

**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.1

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**GANDHINAGAR DECLARATION  
ON CMS AND THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Gandhinagar, February 2020)

*Recognizing* that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is the lead intergovernmental agreement for international cooperation on the conservation of migratory species and their habitats,

*Citing with concern* that the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), as approved by the IPBES Plenary-7 (Paris, 2019), found that nature and its vital contributions to people are facing an unprecedented decline and has estimated that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history,

*Noting with concern* that the loss and fragmentation of habitat and overexploitation are the most serious threats to migratory animals with climate change expected to exacerbate these problems,

*Underlining* the ecological crisis that our world is facing, and recognizing the need to take urgent and robust action,

*Recognizing* the important contribution of biodiversity to climate change action and alleviating poverty,

*Noting* that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Decision 14/34 adopted a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

*Further noting* that the 2020-2030 period to be covered by the post-2020 global biodiversity framework coincides with the final decade of the period covered by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, thus providing opportunities for close alignment between these interrelated agendas,

*Emphasizing* the need for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to reflect the needs of all the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in a coordinated way, and for global guidance on NBSAPs to be updated to encourage these efforts,

*Recalling* that the fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CBD recognized the important role of CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions in contributing to the elaboration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in order to consider how it might reflect the priorities of their respective mandates,

*Underlining* the importance of ecological connectivity to the needs of all biodiversity-related MEAs,

*Recognizing* the importance of the Paris Agreement on climate change of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for the achievement of the goals of CMS, CBD, and other biodiversity-related conventions,

*Anticipating* that a post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the CBD COP in Kunming, China, in October 2020,

*Acknowledging* the work of CMS in facilitating international cooperation and engagement in protecting migratory species as well as conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems to support the natural movements of animals necessary for their survival and well-being,

*Recalling* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled,

*Recognizing* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will set a global agenda to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the coming decade, in which the CMS should play an important role, and

*Acknowledging* that a zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework dated 6 January 2020 has been made available by the CBD Secretariat and *noting* that this will be discussed and further developed in the ongoing process of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with its next meeting at the end of February in Rome,

*Welcoming* the slogan of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13) "*Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home*",

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Affirms* that a commitment to maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity is one of the top priorities for CMS, especially for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species and their habitats, and *calls* for ecological connectivity and the important role of CMS Family in this regard to be effectively reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
2. *Notes* that achieving ecological connectivity and the implementation of CMS and other biodiversity-related instruments requires international cooperation and partnerships among States and all relevant actors and *calls* for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to include a clear commitment for international, regional, bilateral and transboundary cooperation for its implementation and for improving ecological connectivity;
3. *Calls on* Parties and other governments to ensure that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework effectively addresses the conservation needs of endangered species and species with an unfavourable conservation status, whose survival is a key indicator of sustainable development;
4. *Recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework include effective actions to address direct and indirect drivers that threaten migratory species and their habitats;
5. *Further recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework include goals and targets to halt species declines and strengthen the linkages between its provisions on species and its provisions on habitats;

6. *Further recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework consider the status of migratory species (by any species index such as Red List Index, Living Planet Index and Wild Bird Index) as a potential indicator of progress towards achieving the framework, including goals and targets on ecological connectivity;
7. *Recognizes* the importance of synergies and cooperation among the various biodiversity-related agreements at the national level, and therefore *recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework call for the inclusion in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of Parties' priorities regarding the protection of migratory animals and conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity of ecosystems needed to support such species' movements on land, in the air and at sea, and *further encourages* Parties to include in their NBSAPs appropriate reference to other biodiversity-related conventions to which they are also Parties;
8. *Recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework recognize the role of the various biodiversity-related Conventions as well as other relevant MEAs, for effective implementation, monitoring, and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
9. *Further recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework include provisions to promote international cooperation and connectivity through MEAs, regional and transboundary cooperation mechanisms, and sharing of experiences between initiatives at the community level;
10. *Emphasizes* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be of little value, if it is not followed by strong implementation and supported by adequate means of implementation;
11. *Urges* Parties and other governments to ensure effective liaison between the national focal points of CMS and those of CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, as well as the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, with a view to reflecting the respective priorities of, and aligning their efforts under, the various agreements related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and NBSAPs;
12. *Calls on* Parties and other governments and relevant stakeholders to promote the importance of ecological connectivity and functionality, international cooperation and the conservation of migratory species including the role of CMS in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to support efforts to address ecological connectivity and functionality in other relevant international processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 along with necessary resource mobilization to achieve these objectives;
13. *Decides* to transmit this Declaration to the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the United Nations High Level Summit on Biodiversity (September 2020, New York) and the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, UK).