

Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group | *Online, 13-15 December 2021*

REPORT OF THE CMS SECRETARIAT

Prepared by the CMS Secretariat

Introduction

1. The report of the CMS Secretariat to the 4th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MOU (TAG4) provides a summary of key avian-related activities and concerns as well as overarching strategic and technical policy developments under the Convention with relevance to the Raptors MOU since the last TAG meeting (TAG3, December 2018). Key documents include the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13), held in Gandhinagar, India in February 2020.

2. Main issues relevant to the Raptors MOU over the period since TAG3 pertain to resolutions 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, and overarching and cross-cutting issues such as connectivity, climate change and World Migratory Bird Day. In addition, several overarching developments of relevance under CMS are highlighted.

Overarching strategic, institutional and scientific matters and decisions

3. Through [CMS/Resolution 11.6 \(Rev.COP12\)](#), COP adopted two definitions for decisions, “Resolutions” and “Decisions” (cf. the resolution and TAG3 report for details of definitions).

CMS/Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12); Decisions 13.4 – 13.5 - *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*

4. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS) focuses on the conservation of migratory animals (populations, species or lower taxonomic levels, as the context requires), rather than on the Convention itself. This approach shifted the focus from the institution to the issue, thereby broadening relevance and ownership among the CMS Family of instruments and beyond. It is also consistent with a coordinated and coherent approach to migratory species conservation among CMS and its daughter agreements.

5. [CMS/Resolution 11.2 \(Rev.COP12\)](#) *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023* urges the CMS Family of instruments to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, and also to take action to raise awareness of the Plan. It encourages the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments to identify existing or develop new sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments and organizations that support the achievement of the targets in the SPMS, and to inform the CMS Secretariat of such sub-targets.

6. Through [Decisions 13.4 to 13.5](#) - *Options for a Follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*, COP tasked the Secretariat inter alia to a) undertake an analysis of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework once adopted regarding its relevance for the mandates of CMS and identifying aspects in which the CMS Family could play a role; b) compile information on approaches adopted by other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in defining strategic objectives and strategic planning and in considering the implications for them of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; c) compile information on lessons learned from experience in implementing, monitoring and assessing previous strategic plans and, in particular, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

CMS/Resolution 12.6 - *Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species*

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has focused attention on wildlife diseases and the risks they pose to human health. It has also raised awareness about the linkages between the increased frequency of emerging infectious diseases in wildlife and their spill over to humans, and exploitation of wildlife and habitat destruction and fragmentation.

8. [CMS/Resolution 12.6](#) Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species recognizes CMS and its Scientific Council's role in providing practical measures, recommendations and guidance on the nature and extent of risks associated with diseases and migratory species. With a view to fulfilling this role, CMS has led the establishment of a number of institutional and technical mechanisms:

- the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health;
- the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds,
- the Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases established within the Scientific Council.

9. Other processes, including the One Health effort of the WHO, FAO and OIE, are broadening their scope to include a new emphasis on the intersection of wildlife and human health. UNEP joined the One Health initiative in 2020 and is helping to steer additional attention to the impact of human activities on wildlife and nature, and the resulting risks to human health. A recent significant development in this regard has been the creation of a One Health High-Level Expert Council involving all four agencies and other key international experts on human, animal, environment and social sciences. The Council is tasked to collect, distribute and publicize reliable scientific information on the links between human, animal and environmental health in order to assist public officials make appropriate decisions to address future crises and to inform citizens. However, attention to the particular issues relevant to migratory species is needed.

10. The Fifth meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council ([ScC-SC5](#)), held online from 28 June to 9 July 2021, discussed the matter based on Document [UNEP/SCM/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.4.1](#). The meeting developed Terms of Reference of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health ([UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 11](#)), and Terms of Reference for a Review of Migration and Wildlife Disease Dynamics and the Health of Migratory Species (outcome document under finalization; draft in-session version available [here](#)).

CMS/Resolution 12.21; Decisions 13.126 -13.128 - *Climate Change and Migratory Species*

11. [CMS/Resolution 12.21](#) reaffirms the *Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species* and urges Parties and Signatories to CMS instruments and encourages non-Parties to put in place, as appropriate, legislative, administrative, management or other measures necessary to implement the actions, including considering the incorporation of such measures in national climate change strategies and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as a matter of priority. Related to Article I (1) (c) (4) of the Convention, on the definition of "favourable conservation

status”, it has been approved that conservation action beyond the historic range of species is compatible with, and may be required in order to meet the objectives and the obligations of Parties under the Convention with a view to climate-induced range shifts.

12. As requested through [Decision 13.128](#), the Fifth meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council ([ScC-SC5](#)), held online from 28 June to 9 July 2021, discussed the matter based on Document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.4.5](#), which provides information about how species range may be altered as a result of climate change and includes a decision tree to aid Parties identify what action they might wish to undertake as a result.

