

**6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC6)**

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NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR VACANT COP-APPOINTED COUNCILLOR POSITIONS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document contains the nominations from Parties of candidates for the two vacant positions of COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals and the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR VACANT COP-APPOINTED COUNCILLOR POSITIONS

Background

1. As outlined in Notification 2022/023, in December 2022, the Secretariat initiated a process to seek nominations for the two vacant COP-appointed Councillor positions.
2. The COP-appointed Councillors for Aquatic Mammals (Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara) and for Climate Change (Prof. Colin Galbraith) had earlier informed the Secretariat that they would not seek reappointment for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15.

Process

3. The above Notification set a closing date of 28 February 2023 for receipt of nominations from Parties. By this date, the Secretariat had received five nominations: three for the position relating to Aquatic Mammals, and two that encompassed both positions (assuming that the position combined both roles – the position was advertised as “COP-appointed Councillors for Aquatic Mammals and for Climate Change”). The Secretariat later received clarification that one of these was for Aquatic Mammals alone.
4. The Secretariat then issued Notification 2023/005 extending the deadline for the Climate Change position until 31 March 2023. Having received no further nominations, the deadline was extended again, through Notification 2023/014, until 10 June 2023. One final nomination was received, again covering both positions. Upon request for clarification, it was confirmed for the position for Aquatic Mammals, for which the deadline had already passed.
5. The Notification included terms of reference for COP-appointed Councillors and instructions for nominations, which should include a supporting statement outlining how the candidate meets the criteria for the position, the candidate’s CV, and a declaration by the candidate expressing their readiness to accept the appointment if selected. It notes that candidates do not have to be nationals of the Party submitting the nomination, or even of a CMS Party. Candidates should be internationally recognized experts in the field covered by the position of COP-appointed Councillor.
6. Given that COP-appointed Councillors are usually called to coordinate and/or chair working groups at CMS Scientific Council meetings, normally operating in English without simultaneous interpretation, a good command of English is considered essential to efficiently undertake the task. Knowledge of the other working languages of the Scientific Council (French, Spanish) would be an asset. The position of COP-appointed Councillor is not remunerated. These appointments will be for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15.

Candidates

7. As stated above, four nominations were received for the Aquatic Mammals position and one for a combination of the positions. All candidates have experience relevant to the Aquatic Mammals position. One has some experience with climate issues as well.

8. The table below provides a summary of the nominations received.

Nominee	Role nominated for	Nominating Party
Zahangir Alom	Aquatic Mammals & Climate Change	Bangladesh
Pavel Gol'din	Aquatic Mammals	Ukraine
Ellen Hines	Aquatic Mammals	Costa Rica
Gabriel Hoinsoude Segniagbeto	Aquatic Mammals ¹	Togo
Vanesa Tossenberger	Aquatic Mammals	Argentina

9. The Secretariat prepared a comparative analysis of all six of the candidates, which is provided in Annex 1. The table was compiled by the Secretariat and reflects its interpretation of the candidates' CVs. The contents of the tables have not been reviewed or approved by the candidates. The candidates' full CVs and accompanying nomination letters are contained in Annex 2.

Recommended actions

10. The Sessional Committee is recommended to:

- a) Take note of the analysis of candidates in Annex 1 and the full CVs and accompanying correspondence in Annex 2;
- b) make recommendations to COP regarding the candidates for the position of COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals;
- c) make recommendations to COP regarding the candidates for the position of COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change.

¹ Nominated for both positions, but Togo subsequently confirmed the nomination was for Aquatic Mammals only.

**ANALYSIS OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF COP-APPOINTED COUNCILLOR FOR AQUATIC MAMMALS AND
COP-APPOINTED COUNCILLOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

Name	Qualifications	Affiliation	Key relevant experience	International policy experience
Md. Zahangir Alom	PhD in Zoology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Conservation Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Representative and Senior Terrestrial Conservation Program Manager for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Bangladesh. • Species focus: Tigers and freshwater cetaceans. • Thematic focus: Illegal wildlife trade and data monitoring in the field including using SMART (Species Movement, Acceleration and Radio Tracking collars). • Project leader for the 'Management of the Sundarbans Mangrove Forests for Biodiversity Conservation and Increased Adaptation to Climate Change Project'. • Lead author of multiple handbooks and reports relating to illegal wildlife trade, for example, 'Handbook for Law Enforcement Officers on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade' (2020) and management plans for freshwater dolphins, for example, 'Integrated management plan for the three wildlife sanctuaries for freshwater dolphins in the Eastern Sundarbans Reserved Forest' (2015). • Publications: https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/Mohammad-Zahangir-Alom-2226511915 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen their compliance with CITES • Trained in the IUCN Red List Assessment Process. • Worked as an assessor for IUCN Red List of Bangladesh, Volume 2: Mammals. • Created a handbook for 'Enforcing CITES Regulations and National Laws to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade'.
Pavel Gol'din	PhD in Zoology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor/researcher at the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. • Species focus: marine mammals of the Azov and the Black Seas. • Thematic focus: mammalian evolution, anatomy and development. • PhD thesis: postnatal growth of the harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on ACCOBAMS projects: 'Establishing the bank of cetacean tissue samples in Ukraine' and 'Identification and initial assessment of cetacean groupings in coastal waters of the north-western Black Sea, Ukrainian sector'. • Research coordinator from Ukraine for DG ENV, European Commission.

