

## Summary of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals: 11-17 February 2024

The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) convened in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, under the theme of “Nature knows no borders.” As the first CMS COP since the COVID-19 pandemic, the first to be hosted in Central Asia, and the first major biodiversity conference since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022, COP14 represented a historic crossroads for tackling the conservation of migratory species and their habitats across the globe, from the bottom of the sea to the upper reaches of the sky, and spanning every type of ecosystem in between.

Fourteen new species, subspecies, and populations were added to the CMS Appendices. Of these, ten were added to Appendix I, which comprises migratory species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. These are: Balkan Lynx; Lahille’s Bottlenose Dolphin; Baltic Proper population of the Harbour Porpoise; Peruvian Pelican; Magellanic Plover; Southern African population of the Bearded Vulture; Sand Tiger Shark; Mediterranean Sea population of the Blackchin Guitarfish; Mediterranean Sea population of the Bull Ray; and Mediterranean Sea population of the Lusitanian Cownose Ray.

Eleven species were added to Appendix II, which covers migratory species that have an unfavorable conservation status and require international cooperation for their conservation and management. These are: Eurasian Lynx; Pallas’s Cat or Manul; Guanaco; Lahille’s Bottlenose Dolphin; Peruvian Pelican; Sand Tiger Shark; Blackchin Guitarfish; Bull Ray; Lusitanian Cownose Ray; Gilded Catfish; and Laulau Catfish or Piramuta.

New or renewed Concerted Actions (CAs) with targeted conservation plans were approved for 13 species, closed for two, and replaced for one.

Four Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremonies took place during the High-level Segment on Sunday, 11 February: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan signed the MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia; Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed the Memorandum for Cooperation on Conservation of Wildlife on the Ustyurt Plateau; CMS and the Environmental Agency Abu-Dhabi signed the donor agreement for hosting the CMS Office - Abu Dhabi; and Uzbekistan,

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) signed the agreement for the Food System, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program under the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Two further MOU signing ceremonies took place during the COP: CMS and IUCN agreed to support priority work on commitments under the African Carnivore Initiative, while Argentina joined the MOU on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi* and *Phoenicoparrus andinus*) and their habitats.

COP14 also considered 52 agenda items benefiting migratory species under 25 thematic groups on crosscutting, terrestrial, avian, and aquatic issues, including:

- the launch of the inaugural flagship [State of the World’s Migratory Species](#) report;
- a resolution on deep-sea mining;
- updated guidelines on light pollution and infrastructure, new guidelines on ecotourism, and key guiding principles for community involvement in the conservation of migratory species; and

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- decisions on investigating the conservation implications of animal culture and social learning for a diverse range of taxa, including fish and reptiles.

CMS COP14 convened in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 11-17 February 2024. Over 2,000 people attended, including 432 delegates representing 111 parties; 38 delegates from 11 non-party countries; 50 representatives from United Nations agencies; 80 representatives of intergovernmental organizations; 203 representatives of international non-governmental organizations; 115 representatives of national non-governmental organizations; and 123 members of both national and international media.

### A Brief History of CMS

Migratory species are vulnerable to a wide range of threats, including habitat shrinkage in breeding areas, excessive hunting along migration routes, and degradation of their feeding grounds. As a result of international concern over these threats, CMS was adopted in 1979 and entered into force on 1 November 1983. CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, recognizes that states must be the protectors of migratory species that live within or pass through their national jurisdictions and aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their ranges. CMS currently has 133 parties.

The Convention was designed to allow for expansion and revision of commitments and provide a framework through which parties may act to conserve migratory species and their habitat by: adopting strict protection measures for migratory species that have been characterized as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges (species listed in Appendix I of the Convention); concluding agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species that have an unfavorable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international cooperation (species listed in Appendix II); and joint research and monitoring activities. As of COP13, 180 migratory species were listed in Appendix I.

CMS also provides for the development of specialized regional agreements for Appendix II-listed species. To date, seven such agreements and 19 MOUs have been concluded. The seven agreements aim to conserve: populations of European bats; cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and contiguous Atlantic area; small cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas; seals in the Wadden Sea; African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds; albatrosses and petrels; and gorillas and their habitats.

The 19 MOUs aim to conserve: the Siberian Crane; the Slender-billed Curlew; marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa; marine turtles of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia; the Middle-European population of the Great Bustard; the Bukhara Deer; the Aquatic Warbler; West African populations of the African Elephant; the Saiga Antelope; cetaceans in the Pacific islands region; Dugongs; the Mediterranean Monk Seal; the Ruddy-headed Goose; grassland birds of southern South America; High Andean Flamingos; South Andean Huemul; migratory sharks; raptors (birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia); and the Manatee and small cetaceans of Western Africa and Micronesia. These agreements and MOUs are open to all range states of the species, regardless of whether they are parties to the Convention.

Eight action plans have also been concluded on the: Central Asian flyway; Sahelo-Saharan antelopes; Chinese Crested Tern; Black-faced Spoonbill; Spoon-billed Sandpiper; Madagascar Pond Heron;

White-winged Flufftail; and Lesser Flamingo. There are also three initiatives on bycatch, Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals, and Houbara Bustard, as well as three Special Species Initiatives on the Central Asian Flyway, Central Asian Mammals, and Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna.

The COP is the principal decision-making body of the Convention and meets every three years. COP1 was held in 1985.

### Recent Meetings of the COP

**COP12:** COP12 (22-28 October 2017, Manila, Philippines) adopted 54 resolutions, including the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species. Other resolutions adopted included those on: the prevention of illegal killing, taking, and trade of migratory birds; sustainable boat-based marine wildlife watching; energy and migratory species; community participation and livelihoods; aquatic wild meat; CAs for, among others, the Whale Shark, Mobulid Rays, and the European Eel; and the adoption of the African Elephant Action Plan. The COP adopted 34 proposals to amend the Convention's Appendices, four of which were subject to a vote—for the first time in the Convention's history.

**COP13:** COP13 (15-22 February 2020, Gandhinagar, India) adopted ten resolutions, including the Gandhinagar Declaration, which called for migratory species and the concept of “ecological connectivity” to be integrated into the GBF. COP13 added ten new species to CMS Appendices, with seven listed in Appendix I (the Asian Elephant, Jaguar, Great Indian Bustard, Bengal Florican, Little Bustard, Antipodean Albatross, and Oceanic White-tip Shark) and three in Appendix II (the Urial Sheep, Smooth Hammerhead Shark, and Tope Shark). New and extended CAs with targeted conservation plans were approved for 14 species. COP13 also agreed to strengthen initiatives to combat the illegal killing, taking, and trade of migratory birds; mitigate the impacts of linear infrastructure on migratory species; deepen the understanding of the importance of animal culture and social complexity for the conservation of endangered species; and investigate possible trade in CMS Appendix I-listed species and the implications for their conservation status.

### COP14 Report

While COP14 opened officially on Monday, 12 February, it was preceded by a High-level Segment on Sunday, 11 February.

#### High-level Segment

Welcoming everyone to Samarkand, Aziz Abdulkhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change, Uzbekistan, said one in five CMS-listed species are threatened with extinction and 44% are undergoing population declines. He pointed to habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation as the most significant threats to migratory species and their habitats. Abdulkhakimov stressed that actions under CMS are crucial for ensuring the global commitments set out in the GBF, including ecological connectivity and networks of protected areas.

CMS Executive Secretary Amy Fraenkel said regional cooperation in Central Asia has been essential for many species, including the Snow Leopard, Saiga Antelope, and the Bukhara Deer. She announced the CMS will launch the first-ever *State of the World's Migratory Species* report on Monday, 12 February. She anticipated this report will provide the scientific basis for policy decisions to ensure migratory species do not only survive but thrive.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said we cannot protect migratory species

without multilateralism, and we must work harder, faster, and smarter with a united front. She called on participants to look beyond the jurisdiction of environment ministries and environmental treaties to have a whole of society and whole of world approach.

**Session 1: Transboundary and Regional Cooperation for the Conservation of Migratory Species in Central Asia:** Sherzod Umarov, Assistant Representative of the FAO in Uzbekistan, moderated a discussion among the following Central Asian officials: Melis Turgunbaev, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyzstan; Bakhodur Sheralizoda, Chair, Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government, Tajikistan; Aziz Abdulkhaimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Uzbekistan; Nurken Sharbiyev, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan; and Begench Miminov, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection, Turkmenistan. Yerlan Nyssanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan, spoke via video.

The ministers highlighted that Central Asian countries were responsible for UN General Assembly Resolution 75/271, Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. They recalled it represents the first time the General Assembly has recognized the importance of transboundary habitats and transborder cooperation. They described the growth of transboundary protected areas for the region’s critical migratory routes, flyways, and breeding grounds.

They also highlighted the importance of:

- cooperation of all countries and all sectors of society for preserving biodiversity;
- preventing infrastructure development, including roads, rail, and renewable energy facilities, from destroying and fragmenting critical habitat;
- creating ecological corridors;
- educating and training the next generation of environmental experts and scientists; and
- collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CMS, and IUCN.

**Session 2: Multilateral linkages with cooperation in Central Asia:** In a video address, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, current President of the Assembly and Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute, cautioned that we run the risk of more zoonotic diseases as we continue to exploit wildlife and encroach on habitat. “Fighting climate change and protecting the environment are urgent challenges that require all hands on deck,” he added.

The second dialogue session featured: David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary, CBD; Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Consuelo Vidal, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in Uzbekistan; Grethel Aguilar, Director General, IUCN; and Valerie Hickey, Global Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, World Bank.

