

# COP 14

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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## SAMARKAND

UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

**Explore the Comprehensive Program of  
CMS COP14 Special & Side Events Here**

# Monday 12 February 2024

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<b>Event Description and Organizer(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b>	

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<b>Coordinated Action for the Conservation of Angelsharks in the Mediterranean</b>	<b>Tashkent</b>
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The Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) was listed on Appendices I and II at the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP12). In addition, parties approved a Concerted Action for the species and agreed to develop regional conservation plans, including for the Mediterranean region. At the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU), Signatories agreed to contribute to the implementation of the Concerted Action. To this end, the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee (Sharks AC) developed a draft Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med), presented to COP14 for formal adoption by Parties. With this side event, the organizers seek to: 1. Provide Parties and observers with an introduction to the SSAP Angelshark Med, presented to COP14 for formal adoption by Parties; 2. Showcase the importance of area-based management for Angelsharks while encouraging Parties to consider identified Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) in the region as high priority for the implementation of management measures to conserve these species; 3. Provide examples of ongoing implementation at the regional and national level; 4. Discuss the coordination and governance structure to support the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med.

**Organizer(s): Angel Shark Project and Partners**  
(Ms Eva Meyers, [angelshark2014@gmail.com](mailto:angelshark2014@gmail.com))

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<b>Harmonizing Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Climate-Smart Conservation in Central Asia</b>	<b>Khiva</b>
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In an era characterized by the intertwined planetary crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, people need to adapt to changing climate in ways that do not aggravate biodiversity loss, while conservation planning needs to consider the effects climate change may have on the species and ecosystems it wants to conserve.

This side event aims to explore the potential of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) working in synergy with climate-smart conservation at the landscape scale. By showing examples and recommendations from Central Asian mountain regions, such as UNEP's Central Asian Mammals and Climate Adaptation (CAMCA) and Vanishing Treasures initiatives, the side event will zoom in specifically on two dimensions: the potential of EbA and climate-smart conservation to contribute to countries fulfilling their international commitments, and the potential of these combined approaches to form a more sustainable and economically viable landscape management approach, supported across different sectors. Regionally appropriate snacks will be provided.

**Organizer(s): UNEP – CMS**  
(Dr Maarten Hofman; [maarten.hofman@un.org](mailto:maarten.hofman@un.org))

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<i>Event Description and Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
<b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b>	
<p data-bbox="251 325 1356 399" style="text-align: center;"><b>Mainstreaming Ecological Connectivity to Support the Protection of Migratory Species: Strengthening Local and Subnational Initiatives</b></p> <p data-bbox="181 441 1356 945">This side event aims to shed light on the initiatives and contributions of local and subnational governments towards safeguarding migratory species and their habitats. It will explore guidelines, initiatives, and approaches that empower cities to actively contribute to the conservation and protection of these species. By working together at various levels, we can create a unified and concerted effort to safeguard these remarkable species for future generations. The side event will commence with short strategic statements addressing the significance of implementing the CMS across all levels of government to properly safeguard migratory species. As a multilevel governance approach is of key importance to promote collaboration, strengthen ecological connectivity, and contribute to the fulfillment of international commitments. The second part includes the presentation of initiatives by local governments and key stakeholders on bird protection, ecosystem restoration and its impact to migratory species, ecological connectivity, and the CMS-RAMSAR nexus.</p> <p data-bbox="181 976 1356 1060"><b>Organizer(s): ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, (Ms Ivana Del Rio Benitez Landa; <a href="mailto:ivana.b-landa@iclei.org">ivana.b-landa@iclei.org</a>)</b></p>	<b>Bukhara</b>
<p data-bbox="251 1102 1356 1176" style="text-align: center;"><b>Human and Animal Culture as Determinants of Spatial Units for Species Conservation Action</b></p> <p data-bbox="181 1218 1356 1764">The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species integrates Green Status metrics that quantify the impact of conservation action on population recovery, forecast the effect of conservation interventions, and measure progress towards achieving fully conserved status. Evaluation of Green Status requires delineation of spatial units by subpopulation, following ecological and geographical features, and location, or a combination of these. This ties in directly with the work under CMS on the conservation implications of animal culture. In this side event, we explore the role of human and animal culture as drivers of population structure, and therefore determinants of spatial units relevant to Green Status and conservation action under CMS. We present case studies of both human and animal culture. Indigenous peoples and local communities divide animal populations following criteria such as use and spirituality. Animal species display different cultural traits within what may be perceived as coherent geographical units. We report on recent investigations on apes, cetaceans, birds, and sea turtles, and explore consequences of cultural spatial stratification on conservation planning and action.</p> <p data-bbox="181 1795 1356 1908"><b>Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (Prof Jon Paul Rodriguez; <a href="mailto:jonpaul.rodriguez@iucn.org">jonpaul.rodriguez@iucn.org</a>)</b></p>	<b>Ferghana</b>

# Monday 12 February 2024

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<i>Event Description and Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
<b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b>	
<p><b>Challenges and Opportunities for the Conservation of Migratory Marine Mammals in ABNJ</b></p> <p>As part of their migration paths, marine mammals often move from EEZ, including marine protected areas, to the high-seas (ABNJ), where they face heightened threats of bycatch, hunting, and pollution. The new BBNJ agreement (underway) aims to create marine protected areas in the high-seas. In their design, it is crucial to center the importance of migratory marine species in order to ensure the highest level of protection. This event will bring together a panel of experts and MPA managers to discuss the challenges and opportunities in devising effective conservation strategies that meet the needs of migratory marine mammals while limiting impacts on human activities. This event is sponsored by the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) who manages the Agoa Sanctuary, a marine protected area recognized under the Cartagena Convention performing missions of monitoring, education and cooperation with regional stakeholders in the Caribbean, in partnership with the High Seas Alliance, IUCN, and GOBI.</p> <p><b>Organizer(s): Office Français de la Biodiversité, France</b> (Mr Damien Jahan, <a href="mailto:damien.jahan@ofb.gouv.fr">damien.jahan@ofb.gouv.fr</a>)</p>	<b>Nukus</b>

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<i>Event Description and Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
<b>Expo Centre – Second Lunch Session – 13:45 - 14:30</b>	
<p><b>Global Wildlife Program: Investing in wildlife conservation to strengthen livelihoods and economies</b></p> <p>The GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP) brings together 38 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean to conserve wildlife including migratory species. Working together across governments, communities and partners, the GWP addresses illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss and fragmentation, and zoonotic spillover risk. An essential part of the GWP is ensuring that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets through the generation of wildlife-based economies that support job creation, boost incomes and increase societal buy-in for conservation, through activities such as nature-based tourism, sustainable use, and restoration. This event will discuss experiences and priorities to strengthen local livelihoods and community engagement through wildlife and habitat conservation, and opportunities for this to support national CMS implementation. Join the GWP for an engaging conversation on how to maximize the contributions of wildlife conservation to development.</p> <p><b>Organizer(s): World Bank</b> (Ms Lisa Farroway; <a href="mailto:lfarroway@worldbank.org">lfarroway@worldbank.org</a>)</p>	<b>Tashkent</b>

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**Important Shark and Ray Areas: A New Tool to Support Area-Based Management****Khiva**

The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group will introduce the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) project. This project aims to identify discrete, three-dimensional, portions of habitat that are critical to the survival of sharks, rays, and chimaeras around the globe, and that have the potential to be managed for conservation. The delineation of ISRAs aims to support the implementation of global conservation targets. ISRAs are complementary to other area-based conservation and seascapes of biodiversity importance such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). This expert driven process is being applied across 13 regions. We will present case studies on the application of the ISRA Criteria in the Central and South American Pacific, Mediterranean and Black Seas, and Western Indian Ocean. With this event, the ISRA project seeks to:

1. support CMS' work by identifying critical habitats for sharks, rays, and chimaeras;
2. showcase the importance of area-based management for sharks, rays, and chimaeras; and
3. encourage countries to get involved in the ISRA project and consider these areas as high priority for the implementation of management measures to conserve these species.

**Organizer(s): IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group  
(Dr Rima Jabado; [rimajabado@hotmail.com](mailto:rimajabado@hotmail.com))**

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**Bukhara****Mobilising Sustainable Resources for Wildlife Conservation: Opportunities and Strategies**

Conservation of African elephants is a pressing continental and global concern. The African elephant, a keystone species playing a critical role in maintaining biodiversity of ecosystems, faces persistent threats including increasing human-wildlife conflicts, habitat loss, and poaching. Preserving their populations and habitats requires concerted efforts from African elephant range States, donors, local communities, and other conservation stakeholders.

