

Notification 2026/010

19 June 2026

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

MEMBERSHIP OF CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

At its 8th meeting (ScC-SC8, Bonn, December 2025), the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council extended the duration of a number of working groups and task forces, to allow them to resume their work immediately after COP15. In addition, COP15 approved the [Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#) for the [Marine Pollution Working Group](#). These working groups with open-ended duration are listed in the Annex of this Notification.

Members of the Sessional Committee, other Scientific Councilors, representatives of Parties, observers to Sessional Committee meetings and the stakeholders listed in the table below are invited to indicate their interest in joining one or more of these working groups during the intersessional period between the 15th and 16th sessions of the CMS Conference of the Parties. To do so, please complete the table provided in the Annex to this notification.

Please email the nominations to the CMS Secretariat at cms-secretariat@un.org with copy to dagmar.zikova@un.org by **24 July 2026** to enable the working groups to undertake their work.

Please note that additional working groups will be established at a later stage, including the working groups on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence, transfrontier conservation areas and illegal and unsustainable taking.

<http://www.cms.int/en/news/notifications>

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES ESTABLISHED BY OR REPORTING TO THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD UNTIL COP16**

Please complete the table below and submit to the Secretariat through e-mail: cms-secretariat@un.org with copy to dagmar.zikova@un.org.

1. Renewal of interest in membership of existing Working Groups and Task Forces

Members of the Sessional Committee, other Scientific Councillors, representatives of Parties, observers to Sessional Committee meetings and the stakeholders listed in the table below are invited to indicate their interest in joining one or more of these working groups during the intersessional period between the 15th and 16th sessions of the CMS Conference of the Parties. To do so, please complete the table below:

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Groups on Crosscutting Issues					
Working Group on Climate Change and Migratory Species (ToR)	Des Thompson (COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • ScC observers • External experts can be invited to support specific tasks 			
Working Group on Ecological Connectivity (ToR)	Fernando Spina (COP-appointed Councillor for Connectivity and Ecological Networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • ScC observers • External experts may occasionally be invited to join meetings or to support specific tasks 			

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Group on Infrastructure and Migratory Species (ToR)	Barry Baker (COP-appointed Councillor for Bycatch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC 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 MEAs and IGOs • International NGOs; and • Other relevant experts 			

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Group on Migratory Species and Health (ToR)	Chair to be elected by the WG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Representatives of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds • Representatives of Preventing Poisoning Working Group • Representatives of Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group • Representatives from CMS instruments, including, but not limited to, EUROBATS and AEWA • Representatives of UNEP, WHO, WOH and FAO • Representatives of other relevant MEAs • Representatives from other international wildlife health expert groups including IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, WOH Working Group on Wildlife and Wildlife Disease Association • Independent experts who can be co-opted on an ad hoc basis as necessary and appropriate • Representatives from NGOs with specialisms relevant to migratory species and ecosystem health 			
CMS-FAO Co-Convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wildlife (ToR)	Chair to be elected by the WG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • International organizations, including UN bodies and specialist NGOs working in areas either directly or indirectly involved in issues related to the Task Force objectives • Observers from the FAO/UNEP/WHO/WOAH Quadripartite 	<i>n/a - restricted membership as per the Terms of Reference – to register your interest in joining this task force, please contact Dagmar Ziková (dagmar.zikova@un.org)</i>		

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Group on Maintaining Lists of Species Listed in CMS Appendices (ToR)	Stephen Garnett (COP-appointed Councillor for Birds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC) • ScC observers 			
Working Group on Taxonomic and Nomenclatural Issues and on Potential Taxa for Listing (ToR)	Stephen Garnett (COP-appointed Councillor for Birds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Experts from Parties and other observers • Representatives of other MEAs, such as CITES 			
<i>Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Learning</i> (ToR)	Philippa Brakes (University of Canterbury and Massey University), supported by Fernando Spina (COP-appointed Councillor for Connectivity and Ecological Networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • External experts considered leaders in the fields of social learning, sociality or animal culture • Membership is only upon invitation or agreement of the leadership of the ACEWG, i.e. Chair, responsible Councillor and the Secretariat 	<i>n/a – to register your interest in joining this working group, please contact Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma (heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org)</i>		

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Group on Pastoralism and CMS-listed species (ToR)	No Chair elected yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC 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 MEAs and UN organisations, such as UNEP, UNCCD, FAO, UNESCO • International and national NGOs • Representatives of relevant CMS Family Working Groups and Task Forces; and • Other relevant experts 			
Working Groups on Aquatic Issues					
Aquatic Mammals Working Group (ToR)	Vanessa Tossenberger (COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Party representatives • Representatives of the scientific or advisory bodies of all CMS aquatic mammal agreements • Representatives of relevant MEAs and NGOs • Other relevant experts 			

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Group on Aquatic Wild Meat (ToR)	Maximillian Djondo (Benin Environment and Education Society), supported by Barry Baker (COP-appointed Councillor for Bycatch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • ScC observers • External experts 			
Marine Pollution Working Group (approved by COP15)	Mark Simmonds (COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Observers 			
<i>Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS</i> (ToR)	No Chairs elected yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Relevant experts from the fields of science, policy and relevant civil society organizations that are members and observers of the scientific and advisory bodies of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS</i> • <i>External experts (upon invitation of the Co-Chairs and Secretariats)</i> 	<i>n/a – to register your interest in joining this working group, please contact Jenny Renell (jenny.renell@un.org)</i>		
Working Groups on Avian Issues					
Working Group on Flyways (ToR)	Rob Clay (COP-appointed Councillor for Birds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Party representatives • Representatives of relevant CMS instruments • Representatives of relevant MEAs • Representatives of relevant NGOs • External experts (upon invitation of the Chair and Secretariats) 			

Working Group	Chair	Membership as per the terms of reference of each working group	Name of the proposed working group member	Email address	Membership category as per terms of reference, and affiliation
Working Group on Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (ToR)	Olivier Biber (Swiss Ornithological Institute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Party representatives • Representatives of relevant CMS instruments • Representatives of relevant NGOs • External experts (upon invitation of the Chair and Secretariats) 			
Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds Working Group (ToR)	No Chair elected yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScC members • Party representatives • Representatives of UN bodies • Representatives of other relevant IGOs • Representatives of relevant NGOs • Experts 			