



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/Inf.7.3

MAINTAINING LISTS OF SPECIES LISTED IN CMS APPENDICES

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UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.7.3

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON MAINTAINING LISTS OF SPECIES LISTED IN CMS APPENDICES

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 Secretariat in implementation of Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Convention and Decision 14.234 and 14.30,
- b) Provide a platform to discuss and exchange information and scientific findings on
 - Map the different uses of the online databases and define the information needed for different purposes and by relevant users;
 - Species to be displayed in the databases Species List and Species+ with specific focus on Appendix II species listed at family and genus level;
 - Information to be displayed for each species (an annotation informing about migratory behaviour of the species, Range State data, taxonomic and range state references, etc.);
 - Search options and other recommended functionalities of the databases;
 - Possible integration of the lists requested under Resolution 14.19 paragraph 1 and Decision 14.30 into the online databases;
 - Nomenclature and Taxonomy of CMS listed species and species proposed for CMS listing;
 - Data quality and reliability.
- c) Formulate its findings and recommendations for consideration by ScC-SC8.

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 appoint its chair from among the Sessional Committee / Scientific Council members.

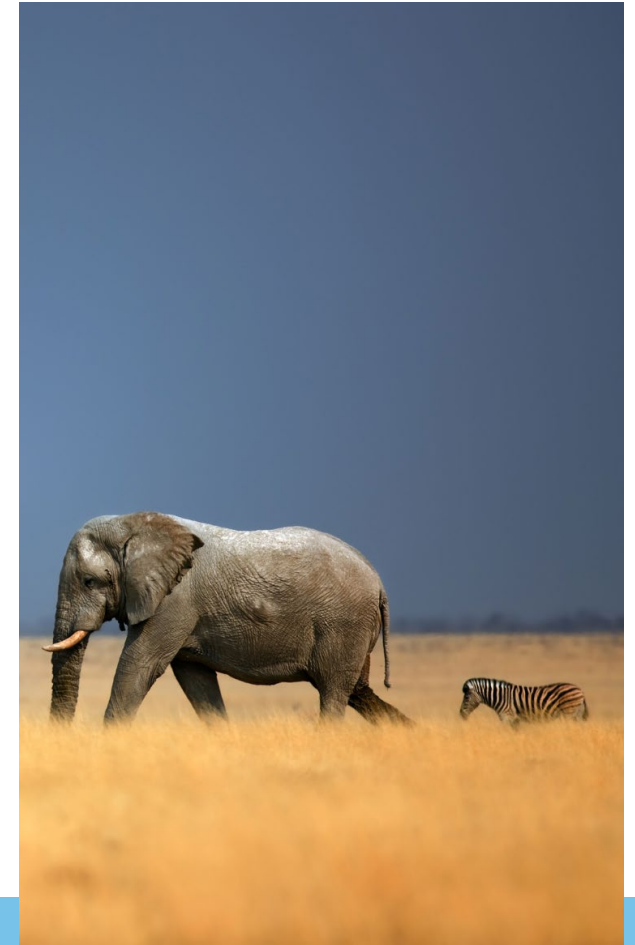
- B. The Working Group will mainly operate electronically by communicating via email and possibly making use of a dedicated workspace or virtual meetings. In-person meetings may be held in the margins of Sessional Committee meetings.
- C. The Chair of the Working Group will report on progress to the Sessional Committee.
- D. The CMS Secretariat will 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.

Purpose of this presentation

- **Share information on the existing lists and online databases displaying CMS-listed species**
- **Present possible actions to improve the online databases and the related challenges**
- **Collect feedback from the ScC-SC7**
- **Consider possible next steps**



Mandate



Article VI of the Convention:

“A list of the Range States of migratory species listed in Appendices I and II shall be kept up to date by the Secretariat using information it has received from the Parties”

Resolution 14.19, paragraph 1:

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.

