

## FOURTH MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA

*(Victoria Falls, 30 November - 02 December 2026)*

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.11

### REPORT OF THE CMS SECRETARIAT

*(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)*

#### **Summary:**

This report presents developments of activities and policies under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) with relevance to the work under the Raptors MOU since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Signatories to the Raptors MOU (MOS3, 2023).

The Meeting of Signatories is invited to take note of the report.

1. The report to the 4th Meeting of Signatories (MOS) to the Raptors MOU corresponds to Agenda item 11 of the MOS. It provides a summary of activities relevant to the Raptors MOU undertaken by the CMS Secretariat since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Signatories to the Raptors MOU (MOS3, 2023), with a particular focus on activities undertaken from the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CMS (COP15, 2026) onwards.
2. Main issues relevant to the Raptors MOU over the period since COP15 pertain to resolutions, associated decisions, and related action plans on specific taxonomic groups of birds, specific issues such as addressing illegal killing, poisoning and impacts of energy infrastructure and corresponding work of CMS initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Energy Task Force (ETF), as well as cross-cutting issues such as World Migratory Bird Day. In addition, several overarching developments of relevance under CMS are highlighted.

### **Overarching strategic, institutional and scientific matters and decisions**

#### **CMS Resolution 14.1 (Rev.COP15); Decisions 15.6 to 15.9 - *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032***

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP15), reviewed and adopted [Resolution 14.1 \(Rev.COP15\) Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032](#), which included a new monitoring framework. Additionally, the format of the National Reports is currently under revision, with the aim of having the Secretariat, once the final format has been agreed on, assess the fields still in need of measurement through an additional monitoring tool.
4. The COP also communicated that, during the period of assessment of the National Reports format, the activities delivered by Parties and stakeholders on flyway conservation delivered within the framework of CMS instruments could be used to report on the indicators approved in COP15.
5. For an update on the progress made in implementing Resolution 14.1 (Rev.COP15) *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032* during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.15](#).

### **Avian-related Resolutions and Decisions**

#### **CMS Resolution 11.09 (Rev.COP13) - *World Migratory Bird Day***

6. Through [CMS Resolution 11.09 \(Rev.COP13\) World Migratory Bird Day](#), COP invites Parties, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, the United Nations Environment Programme and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to celebrate and raise awareness of World Migratory Bird Days on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October. The CMS-AEWA Joint Communications Team in cooperation with Environment For The Americas (EFTA), have run a biannual campaign, and information on [WMBD themes since 2006](#) is available on the WMBD website.
7. The 2026 WMBD was focused on the theme “[Every Bird Counts - Your Observations Matter!](#)”, highlighting the importance of people-driven efforts for bird conservation and science, celebrating how individuals, communities, and organizations around the world are

helping to build the knowledge base to better conserve migratory birds across borders.

**CMS Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15); Decisions 15.146 to 15.149 - *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds***

8. Through [CMS Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP15\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#), COP15 reaffirmed the adoption of the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) (Annex 2; the Guidelines) and agreed on the continuation of the open-ended [Preventing Poisoning Working Group \(PPWG\)](#), subject to the availability of resources. Furthermore, the Secretariat was instructed to actively pursue the appointment of a new Coordinator for the PPWG.
9. The COP, through the same Resolution, also agreed to continue, subject to the availability of resources, the [Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights](#). The Task Force will take forward the implementation and update of the Guidelines in its relevant sections.
10. For a summary of the progress made in implementing Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP15) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds* during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.2](#).

**CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15) - *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds***

11. Originally adopted at COP11 (Quito, 2014), the Conference of the Parties, at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP15), reviewed and adopted [Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP15\) The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds \(IKB\)](#).
12. COP15 also adopted Decisions that focus on three different geographical areas, along with distinct Task Forces: [Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean \(MIKT\) Decisions 15.135-15.137](#); [Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force Decisions 15.138-15.139](#); and [South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force Decisions 15.140-15.142](#). Finally, [Decisions 15.143-15.145](#) adopted at COP15 aim to expand the geographic scope of the work on illegal taking of migratory birds.
13. For a summary of the progress made in implementing Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds* during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.1](#).