Participants noted:

- the Saiga Antelope has recovered because Central Asian wetlands are healthy, but wetlands are vanishing faster than forests;
- the need to address the tragedy of the Aral Sea and the loss of crucial habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife;
- the value of building on linkages between CMS and the CBD;
- the opportunities presented by the GBF Fund recently established under the GEF;

- the contributions of IUCN’s activities and cooperation in Central Asia; and
- the relevance of the World Bank’s programmes in Central Asia that focus on protected areas and harmonizing priorities, delivering on renewable energy infrastructure without harming nature, and investing in better pandemic responses, including early warning and medical readiness.

They also stressed the importance of public awareness, research, and increased funding from domestic public budgets and the private sector.

**Session Three: Experiences from other Regions and Multilateral Entities on Transboundary and International Cooperation for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:** In this session, ministers and other high-level officials shared experiences with transboundary and international cooperation for the conservation of migratory species.

Viriato Luís Soares Cassamá, Minister for the Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Action, Guinea Bissau, said over 26% of his country’s national land is in protected areas, and highlighted efforts to conserve sea turtles, migratory birds, and large mammals. Lalya Ali Camara, Minister of Environment, Mauritania, shared cooperative efforts to protect the Mediterranean Monk Seal.

Tom R. Butime, Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda, discussed efforts in East Africa to protect Mountain Gorillas. Ali Abosenna, CEO, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, said Egypt is investing in renewable energy while incorporating measures to protect migratory birds. Kumara Wakjira, Director General, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, discussed initiatives with neighboring countries to establish transboundary landscape management to protect species including flamingoes, the African Elephant, and the African Wild Ass.

Bettina Hoffmann, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany, noted protected areas now cover 18% of the European Union (EU), which is the largest coordinated cross-border network of protected areas in the world. Moïse Rasamoelina, Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar, noted conservation efforts in 125 protected areas spread over 7 million hectares that protect 108 migratory species, including Dugong, sea turtles, migratory birds of prey, and rays, sharks, and whales.

Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, discussed efforts to protect sea turtles and reduce illegal harvesting of turtle eggs, as well as related work of the Coral Triangle Initiative. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General, Environmental Agency Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, described efforts to reintroduce over 625,000 Houbara Bustard and hundreds of Arabian Oryx, and the support provided by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund to conserve more than 1,500 endangered species across 160 countries. Aurélia Bouchez, French Ambassador to Uzbekistan, called for universalization of the CMS and reported the Government of France will provide EUR 200,000 to CMS and will double bilateral contributions to biodiversity to reach EUR 1 billion by 2025.

Daniel Gustafson, Special Representative of the Director General, FAO, discussed the interlinkages between health, wildlife and people and noted Central Asia is at the cutting edge of cooperative innovation. Martha Rojas Urrego, Executive Secretary, International Whaling Commission (IWC), noted many of the major threats faced

by cetaceans require international cooperation and highlighted the IWC's conservation management plans, and collaboration with CMS and other environmental agreements.

Rodney Jackson, Founder/Director Snow Leopard Conservancy, said 40% of the Snow Leopard population is found within 100 km of an international border and, like other wild creatures, knows no boundaries. He added the most impactful interventions are empowering local communities and drawing on traditional knowledge. Koustubh Sharma, International Coordinator, Global Snow Leopard Ecosystems Protection Program, noted climate change and habitat destruction cannot be looked at in silos and said environment ministers in Central Asia have agreed to work on these issues and mobilize resources to bridge funding gaps.

In his closing remarks, Minister Abdulkhakimov thanked everyone for participating and called for turning commitments into actions.

### Opening Plenary

In his opening address on [Monday, 12 February](#), Abdulla Aripov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, welcomed participants and pointed to the “urgent and coordinated” measures required to “preserve the harmony of human life with nature.” UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen underlined that holding this COP in Central Asia is “a true milestone for multilateralism,” and stressed that “migratory species are in trouble, and that puts humanity in trouble.” Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary, pointed to the Convention’s “unique and essential role” in addressing migratory wildlife issues that span countries around the globe, and Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairperson, GEF, pointed out that if nature has no borders, then neither should global conservation finance mechanisms. Grethel Aguilar, Director General, IUCN, stressed IUCN’s commitment to supporting CMS decisions and global conservation goals as outlined in the GBF.

Delegates were treated to a rousing cultural performance by an Uzbek ballet troupe portraying the diversity of migratory species in Central Asia and the threats facing them.

### Organizational Matters and Reports

**Election of officers:** On [Monday](#), parties elected by acclamation Aziz Abdulkhakimov (Uzbekistan) as COP14 Chair; Colin Galbraith (UK) as Committee of the Whole (CoW) Chair; and Humbulani Mafumo (South Africa) as CoW Vice-Chair.

**Adoption of the Agenda and Meeting Schedule:** On Monday, Chair Abdulkhakimov invited delegates to review the draft provisional agenda ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.3.1/Rev.4](#)) and annotations ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.3.2/Rev.1](#)). The COP adopted the document.

**Adoption of the Rules of Procedure:** On Monday, Chair Abdulkhakimov noted that there were no requests to amend the Rules of Procedure as adopted at COP13 ([UNEP/CMS/COP Rules of Procedure](#)).

**Establishment of the Credentials Committee and other Sessional Committees:** On Monday, the COP elected Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica, and the UK to the Credentials Committee, with a nomination pending from Oceania.

**Admission of Observers:** On Monday, the COP admitted international and national agencies and bodies that meet the criteria set out in Article VII, paragraph 9 of the Convention, to participate as observers at this meeting ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.6](#)).

**Outgoing COP Presidency:** On Monday, India reported on activities undertaken by the COP Presidency since the adoption of the Gandhinagar Declaration at COP13, including initiatives focused on protecting big cats, dolphins, and migratory bird species, and on banning single-use plastics.

**Reports and Recommendations of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention:** On Monday, Bivash Ranjan (India), Chair of the Standing Committee (SC), reported on SC activities since COP13, noting the “persistent concern” of unpaid contributions by parties and the draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 to be discussed at COP14.

Narelle Montgomery (Australia), Chair of the Scientific Council (ScC), reported on ScC activities since COP13. She highlighted the first *State of the World's Migratory Species* report and another report on the effects of climate change on migratory wildlife ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.1](#)), noting “the effects are happening now.” She also described improvements planned for the next ScC sessional period, including more online meetings to advance priority topics.

**Report of the Depositary and Host Country:** On Monday, Germany introduced the report of the depositary ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.9](#)), noting that no further countries have acceded to the Convention since the last COP.

**Statements: Parties:** In plenary on Monday, NEW ZEALAND highlighted progress made regionally over the intersessional period and noted the different implications of the COP14 theme for Pacific island states. SAUDI ARABIA noted his country’s location at the crossroads of three continents and two important flyways, and reported national and regional programmes contributing to CMS implementation. The EU stressed the invaluable role of migratory species in determining global ecosystem health. URUGUAY underlined the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and of using a range of collaborative modalities, including South-South cooperation, and called for ensuring adequate and predictable means of CMS implementation for parties. ZIMBABWE emphasized Africa’s critical position as a hub for migratory species and welcomed the opportunity to review progress and advance implementation at COP14.

**CMS Agreements:** On [Monday](#), the COP took note of reports from representatives from CMS agreements and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.10.3.1](#) and [Inf.10.3-2](#)).

**Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and NGOs:** On [Monday](#), the COP noted statements from a number of IGOs and NGOs.

**Report of the UN Environment Programme:** The COP noted UNEP’s report ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.11](#)), which highlights collaborative efforts between CMS and other biodiversity conventions on the implementation of the GBF.

**Report of the Secretariat and Implementation of the Programme of Work:** In plenary on [Monday](#), the Secretariat introduced the report on the Programme of Work 2020-2023 ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.22](#)). The COP noted the report.

### Administrative and Budgetary Matters

**Budget and Administration: Execution of CMS budget 2021-2023:** In the CoW on [Monday](#), the Secretariat introduced the document ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.13.1](#)), noting that over half the Convention’s parties have outstanding contributions totaling USD 1.4 million. She requested that parties pay their outstanding contributions. The CoW noted the report.

**Budget 2024-2026 and Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15:** In the CoW on [Monday](#), the Secretariat introduced the document ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.13.2/Rev.1](#)) and its three budgetary scenarios: one with zero nominal growth; one with zero real growth; and one with moderate growth. The CoW referred the document to the Budget Working Group, which met throughout the week.

On Saturday, the budget working group Chair summarized discussions, noting consensus on a recommended budget. He reported that the document's Annex 6 details the implications of the budgets approved by the working group, and emphasized that these will allow the Convention to continue with its mandate.

Samoa, for the PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) present at this meeting, requested an amendment to ensure that funding allocations for parties to attend the Convention's meetings are prioritized for "least developed countries (LDCs) and SIDS." SWITZERLAND, COOK ISLANDS, BELGIUM, ISRAEL, the EU, MALDIVES, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, GEORGIA, NORWAY, and SENEGAL strongly supported this amendment. BRAZIL also provided support and noted the concept of "developing countries" is already recognized in several Convention documents. He emphasized the common goal of "highlighting the specific challenges and difficulties of developing countries" relating to their implementation of and participation in the Convention. ISRAEL and AUSTRALIA queried budget lines and funding allocation processes, for which the Secretariat provided clarifications. The CoW recommended the budget for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The resolution on the budget for the triennium 2024-2026, with budgets of EUR 3,043,401 for 2024, EUR 3,066,292 for 2025, and EUR 3,659,567 for 2026 (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP13.2/Rev.2/Annex 1), *inter alia*:

- adopts the scale of contributions of parties to the Convention as set out in Annex 2;
- adopts the terms of reference of the finance and budget subcommittee, contained in Annex 4;
- endorses, on an exceptional basis, the provisional Programme of Work for the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, as contained in Annex 6;
- decides that funding allocations for parties to attend the Convention's meetings give first priority to LDCs and SIDS;
- urges parties to pay their contributions, noting with concern that a number of parties have not paid their contributions to the core budget for 2023 and prior years, thereby adversely affecting the implementation of the Convention; and
- requests the Executive Secretary to explore approaches for the identification of possible funding to resolve the arrears of parties with contributions in arrears of three years or more.