Decision 14.30

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, develop a list of species included in Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are also on the CITES Appendices, and if so, on which CITES Appendix they are listed. This list should take into account possible differences in nomenclature used in the two Conventions.*
- b) publish this list on the CMS website and revise it as necessary.*

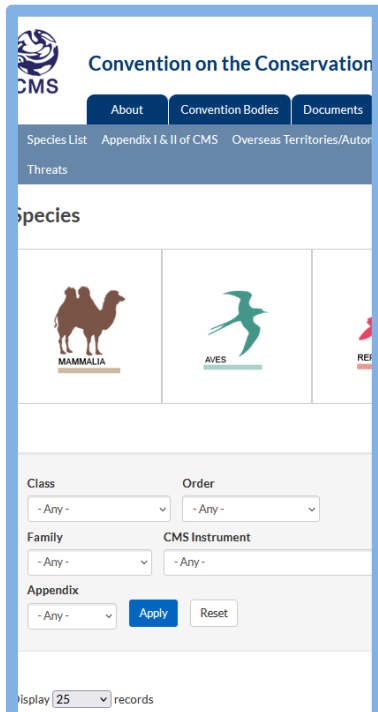
Lists of species listed in CMS Appendix I and II

A PDF file at the CMS website

The only authoritative list of taxa

<https://www.cms.int/en/species/appendix-i-ii-cms>

Advisory lists



Species List

<http://www.cms.int/en/species>

- Developed and managed by the CMS Secretariat
- Hosted on the CMS website
- Shows species listed at the species level and those species listed at family or genus level for which an agreement has been concluded
- Contains 657 CMS-listed species from Appendix I and II

Species +

<http://speciesplus.net/>

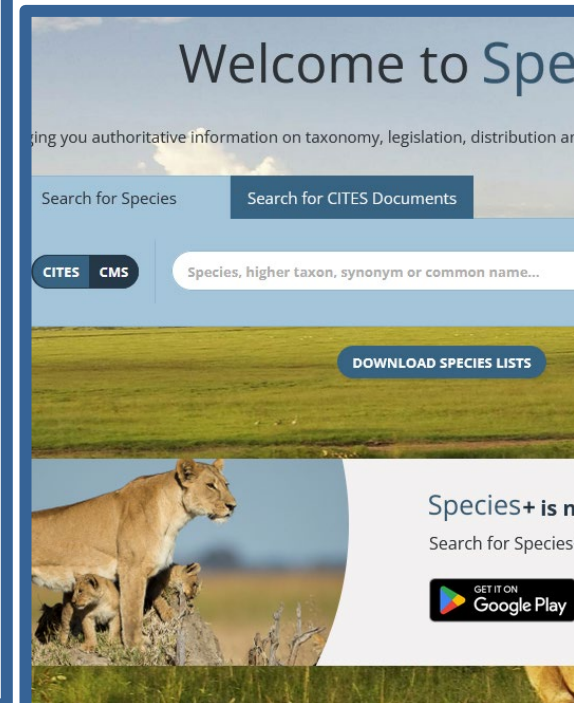
- Owned and managed by UNEP-WCMC
- Serving also the CITES Convention
- Shows a more extensive list of migratory species listed in CMS Appendix I and II with additional Appendix II species listed through genera or families.
- Contains 1377 species listed in CMS and its agreements

Appendix I & II of CMS

CMS has two Appendices. These appendices list migratory species to which the Convention applies. The obligations of the Contracting Parties towards species listed on Appendix I and Appendix II. These obligations are detailed in the Appendices, and a migratory species can be listed in both Appendices at the same time, if the circumstances are appropriate.

Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) as amended by the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) of 1994. Parties in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2024.

الملحق الأول والثاني - Arabic 附录一、二 - Chinese Apéndices I y II - Español Annexes I et II - Français



Where to find a list of species listed in CMS Appendices?

No list / database shows all species considered listed in CMS

1) Appendices I and II („the pdf list“)

- The authoritative list
- It is a list, not a database (not interactive, searchable...)
- does not show the names of the Appendix II species that are listed through genera and families
- Does not provide information on Range States
- The advisory list developed under Resolution 19.20 can provide helpful guidance only for 86 of the species from the aggregated families and genera which are in unfavourable status, but not on other species from these aggregated families and genera that could also significantly benefit from concluding agreements; this list, too, is a non-interactive pdf list



