



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



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

Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc. 3/Annex/Part A

**PROGRAMME OF WORK: STRATEGIC, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS AND
CROSSCUTTING CONSERVATION ISSUES**

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
<i>Resolution / Decision number</i>	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i>	<i>Further short description of activity (if necessary)</i>	<i>List of outputs</i>	<i>Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)</i>	<i>Name of lead person(s)</i>	<i>Names of other people involved</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>	<i>Status of the activity</i>
Strategic and Institutional Matters								
SAMARKAND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Dec.14.3</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to provide inputs to the IWG on the SPMS, specifically by providing scientific advice on:</i>							
	<i>a) the actions needed to implement the SPMS and achieve its goals and targets,</i>	Provide inputs in coordination with the meetings of the IWG	To be defined by the IWG	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			ScC-SC8	
	<i>b) baselines for each of the SPMS targets with a scientific component,</i>	Provide inputs in coordination with the meetings of the IWG	To be defined by the IWG	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			ScC-SC8	
	<i>c) indicators for each of the SPMS targets with a scientific component,</i>	Provide inputs in coordination with the meetings of the IWG	To be defined by the IWG	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			ScC-SC8	
	<i>d) a monitoring framework to assess progress against the indicators, and</i>	Provide inputs in coordination with the meetings of the IWG	To be defined by the IWG	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			ScC-SC8	
	<i>e) guidance for the elaboration of a new template for National Reports, aligned to the SPMS.</i>	Provide inputs in coordination with the meetings of the IWG	To be defined by the IWG	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			ScC-SC8	
SUBJECT AREAS OF COP-APPOINTED COUNCILLORS								
<i>Dec.14.5</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, with support from the Secretariat, to review the existing COP-Appointed Councillor subject areas and propose to COP15 any changes for the subsequent period between COP15 and COP17, as appropriate.</i>		Subject areas reviewed, recommendation provided to COP15	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8	

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PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS IN CMS PROCESSES								
<i>Dec.14.9</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) assess the significance of multiple systems of knowledge and understanding, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge, for supporting effective migratory species conservation; and</i>		Assessment prepared	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			ScC-SC8	
	<i>b) provide a report to COP15 with suggestions for ways in which CMS might facilitate inclusion of additional systems of knowledge and understanding for enhanced implementation of the Convention.</i>		Report presented to COP15	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8			COP15	
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) AND CMS								
<i>Dec. 14.12</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources, actively engage in relevant scoping and review processes of the IPBES assessments agreed by the IPBES Plenary at its tenth session, including with respect to the assessment of integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity and a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a view to ensure that CMS priority elements are addressed.</i>		CMS perspective included in the IPBES Assessment of integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity	2024-2026	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
<i>Dec. 14.13</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to consider the findings of recent and forthcoming IPBES deliverables, including the assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, the assessment of the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature, the assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control, the IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change, the assessment on the of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health, the assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for</i>		Relevant IPBES assessments considered and incorporated in CMS, as appropriate; recommendations provided to COP15	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	COP15	

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	<i>achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, the assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, and the assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, and to prepare recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th Meeting.</i>							
<i>Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP14) OP 1</i>	<i>Urges CMS Parties Focal Points and Scientific Councillors to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES</i>		IPBES national representatives aware of the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species	Ongoing	All Councillors	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
<i>Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP14) OP 6</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Councillors to engage in all relevant processes of IPBES and in the development of new assessments including in their scoping processes, in collaboration with the scientific advisory bodies of other MEAs as appropriate</i>		Councillors involved in the relevant processes of IPBES	Ongoing		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
<i>Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP14) OP 7</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Councillors to regularly consider the findings of all relevant IPBES assessments and provide recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention; and</i>		Recommendations provided	Ongoing		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8	
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL								
<i>Resolution 12.4 (Rev.COP14) OP 17</i>	<i>Emphasizes the need to establish close links between the Scientific Council and the network of scientists and experts in equivalent bodies of those conventions with which a memorandum of understanding is in place, namely, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance;</i>		Close links with CBD and other Conventions established	Ongoing		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		