**Resource Mobilization:** In the CoW on [Monday](#), the Secretariat reported on the implementation of the CMS Programme of Work 2020-2023 ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.13.3](#)). She pointed to Annex 1, which proposes amendments to Resolution 10.25 (Rev. COP12), and highlighted intersessional activities that have successfully increased engagement with the GEF. The CoW referred the document to the budget working group. On [Thursday](#), the CoW recommended the document to the COP.

**Outcome:** The amendments to Resolution 10.25 (Rev. COP12) on enhancing engagement with the GEF (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP13.3/Rev.1), among other directives:

- encourage CMS national focal points to enhance dialogue and collaboration with their CBD and GEF counterparts;
- encourage parties to support the priorities outlined in the new Strategic Plan and include these in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); and
- request the CMS Secretariat to engage with the GEF and its agencies at all appropriate levels.

### **Strategic and Institutional Matters**

#### **Strategic Planning: Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023:**

On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.14.1](#). The CoW noted the final progress report.

**Outcome:** The COP noted the report and deleted Decisions 13.1-13.3.

**Strategic Plan for Migratory Species:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced a draft resolution and associated decisions to adopt and implement the new Strategic Plan ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.14.2](#)). The CoW referred the document to the working group on institutional and crosscutting issues.

On [Friday](#), the document generated debate regarding a reference to "developing countries" in the preambular text, with some parties expressing concern about introducing "a new category of parties" to the Convention, and others disagreeing, citing precedent from other CMS documents and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). On Saturday, following lengthy informal deliberations, the text was amended to "recognizing the challenges faced by parties and the specific challenges faced by developing country parties, in particular LDCs and SIDS." The CoW forwarded the document to the COP for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions, as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP14.2/Rev.2, and deleted Decisions 13.4 and 13.5. The resolution, *inter alia*, adopts the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032, including its six goals, and urges parties to integrate these within relevant policy and planning instruments.

#### **Scientific Council: Evaluation of the results of the restructuring of the Scientific Council:**

On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.15.1](#), which proposes amendments to Resolution 12.4 and to the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the ScC, and presents a draft decision on COP-appointed councillors. The CoW referred the document to the working group on institutional and crosscutting Issues. On [Friday](#), the CoW endorsed the document and forwarded it to the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the financial implications of an increase in the number of party-appointed councillors per region from three to four, adopted the amendments to Resolution 12.4 and to the terms of reference of the ScC, and the decision, as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP15.1.

**Scientific Council membership:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.15.2/Rev.1](#) on candidates for COP-appointed councillors for aquatic mammals and climate change. The issue was referred to the regional coordination committees.

**Outcome:** On [Saturday](#), the COP approved the nominations of COP-appointed councillors, including two new councillors for aquatic mammals and climate change. The COP accepted the nominations for the Sessional Committee of the ScC from the regional committees as follows: Zimbabwe and Uganda for Africa; Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, and India for Asia; Portugal, Spain, and

Serbia for Europe; Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Brazil for Central and South America and the Caribbean; and Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand for Oceania.

**Election of parties to the Standing Committee:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.16](#).

**Outcome:** On Saturday, the COP accepted the nominations from the regional committees as follows: Algeria, Kenya, and Zimbabwe for Africa; Bahrain and India for Asia; Italy, Monaco, and the UK for Europe; Panama and Uruguay for Central and South America and the Caribbean; and New Zealand for Oceania.

**CMS Contribution to the GBF:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.17](#), including a draft resolution and a draft decision to ensure that parties include migratory species in their NBSAPs.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP.17/Rev.1 and its resolution and decisions, and agreed to delete Decisions 13.7 and 13.8. The resolution, *inter alia*, invites greater cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, including through national focal points and Secretariats, while the decisions request parties to consider migratory species in NBSAPs and national targets, and for the Secretariat to actively contribute to the Bern Process.

**Synergies and partnerships:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat reported on progress on enhancing the relationship between CMS and civil society, as specified in Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13), and introduced proposals to amend the resolution and two new draft decisions ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.1](#)).

On [Saturday](#), following minor factual amendments from Brazil regarding references to the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), the CoW agreed to recommend the document to the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendment to Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13) and the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP18.1/Rev.2, and deleted Decisions 13.9 and 13.10. Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP14): encourages active engagement with subnational and local governments; supports further development of the GBF monitoring framework and the BBNJ Agreement; and encourages parties to ratify the BBNJ Agreement. The decisions direct the Secretariat to explore options for a special accreditation for NGOs and ways to increase the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and youth in CMS processes.

**Synergies and partnerships: Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.2/Rev.1](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the in-session document to the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendment to Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13) and the decisions as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP18.2, and deleted Decisions 13.11-13.13. Resolution 10.8 (Rev. COP14): calls on the SC to participate in the development and implementation of the IPBES rolling work programme, and invites IPBES to include issues relevant to migratory species. The decisions request the ScC to engage in relevant scoping processes of the IPBES assessments from IPBES-10 and to consider the findings of recent and forthcoming IPBES deliverables.

**Communications, Outreach and Information Management:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.19](#)

and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.19](#). The CoW noted the information document and forwarded the draft decisions to plenary for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the documents and adopted the decisions in Annex 1, directing the Secretariat, supported by parties, to develop a plan for the recommendations provided by the “Strategic Communications Assessment.”

### Scientific Assessments and Reports

**Atlas on Animal Migration:** On [Tuesday](#), the ScC introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.20](#). On [Thursday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP noted the report and adopted the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP20/Rev.1, which include directives encouraging parties to make use of elements of the Atlas on Animal Migration in their policies and implementation of the Convention.

**Conservation status of migratory species:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat summarized progress on reviewing the conservation status of migratory species and introduced a draft resolution and draft decisions ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21/Rev.1](#)) calling for, among other things, regular similar reviews and an online data dashboard to inform them.

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) summarized three reports: the *State of the World's Migratory Species* ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21.1](#)); an assessment of the risk posed to CMS Appendix I-listed species by direct use and trade ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21.2](#)); and an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21.3](#)). The CoW considered the documents together and on [Friday](#), recommended them for adoption to the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the three reports; adopted the resolution and decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP21; and deleted Decisions 13.17, 13.18, and 13.24-13.26. The resolution, *inter alia*: decides to regularly review the conservation status of migratory species at alternate meetings of the COP, starting at COP16; and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to develop a *State of the World's Migratory Species* report for these meetings and to develop and maintain an online data dashboard on CMS-listed and other migratory species and their habitats.

### Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

**Implementation of the Programme of Work 2020-2023:** On [Monday](#), the Secretariat introduced the report on the Programme of Work 2020-2023 ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.22](#)). The COP noted the report.

**National reports:** On [Friday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.23](#). The CoW recommended the document for adoption following minor amendments.

**Outcome:** The COP: adopted the amendment to Resolution 12.5 on national reports and the decisions as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP23; noted the report by UNEP-WCMC on the analysis of national reports to COP14 ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.23/Annex 3](#)); and deleted Decisions 13.14 and 13.15. Resolution 12.5 (Rev.COP14) and its associated decisions direct the Secretariat to consider the need for a revision of the national report format and its guidance document to reflect lessons learned during the reporting period.

**Review mechanism and national legislation programme:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.24](#),

including a proposed study to determine whether national legislation can be an effective deterrent to species being taken in violation of the Convention.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the operational guidelines for the CMS review mechanism, deleted Decisions 13.20-13.23, and adopted the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP24/Rev.1, which, among other things, encourage parties to engage in the national legislation programme and request the Secretariat to continue the collaboration with such existing initiatives of the FAO and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**Review of Decisions:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat summarized the list of COP13 decisions proposed for renewal or deletion ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.25](#)). The EU provided two amendments: to retain Decision 13.16 and paragraph a) of Decision 13.71. The CoW recommended the document for adoption as amended.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.6; 13.71 b); 13.72; 13.73; 13.74; 13.75; and 13.137, and renewed Decisions 13.16 and 13.71 a). The renewed decisions direct the Secretariat to collaborate with the CITES Secretariat regarding international trade in CMS Appendix I-listed species (13.16), and request parties to review existing legislation and enact new legislation to address the prohibition of the taking of CMS Appendix-I listed chondrichthyan species, including sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras (13.71 a.).

**Definition of the terms “range state” and “vagrant”:** On [Wednesday](#), the ScC reported on intersessional work to develop guidance on these terms, noting that at the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee, the ScC could not agree to recommend the guidance for adoption ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.26/Rev.1](#)). On [Thursday](#), the CoW noted the report.

**Outcome:** The COP noted the report.

**Aquatic species conservation issues:** The draft resolutions and decisions on aquatic conservation issues were taken up by the CoW and the working group for aquatic species for further discussion.

**Fisheries-induced threats: Bycatch:** On [Wednesday](#), the COP-appointed councillor for bycatch introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW noted the report and recommended the decisions for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report in Annex 1 of [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1](#) regarding technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks; adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.1.1; and deleted Decisions 13.61 to 13.63. The decisions, *inter alia*, request all parties to apply the recommendations in the report and, for Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise range states, to urgently implement time-bound actions for effective bycatch mitigation.