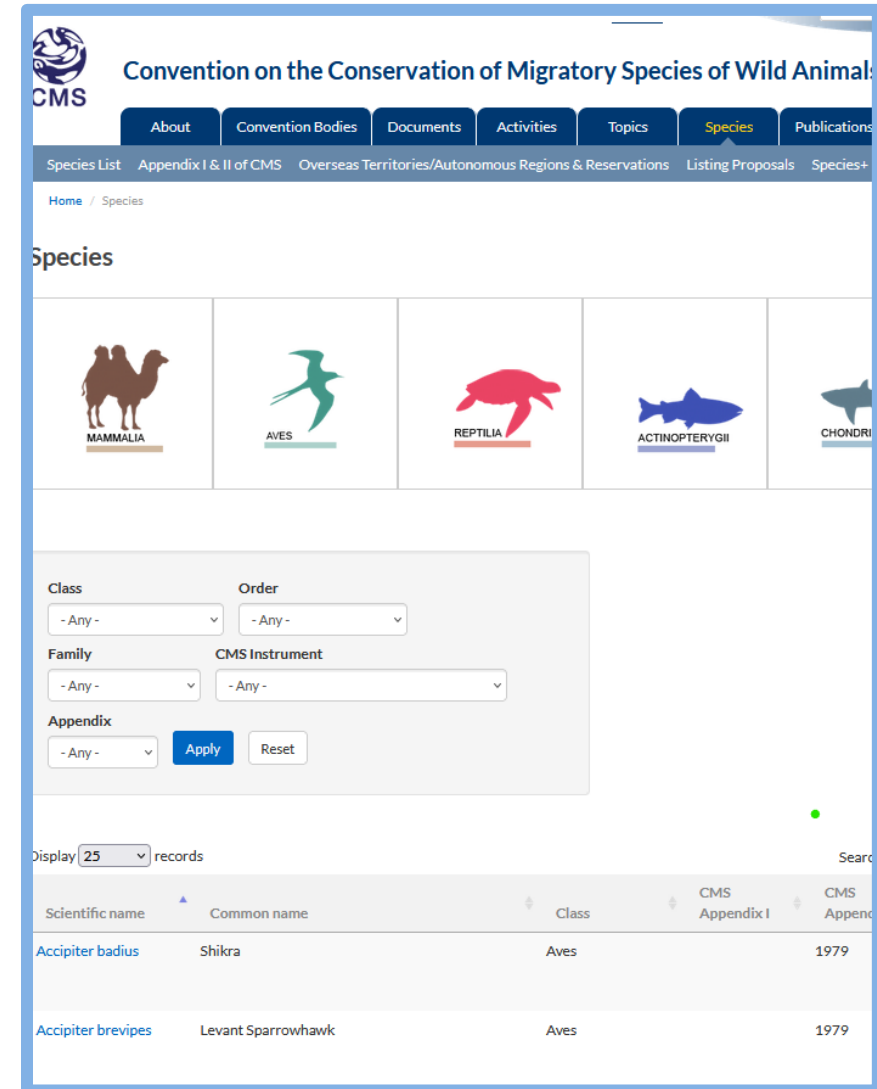
The screenshot shows the CMS website page for Appendix I & II of CMS. The page title is "Appendix I & II of CMS". The CMS logo is visible in the top left. The navigation menu includes "About", "Convention Bodies", "Documents", "Activities", and "Topics". The breadcrumb trail is "Home / Species / Appendix I & II of CMS". The main content area explains that CMS has two Appendices, I and II, which list migratory species to which the Convention applies. It also provides a link to the Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2024. The page is available in Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, and French. The page also includes a summary of the application of CMS to Overseas Territories/Autonomous Regions of Parties and of reserved areas, and sections for Appendix I - Endangered migratory species and Appendix II - Migratory species conserved through Agreements.

Where to find a list of species listed in CMS Appendices?

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2) The Species List

- Created some time ago as an online database
- Only shows species listed at the species level and those species listed at family or genus level for which an agreement has been concluded
- Limited content (for example contains the list of Range States, but not the distribution references)
- Like the pdf, also does not provide information on most aggregated species
- Examples of inaccuracies, not regularly updated



The screenshot shows the CMS Species List website. The header includes the CMS logo and the title "Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals". Navigation tabs include "About", "Convention Bodies", "Documents", "Activities", "Topics", "Species", and "Publications". The "Species" tab is active, leading to a page titled "Species". Below the title are icons for different taxonomic classes: MAMMALIA (camel), AVES (bird), REPTILIA (lizard), ACTINOPTERYGII (fish), and CHONDRII (shark). A filter panel allows users to search by Class, Order, Family, CMS Instrument, and Appendix. Below the filters, a table displays a list of species with columns for Scientific name, Common name, Class, CMS Appendix I, and CMS Appendix II. The table shows two entries: *Accipiter badius* (Shikra) and *Accipiter brevipes* (Levant Sparrowhawk).

