

CMS Flyways Working Group

Agenda Item 7

Status of FWG Thematic Subgroups

Mandate

COP14 adopted Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*, in which it called on the Secretariat to support Parties to effectively implement the priorities set by the Flyways Working Group, and to help develop its Programme of Work (POW) and monitoring tool.

COP14 also adopted Decisions 14.137–14.142 *Flyways*.

During the intersessional period, and with reference to Decision 14.142 (b), the Secretariat supported the organization of three Flyway Working Group (FWG) meetings.

The 3rd FWG meeting, held in April 2024, agreed to establish **three thematic sub-groups were established on:**

- (i) New Programme of Work (POW), Gaps and Priorities;
- (ii) Seabirds; and
- (iii) Other Instruments and Platforms/Hubs.



Mandate (cont.)

The 4th FWG meeting, held in February 2025, reviewed the work delivered by the three sub-groups.

- The New POW, Gaps and Priorities Sub-group **shared the new FWG POW for 2026–2029.**
- The Seabirds Sub-group **agreed to prepare a new draft Resolution on Seabirds and Marine Flyways** to be submitted to COP15.
- FWG members also **agreed to establish a new sub-group** to propose amendments to CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) Flyways and to develop FWG Terms of Reference for consideration by the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC8).

The 5th FWG meeting, held in May 2025, reviewed the outputs produced by the sub-groups, as well as the draft Terms of Reference.

- A policy gap analysis on marine flyways was also presented at the meeting (see UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.26.3.2).
- A new draft Resolution on Seabirds and Marine Flyways was **presented for submission to COP15** as well as draft amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14).



Outcomes

8th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC8),
December 2025

- Recommended to COP15 adoption of the draft resolution on *Flyways* and decisions with amendments
- Adopted Terms of Reference of the Flyways Working Group
- Adopted the Programme of Work 2026-2029
- Recommended to COP15 adoption of the draft resolution on *Seabirds and Marine Flyways* and decisions with amendments

COP15, March 2026

- Adopted Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP15) *Flyways*
- Decisions 15.150 to 15.156 – Flyways
- Adopted Resolution 15.9 *Seabirds and Marine Flyways*
- Decisions 15.157 to 15.160 - Seabirds and Marine Flyways



Next steps

Recommendations on existing thematic subgroups:

Res. 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways* and Terms of Reference

- Close the subgroup.
- Revised Res. and ToR adopted

Programme of Work, Gaps and Priorities

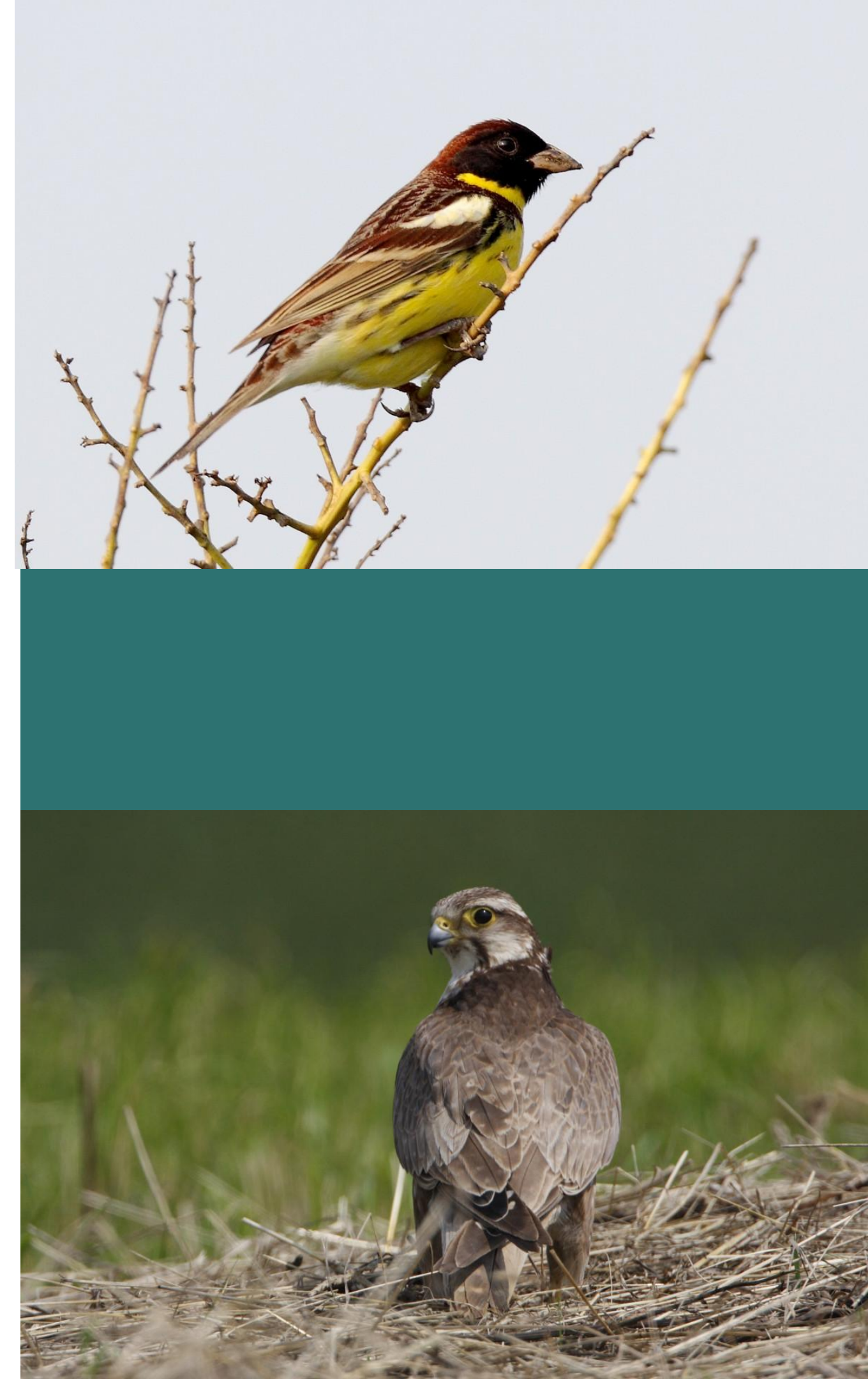
- Retain but refocus work on monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the POW 2026-2029 (POW Theme 8)

Seabirds

- Retain to lead/support implementation of Resolution 15.9 *Seabirds and Marine Flyways* and Decisions 15.157 to 15.160
- Support the Situation Analysis on Marine Flyways (POW Sub-Theme 6.5)

Other Instruments and Platforms/Hubs

- Reassess need and scope of subgroup



Next steps

Potential new Thematic Subgroups for the intersessional period 2026 - 2029:

Communications and Engagement

- Lead on POW Theme 5 and Activity 7.1
- Scope: Supporting an update to the FWG webpage, developing flyers/factsheets on flyways, instruments, key species etc. Promoting WMBD, seeking funding opportunities and developing cross-flyway/cross-CMS instrument relationships.

Species Actions Plans

- Lead on POW Theme 3
- Scope: Support implementation of existing actions plans and Concerted Actions, identify candidate species that might benefit from an action plan, support the development of new plans/CC

Other suggestions/priorities?

