

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

*Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024*

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.6.1.2

**PASTORALISM AND MIGRATORY SPECIES**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

**Summary:**

CMS Decision 14.180 requests the Scientific Council 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, to support Parties in addressing the impact of pastoralism on CMS-listed species.

This document proposes terms of reference for the working group and stakeholders to be invited to join it for consideration by the Sessional Committee.

## PASTORALISM AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

### Background

1. Pastoralism is a significant contributor to meat production in various parts of the world, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions where other forms of agriculture may be at least seasonally limited, such as in the Sahel, East Africa, the Horn of Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East, South America and Oceania. Often, rangelands used by pastoralists are important habitats for migratory species.
2. The topic of pastoralism has emerged in many CMS discussions and is addressed in various CMS instruments, regional and species-specific action plans and programmes of work, including: the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna (SSMF) Action Plan, the Programme of Work of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI), the Roadmap for the Conservation of African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*) (AWA), the Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope, the Work Programme for the Bukhara Deer, the Single-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali, the Range-wide Action Plan for the Asiatic Wild Ass, the MOU on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats, the MOU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane, the MOU on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) and the CMS Central Asian Flyway Initiative. The issue of grassland management is also of paramount importance for other CMS groups such as the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group, as well as the African-European Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP).
3. The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP14) (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 2024) adopted Decisions 14.179-14.181 *Pastoralism and Migratory Species*. Decision 14.180 requests the Scientific Council to establish a multi-stakeholder working group on pastoralism and CMS-listed species and reads as follows:

*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. The Working Group is asked to:*

- 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*
- 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.*

### Recommended actions

4. The Sessional Committee is recommended to:
  - a) establish a multi-stakeholder Working Group on Pastoralism and CMS-listed Species with the terms of reference and membership as contained in the Annex of this document; and
  - b) request the Secretariat to identify members of the Working Group.

**ANNEX****TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PASTORALISM AND CMS-LISTED SPECIES**

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

**1. Terms of Reference**

The Working Group, consisting of experts identified in cooperation with the Secretariat, is to advise the Scientific Council on issues of pastoralism and migratory species, and to perform the following activities:

- 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, building on existing CMS mandates; 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 14.181;
- 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, in synergy with other conventions and international organizations.

**2. Membership**

Members of the Working Group should be experts from the following categories, taking into account geographical and gender balance:

- Scientific Council members;
- Environmental Ministries and Wildlife Authorities;
- Agriculture agencies and other respective agencies responsible for pasture management;
- Land use planning sector;
- Development agencies and banks working on land use issues (e.g. GIZ, AfD, World Bank);
- Scientific community involved in migratory species and land use issues;
- Relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and intergovernmental organizations, such as UNEP, UNCCD, FAO, UNESCO.
- International and national NGOs;
- Representatives of relevant CMS Family Working Groups and Task Forces; and
- Other relevant experts.

**3. Governance**

The Working Group will select a Chair from among its members. The Working Group will operate by seeking consensus among the Group members. The Working Group will report to the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

#### **4. Operation**

The Working Group will generally work through electronic means. Subject to the availability of funding, in-person meetings may be organized.

The CMS Secretariat will assist with organizing meetings and the administration of the Group.

The Chair will coordinate the work with the Secretariat on issues such as outreach and communication.