

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

Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.5

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

Resolution 14.4 requested the CMS Secretariat to develop a State of the World's Migratory Species report for each alternate COP, with the second edition to be prepared for COP16. The Resolution further requests the Scientific Council to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the scope and any additional spotlight sections of the report, as well as on development of an online CMS data dashboard.

Decisions 14.23 and 14.24 set forth related mandates to the Secretariat and the Scientific Council during the intersessional period until COP15, including identification of major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species.

This document outlines the guidance required from the Scientific Council in order to deliver the mandates from Resolution 14.4 and the relevant Decisions on the Conservation Status of Migratory Species.

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. The first State of the World's Migratory Species report, launched at the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP14), provided a comprehensive baseline of the conservation status of migratory species. The report translated scientific findings on the pressures threatening migratory species and their habitats into a clear set of recommendations for CMS Parties and the wider global community. It also highlighted illustrative examples of cases where conservation is already making a difference, as well as identifying knowledge and implementation gaps. The report played a significant role in shaping discussions at COP14, as well as helping to achieve unprecedented global visibility for migratory species and the issues they face in a rapidly changing world. As part of its work on the conservation status of migratory species, the Secretariat prepared in-depth case studies of a number of CMS-listed species, as well as analysis related to direct use in CMS-listed species, as called for by CMS COP13 in Decision 13.24 b) and c).
2. COP14 adopted [Resolution 14.4](#) *State of the World's Migratory Species*, and Decisions 14.20-14.24 *Conservation Status of Migratory Species*.
3. Resolution 14.4 requests the CMS Secretariat to develop a State of the World's Migratory Species for each alternate COP, with the second edition to be prepared for COP16. It includes in paragraph 3 elements for the approach and content of future reports. These include areas that could already be initiated during the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, such as the identification of additional 'spotlight' section on specific topics or issues of importance for the reports, as well as in-depth case studies.
4. Resolution 14.4 also requests the CMS Secretariat to develop and maintain an online data dashboard to compile key, high-level statistics on CMS-listed and other migratory species and their habitats to inform the review of the conservation status of migratory species and to support the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.
5. Resolution 14.4 requests the Scientific Council to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the scope and any additional 'spotlight' sections on specific topics or issues of importance for the reports, as well as on the development of the online CMS data dashboard.
6. Decisions 14.23 and 14.24 outline actions to implement Resolution 14.4 in the intersessional period until COP15, and give specific tasks to the Scientific Council and the Secretariat, as follows:

Decisions 14.23 – 14.24 Conservation Status of Migratory Species

14.23 Directed to the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council, supported by the Secretariat, is requested to:

- 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*
- b) *provide guidance to the Secretariat on the development of the online CMS Data Dashboard.*

14.24 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- d) *during the intersessional period prior to COP15, identify any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species, including emerging trends or threats, and prepare a summary for the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee and for the attention of COP15; and*
 - e) *identify possible issues that could be the subject of spotlight sections in any future State of the World's Migratory Species report(s).*
7. This document sets out the proposed next steps to follow through on the mandates from Resolution 14.4 and the relevant Decisions on the Conservation Status of Migratory Species.

Discussion

8. In line with Resolution 14.4 and Decisions 14.23 – 14.24, the purpose of this document is to provide a basis for discussion at the ScC-SC7 on:
- a. 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;
 - b. The development of additional case studies on individual CMS-listed species;
 - c. Elements of a possible online CMS Data Dashboard; and
 - d. Elements and an approach for identifying any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species, including emerging trends or threats, that could be presented to COP15.
- a) 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**
9. Resolution 14.4 paragraph 3 provides guidance on elements for the development of future State of the World's Migratory Species reports. Initial discussions at ScC-SC7 on the scope of the second report might focus on identifying areas that could merit closer analysis, including gaps that were identified by the first report released at COP14.
10. As recommended in Resolution 14.4 para 3(c), it is envisaged that the report will include 'spotlight' sections focussed on specific topics or emerging issues of importance.
11. The Scientific Council is invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat as to which topics could be covered in the spotlight sections, and a process to identify such issues.
- b) The development of additional case studies on individual CMS-listed species**
12. Resolution 14.4 in paragraph 3 c) requests the Secretariat, when developing future State of the World's Migratory Species report, to "Include, as appropriate and feasible, ... in-depth case studies".

13. Such work could, subject to the availability of resources, already commence in the current intersessional period. It could build on the ten case studies already prepared by the Secretariat and presented to COP13.
14. The Scientific Council is invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat regarding a process to identify priority species for the in-depth case studies.

c) Elements of a possible online CMS Data Dashboard

15. Paragraph 4 of Resolution 14.4 “requests the CMS Secretariat, *subject to the availability of resources*, to develop and maintain an online data dashboard to compile key, high-level statistics on CMS-listed and other migratory species and their habitats to inform the review of the conservation status of migratory species and to support the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention”.
16. The dashboard could bring together up-to-date information on the importance of migratory species, their current conservation status, and the threats they face, in one easily accessible location. The dashboard would improve CMS Parties’ access to up-to-date data that is relevant to migratory species conservation. By streamlining the analysis and presentation of this information, the tool would enhance Parties’ capacity to implement the Convention.
17. The dashboard should utilize global biodiversity datasets maintained by several different organisations, such as the IUCN Red List and the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
18. While the primary target audience for the online data dashboard would be CMS Parties, other CMS stakeholders, such as conservation NGOs, should be considered as a secondary audience. The dashboard would be a visually appealing public communications tool, providing an introduction to key issues in migratory species conservation.
19. An initial scoping phase, including a costing of options, would be a key prerequisite towards building the dashboard and would be needed to properly understand technical requirements and constraints for how the tool could be built, maintained and updated using external data sources. The scoping phase would involve consultation with a subset of CMS Parties to establish their key priorities, helping to ensure that the tool meets real-world needs as effectively as possible.
20. While the exact features included in the dashboard would be determined during the initial scoping phase, content that could potentially be included is set out in the table below to provide a starting point for consideration. The proposed content shown in the table represents a core set of data and indicators, selected based on the key data visualisations included in the State of the World’s Migratory Species, existing CMS priority indicators and the presence of clear links to the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032.
21. The Scientific Council is invited to provide its comments on possible content of a dashboard.