CMS/Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13); Decisions 13.113 - 13.115 - *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*

13. [CMS/Resolution 12.26 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species* aims at intensifying efforts to address threats to connectivity. It emphasizes the importance of sharing information on connectivity and maintaining large-scale databases in the long run. Through this resolution, COP urges Parties to give special attention to connectivity when planning, implementing and evaluating actions to support the conservation and management of migratory species, both at national level and in the context of international cooperation, by an approach towards whole migration systems and processes, which *inter alia* includes prioritization of protected areas, strengthening and expanding ecological networks and addressing threats to connectivity. The revised resolution strengthens information sharing processes, use of existing guidelines such as those of the IUCN, and the application of tracking technologies for monitoring species’ migration.

14. Since 2017, many of the activities have been related to the Secretariat’s engagement in the process to develop a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which are reported on in document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.17](#). In addition, the CMS Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Council and the Standing Committee, and in cooperation with the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), submitted a request on behalf of the CMS Family for an assessment on connectivity to be undertaken in the context of the second work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform (IPBES) up to 2030. The proposed assessment aimed at addressing various aspects of Resolution 12.26 and Decision 12.92 with regard to migratory species connectivity. Further details can be found in document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18.1](#).

15. The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019) has provided some evidence of the interlinkages between connectivity, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The CMS Secretariat prepared a summary of its findings in relation to key connectivity issues (see [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.17](#)).

16. The Secretariat also worked with partners in the preparation of a proposal for a motion to be considered at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseilles, France; held from 3 to 11 September 2021), which calls for the integration of connectivity conservation and international cooperation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The motion was submitted by BirdLife International with the support of a large array of BirdLife partners and other organizations as well as the Swiss Government. The Secretariat also collaborated in submitting proposals for a side event around the theme of connectivity.

17. The CMS Secretariat convened a first informal meeting on connectivity on 17 May 2019 in Bonn, together with the Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force of the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) of the IUCN. The meeting involved experts including representatives of the Working Group on the CMS Family’s contributions to the post-2020 framework and the Secretariat of the

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. As a follow-up to the meeting, the Secretariat prepared two fact sheets on connectivity and the post-2020 framework, which are available on the website¹.

18. A second informal meeting on connectivity was held on 11 November 2019 in Bonn, in cooperation with the Beyond the Aichi Target Task Force of the IUCN WCPA, with the participation of the IUCN Connectivity Specialist Group, other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, and other relevant organizations. The meeting refined the concept and terminology of connectivity, considered options for reflecting connectivity in the post-2020 framework, and built momentum for addressing connectivity in other relevant fora and platforms, such as IPBES, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Although the CMS Secretariat was not able to fully implement Decision 12.93 paragraph b) on country-level support, it provided guidance in response to requests from Parties and has been considering ways to advance such support. The second informal meeting on connectivity gave special attention to country-level support.

19. The CMS Secretariat has been actively participating in the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held online from 3 May to 13 June 2021, and other relevant meetings to identify and raise attention to CMS priorities. The Secretariat analysed Document [SBSTTA-24/3/Add.1](#) which proposes indicators and a monitoring approach; [SBSTTA-24/3/Add.2](#) which provides scientific and technical information to support the review of the proposed goals and targets; [Document SBSTTA-24/3](#) which contains a draft decision for COP15, and terms of reference of a technical expert group to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. To address the lack of adequate indicators in the proposed monitoring framework for ecological connectivity, the Secretariat organized a workshop on 23 March 2021 along with further informal exchanges of ideas among Parties, partners and experts including Scientific Council members. On 20 April 2021, the Secretariat also convened the Third Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on CMS Family inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which comprises representatives of governments and organizations and CMS Councillors. These meetings provided inputs and recommendations which were reflected in submissions to SBSTTA-24 as well as in documents which were disseminated to CMS Parties focal points aiming at supporting them in the consultations with their CBD counterparts and in the deliberations at SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3. The document "*Ecological Connectivity Indicators for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*" was circulated to CMS Parties and submitted to SBSTTA on 3 May. Other indicators of relevance to CMS include those related to Target 4, on the harvesting, trade and use of wild species of fauna and flora. The Secretariat also drew attention of the CMS Family Working Group to areas of possible improvement for such indicators.

20. At the [ScC-SC5](#) meeting (see above), Terms of Reference for the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity were adopted.

CMS/Resolution 12.27 - Taxonomy and Nomenclature

21. An analysis for the adaptation of the CMS Appendices according to the new bird reference adopted and of the rules outlined in Resolution 12.27 has been undertaken, under the lead of Professor Stephen Garnett, COP-appointed Councillor for Birds. The analysis reviewed which species were in each family and assessed which of them meet the CMS criteria for migration. Document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.27.3](#) Disaggregation of Bird Families and Genera listed under Appendix II

¹ www.cms.int/en/publication/fact-sheet-connectivity-and-post-2020-biodiversityframework-introduction
www.cms.int/en/publication/fact-sheet-connectivity-and-post2020-biodiversity-framework-elements-new-goals-and-targets

presented options and potential advantages and disadvantages of the disaggregation of bird families listed in Appendix II.

