UN environment programme

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CMS

FIFTH MEETING OF THE FLYWAYS WORKING GROUP

(Online, 27 May 2025)

UNEP/CMS/FWG5/Doc.6

DRAFT REVISED FLYWAYS RESOLUTION

(Prepared by the Government of Australia and the CMS Secretariat)

Summary:

The annexes of this document have been prepared by the Representative of the Government of Australia as Chair of the Flyways Working Group's (FWG) sub-group on the new Flyways Programme of Work. They contain proposals for a revision of the Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*, and new draft Decisions for consideration by the FWG, with a view to their potential submission to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS.

DRAFT REVISED FLYWAYS RESOLUTION

1. The annexes of the present document have been prepared by the Representative of the Government of Australia as Chair of the Flyways Working Group's (FWG) sub-group on the new Flyways Programme of Work. They were prepared following the discussion and guidance received from the FWG at its fourth meeting, held on 18 February 2025.

2. Annex 1 contains proposed amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*, and Annex 2 contains text of draft Decisions, both for consideration by the FWG, with a view to potential submission of these proposed amendments and new draft Decisions to the Eighth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC8) and the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP15).

3. The proposed amendments to the Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways* contained in Annex 1 consist in some substantive suggested additions and deletions, and shifts of several paragraphs within the text to improve the structure. The suggested changes are shown as underlined and crossed-out text, respectively.

4. As a basis for discussion, similarly, the text of draft Decisions is currently shown as underlined and crossed-out text, to indicate changes to the current existing Decisions 14.137 to 14.142.

5. Depending on the agreement on the proposed amendments of the FWG at its fifth meeting, for submission to ScC-SC8 and COP15, it is foreseen to produce a table displaying the current version of Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14), the proposed amendments to this resolution and the clean text of the proposed amended resolution, to ensure readability and transparency. Final submission of new Draft Decisions will be prepared and displayed as clean text, accompanied by a proposal for the deletion of the previous COP14 Decisions, as per the procedures for COP document preparation.

Recommended actions

6. The Flyways Working Group is recommended to:

   a) review the proposed amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways* as contained in Annex 1 of this document;

   b) review the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 2 of this document;

   c) agree regarding endorsement of the proposed amendments of the resolution and of the draft Decisions, and advise on next steps for the production of versions of these annexes containing the agreed amendments and decisions for submission to ScC-SC8 and COP15.

ANNEX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 12.11 (Rev.COP14)

FLYWAYS

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

~~*Recalling* Recommendation 7.7 *America Pacific Flyway Programme*, Resolution 10.10 *Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements*, and Resolution 11.14 *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*[1] relating to flyways,~~

Recognizing a flyway is a flight path used by large numbers of birds, including landbirds, raptors, waterbirds and seabirds, while migrating between their breeding grounds and their non-breeding areas, generally spanning continents and often passing over oceans,

Recognizing that flyways are to be considered as ecological networks, since although there may be no direct physical links between their component parts, the populations of migratory birds using them provide an ecological link themselves, as recognized in Resolution 14.16 *Ecological Connectivity*,

Recognizing that a flyways approach is necessary to ensure adequate conservation of migratory birds throughout their ranges and that any use of migratory birds is sustainable, combining species- and ecosystem-based approaches and promoting international cooperation and coordination among States, the private sector, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), United Nations institutions, non-governmental organizations, local communities and other stakeholders,

~~*Acknowledging* that the very broad and comprehensive mandate of Resolution 10.10[2] *Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements* has been streamlined and focused into a more detailed programme of work (POW), via Resolution 11.14[3] in order to provide Parties and stakeholders with a clear road map with timelines, priorities and indicators for the conservation of flyways and migratory birds,~~

Also recognizing that there are specific threats of particular significance to migratory birds along flyways, as identified in *A Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management CMS Technical Series No. 27*, that continue to have an impact on these species and their habitats including: destruction and degradation of inland wetlands, inter-tidal and associated coastal ~~and inter-tidal~~ habitats (Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*); loss of forests and grasslands; including through agricultural intensification, overgrazing and ~~habitat modification through~~ desertification ~~and overgrazing~~ (Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14) *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)*; inappropriate development of renewable energy ~~turbine development~~ (Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*); ~~collisions with~~ and power lines causing collisions and electrocutions (Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*); illegal and/or unsustainable killing, taking and trade (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*); overfishing and the bycatch of seabirds

