



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 28.4

FLYWAYS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*, Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*, and Decisions 13.41-13.46 *Flyways*. It includes proposed draft amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and draft Decisions.

Rev.1 makes consistent the language in decisions directed to the Scientific Council.

FLYWAYS

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 13th meeting (COP13, 2020), adopted [Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#), in which it instructed the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and stakeholders, to implement the activities assigned in the [Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023](#) (POW), which covers all major flyways. The Resolution also reaffirmed the [Americas Flyways Framework](#), welcomed the establishment of the Americas Flyways Task Force and adopted the [Action Plan for the Americas Flyways](#) as a tool to promote the implementation of the POW and the Framework to protect migratory birds and their habitats throughout the Western Hemisphere.
2. COP12 (2017) adopted Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*, in which it requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility, funding permitting, to set up a 'coastal forum' to raise the profile of intertidal wetlands and their associated habitats. This Resolution also requested the Scientific Council to establish a multi-stakeholder working group to develop guidance on the conservation of coastal habitats.
3. COP13 also adopted [Decisions 13.41 - 13.46 Flyways](#), which read:

13.41 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) *in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, organize regional workshops aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learnt, and to promote flyway conservation and policy options in all flyways/regions;*
- b) *support the work of the Flyways Working Group, in particular by organizing meetings of the Working Group and to develop and disseminate guidance to help Parties to provide information on implementation of the Flyways work programme in their National Report;*
- c) *support the Americas Flyway Task Force work, in particular by organizing the Task Force's meetings.*

13.42 Directed to the Americas Flyways Task Force

The Americas Flyways Task Force shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) *in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Americas Flyways Action Plan;*
- b) *report and provide recommendations to the Flyways Working Group about implementation of the Americas Flyways Action Plan.*

13.43 Directed to the Flyways Working Group

The Flyways Working Group shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) *facilitate and monitor the Americas Flyways Task Force's work;*
- b) *review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes;*

- c) *review and update the Programme of Work, as a basis for the continued prioritization of the CMS activities on flyways, in line with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a contribution for the 2050 vision for biodiversity;*
- d) *with support of the Secretariat, develop guidance for Parties on using their National Report to provide information on contributions to implementation and outcomes of actions of the Programme of Work;*
- e) *help to facilitate coordination between various CMS Working Groups and Task Forces (e.g. Illegal Killing of Birds, Poisoning, Landbirds, Energy) and enhance synergies in implementation;*
- f) *report progress to the Scientific Council.*

13.44 Directed to the Parties

Parties:

- a) *shall report progress in National Reports in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) Flyways, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14);*
- b) *are urged to support the work of the Flyways Working Group, in particular by providing funding for meetings of the Working Group;*
- c) *are urged to support the Americas Flyway Task Force's work, in particular by providing funding for the Task Force's meetings;*
- d) *are urged to support implementation of the Action Plan for the Americas Flyways and coordination of the Americas Flyways Task Force;*
- e) *are urged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the Flyways Resolution and Decisions.*

13.45 Directed to Intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, others

Non-Parties, organizations, private sector, international financial institutions, donors and other stakeholders are invited to:

- a) *provide financial, in-kind resources and technical support for coordination and implementation of the Programme of Work, its related Resolutions and Decisions;*
- b) *report on contributions to implementation and outcomes of actions of the Programme of Work on Flyways to COP14.*

13.46 Directed to the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) are requested to:

- a) *collaborate with the Government of India and the Secretariats of CMS and AEWA during the inter-sessional period between the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) and COP14 to further advance the process initiated in 2018 between the Government of India and both Secretariats;*
- b) *establish, by COP14, under the umbrella of CMS, an institutional framework, under the leadership of India and in consultation with the other range states and relevant stakeholders with the aim to agree on, inter alia, conservation priorities and related actions, and measures to support Parties with the implementation of conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the region, including by promoting research, studies,*

assessments, capacity-building and conservation initiatives thereby further strengthening the implementation of CMS and its avian-related instruments;

- c) *contribute to an inter-governmental meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway organized by the Government of India and the CMS Secretariat to agree on the modalities of the framework by COP14, to update the CMS Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats, and to consider supporting the process with resources, as applicable.*

