
Doc 02: Process Information

(Prepared by the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group)

1. The virtual and face-to-face process to develop a CMS West African Aquatic Wild Meat Action plan will be held between late June and September 2023, ahead of CMS COP14 (Samarkand, Uzbekistan October 23-28, 2023). This process is hosted by the Government of Benin and Chaired by Professor Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana).
2. This process offers the opportunity to convene the CMS Party Range States of West Africa to give focused attention to a growing threat to CMS-listed aquatic species in the region.
3. Attendees, including experts and stakeholder observers, will work through a process of four virtual meetings addressing four themes:
 - a) 1st virtual meeting, 27 June 2023, 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM (GMT):
Reflecting on known science and identifying scientific gaps
 - b) 2nd virtual meeting, 11 July 2023, 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM (GMT):
Understanding drivers and pressures
 - c) 3rd virtual meeting, 31 July 2023, 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM (GMT):
Understanding the intersection between fisheries and environment
 - d) 4th virtual meeting, 14 August 2023, 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM (GMT):
Fostering community-driven solutions, and building laws and enforcementEach theme will provide focused attention on necessary capacity building (local and regional), demonstrating clear pathways for funders to provide capacity support. A draft action plan (Doc 03) will evolve as the meetings progress.
4. The virtual meetings and the action plan draft will then culminate in a face-to-face meeting in September.

Meeting Venues

5. The virtual meeting will take place through Zoom, with simultaneous translation between French and English provided throughout each session. Each session will be 3 hours long, with a 15-minute break at 1.5 hours.
6. The final face-to-face meeting will be held in September and will be notified separately.

Participant Registration

7. To participate in the virtual meetings please email Maximin Djondo, mdjondo@oceancares.org.
8. To participate in the face-to-face meeting please contact the CMS Secretariat.

Support for Online Participation

9. Support for participation in the virtual meetings come in the form of a funded internet pocket for each registered CMS Party Range State. Please email Maximin Djondo, mdjondo@oceancares.org for further information.

Meeting Documents

10. Meeting documents will be published in French and English on the CMS website at <https://www.cms.int/en/meeting/online-range-state-meetings-action-plan-address-aquatic-wild-meat-harvests-west-africa>.

The Role of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group

11. CMS COP Decision 13.64 directed the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group to:

[support CMS Party Range States to] *develop a sub-regional aquatic Wild Meat action plan for the Gulf of Guinea for consideration by Range State Parties in the region.*

12. Following this direction, members of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group have volunteered to develop and present the documents in support of this action plan development process.
13. Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group members will also serve in support of the Chair during the four virtual meetings, notate iterative changes to the action plan draft during each of the virtual meetings (in French and English), and make a consolidated position available (in French and English) to the CMS Party Range States that attended the face-to-face meeting in September.

The Role of OceanCare and BEES

14. OceanCare and the Benin Environment & Education Society (BEES) are taking responsibility for coordinating the four virtual meetings.

Further Information

15. For further information about the virtual process and technical issues of connection and access, please email Maximin Djondo, mdjondo@oceancare.org.
16. For further information about the documents for the virtual meeting, please email Margi Prideaux, margi@wildpolitics.co (Chair of the CMS Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group).