22. COP13 accepted the offer of the Scientific Council to work during the intersessional period and to provide advice to COP14 on the advantages and disadvantages of the various ways of treating the species currently aggregated under families or genera under CMS Appendix II. The ScC-SC5 meeting established an Intersessional Working Group on the Disaggregation of higher Taxa listed on Appendix II to further investigate the issue and provide guidance, and adopted related [Terms of Reference](#).

CMS/Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP13) - Concerted Actions

23. Based on Document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1](#), COP13 endorsed the approach for reviewing Concerted Actions proposed by the Sessional Committee, including the direction to the Secretariat to revise the table in Annex 3 of Resolution 12.28, which listed the species subject to Concerted Actions. The COP further adopted an amendment to the format for listing species designated for Concerted Actions.

24. Based on Document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.9](#), and its [Annex](#), the ScC-SC5 meeting discussed an analysis of [CMS/Resolution 12.28 \(Rev.COP13\) Concerted Actions](#), and made proposals for its revision. The analysis aims at identifying those aspects that appear not to have been fully implemented, and those for which the practice has not been fully in line with the letter of the Resolution.

25. The proposal for the revision of Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP13) was submitted in Document [UNEP/CMS/StC52/Doc.12](#) to the 52nd meeting of the CMS Standing Committee ([StC52](#)), held online from 21 to 29 September 2021 for consideration and possible revision. StC52 developed a draft revision of this resolution (outcome document under preparation).

CMS/Resolution 13.7 - Guidelines for Preparing and Assessing Proposals for the Amendment of CMS Appendices

Decision 13.140 - Definition of the Terms "Range State" and "Vagrant"

26. [CMS/Resolution 13.7 Guidelines for Preparing and Assessing Proposals for the Amendment of CMS Appendices](#) consolidates and repeals CMS/Resolution 3.1 (Rev.COP12) Listing of Species in the Appendices of the Convention, and CMS/Resolution 11.33 (Rev.COP12) Guidelines for Assessing Listing Proposals to Appendices I and II of the Convention. In accordance with the best scientific evidence and the precautionary approach, CMS/Resolution 13.7 decides on the interpretation of the Text of the Convention, in order to assess listing proposals in Appendix I and II. Its annexes contain the Guidelines for Assessment of Appendix I and II Listing Proposals, which clarify the use of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria in order to assess proposals to list migratory species in CMS Appendices I and II; and the Format for Proposals to amend CMS Appendices. The Guidelines also elucidate the process for removing a species from the Appendices.

27. Through [Decision 13.140](#), COP requests the CMS Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, to develop, as practical guidance for CMS Parties, interpretations for when the terms "Range State" and "vagrant" apply. To address this task, the [ScC-SC5](#) meeting established an intersessional working group, and developed and adopted its [Terms of Reference](#).

Decisions 13.14 to 13.15 – National Reports

28. In line with [Decision 13.14](#), the Secretariat developed a proposal for a revision of the format for the CMS National Reports to be submitted to CMS COP14. The proposal was submitted in Document [UNEP/CMS/StC52/Doc.11](#) to the StC52 meeting. The Standing Committee reviewed the proposal, and

produced and endorsed a revised format for the National Reports (in-session version [CMS/StC52/CRP 11](#); outcome document under finalization).

Decisions 13.16 to 13.19 - *Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species*

29. In the context of Article III of the Convention regarding international trade in Appendix I-listed Species, through [Decisions 13.16 to 13.19](#), COP13 requested the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, to develop a list of species included in Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are also on the CITES Appendices. This list should take into account possible differences in nomenclature used in the two Conventions. The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, with the support of the Scientific Council develop criteria, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, to determine the scope and feasibility of assessing the impact of international trade in Appendix I species on their conservation status; and assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species, including international trade regulated by CITES. Parties are requested to share information in this context with their respective CITES Management and Scientific Authorities to facilitate discussion on any particular species issues, and inform the Secretariat, within the National Legislation Programme, about any need for support with the review and/or the development of legislation regarding the implementation of Article III.

Decisions 13.24 to 13.26 - *Conservation Status of Migratory Species*

30. Through [Decision 13.24](#), COP13 requested the Secretariat to further develop the preliminary review of the conservation status of migratory species submitted to COP13, and provided guidance towards its further development, including the initiation of an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, and undertaking an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of species listed on Appendix I. Through [Decision 13.26](#) the Scientific Council was requested to provide guidance to the Secretariat, and formulate recommendations to COP14 on conservation actions underpinned by the reports thus produced.