Similar concerns for the survival of the African carnivores led to the development of a Programme of Work by the Secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in collaboration with experts from IUCN specialist groups. The African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) aims to mobilize resources and expertise to maximize conservation gains for iconic carnivores and the ecosystems that depend on them. Having long supported carnivore Range States on

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<b>Event Description and Organizer(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Expo Centre – Second Lunch Session – 13:45 - 14:30</b>	
<p>conservation action, IUCN’s Save Our Species Programme is partnering with CMS to mobilize funds and action to implement the ACI.</p> <p>Among the major challenges faced in these efforts is securing adequate and sustainable financing. This event aims to bring together range States, donors and other stakeholders for an interactive panel discussion on challenges in resource mobilisation for wildlife conservation. The session will explore ongoing efforts through the experiences of the UNEP African Elephant Fund and the IUCN Save Our Species Programme and discuss challenges to resource mobilisation and opportunities for innovative financing from the range states and donor perspective.</p> <p>Convening presenters from CMS, Range States, donors, UNEP AEF, and IUCN’s <a href="#">SOS African Wildlife</a>, this session will also draw key principles for effective collaboration, delivering measurable conservation action, and mobilizing rapid finance for sustained impacts across Range States.</p> <p><b>Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</b> (Ms. Anne MUGO; <a href="mailto:Anne.Mugo@iucn.org">Anne.Mugo@iucn.org</a> and Ms. Joyce Riungu: <a href="mailto:joyce.riungu@un.org">joyce.riungu@un.org</a>)</p>	

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**Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs): An Effective Tool for Flyway-Wide Conservation of Threatened Migratory Birds** **Ferghana**

Aligning with the COP14 slogan "Nature knows no borders", this event will highlight SSAPs as an effective tool enabling conservation of threatened migratory birds along their flyways. A multi-stakeholder effort, this event will be co-led by AEWA, Raptors MoU and BirdLife International, focusing on Sociable Lapwing, Steppe Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, and Indian Skimmer, showcasing the importance of SSAPs for migratory bird conservation. As part of the event, AEWA will sign an MoU with the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan to formalise their role in coordination of the Sociable Lapwing ISSAP and ensuring sustained conservation efforts. Capitalising on break-through decision at the Raptors MoU MoS3 committing Governments to protect 7,500 sites critical to raptors, we will call for development of flyway-wide SSAPs for the Endangered Steppe Eagle and Egyptian Vulture. Finally, we will establish the need to address threats faced by migratory riverine birds, i.e. Indian Skimmer, through SSAPs, along the highly-populous Central Asian Flyway.

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<i>Event Description and Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
<b>Expo Centre – Second Lunch Session – 13:45 - 14:30</b>	
<b>Organizer(s): – AEWA – CMS - Raptors MOU - BirdLife International – Uzbekistan’s Society for the Protection of Birds</b> <b>(Mr Sergey Dereliev; <a href="mailto:sergey.dereliev@un.org">sergey.dereliev@un.org</a>)</b>	

## **Range-wide Cooperation to Protect Jaguars and Biodiversity**

**Nukus**

Sixteen jaguar range countries agreed at a September 2023 CITES meeting in Brazil to cooperate on addressing the threats to the species throughout its range, building off of the proposed Jaguar Initiative now before the CMS CoP. As apex carnivores, jaguars are critical umbrellas for thousands of other species and indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem health. The species' conservation requires cooperation across borders, creating opportunities and challenges in securing corridors and connectivity, combating poaching and illegal trade, fostering sustainable development, and more. As the Parties contemplate the development of a joint program of work on jaguars to fulfill their commitments under CMS, CITES and CBD, this event will provide a forum to advance the process and pave the way for intergovernmental cooperation on securing a future for jaguars and their landscapes.

**Organizer(s): Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (MINAЕ) Costa Rica and Office Français de la Biodiversité, France – Panthera**  
**(Mr. Carlos Mario Orrego Vasquez; [correge@minae.go.cr](mailto:correge@minae.go.cr); Mr Damien Jahan, [damien.jahan@ofb.gouv.fr](mailto:damien.jahan@ofb.gouv.fr) and Ms. Karen Wood; [kwood@panthera.org](mailto:kwood@panthera.org))**





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**Event Description and Organizer(s)**

**Room**

**Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30**

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**Ecological Connectivity: an Integrated Opportunity to Address Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Desertification – Climate Chance Association**

**Tashkent**

Ecological corridors are the circulatory system of nature. This event will outline how connecting lands and seas is one of the most important adaptation responses to ensure climate resilience of species and ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people.

At a time when biodiversity loss is occurring at an unprecedented rate and is accelerated by the effects of climate change among other factors, the COP 15 biodiversity conference in December 2022 proved to be a crucial milestone for defining an ambitious framework for protecting ecosystems. The resulting Kunming-Montreal Framework emphasizes the fundamental contribution that ecological connectivity makes to healthy functioning ecosystems and species by including it in a number of goals and targets. Additionally, an international "African Biodiversity Corridors" coalition was launched during the conference. Co-chaired by France, Gabon, Guinea, and Tanzania, and supported by a secretariat provided by the Climate Chance Association, the coalition aims to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and desertification in integrated ways. This is in line with science clearly showing that protected and conserved areas, when, more ecologically connected, are far more effective than isolated areas. They allow species to move to adapt to changing climatic conditions, seeking out new areas that are more suitable.

To combat habitat fragmentation, informed planning decisions in the next few years can determine the future of much of Africa's wild flora and fauna: either confinement in large parks with genetic fragmentation of populations or thriving ecological networks and corridors where human-animal cohabitation is managed that generates sustainable livelihoods.

**Organizer(s): Climate Chance Association**  
(Ms Anne Raimat; [anne.raimat@climate-chance.org](mailto:anne.raimat@climate-chance.org))

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**Securing Asian Flyways: Ecological Perspective, Knowledge Sharing and Management**

**Khiva**

Flyways worldwide are characterized by different degrees and forms of institutionalization for international cooperation to save migratory birds. This side event will introduce key findings from Central Asian Flyway and East Asian-Australasian Flyway related to effectiveness in providing ecological perspectives and management.

**Organizer(s): International Crane Foundation and Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea – IUCN**  
Mr Spike Millington; [spike@savingcranes.org](mailto:spike@savingcranes.org) and Dr Hyunah Choi ([hachoi@hss.or.kr](mailto:hachoi@hss.or.kr))

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)**

**Room**

**Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30**

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**Recognising and Building on the Success of Transboundary Cooperation on the Recovery of Saiga Antelope in Central Asia**

**Bukhara**

Under the leadership of the Government of Kazakhstan and in partnership with government representatives from Uzbekistan, as well as civil society representatives from the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative and Saiga Conservation Alliance, this side-event will be an opportunity to recognise the success of international cooperation on the recovery of Saiga antelope in Central Asia. The event will bring focus to the breadth of work across both range states, from anti-poaching and monitoring efforts, through increasing site protection and enhancing connectivity along migration routes, to working with local people to promote sustainable rangeland use and enable co-existence of people and Saiga. The participants will reflect on the successes and challenges to date, whilst looking forward to future opportunities for transboundary cooperation on Saiga recovery. The coordination of the Saiga MOU will be at the centre of discussions, whilst highlighting synergies across multiple CMS instruments and resolutions linked to Saiga conservation.

**Organizer(s): The Committee of Forestry & Wildlife of the Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

(Mr Andrey Kim; [a.kim@ecogeo.gov.kz](mailto:a.kim@ecogeo.gov.kz) )

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**Listing Sand Tigers on CMS**

**Ferghana**

Sand Tigers, are a species of shark found in coastal waters around the world. These sharks play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems, as they are apex predators that help control the populations of other species. However, they face numerous threats, including overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change, which have led to a decline in their population. Global experts will discuss the importance of listing Sand Tigers on CMS and the science that went into the listing proposal.

**Organizer(s): Wildlife Conservation Society WCS**

(Ms Dana Tricarico; [dtricarico@wcs.org](mailto:dtricarico@wcs.org) )

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**First World Species Congress**

**Nukus**

In response to IUCN World Conservation Congress Resolution 4.019, Reverse the Red will host the first World Species Congress on 15 May 2024, as a 24h, online event. Content will be adapted to the interests and needs of different regions, combining live and pre-recorded segments that will showcase evidence-based conservation strategies, invite

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organizations and governments to accelerate their commitments to saving species, and inspire conservationists to amplify success. Governments, civil society, indigenous people's organizations, academics, and the private sector will engage and network. Special emphasis will be given to Reverse the Red's support to government efforts to deliver commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. From this session, attendees will understand opportunities for individual and organizational engagement with the World Species Congress and Reverse the Red's efforts to reduce extinction risk.

**Organizer(s): IUCN Species Survival Commission**  
(Prof Jon Paul Rodriguez; [jonpaul.rodriguez@iucn.org](mailto:jonpaul.rodriguez@iucn.org) )

### Main Building Side Events (Snow Leopard) 12:45 - 13:30

#### Planning Energy Infrastructure in Uzbekistan with Migratory Birds in Mind

Snow  
Leopard

Uzbekistan is home to internationally important populations of several migratory bird species that are highly sensitive to energy infrastructure. As the country looks to expand renewable energy, it will be important to do so with migratory birds in mind. This side event will bring together key stakeholders from government, developers, investors, and NGOs to identify approaches for achieving bird-safe energy expansion. Planned participants include EBRD, ADB, IFC, DEG, Masdar, ACWA Power Company, BirdLife, UzSPE and the Uzbek government.

**Organizer(s): Birdlife International - DEG Impulse GMBH**  
(Mr Tris Allinson ([tris.allinson@birdlife.org](mailto:tris.allinson@birdlife.org) )

## Special Events (Snow Leopard) 13:45 - 14:30

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#### Climate Change and Migratory Species Report

Snow  
Leopard

The impacts of climate change on migratory species are wide-ranging, in many cases severe, and are happening now. Reducing the negative effects of climate change on many migratory species by ensuring their habitats are healthy, well-connected and resilient benefits the species themselves, and also benefits humanity through provision of ecosystem services. Migratory species are the natural shared link between nations. Putting the recovery of migratory species at the heart of ecosystem restoration will help countries to jointly achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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This event will examine a UK Government-commissioned report: Climate Change and Migratory Species – a review of impacts, conservation actions, ecosystem services, and indicators.

