

SECOND RANGE STATE MEETING OF THE CMS CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE (CAMI)

25 - 28 September 2019, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

UNEP/CMS/CAMI2/Doc.5

RESOLUTION 11.24: THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Summary:

This document includes the proposed amendments to Resolution 11.24 *The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)* to be submitted for adoption to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) in Gandhinagar, India in February 2020. The meeting is invited to discuss and comment on the Resolution and propose additional amendments as appropriate.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 11.24

THE CENTRAL ASIAN MAMMALS INITIATIVE

Deeply concerned that large mammal migrations in one of the last remaining regions supporting long-distance movements, the Central Asian plains and mountains, are severely threatened by overexploitation of wildlife as well as exploitation of minerals and other natural resources and that the habitats upon which large mammals depend are becoming lost, degraded and fragmented at an unprecedented rate;

Recognizing that extractive industries, infrastructure and fences can have a particularly detrimental impact on the conservation status of migratory mammals and may cause direct mortality and fragmentation of habitats, disrupting essential movement from one place to another and *further recognizing* the urgent need for practical guidelines to mitigate impacts on migratory mammals from linear infrastructure, including the threat from increased human habitation and associated poaching threats along infrastructure routes, not only in Central Asia, but across the wider Asian region;

Aware that long-distance movements of many species are unpredictable, which increases the need to maintain the permeability of large landscapes;

Aware that migratory species and their habitats provide essential ecosystem services as well as cultural heritage value and economic benefits for instance through sustainable use and tourism, and that many human communities directly and indirectly rely on the availability of large mammal species and on intact ecosystems for their livelihoods;

Acknowledging the ~~Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals Concerted Action established by Recommendations 8.23 and 9.1, which highlights the exceptional importance of Eurasian arid ecosystems for migratory species and the crucial role of CMS in conserving them, covering in particular six large mammal species listed on Appendix I (four of these designated for Concerted Action)¹, and a further six on Appendix II (four of these designated for Cooperative Action)²;~~

Further acknowledging the multiple mandates of CMS to work in the region, including the Memoranda of Understanding covering the Saiga Antelope and Bukhara Deer;

Noting that most of the species in the Central Asian region listed in the Appendices of CMS are also included in the Appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), thus offering opportunities for synergy as envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Work Programme between the Secretariats of the two Conventions;

Noting with satisfaction the ~~progress made since COP10 in implementing these mandates, in particular the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali *Ovis ammon* (CMS/UNEP/COP11/Doc.23.3.3), the assessment of gaps and needs in relation to migratory mammals in Central Asia (CMS/UNEP/COP11/Inf.21) and the Programme of Work for a broader Central Asian mammals initiative comprising all activities aimed at conserving large migratory mammals and implementing CMS in the Central Asian region;~~

¹ Appendix I - Bukhara/Yarkand Deer *Cervus elaphus yarkandensis* (listed on both Appendices, not designated for Concerted Action), Wild Camel *Camelus bactrianus*, Wild Yak *Bos grunniens*, Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*, Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia*, Przewalski's Horse *Equus ferus przewalskii*.

² Appendix II - Saiga Antelope *Saiga spp.*, Kiang *Equus kiang*, Argali *Ovis ammon*, Mongolian Gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, Kulan *Equus hemionus* (the last four designated for Cooperative Action).

Recalling the decisions under the Future Shape process, including activities 8 and 15 under Resolution 10.9 urging Parties to “identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography”, and “to seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering”, such as with the development of a common conservation programme;

Taking into account the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards and the comprehensive, long-term Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme adopted by Range States at the Global Snow Leopard Forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Republic in October 2013, which called upon all Range States to declare the year of 2015 as the International Year of the Snow Leopard, and 23 October ~~23~~ as an annually celebrated Snow Leopard Day;

~~*Grateful* for the financial and in-kind support from the Governments of Switzerland and Germany and the European Union through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) in pursuing the work for the conservation of migratory mammals in the Central Asian region; and~~

~~*Further grateful* to the Kyrgyz Government for hosting the Stakeholder Meeting on the Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia on 23-25 September 2014 in Bishkek, which developed the Programme of Work for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, annexed to the present Resolution;~~

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the Programme of Work 2021-2026 for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) contained in the Annex to this Resolution and *endorses* the ~~concept of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI)~~ as an innovative and integrative approach building on a regional programme, that identifies synergies based on common or shared work programmes, geography, species and interests ~~in line with Future Shape decisions~~, to enhance cooperation and coordination at the local, regional and international level, to minimize institutional overlap and to improve efficient implementation of CMS and its instruments on large mammals in the region;
2. *Further adopts* the Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.2;
3. *Also adopts* the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Argali *Ovis ammon* contained in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.3.3;
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat, subject to funding, to take up the role of coordinating the implementation of the CAMI and its Programme of Work and ~~to establish a post for an officer within the CMS Secretariat to coordinate the CAMI, including to support as well as the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding on the Saiga Antelope and Bukhara Deer relevant MOUs Memoranda of Understanding~~, the Single Species Action Plans ~~such as for the Argali and other CMS mandates~~ with relevance for the CAMI region and species;
5. *Requests* Parties and *invites* all Range States, partner organizations, donors and the private sector to engage in the CAMI and to provide ~~the~~ financial or in-kind resources to support its coordination and full and timely implementation;

6. *Calls upon* Range States to strengthen their transboundary cooperation, *inter alia* by using existing international and regional fora; and
7. *Instructs* the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to continue and strengthen efforts to collaborate with other relevant international fora such as the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP) with a view to strengthening synergies and implementation of CMS and the CAMI ~~in these fora~~.