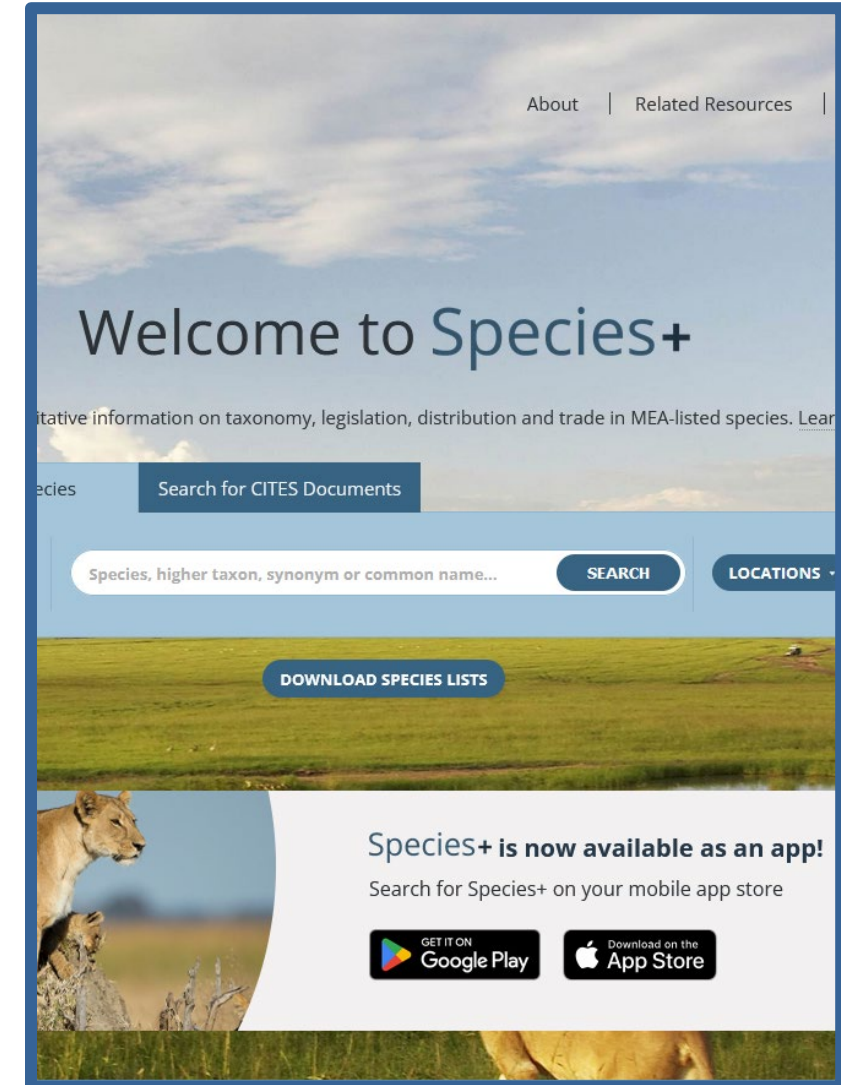
Scientific name	Common name	Class	CMS Appendix I	CMS Appendix II
Accipiter badius	Shikra	Aves	1979	
Accipiter brevipes	Levant Sparrowhawk	Aves		1979

Where to find a list of species listed in CMS Appendices?

No list / database shows all species considered listed in CMS

3) Species+

- Contains two sections with CITES and CMS
- Contains extensive information (common names in the three languages, synonyms, historical names, distribution and nomenclature references, library,...)
- Searchable, has also a mobile application
- The CITES part contains extensive information and is regularly updated (funded by the CITES Secretariat and the EU)
- The CMS part is undergoing only basic updates, supported in-kind by UNEP-WCMC
- Due to only basic updates of the CMS part, it may contain inaccuracies
- Could be an alternative for keeping an overview of CMS listed species if CMS decides to outsource it



Possible actions by the Secretariat

- Update Species List
- Work with UNEP-WCMC to update CMS-related part of the Species+
- Work with Parties to ensure that the information held in the databases serves their needs
- Seek financial resources



