express our sincere gratitude to the government of Brazil for hosting this important meeting in the city of Campo Grande, the gateway to the Pantanal.

The EU and its Member States are highly appreciative of the huge amount of work undertaken by the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council in preparation for this COP.

We recognize the invaluable role that migratory species play in maintaining the health and balance of ecosystems across the globe. In that context, we continue to value the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species not only as a framework that sets the course for the next decade of action, but also as a key tool in implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

We further welcome the opportunities and possibilities provided by the entry into force of the new Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, which will play an important role for the protection of migratory species.

We thank the proponents for their science-based proposals to amend the Appendices, helping to ensure the long-term survival of these animals and the ecosystems they inhabit.

We also appreciate the continuous work of the CMS Family in bringing forward and implementing Concerted Actions, Initiatives and species-specific Action Plans, addressing the

complex challenges faced by migratory species on a global scale. In this light we are pleased to contribute to the suite of CMS instruments by proposing the SSAP for the Tope Shark in the NE Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea and the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian bustards and we hope that these will be supported by others.

These endeavours should be sustained, enhanced, and supplemented with additional actions necessary to improve the conservation of migratory species and their habitats, in particular through strengthened collaboration at regional and global level with sector organizations and partners, other biodiversity-related conventions, UN entities, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Finally, we look forward to working closely with all of you, and are fully committed to make this meeting a success, showing that multilateralism can work to protect migratory species.

STATEMENT OF BRAZIL / DÉCLARATION DU BRÉSIL / DECLARACIÓN DE BRASIL

Senhor Presidente,

Estar em Campo Grande, na porta de entrada do Pantanal, um bioma essencial para tantas espécies migratórias, há de nos inspirar na tarefa desta semana: fortalecer a Convenção e avançar em sua implementação.

O Brasil, como um dos países mais biodiversos do mundo, abriga algumas das espécies migratórias mais emblemáticas do planeta. A onça-pintada, cuja sobrevivência depende da conectividade entre biomas. Os bagres amazônicos, que percorrem milhares de quilômetros ao longo de sistemas fluviais. Os tubarões, essenciais para o equilíbrio dos ecossistemas marinhos. E, claro, inúmeras aves migratórias, que conectam continentes e ecossistemas.

O Brasil chega a esta COP com contribuições concretas. Apresentamos propostas de inclusão de espécies de tubarões e aves nos Apêndices da Convenção, incluindo o caboclinho-do-pantanal no Apêndice II — espécie que simboliza este bioma e cuja conservação contribuirá para a proteção de seus habitats associados.

Também apoiamos o Plano de Ação Multiespécies para os Bagres Migratórios Amazônicos, elaborado em parceria com países da Bacia Amazônica, inclusive países que ainda não são Partes da Convenção. Trata-se de uma iniciativa que articula conservação, uso sustentável e cooperação regional em torno de espécies fundamentais para a biodiversidade e para a segurança alimentar de nossas populações.

Senhor Presidente,

A plena implementação da CMS é essencial para o alcance dos objetivos do Marco Global da Biodiversidade de Kunming-Montreal, em particular da Meta 3, que não apenas estabelece a proteção de 30% das áreas terrestres e marinhas até 2030, mas também enfatiza a importância da conectividade ecológica — elemento central para sustentar a vida no planeta, como bem expressa o lema desta COP.

O Brasil está fazendo sua parte. Ontem, durante o Segmento de Alto Nível, o Presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva assinou três decretos que, conjuntamente, ampliam em 148 mil hectares

as áreas protegidas no país e reforçam a conectividade entre elas. Refiro-me à ampliação do Parque Nacional do Pantanal Matogrossense, da Estação Ecológica do Taimã e à criação da Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Córregos dos Vales do Norte de Minas.

Senhor Presidente,

Esta Convenção, adotada em 1979, precede em mais de uma década a Conferência do Rio de Janeiro de 1992. Foi pioneira ao estabelecer uma plataforma para a cooperação internacional na conservação de espécies que transcendem fronteiras nacionais.

Mas mesmo os instrumentos mais visionários precisam evoluir. O Brasil está convencido de que há espaço para aprofundar o diálogo sobre mobilização de recursos no âmbito da CMS.

Não se trata, Senhor Presidente, de justificar a inação, mas de promover uma ação coletiva ancorada na solidariedade e na cooperação — valores indispensáveis em um momento tão desafiador para o multilateralismo.

A CMS deve ser capaz de responder às necessidades de todas as espécies migratórias, inclusive aquelas que se deslocam exclusivamente entre países em desenvolvimento, frequentemente com capacidades e recursos mais limitados para implementar medidas de conservação. Embora já contemos com o apoio de parceiros, as lacunas de financiamento permanecem significativas.

Ao concluir, Senhor Presidente,

Gostaria de ressaltar que os avanços desta COP nos temas de financiamento, capacitação e transferência de tecnologia poderão contribuir decisivamente para a universalização da Convenção. O Brasil aderiu à CMS apenas em 2015 justamente por preocupações quanto à existência de obrigações desacompanhadas de meios adequados de implementação.

Hoje, reafirmamos nosso compromisso de trabalhar de forma construtiva com todas as Partes para consolidar um regime mais equilibrado, inclusivo e orientado a resultados concretos para a conservação das espécies migratórias.

Muito obrigado.

STATEMENT OF LIBERIA / DÉCLARATION DE LIBÉRIA / DECLARACIÓN DE LIBERIA

Mr. President, Madam Secretary General, Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen.

Liberia is gratified as a Contracting Party to attend and actively participate in this year COP15 here in Grande, Brazil. Since this is my first time speaking, permit me to express my thanks and appreciation to the Government of Brazil for the excellent organization and hospitality for the 2026 COP15.

Liberia is making progress in the development of appropriate documents aimed at domesticating the Convention and conducting appropriate training programme for wildlife technicians.

We have had regular field monitoring at protected sites including chimpanzee rescue sanctuary and bird watch activities. These robust exercises have made the required national impact due to stronger collaboration among the relevant sectors' ministries and agencies. Synergies with related Conventions like the CBD and the Ramsar Convention have also been enhanced. This collaborative effort has enabled us to address some of our key challenges.

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, thanks.

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES / DÉCLARATION DES ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS / DECLARACIÓN DE EMIRATOS ÁRABES UNIDOS

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, the UAE extends its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, and to the Federative Republic of Brazil for hosting this Conference.

Regrettably, due to the current regional developments and the evolving geopolitical situation, the UAE's technical delegation was unable to attend this session in person.

The United Arab Emirates has been subject to a series of ongoing attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran targeting its territory and civilian infrastructure, constituting a direct threat to its security and stability. For nearly four weeks of continuous and unprovoked Iranian attacks, launching more than 2,000 missiles and drones targeting critical and civilian infrastructure, including airports, ports, maritime routes, energy facilities, and residential areas. These attacks constitute a direct threat to the security and stability of the UAE. The UAE strongly condemns these unjustified and aggressive acts, which represent a flagrant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, United Nations Security Council resolution 2817, and the principles of sovereignty and good neighbourliness, thereby undermining regional stability, and the safety of civilian populations.

In this regard, the UAE reaffirms its inherent right to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of its people, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

At the same time, the UAE underscores the urgent need to respect sovereignty, adhere to international law and prioritize dialogue, de-escalation, and peaceful solutions to preserve regional and global stability.