**Organizer(s):** CMS, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom, and British Trust for Ornithology  
(Dr James Williams; [james.williams@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:james.williams@jncc.gov.uk) )

Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30

## **Asiatic Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus*): Status, Threats, and Future Conservation Needs**

**Tashkent**

The Asiatic wild ass (*Equus hemionus*) is found throughout Central Asia ranging from Mongolia and China to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, India and Israel. The only large population is found in Mongolia and the other populations are fragmented and relatively small. In the recent past some small populations have been extirpated. Asiatic wild ass populations can be migratory and the development of roads, railways and pipelines can restrict movements and increase the loss of habitat and fragmentation. Climate change will potentially further exacerbate the impact of development and fragmentation on Asiatic wild ass survival and conservation. We will present an overview of the status of Asiatic wild ass, current and future threats, and how range wide and trans boundary cooperation in management and conservation could mitigate threats and maintain and improve natural ecosystems for people and Asiatic wild ass.

**Organizer(s):** – IUCN/SSC Equid Specialist Group  
(Dr. Patricia Moehlman; [pdmhbh@aol.com](mailto:pdmhbh@aol.com))

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## **Disrupted Planet, Disrupted Health: The Health of Migratory Species with Avian Influenza Case Study**

**Khiva**

A human pandemic of a novel coronavirus and a pandemic of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds and mammals serve to remind us of the interconnectedness of health of people and animals.

There is now good recognition that the drivers of population decline are in effect the drivers of disease emergence. With such disruption to ecosystems and our interactions with wildlife creating novel interfaces for pathogen exchange, the side event will explore the causes of ill-health for migratory species and the approaches which serve to both prevent problems and minimize impacts.

A case study of HPAI with its global One Health consequences, will illustrate how preparedness and response planning are key.

The CMS Migratory Species and Health Review will be introduced along with the recent guidance from the CMS FAO Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.

**Organizer(s):** The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and University of Edinburgh, UK

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(Dr Ruth Cromie; [Ruth.cromie@outlook.com](mailto:Ruth.cromie@outlook.com))

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## **The Largest Ungulate of South America, Listing Lama Guanicoe on Appendices I and II of CMS** **Bukhara**

In the international year of camelids propose the International Guanaco Day, and raise awareness of the problems of the species and the importance of its inclusion in Appendix II to promote actions that allow maintaining the integrity of large, medium and small populations throughout its range, as well as ensuring the connection between cross-border populations.

**Organizer(s): National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), Peru**  
(Ms Doris Rodriguez; [drodriguez@serfor.gob.pe](mailto:drodriguez@serfor.gob.pe) )

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## **Cats of the Silk Road**

**Ferghana**

The Central Asian ecosystems supporting several species of wild cats, such as the Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*), caracal (*Caracal caracal*), Asiatic wild cat (*Felis lybica*), Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), sand cat (*Felis margarita*) and Manul (*Otocolobus manul*) have unique ecological characteristics that are currently under intense anthropogenic pressure.

A Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard (2023 - 2032) endorsed in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2022 is up for adoption at COP14. It is a blueprint for strengthened monitoring and conservation activities across the range.

Of the smaller cats, manul and and Lynx are proposed for inclusion in Appendix II at this COP.

This side event brings together governments and conservation experts to provide an overview on these cats and demonstrate how range-wide cooperation in monitoring, management, and conservation can preserve their prey and habitats and build a more harmonious relationship with local people.

**Organizer(s): – Conservation X Labs – IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group**  
(Ms Tanya Rosen; [tanya@conservationxlabs.org](mailto:tanya@conservationxlabs.org) and Dr Urs Breitenmoser; [u.breitenmoser@kora.c](mailto:u.breitenmoser@kora.c) )

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## **Conservation of Marine Migratory Species in the UAE**

**Nukus**

Marine migratory species, specifically dugong and sea turtles, exhibit ecological and biological synergy due to their long lifespan, slow breeding, and thriving in shallow coastal areas. Both species face common threats such as fisheries bycatch and vessel strike,

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necessitating similar conservation measures. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosts significant populations of dugongs and sea turtle species, namely, the endangered green turtle and the critically endangered hawksbill turtle. The UAE is signatory to UNEP/CMS agreements, with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) spearheading research and conservation efforts for these species and their associated critical habitats. The presentation will highlight EAD's efforts, addressing status, threats, technology and innovation use, and management actions for the protection and conservation of migratory marine species.

**Organizer(s): Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**  
(Dr Himansu S Das; [hsdas@ead.gov.ae](mailto:hsdas@ead.gov.ae))

## Main Building Side Events (Snow Leopard), 18:15 - 19:00

### Fostering Conservation of Migratory Birds Along the CAF-an Institutional Mechanism

**Snow  
Leopard**

Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans. India has been actively involved in fostering flyway cooperation and has also organized inter-governmental meetings that have been critically important in developing and taking forward agreements and plans. India has also launched a comprehensive National Action Plan (NAP) for conservation of migratory birds along the CAF, in 2018. Taking forward the Decision 13.46 adopted during CMS CoP 13 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India had also organized meetings on developing an institutional framework for the Central Asian Flyway. In pursuance of the meeting held in May 2023 in New Delhi, India has submitted a Resolution on Institutional framework for Central Asian Flyway for consideration by the CMS CoP 14. The side event would give an insight on how an institutional framework can help in conservation of migratory birds along CAF and also how cooperation amongst the CAF countries can help in fostering conservation of migratory birds along CAF.

**Organizer(s): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India**  
(Mr BIVASH RANJAN; [adgwl-mef@nic.in](mailto:adgwl-mef@nic.in))

## Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

### One Health: Prevention of Zoonotic Disease Through Protected and Conserved Areas

**Tashkent**

The side event will demonstrate the importance of the One Health approach and the prevention of emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases by expanding the extent and strengthening conservation measures in natural and overlapping sociocultural areas through consolidation of a fair and effective regional network of protected and conserved areas across Central Asia. It will showcase three core and interlinked thematic components,

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## Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

focusing in turn on: (i) area-based (landscape) conservation, (ii) wildlife species management for conservation and disease risk mitigation, and (iii) enhancing integrated human and environmental health through good governance and increased equity in regard to Protected and Conserved Areas (PCAs') including "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs) impacts on local communities who the project will help become the long-term custodians and more effectively govern, manage, and conserve their land and biodiversity. The side event will further detail how these components will strategically inform national policies and programs. The side event will be co-hosted by five Central Asian countries, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and CMS.

**Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

(Ms Jennifer Kelleher; [jennifer.kelleher@iucn.org](mailto:jennifer.kelleher@iucn.org) )

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### Innovative Mechanisms for Connectivity Conservation Along Free-Flowing River Ecosystems

Khiva

IUCN provides reference standards for effective management and equitable governance of protected and conserved areas (management categories, governance types, Green List, KBAs). These tools and metrics help to measure impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and by so, can leverage commitments from new partners and help generate innovative financial mechanisms to support long-term conservation efforts. This is particularly relevant for river basins, where natural processes, connectivity and species migration are often impacted by human activities, such as impoundments, abstraction, extraction and pollution. Free-flowing rivers and their associated features, such as deltas, islands, floodplains and gravel beds are essential habitats for various life stages of migratory species, while at the same time providing livelihoods and being part of the identity of many Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The side event will showcase an inspiring collaboration between IUCN, the Albanian Government, WCPA, **environmental** NGOs and the outdoor clothing company Patagonia to protect the Vjosa River in Albania, one of Europe's last wild rivers. The Vjosa Wild River National Park, declared an IUCN Category II protected area in March 2023, aims to maintain longitudinal, lateral, vertical and temporal connectivity along the entire length of the river and its free-flowing tributaries. This provides a potential new blueprint for large-scale conservation of connectivity for migratory species, through an inclusive riverscape approach that benefits both people and nature.

**Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

(Ms Ulrika Åberg; [ulrika.aberg@iucn.org](mailto:ulrika.aberg@iucn.org) )

# Tuesday 13 February 2024

Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

## Americas Flyways Framework: A Grassland Migratory Bird Perspective

Bukhara

While many migratory bird species in the Americas are experiencing rapid and concerning population declines, several opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among American governments remain to be leveraged for bird conservation. The Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) provides an overarching guide to advance bird conservation for Parties of the CMS and interested stakeholders. The Trilateral (Canada, United States, and Mexico) Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management Migratory Bird Working Table (MBWT), whose member nations are not signatories to CMS, has been amplifying grassland conservation efforts using the AFF as a mechanism to build connections among governments and non-government organizations across the Western Hemisphere. During the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, Parties of the CMS and interested stakeholders, such as the MBWT, will discuss next steps for collaborative grassland conservation across the Western Hemisphere under the auspices of the AFF and establish other opportunities to advance the AFF's five strategic goals.