Challenges faced by the Secretariat

Financial

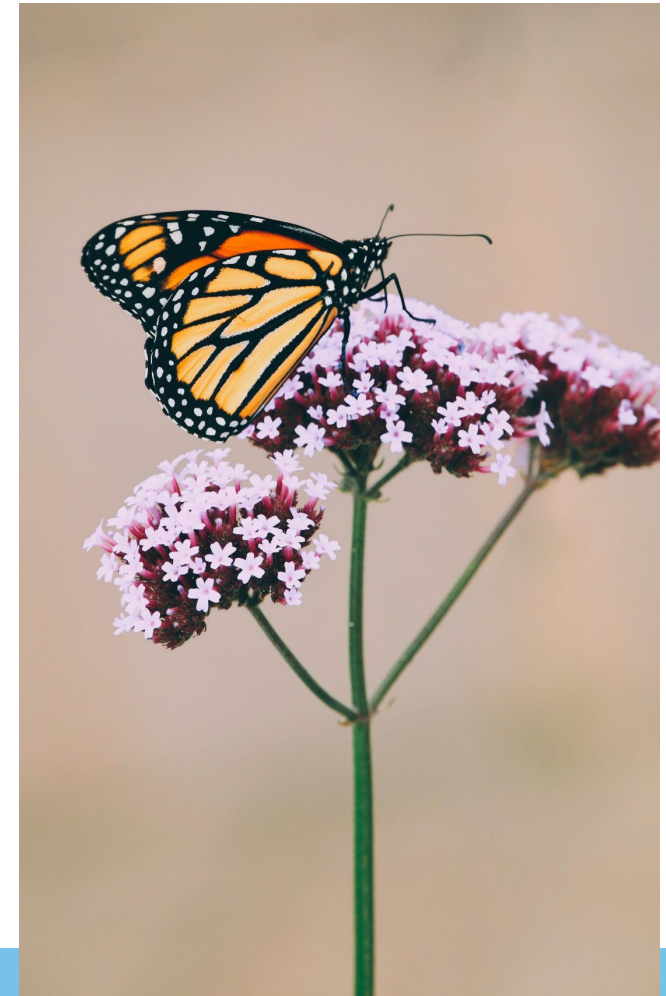
- Maintaining and keeping the database accurate requires additional resources

Technical

- Need for taxonomic and nomenclature expertise to verify information contained in the databases
- Need for improved management of data on distribution of species to allow for regular update