Excellencies,
These developments also highlight an often-overlooked dimension—their impact on migratory species and their habitats. Disruptions to coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, increased pollution risks, and instability along key migratory corridors can have lasting consequences on species that depend on safe and connected habitats.

The current security situation has further exacerbated environmental pressures, including risks to marine ecosystems and critical migratory pathways, underscoring the interconnected nature of security, environmental sustainability, and biodiversity conservation.

The UAE, located along critical migratory flyways and within a sensitive marine region, underscores the importance of maintaining conservation efforts even under challenging circumstances.

We reaffirm our commitment to the objectives of the Convention, including strengthening cooperation, protecting critical habitats, and advancing science-based conservation.

The UAE remains a committed and constructive partner, ready to work with all Parties to deliver balanced, science-based, and impactful outcomes for migratory species, while safeguarding environmental integrity even in times of instability.

Thank you.

CMS AGREEMENTS / ACCORDS DE LA CMS / ACUERDOS DE LA CMS

STATEMENT FROM THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS (ACAP) /

DÉCLARATION DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES ALBATROS ET DES PÉTRELS (ACAP) /

DECLARACIÓN DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE ALBATROS Y PETRELES (ACAP)

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) expresses its sincere appreciation for the opportunity to participate in COP15 and extends a warm greeting to all dignitaries, distinguished delegates, the CMS Secretariat and the people of Campo Grande and Brazil.

The ACAP is a daughter or child agreement of the CMS, and many, if not all, the thirteen ACAP Parties are represented here at this meeting. Several other CMS participants who are not yet ACAP Parties also take an interest in ACAP's activities and advice. In an information paper (Inf 10.3.2) we provide an update on ACAP meetings and activities since the last COP.

All Procellariiformes are of interest to the ACAP and so we welcome consideration by the COP of proposals to include the Flesh-footed Shearwater on Appendix II, to include 22 gadfly petrel species, subspecies and geographic populations on Appendix I and II, to continue the Concerted Action for the Antipodean Albatross, and to consider adoption of a Concerted Action for the Flesh-footed Shearwater.

The ACAP Parties and other interested countries and groups have dedicated their collective efforts to developing solutions to the conservation threats facing albatrosses and petrels for over two decades now. We continue to urge more countries to join and/or to engage more deeply with ACAP, especially those that are Range States for ACAP-listed albatrosses and petrels.

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS) /

DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES CETACES DE LA MER NOIRE, LA MER MEDITERRANEE ET LA ZONE ATLANTIQUE ADJACENTE (ACCOBAMS) /

DECLARACION DE LA SECRETARIA DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACION DE LOS CETACEOS DEL MAR NEGRO, EL MAR MEDITERRANEO Y LA ZONA ATLANTICA CONTIGUA (ACCOBAMS)

Monsieur le Président,

Chers délégués,

Je souhaite tout d'abord exprimer toute ma gratitude à l'équipe du Secrétariat de la CMS et aux autorités brésiliennes pour l'organisation remarquable de cette réunion et pour l'accueil chaleureux qui nous est réservé ici à Campo Grande.

C'est un honneur pour moi de prendre la parole aujourd'hui, au nom de l'ACCOBAMS, au sein de cette grande famille qu'est la CMS. Participer à cette COP15 ici au Brésil est l'occasion de rappeler combien nos instruments et nos équipes avancent ensemble, avec une vision commune : protéger des espèces migratrices.

L'année écoulée a été importante pour l'ACCOBAMS. Notre Neuvième Réunion des Parties, tenue à Limassol en novembre 2025, a permis d'adopter un programme de travail solide pour 2026–2028, qui renforce le suivi scientifique à large échelle, structure nos réponses aux pressions anthropiques et consolide les efforts de conservation dans toute la Méditerranée et la mer Noire.

Au cœur de ce programme se trouve l'ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative II, désormais pleinement intégrée au programme de suivi à long terme, conformément à la Résolution 9.11. Les travaux menés avec les Parties, notre Comité scientifique, et le Comité de pilotage nous permettent d'aborder sereinement les campagnes qui débiteront fin mai 2026.

Comme cela a été souligné à maintes reprises par le passé, la force de la «CMS Family réside» avant tout dans la coopération. Je souhaite donc mettre en lumière quelques-unes des collaborations structurantes entre l'ACCOBAMS, la CMS et surtout avec l'ASCOBANS, notre accord «sœur».

Sur les prises accidentelles, notre Groupe de travail conjoint ACCOBAMS–ASCOBANS fournit un espace d'échange précieux entre régions et permet de dégager des priorités communes.

Concernant le bruit sous-marin, la dynamique engagée dans le cadre du Groupe de travail conjoint CMS–ACCOBAMS–ASCOBANS, ainsi que l'organisation d'un deuxième atelier technique en octobre 2024 avec plusieurs marines nationales, renforcent l'harmonisation indispensable de nos approches.

Sur les collisions avec les navires, les travaux scientifiques d'ACCOBAMS, notamment à travers les projets SHIPPRINT et les activités du Pelagos Consortium, contribuent à une meilleure compréhension des zones de risque et soutiennent la cohérence des solutions régionales. L'évolution de la plateforme NETCCOBAMS s'inscrit aussi dans cette logique de partage d'outils compatibles.

S'agissant des échouages, la Task Force d'Urgence d'ACCOBAMS (AETFS) porte une dynamique forte de renforcement des capacités, grâce à des protocoles partagés, des formations et un suivi régional cohérent.

Enfin, je tiens à souligner notre engagement sur les thèmes émergents, notamment le groupe conjoint sur la culture des cétacés, qui s'intègre dans une réflexion scientifique plus large coordonnée au niveau de la CMS.

Toutes ces actions témoignent d'une coopération concrète, constructive et essentielle. Elles reflètent la même conviction qui nous animent depuis les débuts de l'ACCOBAMS il y a 30 ans: ensemble, nous avons davantage d'impact, parce que nous avançons avec la même vision, les mêmes enjeux et une responsabilité partagée.

Cette COP15 offre un espace privilégié pour poursuivre ce dialogue, approfondir notre collaboration et unir nos efforts face aux menaces qui pèsent sur les espèces migratrices dans un contexte mondial en rapide évolution.

Soyez assurés que l'ACCOBAMS restera pleinement mobilisé pour contribuer à cet effort collectif.

Je vous remercie.

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC, IRISH AND NORTH SEAS (ASCOBANS) /

DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES PETITS CETACES DE LA MER BALTIQUE, DE L'ATLANTIQUE DU NORD-EST, DE LA MER D'IRLANDE ET DE LA MER DU NORD (ASCOBANS) /

DECLARACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS PEQUEÑOS CETACEOS DEL MAR BALTICO, ATLANTICO NORORIENTAL, MAR DE IRLANDA Y MAR DEL NORTE (ASCOBANS)

Thank you, Chair.

Distinguished delegates.

ASCOBANS is the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas. It is a United Nations treaty, administered by UNEP, and its secretariat is part of the CMS Secretariat.