**Fish aggregating devices (FADs):** On [Wednesday](#), the COP-appointed councillor for marine pollution introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.2/Rev.1](#).

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report in the document, and adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.1.2, directing, *inter alia*: parties to address the potential negative impacts of FADs, including on CMS-listed species, and to work with relevant fisheries organizations to ensure the sustainability of FAD fisheries.

**Maltreatment and mutilation of seabirds in fisheries:** On [Wednesday](#), the Chair of the intersessional working group presented [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.3/Rev.2](#).

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report from the working group investigation as contained in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.3/](#)

[Rev.3](#), and adopted the decisions requesting that parties bordering the south-west Atlantic Ocean work with fisheries management agencies to address and prevent further injuries to threatened and at-risk migratory species in their exclusive economic zone.

**Marine pollution and other threats: Effects of marine pollution on migratory species:** On [Wednesday](#), the COP-appointed councillor for marine pollution introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.1/Rev.2](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW noted the report and recommended the draft decisions for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report, “Migratory species and marine pollution: A brief overview of issues” in Annex 1 of the document and adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CCRP27.2.1, requesting parties to consider the threat of marine pollution in the development of conservation plans for migratory marine species and the ScC, supported by the Secretariat, to identify priority forms of pollution affecting CMS-listed marine species.

**Marine Noise:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.2/Rev.2](#), noting the aquatic working group discussions had addressed the issue and produced a conference room paper (CRP).

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the working group report in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.2/Rev.2 and adopted the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.2.2/Rev.1, requesting, *inter alia*: parties to disseminate the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities domestically; the Joint Noise Working Group to prepare a report on the state of knowledge of noise impacts and noise mitigation measures for CMS-listed freshwater mammal species; and the ScC to provide advice on the future role of the Convention.

**Vessel Strikes:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.3/Rev.1](#) and highlighted discussions by the aquatic working group and the available CRP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report, *Limiting global ship strike on whale sharks – Understanding an increasing threat to the world’s largest fish* ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.2.3](#)) and adopted the resolution, including the guidance, and the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.2.3. The resolution urges parties to adopt measures to reduce the risk of vessel strikes on marine megafauna through appropriate measures and collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

**Deep-sea mining:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.4/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.4/Add.1](#), and a letter from the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.2.4](#)). On Saturday, the CoW considered the revised document (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP 27.2.4/Rev.1). NORWAY requested an amendment to the preambulatory text “recalling” rather than “noting” CBD Decision 15/24 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Significant discussion took place on a proposed amendment by GERMANY to urge parties not to engage in “or support” deep-sea mining activities. IRELAND, the UK, the NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, BELGIUM, SEYCHELLES, BRAZIL, and SPAIN supported the amendment. ARGENTINA lamented the ISA Secretary-General’s absence from the COP and the insufficient notification to parties of his letter. The CoW recommended the document for adoption, including the amendments by Norway and Germany.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.2.4/Rev.1.

The resolution:

- urges parties not to engage in or support deep-sea mining until sufficient and robust scientific information has been obtained to ensure that deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities do not cause harmful effects to migratory species, their prey, and their ecosystems; and
- encourages parties to ensure that the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species are fully considered in the development and implementation of any regulatory framework under national legislation and under the ISA.

The decisions:

- request the ScC to develop, subject to the availability of external resources, a report on the state of knowledge of the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species;
- request the ScC to collaborate with the ISA to share expertise and develop specific environmental impact assessment guidance, and report to COP15; and
- direct the Secretariat to inform the ISA of this COP14 decision and facilitate collaboration with the ISA and other relevant bodies.

**Marine wildlife watching: Recreational in-water interactions:**

On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.3.1/Rev.1](#), noting the prepared CRP. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 12.16 and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.3.1/Rev.1, including to endorse the guidelines on recreational in-water interactions with marine wildlife in Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.3.1, and deleted Decisions 13.66-13.68.

**Area-based conservation management: Important marine mammal areas (IMMAs):** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.4.1](#), noting that a CRP was available.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report of the joint IUCN Species Survival Commission/World Commission on Protected Areas (SSC/WCPA) Marine Mammals Protected Areas Task Force; deleted Decisions 13.54-13.57; and adopted the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.4.1. The decisions:

- request parties to make use of IMMAs and report to COP15;
- request the ScC to collaborate with the IUCN SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force; and
- direct the Secretariat to notify parties of newly identified IMMAs and enhance cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement.

**Important shark and ray areas (ISRAs):** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.4.2/Rev.1](#).

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the draft resolution and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.4.2, requesting, *inter alia*, parties to support the identification of new ISRAs and the ScC to work with the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

**Seagrass ecosystems:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.4.3](#). On [Thursday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP 27.4.3). The resolution urges parties to strengthen research, conservation, and restoration measures for seagrass ecosystems and associated migratory species; provide financial support; and leverage international and regional funding.

The decisions direct parties to identify migratory species that use seagrass meadows and include these in marine protected areas, with support from the ScC and Secretariat.

**Marine mammals: Conservation priorities for cetaceans:**

On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.1/Rev.1](#).

**Outcome:** The COP noted the report and recommendations in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1a/Rev.1](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1b](#), as well as the conservation recommendations for range states of specific cetacean species. The COP also adopted the resolution and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.5.1 urging parties to protect and reduce threats to cetaceans and their habitats, and to establish processes for IPLC involvement in cetacean-related activities, and deleted Decisions 13.80-13.85.

**Single-species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*):** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.2/Rev.2](#), noting that the aquatic working group did not propose additional changes to the provided revisions, which updated the SSAP to include reflections from the range states meeting held in Senegal in September 2023. The CoW recommended the revised document for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the draft resolution and decisions, including the SSAP for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin.

**Sirenians, pinnipeds, and otters:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.3/Rev.1](#), noting a CRP was being prepared as a result of the aquatic working group's discussions.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.5.3 requesting, *inter alia*, range state parties to consider proposing the listing of the East African and New Caledonia Dugong populations; and the ScC to review the regional threats for non-cetacean CMS-listed aquatic mammals and prepare recommendations regarding listing. The COP deleted Decisions 13.55, 13.56 (c), 13.81 (a) and (b), and 13.82 (a).

**Marine turtles:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.6.1/Rev.1](#), and reported on ongoing discussions in the working group that will lead to a CRP. WWF pointed to their ongoing review of marine turtle legislation in the Asia-Pacific ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.6.1](#)) and encouraged parties to engage in this process.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.6.1 requesting the ScC, subject to the availability of external resources and expertise, to review relevant scientific information on the conservation of marine turtles and develop recommendations for species included in the Convention Appendices; and deleted Decisions 13.69-13.70.

**SSAP for the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean region:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.6.2/Rev.1](#).

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions, including the SSAP (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.6.2).

**SSAP for the Angel Shark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.7.1](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.7.1/Add.1](#).

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions, including the SSAP (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.7.1).



**Freshwater fish including the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*):** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.7.2/Rev.1](#). On [Thursday](#), the UK requested changes aimed at facilitating Secretariat and party work on this issue and ensuring the ScC's involvement in developing a multispecies action plan, among other edits. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the revised document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.76-13.79 and adopted the decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP.27.7.2/Rev.1](#) requesting, *inter alia*, that range state parties, the ScC, and the Secretariat support the development of an action plan for the European Eel and share data on transboundary freshwater migratory fish species.

**Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-listing for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*):** On [Wednesday](#), MALDIVES introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.7.3](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP27.7.3](#) requesting parties to provide information on their domestic and regional management measures to the Secretariat by SC 56.

**Avian species conservation issues:** The draft resolutions and decisions on avian conservation issues were taken up by the CoW and the working group for avian species for further discussion.

**Prevention of illegal killing, taking, and trade of migratory birds:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.1/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.1/Add.1](#), and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.28.1](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.1/Rev.1](#), and deleted Decisions 13.27-13.33. Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14), *inter alia*, decides to establish, subject to external resources, intergovernmental task forces on illegal taking of migratory birds in Asia Pacific and South-West Asia.

**Action Plan for migratory landbirds in the African-Eurasian region:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.2](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.2/Add.1](#). In the CoW on [Friday](#), BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, supported by the UK and SAUDI ARABIA, requested the inclusion of a reference to buntings (*Emberiza spp.*).

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13), including the amendment by BirdLife International, and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.2/Rev.1](#). Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14) requests, *inter alia*, that the ScC actively promote research that addresses key knowledge gaps relating to migratory landbird conservation in African-Eurasian region. The COP deleted Decisions 13.34-13.38.

**Preventing poisoning of migratory birds:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.3](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.3/Add.1](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.39 and 13.40 and adopted the amendments to Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) and new decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.3/Rev.1](#). Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14) agrees to continue the Preventing Poisoning Working Group and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights.

**Flyways:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.4.1/Rev.1](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.4.1/Add.1](#). On [Saturday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP, with minor amendments.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.41-13.46, and adopted amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.4.1/Rev.1](#), calling on parties to promote and implement the priorities set by the Flyways Working Group.

**Initiative for Central Asian Flyway:** On [Wednesday](#), INDIA introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.4.2](#). On [Saturday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP, following minor in-session amendments.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the new resolution and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.4.2/Rev.1](#), establishing an Initiative for Central Asian Flyway, and deleted Decision 13.46.

**Action Plans for Birds:** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.5.1/Rev.2](#). The CoW recommended it for adoption by the COP following a minor amendment.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 12.12 (Rev.COP13) and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.5.1/Rev.1](#). Resolution 12.12 (Rev. COP14) adopts SSAPs for the Christmas Island Frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*) and the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*); encourages range states of the Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) to develop an Appendix-I listing proposal; and encourages range states of the Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) to rapidly develop and implement a SSAP.