**Organizer(s): Migratory Bird Working Table, Trilateral Committee for Wildlife (Ms Jo Lutmerding; [jo\\_lutmerding@fws.gov](mailto:jo_lutmerding@fws.gov) )**

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## New Frontiers for Ecological Connectivity: From Policy to Implementation

Ferghana

For the last several years, the importance of ecological connectivity for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation has been increasingly recognized in international policy. This is evidenced by the high level and diversity of commitments including the CMS 2020 Gandhinagar Declaration and related resolution 'Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species'; the 2021 UN General Assembly Resolution 'Nature Knows No Borders', the 2022 Ministerial Declaration of the UN Environment Assembly, and the 2022 CBD Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Now, political commitment and collaboration is in place to bridge policy with large-scale and replicable connectivity conservation actions that can provide more comprehensive and durable solutions across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

In this event, participants will share information about efforts around the world that are moving connectivity conservation from discourse to implementation. The program will include an overview of international policy developments and speakers from government and civil society reflecting on progress made at regional and national levels. Short presentations will also provide examples of existing and upcoming resources, tools, and activities for implementation, including updates on collaborative initiatives, on-the-ground projects, and available technical and capacity-building resources for understanding threats, opportunities, and actions for connectivity conservation.



# Tuesday 13 February 2024

Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

Organizer(s): Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC)  
(Mr Gabriel Oppler; [gabe@largelandscapes.org](mailto:gabe@largelandscapes.org) )

## Action on landbirds and avian wild meat across the African-Eurasian and Central Asian range

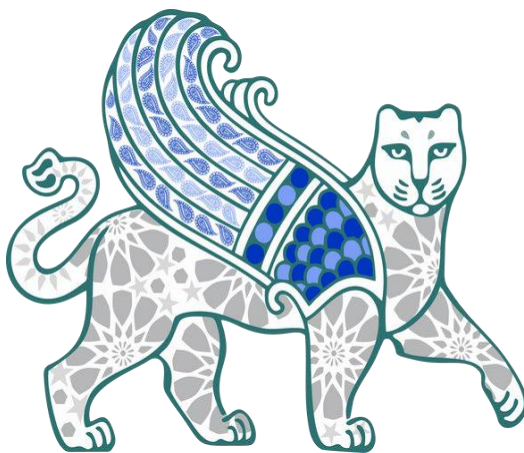
Nukus

This event delves into the continued threats to migratory landbirds covered by the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). It will also highlight a new review being undertaken to assess the impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of all CMS-listed birds across the region, as called for in CMS Decision 13.109.

Reflecting on priorities for action, gaps in knowledge and key case studies, a panel from across the region will look at information needs and discuss how policy frameworks, decision-makers and the NGO community can effectively implement the Landbird Action Plan. The event will outline current steps being taken by the CMS and its Parties and stakeholders and discuss essential future steps for sustained conservation across these expansive global flyways.

Participants will be encouraged to actively provide feedback and participate in discussions. This event is a collaborative effort, organised jointly by the CMS Secretariat, the Swiss Ornithological Institute, and BirdLife International, to raise awareness of and emphasise the significance of the complex threats facing migratory landbirds in this flyway and invite inputs to the avian wild meat review.

Organizer(s): CMS Secretariat, BirdLife International and Swiss Ornithological Institute  
(Ms [Jessica.Williams@birdlife.org](mailto:Jessica.Williams@birdlife.org); Mr. Alain Jacot; [alain.jacot@vogelwarte.ch](mailto:alain.jacot@vogelwarte.ch) and Mr. Ivan Ramirez; [ivan.ramirez@un.org](mailto:ivan.ramirez@un.org) )



# COP 14

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

## SAMARKAND

UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)**

**Room**

**Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30**

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**The Urgent Need for Ecological Connectivity – A Spotlight on Guiding Mandates and Effective Solutions**

**Tashkent**

Ecological connectivity is essential for ensuring the health of habitats, ecosystems, and, ultimately, the very survival of migratory species. This side event will detail the crucial need for restoration and connectivity across landscapes. It will also elucidate the multiple policy mandates – within the CMS framework and beyond – that recognize ecological connectivity as an indispensable conservation tool. Finally, the side event will showcase solutions, including an ongoing corridor initiative in South Africa that will remove barriers between proximal fragmented habitats and bolster the resilience of visiting migratory species to effectively connect and enhance the productivity of all habitats within their ranges.

**Organizer(s): Law of the Wild**

(Ms Catherine Pruet; [catherine@lawofthewild.org](mailto:catherine@lawofthewild.org) )

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**Harnessing Innovative Technology and Solutions to Support Robust implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework Goals and Targets**

**Khiva**

We need to turn science into real action on the ground that result in implementation successes for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory animals and their habitats that we can measure. A transformative approach will be necessary – technology solutions can help us achieve this.

New and emerging technologies, such as remote sensing through satellites and drones, geographic information systems (GIS) for spatial analysis, artificial intelligence (AI) for data processing and predictive modelling, big data analytics for comprehensive biodiversity assessments, and digital platforms for real-time data sharing and stakeholder engagement, provide tremendous potential to address some of the challenges identified in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This will enable more informed decision-making, optimised resource allocation, and effective monitoring of NBSAP implementation with more robust and accurate indicators. The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) calls for the need for Parties to review and update their NBSAPs, to align with its new goals and targets.

This Side Event is timely as it will showcase the role, and the opportunity to scale the use, of innovative technology and provide solutions to track, monitor, and report on progress towards the implementation of the GBF goals on the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems by 2030. It will highlight how these new technologies can empower countries / Parties to overcome certain identified challenges,

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)****Room****Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30**

bridge gaps, and leverage data-driven insights for more effective strategies for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory animals and their habitats.

All participants will be invited to note a commitment to action for display.

**Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

(Mr James McBreen; [James.McBreen@iucn.org](mailto:James.McBreen@iucn.org) )

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**Conserving Saker Falcon and Sooty Falcon under Raptors MOU****Bukhara**

The globally deteriorating conservation status of the Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*) is a source of concern for conservationists around the world. Since 2004, the species has moved from Least Concern to Near Threatened, now being considered Vulnerable and in continuous decline.

In response, an International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon 2024 – 2036 (ISSAP), coordinated by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, aims to reduce the risk of extinction of the species by halting the decline of its population to a point where it qualifies for downlisting to at least Near Threatened. Developed between 2022-2023 through an extensive data collection process, the ISSAP compiles the latest available information on species across its range.

The event will introduce the ISSAP; explain the process laying ahead for its adoption; and, importantly, raise the interest of concerned States and third parties in the document, as well as awareness about it.

**Organizer(s): Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, CMS**

(Ms Lauren Lopes; [lauren.lloydlopes@un.org](mailto:lauren.lloydlopes@un.org) )

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**Experiences and Partnerships in the Application of Best Practices to Mitigate Sea Turtle Bycatch in Fisheries****Ferghana**

Sea turtles play several crucial ecological and cultural roles - however, they face numerous and rising pressures that have led to sharp declines in their populations. In particular, bycatch in fisheries has been one of the most significant causes of mortality for sea turtles at local and global scales.

This side-event will provide information about the implementation of CMS Decisions 13.61-13.63 (“Bycatch”) and IAC Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 (“Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles”) by highlighting on-the-ground efforts to apply best practices to reduce sea turtle

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Event Description and Organizer(s)	Room
<b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b>	
<p>incidental catch in fisheries. It will feature experiences from fishing sector community leaders, NGOs and scientists showcasing successful examples of bycatch mitigation methods developed in close collaboration with fishermen. This event is co-led by the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC).</p>	
<p><b>Organizer(s): French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)</b> (Mr Damien Jahan, <a href="mailto:damien.jahan@ofb.gouv.fr">damien.jahan@ofb.gouv.fr</a> )</p>	

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<b>Financing the Energy Transition: Role of International Financial Institutions in Ensuring a Nature Safe Renewable Energy Transition</b>	<b>Nukus</b>
<p>Accelerating the just transition to renewable energy on a global scale has been identified as a key mechanism to reduce emissions and limit warming to 1.5°C. At the same time, poorly planned, sited and monitored renewable energy developments can threaten biodiversity and accumulated with other factors, can cause additional pressure on remaining ecosystems globally, with migratory species such as birds and bats particularly impacted. The Energy Task Force, established under the Convention on Migratory Species, provides a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration to mitigate threats to migratory species through promoting safeguarding, planning and stakeholder engagement, from financing through to delivery. This panel discussion will bring together representatives from different International Financial Institutions as key drivers and finance delivery bodies to identify and address opportunities, barriers, and challenges for harnessing biodiversity financing for the mainstreaming and scaling-up of nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment around the world.</p>	
<p><b>Organizer(s): BirdLife International</b> (Dr Rhiannon Niven; <a href="mailto:rhiannon.niven@birdlife.org">rhiannon.niven@birdlife.org</a> )</p>	

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<b>Main Building Side Events (Snow Leopard) 12:45 - 13:30</b>	
<b>Building Capacity for Managing Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence</b>	<b>Snow Leopard</b>
<p>Human-wildlife conflicts have become more frequent and serious worldwide, and often notoriously challenging to resolve, presenting parties to the CMS with real struggles make progress in protecting both the wildlife and communities affected by this issue. The IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict &amp; Coexistence Specialist Group recently published comprehensive global Guidelines on the management of HWC, which provide foundations</p>	

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)****Room****Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30**

and principles for good practice, with clear, practical and policy-oriented guidance on how best to tackle conflicts and enable coexistence with wildlife. These have been developed for use by conservation practitioners, community leaders, decision makers, researchers, government officers and others. The IUCN Guidelines on HWC are currently being translated into all UN languages, including Russian. This session will provide a briefing on the key contents and facilitate a discussion of case studies with participants.