[1] All consolidated in Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*
[2] Consolidated as Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*
[3] Consolidated as Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*

(Resolution 6.2, Recommendation 7.2, Resolutions 8.14, 9.18 and 10.14[4]); lead shot and other poisoning (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*); invasive alien species (Resolution 11.28 *Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species*), ~~and~~ avian influenza and other disease (Resolutions 8.27, 9.8 and 10.22 on wildlife disease[5] and Resolution 14.18 *Avian Influenza*); and marine debris (Resolution 11.30 *Management of Marine Debris*[6]),

Recognizing also that climate change is already having an adverse impact on migratory birds and their habitats as reflected in Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) *Climate change and migratory species*,

Recognizing also the vital importance of the Arctic as the location of breeding and moulting areas of the world's major migratory waterbird flyways and that the region is undergoing rapid change driven by climate effects, development of activities of major extractive industries, land and water transportation routes and other threats,

Acknowledging the 2013 Resolution of Cooperation signed between the Secretariats of CMS and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF) of the Arctic Council and tripartite CAFF/CMS/AEWA joint work plan to encourage information sharing to assist in the conservation of migratory species along all the world's flyways and to assist cooperation with non-Arctic countries on these issues, and *welcoming* the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) and its associated ~~2019-2023~~ Work Plan,

Recalling Resolution 11.14[7], which reaffirmed the global open-ended Working Group on Flyways (hereinafter Flyways Working Group) within the framework of the Scientific Council to act as a think-tank on migratory bird flyways and frameworks, with ~~*Recalling further* that the Flyways Working Group was given~~ the task of reviewing scientific and technical issues concerning the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and relevant international instruments, initiatives and processes, as the basis for future CMS policy on flyways,

Noting with appreciation the broad participation and work undertaken by ~~the Scientific Council~~, ~~the Secretariats of~~ the Ramsar Convention and the African – Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity for its establishment of the ASEAN Flyway Network, international NGOs ~~(BirdLife International, Wetlands International)~~, the Americas Waterbird Conservation Council, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), AMBI, the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and international experts as well as a wider consultative group contributing to the work of the Flyways Working Group,

~~*Recalling* that Resolution 10.10[8] requested CMS to work in close partnership with existing flyway organizations and initiatives in the Americas, to develop an overarching conservation Action Plan for migratory birds in the Americas, recognizing especially the established programmes of work and taking into account existing instruments,~~

Taking further note of the ~~2019-2020 workplan of the~~ Americas Flyways Action Plan adopted as a result of the 1st Meeting of the Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) Task Force, which took place in Florianopolis, Brazil in July 2018, and subsequently updated at its second

[4] All consolidated in Resolution 12.22 *Bycatch*
[5] All consolidated in Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP14) *Wildlife Health and Migratory Species*
[6] Consolidated as Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*
[7] Consolidated in Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*
[8] Consolidated as Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*

meeting in December 2024, and *noting* the many ongoing activities in the Americas for the conservation of migratory birds,

Welcoming the progress made by the Government of India, hosting, in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, the 4th meeting of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Range States in May 2023 to establish the institutional framework and a road map to update the CAF Action Plan through Resolution 14.13 *Initiative for Central Asian Flyway*, and to advance the creation of a CMS-CAF Coordinating Unit for this flyway and congratulating India for its National Action Plan on the CAF for migratory birds, and progress in implementing the Action Plan,

~~*Considering* that policies that encourage environmentally-friendly economic growth and development would be highly beneficial for migratory birds, including bird-friendly agricultural practices that also improve local livelihoods, and that these practices should be promoted along all flyways,~~

~~*Acknowledging* the work of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity in collaborating with non-Parties in the ASEAN for the establishment of the ASEAN Flyway Network fostering regional cooperation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wetlands that support them,~~

~~*Acknowledging* the Critical Site Network Tool, an open-access web portal established by Wetlands International and BirdLife International to support conservation decision-making at site, national and international levels, which provides information on migratory waterbird populations and sites critical to both their annual cycle, and for providing resilience to the impacts of climate change,~~

