

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

Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024

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**TREATMENT OF SPECIES INCLUDED WITHIN AGGREGATED FAMILIES LISTED UNDER
APPENDIX II AND POTENTIAL TAXA FOR LISTING**

(Prepared by Stephen Garnett, COP-appointed Co-Councillor for Birds)

Summary:

Decisions 14.233 and 14.236 requests the Scientific Council to develop, maintain and update annexes of species that meet CMS listing criteria but which are either not listed or not listed specifically.

Decision 14.236 also requests the Scientific Council to advise with regard to the priority avian taxa for listing and develop a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority avian taxa.

This document outlines the approach proposed as a means of meeting these requests.

TREATMENT OF SPECIES INCLUDED WITHIN AGGREGATED FAMILIES LISTED UNDER APPENDIX II AND POTENTIAL TAXA FOR LISTING

Background

1. Appendix II of CMS includes families and genera of birds that have been aggregated for listing purposes. The aggregated bird species have been analysed to understand which species within these aggregated families have a significant proportion of individuals that cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries and have an unfavourable conservation status.
2. A list of such species is provided in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 *Guidance on the Treatment of Species included within Aggregated Families Listed under Appendix II*
3. There are also species of birds that have a significant proportion of individuals that cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries and have an unfavourable conservation status that are not currently included in the appendices to CMS either as individual species or within the families and genera of birds that have been aggregated for listing purposes.
4. A list of such species is provided in the Annex to Resolution 14.20 *Potential Avian Taxa for Listing*.
5. At its 14th meeting (COP14, Samarkand, Uzbekistan, February 2024), the Conference of the Parties adopted:

Decision 14.233 *Guidance on the Creation of an Advisory List of Species Aggregated in Families and Genera Listed Under Appendix II* and Decision 14.236 *Potential Avian Taxa for Listing* as follows:

Decision 14.233 Directed to the Scientific Council

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

- 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;*

Decision 14.236 Directed to the Scientific Council

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

- a) *review the list of species in the Annex to the Resolution 14.20 in advance of COP15 and make proposals for any revision;*
- b) *develop equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups for adoption at COP15;*
- c) *advise with regard to the priority avian taxa for listing within Appendices I and/or II of CMS;*
- d) *develop advice to Parties on a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority avian taxa; and*
- e) *report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

6. The basis for Annexes to Resolutions 14.19 and 14.20 is a comprehensive analysis of avian species movements documented in UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.8.2 using a methodology approved by the Scientific Council.

7. For Scientific Council and Parties to update the list annexed to Resolution 14.19 and review the list of species in the Annex to the Resolution 14.20, it would be beneficial for the full methodology and analyses of species to be peer-reviewed through scientific publication.
8. For equivalent lists to be developed for other taxonomic groups, developing equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups first requires that a comprehensive list of species for each group be developed, based on agreed taxonomic sources, and the methodology developed for birds, tested and, if suitable, applied.
9. To advise the Parties with regard to the priority avian taxa for listing within Appendices I and/or II of CMS requires development of an appropriate prioritisation methodology by the Scientific Council.
10. To develop advice to Parties on a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority avian taxa requires the application of the prioritisation methodology to the species listed in Annexes to Resolutions 14.19 and 14.20.

Next Steps in the implementation of Decisions 14.233 and 14.236

11. A peer-reviewed paper should be published legitimizing and validating the technical basis for the list of species in the Annexes to Resolutions 14.19 and 14.20, that justifies the inclusion or exclusion of taxa from these Annexes. The results of the peer-review process will be presented as a report to the Sessional Committee justifying any suggested changes to either Annex.
12. A working group of the Scientific Council is proposed to be established to identify a process and timetable for developing equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups.
13. The working group would also develop advice to the Parties on a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority avian taxa that is also applicable to other taxa.
14. The working group will report to the Sessional Committee to enable it to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting.

Recommended Actions

15. The Scientific Council is recommended to:
 - a) Develop a process to review the Annexes to Resolutions 14.19 and 14.20.
 - b) Establish a Working Group to develop a process for prioritizing avian species, apply it to the species listed in Annexes to Resolutions 14.19 and 14.20, and develop equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups, and to develop advice to the Parties on a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority taxa.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE TREATMENT OF SPECIES INCLUDED WITHIN AGGREGATED FAMILIES LISTED UNDER APPENDIX II AND POTENTIAL TAXA FOR LISTING

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:

- a) Support the Scientific Council in implementation of Decisions 14.233 and 14.236.

2. Membership

- A. The Working Group should consist of the following members:
 - a) Sessional Committee members;
 - b) Experts from Parties and other Observers;
 - c) Representatives of other MEAs, such as CITES, as appropriate.
- 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 the COP-Appointed Councillor for Birds. 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.