**Action Plan for the Christmas Island Frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*):** On [Thursday](#), Australia, introduced the SSAP ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.5.2/Rev.1](#)). The CoW recommended the document for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the SSAP.

**Action Plan for the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Asia:** On [Thursday](#), Mongolia introduced the SSAP ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.5.3/Rev.1](#)). The CoW recommended the document for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the SSAP.

**African-Eurasian Vultures:** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced the document, including draft amendments to Resolution 12.10 on the conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.6/Rev.1](#)). On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.50-53 and adopted the amendments to Resolution 12.10 and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.6](#) requesting that: parties and stakeholders, *inter alia*, actively participate in development of the Mid-term Review of the Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan; that West African parties and range states ensure enforcement of national laws to protect vultures; and that West African range states support the finalization and implementation of the West African Vulture Conservation Plan 2023-2043.

**Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP):** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced the document, including draft amendments to Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP12) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.7/Rev.1](#)). On [Friday](#), the CoW considered a revised in-session document.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP12) and new decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP28.7/Rev.2](#), continuing the implementation of SakerGAP.

**Terrestrial species conservation issues:** The draft resolutions and decisions on terrestrial conservation issues were taken up by the CoW and the working group for terrestrial species for further discussion.

**Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI):** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.1/Rev.1](#).

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP29.1, and deleted Decisions 13.86-13.87, 13.88-13.91, 13.92-13.95 and 13.96-13.97. Among other things, the decisions request ACI range states to review and extend the programme of work; encourage IGOs and NGOs to provide financial and technical support for implementing the ACI, its programme of work, and the range states meeting; and invite Botswana and Namibia, and request Zimbabwe, to supply data and information on the conservation status of their cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) populations to the Secretariat for review and consideration by the 7th meeting of its Sessional Committee.

**Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna: Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action (CA):** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat summarized progress in implementing the CA for the eight concerned species and the proposal to close this CA following the ScC's recommendation ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.1/Rev.1](#)).

**Outcome:** The COP closed the CA, and removed the species from the list in Resolution 12.28 on CAs.

**Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMFI):** On [Thursday](#), MOROCCO introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.2](#), including the proposal to amend Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP13) by establishing the SSMFI, which will extend to include adjoining habitats and the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*). The CoW recommended the document for adoption with a minor amendment.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP13) and the programme of work, as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP29.2.2/Rev.1. Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14): establishes the SSMFI; adopts the associated action plan; encourages non-party range states to support the initiative; and urges parties to apply an ecosystem approach to conserve and restore habitats for Sahelo-Saharan megafauna.

**Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI):** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.3/Rev.2](#). On [Saturday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP29.3. These include directions to CAMI range state parties to enhance transboundary cooperation in identified "hotspot" areas and to consider adding new listed species to the Initiative.

**African Elephant: African Elephant Action Plan:** On [Thursday](#), Zimbabwe introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.4.1](#) and its relevant CRP, which provides a 2023 revision of the Action Plan. The CoW recommended the document for adoption with minor amendments.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the amendments to Resolution 12.19 and endorsed the African Elephant Action Plan (2023) annexed to the resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP29.4.1/Rev.1). Resolution 12.19 (Rev.COP14) includes instructions for the Secretariat to cooperate with CITES and UNEP to promote fundraising for the Action Plan's implementation, and for African Elephant range states to explore the use of new and innovative funding instruments

such as payment for ecosystem services attributable to the role of elephants in the ecosystem.

**West African Elephant MOU:** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.4.2](#), which the CoW recommended for adoption without amendment.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.99 and 13.100.

**African Wild Ass:** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.5/Rev.2](#) with draft decisions and a roadmap for the conservation of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*). The CoW recommended the document for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions annexed to [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.5.2/Rev.2](#) and deleted Decision 13.98. The decisions invite Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia, and Sudan to conduct research into remaining, naturally-occurring extant populations of African Wild Ass in their territories and to report findings to COP15, and requests the Secretariat to support confirmed and former range states in implementing the roadmap, subject to available external resources.

**Jaguar:** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.1](#), including draft decisions on Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) conservation measures, and noted working group discussions to merge them with draft decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.2](#), introduced by COSTA RICA that day.

On Saturday, the CoW reviewed the CRP consolidating the actions of documents [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.1](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.6.2/Rev.1](#), which was strongly supported by IUCN, Panthera for the JAGUAR COORDINATION COMMITTEE, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, and PERU. The speakers noted their commitment to facilitating this collaborative work and emphasized the critical importance of the Jaguar as an indicator of ecosystem health in their range states.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions, as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP29.6.2. The resolution, *inter alia*:

- establishes the CMS Jaguar Initiative as a framework to foster coordination and cooperation between all CMS Jaguar range states;
- agrees that the Initiative's objectives consist in maintaining the integrity of large, mid-sized, and small Jaguar populations along its distribution and the connectivity between them and transboundary populations; and
- considers the needs and means of support to local communities coexisting with the Jaguar.

Among other things, the decisions direct:

- the Jaguar range states to collaborate with CMS and CITES in preparing a joint programme of work;
- parties, IGOs, and NGOs to coordinate and align efforts of this Initiative with those related to Jaguars under other frameworks; and
- the ScC to review and advise on the proposed joint CITES-CMS programme of work.

**Pastoralism:** On [Thursday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.7](#) on pastoralism and migratory species, including draft decisions, and noted discussions in the terrestrial working group. The CoW recommended the document to the COP for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the decisions as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP29.7, which, among others, direct:

- parties to undertake studies at the national level to assess the impacts of transhumance on biodiversity, well-being, and the risks of zoonotic disease emergence at the human-wildlife-livestock interface; and
- the ScC to establish a multi-stakeholder working group, subject to available external resources.

**Crosscutting conservation issues:** The draft resolutions and decisions on crosscutting conservation issues were taken up by the CoW and the working group for institutional and crosscutting issues for further discussion.

**Intentional take: Priorities for addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.1/Rev.1](#), including a proposed amendment to Resolution 11.31 on fighting wildlife crime and defining illegal taking and sustainability.

On Saturday, following discussions among ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA, WWF, and the WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY, the draft decision requesting the ScC to establish a working group was amended to change the reference from “terrestrial” species to “migratory” ones, with several speakers emphasizing that there are also gaps for aquatic species and that duplication of working groups must be avoided. The CoW recommended the revised draft resolution and decisions for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The updated resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP.30.1.1/Rev.1):

- urges parties and non-parties to identify the drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction; and
- instructs the Secretariat to continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders.

The decisions direct, *inter alia*:

- parties to improve the enforcement of legislation, regulations, and other measures related to taking of migratory species, and strengthen the capacity of enforcement, prosecutorial, judiciary and conservation management personnel through training on wildlife crime and offenses;
- the ScC to, subject to the availability of external resources, establish a Working Group on the taking of migratory species for various uses; and
- the Secretariat to review the various activities and programmes addressing illegal and unsustainable taking established under CMS and its Agreements to identify aspects that can be implemented in a crosscutting and more coordinated manner.

**Aquatic wild meat:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.2/Rev.3](#), including a draft resolution containing an action plan to address aquatic wild meat harvests in West Africa and associated draft decisions. On [Thursday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.64 and 13.65, and approved the resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.1.2), which adopts the Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa, with the goal of securing the conservation status of all impacted CMS-listed species and urges its implementation. The decisions direct:

- parties to provide technical and capacity-building support to range states of the Action Plan, and consider the development of action plans to reduce aquatic wild meat hunting and

consumption in East, South-East, and South Asia; Latin America; and the Pacific Islands Region; and

- the ScC, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, to develop criteria for considering if some Appendix II-listed sharks and rays should be included within its scope; to collect and present information about seabird harvests as aquatic wild meat in collaboration with the Task Forces on Illegal Take established by Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13); and to assess the migratory nature of crocodylians and freshwater chelonians to determine whether or not they may fit the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices.

**Terrestrial and avian wild meat:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.3](#); comments from the ScC ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.3/Add.1](#)); and a report on the impacts of taking, trade, and consumption of terrestrial migratory species for wild meat ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.1.3](#)). On [Friday](#), the document’s proposed actions, to delete Decisions 13.109-13.112, and to take note of the executive summary in its annex, were recommended for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.109-13.112 and took note of the executive summary.

**Conservation planning and management: Ecological connectivity: Policy and technical aspects:** On [Tuesday](#), the ScC introduced the relevant documents ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.1](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.2](#)), including draft resolutions and decisions. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the consolidated draft resolutions and decisions for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.113-13.115 and adopted the resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.2.1.1/Rev.1), which, *inter alia*, urges parties and invites others to give special attention to the policy and technical aspects of ecological connectivity when planning, implementing, and evaluating actions designed to support the protection, conservation, restoration, and effective management of migratory species, both at the national level and in the context of regional and international cooperation.

The decisions direct:

- parties to include connectivity in the implementation of other relevant international agreements, and in Spatial Plans and NBSAPs in line with the GBF;
- the ScC to produce a synthesis of information on the linkages between migratory species connectivity and ecosystem integrity and resilience; and
- the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to draw on the most appropriate data sources and with the advice of the ScC, identify the habitats, areas, corridors and networked sites of greatest global importance for the conservation of migratory species, including through modules of the CMS Atlas on Animal Migration, and to support parties in implementing the resolution.