31. To implement decisions 13.24 and 13.17 Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species (see above) resources could be raised, though not sufficient to fully deliver all the expected outputs. In particular, resources have been provided by the Government of Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), the Government of Switzerland (Federal Office for the Environment FOEN), and by the Government of the United Kingdom (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA). Thanks to the above-mentioned contributions, the Secretariat has been able to establish an agreement with the UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to assist with undertaking the activities foreseen in Decision 13.24 (a) - (c) and 13.17. As an initial step, the CMS Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC have been working towards the development of a framework, criteria and methodologies to undertake the activities. Three draft documents were submitted to the [ScC-SC5](#) and reviewed by the meeting: a) A proposed framework for a review of the conservation status of migratory species that can serve as a basis for the compilation of the report for COP14; b) A template for a set of case studies providing an in-depth assessment of Appendix I species; c) A proposed methodology for a rapid assessment of Appendix I taxa to provide further insights on (i) the impact of direct use and trade on the conservation status of Appendix I-listed taxa, and (ii) possible implications on eligibility for inclusion in Appendix I (cf. [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.5/Rev.1](#) and its annexes).

32. An in-session contact group of ScC-SC5 discussed the document and provided guidance outlined in its [report to the plenary](#). Further details will be provided in the meeting report (under finalization at the time of writing).

Avian-related Resolutions and Decisions

CMS/Resolution 11.9 (Rev.COP13) - *World Migratory Bird Day*

33. Through [CMS/Resolution 11.9 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) *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, with the most recent one under the slogan "[Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!](#)" on 8 and 9 October 2021, in a bid to strengthen recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation.

CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13); Decisions 13.39-12.40 - *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*

34. As requested by the Raptors MOU TAG3 meeting, the Secretariat sent a reminder on the letter on the use of veterinary diclofenac to the European Commission, DG SANTE. A response was received from the Commission and forwarded to the Coordinating Unit and the TAG. The Commission stated in the letter that there was no indication or evidence that the risk mitigation measures implemented by national competent authorities would be inadequate to contain the risk effectively; and that the Commission would continue to follow this issue closely and take appropriate and swift action should it be deemed necessary.

35. Through [CMS/Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*, COP13 reaffirmed the adoption of the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) and proposed the continuation of the open-ended [Preventing Poisoning Working Group \(PPWG\)](#) until COP13. As instructed through the same Resolution, the Secretariat has supported the development of the [Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights](#). They were adopted by the Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting.

36. Furthermore, the Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU have supported activities in cooperation with partners, particularly the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), to address the catastrophic poisoning of Hooded Vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) which happened in Guinea Bissau in March 2020, including contributing to a concept of a consortium of partner organizations (VCF, BirdLife International, IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group) for a capacity-building mission by veterinaries and vulture experts to Guinea-Bissau. The Secretariat sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Guinea Bissau, offering support to the country and seeking endorsement of the proposed mission by the authorities.

37. The Secretariat also included a proposed budget for supporting the coordination of the Multi-Species Action Plan on African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) in a concept note on Protecting vulnerable communities and migratory species in West Africa against zoonotic diseases through building connected landscapes and habitats, submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI), responding to the IKI thematic call on Pandemic preparedness: natural protective barriers between humans and animals by expanding, linking and improving protected areas. Unfortunately, IKI declined the application in October 2021.

38. The Secretariat has been supporting an ad-hoc CMS Expert Group for the Evaluation of Exposure of European Union Birds to Lead Fishing Weights and Lead Ammunition in Terrestrial Environments, established thanks to the voluntary work of several members of the PPWG. The Group

responded to a call of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), providing an evaluation of likelihood and frequency of ingestion of lead ammunition in terrestrial environments and lead fishing weights by European Union bird species, and numbers of birds at risk, and the Secretariat submitted the findings to ECHA.

39. In September 2021, the Secretariat submitted comments prepared in consultation with the ad-hoc expert group on the [ECHA Annex XV restriction report](#) on lead in outdoor shooting and fishing. The restriction proposal, if adopted as presented, would be a significant contribution to the aims of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights.

CMS/Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13); Decisions 13.27-13.31 - *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*

40. The [third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force to address illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the Mediterranean \(MIKT\)](#) (and 2nd Joint Meeting of the MIKT and Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (SFPs)) took place in Rome in May 2019. At this meeting, the members and observers agreed on a joint strategic approach of CMS MIKT and Bern Convention to address IKB in the post-2020 period, and elaborated a draft for a strategic framework, which later led to the adoption of the [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 on Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#). The overarching long-term goal of the Rome Strategic Plan is the eradication of IKB within the geographic scope of the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT. The goal of the plan for 2030 is a 50% reduction of the scale and scope of IKB compared to the 2020 baseline. The final version of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 was adopted as the common strategic framework for CMS MIKT and Bern Convention Countries by the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019, and by the CMS MIKT in June 2020 via electronic consultations.