Activities to implement Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13), Decision 13.41

Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023 and CMS Flyways Strategic Review

4. Progress on implementation of the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023 (POW) during the intersessional period between COP13 and COP14 was limited. Similar to the previous intersessional period, this was mainly due to the absence of funding to enable the Secretariat and/or the CMS Parties to implement, monitor and prioritize the activities included in the POW.
5. In 2022, the Secretariat undertook an initial strategic review of ongoing avian activities within the Secretariat and the various subsidiary agreements and instruments. In early 2023, the Secretariat conducted a full review of all CMS Flyways-relevant documents, working groups, task forces and other instruments. The review included an assessment of the effectiveness and capacity of the following instruments and working groups contributing to the CMS Flyways mandate:
 - the Working Group on Flyways (FWG)
 - the CMS multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (Energy Task Force (ETF))
 - the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)
 - the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA)
 - the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights
 - the Americas Flyways Framework Task Force
 - the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group (AEML WG) and African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP)
 - activities in the Americas Flyway and the Central Asian Flyway
 - all other flyways-relevant CMS instruments, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
 - all CMS Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for which flyway conservation is relevant.
6. The objectives of the review were to: a) understand the level of implementation of the Flyways POW, b) understand synergies and overlaps across the different CMS instruments applying a flyway approach, and c) identify implementation gaps and next steps. The review included findings from several internal meetings in coordination with the CMS COP-appointed Councillors, a stakeholder analysis, a SWOT analysis, and analytical tools such as a 'problem tree'.

7. The findings of the CMS Flyways strategic review were discussed by the FWG, including a review of a detailed document outlining the key gaps in implementing the Flyways POW 2014-2023, prepared by the Secretariat.
8. With reference to Decision 13.41 (a), the Secretariat coordinated an update of the membership of the FWG during 2023. The FWG now consists of 34 members. Furthermore, as instructed through Decision 13.41 (b), the Secretariat organized the 2nd meeting of the Flyways Working Group, which took place online on 28 February 2023. The FWG discussed the Secretariat's Flyways strategic review (see above) and the Flyways POW. A new chairing arrangement was confirmed, with the COP-appointed Scientific Co-Councillor for Birds, Dr Rob P. Clay, succeeding Dr Taej Mundkur as the new Chair.
9. With reference to Decision 13.41 (c), the Secretariat supported the work of the Americas Flyways Task Force, updating the membership of the Task Force during 2023, which now consists of 26 members. No in-person meetings of the Americas Flyways Task Force were held during the intersessional period between COP13 and COP14 due to lack of funding and personnel.
10. Limited progress has been made with regards to the Action Plan for the Americas Flyways. Concrete actions involving the Secretariat included support for the [Virtual Meeting on Monitoring the Action Plan of the MOU on the Conservation of the Grassland Birds of the South of South America and its Habitats](#), held online in September 2020. The Secretariat also supported activities of the Energy Task Force, including the extension of its membership to Latin America, and an ETF webinar for Parties in the Americas to promote implementation of Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) and ETF guidance materials regarding sustainable deployment of renewable energies and related infrastructure (see Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.3.2 Renewable Energy and Powerlines Renewable Energy and Powerlines](#)).

Further activities supporting implementation at flyway level

Central Asian Flyway

11. With reference to Decision 13.46 (a), the Secretariat has continued to cooperate with the Government of India to further advance the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).process initiated in 2018.
12. An online meeting of CAF Range States, organized by the Government of India and supported by the Secretariat, took place in October 2021. The meeting provided an update on the implementation of Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and the Government of India reaffirmed its support through the announcement of a CAF Secretariat-India office to be hosted by the Centre for International Conventions at the Wildlife Institute of India.
13. In 2022, several coordination meetings took place between the CMS Secretariat and the Government of India, with a view to organizing an in-person meeting of the CAF Range States to establish an institutional framework for the CAF.
14. At the invitation of the Government of India, the 4th Meeting of the CAF Range States (CAF4) took place from 2 to 4 May 2023 in New Delhi. The objectives of this meeting were to: a) develop and, if possible, agree on an institutional framework for the CAF, b) draw conclusions from a CAF conservation situation analysis report, coordinated by BirdLife International and launched in summer 2022, and discuss priority areas for implementation, c) discuss and agree on a draft road map for updating the CMS-CAF

Action Plan, and d) further develop and agree on the next steps to inform draft Decisions to be proposed to COP14.