**Transfrontier Conservation Areas:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.2/Rev.2](#), including draft decisions on the implementation of the UNEP-WCMC pilot transboundary tool.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.116-13.118 and adopted new decisions outlined in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.2.2. The decisions direct, *inter alia*: parties that are members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the East African Community (EAC) to consider testing the UNEP-WCMC

Pilot Transboundary Tool to identify potential opportunities for transboundary conservation; and the ScC to review the usefulness of the Tool based on reports submitted by parties through the Secretariat.

**Community Participation and Livelihoods:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.3](#), including a draft resolution and decisions, and an annex with guiding principles for community involvement. On [Thursday](#), parties made further amendments in response to the CRP, including with regard to terminology relating to IPLCs. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption with minor amendments.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.119-13.121 and adopted the resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.2.3/Rev.4) that:

- urges parties and other stakeholders to enhance the participation of communities in the implementation of the Convention;
- adopts the guiding principles in resolution's annex, implement them, and bring them to the attention of the communities and organizations carrying out conservation work; and
- requests parties and the Secretariat to compile information and case studies on community participation in the conservation of migratory species to support the exchange of best practices among parties.

**Infrastructure: Infrastructure and impact assessment:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.3.1/Rev.1](#). On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP deleted Decisions 13.130-13.134 and adopted the proposed amendments to Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.3.1/Rev.1. Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP14) that:

- urge parties to publicly disclose and share information on linear infrastructure development plans and impact assessments affecting migratory species;
- ask parties to include migratory species when revising impact assessment legal requirements, as well as to consider the recovery potential of CMS-listed species when planning new infrastructure; and
- instruct the Secretariat to engage with, *inter alia*, the GEF, development finance institutions, and bilateral donors to encourage the consideration of migratory species both at strategic and project level.

**Renewable energy and powerlines:** On [Tuesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.3.2](#), including draft decisions. On [Thursday](#), the UK requested a minor change to the in-session document, with the EU requesting further time for consultation. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the activities in Annex 1 of the document, deleted Decisions 13.106-13.108, and adopted new decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.3.2/Rev.1. The decisions request:

- parties to, *inter alia*, integrate biodiversity and migratory species conservation needs into national energy and climate policy and action plans, land and maritime spatial planning, and legislation and regulations on siting of new energy infrastructure, with the aim of avoiding negative impacts on migratory species; and to take legal, administrative, or policy measures to encourage and enable the energy sector to regularly monitor, assess, and

transparently disclose their risks, dependencies, and impacts on biodiversity;

- the CMS Energy Task Force to, *inter alia*, review tools and provide guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments on migratory species across flyways and throughout species' ranges, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- the Secretariat to, *inter alia*, seek partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant entities to expand the role and awareness of the CMS Energy Task Force and the implementation of safeguards, spatial planning tools, and guidance to avoid the negative impacts on migratory species of renewable energy infrastructure.

**Threats: Climate change:** On [Wednesday](#), the ScC introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.1/Rev.3](#), including a draft resolution, draft decisions, an annex with advice to parties and other stakeholders on priority actions to address the issues migratory species face as a result of climate change, and terms of reference for the ScC working group on climate change and migratory species. On [Saturday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the information document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.1](#), adopted amendments to Resolution 12.21 and decisions, and deleted Decisions 13.126-13.128 in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.4.1/Rev.1. Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14):

- strongly urges parties and non-party range states to take both climate change mitigation and adaptation actions now, especially in the light of impacts that are already being observed;
- endorses the advice to parties and other stakeholders annexed to the resolution, and urges parties and non-parties to incorporate it and migratory species issues in national climate change strategies, nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, and NBSAPs; and
- encourages parties and other stakeholders to take into account potential impacts on migratory species when developing and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation action and spatial planning in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

**Insect decline and its threat to migratory insectivorous animal populations:** The Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.2/Rev.1](#), including draft decisions. On [Thursday](#), the CoW recommended the draft decisions to the COP for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the summary of the report in Annex 1 of the document, adopted the decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.4.2 and deleted Decision 13.129. The decisions:

- request the ScC, subject to the availability of resources, to: provide recommendations to COP15 on the findings of the report, *Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations*; and
- direct the Secretariat to disseminate the report to relevant stakeholders, and raise awareness of its findings and recommendations in appropriate forums, and to support the ScC in implementing any follow-up actions as part of its programme of work.

**Wildlife disease:** On [Tuesday](#), the ScC introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.3](#), including a summary of *Migratory Species and Health: A Review of Migration and Wildlife Disease Dynamics, and the Health of Migratory Species, within the Context of One Health*, draft resolutions on wildlife health and migratory species and on

avian influenza, and draft decisions on wildlife disease. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for COP adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the report summary and adopted the resolutions and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.4.3 that, *inter alia*:

- urge parties to recognize the links between the drivers of population decline and disease emergence, and urgently enhance actions to address the drivers of migratory species population decline;
- request parties to ensure that responses to avian influenza in wildlife do not include lethal responses; and
- direct parties to take note of recommendations of the ScC Working Group on Migratory Species and Health, and direct the Secretariat to engage with the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the development of an instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

**Light pollution:** On [Wednesday](#), the ScC introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.4](#), with proposed amendments to CMS light pollution guidelines for wildlife (Resolution 13.5), designed to aid CMS parties by providing a framework for assessing and managing the impact of artificial light on susceptible wildlife in their jurisdiction. On [Friday](#), AUSTRALIA requested a change to the title of the international guidelines, to distinguish these from existing national guidelines. The CoW recommended the resolution, decisions, and guidelines for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species, as well as the amendments to Resolution 13.5 and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.4.4/Rev., and deleted Decisions 13.138 and 13.139. Resolution 13.5 (Rev.COP14), *inter alia*, adopts the CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines and implores parties to manage artificial light so that migratory species are not disrupted within, nor displaced from, important habitat, and are able to undertake critical behaviors such as foraging, reproduction, and migration.

The decisions, *inter alia*, direct the Secretariat to disseminate the guidelines widely, including to parties, other MEAs, regional agreements and programmes, IGOs, and other stakeholders, and, subject to the availability of resources, prepare additional annexes on how to avoid and mitigate the negative effects of light pollution for taxa not yet covered in the Guidelines, such as fish.

**Plastic pollution:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.5/Rev.1](#), including draft decisions. On Saturday, the CoW recommended the in-session document on plastic pollution for adoption by the COP with the same amendment on “developing countries” as for the new Strategic Plan, and a further amendment by ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA on strategies to increase fishing gear traceability.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of the executive summary and conclusions of the report, *Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region* in Annex 1 of the document, deleted Decisions 13.123 – 13.125, and adopted decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.4.5/Rev.2. The decisions direct:

- parties to support the negotiations for a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution;
- parties to develop, in collaboration with relevant agencies, and a harmonized standard and guidance on the circular design of fishing gear to enable their re-use, repair, or recycling; and

- parties, IGOs, and NGOs to mobilize resources to prevent and mitigate plastic pollution, including combating and removing accumulated marine debris in areas of high importance for migratory species, recognizing the challenges faced by developing country parties, including LDCs and SIDS.

**Conservation implications of animal culture and social complexity:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.5/Rev.1](#), including reports from intersessional workshops on this issue, and draft decisions. On [Thursday](#), the CoW noted the report and recommended the decisions for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP noted the intersessional workshop report in the document, deleted Decisions 13.102-13.105, and adopted decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.5 that direct:

- parties to investigate the conservation implications of animal culture and social learning for a diverse range of taxa, including fish and reptiles, and to apply a precautionary approach by considering cultural processes as relevant for the conservation of all species for which there is evidence for social learning; and
- the ScC, subject to available funding, to support research on animal culture and social learning by, among other things, developing guidance on methodology for detecting social learning, and to incorporate a variety of “lines of evidence” on social learning and animal culture, including from local communities and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

**Tourism:** On [Wednesday](#), the UK introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.6/Rev.1](#), proposing amendments to Resolution 12.23 to endorse new guidelines on ecotourism and migratory species. On [Friday](#), the CoW noted the document and recommended its amendments to Resolution 12.33 for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP took note of [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.6](#), deleted Decisions 13.156 and 13.136, adopted the amendments to Resolution 12.23, including endorsement of the new guidelines on ecotourism, and migratory species in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP30.6/Rev.1. Resolution 12.23 (Rev.COP14) presents new guidance for parties and stakeholders on ecotourism and migratory species, and encourages parties and other stakeholders to apply it and share their experiences in doing so.

### Amendment of CMS Appendices

**Taxonomy and nomenclature:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.1/Rev.1](#), which recommends a new taxonomy for aquatic marine mammals. The CoW recommended the draft resolution and draft decision for adoption.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the new taxonomy for aquatic marine mammals, as well as the amendments to Resolution 12.27 and decisions found in the document annexes. Resolution 12.27 (Rev.COP14), *inter alia*, adopts the list of standard references in the annex as the basis on which the CMS Appendices and amendments are prepared. Among other things, the decision requests the ScC, subject to the availability of external resources, to review the *Catalogue of Life* as a potential source for all taxonomic and nomenclatural information for CMS.

**Disaggregation of families and genera listed in Appendix II:** On [Wednesday](#), the ScC introduced the proposed resolution and decisions in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.2/Rev.1](#). The CoW recommended the document for adoption.

**Outcome:** The resolution, *inter alia*, requests the ScC to maintain a list of Appendix II species with unfavorable conservation status belonging in aggregated families and genera, in order to advise

parties as to which of these cyclically and predictably cross national jurisdictional boundaries. The decisions invite parties to consider this list when preparing national reports, direct the ScC to update it, and direct the Secretariat to alert parties to its existence.