**Decisions 15.135 to 15.137 - *Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)***

14. The Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) was convened under Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP15) in 2014. As of August 2026, 21 CMS Parties and the European Union are members of the MIKT. Three interested Parties and one non-Party have been participating as observers. Eleven multilateral environmental agreements and networks, and nine international non-governmental organizations, are also observers.

15. Coordination of the MIKT and implementation of its workplan is supported by a Coordinator, contracted by the CMS Secretariat.
16. The European Commission has been recognized by CMS as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean since 2015. An additional phase of funding from March 2024 to June 2028 was agreed on by the European Union, through the NDICI Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) III. Funding is provided for the coordination of the MIKT, as well as meetings and implementation of key activities.
17. MIKT members have adopted the [\*Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region\*](#) (RSP) as the strategic framework of action until 2030. The overarching long-term goal of the RSP is the eradication of IKB within the geographic scope of the Bern Convention and MIKT, with the goal of a 50 per cent reduction in the scale and scope of IKB by 2030, compared to a 2020 baseline. The Plan is structured around one process-oriented objective (National IKB Action Plans) and five result-oriented objectives.
18. At MIKT6, it was agreed to conduct [a mid-term assessment of the state of implementation of the RSP](#). The report and recommendations of the mid-term assessment were presented at the [Joint Meeting on IKB](#) in October 2026 and will be further discussed and recommendations adopted at the next in-person meeting MIKT8, which will be held in spring 2027 in Croatia.
19. MIKT members have endorsed the [Suggested Methodology and Guidance for Conducting Socio-Economic Research into the Motivations behind IKB](#) (June 2023). Furthermore, the CMS Secretariat contracted BirdLife International through a small-scale funding agreement to conduct a survey on IKB motivations in MIKT countries (December 2025 - February 2026). The [summary report](#) from this survey was presented in a side event during COP15, while the full report was presented at the Joint Meeting on IKB in October 2026.
20. The MIKT Secretariat also produced outreach materials about the work of the MIKT, specifically: a [generic brochure about the work of MIKT in EN, FR, ES and AR](#), a brochure [on legislative guidance in EN](#), a [brochure explaining the Scoreboard in EN](#), and [a brochure on monitoring IKB in EN](#). Additionally, [a short video](#) was prepared in [EN, FR, ES and AR](#) languages.
21. The Scoreboard exercise was run in 2023 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, responses to the 2023 Scoreboard exercise were submitted by 25 countries (including 13 of the 21 MIKT members; the EU does not complete the Scoreboard as it is a national-level exercise). The [analysis of the 2023 Scoreboard](#) responses was presented at MIKT6. The main conclusions from the analysis were as follows:
  - i. All countries show gradual improvement between Scoreboard exercises, suggesting that the Scoreboard is a helpful tool for organizing action, prioritizing work, and building ownership;
  - ii. Most improvement is noted in the areas of prevention, with national legislation as the best scoring area;
  - iii. Challenges remain in monitoring IKB, enforcement, prosecution and sanctions;
  - iv. National Action Plans for combating IKB are prepared in about a third of the countries, indicating the need for regional workshops to promote such plans;

- v. Awareness raising and training is very much linked to available funding. Countries in North Africa and the Middle East report lack of funding, and experience difficulties in implementation.
22. The [Guidance for the Development and Implementation of National Action Plans against the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds](#) was endorsed by the MIKT in late 2022. A regional [workshop on National IKB Action Plans addressed to North African countries](#) was held from 29/9-1/10 2026 in Tangier, Morocco.
  23. The Secretariat participated in several meetings and conferences, showcasing the work of the MIKT, since the last Meeting of Signatories of the Raptors MOU:
    - i. a side event on 'Global Illegal Taking of Birds', co-organized by the CMS Secretariat on 14 February 2024, at CMS COP14;
    - ii. a side event on presenting the preliminary findings of the work on IKB Motivations on 27 March 2026, at CMS COP15;
    - iii. a side event on collaboration with the Wildlife Crime Academy about enforcement and forensic investigations of wildlife crimes on 24 March 2026, at CMS COP15;
    - iv. a working group meeting in January 2024 and the first meeting of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force in May 2025, both in Riyadh;
    - v. a meeting on Illegal Trade of Migratory Birds especially in the Middle East, held in Amman, 23-26 April 2024;
    - vi. a hybrid workshop organized by UNEP together with the Government of Lebanon, regarding the illegal killing of migratory birds in Lebanon, in Beirut and online on 15 May 2024, and a follow-up online meeting on 21 May 2024.
    - vii. a Wildlife Crime Conference organized by the NGO BirdLife Cyprus and the Vulture Conservation Foundation in Limassol, Cyprus, on 22-24 May 2024. The MIKT Coordinator delivered a speech in the 'Setting the scene' part of the programme.