Information Document 10.3.1 contains a report on progress made on activities undertaken within the framework of ASCOBANS since COP14. I won't go into much detail but would like to highlight a couple of things:

- 10th Meeting of the Parties (in Denmark in September 2024) adopted resolutions for example on the conservation of beaked whales, maritime spatial planning, mitigating impacts of recreational activities on small cetaceans, and on shallow-water mining.
- In addition, resolutions addressing ocean energy and the adverse effects of underwater noise from offshore renewable energy construction were revised to better help protect critical life stages and habitats of small cetaceans.

- Since COP14, ASCOBANS has organised or co-hosted 14 meetings and workshops, and has facilitated 19 working groups on topics such as bycatch and the Baltic harbour porpoise.
- How does the small ASCOBANS Secretariat, equivalent of 1.5 staff members, do this? With support from dedicated Parties and collaboration with other IGOs and with NGOs. Without this support, much less progress would have been possible on many tasks in the ASCOBANS Work Plan, assigned to the Advisory Committee and Secretariat.
- On behalf of the Secretariat, I encourage more Range States to join ASCOBANS. Together, we can ensure that small cetaceans—sentinels of ocean health—continue to thrive in our shared seas.

Thank you.

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA) /

DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES OISEAUX D'EAU MIGRATEURS D'AFRIQUE-EURASIE (AEWA) /

DECLARACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS AVES ACUÁTICAS MIGRATORIAS AFROEURASIÁTICAS (AEWA)

Mr. President,

As this is the first time the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is taking the floor, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election as President of CMS COP15.

Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to present key highlights of the progress under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds since CMS COP14 in Samarkand. I would like to draw your attention to the AEWA Secretariat's written report presented in information document 10.3.4.

AEWA now counts 85 Parties, representing 71% of all its Range States. While no new accessions materialized in the last two years, sustained effort has been maintained to increase the number of AEWA Parties.

Despite resource constraints and lately operating below full staffing capacity, the Secretariat has continued to deliver on its core mandate. Key governance processes have been maintained, including regular meetings of the Standing and Technical Committees, as well as the successful convening of the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties in Bonn, Germany in November 2025.

MOP9 adopted 11 resolutions, setting a clear direction for the implementation of the current Strategic Plan in its final triennial period, while initiating work towards the development of the next Strategic Plan for 2029–2037.

Important progress has also been made in strengthening the technical and policy framework of the Agreement, including amendments to some of its annexes and the compilation of the 9th edition of the AEWA Conservation Status Report, which provides a strengthened policy-relevant focus on pressures and responses.

At the same time, AEWA marked its 30th anniversary in 2025. This milestone was not only a celebration of three decades of international cooperation, but also a moment of reflection. In particular, we recall the commemoration of the Slender-billed Curlew — the first, and hopefully the last, AEWA-listed species to be declared extinct just a few months ago in October 2025.

This loss is especially poignant as the Slender-billed Curlew is also listed on CMS Appendix I. Its extinction serves as a stark reminder of the urgency of our work and the consequences of belated action. It underscores the need to strengthen implementation, enhance cooperation, and act promptly to prevent further loss of migratory species.

Efforts under AEWA focused on target species have continued since COP14, with renewed momentum in the implementation of International Species Action and Management Plans, supported by targeted funding and strengthened coordination.

Capacity-building efforts have focused on supporting Parties, especially in Africa, including training on national reporting, with further activities planned for the coming triennium.

Strengthened cooperation with CMS and other MEAs and flyway initiatives, particularly the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, further contribute to advancing flyway conservation.

Mr. President,

While progress has been made in the last two years, the extinction of the Slender-billed Curlew reminds us that efforts must be scaled up. Expanding membership, securing sustained resources, and accelerating implementation on the ground are critical for restoring and keeping migratory waterbirds in a favourable conservation status.

Thank you.

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS) /

DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE L'ACCORD RELATIF À LA CONSERVATION DES CHAUVES-SOURIS EN EUROPE (EUROBATS) /

DECLARACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS POBLACIONES DE MURCIÉLAGOS EUROPEOS (EUROBATS)

Thank you Mr. Chair. Your Excellencies, Delegates, dear colleagues, I am pleased to address you on behalf of the EUROBATS Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, the only international agreement dedicated to bats – remarkable flying mammals that provide vital ecosystem services, including natural pest control, plant pollination and seed dispersal.

I will briefly present our progress since CMS COP14 in protecting 55 bat species occurring in the EUROBATS area and listed under the Agreement.

We are encouraged to report continued growth within the Agreement. In July 2024, Spain acceded to EUROBATS, becoming our 39th Party.

Still, further progress remains to be achieved, as 24 Range States have yet to join the Agreement, including countries in North Africa and South-West Asia.

Our governing bodies have remained active and efficient.

The Standing Committee met three times, successfully implementing key budget priorities, including strengthening administrative capacity and supporting in-person scientific exchange.

The Advisory Committee has demonstrated strong engagement, with broad participation of bat experts from Parties, non-Party Range States, and observers.

A total of 19 Intersessional Working Groups are advancing critical work on issues such as bat habitat conservation, climate change and the impact of heatwaves on roosting bats, renewable energy impacts, light pollution, and online trade in bats.

These efforts are laying the foundation for substantive outcomes at our 10th Meeting of the Parties in November this year, kindly hosted by the Government of Malta.

EUROBATS has also delivered concrete technical outputs. Two new guidance documents were published in 2024, addressing bats in transport infrastructure and building insulation. These tools directly support Parties in integrating bat conservation into development planning.

Currently, we are preparing further guidance on reducing the impacts of offshore wind turbines and on bat rescue and rehabilitation.

Projects funded through the EUROBATS Projects Initiative supported targeted conservation actions, including field monitoring and education projects. These projects demonstrate the value of small-scale, high-impact interventions.

Communication and outreach remain our priority. The launch of the new EUROBATS website in 2025 has strengthened our visibility and engagement, while International Bat Night, held on the last weekend of August each year, continues to raise awareness globally.

Finally, EUROBATS continues to contribute to cross-cutting initiatives within the CMS Family, particularly in relation to energy infrastructure and species listings, ensuring that European bats are fully considered in broader CMS processes.

In conclusion, EUROBATS continues to deliver strong scientific, technical, and policy contributions despite us being a small Secretariat with limited resources.

We stand ready to contribute our experience to emerging global initiatives on bat conservation and look forward to strengthening partnerships in this area.

Thank you very much for your attention.

IGOs AND NGOs / OIGs ET ONGs / OIGs Y ONGs

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES) /

DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPÈCES DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACÉES D'EXTINCTION /

DECLARACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA DE LA CONVENCION SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES

Thank you Chair

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address CMS COP15. Congratulations and thanks to Brazil for the great preparations and to the Secretariat for the documents.

Connecting Nature to Sustain Life and *Bridging Nature and People*, the slogans for the respective meetings of the CoPs of CMS and CITES, reflect the shared commitment to conserving biodiversity while recognizing the vital connections between nature, people and sustainable development.

CMS and CITES share a long-standing partnership built on the understanding that both conserving migratory species and ensuring that international trade in these species is legal and sustainable require coordinated international action and cooperation.

Many of the themes on the agenda of this meeting highlight the importance of such cooperation.

Through the CMS–CITES Joint Work Programme, we collaborate in areas such as harmonizing species information, strengthening scientific exchange, supporting capacity-building, and coordinating conservation action for shared species.