Table 1: Indicative list of key Dashboard components (to be further refined in phase 1)

Dashboard section	Proposed focus of narrative text / data to be included	Key source(s) of content/data (provisional)
The importance of migratory species	Visual summary showcasing the importance of migratory species, including their amazing journeys, their roles within ecosystems, and their importance to human societies across the world.	Content to be developed using insights from CMS publications/ reports and the wider scientific literature.
Introduction to CMS – basic information on the Convention	<p><i>Narrative text:</i> To highlight the importance of global cooperation as a solution to the distinctive challenges these species face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Data component 1:</i> graphic showing the number of CMS Parties <i>Data component 2:</i> number of species listed on the CMS Appendices. 	Species+, CMS website
Conservation status of migratory species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Data component 1:</i> interactive graphic showing the number of globally threatened CMS-listed and other migratory species, overall, by Appendix and by taxonomic group. <i>Data component 2:</i> Trends in the Red List Index (indicating levels of extinction risk) for CMS-listed and other migratory species, overall, and split by taxonomic group where possible (not all data subsets may be available). <i>Data component 3:</i> Proportion of globally threatened or Near Threatened migratory species that are listed in the CMS Appendices, overall, and split by taxonomic group. 	IUCN Red List.
Area-based conservation for migratory species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data component 1 (identification of key habitats for migratory species): high-level statistics on the number of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) such as Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) identified for CMS-listed and/or all migratory species, overall, and by environment (marine vs. terrestrial), Appendix, region, country and taxonomic group; combined with an interactive graphic showing the proportion of CMS-listed and/or all migratory species for which at least one key site has been identified. Data component 2 (protection status of important habitats for CMS-listed species): trends in the proportion of the area covered by KBAs (and other taxon-specific site-based approaches) that has been included within protected and conserved areas, overall, and by environment (marine vs. terrestrial), Appendix, region, country and taxonomic group. 	<p>World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)</p> <p>World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)</p> <p>Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)</p> <p>Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)</p>
Threats affecting migratory species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Data component 1:</i> interactive graphic showing the number of threats affecting CMS-listed and/or all migratory species, by Appendix, taxonomic group and threat status (globally threatened vs. not globally threatened) 	IUCN Red List

Note: The datasets and indicators shown in the table represent an indicative list; the feasibility of including these in the dashboard and having them be fully automated (to allow for real-time data) would need to be explored with the relevant data providers during the scoping phase.

22. A preliminary guidance from the Scientific Council on the possible functionalities of the dashboard, its design and interactive functions, would provide a useful input into the scoping phase, during which functionality and overall design of the dashboard will be determined.

- d) **Elements and an approach for identifying any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species, including emerging trends or threats, that could be presented to COP15.**

23. Decision 14.24 d) calls on the Secretariat to identify any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species, including emerging trends or threats. These findings are to be shared with ScC-SC8 and brought to the attention of COP15 in 2026.

24. The Scientific Council is invited to provide its guidance on a process to identify such major developments.

Recommended actions

25. The Scientific Council is recommended to:
 - a) Provide guidance to the Secretariat on:
 - i. 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 a process to identify such issues;
 - ii. A process for selection of species for case studies to be included in the second State of the World's Migratory Species report;
 - iii. Possible content and functionalities of an online CMS Data Dashboard;
 - iv. Elements and an approach for identifying any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species including emerging trends or threats, that could be presented to COP15.

 - b) Establish an intersessional Working Group with the Terms of Reference as per Annex to this document.

ANNEX**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES REPORT**

The Seventh Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC7) held from 17 to 20 September 2024, decided to establish a Working Group on the above subject.

1. Purpose

The Working Group shall have the mandate to provide guidance to the Secretariat on:

- a) 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 a process to identify such issues;
- b) Process for selection of species for case studies to be included in the second State of the World's Migratory Species report.
- c) Possible content and functionalities of an online CMS Data Dashboard;
- d) Elements and an approach for identifying any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species including emerging trends or threats, that could be presented to COP15.

2. Membership

- A. The Working Group should consist of the following members:
 - a) Sessional Committee members;
 - b) Experts from Parties and other Observers;
- B. The Working Group strives to maintain a balance of gender, regional representation and taxonomic categories of expertise.
- C. If and when needed, experts external to the Working Group and interested in contributing to the objectives of the Working Group may be invited to join meetings or to support specific tasks.

3. Organization of work

- A. The Working Group will be chaired by [*chair to be determined by ScC-SC7*]. If the Chair leaves her/his position, a new Chair will be appointed from among the remaining Sessional Committee / Scientific Council members of the Working Group.
- B. The Working Group will mainly operate electronically by communicating via email and possibly making use of a dedicated workspace or virtual meetings. In-person meetings may be held in the margins of Sessional Committee meetings.
- C. The Chair of the Working Group will report on progress to the Sessional Committee.
- D. The CMS Secretariat will identify the members of the Working Group, keep the membership list, and will support and facilitate the coordination of the activities and the organization of meetings of the Working Group.

4. Duration

The Working group is established for the intersessional period until COP15.