### **Decisions 15.138 to 15.139 - *Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA)***

#### Operationalization of the Task Force

24. The [ITTEA](#) works in close cooperation with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's (EAAFP) [Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds](#). As of October 2026, of the 22 countries in the region, ten (Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have nominated representatives to the ITTEA, with Malaysia still in the process of determining their nominated representative. Twenty-seven observer organizations and expert advisory groups have also joined the Task Force, along with representatives of MEA advisory bodies and other organizations who participate in activities through the EAAFP's Task Force. Seven other independent experts have also joined the Task Force to contribute their ongoing research findings.
25. The hiring of a consultant as ITTEA Coordinator for the period October 2022–December 2028 is funded by the Government of Australia under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

#### Activities of the Task Force

26. Projects to support implementation of priority actions of the [ITTEA's Programme of Work](#) have been conducted thanks to voluntary contributions from Australia through small-funding agreements. A project by the Malaysian Nature Society–Kuching Branch, undertaken from December 2024 to July 2026, used the funding to support additional surveys and public awareness-raising activities in Sarawak, Malaysia for CMS-priority species, particularly the Far Eastern Curlew, as well as to collect necessary data for establishing baseline estimates in Malaysian Borneo and support capacity-building for long-term monitoring programmes. Another project, from BirdLife International (Asia) Limited, undertaken from June 2025 to October 2026, used its funding to develop a self-assessment national monitoring framework tool ('scoreboard') for countries and to assess their progress in tackling illegal taking of birds. The scoreboard tool aims to improve and standardize monitoring practices and will be reflective of the priorities of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
27. The Second Official Joint Meeting of the ITTEA and the EAAFP Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds was held preceding the EAAFP MOP12 in Cebu, Philippines on 9 November 2025. The event convened Parties, non-Party observers, NGOs, IGOs, and other regional experts to share about progress made to address priority needs for baseline assessments and capacity-building. The meeting was also the occasion to discuss findings from the mist net report on their usage in the region, and effective actions to address gaps in monitoring and raising awareness. Lastly, attendees discussed the update of the Programme of Work of the ITTEA based on input of where more priority actions were needed. BirdLife International also presented a draft of the national scoreboard monitoring tool and received feedback to help in proper weighting of indicators before finalization.

#### Other meetings, workshops and training

28. A [virtual workshop](#) on the methodology for and utility of market surveys, net surveys and hunter surveys was conducted on 2 and 7 August 2023. A total of 50 participants attended from ITTEA Range States and observer organizations. At the workshop, BirdLife and their local partners shared summary findings from the [situation analysis report on bird hunting in mainland Southeast Asia](#).
29. A webinar on Viet Nam's legislative reforms and how those efforts allowed for improved capacity to address illegal wildlife trafficking was held on 26 September 2023. The presentation was delivered by the Vice Director and Head of Policy and Legislation for Education for Nature, Viet Nam. The workshop demonstrated how legislative enhancements could improve enforcement capabilities as applied to the issue of illegal taking of migratory birds.
30. The ITTEA and EAAFP held a [joint online meeting](#), on 8 October 2024, to share news of recent activities, progress and upcoming actions for work on illegal take in the flyway. The meeting featured a webinar from Dr. Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao (Assistant Professor, Colorado State University) on his assessment of governance structures and their impacts on addressing threats to migratory shorebirds.
31. The ITTEA Coordinator attended a special webinar hosted by BirdLife International and the Oriental Bird Club (OBC) on 18 January 2025 on tackling the threat of illegal mist net use in the EAAF. Case studies were shared from north Viet Nam, Thailand and China, and representatives from the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China were able to present on actions China was taking to address this issue. More details are available in the [OBC's meeting report](#).