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Scientific Assessments and Reports								
ATLAS ON ANIMAL MIGRATION								
<i>Dec. 14.18</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) provide advice and guidance to the Secretariat on updating existing and developing additional modules of the atlas;</i>		Advice and guidance provided to the Secretariat	ScC-SC7	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>b) provide advice and guidance to the Secretariat on improving the usability of the atlas, if required;</i>		Advice provided to the Secretariat	ScC-SC7	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>c) work closely with the Secretariat and relevant stakeholders in promoting the knowledge and use of existing modules through appropriate means, such as webinars; and</i>		Agree on and implement appropriate actions to promote the Atlas.	2024-2026	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>d) provide recommendations to COP15 on future development of the atlas.</i>		Recommendations provided to COP15	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	COP15	
CONSERVATION STATUS OF MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Dec. 14.23</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, supported by the Secretariat, is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) provide guidance to the Secretariat on scope and any additional 'spotlight' sections on specific topics or issues of importance for the second edition of the State of the World's Migratory Species report; and</i>		Guidance provided	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	
	<i>b) provide guidance to the Secretariat on the development of the online CMS Data Dashboard.</i>		Guidance provided	2024-2026		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	

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Resolution 14.4 OP 5	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to provide guidance to the Secretariat on scope and any additional 'spotlight' sections on specific topics or issues of importance for the State of the World's Migratory Species reports, as well as on the development of the online CMS Data Dashboard;</i>	Same as Dec. 14.23 a) and b) above						
Resolution 14.4 OP 4	<i>Requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to develop, in consultation with the Scientific Council and in collaboration with competent organizations, a State of the World's Migratory Species report for each alternate meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The State of the World's Migratory Species report should - see points a-d</i>	A second edition of the report is to be presented to COP16.	Report produced for COP16, with the methodology and focus determined by the Scientific Council	Input from ScC-SC to be provided by ScC8, to allow enough time for drafting the report for COP16		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 – 10, COP16	
Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention								
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES IV AND V OF THE CONVENTION								
Resolution 12.8 OP 8	<i>Instructs the Secretariat and the Scientific Council, urges Parties, and invites other relevant stakeholders to apply the criteria annexed to this Resolution in developing and evaluating proposals for future Agreements</i>		Criteria applied when Agreements are negotiated.	Ongoing	none	(Sec. FP: representative of the relevant taxa teams)		
Crosscutting Conservation Issues								
PASTORALISM								
14.180	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to establish a multi-stakeholder Working Group on pastoralism and CMS-listed species, composed of stakeholders with experience and knowledge on managing rangelands, pastoralism and wildlife.</i>		Working Group	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Polina Orliński)	COP15	To be established by SC7
	<i>The Working Group is asked to:</i>		Analysis	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Polina Orliński)		

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	<i>a) analyze available information relevant to pastoralism, the impact of transhumance on biodiversity, well-being, and the risk of zoonotic disease emergence at the human/wildlife/livestock interface; and potential impacts on CMS-listed species, including existing models and best practice case studies and the compilation of responses received by the Secretariat under Decision 14.179; and</i>							
	<i>b) provide recommendations to support Parties in addressing the impact of pastoralism on CMS-listed species and in realizing the potential benefits to ecosystem health and resilience associated with the holistic management of rangelands and migratory species including soil restoration and climate change adaptation and mitigation.</i>		Recommendations	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Polina Orlinskiy)	ScC-SC8 COP15	
ILLEGAL AND UNSUSTAINABLE TAKING OF WILDLIFE								
<i>Dec.14.184</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) review the analysis commissioned by the Secretariat at the 7th or 8th meeting of its Sessional Committee and provide recommendations on further measures to be taken by Parties and other stakeholders to address the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species for consideration by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</i>		Review of analysis	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>b) establish a Working Group on the taking of migratory species for various uses, taking into account ongoing work under the Convention;</i>		Working Group	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>c) consider the need to modify the terms of reference of any existing Working Groups to effectively address the issues of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species; and</i>		Recommendations on streamlining existing Working Groups	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>d) provide recommendations to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting.</i>		Recommendations	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	COP15	