**Organizer(s): IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group (Dr. Alexandra Zimmermann [alexandra.zimmermann@biology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alexandra.zimmermann@biology.ox.ac.uk))**

## Special Events (Snow Leopard) 13:45 - 14:30

### Global Initiative on Ecological Connectivity

Ecological connectivity is a vital conservation priority. It is essential for migratory species, and thus is a key priority for CMS. But ecological connectivity has also been recognized as a priority for restoration, area-based conservation, climate change and other global policy objectives.

In 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on transboundary cooperation that stresses “the need for international and transboundary cooperation at all appropriate levels...on the enhancement of connectivity between ecosystems and cooperation in order to maintain healthy and intact ecosystems and habitats, which are needed to conserve biodiversity and to ensure that nature can continue to provide ecosystem services to people.”[1]. Additionally, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in 2022, recognises the importance of ecological connectivity in Goal A, Target 2 on restoration, Target 3 on area-based measures and Target 12 on urban landscapes. It is also directly relevant to Target 1 on spatial planning[2].

This special event marks the launch of a new Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC). The GPEC will facilitate efforts to address key priorities for ecological connectivity, identify and address gaps and scale-up national-level, transboundary and international connectivity conservation and restoration policies and activities. This will be achieved through a multistakeholder network of partners focused on four areas: 1) data, research and monitoring, 2) policy and legislation, 3) uptake and implementation and 4) awareness raising and outreach. It will also aim to scale up and leverage funding to support these areas of work to achieve concrete, measurable results.

**Organizer(s): Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

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[1] UNGA [Resolution 75/271](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/271) entitled “[Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/271)”. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/271>.

[2] CBD/CoP-15 Decision 15/4 entitled “[Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf)”. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>.

# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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<b>Event Description and Organizer(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30</b>	
<b>Mitigating Vessel Strikes in the ACCOBAMS Region</b>	<b>Tashkent</b>
<p>The proposed side event is intended to address the risk of collision between large whales and maritime traffic in the ACCOBAMS region. Ship strikes represent one of the main causes of anthropogenic pressure for marine mammals and ACCOBAMS has been dealing with ways to mitigate this threat since the beginning. The suggested focus is to address ship-strikes and cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area, by presenting on two case studies: a. the recently established Northwestern Mediterranean PSSA in the IMO framework, and b. the Hellenic Trench. Among the aspects to address, the role of place-based Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA) process will be presented, alongside with the ACCOBAMS threat-based approach - Cetacean Critical Habitats -, as well as opportunities to monitor the vessel speed reduction recommended by IMO, through NETCCOBAMS platform. In addition, an overview on current preventive tools &amp; technology - LIFE SeaDetect project and SAVE Whales - will be offered.</p> <p>Organization name: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area</p> <p><b>Organizer(s): Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) Secretariat (Ms Susana Salvador; <a href="mailto:ssalvador@accobams.net">ssalvador@accobams.net</a>)</b></p>	
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<b>The Mid-Term Implementation Review of the CMS Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan</b>	<b>Khiva</b>
<p>The CMS Vulture MsAP was adopted at COP12 in October 2017 and is now half-way through its 12- year implementation framework. In order to assess progress towards its implementation, the CMS Raptors MoU and its cooperating partners, have embarked on a mid-term implementation review engaging with all Range States as well as other entities involved in the conservation of Old World vultures. This side event will provide an insight into the initial findings of this process.</p> <p><b>Organizer(s): CMS Raptors MoU Vulture Working Group/Endangered Wildlife Trust (Mr Andre Botha; <a href="mailto:andreb@ewt.org.za">andreb@ewt.org.za</a> )</b></p>	

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)**

**Room**

**Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30**

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**Regional Road Map for Coordinated Actions Across Borders to Conserve Migratory Species in the Arabian Peninsula Spearheaded by the National Center for Wildlife of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Bukhara**

Migratory species are shared resources across many countries in the region, as the ecosystems upon which they depend on extend across borders. The conservation of migratory species and their ecosystems is affected by a diverse mix of social, cultural, and economic contexts as well as governance systems. In the Arabian Peninsula, migratory species face many threats; However, the most serious threat is illegal hunting and taking of migratory species. Unfortunately, conservation measures vary widely across the region with no unified approach to address this widespread challenge. Recognizing the critical importance of nature, Saudi Vision 2030 prioritizes environmental protection at national and regional levels. At the national level, one of NCW's mandate is activated by managing hunting program through establishing a multi-aspect approach focusing on policy, law enforcement and awareness, based on best international practices. To address this challenge at the regional level, NCW is spearheading the regional efforts by developing an action plan to combat illegal hunting and establishing collaborative conservation programs across borders under the Middle East Green Initiative.

**Organizer(s): National Center for Wildlife of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**(Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim BOUG; [boug@ncw.gov.sa](mailto:boug@ncw.gov.sa))**

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)**

**Room**

**Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30**

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**Use It or Lose It: Merging Local Benefits & Sustainable Saiga Management vs. Population Reduction –Empowering Communities for Conservation**

**Ferghana**

The saiga antelope has experienced an encouraging recovery in recent years, with numbers approaching two million by spring 2023. Such growth has caused resentment from farmers and triggered decisions to reduce population size by mass culling. However, there is to consider as alternative sustainable use, as outlined in the “MOU concerning Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope”, overseen by the CMS. Regrettably, plans for sustainable utilization were not prepared beforehand, and only took shape after farmers reported allegedly saiga-related damages to crops, pastures, and hayfields. This oversight has fuelled farmer antagonism towards the saiga, culminating in calls for population reduction. To promote acceptance, it is now crucial that the local communities see tangible benefits from saiga conservation and become involved, fostering a sense of ownership. These benefits must be localized, not centralized. The saiga now spans three sub-populations (Ural, Ustyurt, Betpak-Dala) due to historical hunting pressures, it is important to note that the potential habitats span the entire steppe and desert zones of Kazakhstan and its neighbours. The newly establishing sub-populations near Aktobe and Semipalatinsk and the expansion from the longer existing three sub-populations indicate positive momentum of the species to regain its full potential. The steppe and semi-desert ecosystems can support a multitude of saiga numbers than observed today. To maintain this positive momentum, it is essential to integrate the species into regional land-use practices to foster harmonious human-wildlife coexistence. In the side event we will discuss the various options for economically beneficial use to foster tolerance by local farmers.

**Organizer(s): – Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU Germany)  
(Mr Til Dieterich; [til.dieterich@nabu.de](mailto:til.dieterich@nabu.de) )**

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)****Room**

**Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30**

**The Conservation Status of the North-East African Cheetah in the Horn of Africa**

**Nukus**

Cheetahs in the Horn of Africa are of increasing conservation concern, as outlined in a recent report to the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI). The Horn of Africa supports a small and threatened population of a rare subspecies: *A. j. soemmeringii*, the North-East African Cheetah. The remaining population is highly fragmented and is thought to number fewer than 600 adult cheetahs. Cheetah face multiple threats in this region, including habitat loss and fragmentation; conflict with livestock keepers; and loss of prey. However, illegal trade in Cheetah poses an additional serious threat. Live Cheetah cubs are trafficked from the region into exotic pet markets, primarily in the Gulf states. This event will provide an overview of the ACI report and its recommendations and conservation activities to address illegal trade. It will also identify additional interventions to safeguard this threatened cheetah subspecies, including the potential role of Cheetah reintroductions to Asia.

**Organizer(s): – Zoological Society of London, IUCN Cat Specialist Group  
(Prof Sarah Durant; [sarah.durant@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.durant@ioz.ac.uk))**

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

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<b>Event Description and Organizer(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Main Building Side Events (Snow Leopard), 18:15 - 19:00</b>	

## **Global Illegal Taking of Birds**

**Snow  
Leopard**

Illegal taking of migratory birds (ITB) poses a significant threat to global bird populations and requires a greater shared understanding of the status quo and urgency of the issue to be addressed effectively. This side event will discuss existing initiatives and efforts for addressing ITB and underscore key responsibilities of government stakeholders and how they can engage in mitigation of ITB and its negative impacts. The work of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA) will be discussed, along with how NGOs like BirdLife International can be useful collaborators to tackling the issue. This will ensure that governments are aware of the tools and guidance available to them to take positive actions for addressing ITB.

**Organizer(s): Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and BirdLife International**  
(Ms Susan Tsang; [susan.tsang@un.org](mailto:susan.tsang@un.org))

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## **Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00**

### **Raising Global Awareness for Migratory Birds: World Migratory Bird Day**

**Tashkent**

World Migratory Bird Day is a flagship global awareness-raising campaign that serves as an international call to action for the protection of migratory birds, whose ranges often span multiple countries, and are facing many different threats worldwide. The annual campaign is organized by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Environment for the Americas (EFTA), and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). The side event will allow the four main partners to present the work they have done together to mark World Migratory Bird Day 2022 and 2023 on the topic of Light Pollution and Water respectively. The side event will also be an opportunity for the partners to engage with CMS Parties and Stakeholders and to officially launch the theme for the 2024 World Migratory Bird Day campaign.