An example of the latter is the collaboration on jaguars, an iconic species of the Americas, where the Secretariats support range States in implementing actions to conserve this species.

Another is the CMS and CITES collaboration on initiatives addressing African big cats such as the cheetah, lion and leopard, including through the African Carnivores Initiative.

Similarly, the two conventions work together on species such as marine turtles, sharks and rays, saiga, and Saker falcon where CMS initiatives on migratory connectivity and habitat conservation complement the regulatory framework of CITES governing international trade.

By enhancing the effect of our respective strengths, CMS on migratory species conservation and CITES on ensuring that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable, we can provide stronger and more effective support to Parties.

I look forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership as we work together to conserve migratory species across the world's ecosystems. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

DECLARATION DU COMMISSION BALENIERE INTERNATIONALE (CBI)

DECLARACIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN BALLENERA INTERNACIONAL (CBI)

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is pleased to participate in the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). We would like to thank the Government of Brazil for hosting this meeting under the theme

“Connecting nature to sustain life”, which gives the needed attention to the role of ecological connectivity to achieve the international community’s biodiversity goals.

This theme is very relevant for the IWC given our focus on the conservation and management of whales and other cetaceans, many of which are migratory. Thus, we work in close cooperation with CMS. Many of the agenda items of this COP15 are relevant to the IWC and we will be contributing to these during this week.

The IWC commemorates its 80th anniversary this year. As one of the first marine stewardship organisations, the Commission has witnessed profound changes to the nature, number and complexity of threats to cetaceans. Over eight decades, the IWC has evolved to address these threats, on the basis of strong science, provided by its Scientific Committee. Bycatch is seen as by far the single most serious, direct threat to cetaceans and is a real risk for many other migratory species. Vessel strikes, pollution -including from plastics, climate change, underwater noise and whale watching are also growing or potential threats to whales, dolphins and porpoises. The IWC has risen to these challenges through an increasing number of globally recognized scientific research, capacity building and outreach programmes.

This ever-broadening range of threats calls for collaboration with an increasing number of partner organisations. The IWC is particularly pleased to be collaborating with CMS and its daughter agreements ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS on the frontlines of these efforts, including on bycatch, whale watching, vessel strikes, underwater noise and the role of cetaceans in the ecosystem.

The IWC also has a long-running assessment programme that results in comprehensive data sets which can help, not only identify important marine and inland water areas according to both population and threat criteria, but also monitor progress in the achievement of the Samarkand Strategic Plan, as well as other key processes such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the BBNJ.

The IWC looks forward to further strengthening collaboration with CMS and welcomes the proposals presented in this regard to COP15, to foster synergies and complementarity, while avoiding duplication and looking for efficiencies in our common objectives.

We look forward to contributing to this COP15 and to continued dialogue and collaboration on issues of mutual interest, noting that the IWC will host a meeting of its Scientific Committee on 27 April – 8 May in Bled, Slovenia, and the 70th meeting of the Commission in 27 of September to 2 October 2026 in Hobart, Australia, providing further opportunities to progress our common agenda.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

DECLARATION DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE (FAO)

DECLARACIÓN DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA ALIMENTACIÓN Y LA AGRICULTURA (FAO)

FAO thanks the CMS Secretariat and the Government of Brazil for convening and hosting this well-organized and timely fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and for CMS's continued leadership in advancing international cooperation for the conservation of migratory species.

FAO's global Programme of Work supports its Members in maintaining and, where needed, transforming agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031 and its vision of the Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. Through this global programme, FAO contributes to addressing the interlinked challenges of food security, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation across terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems.

In this context, FAO supports biodiversity mainstreaming across food and agriculture sectors, including through the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its Action Plan (2024–2027). This work is closely aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and complements a wide range of CMS priorities and initiatives relevant to migratory species.

FAO underlines that its global Programme of Work provides an integrated, evidence-based platform to support Members in addressing selected key drivers of biodiversity loss and species decline, including those affecting migratory species. This includes work to promote sustainable agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, ecosystem-based management approaches, and responsible food systems transformation.

By combining normative guidance, globally recognized data and indicators, and country-level technical assistance, FAO's Programme of Work enables coherent, cost-effective and scalable delivery of biodiversity outcomes, while supporting national implementation in line with countries' development priorities.

A key shared challenge is the effective implementation of decisions adopted under FAO and CMS processes, many of which pursue closely aligned objectives. FAO therefore sees CoP15 as an important opportunity to identify practical areas for strengthened cooperation with CMS, including through joint or complementary actions that advance biodiversity mainstreaming within food and agriculture systems.

FAO emphasizes that effective, science-based management is a cornerstone of conservation. In this regard, FAO looks forward to engaging with the CMS Secretariat and Parties to strengthen cooperation on improving coherence and mutual understanding in the use of terminology, in approaches to risk assessment, characterization and management for conserving migratory species—including those that are commercially exploited in accordance with applicable national and international frameworks, or otherwise affected by food production activities.

Enhanced alignment in these areas can support collective efforts to maintain, restore and recover migratory species populations, while balancing conservation objectives with sustainable livelihoods and food security across diverse and productive landscapes, for the benefit of both people and nature. Chair FAO congratulates the CMS Secretariat and the country hosts and looks forward to a productive meeting here in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul state, Brazil.

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) / DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE DE L'UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE (UICN) / DECLARACIÓN FINAL DE LA UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA (UICN)

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues and partners,

It is a great honour for IUCN to address the opening of CMS COP15 here in Campo Grande. We would like to thank the great leadership of Brazil and their generosity in hosting this COP. This meeting represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm the vital importance of conserving species and the essential roles they play in sustaining ecosystems, economies and life on Earth.

Migratory species connect countries, continents and oceans. Their survival depends on our ability to act collectively. IUCN therefore calls on Parties to take urgent and coordinated action, beginning with the full implementation of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032 and its integration into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Stronger alignment between CMS implementation and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is essential to accelerate species recovery, maintain, enhance and restore ecological connectivity and build resilient ecosystems.

It is particularly meaningful that this meeting takes place near the Pantanal — one of the world's largest and most important wetlands — which supports extraordinary biodiversity and provides critical habitat for migratory birds, fish and other species that depend on healthy wetlands across the region.

IUCN also urges strengthened action on the main drivers of decline. Fisheries impacts — especially bycatch- remain one of the most significant threats to sharks, rays, marine mammals, seabirds and migratory fish. Parties should improve monitoring and species-level reporting, implement targeted mitigation measures, and strengthen collaboration with regional fisheries management bodies. At the same time, ecological connectivity must be embedded across rivers, landscapes, seascapes and flyways through planning, avoiding and mitigating impacts of infrastructure development and transboundary cooperation. Maintaining migration routes and functional habitat networks is essential for both biodiversity and climate resilience.

We further encourage Parties to strengthen efforts to address human–wildlife conflict and promote coexistence, while supporting nature-positive planning including Key Biodiversity Areas, Important Marine Mammal Areas and Important Shark and Ray Areas — provide powerful tools to guide spatial planning, protect breeding and feeding areas, and safeguard migratory corridors. An ambitious agenda stands before Parties in the days ahead. IUCN stands ready to support your decision making with scientific expertise, to secure a future for migratory species and the ecosystems on which we all depend. We wish you a successful COP.