**Potential avian taxa for listing:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.3](#), including a draft resolution and draft decisions. On [Friday](#), the CoW recommended the document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The COP adopted the resolution and decisions in UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP31.3, endorsing a list of avian species likely to meet the criteria for listing in the CMS Appendices as a strategic step towards focusing attention on species that would benefit most from conservation action.

The decisions, *inter alia*, invite parties, NGOs, IGOs, and other stakeholders to consider working collaboratively to develop listing proposals, CAs, and other multi-species or wider habitat conservation interventions for the species in the annex for consideration at future meetings of the COP.

**Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention:** On [Thursday](#), the CoW recommended all of the listing proposals for adoption by the COP. The COP adopted them on Saturday.

- Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.1/Rev.1](#));
- Pallas's Cat or manul (*Felis manul*) in Appendix II ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.2/Rev.1](#));
- Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) in Appendix II ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.3](#));
- Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) in Appendix I and II ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/31.4.4](#));
- Baltic Proper population of the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.5](#));
- Peruvian Pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*) in Appendix I and II ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.6](#));
- Magellanic Plover (*Pluvianellus socialis*) in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.7/Rev.1](#));
- Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis*) (South African population) in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.8](#));
- Sand Tiger Shark (*Charcharias taurus*) in Appendix I and II ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.9/Rev.2](#));
- Blackchin Guitarfish (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.10](#));
- Bull Ray (*Aetomylaeus bovinus*) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.11](#));
- Lusitanian Cownose Ray (*Rhinoptera marginata*) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.12](#)); and
- Gilded Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) and the Laulau Catfish or Piramuta (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) in Appendix II ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.13](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.4.14](#)).

### Implementation of the Concerted Actions Process

**CAs:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.1/Rev.1](#), including proposed revisions to Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP13) to clarify CA implementation. On Saturday, the

CoW recommended the in-session document for adoption by the COP.

**Outcome:** The resolution (UNEP/CMS/COP14/CRP32.1/Rev.1), *inter alia*, adopts the Guidelines to the Implementation of the CA Process in Annex 1 and the Template for Proposing CAs in Annex 2; and requests parties, the ScC, the Secretariat, and other relevant stakeholders to take them fully into account in the different steps of the CAs process.

**Assessment of progress in the implementation of CAs and possible proposals for their extension:** On [Wednesday](#), the Secretariat introduced [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2](#).

**Outcome:** The COP agreed to close CAs for Atlantic Humpback Dolphin and Baltic Sea and for Iberian Peninsula populations of the Harbour Porpoise; to close and replace a CA for Nut-Cracking populations of Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of West Africa ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.1](#)), and to extend eight CAs on:

- Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.2](#));
- Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) of the Arabian Sea ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/32.2.3](#));
- Eastern Tropical Pacific Sperm Whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.4](#));
- Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa Teuszii*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.5](#));
- Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea and Iberian Peninsula ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.6](#));
- Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.7](#));
- Antipodean Albatross (*Diomedea antipodensis*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.8](#)); and
- Common Guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*) and Bottlenose Wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.9](#)).

**New Proposals for CAs for the Triennium 2024-2026:** On Saturday, the COP approved new CAs on:

- Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) behavioral diversity and cultures ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.1](#));
- Straw-Coloured Fruit Bat (*Eidolon helvum*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.2](#));
- Pallas's Cat or Manul (*Felis manul*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.3](#));
- Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and its Balkan subspecies (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.4](#));
- Franciscana Dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.5](#)); and
- Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.3.7/Rev.1](#)).

### Closing Plenary

After the CoW resumed on Saturday to approve the remaining CRPs, the COP convened.

**Report of the Credentials Committee:** The Chair of the Credentials Committee, reported that, of the 92 countries registered, 77 credentials were received, and the Committee accepted 72.

**Report of the Session and Committees:** CoW Chair Galbraith confirmed that all reports had been approved by the CoW, and thanked the respective Chairs.

**Adoption of Resolutions, Decisions and Amendments to the Appendices:** The COP adopted by consensus all resolutions, decisions, and amendments to the appendices forwarded from the CoW.

**Adoption of the Report:** The COP adopted the CMS COP14 report without amendment.

**Closing Statements:** Representatives of the regional groups provided closing statements. The UK, on behalf of Monaco, Georgia, Norway and Switzerland, stressed that the Convention and the Secretariat will need to be adequately supported in order to achieve the ambitious set of resolutions and decisions agreed during this COP. PANAMA, on behalf of Central and South America and the Caribbean, underscored the value of regional cooperation, pointing to key accomplishments such as the Jaguar Initiative and the CA for the Franciscana Dolphin.

NEW ZEALAND, on behalf of Oceania, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the COP, notably through the agreement of a new strategic plan that includes references to IPLCs, and the resolution on deep-sea mining. SAUDI ARABIA, on behalf of the Asia region, noted the launch of the Central Asian Flyway Initiative and efforts on seagrass conservation.

The EU emphasized that the CMS community had shown strong leadership at COP14 in areas such as light pollution, deep-sea mining, bycatch and plastic waste. He called on parties to make timely contributions, regularize arrears, and provide voluntary contributions. ZIMBABWE, on behalf of Africa, stressed countries struggling with contributions should not be interpreted as a lack of commitment and called for innovative resource mobilization, including working with other Conventions as necessary.

WWF, on behalf of a number of NGOs, shared that the resolutions and decisions agreed to at COP14 gave “grounds for hope,” but would need adequate resources. He pledged that civil society would “do what it can” to support these efforts. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ICLEI), noting this was their first time attending the COP, welcomed the inclusion of language in the resolution on synergies and partnerships that promotes active engagement and strengthening capacity of subnational and local governments in migratory species and habitat conservation.

COP Chair Abdulkhakimov highlighted the historic nature of COP14 as the first one held in Central Asia. In her closing remarks, Executive Secretary Fraenkel applauded the host country, the CMS team, delegates, and venue staff for their efforts. The COP was gavelled to a close at 5:42 pm.

### A Brief Analysis of COP14

*That wild animals have largely moved out of our view is of small note to many of us. We think, abstractly, that they live out there somewhere, browsing or flying or killing or doing whatever it is they do, and we think that we are keeping them among us by the sheer force of our desire, even as we consume, insatiably, the places where they live. – Ellen Meloy, Eating Stone: Imagination and the Loss of the Wild*

If you want to help wild animals, go where they live. The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS) was the first of its kind held in Central Asia, a region some have described as “long-neglected”—and yet, as a contingent of Uzbek dancers illustrated during the opening ceremony, is home to many of the world’s migratory species. This was also the first major biodiversity meeting since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022.

Delegates had only a week to tackle the COP’s extensive agenda, as well as address issues that will determine the future of the Convention. Did they succeed in their work—and in getting the world’s attention? Have the species listings and other negotiated actions reflected the realities of species on the ground? And, as protecting migratory species and their habitats is more crucial than ever, what challenges will CMS face in the future? This brief analysis will explore these questions.

### Gracious Hosts and Global Headlines

Since the days of the Silk Road, Samarkand has been a historical crossroads—of migratory people, goods, and wildlife. It seemed fitting that this historic city created the right ecological niche for productive exchanges between delegates. Many attendees were quick to note the abundance of space in the Silk Road Samarkand Congress Centre, conducive to open conversation and making connections. Teams of dedicated local staff helped delegates navigate and stay on track throughout the negotiations. “We’ve been incredibly efficient, all things considered,” one seasoned delegate opined, “and a lot of that was due to our hosts.”

It also helped that the conference started on a high note. On the first day, the CMS released the first State of the World’s Migratory Species report, an “IPCC assessment for migratory species” that assesses the state of migratory conservation. The flagship report had a huge, unprecedented reach: some estimates put media coverage at 2,400 news articles in 100 countries and 40 languages. Migratory animals landed on the front pages of the BBC, CNN, and NPR websites, and trended on social media in Uzbekistan and beyond. “This much bigger outreach than we expected—it could be a game-changer for our profile... and CMS’ fundraising prospects,” a delegate confided. “Or let’s hope so, anyway, because things are dire. Migratory species need all the help they can get.”

### Setting the Table for Success

Throughout the week, the Committee of the Whole (CoW) and its working groups proceeded efficiently through a lengthy agenda. Fourteen new species, subspecies, or populations were added to the Appendices of the Convention, and 13 new or renewed Concerted Actions were adopted to help parties collaborate to protect them. Long-time CMS delegates expressed a quiet satisfaction: “The fact that we’re such a technical COP means that we can work things out ahead of time—it makes things quite civil, actually. And it ends up better for the species we’re trying to protect, of course.” Indeed, participants were relieved to hear the news that Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) and Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) populations have been rebounding since their listings—a sign that international cooperation works in more than name only.

Listing itself is not a sign of conservation success, however. It means that species are threatened. The *State of the World’s Migratory Species* report is a harsh reminder: levels of extinction risk are rising across CMS-listed species. Scientists at the COP were quick to stress that, considering the accelerating rate of biodiversity loss, “by the time CMS can list a species... it may already be too late.”

Countering these downward trends will take renewed commitments and new approaches. Some observers have advocated for a precautionary approach towards listing. “If we can get species listed early, before the warning signs turn into real losses, then we may stand a chance of acting in time,” one field scientist urged. They pointed to the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), which parties did

not consider listing earlier due to an “overly optimistic” scientific assessment of their conservation status. However, the 2018 IUCN assessment showed that despite the continued “near threatened” global status, 33 of 34 Jaguar populations are endangered or critically endangered. “If we’d acted earlier to protect the Jaguar, the situation might not have become so precarious.” They noted the example of listing Central Asian small cats like the Pallas’s Cat, or Manul (*Felis manul*), which are also listed as “near threatened,” as an attempt to get ahead of the curve.