Recognizing the ongoing efforts of various NGOs and regional inter-governmental fora to advance seabird conservation and identify marine flyways, as well as the opportunity to advance the designation of Marine Protected Areas for seabirds and other marine fauna through the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), [*Refer to new Res once finalised*]

Appreciating ~~*Welcoming*~~ World Migratory Bird Day as a joint~~, more unified,~~ global campaign of CMS, AEWA, Environment for the Americas (EFTA) and the ~~East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership~~ (EAAFP~~)~~, under a partnership established during the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, Manila, 2017 (Res. 11.09 (Rev.COP13) World Migratory Bird Day), to strengthen recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation,

~~*Noting with appreciation* the support and guidance provided by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee respectively to the operation of the Flyways Working Group throughout the intersessional periods~~

~~*Taking note of* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022, which includes many goals and targets relevant to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats~~

~~*Taking note of* Resolution 10.18 (Rev.COP12) *Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and other Outcomes from CBD COP10*, which includes guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)~~,

~~*Acknowledging with satisfaction* the extensive monitoring and conservation work by Partners of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) for migratory waterbirds and their habitats, including through the strengthening of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site~~

~~Network and recognizing the development of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2029 with defined Key Result Areas and Indicators to promote actions to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats,~~

~~*Further taking note of* the report of the Global Waterbirds Flyways Workshop to promote exchange of Good Practice and Learning that took place in Seosan (Republic of Korea) on 17-20 October 2011, contained in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.41,~~

~~*Further taking note of* the declaration and outcomes of the Global Flyways Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, April 2018,~~

~~*Noting* the important habitat changes in non-breeding grounds in the Americas, particularly for shorebirds, and the indications of a decrease in numbers for almost all species of shorebirds,~~

~~*Noting* that over 50% of the world's seabird populations are in decline and that urgent coordinated conservation efforts at a global scale are needed, and~~

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

1. *Requests* the continuation of the open-ended Flyways Working Group extending membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions, technical groups and relevant CMS bodies currently absent;

2. *Notes* the Programme of Work for the triennium 2026-2029 to enhance the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along flyways, within and outside protected areas, especially by [addressing/minimising] key threats, and integrating their requirements into land-use and marine policies;

3. *Calls on* Parties to effectively implement the priorities set by the Flyways Working Group in accordance with the circumstances of each Party and *invites* non-Parties and other stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat to strengthen national and local capacity for flyway conservation including, *inter alia*, by developing partnerships with key stakeholders and organizing training courses; translating and disseminating documents, sharing protocols and regulations; transferring technology; protecting, ~~designating~~ and improving management and restoration of critically and internationally important sites; ensuring any use of migratory birds is sustainable, understanding the ecological functionality of flyways through research of migratory birds and their habitats to understand threats and identify effective solutions; strengthening monitoring programmes; and promoting the conservation of migratory birds and ~~ensuring any use of migratory birds is sustainable~~;

4. *Notes* ~~*Agrees* to continue~~ the continuation of the Americas Flyways Task Force, to coordinate the development and implementation of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Americas Flyways Action Plan, developed in full alignment ~~to~~ with the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), CMS instruments such as the Memorandum of Understanding for High Andean Flamingos, Ruddy Headed Goose and Southern South American Grassland Birds and to report to meetings of the Scientific Council ~~Conference of the Parties from COP15 onwards~~;

5. ~~*Urges* Parties and Signatories to CMS avian instruments, and *encourages* non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders to implement the Action Plan for the Americas Flyways and support efforts of the Americas Flyways Task Force to coordinate its implementation;~~

6. *Welcomes* progress in the African-Eurasian Flyway to address threats and develop transboundary solutions for the conservation of migratory birds through CMS instruments such as AEWA, the Memoranda of Understanding for Aquatic Warbler, Birds of Prey (Raptors), Middle-European Great Bustard and the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan;

7. *Further w~~W~~elcomes* the commitment by the Government of India to provide resources and further efforts ~~by the Government of India~~ to continue the collaborative process, in close consultation with the Central Asian Flyway (CAF**)** Range States and with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to establish the Central Asian Flyway Initiative ~~develop~~ under the CMS as an institutional framework, with a coordinating unit ~~the Secretariat~~ provided by the CMS Secretariat and ~~along with a coordinating office~~ hosted by the Government of India, to support the implementation of increased conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the CAF, as well as to support this initiative with resources, in coordination with the existing CMS avian-related instruments;