Name	Qualifications	Affiliation	Key relevant experience	International policy experience
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the National Advisory Council on Conservation of Marine Mammals, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. Expert for the Working Group on Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea and Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea, Government of Ukraine. Publications: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Pavel-Goldin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert on the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Editor on the CBD Sixth National Report for Ukraine. National Contact Person in Ukraine for the European Cetacean Society.
Ellen Hines	PhD in Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center for Coastal Studies, Massachusetts, USA San Francisco State University, USA University of Victoria, Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor of Geography at San Francisco State University and Associate Director of the Estuary and Ocean Science Center. Species focus: Cetaceans and sirenians. Thematic focus: Population and community ecology of endangered marine species. Extensive experience using GIS and remote sensing for marine and coastal spatial planning. Conducted aquatic mammal research globally including habitat use, abundance, monitoring techniques, and risk assessments for anthropogenic threats. Collaboration with NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries and local scientists around San Francisco Bay to model habitat use and human threats to marine mammals and seabirds. Author of 'Sirenian Conservation: Issues and Strategies in Developing Countries', 2014 and 2nd Edition, to be published in 2024 Publications: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ellen-Hines-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the CMS Scientific Council's Aquatic Mammals Working Group (AMWG) since 2013. Member of the IUCN SSC Sirenian Specialist Group since 2005. Member of the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Area Task Force and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Member of the Expert Panel on marine mammal bycatch, FAO, Rome, Italy (since 2018). Member of the expert Panel on marine mammal bycatch, International Whaling Commission, since 2018. Co-led the 3rd Southeast Asian Marine Mammal Symposium in Malaysia, and led the publication of a report on this workshop published by the CMS Secretariat. Appointed expert to the United Nations World Ocean Assessment (Marine Mammals).
Gabriel Hoinsoude Segniagbeto	PhD in Zoology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Lomé National Museum of Natural History, Paris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior lecturer and deputy director of the Ecology and Ecotoxicology Laboratory (LaEE) at the University of Lomé. Species focus: West African mammals, waterbirds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional expert who has attended many regional and global meetings, including IUCN, CITES, CBD, CMS, IOC UNESCO and WOA.

Name	Qualifications	Affiliation	Key relevant experience	International policy experience
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic focus: continental, marine and coastal biodiversity of West Africa, and protected area management including blue planning, climate change adaptation and the management and restoration of mangrove ecosystems. • Founder and scientific adviser for the Togolese Association for Nature Conservation. • Member of the Cameroon Dolphin Working Group. • Publications: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gabriel-Segniagbeto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert involved in preparatory meetings to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia (WAAM), 2007-08 • Conducted an exploratory survey of Cetaceans and their status in Cameroon for CMS (May 2011). • Coordinator of the Togo CITES Scientific Authority. • UNESCO IOC National Focal Point • Expert on the panel for the evaluation of the IUCN Green List of protected and conserved areas in the West African marine area (WACA Project). • Worked with IUCN on biodiversity assessments in the face of climate change. • Involved in drafting the IUCN PACO proposal: 'Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo)'.

Name	Qualifications	Affiliation	Key relevant experience	International policy experience
<p>Vanesa Patricia Tossenberger</p>	<p>Degree in Biological Sciences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) • Fundación Cethus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC Director of International Policy since 2013 and leader of the Whale Hunting and Whale Trade Program since 2011 • Vice-President of Fundación Cethus since 2016. • Species focus: marine mammals, especially cetaceans, with a particular focus on Commerson's dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>). • Thematic focus: conservation management and generation of conservation strategies for marine mammals. • Developing and leading international and national campaigns aimed at the protection of species and their environment. • Drafting and analysing legislation and regulations. • Publications: https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/Vanesa-Tossenberger-2009852246 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific adviser to the CITES Scientific Authority of Argentina since 2007 and member since 2021. Scientific adviser to the Argentinean delegation to CMS since 2014. • Scientific adviser to the Argentinean delegation to CBD since 2022. • IWC observer since 2000.

ANNEX 2

CANDIDATES' FULL CVs and ACCOMPANYING CORRESPONDENCE

NB: The annex is presented in a separate file [here](#).