Innovation will need to reach beyond proactive conservation approaches and consider the newest available science on migratory species. CMS is one step ahead of other biodiversity-related Conventions in considering animal culture and society in its decision-making. At COP14, delegates directed the Scientific Council to investigate the conservation implications of this research area in all its complexity, and to consider evidence using Indigenous and traditional knowledges in addition to the usual “Western” science. “Recognizing animal culture and social complexity in this way is a genuine acknowledgement of our kinship with the natural world,” one delegate celebrated. “Not only in our closest relatives, like Chimpanzees, but across the web of life. Goodness knows some cetaceans are probably holding COPs right now on what to do about humans.”

### **Deep-seated Challenges**

The ongoing threats of climate change and habitat loss will continue to make the work of the Convention more difficult, and new challenges are coming from beyond the horizon—or under it. Exploiting the deep seabed is a topic of heated debate in other fora, but has direct relevance to the CMS, given that its consequences would inevitably reverberate through food chains from marine migratory species outward. Prior to the COP, the Secretariat received a letter from the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) decrying that it had not been consulted about the proposed deep sea mining resolution ahead of COP14, and claiming it “cannot be considered a credible basis for decision-making.” “We get letters like this all the time,” a member of the CMS Secretariat confided, “but from industrial lobbyists—not the Executive Secretary of a UN body.”

The adopted text urges parties “not to engage in, or support, deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities” until enough scientific information is available to ensure no harm to species or ecosystems. Observers, civil society members, and many parties alike confessed to having watched the working group’s deliberations with a white-knuckle grip on their chair. “What a relief,” one sighed. “It’s as good an outcome as we could have hoped for.” The Convention’s proactive ethos has given the deep sea, a vital landscape important to marine migratory species in both obvious and unreckoned ways, a fighting chance to be discovered through conservation, not exploitation.

While this CMS resolution takes a strong stand for deep-sea biodiversity, the turbulence around it makes clear that international, industrial pressures to exploit marine ecosystems will remain. Despite potential conflict and disagreements, many who were present at the COP were confident that CMS’ collegial and productive atmosphere would be the key to conservation success in the future. “CMS is a bastion of cooperation and science-led policy in international conservation, and it needs to stay that way,” one delegate argued. “We need everyone involved to keep up that ideal—or the species we’re trying to protect will fall one by one.”

### **The Right Cooks in the Kitchen**

For all the work that CMS has accomplished over the last three years, it faces several challenges to its ability to meet the challenges of migratory species conservation. The Convention remains chronically underfunded, with almost half of its parties in arrears. Of the three budgetary scenarios presented to delegates at the beginning of the COP, only one would have made CMS, in the words of Executive Secretary Amy Fraenkel, “fit for purpose.” After some of the COP’s most tense discussions behind closed doors, parties emerged with a budget proposal that did not include modest growth, but also avoided the most austere scenarios. Still, the restrictions it will dictate led some to worry about the long-term impacts on CMS work. “It’s clear that the Secretariat is going to have to prioritize,” one delegate opined.

The Secretariat will not be alone: national reporting showed that conservation may not be at the top of many governments’ list. Less than half of parties presented national reports to the Convention. Several pointed out that some countries simply did not have the technical, financial, or capacity assistance required to fulfil their duties. One observer was more blunt. “The world is distracted,” they confided. “Austerity, resource extraction, geopolitical pressures... delegates here have enough of a job convincing their governments that their work is important as it is.”

Other stakeholders were noticeable in their absence. Many range states for certain protected species are not party to CMS and were absent from COP14. Most importantly, and in contrast to other biodiversity fora, CMS has yet to include representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in its discussions. Considering that Indigenous Peoples are guardians of migratory species and biodiversity in general, the inclusion of a formal engagement process seems necessary, if not inevitable, to some. “We have some serious catching up to do,” one senior official reflected.

The participation of those who enact conservation on the ground is essential to reversing biodiversity loss. CMS is only as strong as the collaboration it can create. Or, as Land of Snow Leopard Network director Maria Azhunova stated in the CoW: “The future of these species depends on the resilience of Indigenous Peoples [...] our fates are intertwined.”

Still, the Convention has made significant progress in including multiple voices. Its work on synergies is dedicated to “enhancing the relationship between the CMS family and civil society both at international and national levels.” Non-governmental organizations have always held a particularly important place in CMS proceedings: they take active roles in plenary, often suggesting text and introducing resolutions. The fiscal pressures on the Convention will likely mean that the voice of civil society will become even more important in protecting migratory species over the course of the next triennium. “We’re desperately going to need these folks on the ground to act as the connective tissue between parties,” one observer predicted. “Conservation by listing won’t be enough.”

### **Caring for Future Guests**

*Have you seen the snow leopard?*

*No! Isn’t that wonderful?*

— Peter Matthiessen, *The Snow Leopard*

Delegates were treated to a parting gift in the final days of the Convention: a gigantic mural of a Snow Leopard had appeared in the main hall, painted in pieces each night by Inkuzart, the “Uzbek Banksy.” This cat, an ancient symbol of Central Asia,



came to represent for some the common goal—and success—of the Convention. CMS COP14 sent a clear message to the “GBF family”: species must be considered in all their interconnections and all their complexity, from the biggest Jaguar to the smallest Manul. “We came here with differing opinions, but we leave with resolutions adopted by consensus,” one long-time delegate reflected. “I know our challenges may seem insurmountable, but we have clearly shown that we can work together to overcome them.”

## Upcoming Meetings

**Sixth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6):** UNEA-6 convenes under the theme “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.” It will be preceded by the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, which takes place from 19-23 February 2024. **dates:** 26 February –1 March 2024 **location:** Nairobi, Kenya **www:** [unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6](http://unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6)

**World Wildlife Day:** Under the theme “Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation,” the World Wildlife Day 2024 celebrations aim to raise awareness on the latest applications of digital technologies in wildlife conservation and trade and the impact of certain digital interventions on ecosystems and communities around the world. **dates:** 3 March 2024 **location:** worldwide **www:** [wildlifeday.org](http://wildlifeday.org)

**CBD SBSTTA 26:** The twenty-sixth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will continue preparations for the next meeting of the CBD COP. **dates:** 13-18 May 2024 **location:** Nairobi, Kenya **www:** [cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-26](http://cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-26)

**CBD SBI 4:** The fourth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) will review implementation of the CBD in advance of the next meeting of the COP. **dates:** 21-29 May 2024 **location:** Nairobi, Kenya **www:** [cbd.int/meetings/SBI-04](http://cbd.int/meetings/SBI-04)

**27th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee:** The Plants Committee will convene to discuss technical and scientific matters regarding species of plants that are subject to (or might become) subject to CITES trade controls. **dates:** 8-12 July 2024 **location:** Geneva, Switzerland **www:** [cites.org/eng/meetings/pc](http://cites.org/eng/meetings/pc)

**33rd meeting of the CITES Animals Committee:** The Animals Committee will convene to discuss technical and scientific matters regarding species of animals that are subject to (or might become) subject to CITES trade controls. **dates:** 12-19 July 2024 **location:** Geneva, Switzerland **www:** [cites.org/eng/meetings/ac](http://cites.org/eng/meetings/ac)

**IWC69:** The 69th meeting of the International Whaling Commission will convene in 2024. **location:** Lima, Peru **dates:** 23-27 September 2024 **www:** [iwc.int/events-and-workshops/iwc69-2024](http://iwc.int/events-and-workshops/iwc69-2024)

**2024 Nature Positive Summit:** The first Global Nature Positive Summit will bring together delegates from around the world including ministers, environment groups, First Nations Peoples, business, scientists, and community leaders, to consider how to supercharge investment in projects that repair nature. **dates:** 8-10 October 2024 **location:** Sydney, Australia **www:** [dceew.gov.au/environment/international/nature-positive-summit](http://dceew.gov.au/environment/international/nature-positive-summit)

**CBD COP16:** The Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Fifth

meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing will convene for the first time since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The COP will be preceded by the Fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 16-18 October. **dates:** 21 October – 1 November 2024 **location:** Colombia **www:** [cbd.int/meetings](http://cbd.int/meetings)

**IPBES 11:** The 11th Session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Plenary will consider the assessment on interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health and the transformative change assessment. **dates:** 10-16 December 2024 **location:** Windhoek, Namibia **www:** [ipbes.net/events/ipbes-11-plenary](http://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-11-plenary)

**IUCN World Conservation Congress:** Held every four years, the IUCN Congress is the world’s largest conservation event bringing together leaders to determine the world’s most pressing environmental and development challenges, and actions to address them. **dates:** 9-15 October 2025 **location:** Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates **www:** [iucn.org/press-release/202306/united-arab-emirates-host-iucn-world-conservation-congress-2025](http://iucn.org/press-release/202306/united-arab-emirates-host-iucn-world-conservation-congress-2025)

**CITES CoP20:** The 20th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties is expected to take place in 2025. **dates:** to be determined **location:** to be determined **www:** [cites.org](http://cites.org)

**CMS COP15:** The next meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties is expected to take place in 2026. **dates:** to be determined **location:** to be determined **www:** [cms.int](http://cms.int)

For additional upcoming events, see [sdg.iisd.org](http://sdg.iisd.org)

## Glossary

BBNJ	Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
CA	Concerted Action
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CoW	Committee of the Whole
CRP	Conference room paper
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and local communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ISA	International Seabed Authority
LDCs	Least developed countries
MEAs	Multilateral environmental agreements
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
SC	Standing Committee
ScC	Scientific Council
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSAP	Single-species Action Plan
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre