

52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON PHASING
OUT THE USE OF LEAD AMMUNITION AND LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

On the basis of the mandate from CMS COP13 provided through CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*, the Standing Committee is requested to review this document and the annexed draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights, and make comments, as appropriate, with a view to finalize and adopt the ToR.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON PHASING OUT THE USE OF LEAD AMMUNITION AND LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties to CMS at its thirteenth meeting (COP13, Gandhinagar, India, 2020) adopted CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*, in which it reaffirmed the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) ('the Guidelines') adopted by COP11, called on Parties to implement the Guidelines, and included direction regarding the establishment of a Task Force:
 18. *Instructs the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights to take forward the implementation of the Guidelines in its relevant sections, as appropriate,*and
 19. *Requests the Standing Committee to develop and approve terms of reference for the Task Force at its second meeting after COP13, building on the terms of reference adopted by COP12 for the Lead Task Group and including a provision to ensure reporting to the COP on its work and any recommendations for consideration by Parties."*
2. COP13 also adopted CMS/Decisions 13.39 and 13.40 on *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*, which included further direction on this topic:

13.39 Directed to: Parties, IGOs & NGOs, Others

Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors are encouraged to:

...

c) *provide financial and technical support to the Secretariat for the operations of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights.*

13.40 Directed to: Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources: ...

c) *convene the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights as early as possible after COP13 following the approval of the Task Force's Terms of Reference by the Standing Committee.*
3. The process on addressing the prevention of poisoning of migratory birds and progress made were presented in relevant reports to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties since COP11 (cf. [UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.1.3/Rev.2](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.3](#)). Through CMS/Resolution 10.26 *Minimizing the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds*¹, the COP had established the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG), as an intersessional working group established under the Scientific Council. At its 12th meeting, through CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP12) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*², the COP had established a 'Lead Task Group', as a thematic task group under the PPWG. The Secretariat had constituted the membership of the Lead Task Group in accordance with the criteria set forth in CMS/Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP12) (annex, paragraph 4). However, no resources could be secured to advance the work.

¹ Superseded by [CMS/Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.CO13\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#)

² Superseded by [CMS/Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.CO13\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#)

4. With support of representatives of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and experts of the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Groups, the Secretariat has prepared draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights, contained in the Annex of this document.

Recommended actions

5. The Standing Committee is recommended to
 - a) review the draft ToR in the Annex of this document,
 - b) revise the ToR, as appropriate,
 - c) approve the final ToR for the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON PHASING OUT THE USE OF LEAD AMMUNITION AND LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS (LEAD TASK FORCE)

1. Background and purpose

There are no safe levels of lead exposure for vertebrate species. Poisoning caused by ingestion of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights which are dispersed during the activities of shooting and fishing causes high levels of mortality and morbidity for many migratory bird species including population level impacts for some.

The Lead Task Force was established by [CMS/Resolution 11.15 \(Rev. COP13\)](#), paragraph 18 which:

Instructs the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights to take forward the implementation of the Guidelines in its relevant sections, as appropriate.

The Task Force will provide assistance and support to Parties, in implementing the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2) adopted by COP11 in its relevant sections on minimizing risks from lead ammunition and fishing weights.

2. Role and Scope

The role of the Task Force is to facilitate concerted efforts, actions and procedures as well as knowledge and information sharing to assist and support Parties in the phasing out of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights in order to prevent poisoning of migratory birds. Its geographical scope is global. The Task Force will cover all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS and its relevant associated instruments. The terms of office of the Task Force are open, and will be considered automatically renewed by each meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS unless otherwise decided through an amendment of CMS/Resolution 11.15.

3. Remit

The Task Force will:

- a. Assist and support Parties, in implementing the relevant sections of the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds adopted by COP11;
- b. Working with the Preventing Poisoning Working Group, facilitate understanding and offer technical advice and support to Parties on the Guidelines as they relate to lead poisoning as well as provision of information on other relevant frameworks for action;
- c. Encourage the dissemination of the Guidelines, and other relevant resources as they relate to lead, widely within relevant networks, as well as to end-users and others;
- d. Working with the Preventing Poisoning Working Group, keep the Guidelines, as they relate to lead actively under review in the light of developing research findings and other relevant information;
- e. Actively seek engagement from and with relevant stakeholders, industries and organizations including companies manufacturing lead as well as non-toxic ammunition or lead fishing weights;

- f. Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information on non-toxic alternatives, experience, best practice and know-how;
- g. Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions, in collaboration and through the creation of synergies with other initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean;
- h. Strengthen relevant regional and international networks;
- i. Set and implement priorities for its work set out in these Terms of Reference; and
- j. Monitor the implementation of the Task Force's work and its effectiveness and report to future sessions of the COP.

4. Membership

The membership of the Task Force will comprise designated government representatives of the Parties to the Convention, with regionally-balanced representation.

The following observers will be invited to contribute to the work of the Task Force:

- Secretariats of relevant MEAs;
- Representatives of CMS and other relevant MEA instruments (including the Preventing Poisoning Working Group);
- Academic institutions;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Other stakeholders, as appropriate; and
- Independent experts on an *ad hoc* basis as necessary and appropriate.

5. Governance

The Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members. The Task Force will report to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on its actions, results achieved, membership and any recommendations for consideration and agreement by the Parties.

6. Operation

As convener of the Task Force, the CMS Secretariat will facilitate its operation within the limits of its capacity. Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed with the following functions:

- organizing the meetings of the Task Force and preparing the background documents;
- maintaining and moderating the Task Force's communications;
- facilitating fundraising and resource mobilization for priority work; and
- facilitating engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting. Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically which will provide the primary mode of communication.

The Task Force will collaborate with the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group as appropriate.