41. A report on the MIKT work was presented at CMS COP13 in Document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1](#), and a [side event](#) was held on Wednesday, 19 February 2020. COP13 adopted the [Decisions 13.27-13.31](#), addressed to Parties, IGOs, NGOs, other stakeholders and the Secretariat in aspects related to the implementation of the MIKT Programme of Work 2016-2020, the [Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds \(IKB\)](#) and the Rome Strategic Plan.

42. Based on the provisions of [CMS/Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\) Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#), MIKT has continued its activities. The new Coordinator of the MIKT, Ms Foteini (Clairie) Papazoglou, entered on duty on 14 December 2020 and is home-based in Cyprus.

43. As of October 2021, the membership of MIKT consisted of 22 CMS Contracting Parties; three Interested Parties and one Non-Party; twelve multilateral environmental agreements (represented by their Secretariats), organizations and networks, and nine international NGOs are observers to MIKT. A list of all members and observers is available on the [CMS MIKT website](#).

44. In line with Decision 13.27, which encourages Parties to “*periodically use the Scoreboard in Annex 1 of Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing the illegal killing of wild birds the Scoreboard on IKB*”, the Secretariat supported the completion of the second Scoreboard which ran from July to November 2020. The Scoreboard is addressed to 54 countries (i.e. Mediterranean and Bern Convention countries beyond the Mediterranean). The first Scoreboard completion had run in 2018, and was completed by 30 countries; the second one by a total of 24 countries. In 2020, the CMS Online Reporting Tool was used for the Scoreboard, available in English, French and Spanish. The information received was analysed by a contractor of the Bern Convention Secretariat, presented at the Bern Convention 40th Standing Committee meeting in

December 2020, and as [an updated analysis](#) to the Third Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of SFPs on Eradication IKB and CMS MIKT (see below). The updated analysis included the results from countries which submitted their answers to the second Scoreboard after November 2020 as well as the amended overall results. The next round of the Scoreboard is planned to be completed in 2023. Following consultation with countries to obtain permissions, the CMS Secretariat and Bern Convention Secretariats published the Scoreboard results as submitted from 2018 and 2020 on a [public website](#), supporting transparency and best practice transfer.

45. Following the organization of a [successful training workshop](#) on IKB for prosecutors and investigators from member countries in Segovia, Spain, in May 2018, a training package (public version accessible [here](#)) was compiled in English by the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment and the CMS Secretariat, and was translated into French, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Arabic, thanks to the funding from the European Union provided under the Phase I Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) project. The package was disseminated to prosecutors and investigators who participated in the workshop in 2018 and other authorities that expressed interest in 2021, with the aim to of transferring the messages and findings of the workshop to the national level. The package included presentations on the research into the size and extent of the IKB problem, the various motives of offenders, the techniques and equipment used in IKB, the expertise and international assistance available, the EU Wildlife Trade (CITES) Regulations, and case studies of significant prosecutions and investigations into IKB from different countries, mainly from the Mediterranean region.

46. The [fourth Meeting of MIKT](#), and Third Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention SFPs and CMS MIKT, was held online from 9 to 11 June 2021. The meeting aimed at building momentum for the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030. The participants discussed and further developed a draft work plan of MIKT for the period 2021-2025, discussed proposals for future periodic assessments on the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan by using the features of the Scoreboard, and a proposal for a methodology to assess the scale and scope of IKB in each country. Electronic consultations on these items continued after the meeting and final outcomes are under review at the time of writing.

47. The European Union confirmed the approval of a Phase II funding agreement through the GPGC Cooperation Agreements with UNEP for supporting the work of MIKT in the period 2021-2023. The funding would mainly support the coordination of MIKT, the organization of face-to-face meetings and additional activities.

CMS/Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13); Decisions 13.34 – 13.38 - Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)

48. [CMS/Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\) 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. [Decision 13.36](#) expresses the concrete requirements for the continuation and coordination of the [Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds \(AEML WG\)](#), under the CMS Scientific Council.

49. Since 2018, implementation of the AEMLAP has been promoted by various activities of Governments, and partner organizations, *inter alia*:

- A workshop held on 12-13 March 2019 by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative on *Science and Policy to Address Threats to the Afro-Palearctic Migratory Birds: new research and future policy*;
- A workshop, hosted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), UK, on 14-15 March 2019, titled *Developing a package of fundable projects that would enhance the conservation of the European migratory landbirds in Africa*;
- Bird monitoring training sessions in Western African UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (initially in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria) through the 'AfriBiRds' project led by NABU (BirdLife Partner in Germany) and BirdLife International;
- The project "[Birds, Bees and Business](#)" by Vogelbescherming/BirdLife Netherlands.

50. To implement Decision 12.22 b) and the provisions of operative paragraph 10 of Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12), and support Parties in the implementation of Decisions 12.24 b) and 12.25 a), two meetings were held between the Secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and CMS (22 March and 9 April 2019), discussing ways to address sustainable land use and migratory species conservation in Africa, possible joint activities and a conceptual framework on the integration of biodiversity requirements into the land degradation neutrality (LDN) delivery framework at appropriate scales. Concrete linkages between AEMLAP and LDN have been identified and a concept note for a workshop developed.