**Organizer(s): – Environment for the Americas (EFTA). Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Agreement on the Conservation of**

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

## African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

(Ms Susan Bonfield; [sbonfield@environmentamericas.org](mailto:sbonfield@environmentamericas.org))

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### Considering Nature-Safe Energy Infrastructure Development: From a Regional to Global Approach

Khiva

This side event will highlight different approaches to ensure that the renewable energy transition happens in a nature-safe way, by exploring:

1. The role of guidance in delivering best practice: Launch of the Post-construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring (PCFM) for Onshore Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) in Emerging Market Countries for onshore wind. This event will launch the ground-breaking new resource designed for industry, governments, and conservation groups, which provides practical guidance on the design and implementation of PCFM methodology at WEFs that aligns with Good International Industry Practice. It also helps promote the global standardization in methodologies for monitoring bird and bat fatalities so that fatality rates can be better compared across sites, landscapes, countries, and regions.
2. Towards solving the global conflict between wind energy and migratory bats: Wind energy production is growing rapidly around the world, yet it is not environmentally neutral. Negative impacts on bats include high fatalities at wind turbines and habitat loss due to land-use change. Almost 10 years after Resolution 11.27 "Renewable Energy and Migratory Species", there remains urgent need to identify measures and produce guidance to ensure wind energy production does not harm bat populations. This event will identify next steps to inform guidance and priorities to reduce the impact of wind energy developments on migratory bats.

**Organizer(s):** Leibniz Institute for Zoology and Wildlife Research and Birdlife  
(Dr Christian Voigt; [voigt@izw-berlin.de](mailto:voigt@izw-berlin.de) and Dr Rhiannon Niven;  
[rhiannon.niven@birdlife.org](mailto:rhiannon.niven@birdlife.org))

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### Introducing ShellBank: A Global DNA Database for Marine Turtles

Bukhara

WWF invites you to a side event highlighting ShellBank: a global DNA database and toolkit to help advance hawksbill turtle conservation. ShellBank aims to enhance genetic research capabilities, fill in gaps for understudied marine turtle populations and improve the outcomes of law enforcement efforts against illegal traders. ShellBank has been referenced under the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-

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# Wednesday 14 February 2024

## Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region, and we are continuing to work together with government, NGO and research partners to scale up rollout in Asia Pacific and around the world. Join us to find out the latest updates on this initiative and how you can be involved moving forward!

**Organizer(s): World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Singapore**  
(Ms Sera Brown; [sebrown@wwf.sg](mailto:sebrown@wwf.sg))

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### **Unlocking the Future: Innovative Climate Change Modeling for Biodiversity Conservation in Northeast Afghanistan and Beyond into Central Asia**

**Ferghana**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), in partnership with Agha Khan Foundation, the University of Central Asia, Research Organization for Development, the Centre for Climate System Research at Columbia University, and local communities, led a groundbreaking climate change vulnerability assessment in the Panj-Amu River basin in Northeast Afghanistan from 2019 to 2022. Through funding from the European Union and using robust climatic models, WCS and its partners developed a tool that predicts climate risks over the next century, offering insights into conservation of critical ecosystems, rivers, and key wildlife species, including several CAMI/CMS migratory species. We now propose upscaling this tool for the entire Central Asian river basin, unlocking its potential to enhance the resilience of migratory species and inform landscape conservation and protection, policy, and ecosystem integrity, including connectivity.\_

This side event will present the tool and explore how lessons from this project in Afghanistan can help shape the future of conservation across Central Asia, particularly for migratory species, in the face of the changing climate.

**Organizer(s): Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**  
(Mr Arnaud Goessens; [agoessens@wcs.org](mailto:agoessens@wcs.org))

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### **Linking events in the life of migratory birds**

**Nukus**

Tracking movements of animals is essential for understanding when and where rapidly declining migratory species may face threats. In this study, we have compiled tracking data from over 3000 individuals representing 57 species of small migratory landbirds, with contributions from over 100 researchers worldwide. Using this unique database, we present compelling evidence that migratory birds reset their connections within their annual cycles when they reach their wintering grounds, preventing the carry-over of events between seasons. Importantly, this observed pattern was consistent across species, migratory flyways, and geographical regions. These findings suggest that the conditions experienced during the non-breeding season and spring migration play a key

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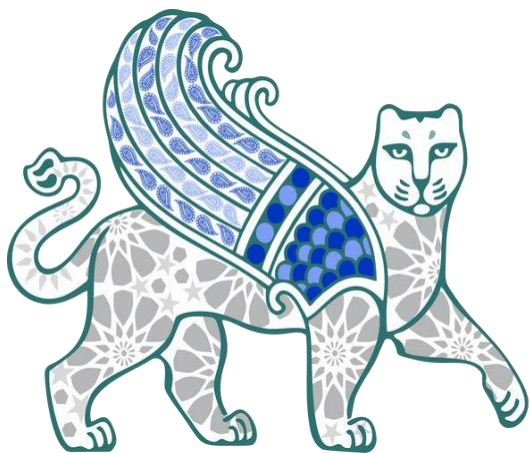
# Wednesday 14 February 2024

**Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00**

role in the reproductive success and, consequently, population dynamics of small migratory birds. Finally, this collaborative effort guides future research activities and provides strong evidence for targeting migratory bird conservation efforts on a global scale.

**Organizer(s): Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic  
(Dr Vojtěch Brlík; [vojtech.brlik@gmail.com](mailto:vojtech.brlik@gmail.com))**

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# COP 14

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

# SAMARKAND

UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

# Thursday 15 February 2024

Event Description and Organizer(s)	Room
<b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b>	
<b>International Cooperation for Bustard Conservation: a New Action Plan for Great Bustards in Asia, Successes from the MOU on the MiddleEuropean Population of the Great Bustard, and Transboundary Efforts for the Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard</b>	Tashkent
<p>Bustards are at high risk of extinction, with over half of bustard species being globally threatened. Transboundary movements expose bustards to multiple anthropogenic threats: collision with power lines, illegal killing, poisoning, habitat fragmentation and loss. To conserve the migratory bustard species on CMS Appendices, efforts are being devoted through MOUs, Action Plans and Concerted Actions. This event brings together initiatives working to achieve conservation gains through reciprocal transfrontier and breeding/non-breeding area efforts. We highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Actions to reduce effects of agricultural intensification and power line collisions on the Endangered Great Bustard in Middle Europe</li><li>- Efforts to counter negative impacts of development, habitat loss and illegal hunting on the Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard</li><li>- The Action Plan for Great Bustards in Asia, and the extension of the Concerted Action for Great Bustards in Asia, which are presented for adoption at COP14, and supporting governmental, non-governmental and philanthropic actors</li></ul> <p>We summarise positive takeaways from these partnerships and arrangements, including joint target-setting and sharing of knowledge and experience, and discuss how to increase cooperative efforts, following best practice.</p>	
<b>Organizer(s): Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary and IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group (Ms.Fejes Éva <a href="mailto:eva.fejes@am.gov.hu">eva.fejes@am.gov.hu</a> and Ms Mimi Kessler; <a href="mailto:mimi@eurasianbustardalliance.org">mimi@eurasianbustardalliance.org</a> )</b>	
<b>Facilitating synergies in implementing MEAs to deliver results on the ground</b>	Khiva
<p>Unprecedented efforts are needed to achieve the goals and targets set out by the New Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, thus making collaboration among all sectors and at all levels a must. To set the scene, the side event will highlight areas of common interests and interlinkages among the mandates of MEAs as visualised in the <a href="#">Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – DaRT</a>. Success stories and best</p>	



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<b>Event Description and Organizer(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
<p><b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b></p> <p>practices of synergistic implementation actions will be shared. The side event highlights ways and means to successfully engage in collaboration with multiple actors within and beyond the biodiversity sector to develop powerful strategies and implement to implement effective actions on the ground. A special focus is given on the recommendations emanating from the Bern III Conference (22 - 26 January 2024, Bern, Switzerland, <a href="https://www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions">https://www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions</a>). Participants to the side event are invited to share their own experiences and reflect on the outcomes of the Bern III conference.</p> <p><b>Organizer(s): – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)</b> (Mr Eric Wiedmer; <a href="mailto:eric.wiedmer@un.org">eric.wiedmer@un.org</a> and Ms.Catherine Bell; <a href="mailto:cbell@ifaw.org">cbell@ifaw.org</a>)</p>	
<p><b>Migratory Species and Biodiversity Conservation in Our Neighborhood</b></p> <p>Given the central mission of CMS is to ensure conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats, we feel this is a crucial discussion to ensuring that CMS can continue to fulfil its remit in a world.</p> <p>This side event presents previous successes of public engagement in the conservation of migratory species, as well as the challenges which remain to migratory species. In each case we will discuss the current status and the limits of knowledge, we discuss the gap between current practice and what is needed to genuinely ensure the viability of wild populations.</p> <p>The event will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduction of Cases of Biodiversity Conservation in Our Neighborhood</li><li>Introduction of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in China, such as Community Conservation Area system</li><li>Case Study of Public Welfare Project “Lifeline for Migratory Birds.</li></ul> <p><b>Organizer(s): China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation</b> (Ms Linda Wong; <a href="mailto:linda.wong@cbcgdf.org">linda.wong@cbcgdf.org</a>)</p>	<p><b>Bukhara</b></p>
<p><b>Implementing the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative: Lessons and Plans from IUCN’s SOS Central Asia Initiative</b></p> <p>Adopted by CMS Parties at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11), the Central Asian Mammal Initiative (CAMI) presents a common framework to address major threats to the region’s migratory species.</p>	<p><b>Ferghana</b></p>