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<i>Resolution 11.31 (Rev. COP14) OP 6</i>	<i>Calls on the Scientific Council to work with relevant stakeholders regularly to analyze data on the scale of take of CMS-listed species to identify those species for which cumulative take is clearly unsustainable and make recommendations;</i>		Analysis of scale of take	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	SCC-SC8	
<i>Resolution 11.31 (Rev. COP14) OP 17</i>	<i>Further calls upon the Scientific Council to facilitate the use of best practice developed across relevant CMS instruments, including ensuring a consistent approach to addressing unsustainable take through adaptive harvest management;</i>		Best practice shared across CMS Instruments	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY								
<i>Dec. 14.195</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to work on the following tasks for enhancing the scientific understanding of connectivity issues in relation to migratory species:</i>							
	<i>a) review the results of its survey of existing major databases that may support relevant analyses and syntheses of information on connectivity, and identify options inter alia for ensuring sustainability and enhanced operability and coordination of such databases for this purpose;</i>		Survey results reviewed	2024-2026	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	Will follow the survey, which has been delayed
	<i>b) investigate options and develop proposals for creating relevant data and knowledge holding capabilities and for enhancing analysis capabilities under the auspices of the CMS, in collaboration with suitably qualified institutions and processes;</i>		Proposals developed	2024-2026	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	Will follow point a) above
	<i>c) produce a synthesis of collated information on the linkages between migratory species connectivity and ecosystem integrity and resilience;</i>		Report produced	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8	Will follow point a) above

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	<i>d) having regard in particular to the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, assess the needs and develop focused objectives for new research on key connectivity issues, including but not limited to climate change, which affect the conservation status of each of the major taxonomic groups of migratory wild animals covered by CMS in each of the world's major land and oceanic regions, and produce a report on the findings of this assessment prior to the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties;</i>		Needs assessed and objectives developed	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	
	<i>e) provide recommendations concerning any additional guidance that may be needed within the framework of the CMS on assessing threats to migratory species connectivity in particular priority situations identified by the work described in sub-paragraph (d) above; and</i>		Recommendations provided	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	
	<i>f) make further recommendations as appropriate arising from the work described in this Decision.</i>		Recommendations provided as appropriate	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Fernando Spina	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREAS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES								
Dec. 14.198	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to review the usefulness of the Tool based on the reports submitted by Parties through the Secretariat, in line with Decisions 14.197 (b) and 14.199 (b), and make appropriate recommendations to the Secretariat and Parties on its further use and to help identify improvements that should be incorporated into the Tool and to inform the future expansion of the Tool.</i>	CMS Secretariat in collaboration with WCMC to undertake awareness-raising of the Tool's functionality and benefits and obtain feedback from CMS Parties from the African region (specifically Parties from SADC, IGAD and EAC).	Four webinars and responses to a survey.	June-July 2024		(Sec. FP Amie Figueiredo)	Secretariat COP15	

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INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Dec. 14.202</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to establish a working group, consisting of experts identified in cooperation with the Secretariat, to advise the Scientific Council and Secretariat on issues of infrastructure and migratory species, including to:</i>		Working Group	2024		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)		
	<i>a) provide advice on possible actions that could be taken to address the impacts of dams and urban sprawl and development on CMS-listed species;</i>		Advice	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8 COP15	
	<i>b) assess whether current methodologies and criteria for the definition of “critical habitat”, as used by financial institutions and the impact assessment community, are an appropriate trigger to undertake further assessment on risks to and impacts on migratory species and their habitats; and if these methodologies and criteria are deemed not appropriate, make proposals on how they can be improved, including actions to ensure ecological connectivity and restoration;</i>		Assessment	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>c) assess whether current best practice strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment methodologies, including the preparation of environmental/biodiversity management plans, sufficiently address the impact linear infrastructure projects have on migratory species throughout the infrastructure’s lifecycle;</i>		Assessment	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>d) develop guidance, based on the above assessments, on: i. the scoping process which includes migratory species in the tasks and scope of investigations; ii. scientifically robust and cost-effective means of monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the effectiveness of mitigation measures in linear infrastructure developments; and</i>		Guidance	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	Funding required