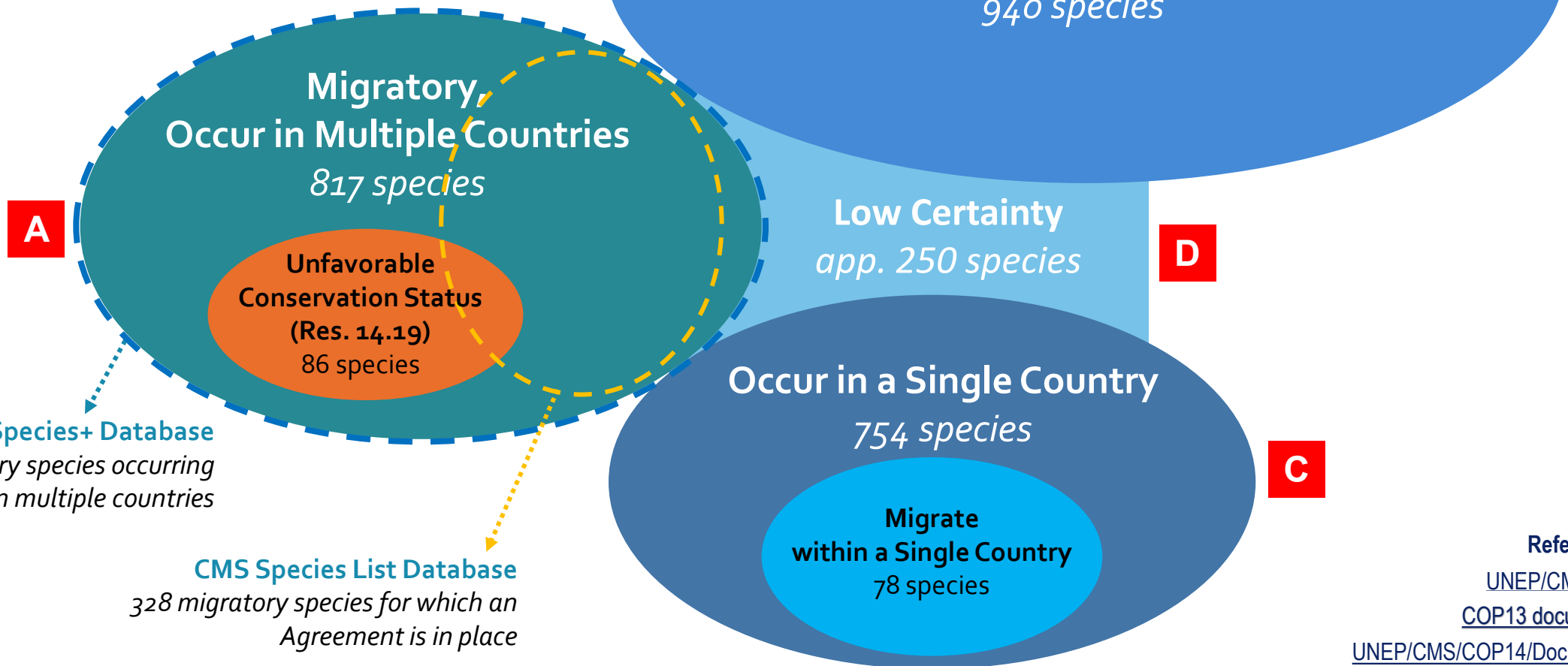
Policy decision

- Need for more clarity from Parties regarding the usefulness of showing selected bird species from those listed at higher taxonomic levels (genus, family)(*see the next slide*)



Options to keep track of CMS Appendix II birds listed at genus or family levels

2,820 bird species belong to families and genera listed in Appendix II



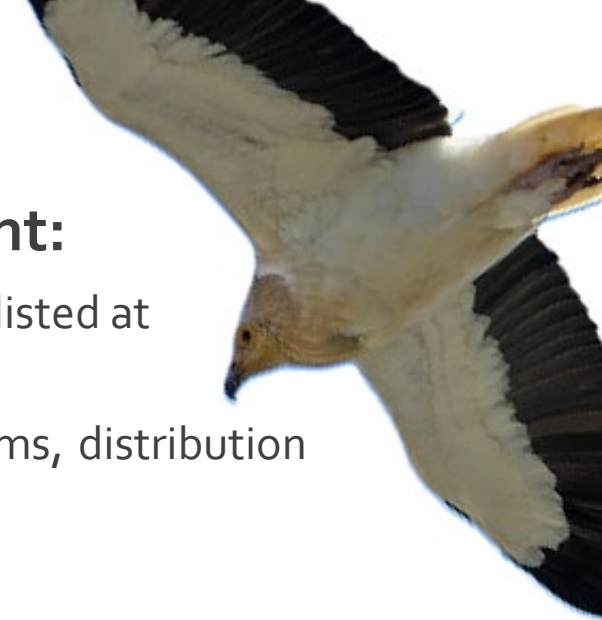
Reference documents :

[UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.27.3](#)

[COP13 document 27.3, Annex 3](#)

[UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.2/Rev.1/Annex 1](#)

Questions to be considered



- **Are there merits in keeping the two databases, with different content:**
 - **Species List** as the narrow database of species listed by species names and those species listed at genus or family levels for which an agreement exists, and
 - **Species+** as a broader database with more extensive content (common names, synonyms, distribution references, more/all species of those listed at genus or family levels...)?
- **What selection of species should be shown in an online database?**
 - The full list of CMS listed species and the species belonging to the families and genera listed in CMS Appendix II, including all 2820 bird species belonging to the listed genera or families, with annotation indicating their migratory behaviour where it has been determined, or
 - The CMS-listed species including those species belonging to the listed genera or families for which their migratory behaviour was confirmed (corresponding approximately to the 950 species that are currently shown at Species+)?
 - Should the species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 be marked by an annotation in the database?
 - What additional search options may Parties need (such as the conservation status, or the migratory behaviour if more species are listed in the future)?
- **How to improve the quality and reliability of data in both databases (including Range State data)?**