

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

Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Outcome 4

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
INFRASTRUCTURE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES**

1. Terms of Reference

The working group, consisting of experts identified in cooperation with the Secretariat, is to advise the Scientific Council and Secretariat on issues of infrastructure and migratory species, including:

- a) provide advice on possible actions that could be taken to address the impacts of infrastructure development (including dams and urban sprawl and development) on CMS-listed species;
- 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;
- c) assess whether current best practice strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment methodologies, including the preparation of environmental/biodiversity management plans and cumulative effects assessments, sufficiently address the impact infrastructure projects have on migratory species throughout the infrastructure’s lifecycle;
- 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 infrastructure developments; and
- 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.

2. Membership

Members of the Working Group should be experts from the following categories:

- Scientific Council members;
- Environmental Ministries and Wildlife Agencies;
- Development, Energy and Transport Ministries and Agencies;

- CMS Family Working Groups and Task Forces;
- Infrastructure sector;
- Impact assessment community, including through the International Association for Impact Assessment;
- International financial institutions;
- Scientific community involved in migratory species and infrastructure issues;
- Biodiversity data portals;
- Relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and intergovernmental organizations;
- International NGOs; 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 on its work to the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

4. Operation

The Working Group should build on existing work done under CMS that is related to linear infrastructure, such as outputs of the Energy Task Force, the *Guidelines for Reducing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Migratory Mammals in Central Asia*, and the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities*.

The Working Group will generally work through electronic means. Should the need arise and 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.

5. Duration

The Working Group is established for an open-ended period.