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	<i>e) identify reliable data on and databases containing the movements, habitats and occurrence of CMS-listed species as a body of knowledge in support of planning, assessment and decision-making, and, with the support of the Secretariat, establish relationships with institutions holding that data;</i>		Reliable data and databases identified	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	ScC-SC8	
IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Dec. 14.205</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to consider the information submitted by Parties regarding the application of cumulative effects assessments and the need for further guidance, to prepare a report on how such assessments are undertaken and the relevance for migratory species conservation, and to develop guidance on cumulative effects assessments for marine mammals if required, with a view to presenting any outputs to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</i>		Report and guidance developed	ScC-SC8		(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	Notification to Parties was sent on 11.06.24 requesting inputs by 30.06, which will be provided as an Inf.doc.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Dec. 14.214</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>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;</i>	ScC-SC8 will consider a proposal for a minor update of the ToR and to reestablish the WG.	WG re-established	ScC-SC7	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>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;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Species likely to be negatively impacted by climate change are identified	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		

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	<i>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;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Species with high probability of changing their migratory routes as a result of climate change are identified	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>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;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Case studies are identified	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>e) propose measures to help facilitate migratory species' range changes;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Measures are proposed	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>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;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Advice provided	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>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;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Advice provided	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>h) develop an interpretation of the term "barrier", so that there is consistency in the obligation to remove barriers to migratory species;</i>	The topic is to be considered by a Workshop on Climate Change - see point (i) below)	Interpretation of the term "barrier" is developed	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		

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	<i>j) 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</i>	UK kindly offered to host the workshop together with an international meeting on Climate change, Edinburg, UK, 12-13 February 2025.	Workshop convened	2025	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8	Workshop being prepared. For more info see document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc. 6.1.6.
	<i>j) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</i>		Report to COP15 presented	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8 and COP15	
<i>Dec.14.215</i>	<i>The Secretariat and the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change, subject to the availability of external resources, should:</i>							
	<i>a) engage with other MEAs, including in particular the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, at relevant meetings, to provide information about the impact of climate change on migratory species, and the ways in which the conservation of migratory species can enhance nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches so that they can be part of the solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, leading to win-win results;</i>		Key CMS messages on climate change and migratory species communicated to other MEAs in the relevant fora	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson; Secretariat: Dagmar Zíková			
	<i>b) promote knowledge exchange between relevant authorities about the impacts of climate change on migratory species including changes in Range State status that may occur, and the benefits of conservation of migratory species for enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation;</i>			2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson; Secretariat: Dagmar Zíková			

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<i>Resolution / Decision number</i>	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i>	<i>Further short description of activity (if necessary)</i>	<i>List of outputs</i>	<i>Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)</i>	<i>Name of lead person(s)</i>	<i>Names of other people involved</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>	<i>Status of the activity</i>
	<i>c) propose revisions to the National Report format for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 56th and/or 57th Meeting;</i>		National Report format revised to include questions on climate change and migratory species	by the documents deadline for StC56 or StC57	Des B. A. Thompson; Secretariat: Dagmar Zíková		StC 56 / 57	
	<i>d) support the Scientific Council in convening an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change; and</i>		Support provided	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson; Secretariat: Dagmar Zíková			
	<i>e) report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its meetings before COP15, and to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting, on the progress in implementing this Decision.</i>		Report presented	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Des B. A. Thompson; Secretariat: Dagmar Zíková		ScC-SC8/COP 15	
<i>Resolution 12.21 (Rev. COP14) OP 5</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, to promote work to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions, in particular through the analysis of existing long-term and large-scale datasets, and through collaboration with other relevant work under the Convention and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i>			2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
<i>Resolution 12.21 (Rev. COP14) OP 12</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Council, subject to the availability of resources, to implement work to support this resolution, including, if appropriate, through an intersessional working group set up with Terms of Reference operating within the rules of procedure of the Scientific Council</i>	Same as Decision 14.214 a)	Working group re-established	2024-2026	Des B. A. Thompson	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
INSECT DECLINE AND ITS THREAT TO MIGRATORY INSECTIVOROUS ANIMAL POPULATIONS								
<i>Dec. 14.216</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to consider and, as appropriate, to provide recommendations to COP15 on:</i>							
	<i>a) the findings of the report "Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations";</i>		The report considered by ScC-SC	ScC-SC7		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		See document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.6.1.1