8. ~~*Further welcomes* the commitment by the Government of India to provide resources for this process including the establishment of the institutional framework, and the provision of a coordinating unit in India, under the umbrella of the CMS Secretariat in Bonn;~~

9. *Urges* Parties and non-Parties of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway to explore the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing a permanent flyway instrument for migratory birds, potentially under CMS auspices, in coordination with existing CMS avian-related instruments such as the MOU for Birds of Prey (Raptors) and Siberian Crane;

10. *Requests* ~~*Encourages*~~ the Secretariat, Parties and all others involved with CMS, actively to foster closer synergies, cooperation and coordination among ~~to liaise with the~~ secretariats of CMS instruments, relevant MEAs and processes within and beyond the United Nations, international organizations, international conservation initiatives, NGOs, partnerships, ~~and~~ the private sector including bodies whose prime objective is not wildlife conservation (including governmental institutions), for example by the organization of back-to-back meetings and joint activities;

11. ~~*Calls upon* Parties and the CMS Secretariat to promote to promote synergies and coordinate activities related to the conservation of flyways and migratory birds including, where appropriate, the organization of back-to-back meetings and joint activities;~~

12. ~~*Requests* the Secretariat, Parties and all others involved with CMS, to seek actively closer cooperation among those instruments, initiatives and partnerships, within and outside the United Nations, relating to migratory birds and the habitats upon which they depend, and as a priority to focus on and address specific threats to halt the decline in the populations of these birds;~~

13. ~~the collaborative conservation of migratory birds by working with other bodies whose prime objective is not wildlife conservation (governmental institutions, MEAs, UN institutions, non-governmental organizations and other organizations, including from the private sector), to ensure that the requirements of habitats of migratory birds are integrated into land-use and marine policies, including protected areas but also especially outside protected areas;~~

14. *Urges* Parties, *invites* Range States and *calls upon* other partners and stakeholders, including the private sector, through formal designations and Other Effective area-based Conservation ~~voluntary~~ M~~m~~easures (OECMS) as appropriate, and effective

management and restoration, to afford high priority to secure ecological connectivity through the conservation of sites and habitats identified as being of importance to migratory birds ~~(based on sound scientific information)~~ expanding and strengthening existing flyway site networks (including *inter alia* the East Asian- Australasian Flyway Site Network, Raptors MOU Site Network ~~(Table 3)~~, African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement Site Network, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, West/Central Asian Site Network, Emerald Network, Ramsar Sites and World Heritage Sites, Special Protection Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, BirdLife International's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas), ~~and to carry out work to determine how best to manage landscapes and seascapes, including the designation of protected trans-boundary habitat corridors and ecological networks with suitable and sufficient habitat in which to breed, forage and rest; and, to this end~~,

15. *Further requests ~~urges~~* Parties to ~~make active use of the information and analytical modules offered by the African-Eurasian Bird Migration Atlas, the Critical Site Network Tool and other tools, to~~ better understand the role of existing networks of protected areas at the species/population flyway scale and to contribute to identifying gaps in these networks, ~~both within the African-Eurasian Flyway and other~~ flyways, so that appropriate conservation action can be taken for these sites to ensure the coherence of the flyway site networks to include all important

16. ~~*Requests* Parties to ensure that known key migratory stop-over sites are all protected and managed and additional sites identified to form part of coherent site networks for migratory species and to continue to support the development of flyway-scale site networks, especially where they are least developed, to include the widest possible range of available~~ habitat for migratory birds, giving particular attention to tidal flats and associated coastal habitats (see Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*) as well as marine ecosystems;

17. *Urges* Parties to foster trans-boundary and trans-national collaboration within flyway networks to address threats to migratory birds and to implement existing site management plans and develop new ones, where needed, at key sites; ~~supporting the development of a Global Critical Site Network Tool modelled on the redeveloped Critical Site Network Tool for the African-Eurasian flyways launched in 2018 to support the implementation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;~~

