



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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13<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020  
Agenda Item 28.1

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONCERTED ACTION  
FOR THE  
EUROPEAN EEL (*Anguilla anguilla*)**

Summary:

The Government of the Principality of Monaco in collaboration with the Sargasso Sea Secretariat (SSC) and the CMS Secretariat has submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), Concerted Action 12.1.

\*The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONCERTED ACTION  
FOR THE EUROPEAN EEL (*Anguilla anguilla*)**

CONCERTED ACTION 12.1

1. CONCERTED ACTION

Title: Concerted Action on the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

Document number: [UNEP/CMS/ Concerted Action 12.1](#)

2. PROPONENT

The Government of the Principality of Monaco in collaboration with the Sargasso Sea Secretariat (SSC) and the CMS Secretariat.

3. TARGET SPECIES

Class: Actinopterygii  
Family: Anguillidae  
Order: Anguilliformes  
Species: *Anguilla anguilla*

4. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

The core activity from the Concerted Action and the first workshop was to convene a second Policy Meeting of Range States. The meeting's objective was to explore all options that might help to strengthen conservation efforts for the European Eel. The meeting focused on exploring synergies between existing instruments, solidifying the role of CMS and associated mechanisms of implementation, in on-going conservation efforts.

Second Meeting of Range States, 2018

The Second Meeting of Range States for the European Eel was convened in Malmö, Sweden, 15-16 May 2018. The meeting considered information on activities taking place related to the assessment, conservation and management of the European Eel, within and beyond the EU. Following presentations from experts, country representatives, IGOs and NGOs involved in eel conservation, delegates identified certain gaps and opportunities as well as advantages to having stronger international cooperation for the conservation of European Eels.

The survey of Range States was undertaken to identify gaps in conservation and management of the species. This would provide a basis to prepare discussions for the second meeting. The results of this survey can be found in the [report of the meeting](#).

Actions that complement both the 2016 CITES COP17 decision and the IUCN World Conservation Council 2016 Resolution that relate to anguillid eels were identified.

Lastly, the meeting engaged with non-Range State stakeholders, including the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

The meeting highlighted the necessity of considering all threats affecting eels throughout their life cycle and throughout their range including the High Seas. The group identified several areas, which would add value and complement current efforts, and recognized the need to include all Range States and importing countries.

The meeting concluded that:

*'there is a potential for international cooperation to address gaps and challenges in European Eel conservation. In this context, the CMS as a global mechanism could address many of these issues. Based on the above modalities, there is a potential for CMS to begin consultations on setting up such a mechanism for more coordinated and comprehensive European Eel conservation. A negotiation process for strengthening international cooperation should take into consideration ongoing reviews of European Eel policies, including those taking place in the EU, the GFCM, CITES, IUCN and ICES. Consideration should also be taken of the need to reinforce action as soon as possible given the species' Critically Endangered conservation status.'*<sup>1</sup>

### Third Meeting of Range States, 2019

A Third Meeting of the Range States was held in Malmö, Sweden in June 2019. It was concluded that it would be premature to consider a draft legal agreement for *Anguilla anguilla*. A Single Species Action Plan was discussed as one possible alternative. It was decided that, to allow for proper consideration and consultation, a draft document would be brought to CMS COP13 for adoption.

See Annex for a summary of activities undertaken.

#### 5. CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL CONCERTED ACTION (IF ANY)

There were no changes made to the original Concerted Action and it has been completed. For future actions see working document UNEP/CMS/Doc.26.2.9.

#### 6. REFERENCES

1<sup>st</sup> Range State Workshop on the European Eel

[UNEP/CMS/Eels WS1/Report](https://www.cms.int/en/document/1st-range-state-workshop-on-the-european-eel)

Inclusion of the European eel on CMS Appendix II: Proposal and adoption at CMS COP11

[UNEP/CMS/Eels WS1/Doc.5](https://www.cms.int/en/document/inclusion-of-the-european-eel-on-cms-appendix-ii)

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Range States for the European Eel

[UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Report](https://www.cms.int/en/document/2nd-meeting-of-range-states-for-the-european-eel)

Outcomes of the Second Meeting of Range States for the European Eel (Eels2)

[UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Outcome](https://www.cms.int/en/document/outcomes-of-the-second-meeting-of-range-states-for-the-european-eel)

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Range States for the European Eel

[UNEP/CMS/Eels3/Report](https://www.cms.int/en/document/3rd-meeting-of-range-states-for-the-european-eel)

Draft Annotated Legal Agreement for the Conservation and Management of the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

[UNEP/CMS/Eels3/Doc.2](https://www.cms.int/en/document/draft-annotated-legal-agreement-for-the-conservation-and-management-of-the-european-eel)

#### 7. ACTION

The Concerted Action on the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) has been completed. It was decided at the Third Meeting of the Range States held in Malmö, Sweden in June 2019 that the Range States would like to consider a COP Document (see UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.2.9). This document proposes a way forward and will be considered for adoption at CMS COP13 in February, 2020.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/document/outcomes-meeting>

**ANNEX: IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Expected outcomes	Original timeline	Progress	Changes or solutions
1. Convene a second Policy Meeting of Range States	To explore all options that might help to strengthen conservation efforts for the European Eel. There should be a focus on exploring synergies between existing instruments, to solidify the role of CMS, and associated mechanism of implementation, in ongoing conservation efforts.	Second Range State Meeting to occur in the first half of 2018, if possible.	Completed.  Report of the Meeting <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Report</a>  Outcomes of the Second Meeting of Range States for the European Eel (Eels2) <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Outcome</a>  See Eels 3 Report of the Meeting <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Eels3/Report</a>	N/A
2. Undertake a survey of Range States	Identifying gaps in conservation and management of species.	Ongoing until COP 13	Completed.  European Eels under CMS <a href="#">Survey Outcomes</a>  See Eels 2 Report of the Meeting <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Report</a>	N/A
3. Identify actions that complement both the 2016 CITES COP17 decision and the IUCN World Conservation Council 2016 Resolution that relate to anguillid eels		Ongoing until COP 13	Completed.  <a href="#">CITES and Eels</a>  See Eels 2 Report of the Meeting <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Report</a>	N/A
4. Encourage improved data flow/collection to ICES for annual reporting and AESG for Red List assessment in 2018.		Ongoing until COP 13	Ongoing. See Eels 2 Report of the Meeting <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Eels2/Report</a>	N/A

Activity	Expected outcomes	Original timeline	Progress	Changes or solutions
5.Engage with non-Range State stakeholders e.g. relevant Regional Fisheries Bodies, especially the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). Stakeholders will identify relevant funding sources as necessary.		Ongoing until COP 13	Completed.  GFCM Engaged see Eels 3 Report of the Meeting <a href="https://www.unep.org/press-releases/unep-cms-eels3-report">UNEP/CMS/Eels3/Report</a>	