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	<i>b) prioritizing the main factors causing the established loss of insect biomass;</i>		ScC-SC opinion on prioritization of the main factors formed	2024-2026		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>c) collecting additional relevant information regarding the current insect decline, and assessing its cascading effects on migratory insectivorous animal species, including the role of insects in connectivity; and</i>		Additional information collected	2024-2026		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
	<i>d) developing guidelines for the prioritized actions identified.</i>		Guidelines developed	2024-2026		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
WILDLIFE HEALTH								
<i>Dec. 14.219</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to provide any recommendations on issues related to migratory species and health, as appropriate, to COP15, noting the establishment of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health (Terms of Reference are contained in the document UNEP/CMS/ScCSC5/Outcome 11) and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.</i>	Contribute to implementation of Resolution 12.6 (Rev COP14) <i>Wildlife health and migratory species</i> and Resolution 14.18 <i>Avian Influenza</i>	Update the TFAI ToR with FAO, consider whether and how to review the 2023 Statement on Avian Influenza, possibly convene a TFAI meeting; Operationalize the WG on Migratory Species and Health, set up its membership, work program, prepare an online meeting	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Ruth Cromie	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8, COP15	For draft updated ToR of the TFAI and WG on Migratory Species and Health see document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.4.2
CMS INTERNATIONAL LIGHT POLLUTION GUIDELINES FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES								
<i>Dec. 14.221</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to consider the issues under Decision 14.222 in the 7th or 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee, including possible new evidence of impacts and developments concerning mitigation methods, and provide recommendations to COP15 and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 14.222.</i>	Dec. 14.222 addressed to the Secretariat requests it to consider preparation of additional annexes to the CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines, disseminate the Guidelines and help Parties in implementing them.	The guideline is updated if necessary and communicated to the relevant stakeholders	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8, COP15	See doc. UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.6.1.5

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IMPACTS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION ON AQUATIC, TERRESTRIAL AND AVIAN SPECIES								
<i>Dec. 14.225</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) noting the work undertaken already with respect to the Asia Pacific region, develop a concise report summarizing the status of knowledge on the impact of plastic pollution on CMS-listed species that inhabit terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in other regions taking into account plastics of all sizes and materials, along with recommendations to address such threats, and submit the report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting; and</i>		Report and recommendations	2024-2026		(Sec. FP Clara Nobbe)	COP15	
	<i>b) taking into account Decision 14.42 on Marine Pollution, collaborate with other scientific mechanisms such as those under the International Whaling Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral environmental agreements to exchange available scientific and other relevant data and information related to the prevention and reduction of the impact of plastics on migratory species, including the report developed under paragraph (a).</i>	See also Decision 14.42	Information exchange	Ongoing	All taxa councillors	Sec- all taxa teams	Report as part of the above	
CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS OF ANIMAL CULTURE AND SOCIAL COMPLEXITY								
<i>Dec.14.228</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) invite newly appointed Councillors that have relevant expertise to engage in the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity; and</i>		New councillors invited	Ongoing		(Sec FP: Dagmar Zíková, and Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	N/A	
	<i>b) consider the outputs of the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity and make recommendations to COP15, based on its findings.</i>		Report and recommendations reviewed	ScC-SC8	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	Mark P. Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun)	COP15	