Thank you Chair.

JOINT STATEMENT OF NGOS / DÉCLARATION COMMUNE DES ONGS / DECLARACIÓN CONJUNTA DE ONGS

Thank you Chair

This intervention is being made on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, the Benin Environment and Education Society, Birdlife, Born Free, the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Fundación Cethus, Humane World for Animals, IFAW, the Irish Basking Shark Group and the Marine Research and Conservation Coalition, the Manta Trust, Oceancare, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Panthera, Pro Wildlife, Save our Seas, TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

At the outset we wish to thank the governments and people of Brazil, and Campo Grande in particular, for extending their unique *bem vindo* to the participants who have travelled from all parts of the world to attend this meeting. Brazil is, of course, one of the most important range States for jaguar, which features on the agenda; here in Campo Grande, we are on the edge of one of this species' strongholds.

We also thank the Convention Secretariat for all the hard work in preparing for this meeting, and for the many excellent documents. We in the CMS community are particularly fortunate in having a Secretariat that is knowledgeable, efficient, hard-working, and, above all, extremely collaborative with civil society organisations.

The Secretariat itself has been fortunate in having had the leadership of Amy Fraenkel. She has been a tireless advocate for species conservation – including migratory species – in CBD and elsewhere and has been an excellent ambassador for the Convention. Amy, we will miss you, and we wish you all the best in your well-earned retirement; although, somehow, we don't anticipate that you will be any less active in the conservation sphere. We also congratulate and welcome Andrew Raine, as Executive Secretary designate. Andrew, you have a hard act to follow, but we have heard many great things about you, so we look forward to your tenure. No pressure!

It's often said at CoP meetings that they come at a critical time, but today it is more true than ever. The update on the State of the World's Migratory Species tells us that, despite many tactical successes, overall, we are not winning the fight to protect these species. The report and other CoP documents identify the lack of protected and conserved areas as a key factor in this regard. However, CMS has argued, correctly, that in addition to the designation of protected areas, we must ensure connectivity between them. With the adoption of Resolution 14.6 and the launch of the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity at COP14, CMS has placed itself firmly in the vanguard of the movement for greater ecological connectivity. We are pleased to see that the agenda for COP15 will build on this work.

We also welcome the initiatives on illegal and unsustainable take of and trade in CMS-listed species and the continuation of the workstream on aquatic wild meat. We believe that it is important to confront the reality of these issues and to take steps accordingly.

There are so many other critical issues to be discussed at this meeting that it is impossible to list all of them. The COP will take decisions on flyways, deep seabed mining, connectivity in freshwater and ocean biomes, including seamounts and important marine turtle areas, pollution, wild meat and many other issues. We support all of the proposals to add new species—each one beautiful and important in its own way—to Appendices I and II (and thanks to the Parties who brought these proposals forward). Our shared commitment to conservation, and the capacity of CMS to achieve consensus on difficult issues, will, hopefully, ensure that this meeting will be a step forward in the fight for conservation of migratory species and their habitats, and of biodiversity more generally.

With fewer than 4 years until 2030, the key delivery date of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, we urge Parties and the entire CMS community to take the necessary steps in implementation, and to scale up their use of this treaty as a practical guide to reaching these goals. The conservation status of migratory species is the ultimate indicator of the effectiveness of international cooperation on biodiversity conservation, just as carbon is on climate change.

STATEMENT FROM THE DEEP-SEA CONSERVATION COALITION / DÉCLARATION DEEP-SEA CONSERVATION COALITION / DECLARACIÓN DE DEEP-SEA CONSERVATION COALITION

Distinguished delegates,

We would like to thank the Government of Brazil for hosting CMS COP15 and for its warm hospitality, and to express our appreciation to the CMS Secretariat and Parties for their continued commitment to the conservation of migratory species.

The deep ocean -- including seamounts, ridges, and abyssal plains -- is essential to the survival of many migratory species protected under the CMS. These habitats provide critical feeding, breeding, and spawning areas, as well as navigational landmarks across vast ocean basins. They also support essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling, that underpin global ocean health.

These ecosystems are already impacted by destructive fishing practices and climate change, and could now face additional pressure from deep-sea mining, threatening the migratory pathways and ecological connectivity on which many species depend.

For these reasons, we encourage CMS Parties to adopt timely, precautionary, and science-based deep-sea related proposals at COP15:

- We urge Parties to support the proposed Resolution and Decision on Conserving Seamount Ecosystems (25.3.3), put forward by Monaco and Panama and recommended for adoption by the CMS Scientific Council. Seamounts act as ecological oases in the open ocean, concentrating biological productivity and supporting sharks, rays, cetaceans, seabirds, and pelagic fishes. For migratory species, they serve as critical waypoints along migration routes.
- Destructive fishing practices, particularly bottom trawling, can cause severe and long-lasting damage to these fragile ecosystems. Strengthening seamount protection within the CMS framework will help safeguard vital habitats and maintain connectivity along migratory routes.

- We also call on Parties to support the Scientific Council's recommendations on deep-sea mining (25.2.3), ensuring that precaution remains central to CMS decision-making.

Significant knowledge gaps remain about the impact of potential future deep-sea mining on species distribution, migration patterns, ecosystems and global carbon cycling. Proposed mitigation measures for deep-sea mining do not address these uncertainties and fall short of the precautionary, science-led leadership that CMS has championed, including Resolution 14.6 adopted at COP14, which urges Parties not to engage in or support deep-sea mining until robust scientific evidence confirms no harm to migratory species, their prey, or ecosystems.

COP15 provides an important opportunity to reaffirm that protecting migratory species requires safeguarding the ecosystems on which they depend, including the least explored parts of our ocean.

Thank you.

Opening statement ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Distinguished delegates,

It is an honor to address you today at this Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on behalf of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. We are a global city network of 2500 plus cities and subnational governments from 125 countries globally.

When we speak about migratory species, we often picture vast oceans, remote wetlands, or distant forests. Yet many migratory species' journeys dissect with cities and other urban conurbations. Cities are not only home to more than half of the world's population, but many cities are also critical to promoting ecological connectivity as they are home to breeding sites, resting and feeding habitats for countless migratory species.

Every year, migratory birds rest in urban wetlands; migratory butterflies delight urban citizens in parks and gardens; bats navigate through city landscapes; and turtles, sharks and whales pass by coastal cities. These species connect ecosystems across continents and cities, have and will always, be part of that connected network.

Because of this, local governments are uniquely positioned to contribute to the objectives of the Convention and can support Parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention. There are many great examples of how cities, from Tata in Hungary, Varsaneh in Iran to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, promote and support the protection of migratory species through awareness raising initiatives, regulating and reducing light pollution, restoring ecosystems and creating ecological corridors, and by considering migratory species in land-use planning decisions and frameworks.

For this reason, we encourage cities and subnational governments to take actions in line with national priorities and targets that support their Parties in protecting migratory species.

Migratory species remind us that nature knows no borders. Let us work together, national governments, cities, regions, and partners to ensure that the journey of migratory species continues for generations to come. Thank you.

II. CLOSING STATEMENTS / DÉCLARATIONS DE CLÔTURE / DISCURSOS DE CLAUSURA

CLOSING STATEMENT, MS AMY FRAENKEL – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CMS / DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE, MME AMY FRAENKEL – SECRÉTAIRE EXÉCUTIVE DE CMS / DECLARACIÓN FINAL, SRA AMY FRAENKEL – SECRETARIA EJECUTIVA DE CMS

I can't believe we are at this moment in the COP, which means that COP15 is about to come to a successful close, which also has profound, personal meaning for me.

As you know, it is just over 2 years since the last CMS COP in Uzbekistan.

Despite this shorter - than - usual intersessional period, an enormous amount of work was accomplished – building on the foundation set by COP14, the SoWMS report, and advancing implementation of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

This COP has now adopted a strong set of outcomes, including the addition of 40 new species to the CMS Appendices, to advance our collective work to address the needs of - and threats to - migratory species over the next 3 years.

In the world of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, a sort of hierarchy has been constructed by governments, stakeholders and as a result, within the UN system.

All of these address growing pressures from human activities on the natural systems of the Earth.

There is no question that CMS is one of the most important international agreements on the environment. CMS addresses the same pressures on the environment as the three Rio agreements, the chemical agreements, and others. Yet it does so from the perspective of the billions of extraordinary living creatures, found all over the world, that carry out one of the most remarkable phenomena on the planet - migration. They connect countries, continents and communities. They also move us, touching our hearts and souls.

The need for CMS was already agreed in 1972 at the first World Conference on the environment held in Stockholm.

Recommendation 32 of the Action Plan adopted in Stockholm states:

It is recommended that Governments give attention to the need to enact international conventions and treaties to protect species inhabiting international waters or those which migrate from one country to another

The role of CMS is more vital today than ever before.

One of my main goals as Executive Secretary has been to lift up CMS to its proper place in this mosaic of multilateral environmental agreements. I believe CMS is not only stronger than when I first took up my responsibilities, but it has also affected me deeply, in only positive ways

There have been many accomplishments during my tenure at the helm of CMS – which were all the result of collaborative efforts of Parties, stakeholders, partners, and the Secretariat. To name a few:

- We launched the first SoWMS report in 2024;
- A new Strategic Plan for MS building on its findings was adopted in Samarkand;
- The term 'Ecological Connectivity' is now commonplace, and is being uttered by Heads of State including by President Lula da Silva one week ago;
- Two new global initiatives to address the top two threats to migratory species have been launched – one on ecological connectivity, the other on the major threat of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species tied to domestic motivations.
- CMS priorities have been firmly integrated into the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Environment Facility, and a new IPBES assessment on EC is about to commence.
- We have now raised awareness on the importance of migratory species and of CMS among media around the world: here at COP15, even without the SoWMS report, we achieved significant press coverage: 4,213 articles, in 26 languages at 1,153 different news sites, across 78 countries – with potential online impressions totaling 6.13 billion.

Watch out because we know some additional articles are still coming tomorrow.

Finally, several non-Party governments joined CMS under my watch, and our COPs are attracting a greater representation of Parties and observers from around the world.

Of course there is much work to do going forward. I want to note 5 key priorities for CMS:

- Implement the clear recommendations of SoWMS
- Continue to mainstream EC and the importance of MS across government, the business sector and other decision makers,
- Bring a stronger, more holistic approach to wildlife management that spans issues related to CMS, CITES and domestic priorities
- More meaningful engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities
- Increase the number of Parties to CMS

Thank you.

- Govt of Brazil, State, City, people, indigenous peoples and local communities
- Govt of Germany as host of the CMS Sec and the next host of CMS COP
- All of the CMS national focal points
- The StC chair and members
- The Scientific Council chair, all Scientific Councilors and Sessional Committee members
- COP-appointed Councilors- who play a special and invaluable role in our work
- All the Brazil staff that made this possible – including the wonderful volunteers
- Technicians, interpreters, translators, report writers, and the IT teams
- Save my last thanks to the CMS secretariat colleagues. Including a number of staff who joined us from UNEP and CBD Sec.

It is hard to know where to start... Every single one of you has made this COP an incredible success. Incredibly hard-working and wonderful team, and you should all be very proud of what you have accomplished. It has been a great honor and pleasure to work with you all, and I look forward to celebrating with you both here and back in Bonn.

After leaving CMS, I will be migrating back to Washington DC and Chesapeake Bay. I will surely also continue to be on the move and look forward to staying connected. Find me on LinkedIn, or in the oceans where I will be diving, in the mountains where I will be hiking, and in the forests and fields and wetlands where I will be birding.

I am deeply honored and grateful for the privilege to serve as the CMS Executive Secretary. Thank you.

PARTY STATES (INCLUDING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS)

CLOSING STATEMENT FOR THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE POUR LA RÉGION DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD, DE L'AMÉRIQUE CENTRALE ET DES CARAÏBES

DECLARACIÓN FINAL PARA LA REGIÓN DE AMÉRICA DEL SUR Y CENTRAL Y EL CARIBE

Señor Presidente, distinguidas delegaciones, Secretaría, colegas:

Tengo el honor de tomar la palabra en nombre de los países de Centroamérica, Suramérica y el Caribe en esta sesión de clausura.

En primer lugar, deseamos expresar nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a Brasil por su liderazgo ejemplar en la organización de esta COP15, así como por su firme compromiso con la conservación de las especies migratorias y sus hábitats. Esta Conferencia ha sido un reflejo claro de una presidencia inclusiva, que abrió espacios efectivos para la participación de jóvenes, los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales, enriqueciendo nuestros debates con conocimientos y perspectivas complementarias que pueden contribuir a la conservación.

El GRULAC acoge con satisfacción los resultados alcanzados en esta COP. Destacamos, en particular, la adopción de decisiones clave en materia de movilización de recursos y presupuesto, que constituyen un paso importante para enfrentar uno de los principales desafíos de la implementación de la Convención. Confiamos en que estas decisiones permitirán avanzar hacia mecanismos más equitativos, eficaces, accesibles e innovadores, en apoyo a nuestros países.

Asimismo, celebramos los avances sustantivos en la inclusión de nuevas especies en los Apéndices de la Convención, así como la adopción y el fortalecimiento de acciones concertadas. Estas decisiones reflejan la sólida coordinación regional y el compromiso colectivo de las Partes con la protección de especies migratorias y sus hábitats en situación de vulnerabilidad, basados en la mejor evidencia científica disponible y en la cooperación internacional.

A lo largo de esta COP, nuestra región ha reafirmado su papel como actor proactivo y constructivo, impulsando resoluciones, planes de acción y esfuerzos coordinados en ámbitos clave como grandes mamíferos terrestres, especies marinas, tiburones y rayas y aves migratorias, celebramos por ejemplo la adopción de la Resolución sobre Corredores aéreos, que incluye la creación de la Iniciativa para las Rutas Migratorias de Aves en América (IRMA, que significa hermana en portugués). Estos avances demuestran el valor de la cooperación regional y de las sinergias con otros acuerdos multilaterales ambientales.

Al mismo tiempo, reiteramos que persisten desafíos importantes, en particular en lo que respecta a la disponibilidad de recursos financieros, técnicos y humanos. Por ello, hacemos un llamado a continuar fortaleciendo el apoyo internacional, de manera que podamos asegurar la implementación efectiva de las decisiones adoptadas en esta COP en línea con el desarrollo sostenible.

Finalmente, América Latina y el Caribe reafirman su compromiso de seguir trabajando de manera conjunta, con espíritu constructivo, junto a todas las Partes, la Secretaría y los socios internacionales, para fortalecer la Convención y su implementación para garantizar un futuro sostenible para las especies migratorias, sus hábitats y, en consecuencia, garantizar un mejor planeta para las presentes y futuras generaciones.

CLOSING STATEMENT FOR THE OCEANIA REGION /
DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE POUR LA POUR LA REGION OCÉANIE /
DECLARACIÓN FINAL PARA LA REGIÓN DE OCEANÍA

On behalf of the five Parties of the Oceania region present at this meeting, we would like to thank Brazil for hosting of this meeting. We feel very privileged to experience your beautiful country with its incredible biodiversity, and your amazing hospitality. The venue, preparation and organisation were outstanding.

Oceania would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Secretariat, the Chair of Plenary and the Chair of the COW, the chairs of the working groups and interpreters - for keeping our discussions running effectively, as well as the intersessional work of the Standing Committee and Sessional Committee – and all of you in this room for the spirit of cooperation you have all brought to this meeting.

Our region wants to take this opportunity to express our heart-felt appreciation to Amy Fraenkel. Your tireless work, and careful navigation through some tricky times like the COVID pandemic, has had a profound impact on the effectiveness of this Convention. We wish you well, and hope our paths meet again.

We would also like to thank our Sessional Committee chair, Narelle Montgomery. She has contributed so much to ensuring our COP decisions are based on strong, robust and credible science and is a great support to all Oceania parties. An Graeme Taylor for his leadership on seabirds in the Sessional Committee.

We want to note some key highlights for Oceania at this COP.

Seabirds had a very strong focus at this COP. They are among the most threatened bird groups, with more than half of species in decline. Their extraordinary migrations—spanning entire ocean basins —make them powerful indicators of ocean health and ecological connectivity.

Oceania Parties are delighted with the outcome of the seabird listing proposals, one of which covers 26 gadfly petrel species including many from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories. This group of rare, threatened and poorly understood, seabirds has been largely slipping through the cracks of international governance. We hope you will help us to elevate these species in priority in national, regional and international initiatives and cooperation to

prevent these species from sliding into extinction.

The adoption of the Resolution on Seabirds and Marine Flyways is another highlight. Formal recognition of marine flyways under CMS represents a significant conceptual advancement for the Convention, as seabirds face a unique combination of pressures—from fisheries interactions to marine pollution to climate change. An articulated CMS framework for marine flyways will help galvanise coordinated global action.

The acknowledgement and recognition of multiple systems of knowledge this week has underscored the clear value of recognising and drawing upon multiple systems of knowledge to strengthen the Convention's work. Around the world, diverse knowledge, including conventional science, Indigenous, local and community-based knowledge —provide complementary insights that enhance understanding of ecosystems and support more effective conservation of migratory species. We now have a constructive pathway for incorporating these knowledge systems into CMS processes where appropriate and useful, which will lead to more inclusive, informed and impactful conservation of migratory species globally.

We also want to underscore the importance of two more issues for our region:

1. Firstly, addressing key pressures on migratory species, including bycatch, habitat degradation, and emerging health risks.
2. Secondly, recognising the special circumstances and the needs of Pacific small islands developing states, including effective financial resources, resource mobilisation, strengthened capacity, streamlined and harmonised reporting.

In closing, Oceania Parties remain committed to working in solidarity with all Parties to ensure that this Convention delivers meaningful outcomes for migratory species and future generations.

Safe travels home, and we look forward to seeing you all in Bonn for our 50th birthday COP!

Haere rā and ka kite anō - goodbye and see you again.

CLOSING STATEMENT OF ARGENTINA / DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE DE L'ARGENTINE / DECLARACIÓN FINAL DE ARGENTINA

Gracias, Sr. Presidente,

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer al gobierno de Brasil por haber acogido la presente COP y por su hospitalidad durante el desarrollo del encuentro.

Deseamos que los acuerdos logrados producto de los fructíferos debates de esta semana, en los que hemos participado de manera proactiva, tengan continuidad en el tiempo con el objeto de lograr los resultados deseados.

Destacamos que la Argentina actuó como copatrocinante de diferentes propuestas, tanto de inclusión de especies en el Apéndice II, como de nuevas Acciones Concertadas y renovaciones de algunas de ellas.

Asimismo, acordamos con Brasil y Uruguay avanzar en la conservación del pez ángel en el marco de un proyecto regional del GEF, aprobado en 2025.

Señalamos la importancia del fortalecimiento de la articulación entre la CMS y otros acuerdos vigentes respetando su objeto y mandatos a fin de asegurar la coherencia del sistema multilateral y evitar duplicaciones.

Asimismo, los trabajos, recomendaciones y acciones de la CMS deben basarse en la mejor ciencia disponible y procurar la provisión de medios de implementación adecuados para los países en desarrollo.

La República Argentina promueve políticas ambientales alineadas con los objetivos de la Convención y ha adoptado medidas para mitigar las capturas incidentales. Asimismo, ha avanzado en el manejo de artes de pesca abandonadas y en el fortalecimiento de la trazabilidad, el control y el registro para prevenir y desalentar la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada (INDNR).

Dicho esto, con respecto a la ordenación pesquera en las zonas de alta mar, deseamos destacar que, en el marco de lo establecido en la CONVEMAR, las OROP sólo deben ser consideradas como uno de los medios disponibles, pero no el único, y sólo son concebibles en la medida en que la situación política y jurídica de las áreas a las que se pretenda aplicarlas así lo permita.

Con respecto a las zonas situadas fuera de la jurisdicción nacional, la conservación de especies debe realizarse en consonancia con los mecanismos establecidos en el Acuerdo BBNJ, en los casos en que corresponda.

Entendemos que resulta menester salir de la oposición conceptual binaria, simple, entre espacios situados “dentro” y “fuera” de la jurisdicción nacional al momento de tratar los diferentes documentos y resoluciones. Caso contrario se corre el riesgo de desdibujar una arquitectura jurídica que, en el derecho del mar, exige precisión con el objeto de no desconocer los espacios que forman parte integral de cada Estado y sus derechos respectivos sobre los recursos allí presentes.

En cuanto a la minería en los fondos marinos, las negociaciones sobre su regulación se desarrollan en el ámbito de la Autoridad Internacional de los Fondos Marinos, por lo que debe evitarse que la CMS avance sobre cuestiones de su competencia o contravenga el régimen de la CONVEMAR y el Acuerdo de 1994.

En ese contexto, nuestro país promueve dichos trabajos de la ISA, en calidad de foro natural en la materia, con el objeto de que se arribe a un marco regulatorio robusto que garantice la participación de los Estados en desarrollo en las actividades que se realicen en la Zona, siempre respetando el principio de patrimonio común de la humanidad de sus recursos y la protección del ambiente marino.

-En cuanto a las referencias a “género”, la Argentina reitera que entiende el término “género” conforme al artículo 7.3 del Estatuto de Roma, en referencia a los sexos masculino y femenino, sin otra acepción.

Por otra parte, la República Argentina recuerda que se disoció del Pacto del Futuro y considera que la Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, a los que se comprometió de buena fe, está compuesta por aspiraciones jurídicamente no vinculantes que

cada Estado, en el ejercicio de su soberanía, tiene derecho a interpretar y perseguir con libertad.

En función de ello, la República Argentina se disocia de todos los párrafos de documentos que puedan contener menciones al Pacto del Futuro, a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Finalmente, solicito que la presente intervención quede reflejada en el informe de la reunión.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

IGOs AND NGOs / OIGs ET ONGs / OIGs Y ONGs

JOINT STATEMENT OF NGOs / DÉCLARATION COMMUNE DES ONGs / DECLARACIÓN CONJUNTA DE ONGs

Thank you Chair.

This intervention is being made on behalf of 20 organisations: Animal Welfare Institute, BEES, BirdLife International, Born Free, Charles Darwin Foundation, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Fondation Franz Weber, Fundación Cethus, Humane World for Animals, IFAW, Irish Basking Shark Group and Marine Research and Conservation Foundation, Law of the Wild, Manta trust, Ocean Care, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Panthera, Pro Wildlife, Save our Seas Foundation, WWF.

We wish to thank you, Chair, for your stewardship of the plenary sessions. We also thank Monsieur Cherki for his excellent chairmanship of the Committee of the Whole. We renew our thanks to the Secretariat, and we thank the interpreters, the venue staff, drivers and all the volunteers who kept the event running smoothly. Once again we thank the Government of Brazil and the people of Campo Grande, and we welcome Andrew Raine, while wishing Amy Fraenkel well.

Chair, there is no room for complacency about the future of the planet. This year we are likely to learn that progress towards achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework 2030 targets is insufficient, and that unless we at least redouble our efforts, they will not be met.

Nevertheless, we take some comfort from the fact that the outcomes of this meeting amount to an important contribution to the future of many migratory species.

We have adopted strong new Resolutions – ranging from seabirds and marine flyways, important marine turtle areas, conserving jaguars and mitigating bycatch.

We have reaffirmed the position of not engaging in deep seabed mineral exploitation activities as long as the outstanding information gaps on the potential impacts remain.

Here in the Americas, we have mandated a historic new Initiative for the Americas Flyways.

A new resolution on marine pollution has been adopted and this important workstream will have our full support moving forward.

We have launched a new initiative on the illegal and unsustainable take of CMS-listed species.

We have strengthened our commitment to strive for ecological connectivity, both on land and in water.

We have prioritised the protection of seamounts from destructive practices.

And we have addressed the urgent needs of many beautiful threatened species by adding them to the Appendices, including the striped hyena, Zimbabwe cheetahs, the giant otter, the thresher and large hammerhead sharks and (to the delight of Harry Potter), the snowy owl.

Our work does not end here. Conservation efforts must be sustained and carried forward to the next Conference of the Parties, if we are to ensure the effective protection of migratory species in the face of the many and growing challenges they face.

To all, we wish you safe travels home. It only remains to end by recalling the slogan of the conference: Connecting nature, sustaining life.

STATEMENT OF BORN FREE FOUNDATION / DÉCLARATION DE BORN FREE FOUNDATION / DECLARACIÓN DE BORN FREE FOUNDATION

Born Free is proud to be a CMS partner NGO and to have contributed to several of the workstreams we have discussed this week. And what a week, in such a beautiful location.

Like all first-time visitors, I am so impressed by Campo Grande – where human-wildlife coexistence is a daily reality and where city planners clearly have respect for big mature trees, leaving them to shade cycle paths along the centre of dual carriageways – a lesson to cities elsewhere, busy felling old trees to widen roads; and Brazil – not only have you been a wonderful host, your commitment to conservation has been evident in every intervention.

This is of global significance - Brazil and its neighbours share the world's biggest biotic pump; through evapotranspiration, your rainforests and wetlands send invisible rivers of water vapour around the world to fall as rain, watering agricultural land, filling aquifers and generating hydroelectricity – this is an ecosystem service provided to the world, but the world does not pay for it.

Africa's forests and wetlands drive the second biggest biotic pump, wearing not only Africa but also feeding into Amazonia, and SE Asia has the third.

Migratory species keep these ecosystems healthy, whether through seed dispersal, nutrient cycling or as apex predators. They are the seasonal workers in the ecosystems that sustain life on Earth.

The decisions taken at CMS CoP 15 will improve their chances of surviving to play this role in the future, for their natural lifespan, but the cost of the implementation is challenging.

Distinguished delegates, we in this room can do something about that. May I request that when you get home, you set up a meeting with your finance minister to talk about Natural Capital and viewing nature as an asset class.

The IMF now recommends its client countries include natural capital – the value of living nature - in the national economy – which makes Brazil one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

The acronym PES, Payment for Ecosystem Services, is a well-known in conservation circles but I urge you to use a new one – PESA – a word that means money in Ki-Swahili and several other languages, but in this context, it means Payment for the Ecosystem Services of Animals.

Science can now measure the value of each individual animal's contribution to ecosystem function over the course of his or her life. This concept can solve the biodiversity funding gap and you, my friends and colleagues, can make it happen.

That outcome would certainly make this a happy CoP!

JOINT STATEMENT OF WCS, IFAW, AND THE AMAZON WATERS ALLIANCE /

DÉCLARATION COMMUNE DE WCS, IFAW, ET THE AMAZON WATERS ALLIANCE /

DECLARACIÓN CONJUNTA DE WCS, IFAW, Y THE AMAZON WATERS ALLIANCE

I am speaking on behalf of WCS, IFAW, and the Amazon Waters Alliance. Thank you so much to our wonderful hosts, the Government of Brazil, and the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, and for the warm hospitality here in Campo Grande. We deeply thank the Secretariat staff for their tremendous work. Thank you Amy for your leadership and commitment to conservation all these years. We wish you the best, and you are welcome to visit any of our field sites or the Bronx Zoo any time!

But most of all, our thanks to you, the Parties, for the decisions you have taken, and for your commitment to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. With implementation, these species will now have a fighting chance. Thank you for adopting proposals for thresher and hammerhead sharks to Appendix I, striped hyena and giant otter to Appendices I and II, and the narrow-nose smoothhound and spotted sorubim to Appendix II—among others.

Thank you as well for adoption of many important decisions and resolutions. Thank you for adoption of important marine documents, including on bycatch, sharks and rays, seamounts, deep sea mining, and more. Thank you for a vital new initiative on the illegal and unsustainable take of migratory species, and for renewed commitment to ecological integrity and connectivity. Significantly, and on behalf of our colleagues here in South America, thank you for your increased commitment to the conservation of migratory freshwater fish and their habitats, particularly of the Amazon Basin—and of course the jaguar; WCS, IFAW, and the Amazon Waters Alliance stand ready to continue our close collaboration on these issues.

Of course, for the outcomes of this meeting to bear fruit we need resources. We acknowledge the financial constraints in today's world, but we call on those who can, to support the decisions of this CoP. We commit to collaborating with Parties across the globe to turn the outcomes of this meeting into concrete conservation outcomes the ground, and in the water.

In conclusion, farewell, thank you, obrigada. Safe travels everyone and see you in Germany!