

**7th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC7)**

Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.6.1.6

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the COP-Appointed Councillor on Climate Change)

Summary:

This document reports on [Decisions 14.211 – 14.215 of the CMS COP 14 meeting](#). It proposes re-establishing the Climate Change Working Group, implementing the decisions, and reporting on progress following COP14 and in preparation for COP15.

The importance and reach of [Climate Change and Migratory Species: a review of impacts, conservation actions, ecosystem services and indicators](#), launched at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, is noted, and consideration is given to representations to UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Background

1. At the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14), [Resolution 12.21 \(Rev.COP14\)](#) was adopted. This Resolution was an update of the resolution agreed at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which was itself a consolidation of all previous Resolutions and recommendations on climate change since COP5.
2. Annexed to Resolution 12.21 is Annex 1. *Advice to Parties and other stakeholders on priority actions*, and Annex 2. *Decision Framework to provide guidance to Parties on implementation of Paragraph 9 of Resolution 12.21 (REV.COP14)*.
3. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP14) agreed [Decisions 14.211 – 14.215](#) on Climate Change and Migratory Species. Decision 14.214 directed to the Scientific Council reads as follows:

Decision 14.214

The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:

- a) *re-establish its Climate Change Working Group for the next triennium and develop Terms of Reference for the Working Group according to the rules of procedure of the Scientific Council;*
 - b) *identify those migratory species that, on balance, are likely to be negatively impacted by climate change, especially those that are likely to need human-mediated interventions, such as translocations, to moderate the impact of climate change;*
 - c) *identify species that have a high probability of changing their migration routes as a result of climate change and the connectivity options available to them;*
 - d) *identify further case studies of the role of migratory species in maintaining and enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation (and other related ecosystem services) and develop resources for Parties to promote greater understanding of the provision of ecosystem services by migratory species;*
 - e) *propose measures to help facilitate migratory species' range changes;*
 - f) *provide advice on possible interventions, including nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, in relation to conserving migratory species habitats, including maintaining or enhancing connectivity and ecosystem integrity;*
 - g) *provide advice on how work under CMS on climate change could interact with implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including, but not limited to, area-based conservation measures, connectivity and restoration, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC;*
 - h) *develop an interpretation of the term "barrier", so that there is consistency in the obligation to remove barriers to migratory species;*
 - i) *convene an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change to facilitate implementation of the actions above, and provide support to Party implementation of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14); and*
 - j) *report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*
4. The actions directed to the Scientific Council, under Decision 14.214, are discussed below.

5. COP14 also agreed Decisions:
- 14.13 on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and CMS,
 - 14.72 on Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans,
 - 14.94 on Marine Turtles,
 - 14.167 on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative,
 - 14.180 on Pastoralism and Migratory Species,
 - 14.195 on Ecological Connectivity,
 - 14.210 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Species, and
 - 14.229 on Conservation Implications of Animal Culture
- which also reference climate change.

Issues Migratory Species face as a result of climate change

6. A comprehensive report on the issues migratory species face as a result of climate change, [*Climate Change and Migratory Species: a review of impacts, conservation actions, ecosystem services and indicators*](#), was launched at UNFCCC COP28). It provides five key messages, notably:
- Migratory species provide essential ecosystem services to society.
 - Climate change is already having catastrophic impacts on many migratory species and their ability to provide ecosystem services.
 - Interventions to address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable migratory species are needed now.
 - International cooperation to recover migratory species provides nature-based solutions to climate change.
 - The Convention on Migratory Species facilitates coordinated conservation action and can support UNFCCC and CBD delivery.
7. A World map shows examples of migratory species and the climate change-related services they provide, with approximate geographical locations of where they can be found. The review contains a number of case studies, chosen to illustrate issues faced by particular species and habitats. These include habitats such as African Savanna, the incidence and effect of extreme weather events, and individual species such as Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). Several case studies also focus on migratory species and their role in ecosystems, such as: seabird guano promotes coastal resilience to storm surges, whales aid ocean nutrient transfer and carbon capture, and saiga antelope improve the fire resilience of grasslands.
8. Further to the review, some recent major publications have provided additional overviews on migratory species and drivers of change in populations and behaviour^{1, 2}.

¹ Newton, I. (2023). *The Migration Ecology of Birds* (2nd edition). <https://shop.elsevier.com/books/the-migration-ecology-of-birds/newton/978-0-12-823751-9>

² Cooke, S.J. et al (2024). Animal migration in the Anthropocene: threats and mitigation options. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/brv.13066>

Implementation of the Decisions 14.214 directed to the Scientific Council

9. Each of the ten actions remitted to the Scientific Council, subject to the availability of external resources, are considered in turn, noting that work has recently commenced to address these.

- a) *re-establish its Climate Change Working Group for the next triennium and develop Terms of Reference for the Working Group according to the rules of procedure of the Scientific Council.*

This is underway. The Terms of Reference, as recommended by the COP, with minor adjustments, are presented to the Scientific Council as document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.4.2 *Overview of The Working Groups and Task Forces Established Under the CMS Scientific Council and its Sessional Committee*. It is proposed that the Terms of Reference is adopted by the ScC-SC7 and its membership is established.