32. The ITTEA Coordinator participated in and organized side events and virtual meetings to showcase the work of the task forces and share updates on progress in the following:
  - i. 'Global Illegal Taking of Birds' on 14 February 2024, at CMS COP14 in collaboration with the MIKT Coordinator and BirdLife International;
  - ii. 'Progress on Addressing Illegal Take of Migratory Birds in the Asia Pacific' on 11 November 2025 at EAAFP MOP12 in collaboration with BirdLife International;
  - iii. 'Second Virtual Meeting of the ITTEA and EAAFP Task Forces on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds' on 17 September 2025;
  - iv. 'CMS Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Task Forces: New research, regional perspectives and emerging solutions' on 27 March 2026 at CMS COP15 in collaboration with the MIKT and SWAITB Coordinators
33. A [workshop Impact of Mist Nets on Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway](#) is scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 20-21 November 2026, funded by voluntary contributions from the Australian Government, and organized by the CMS Secretariat with support from BirdLife International Asia Office and experts from the King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand. This workshop aims to advance the implementation of the ITTEA's Programme of Work and strengthen regional networks for action on mist nets through providing guidance on use of the national scoreboard for improving monitoring of the effectiveness of actions taken to address illegal take. Other objectives of the meeting are to raise awareness of mist nets as a conservation priority for migratory birds in the EAAF, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences on the matter among government representatives, IGOs, and other stakeholders, as well as to discuss and share effective approaches at various budget levels.

**Decisions 15.140 to 15.142 - *South-west Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (SWAITB)***

Operationalization of the Task Force

34. The [first meeting of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force](#) (SWAITB TF) took place on 20 and 21 May 2025 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hosted by the National Center for Wildlife (NCW). The TF Terms of Reference, after being agreed on at the first meeting, were officially adopted by the CMS Scientific Council on 22 March 2026, at Campo Grande, Brazil.
35. Following the first meeting, the Secretariat and the Task Force Coordinator advanced implementation of the Action Plan, with particular focus on establishing the regional baseline (Objective 1) and supporting the development of National Illegal Taking of Birds (ITB) Action Plans (Objective 2).
36. An online workshop of the Task Force was held in December 2025, bringing together Range State focal points, the CMS Avian Team, the Coordinators of the MIKT and Raptors MOU instruments, and observer organizations, to present the draft ITB monitoring guidelines and a roadmap for National ITB Action Plans, drawing on lessons learned from MIKT. A new online meeting is planned before the end of 2026.
37. The Guidelines for the Baseline and Methodology for Monitoring the Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds in South-West Asia, together with a standardized national baseline reporting template (in Arabic and English), were finalized and circulated to all Range States, which

have been invited to compile and submit their national baselines. These form the basis for measuring progress towards the Action Plan's target of at least a 30% reduction in illegal taking by 2032, and securing the national submissions remains a key immediate priority.

38. Bilateral engagement with Range States is continuing; a bilateral meeting with Iraq is scheduled to discuss progress on the national baseline and the project developed by CMS.
39. Preparations for the second meeting, planned for 2027, are under way. The Sultanate of Oman, through the Oman Environment Authority (OEA), has been approached to host; a draft concept note has been prepared and shared for consideration, and consultations on dates and arrangements are ongoing. Engagement with regional partners and civil society has continued, including with the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) as a prospective observer.

### Funding

40. The Task Force was launched with financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the Migratory Species Champion Programme. In August 2025, in close correspondence with the Secretariat, the NCW of Saudi Arabia hired a consultant to work as Coordinator of the SWAITB TF. As of August 2026, the TF's coordinator's contract, funded by the Government of Saudi Arabia, has been renewed for two years.

### **CMS Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP15); Decisions 15.166 to 15.169 - *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)***

41. [CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP15\)](#) *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)* urges Parties and encourages non-Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa. The issues covered by AEMLAP provide linkages to many other activities and initiatives such as on addressing IKB, infrastructure developments, collision risks, etc.
42. The updated mandate of Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP15) *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)* highlights the new AEMLAP Working Group (AEMLAP WG) Programme of Work (POW) for 2026-2032. The Resolution's associated Decisions aim to strengthen the POW's implementation process by requesting support through relevant initiatives, the coordination of the WG, and work on indicators for the implementation of the AEMLAP and POW.
43. For a summary of the progress made in implementing Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP15) *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)* during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.5](#).
44. Since COP15, the AEML Steering Group has held an online meeting on 25 June 2026, from 1200 to 1400 hours CEST. The documents produced for the meeting, the meeting minutes, as well as a letter from the WG Chair calling for continued action and cooperation to implement the AEMLAP and its POW were shared with the National Focal Points of the AEMLAP Range States and the members of the AEMLAP WG.