51. Implementing Decision 12.22 c), the Secretariat, with support from Professor Stephen Garnett, COP-appointed Councillor, and Dr. Vicky Jones, BirdLife International, updated the species list of AEMLAP according to the standard taxonomic references for birds adopted at COP12, and changes to the IUCN Red List. The new list has been approved through consultations with the Working Group, and the changes have been incorporated into AEMLAP Annex 3, endorsed by COP13.

52. The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) prepared a [Draft Concept for an Assessment of the Status of Principal Bird Habitats in the African-Eurasian Flyways](#) (UNEP/AEWA/TC15.19) and the related draft [terms of reference](#) (UNEP/AEWA/TC15.20) under the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 for a joint CMS Family project with the AEMLAP, the Raptors MOU and the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan on the assessment of the status and development of action plans for priority principal bird habitats in the African-Eurasian flyways. The AEWA Secretariat consulted the CMS Secretariat and the chair of the Landbirds Working Group during the development of the draft concept. It was presented and approved at the 15th meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee (Bonn, April 2019).

53. In response to Decision 12.22, the CMS Secretariat undertook significant and continuous efforts to raise funds for the coordination of AEMLAP, and for the organizing a workshop on sustainable land use and a meeting of the Working Group (including identification of potential donors, preparation of funding proposals and calls, e.g. see CMS [Notification 2019/003](#)). In September 2019, Switzerland pledged funding for implementing AEMLAP-relevant activities and supporting the coordination of AEMLAP implementation and the AEML Working Group.

54. In 2020, a virtual meeting of members of the AEML Steering Group and members of the Board of the Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI) was facilitated by the CMS Secretariat. Options for the way forward of the AEMLAP and the implementation of the AEML Working Group's Programme of Work (POW) were discussed, including the option for a Coordination Unit based at the SOI. The Terms of Reference for the Coordination Unit were prepared and became effective on 01 June 2021. The SOI and the Secretariat are working closely together in the coordination of AEMLAP in line with the ToR.

55. A survey was conducted among AEML Working Group members to understand successes and limitations of its POW 2016-2020, and as a basis to draft a new Programme of Work for the period 2021- 2025.

56. The Secretariat contributed to a project concept of a Birdlife International Consortium for the IKI Country Specific Selection Procedure for South Africa, August 2020, on the topic "Restoring ecosystems in South Africa to capture carbon, enhance people's resilience to climate change and safeguard biodiversity" and included budget proposals for coordination of AEMLAP work. However, the concept was rejected by IKI.

CMS/Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP12) - Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan

57. The Resolution was revised by COP12 to allow reporting to the Meetings of Signatories, to the inter-sessional Meetings of the Scientific Council and to the Conference of the Parties until the Saker Falcon Task Force is eliminated. The completed Secretariat's tasks of conveying the resolution to other multi-lateral environmental agreements have been repealed. There has been no further revision of this Resolution by COP13.

CMS/Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13); Decisions 13.106 - 13.108 - Renewable Energy and Migratory Species;

CMS/Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) - Power Lines and Migratory Birds

58. 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 a number of 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 \(Rev. COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#) and [CMS/Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#). For a detailed list and description of decisions and documents, see reports to the meetings of the COP (Document [UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.6](#); [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.1](#)) and the mentioned Resolutions.

59. Resolution 11.27 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*² instructed the Secretariat to establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force, ETF). The ETF provides a forum for developing and disseminating best practice policy and technical guidance, and engagement of relevant stakeholders, in order to reconcile energy sector developments with the conservation of migratory species. The ETF also covers the issues of power line impacts, as outlined in its terms of reference.

60. As of the time of writing, the ETF's membership comprised 17 national governments (representatives from environment and energy ministries), Secretariats of six multi-lateral environmental agreements, industry umbrella organizations, five bilateral and multilateral organisations incl. financial institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC/World Bank Group) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), three international non-government organizations, and 17 national and international observer organizations. Members, key documents, tools and resources including various case studies are accessible through the [ETF website](#).

61. The Government of Germany provided funding for the coordination and basic functioning of the ETF from 2018 to the end of 2020 under the Migratory Species Champion Programme. A

² Revised by COP12 and COP13.

contractual arrangement with Birdlife International for the coordination of the ETF has been in place until April 2021.

62. Since TAG3, the Secretariat showcased the activities of the ETF at a workshop on Minimizing the Impacts of Power Lines on Birds, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic on 29 May 2019, organized by the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DPT-PAC-PA2 PA 02 Energy), the Government of the Czech Republic and the UN Environment Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).

