

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.5/Rev.1

REVIEW OF THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

Through Decision 13.24 COP13 requested the Secretariat to further develop the preliminary review of the conservation status of migratory species submitted to COP13, and provided guidance towards its further development, including the initiation of an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, and undertaking an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of species listed on Appendix I. Through Decision 13.26 the Scientific Council was requested to provide support and guidance to the Secretariat in undertaking the activities foreseen in Decision 13.24, and formulate recommendations to COP14 on conservation actions underpinned by the reports thus produced.

This document summarizes activities undertaken since COP13, the development of a draft framework, criteria and methodologies to undertake the activities, which are submitted to the Sessional Committee for its review and guidance towards their finalization.

The Sessional Committee is also invited to consider means to strengthen its role in the monitoring of the status of individual CMS-listed species.

This revised version includes an additional annex, originally foreseen as an addendum to the document, and provides an update on progress in the preparation of an analysis on the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of terrestrial species listed on CMS Appendices.

REVIEW OF THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. The 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12, Manila, 2017) endorsed the preparation of a report on the conservation status of migratory species as an activity to pursue within the CMS Programme of Work for 2018-2020 ([Resolution 12.2 Financial and Administrative Matters](#), Annex 5). The production of the report was expected to be realized entirely through voluntary contributions. Because fundraising efforts did not produce sufficient resources to contract out the production of the report as was intended when including the activity in the Programme of Work, the Secretariat decided to undertake a compilation of information on the conservation status of migratory species covered by the CMS Appendices, using its own internal capacity, with a view to submitting at least a preliminary review to COP13.
2. A draft of the report was submitted to the 4th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC4) for review and advice as document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC4/Doc.8/Rev.1](#). A revised version of the report was submitted to COP13 as document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.24](#), consisting of a preliminary compilation and analysis of information concerning the conservation status, population trends and threats concerning migratory species covered by CMS Appendices, and the analysis of a few indicators: (i) Trends in protected area coverage of KBAs identified for migratory species; (ii) Red List Index of CMS-listed and migratory species; and (iii) Living Planet Index for species listed on the CMS Appendices.
3. COP13 welcomed the report, and provided guidance towards its further development through Decision 13.24 *Conservation Status of Migratory Species*:

The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to:

- a) further develop the preliminary review of the conservation status of migratory species submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (COP13) in document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.24, in close consultation with the Scientific Council and in collaboration with competent organizations;*
- b) initiate, in consultation with the Scientific Council and in collaboration with competent organizations, an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, starting with those species listed in Appendix I classified in the categories of lowest threat of extinction in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and whose conservation status has improved since first listed, and those species listed in Appendix II classified in the categories Endangered, Critically Endangered and Extinct in the Wild, with a view to determining inter alia: (i) differences in the conservation status of individual populations or management units; (ii) the importance of the protection provided by the listing on Appendix I for the conservation of the species and its individual populations;*
- c) undertake, in consultation with the Scientific Council and in collaboration with competent organizations, and in synergy with other relevant initiatives under the Convention, an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of species listed on Appendix I;*
- d) report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its intersessional meetings between COP13 and COP14 and to COP14 on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

4. Through Decision 13.26, COP13 requested the Scientific Council to assist the Secretariat in undertaking the activities foreseen by Decision 13.24 and to formulate recommendations to COP14 underpinned by the report thus produced:

The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- a) provide support and guidance to the Secretariat in undertaking the activities foreseen in Decision 13.24 (a) - (c);*
- b) consider the reports submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to this Decision and formulate recommendations to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on conservation actions underpinned by the reports as appropriate.*

5. Through Decision 13.17 *Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species*, COP13 also requested the Secretariat to undertake, within the scope of Conservation Status Report, an assessment of the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species:

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources, with the support of the Scientific Council and within the scope of the Conservation Status Report (Decision 13.24):

- a) develop criteria, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, to determine the scope and feasibility of assessing the impact of international trade in Appendix I species on their conservation status; and*
- b) based on these criteria, assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species, including but not limited to, international trade regulated by CITES.*

6. Of significant relevance to the development of the Conservation Status Report is also the preparation of an analysis on the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of terrestrial and avian species listed on CMS Appendices I and II, requested by Decision 13.109 *Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*.

Progress in the implementation of decisions 13.24, 13.17 and 13.109

7. Fundraising activities undertaken after COP13 by the Secretariat in respect to the implementation of decisions 13.24 and 13.17 have succeeded in raising resources that, though not sufficient to fully deliver all the expected outputs, will allow significant progress. In particular, resources have been provided by the Government of Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), the Government of Switzerland (Federal Office for the Environment FOEN), and by the Government of the United Kingdom (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA).
8. Thanks to the above-mentioned contributions, the Secretariat has been able to establish an agreement with the UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to assist with undertaking the activities foreseen in Decision 13.24 (a) - (c). As an initial step, the CMS Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC have been working towards the development of a framework, criteria and methodologies to undertake the activities. Drafts are submitted to the present meeting for review, finalization and endorsement, as detailed in paragraph 10 below and annexes 1-3.
9. In respect to Decision 13.109, thanks to voluntary contributions from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Government of Norway in support of Sustainable Development and Migratory Species for 2020-2022 under the Migratory Species Champion Programme, the Secretariat has been able to contract the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), to prepare an analysis on the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of terrestrial species listed on CMS

Appendices I and/or II, as well as a few additional mammal species covered under the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) and a few bat species covered under the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS). At the time of writing, the analysis is being peer reviewed.

Discussion and analysis

10. Three draft documents are submitted to this meeting for its consideration:
 - a) A proposed framework for a review of the conservation status of migratory species that can serve as a basis for the compilation of the report for COP14 (Annex 1 to this document);
 - b) A template for a set of case studies providing an in-depth assessment of Appendix I species (Annex 2 to this document);
 - c) A proposed methodology for a rapid assessment of Appendix I taxa to provide further insights on (i) the impact of direct use and trade on the conservation status of Appendix I-listed taxa, and (ii) possible implications on eligibility for inclusion in Appendix I (Annex 3 to this document).
11. The Sessional Committee is expected to review these documents with a view to evaluate the suitability of the proposed approaches to fulfill the mandates set out in Decision 13.24, and to provide guidance towards their refinement and finalization.

Ongoing role of the Scientific Council in the monitoring and assessment of the conservation status of individual Appendix I species

12. In addition to the much-needed regular report to the CMS COP on the status of migratory species, the Scientific Council has a mandate to keep the status of CMS species under review, with a view to reporting to the Conference of the Parties on such status and recommending measures for its improvement.
13. This mandate is particularly important for monitoring the conservation status of individual species for which there are no concerted actions or single species action plans or other management initiatives under CMS, and which may face deterioration of their status that may require urgent action to prevent extinction. This could be particularly the case for taxa at the subspecies or population levels, for which Red List assessments might not be regularly available.
14. The 5th meeting of the Sessional Committee might wish to discuss means for strengthening its role in fulfilling this mandate.

Recommended actions

15. The Sessional Committee is recommended to:
 - a) take note of progress in the implementation of Decisions 13.24, 13.17 and 13.109;
 - b) review the draft documents attached to this note with a view to evaluate the suitability of the approaches they propose to fulfill the mandates set out in Decision 13.24, and to provide guidance towards their refinement and finalization;
 - c) consider modalities by which the Scientific Council can carry out its mandate for the regular monitoring of the status of CMS-listed species.