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<b>Event Description and Organizer(s)</b>	<b>Room</b>
<p data-bbox="203 239 735 281"><b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 281 1347 695">To action CAMI’s programme of work, IUCN implemented SOS Central Asia, a three-year initiative to support conservation of snow leopards (<i>Uncia uncia</i>) and goitered gazelles (<i>Gazella subgutterosa</i>) classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Supporting projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan from 2019-2022, the Initiative prioritized actions under CMS to engage local government, area managers and communities to maintain and restore key ecological corridors and reduce threats to one of the world’s last remaining migration hotspots. Projects conducted by both international, national and local civil society organisations contributed to regional capacities and knowledge generation, essential for applying appropriate conservation measures.</p> <p data-bbox="203 695 1321 779">The session will explore key learnings from SOS Central Asia and how this initiative has contributed to advance the implementation of CAMI.</p> <p data-bbox="203 821 1000 905"><b>Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (Ms Sophie Hall; <a href="mailto:sophie.hall@iucn.org">sophie.hall@iucn.org</a>)</b></p>	
<p data-bbox="477 968 1089 1083" style="text-align: center;"><b>Marine Flyways: Advancing Coordinated Conservation Action for Threatened Migratory Seabirds</b></p> <p data-bbox="203 1083 1347 1377">Seabirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds and require urgent coordinated action to mitigate population declines. These marine migrants use repeatable routes, identified as Marine Flyways. Flyways provide a framework for coordinated intergovernmental conservation action and have successfully led to partnerships to address major land-based threats for species and sites. Flyways can assist in protecting important areas and addressing major marine threats, e.g. bycatch, pollution (including light pollution), and offshore energy development.</p> <p data-bbox="203 1377 1338 1587">Marine Flyways can support Parties to prioritize new species for listing under the Convention. For example, Gadfly petrels (genera <i>Pterodroma</i>, <i>Pseudobulweria</i>) are a threatened group of highly migratory seabirds that would fulfil the listing requirements for Appendix I or II, and that face threats both on land (e.g., invasive species) and at-sea (e.g., fisheries; marine pollution) across multiple jurisdictions.</p> <p data-bbox="203 1587 1325 1671">Discussions will touch on opportunities for interaction between CMS and the new High Seas Treaty.</p> <p data-bbox="203 1692 1089 1776"><b>Organizer(s) – BirdLife International and New Zealand government (Ms Tammy Davies; <a href="mailto:tammy.davies@birdlife.org">tammy.davies@birdlife.org</a>)</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1398 968 1495 1010" style="text-align: center;"><b>Nukus</b></p>
<p data-bbox="203 1808 938 1850"><b>Main Building Side Events (Snow Leopard) 12:45 - 13:30</b></p> <p data-bbox="444 1881 1122 1925"><b>The BBNJ Agreement and its Linkages with the CMS</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1398 1850 1495 1925"><b>Snow Leopard</b></p>

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)****Room**

**Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30**

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After nearly 20 years of work, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond Nations Jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement) was adopted on 19 June 2023 and opened for signature on 20 September 2023. This historic Agreement provides for a holistic and coordinated approach towards the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and is key to addressing the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss. 80 States and the European Union have signed the BBNJ Agreement as of 22 September 2023. This side event aims to promote a better understanding of the BBNJ Agreement and its key elements, as well as opportunities for synergies it will provide for the conservation of marine migratory species in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

**Organizer(s): Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (UN OLA/DOALOS)**

(Ms Charlotte Salpin; [salpin@un.org](mailto:salpin@un.org))

## Special Events (Snow Leopard) 13:45 - 14:30

### **Dialogue and Consultation on a New Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species**

**Snow  
Leopard**

Illegal or unsustainable taking<sup>1</sup>, use or sale of wild animals at the domestic level is a major threat to many migratory species and other wild animals. Ensuring that any taking of migratory species is legal and sustainable is essential for their survival, as well as for the benefits they provide to nature and to human health. Despite the growing body of evidence of this exploitation, there has been significant lack of global attention to address it.

At COP 14, this topic will be considered under agenda 30.1: [Priorities for addressing Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species](#) The draft decisions includes a proposal to develop a new global partnership to address these issues.

This event will look at the drivers of these threats, the current gaps in existing legislation and programs and the need for a more holistic approach through the introduction of a new Global Initiative. Through a series of dialogues, the objective of this event is to exchange views on what is needed looking at specific gaps in current efforts, and how it

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<sup>1</sup> Article I of the Convention defines 'taking' as "taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in any such conduct". The taking discussed here can be illegal, unsustainable, or both.

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<i>Event Description and Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
<b>Expo Centre, First Session –12:45 - 13:30</b>	
can build on existing efforts by governments and organisations currently working on similar issues.	
<b>Organizer(s): The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)</b> <b>(Ms. Tamara Elizabeth Richards; <a href="mailto:tamara.richards@un.org">tamara.richards@un.org</a>)</b>	

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<i>Event Description and Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Room</i>
<b>Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30</b>	
<b>Proposal for Sturgeon Conservation in the Caspian Sea</b>	<b>Tashkent</b>
<p>IUCN, WSCS, and WWF suggest that a side event is held in the frame of the CMS COP14 with invitations to Caspian range states and conservation actors in the region, to discuss the development of a regional action plan for conservation and rehabilitation of sturgeon in the frame of the CMS. The plan should focus on the harmonization of conservation measures between the range states, specifically to address the pertinent issues of bycatch and poaching to increase survival of fish in the wild, help develop a joint strategy to re-establish functional, self-sustaining populations through a combination of ex situ and in situ conservation measures. Prerequisites for such a plan would be a common commitment for collaboration and a joint characterization of the populations in question, and a joint understanding of the threats that are currently impacting the remaining populations as well as the definition of targets for their recovery.</p>	
<b>Organizer(s): – IUCN SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group</b> <b>(Mr Arne Ludwig; <a href="mailto:ludwig@izw-berlin.de">ludwig@izw-berlin.de</a>)</b>	

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<b>Connecting the Landscapes of Central Asia –Opportunities for Managing Transboundary Landscapes and Climate Change Impacts</b>	<b>Khiva</b>
<p>The landscapes and ecosystems of Central Asia are among those most affected by climate change. This is far from the only challenge they face. Cross-border connectivity and migration are disrupted by physical barriers. Large and largely inaccessible areas make it difficult to patrol and monitor wildlife populations. The side event will present and explore opportunities for efficient monitoring and cross-border cooperation between range states in Central Asia.</p> <p>In order to overcome these difficulties, GIZ, the Michael Succow Foundation and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity Kazakhstan will present the ongoing</p>	

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)**

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**Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30**

cross-border cooperation between the range states of Central Asia and want to discuss ways to monitor them effectively and efficiently. An engaging and solution seeking side event will be await interested guests.

**Organizer(s): –Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany**  
**(Mr Julian Felten; [julian.felten@giz.de](mailto:julian.felten@giz.de))**

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**2030 Seagrass Breakthrough: Triple Win for Biodiversity, Climate, and Livelihood**

**Bukhara**

Seagrasses provide critical food and habitat for migratory species around the world. The Seagrass Breakthrough aims to establish a collective framework of action for seagrass conservation and its financing at a global scale. The 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough was announced at UNFCCC COP 28 in December 2023 ([2030 Seagrass Breakthrough - Dugong & Seagrass Hub \(dugongseagrass.org\)](#)). By focusing on the triple win of biodiversity, climate, and livelihoods, the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough recognizes the multifaceted benefits of seagrasses and aims to leverage their potential in mitigating climate change while supporting local communities.

This event will discuss opportunities for partners to engage in the conservation of seagrass ecosystems. It provides a platform for stakeholders to discuss opportunities for engagement in seagrass conservation efforts. This includes exploring avenues for partnerships and collaboration to support the preservation of seagrass ecosystems worldwide.

**Organizer(s): CMS Dugong MoU**  
**(Ms Lauren Lopes; [lauren.lloydlopes@un.org](mailto:lauren.lloydlopes@un.org))**

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**AEWA: Working Together to Conserve Migratory Waterbirds**

**Ferghana**

The side-event will introduce and highlight the achievements of the Agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). Over the past 28 years this community of experts, policy makes, Parties, Range states and conservation organisations have worked together to help protect and conserve migratory waterbird populations and habitats across the flyway. Speakers from the Standing Committee and Secretariat will describe the different tools that have been used to improve the conservation status of migratory birds, in particular the development and implementation of international species action plans for priority species. We will also hear from Parties to the Agreement on how AEWA has helped in their efforts to conserve migratory waterbirds across their range.

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**Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30**

**Organizer(s): Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA Standing Committee)**

**(Mr Simon Mackown; [Simon.mackown@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.mackown@defra.gov.uk))**

**IUCN Species Conservation Action: A Global plan and financing mechanism to support implementation of CMS and the Global Biodiversity Framework**

**Nukus**

With the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in place, countries are ratcheting up policy ambition to achieving their multilateral and national biodiversity commitments.

But almost all countries face challenges: Defining actions they must take and raising the finance needed to achieve global biodiversity goals. To implement national commitments under the CMS and CBD, strong action plans and diverse partnerships to mobilize resources, knowledge and sustain conservation actions are more urgent than ever.