63. On 1 July 2019, an ad-hoc preparatory virtual meeting of the Task Force was held. The meeting discussed activities including the coordination, current research and creation of databases in cooperation with partners. Potential inputs to documents for CMS COP13 and the importance of guidelines in relation to monitoring and site assessments were considered. It was also decided to support donors of renewable energy infrastructure projects such as development banks in their decision-making and to strengthen capacities and synergies between international and national guidelines. The nexus between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation related to countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement was also considered.

64. On 28 August 2019, a workshop on Standardization of collision mortality data for birds and bats - towards the creation of a global database was held under the lead of the ETF coordination at Birdlife International, in Stirling, UK as part of the Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife impacts (CWW), which included some members of the ETF and worldwide experts. There was a consensus that a global species mortality database was essential for assessing cumulative impacts. This database would need to be coupled with standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy infrastructure. The actions significantly contribute to the implementation of Decision 12.82.

65. [The Fourth Meeting of the Energy Task Force](#) was held on 19 to 20 September 2019 at the National Museum of Natural History (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle), Paris, France. Participants discussed key achievements, challenges and future priorities and specific actions to better implement the workplan. As a result, four working groups focused on: standardizing monitoring protocols and data sharing, permits and licensing; research and cumulative impact; strategic planning and integrating biodiversity in climate policies (e.g. NDCs); sharing experiences and communication strategy. On the second day, the French association ORÉE organized an information event with partners from the French energy sector and conservation organizations with support from the French Government and the National Museum for Natural History in Paris as the host. More than 80 representatives of these organizations, the business sector and the scientific community, including ETF members and observers attended the event. The participants discussed data sharing and standardization of monitoring protocols, strategic planning, global changes, energies and migratory species, renewable energies and the 'new face' of landscapes, and decision-making processes for renewable energies. The discussions related to the topics tackled by the working groups and addressed the broader audience of the corporate and science sector.

66. For more details on the annual meetings of the ETF since 2016, see the [Report from the CMS Secretariat to TAG 3](#), and the report to COP13: [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.1](#).

67. An analysis of the efforts and progress made by Parties to reconcile the development of renewable energy and power lines with the conservation of migratory species based on the national reports was submitted to COP13 as [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.36](#).

68. Through [CMS/Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), COP13 reaffirmed the instruction to the Secretariat to convene the ETF. COP adopted text relevant to the SDGs related to energy, and to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), provisions directed to Parties and Non-Parties to strengthen the implementation of existing guidelines through enhancing availability of relevant data, enacting appropriate legislation for licensing and

permitting procedures related to renewable energy infrastructure projects, and specific aspects of science-based planning and monitoring related to the development of wind and solar energy technologies. Through [CMS/Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), COP strengthened and linked its relevant provisions to the recent activities and recommendations of the ETF for science-based mitigation measures, related data sharing, legislation and monitoring.

69. COP [Decisions 13.106 – 13.108](#) encourage Parties to strengthen representation from relevant energy authorities in the implementation of the workplan of the ETF, and to integrate biodiversity and migratory species considerations in national energy and climate policy to enhance synergies between UNFCCC and CMS and in line with an evidence-based renewable energy mix; and encourage the ETF to investigate best practices and produce guidance aimed at the standardization of approaches and methods for planning, managing and monitoring of renewable energy infrastructure and its impact on biodiversity, and related mitigation measures.

70. Since COP13, the Secretariat has closely collaborated with the ETF and its Coordinator, supporting various activities, including:

- The organization of the [Fifth ETF meeting \(ETF5\)](#), 30 November to 1 December 2021, online. A major achievement of this meeting was the adoption of the new [ETF Workplan for the period 2021-2024](#);
- Two interim virtual ETF meetings on [3 August 2020](#) and [28 April 2021](#), including establishing the scope and plans of a Powerlines and Technical Working Groups;
- Fundraising activities and outreach, and the preparation and dissemination of a [fundraising brief](#); fundraising letters to addressed to development banks and other financial institutions;
- The development of the draft new ETF Workplan presented to and adopted at the ETF5.
- Maintenance of the ETF website and creation of meeting webpages, supported by the Joint CMS-AEWA Communications Team;
- Communication with Governments and partners to promote the ETF and strengthen its membership. Further major activities and events are highlighted in the [report to the ETF5 meeting](#);
- Presenting at the ETF webinar at New York Climate Change week (23 September 2021);
- Contributing to a Project Concept of a Birdlife International Consortium for the IKI Country Specific Selection Procedure for South Africa, August 2020, on the topic “*Restoring ecosystems in South Africa to capture carbon, enhance people’s resilience to climate change and safeguard biodiversity*” and included budget proposals for coordination of ETF work. However, the concept was rejected by IKI.

71. At COP13, the Government of India pledged EUR 60,000 for the ETF work under the Champion Programme. In 2021, the Government of France, pledged EUR 25,000 for ETF activities.