18. *Recommends* that Parties enhance and strengthen monitoring of migratory bird populations and the important sites upon which they rely (including surveying new sites to fill information gaps), and to increase capacity for and sustainability of such monitoring in the long term, where appropriate ~~by institutionalizing it as an ongoing activity within government, in partnership with other organizations, including through provision of support initiatives such as the Global Waterbird Fund (established in response to the invitation of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention and managed by Wetlands International)~~ in order to maintain ~~present to key stakeholders with~~ up-to-date information on the distribution, status and trends of migratory birds and the sites and habitats that they need;

19. *Requests* Parties to support enhanced understanding of patterns of bird migration including through analyses of existing datasets on individual bird movements and ~~to~~ support for the development and use of new tools and techniques, including geo-locators, radio and satellite tracking, remote sensing, and genetic and connectivity analyses, in order to help identify migration strategies, and important sites and routes whether of regular or occasional importance, covering the entire life cycle of species and

to compile and analyse multi-species datasets to understand the relative importance and the geographical distribution of threats;

20. *Invites* Parties to implement Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) on climate change and continue taking action to mitigate the impacts of climate change on migratory bird species, including addressing immediate threats that might reduce adaptive potential, ensuring adequate environmental safeguards for renewable energy projects, monitoring the ~~status~~ impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on migratory birds and their habitats (Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*), developing indicators to identify the effects of climate change, promoting adaptive management, seeking new partnerships with other international bodies and considering how to assist species to adapt to climate change (e.g. through securing critical site networks);

21. ~~*Requests* Parties to review the coverage and protection status of current site networks taking into account any exploitation and degradation of sites, and to consider the resilience of sites to climate change, taking account of the potential for shifts in the range of species due to climate change, as well as other factors~~;

22. ~~*Requests* the Scientific Council to produce guidelines and/or case studies on mechanisms to enhance the conservation of migratory birds through site networks, including important oceanic ecosystems used by marine bird species~~;

23. ~~*Requests* the Secretariat to strengthen links with the Secretariat of the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), in the framework of the existing Resolution of Cooperation, especially to ensure that the CAFF Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) has maximum synergies with the priorities defined by the Flyways Working Group to capitalize on the flyway approach in gaining global support for the conservation of the arctic environment~~;

24. *Encourages* Parties to promote the conservation and management priorities defined by the Flyways Working Group as global tools to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in relation to the conservation of migratory ~~species~~ birds and their habitats and to ensure a strong level of support for its implementation by working closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity and developing NBSAPs that include migratory birds;

25. *Requests* Parties, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector and others to provide financial assistance for the implementation of this Resolution including to developing countries for relevant capacity-building and conservation action;

26. *Notes* that the following recommendations and resolutions were repealed by previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties*:*

    a) Recommendation 7.7, *America Pacific Flyway Programme*
    b) Resolution 10.10, *Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements*, and
    c) Resolution 11.14, *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*.

27. ~~*Calls upon* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, to strengthen cooperation with the Arctic Council and other bodies focused on the Arctic in order to improve understanding of the ongoing and predicted~~

changes to the environment and impacts on breeding and moulting distributions of species, and to ensure designation and management of all critically important areas;

28. *Calls on* Parties to ensure that the priorities of the Flyways Working Group are in line with the CMS SPMS and are aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as a contribution for the 2050 vision for biodiversity; and

29. *Calls upon* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to promote development and inclusion of flyway considerations into their operational guidance, to take up stewardship of areas directly linked to or associated with their footprint and beyond, to consider compensation for residual impacts along flyways, to strive for Net Positive Impact, and to be pro-active in using international best practice;

30. *Requests* Parties, GEF, the United Nations and other international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector and others to provide financial assistance to developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and NGO partners for the implementation of this Resolution;

DRAFT DECISIONS

FLYWAYS

Directed to Parties

15.AA Parties:

a) are requested to review the actions in the Flyways Working Group Programme of Work 2026-2029 and address those actions that lack implementation, where appropriate;

b) are urged to support meetings of the Flyways Working Group and the appointment of its Coordinator for the triennium 2026-2029;

c) are requested to ~~review~~ address current and emerging threats to migratory birds and their habitats, including both direct threats and threats to habitats, and review the coverage and protection status of ~~current~~ site networks taking into account any damage ~~exploitation~~ and degradation of sites, and to consider the resilience of sites to climate change, taking account of the potential for shifts in the range of species due to climate change, as well as other factors;

d) are urged to support all relevant CMS avian-related instruments, in particular meetings, implementing actions plans and CMS Secretariat support;