Resolution / Decision number	Mandate Text of Resolution / Decision	Activity Further short description of activity (if necessary)	Expected Output List of outputs	Timeframe Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)	Lead Name of lead person(s)	Contributors Names of other people involved	Report to ScC, StC, COP (including session number)	Status Status of the activity
						Frisch-Nwakanma)		
Dec.14.229	The Scientific Council, through its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, subject to the availability of external resources, is requested to:							
Dec.14.229	<p>a) promote the practical application of the increasing knowledge about animal culture and social learning in conservation management by:</p> <p>i) exploring shortcuts for incorporating social learning into management, complementing traditional management techniques, including developing guidance on methodologies for detecting social learning and providing advice on phylogenetic inference;</p> <p>ii) reviewing updates on culture-related Concerted Actions and providing guidance as required;</p> <p>iii) considering whether further culture-related Concerted Actions should be brought forward and developing proposals as appropriate;</p> <p>iv) conducting a review that identifies instances in which social learning is involved in animal behaviours and mitigation measures for human-wildlife conflict;</p> <p>v) conducting a review of examples at the intersection of social learning and changes in behaviour related to climate change in human-wildlife conflict;</p> <p>vi) developing guidance for engagement with stakeholders to illustrate why animal culture and social learning are relevant to conservation;</p> <p>vii) continuing further development of case studies illustrating the importance of animal culture and social learning in the conservation of CMS-listed species;</p> <p>viii) exploring the potential link with Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and other place-based conservation tools that identify sites or seascapes of biodiversity importance;</p>		Report and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	Mark P. Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	

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	<p>ix) exploring the impacts of hunting on social structure;</p> <p>x) exploring opportunities for linking with the GEO BON global biodiversity observation network;</p>							
Dec.14.229	<p>b) support research on animal culture and social learning by:</p> <p>i) developing guidance on methodology for detecting social learning;</p> <p>ii) incorporating a variety of 'lines of evidence' on social learning and animal culture, including from local communities, and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples;</p>		Guidance developed	ScC-SC8	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	
Dec.14.229	<p>c) make use of the potential synergies with CMS Agreements/MOUs/Initiatives by:</p> <p>i) developing a table of all CMS Agreements/MOUs/Initiatives to identify the species of highest priority;</p> <p>ii) compiling examples into a document or brochure outlining the relevance of animal culture and social learning;</p> <p>iii) passing this publication on to Parties and Signatories in the context of upcoming meetings;</p>		Report and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	
Dec.14.229	<p>d) increase collaboration with IUCN on matters related to animal culture, including by:</p> <p>i) bringing the issues and opportunities around social learning and animal culture to the attention of the World Conservation Congress in 2025;</p> <p>ii) convening a workshop in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group to further explore human-wildlife interactions in connection with social learning;</p> <p>iii) engaging with the relevant IUCN bodies to develop synergies for integrating social learning and cultural processes into management activities.</p>		Workshop convened; Report and recommendations developed	2025	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	

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<i>Resolution 11.23 (Rev.COP12) OP 6</i>	Requests the CMS Scientific Council to maintain an intersessional expert working group dealing with the conservation implications of culture and social complexity, with a focus on, but not limited to cetaceans			Ongoing	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		
<i>Resolution 11.23 (Rev.COP12) OP 7</i>	Invites relevant CMS Scientific Councillors for taxa other than cetaceans to review the findings of the expert working group and engage in this expert group			Ongoing	Fernando Spina	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		
<i>Resolution 11.23 (Rev.COP12) OP 8</i>	Requests the expert group to report its findings and any proposals for future work through the CMS Scientific Council to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties	See Decision 14.229	Report and recommendations (incl. Draft Decisions and potentials revised draft Resolution) developed	Ongoing	CEWG Chair (supported by Fernando Spina)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
FUTURE CMS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES								
<i>Resolution 11.28 OP 2</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to ensure that the following are addressed: the improvement of understanding of interactions between IAS and threatened migratory species; the development of priorities for intervention; and the improvement in international cooperation and development of adaptable management strategies when discussing topics for which IAS might be relevant</i>	No action seems to have been taken since COP11. The ScC should consider what action is needed, also with respect to task 3.5 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032	Issues identified are addressed	2024-2026		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Ziková)		
<i>Resolution 11.28 OP 8</i>	<i>Urges the Scientific Council to address at its future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, policy coherence and implementation with regard to work on IAS, in a manner consistent with their mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of the Scientific Council and other MEAs</i>	No action seems to have been taken since COP11. The ScC should consider what action is needed, also with respect to task 3.5 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032	Issues identified are addressed	2024-2026		(Sec. FP: Dagmar Ziková)		