IUCN's Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) provides a roadmap for all stakeholders to plan and achieve successful outcomes for the conservation and sustainable use of species. This session will show how the GSAP is supporting governments and stakeholders to plan species actions in line with commitments under CMS and CBD.

Moving from policy to action, the session will also introduce IUCN's Save Our Species Programme. After 13 years of financing conservation action in 319 countries, the session will explore key learnings from the perspective of governments, civil society and the Species Survival Commission on the role of grant-making initiatives like Save Our Species to accelerate and sustain local, national and global conservation impacts.

**Organizer(s): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

**(Mr. Dao NGUYEN; [Dao.Nguyen@iucn.org](mailto:Dao.Nguyen@iucn.org) and Ms. Sophie HALL; [sophie.hall@iucn.org](mailto:sophie.hall@iucn.org))**

**Main Building Side Events (Snow Leopard), 18:15 - 19:00**

**An Introduction to the Global Initiative on Ungulate Migration**

**Snow  
Leopard**

In 2021, we launched the Global Initiative on Ungulate Migration (GIUM, <https://www.cms.int/en/gium>) under the auspices of the United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), recognizing the global threat to ungulate migrations due to barriers, habitat loss and fragmentation, and climate change. The initiative is working collaboratively to 1) collate and document knowledge on ungulate migrations worldwide to create a Global Atlas of Ungulate Migration; and 2) provide actionable migration maps to a variety of stakeholders to inform their decision-

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**Expo Centre – Second Session – 13:45 - 14:30**

making and policies on development planning and conservation to sustain ungulate migrations worldwide. This side event will introduce COP participant to the GIUM and explore ways to work together on this initiative.

**Organizer(s): Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – University of Wyoming  
(Dr Matthew Kauffman; [mkauffm1@uwyo.edu](mailto:mkauffm1@uwyo.edu))**

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**Event Description and Organizer(s)****Room**

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**Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00****Environment Agency Abu Dhabi's Migratory Species Conservation Highlights****Tashkent**

Part1: Conservation of Migratory Bird Species in the UAE:

Regular long-term monitoring of migratory species is fundamental to the assessment of the status of the species and important sites they depend upon. The Bird Programme, implemented by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi since 2001, undertakes assessment of important breeding bird species and monitors migratory species at key sites across the Emirate. Additionally, since 2005, the Agency has implemented programme to track movement and migration of important migratory species using satellite telemetry. Our long-term monitoring and assessments have provided invaluable trend data for local level conservation planning whereas tracking of important migratory waterbirds and raptors have significantly enhanced our understanding on the migratory routes, habitat use and stopover sites, critical for the conservation of species and sites, both locally as well as along their migratory routes.

Part2: Reintroduction of the Endangered Antelopes in Chad

Endangered antelope species reintroduction programs are conservation efforts that aim to restore the populations of Scimitar horned Oryx, Addax, and Dama gazelle. These programs involve captive breeding, translocation, habitat restoration, and monitoring of the reintroduced species. In this presentation, we focus on the case of three desert antelopes: the Scimitar horned oryx, the Addax, and the Dama gazelle. These species were once widespread across the Sahara and Sahel but have been driven to brink of extinction by overhunting, habitat loss, and climate change. We review the current state of knowledge and practice of their reintroduction programs, highlighting the achievements, challenges, and future directions in this field.

**Organizer(s): Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi**

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**Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00**

(Part 1: Mr Salim Javed, Mr Nouf Al Qadi, Mr Shahid Khan & Mr Shakeel Ahmed;  
[sjaved@ead.gov.ae](mailto:sjaved@ead.gov.ae) & [nouf.alqadi@ead.gov.ae](mailto:nouf.alqadi@ead.gov.ae))

(Part 2: Mr Mohammed Manea Al Remeithi; [Mohammed.alremeithi@ead.gov.ae](mailto:Mohammed.alremeithi@ead.gov.ae))

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**Room to Roam for Elephants: Conservation and Connectivity in Africa and Asia**

**Khiva**

The Convention on Migratory Species is a champion for the concept of connectivity as a conservation solution and its parties have passed a number of declarations and resolutions in support of this concept and advocated the inclusion of connectivity by other bodies such as the CBD and IPBES. But what does putting it into practice really mean for governments? This side event will examine this question through a case study of IFAW's Room to Roam initiative conducted in partnership with African elephant range states, which seeks to deploy conservation connectivity as a solution to increasingly fragmented habitats, human-wildlife conflict and to build community resilience to climate change.

**Organizer(s): IUCN SSC Asian Elephant SG – International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ms Catherine Bell; [cbell@ifaw.org](mailto:cbell@ifaw.org))**

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**The IUCN Green List Supporting Conservation of Migratory Species Through Effective Networks of Protected Areas**

**Bukhara**

Well-connected systems of protected areas are the cornerstones for the conservation of migratory species, e.g. as stepping stones for flyways. In the new GBF, the Parties to the CBD have committed to protect 30% of the planet, with the quality element being key to achieving this ambition, particularly through effective and equitable area-based conservation.

The IUCN Green List of protected and conserved areas offers site managers a reliable and transparent system to assess the effectiveness of their conservation efforts and to share best practices, tools and resources. Standard provides benchmark on governance, planning, management and conservation outcomes, and can be applied to networks, includes connectivity criteria. Implemented since 2014 in 30+ countries, with 600+ committed marine and terrestrial PAs, including networks.

The side event will showcase through concrete examples the Green List standard's added value for improving the management of networks of PAs supporting migratory species life cycle:

1. West Africa (Senegal-Nigeria) - linked to Donana - Wadden Sea and Namibia.
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## Event Description and Organizer(s)

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### Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00

Protecting migratory birds along the East Atlantic Flyway  
2. California MPA network/Baja California MPA in Mexico

**Organizer(s): – International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**  
(Mr Thierry Lefebvre; [Thierry.LEFEBVRE@iucn.org](mailto:Thierry.LEFEBVRE@iucn.org))

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### **Amazon Giant Migratory Catfish Species: Connecting the Amazon from the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean**

Ferghana

The side event will present and discuss key aspects of the migrations of Amazonian fish, particularly the dourada (*Brachyplatystoma rouseauxii*) and piramutaba (*B. vaillantii*), migratory catfish of significant ecological and commercial importance in the Amazon. These species are both indicators of freshwater systems connectivity at scale of the Andes-Amazon Basin and critical for income generation and food security of rural and urban populations across the basin. The inclusion of these species in Appendix II of CMS represents an important addition to ongoing strategies/efforts to conserve these and other migratory species.

With the participation of renowned scientists, and support from range States, we hope to reach important audiences in support of the Brazilian proposal, which can boost wetland conservation efforts and other key measures among Amazonian countries, such as those underway within the framework of the Amazon Waters Alliance (AWA) through the collaboration of NGOs, research institutions and citizens.

**Organizer(s): Wildlife Conservation Society**  
(Mr Guillermo Estupinan ([gestupinan@wcs.org](mailto:gestupinan@wcs.org)))

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### **The World Coastal Forum: An Update**

Nukus

In 2017, CMS Resolution 12.25 Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal & other coastal Habitats for Migratory Species called for the establishment of a global coastal forum for conservation of all coastal ecosystems of importance to migratory species. This call was echoed by a Ramsar COP Resolution, CBD COP decision and an IUCN Resolution. This side event will update on progress in establishing this “World Coastal Forum (WCF)” ([www.worldcoastalforum.org](http://www.worldcoastalforum.org)). This process has been enabled by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People’s Republic of China through an international partnership, the WCF Coordination Group, coordinated by Eco Foundation Global & BirdLife International.

The side event will include a report back from the first WCF Conference, held in Yancheng, China 25-27 September 2023. It will also introduce plans for two of its flagship knowledge projects: the State of the World’s Coastal Ecosystems Report and the World

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*Event Description and Organizer(s)*

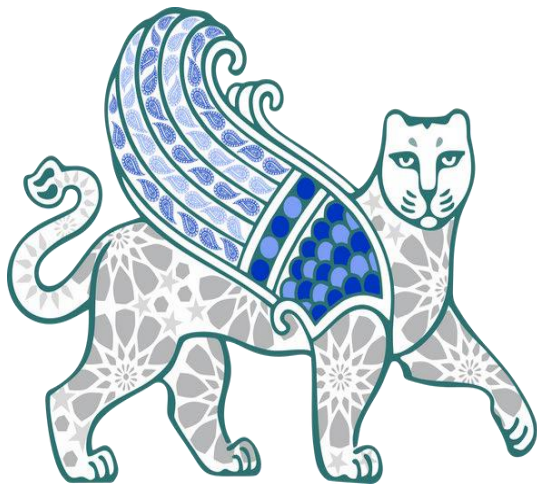
*Room*

**Expo Centre Evening Session – 18:15 -19:00**

Coastal Ecosystem Conservation Toolkit.

**Organizer(s): – BirdLife International on behalf of the World Coastal Forum  
Coordination Group Facilitation Team (BirdLife International and Eco Foundation  
Global)  
(Ms Nicola Crockford; nicola.crockford@rspb.org.uk)**

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**COP 14**

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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**SAMARKAND**

UZBEKISTAN 12-17 FEBRUARY 2024

**Thank  
You!**