10. The Members of the Working group are invited to participate in an international meeting that will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland on 12-13 February 2025, and which will provide an opportunity for the working group to develop its programme of work, and to advance implementation of Decision 14.214 b) – i) as follows:

- b) *identify those migratory species that, on balance, are likely to be negatively impacted by climate change, especially those that are likely to need human-mediated interventions, such as translocations, to moderate the impact of climate change.*

An initial review will be prepared to address this, and the outputs will be discussed and further developed at the international meeting in February 2025.

- c) *identify species that have a high probability of changing their migration routes as a result of climate change and the connectivity options available to them.*

A review is proposed to address this, and the detail will be developed at the international meeting in February 2025.

- d) *identify further case studies of the role of migratory species in maintaining and enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation (and other related ecosystem services) and develop resources for Parties to promote greater understanding of the provision of ecosystem services by migratory species.*

Working initially with the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, a range of case studies will be gathered from across the globe and presented to the international meeting.

- e) *propose measures to help facilitate migratory species' range changes.*

Through a workshop at the international meeting in February 2025, measures will be identified for further investigation.

- f) *provide advice on possible interventions, including nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, in relation to conserving migratory species habitats, including maintaining or enhancing connectivity and ecosystem integrity.*

Through a workshop at the international meeting in February 2025, measures will be identified for further investigation.

- g) *provide advice on how work under CMS on climate change could interact with implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including, but not limited to, area-based conservation measures, connectivity and restoration, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC.*

A presentation at the international conference in February 2025 will advise on opportunities for connecting more effectively with the GBF.

- h) *develop an interpretation of the term “barrier”, so that there is consistency in the obligation to remove barriers to migratory species.*

A review paper with options will be prepared to provide clarification on the term, and measures proposed for removing barriers to migratory species.

- i) *convene an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change to facilitate implementation of the actions above and provide support to Party implementation of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14).*

This is in hand, with the international meeting to be held in the Defra Office in Edinburgh, Scotland on 12-13 February 2025. It is anticipated that around 30 participants will attend the meeting, which will consist of a range of plenary presentations and workshop sessions. Nine members of the Scientific Council have already expressed interest in joining the Working Group. Experts on migratory species and climate change members of the Scientific Council are invited to consider their participation. Annex 1 provides a draft outline programme for the meeting.

- j) *report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

This report will be provided by a document detailing actions to implement Decision 14.214 to the Scientific Council at its 8th meeting (anticipated to be in autumn 2025).

UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

11. [The Bonn Climate Change Conference](#) (3-13 June 2024), held in advance of the UNFCCC COP 29, focused on the ‘New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance’. There were not detailed discussions on biodiversity, and implications of adaptation measures for migratory species. This raises concerns about implications for migratory species populations and habitat change, and the potential for these to be overlooked when impacts can be so important in sustaining essential ecosystem services for society. We welcome discussion and advice on this from the Scientific Council.

Recommended Actions

12. The Scientific Council is recommended to:
- a) Welcome the International meeting and agrees to organise the workshop as per Decision 14.214 in its margins, to discuss issues under Decision 14.214 b) -h) and invites the CC councillor to report to ScC-SC8 on the outcomes of the workshop. This work begins the implementation of Decisions of COP14 in response to [Resolution 12.21 \(Rev.COP14\)](#);
 - b) Make linkages between the work being taken forward under Decisions 14.211 – 14.215 and the other COP14 Decisions (see paragraph 4) which reference climate change, and to provide relevant information to the COP-Appointed Councillor for Climate Change;
 - c) Invite the Sessional Committee members to identify issues that are relevant for migratory species, and bring those to the attention of the Scientific Council members attending UNFCCC COP29.

**CMS CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
12-13 FEBRUARY 2025, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**

DRAFT PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO REVISION AND FINALISATION.

Purpose: Hold an international, in-person meeting to re-establish the CMS Climate Change Working Group, taking forward work under the COP 14 Decisions, and developing outcomes to be taken to COP 15.

12th February

Morning

Registration (08.00-09.00)

Welcomes:

COP-Appointed Councillor on Climate Change
On behalf of Defra Minister
On behalf of Executive Secretary of CMS

Organisational Matters:

Election of Chair and Reporter
Adoption of the Agenda
Organisation of Work

Recap on the [COP 14 Decisions, notably 14.211 – 14.215](#)

Presentations

ToR for Working Group

Overview of range of migratory species negatively impacted by climate change, especially those that are likely to need human-mediated interventions, and species with a high probability of changing migration routes as a result of climate change

Afternoon

Two workshops running in parallel:

Workshop 1. Measures to help facilitate migratory species' range changes

Workshop 2. nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, in relation to conserving migratory species habitats, including maintaining or enhancing connectivity and ecosystem integrity

Presentations

Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and consideration of OECMS

Identifying, and removing “barriers”, to migratory species

Evening

Reception

13th February

Morning

Workshop Reports
Workshop 1 – Report
Workshop 2 - Report

Plenary discussion
Horizon Scan on threats and opportunities for migratory species
Key gaps for action

Confirmation of TOR for Working Group

Formal close of Conference

Lunch and depart

Options: Afternoon field visit (13.30 – 17.30)
Afternoon guided tour of Edinburgh, Scotland's Capital city (13.30-17.00)