~~e) are urged to support the Americas Flyway Task Force's work, in particular the Task Force's meetings and the review and/or update of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan for the Americas;~~

f) are urged to report progress in National Reports in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*, including monitoring the efficacy of measures taken, to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16).

~~***Directed to the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway***~~

~~15.BB Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) are requested to:~~

~~a) collaborate with the Government of India and the Secretariats of CMS and AEWA during the intersessional period between the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) and COP15 to further advance the outcomes of the 4th meeting of CAF Range States (New Delhi, 2023), namely by supporting the creation of a CAF Secretariat/Coordination Unit, under the umbrella of CMS and in cooperation with the Government of India, helping to elaborate a Programme of Work for this flyway, and contributing financially to this process;~~

~~b) support Parties in the implementation of conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the region, including by promoting research, studies, assessments, capacity-building and conservation initiatives, thereby further strengthening the implementation of CMS and its avian-related instruments;~~

~~c) update the CMS Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats, to include all migratory bird species, and consider supporting the process with resources, as applicable.~~

Directed to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, others

15.CC Non-Parties, organizations, the private sector, international financial institutions, donors and other stakeholders are invited to support the Flyways Working Group, and to jointly cooperate in the implementation of its strategic priorities.

~~***Directed to non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders in the Americas***~~

~~15.DD Non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders in the Americas are invited to actively engage in the review and update of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan for the Americas.~~

Directed to the Flyways Working Group

15.EE The Flyways Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:

a) act as a platform that ensures the exchange of best practices and the identification of global synergies and gaps across the different flyway-related initiatives, either developed within the framework of the CMS or outside, in aligment with the priorities identified in the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and with those of other relevant MEAs working in the areas linked to migratory bird conservation, their habitats or threats associated with them;

b) review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes linked to migratory birds, their habitats and the threats associated with them;

c) with support from the Scientific Council, produce guidelines and/or case studies on mechanisms to enhance the conservation of migratory birds <u>by addressing threats, promoting ecological connectivity and improving protected area management</u> ~~through site networks~~;

~~d) with support from the Secretariat, develop a monitoring tool to provide Parties with an objective, fact-based national self-assessment of the current status of flyways at national level, and enable Parties to measure their progress in implementing their flyways-related commitments;~~

e) help to ensure the coordination between various CMS Working Groups and Task Forces on flyway-related actions and priorities, and enhance synergies in their implementation;

f) with support from the Secretariat, develop guidance to help Parties raise awareness of the importance of migratory flyways and the ecosystem services they provide;

g) report progress to the Scientific Council.

~~***Directed to the Americas Flyways Task Force***~~

~~15.FF The Americas Flyways Task Force shall, subject to the availability of external resources:~~

~~a) review and update the Americas Flyways Framework, and the Action Plan for the Americas in line with the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and aligned with those of other relevant MEAs working in the areas linked to migratory bird conservation, their habitats or threats associated with them;~~

~~b) facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan for the Americas.~~

Directed to the Secretariat

15.GG The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

a) organize sub-regional meetings aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learned on flyway-scale conservation, awareness-raising, and on the development of adequate institutional frameworks to protect them;

b) support the work of the Flyways Working Group, in particular by organizing its meetings, ~~aiding the development of a monitoring tool to provide Parties with an objective, fact-based national self-assessment of the current status of flyways at national level,~~ and helping to raise awareness of flyways conservation;

~~c) support the Americas Flyway Task Force work, in particular by organizing the Task Force's meetings and helping to update the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan for the Americas;~~

~~d) strengthen links with the Secretariat of the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), in the framework of the existing Resolution of Cooperation, especially to ensure that the CAFF Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) has maximum synergies with the priorities defined by the Flyways Working Group to capitalize on the flyway approach in gaining global support for the conservation of the arctic environment.~~