CMS/Resolution 12.10 - Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures

72. The 12-year Vulture MsAP 2017-2029 was adopted through CMS/Resolution 12.10 *Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures*. The Vulture MsAP delivers on the implementation of the Flyways Programme of Work adopted through CMS/Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13). Resolution 12.10 invites Parties and non-Parties to establish National Vulture Task Forces or equivalent bodies and integrate them into their (revised) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under CBD, especially to deliver Aichi Target 12. No revisions were made to this resolution by COP13.

CMS/Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13); Decisions 13.41, 13.43 - 13.46 - Flyways

73. [CMS/Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) re-endorsed the [Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023](#), which covers all major flyways, and calls for its implementation. The

Programme of Work (POW) brings together all major actions required to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and keeps with the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023. It encourages cooperation and streamlining of actions; and identifies and promotes implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide by providing a framework for protection of migratory birds throughout their life-cycles and enhancing synergies among relevant flyway-related instruments and programmes. Thereby, it assists countries in establishing national programmes of work through identifying priority actions, indicators, key stakeholders and time frames.

74. As instructed by COP, the Secretariat has undertaken several activities to implement actions identified in the POW, specifically in conjunction with other CMS initiatives on regional, flyway and global level, respectively, and coordination among them, as reported in the relevant sections above of the present report, as well as in the following reports to COP13:

- *Landscape/habitat-based conservation* (POW action 1): [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.2 Action Plan for Migratory Land Birds in the African- Eurasian Region \(AEMLAP\)](#);
- *Species-specific conservation actions* (actions 8-11): [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.5 Action Plans for Birds](#);
- *Removing barriers to migration* (action 13): [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.1 Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.2 Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#);
- *Preventing risk of poisoning* (action 14): [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.3 Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#);
- *Preventing illegal bird killing, taking and trade* (action 15): [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1 The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#).

75. The reports also provide an overview of the opportunities for collaboration and synergies created with other CMS instruments such as the AEWA, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and initiatives, NGOs and the private sector.

76. The Secretariat has supported the activities of the Flyways Working Group according to the POW, regarding the expansion of its membership and facilitating the coordination with other CMS Working Groups and Task Forces such as MIKT, the PPWG, the Landbirds Working Group and the ETF.

77. To support implementation on regional level, the Secretariat made efforts in further strengthening the cooperation with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), in line with POW actions 24 and 25, particularly with regard to the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (see [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1](#)) and international single-species action plans (see [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.5](#)).

78. As requested by the COP through CMS/Resolution 12.11, especially to ensure that the activities of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group – Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (CAFF-AMBI) have maximum synergies with the POW, collaboration with the Secretariat of CAFF was further strengthened through the update of the CAFF-CMS-AEWA Joint Workplan in September 2018. This workplan also strengthens the potential for joint actions 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 promote designation and management of critically important areas, as requested in Resolution 12.11. Furthermore, the CMS Secretariat attended an AMBI implementation workshop in the margins of the Tenth Meeting of Partners to the EAAFP. At this workshop, the MIKT was specifically showcased as a model for addressing illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (see also [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1](#)).

79. To implement [CMS/Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and [Decision 13.46](#), the Secretariat has been continuing the collaborative process with the Government of India and the AEWA Secretariat to develop under CMS an institutional framework for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF):

- Both Secretariats were represented at a meeting hosted by the Government of India in November 2019;
- On 2 September 2020, the Government of India, the UNEP Country Office in India and partners organized a webinar on the topic *Wetlands as Ecological Connections in the Central Asian Flyway*, including a presentation contributed by the CMS Secretariat;
- In 2021, the CMS Secretariat called upon the CAF Range States to nominate special focal points for the CAF initiative;
- An online workshop for CAF Range States, relevant partner organizations and experts was organized by the Government of India on 6 to 7 October 2021, supported by the CMS Secretariat. The workshop provided an update on the implementation of CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13), showcased the work led by the Indian Government through the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and India's National Action Plan for the CAF 2018-2023, and shared information on activities and conservation priorities, and actions taking place within CAF. Participants raised the importance of connecting activities among the Range States in the view of next steps.

Atlas of bird migration in the Eurasian-African region

80. 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 in the development of the initiative since its inception until COP13 is summarized in document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.25](#).

81. The development of the module of the Atlas of bird migration in the Eurasian-African region, funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of the Government of Italy and undertaken by the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING) under an agreement with the CMS Secretariat, has continued. Preliminary results were presented to the EURING 2021 Analytical Meeting & Workshop, held from 31 May - 11 June, 2021, at Université Laval, in Québec City, Canada. The development of this module has suffered some delays with respect to the original planning due to the administrative and technical complexities of the project. The duration of the grant and a new timeline has been negotiated and agreed with the donor (the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea of the Government of Italy) and the implementing partner (the European Union for Bird Ringing - EURING). The completion of the module is foreseen in February 2022.

Action requested:

TAG is requested to take note of this report.