45. To implement [Decision 15.169](#) and to continue working towards integrating biodiversity requirements into land degradation neutrality delivery at appropriate scale, the Secretariat is organizing a joint meeting between the AEMLAP WG and the United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification (UNCCD), for which, at the time of writing, preparations are still under way. The [joint AEMLAP-UNCCD meeting](#) will be held from 3 to 4 December 2026, back-to-back with the Raptors MOS4, at the same venue in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

**Decisions 15.162 to 15.165 - *Multispecies Action Plan to Conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustard MsAP)***

46. The Conference of the Parties, at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP15), adopted the [Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards \(Bustard MsAP\) \(2026-2037\)](#) developed by Bustards Without Borders and based on the provisions adopted in 2024 at COP14 through [CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP15\) Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region \(AEMLAP\)](#).
47. [Decisions 15.162 to 15.165](#), also adopted at COP15, aim to strengthen the coordination, support communications activities, capacity-building, and awareness-raising linked to the implementation of the Bustard MsAP.

**CMS Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP15); Decisions 15.173 to 15.174 - *Saker Falcon (Falco cherrug) Global Action Plan***

48. For an update on this item, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.13.1\(Rev.1\)](#).

**CMS Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15); Decisions 15.212 to 15.215 - *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*;  
CMS Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) - *Power Lines and Migratory Birds***

49. The CMS COP, as well as the governing bodies of many of its daughter agreements, have adopted numerous Decisions on the impact of wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies on migratory species. Significant work has been undertaken pursuant to these Decisions, and several guideline documents and reports have been endorsed and published by the CMS Family Secretariats in their Technical Series, in cooperation with partners. Implementation of these guidance documents has been promoted through the provisions contained in [CMS Resolution 11.27 \(Rev. COP15\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#) and [CMS Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#).
50. For a summary of the progress made in implementing Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.11](#).
51. Since COP15, the Secretariat has closely collaborated with the ETF and its Coordinator, supporting various activities, including:
  - i. the organization of two webinars for the Americas on '[Mitigating Renewable Energy Impacts in the Americas](#)' and '[Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Power Lines on Wildlife in the Americas](#)', and two other webinars on '[Preventing Bird Electrocution on Distribution Lines: From Risk to Good Practice](#)' and '[Reducing the risk of wind energy to bats](#)';

- ii. the organization of a [Private Sector Engagement Roundtable](#) of renewables at the London Climate Action Week (LCAW) 2026 under the Private Sector Engagement Working Group;
- iii. the organization of an [Interim virtual ETF meeting](#), including discussing updates on workplan implementation, planned for 11 November 2026;
- iv. launching two fact sheets on '[Conservation of Migratory Bats - A Global Issue](#)' and '[Migratory Bats and Wind Energy](#)', with translations available in Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian;
- v. promoting work of the ETF at several forums, conferences, and events such as regional seminar on "[Enhancing the Conservation of Birds of Prey in Central Asia](#)" organized jointly by Raptors MOU coordinating unit among others, online webinar on "[Power line marking](#)", and online webinar on "[Migratory Birds and Energy infrastructure](#)";
- vi. coordinating the implementation of two projects funded by the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under the [Renewables Environmental Research Initiative](#) on 'Updating information on interactions of marine mammals with light sources from offshore developments' and 'Review of international environmental regulatory approaches for onshore wind farms for consideration in the Australian context';
- vii. contributing to several project concepts and secured funding for extension of the former DCCEEW project and two new projects 'Post-construction bat fatality monitoring' and 'Review of potential impacts of solar farms on birds';
- viii. developing the [ETF newsletter for August 2026](#);
- ix. launching the second round of the [ETF Small Grant Fund](#) and awarding funding to two recipients; and
- x. communications with Governments and partners to promote the ETF and strengthen its membership.

**CMS Resolution 12.10 (Rev.COP14) - Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures; Decisions 15.170 to 15.172**

52. For an update on this item, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.13.2\(Rev.1\)](#).

**CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP15); Decisions 15.150 to 15.156 - Flyways; CMS Resolution 14.13; Decisions 15.152 and 15.156 - Initiative for Central Asian Flyway**

53. The Conference of the Parties, at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP15), reviewed and adopted [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP15\) Flyways](#), strengthening implementation of the new Flyways Working Group (FWG) [Programme of Work for 2026-2029](#) and of the instruments for regional flyways. Furthermore, Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP15) *Flyways* promotes Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) through effective management and restoration, gives high priority to securing ecological connectivity through the conservation of sites and habitats - expanding and strengthening existing flyway site networks - and requests to support enhanced understanding of patterns of bird migration through technical efforts such as analyses and relevant research techniques.
54. For a summary of the progress made in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP15) *Flyways* and [Resolution 14.13 Initiative for Central Asian Flyway](#) during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.26.3.1](#).

55. Through [Decision 15.151](#), the COP encourages Range States of the Americas Flyways to notably support the development, adoption and implementation of a multi-species action plan for priority species of Vultures of the Americas in line with CMS priorities, within the Americas Flyways Framework.
56. Through [Decision 15.152](#), the COP requests Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) to support the Government of India and the Secretariat to set up the Coordination Unit of the CAF in India, under the umbrella of CMS, by the end of 2026, as well as to support the development and implementation of a CAF POW to identify gaps and challenges in the region, including the need for further capacity-building and conservation initiatives.
57. Since COP15, the Secretariat has held the [Sixth Meeting of the CMS Flyways Working Group \(FWG6\)](#) online on 22 September 2026 from 13h to 15h CEST. During FWG6, a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the WG were elected, updates on recent events and projects were shared, new thematic subgroups were (re)established for the next intersessional period, priorities and next steps were identified for the FWG, and membership of the FWG was reviewed following the call for expressions of interest by the CMS Scientific Council.

**CMS Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP15) - Action Plans for Birds: Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan and International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon**

58. At COP15, Parties adopted the [Global Action Plan for the Conservation of the Steppe Eagle \(\*Aquila nipalensis\*\) 2026-2035](#) and acknowledged that the CMS Standing Committee adopted the [International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon \(\*Falco concolor\*\) 2024-2036](#).
59. For an update on progress on the Steppe Eagle and Sooty Falcon action plans, please refer to documents [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.13.4](#) and [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.13.5](#).

**CMS Resolution 15.10; Decisions 15.175 to 15.178 - Internationally Important Raptor Areas (IIRAs)**

60. For an update on this item, please refer to document [UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS4/Doc.13.3](#).

**CMS Decisions 15.21 to 15.22 - Atlas on Animal Migration**

61. The development of an [Atlas on Animal Migration](#) is a long-standing initiative of the Convention, which has been included in the Programme of Work since COP11 (Quito, 2014). It is expected to be developed with a modular approach. Progress made in developing the atlas during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15 is summarized in document [UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.21/Rev.1](#).
62. Since COP15, the CMS Secretariat has held a [Workshop on the Atlas on Animal Migration](#) from 8-12 October 2026, in Vasto (Abruzzo), Italy. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together analysts who have contributed to the development of existing Atlas modules, as well as those currently working on new animal movement atlases, to share experiences and analytical and mapping tools. The workshop also provided an opportunity to brainstorm on the future development of the Atlas and to explore ways to enhance access to its modules through a dedicated CMS Atlas portal. Representatives of development banks

were invited to participate as key users of the Atlas, providing valuable perspectives on its practical applications.

63. Several sub-groups have been agreed on at the Vasto meeting, with the idea of both defining the criteria for creating and maintaining a meta-atlas of migratory animals within the CMS umbrella, as well as of producing policy-relevant materials that can help CMS Strategic goals.

#### **Meetings' attendance**

64. The CMS Secretariat participated in the 6th Meeting (January 2024, online), the 7th Meeting (March 2024, online), the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting (September 2024, online), the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting (February 2025, Torrejon el Rubio [Caceres], Spain), the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting (February 2026, online), and the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting (August 2026, online) of the Technical Advisory Group.

#### **Recommended action**

65. The Meeting of the Signatories is invited to take note of the report.