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CONCERTED ACTIONS								
<i>Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP14) OP 6</i>	<i>Instructs the Secretariat and requests the Scientific Council to encourage and assist Parties to undertake existing and develop new Concerted Actions to implement the provisions of the Convention, where possible through existing instruments of bilateral or multilateral cooperation;</i>		Support to Parties provided as appropriate	Ongoing		(Sec. members of the relevant taxa teams)		
Amendment of CMS Appendices								
TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE								
<i>Dec.14.231</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) review the utility of the Catalogue of Life as a potential source for all taxonomic and nomenclatural information for CMS, including evaluating the processes of updating nomenclature within the Catalogue of Life; and</i>		The utility of the Catalogue of Life reviewed	2024-2026	Stephen Garnett	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Document ScC-SC7/Doc.7.2 prepared by Stephen Garnett for consideration by the ScC-SC7
	<i>b) liaise with taxonomic and/or nomenclatural advisors to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on the practical challenges of extracting species lists for MEAs by a particular date for use as standard references by these MEAs.</i>		Cooperation with other MEAs ensured	2024-2026	Stephen Garnett	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8	
<i>Resolution 12.27 (Rev.COP14) OP 3</i>	<i>Instructs the Scientific Council to review the online versions of the fish, bird and marine mammal references for the species listed on the Appendices at its last meeting before each meeting of the Conference of Parties and make recommendations as to whether the name of any listed species should be updated;</i>		Online versions of the references reviewed and recommendation provided to COP15	by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Stephen Garnett	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8, COP15	

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GUIDANCE ON THE CREATION OF AN ADVISORY LIST OF SPECIES AGGREGATED IN FAMILIES AND GENERA LISTED UNDER APPENDIX II								
<i>Dec.14.233</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) update the list annexed to Resolution 14.19, which provides advice on species in aggregated families for which a significant proportion of the individuals cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries and which have an unfavourable conservation status; and</i>		The list annexed to Resolution 14.19 is updated	2024-2026	Stephen Garnett	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		Way forward proposed in Document ScC-SC7/Doc.7.2 prepared by Stephen Garnett
	<i>b) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</i>			by the documents deadline for COP15 / ScC-SC8	Stephen Garnett	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
GUIDANCE ON THE TREATMENT OF SPECIES INCLUDED WITHIN AGGREGATED FAMILIES LISTED UNDER APPENDIX II								
<i>Resolution 14.19 OP 1</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to maintain a list of species, as annexed to this Resolution, belonging to aggregated families and genera included in Appendix II to provide advice to Parties as to which species have a significant proportion of individuals that cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries and that have an unfavourable conservation status; and</i>	Duplication with Decision 14.233 a)		ongoing	Stephen Garnett	(Sec. FP: Dagmar Zíková)		
POTENTIAL AVIAN TAXA FOR LISTING								
<i>Dec.14.236</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) review the list of species in the Annex to the Resolution 14.20 in advance of COP15 and make proposals for any revision;</i>				Stephen Garnett	Taxonomic ScC WG; (Sec. FP.: Ivan Ramirez, Tilman Schneider)	COP15	

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	<i>b) develop equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups for adoption at COP15;</i>		List of other species compiled	ScC-SC8	tbc		COP15	
	<i>c) advise with regard to the priority avian taxa for listing within Appendices I and/or II of CMS;</i>				Stephen Garnett	Taxonomic ScC WG; (Sec. FP.: Ivan Ramirez, Tilman Schneider)	COP15	
	<i>d) develop advice to Parties on a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority avian taxa; and</i>				Stephen Garnett	Taxonomic ScC WG; (Sec. FP.: Ivan Ramirez, Tilman Schneider)	COP15	
	<i>e) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</i>				Stephen Garnett	Taxonomic ScC WG; (Sec. FP.: Ivan Ramirez, Tilman Schneider)	COP15	
<i>Resolution 14.20, OP 3.</i>	<i>3. Requests the Scientific Council, in coordination with the IUCN Red List authorities, to review, including the Data Deficient species, and update the list in the Annex between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.</i>				Stephen Garnett	Taxonomic ScC WG; (Sec. FP.: Ivan Ramirez, Tilman Schneider)	COP15	