15. The CAF4 meeting agreed to develop a new Initiative for the Central Asian Flyway as an institutional framework under the umbrella of CMS, with the goal of maintaining and/or enhancing the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable management of all migratory bird species and their habitats in the CAF. It also agreed to promote close cooperation of Signatories and Range States of CMS and non-CMS instruments, partnerships and relevant stakeholders. The Government of India reiterated its commitment to host a CMS-CAF Coordinating Unit, as part of the CMS Secretariat (see Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.4.2 Initiative for Central Asian Flyway](#)).

East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership

16. The Secretariat further strengthened cooperation with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), in line with POW action 24, particularly with regards to the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds. On 12 March 2023, at the 11th Meeting of the Partners to the EAAFP, the first joint meeting of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA) and the EAAFP Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds was held in Brisbane, Australia. The meeting provided an opportunity for all members to discuss the ITTEA Programme of Work and gain a better understanding of the regional scenarios and targeted activities with regards to these threats. Furthermore, the members agreed on a modus operandi for the Task Force, and discussed next steps for the collaboration of both Task Forces. They also discussed joint opportunities for communication, capacity-building and fundraising.

Activities to implement Resolution 12.25

World Coastal Forum

17. With regards to the implementation of Resolution 12.25, the Secretariat has provided inputs, along with the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to an international process launched officially in January 2022 in Yancheng City, China, to create a 'World Coastal Forum (WCF)' as an independent multi-stakeholder platform that can catalyse and upscale local and national coastal conservation efforts in the world's coastal habitats and for the species that depend on them. The Secretariat, as a member of the 'WCF Establishment Group' (alongside these two Secretariats and other organizations), provided inputs and comments on the WCF Terms of Reference and numerous other strategic documents. The WCF is currently elaborating a global assessment of the state of the world's coastal wetlands.
18. The Secretariat is an observer of the WCF and will continue to engage in its work.

Discussion and analysis

19. The Flyways POW was established for a duration of nine years (2014-2023), and the FWG was tasked by Decision 13.43 (c), subject to availability of resources, with updating the POW. The length, diversity and ambition of the POW, as well as the difficulties in measuring the progress of the POW actions, make it a challenging undertaking in terms of implementation, prioritization and monitoring. This may explain the limited progress by Parties in implementing it, the limited funding provided to the Secretariat for its POW work, and the lack of information on implementation achievements from Parties.

20. To implement the provisions of COP Decisions 13.4 (a) – (d) and the outcomes of the FWG online meeting of 28 February 2023, the FWG members noted the importance of presenting the POW in the form of well-defined, practical components and recommended that the update to the POW should take place in the next intersessional period and that it should be aligned with the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species that will be considered by the Standing Committee and submitted to the COP14. Proposals were put forward to update existing references to the Flyways POW 2014-2023 in Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13).

Proposed amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and draft Decisions *Flyways*

21. In order to incorporate recent developments, it is proposed that Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) is amended and draft Decisions are adopted, based on consultations with the FWG, Americas Flyways Task Force, and the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway, respectively.
22. Given the number of outdated references included in Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13), proposed amendments reflect recent developments for the next steps in the process. Further proposed amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) reflect the development of the new CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), the Secretariat's internal flyways strategic review and the outcomes of the meeting of the FWG. They also replace previous references to CBD Aichi Targets with references to the updated Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and reflect the progress made with regards to the Central Asian Flyway.

Recommended actions

23. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) as contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) adopt the draft Decisions, as contained in Annex 2 of this document;
 - c) delete Decision 13.41 to 13.46 *Flyways*.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 12.11 (Rev.COP13)

FLYWAYS

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

Recalling Recommendation 7.7 America Pacific Flyway Programme, Resolution 10.10 Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements, and Resolution 11.14 Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways¹ relating to flyways,

Recognizing that a flyways approach is necessary to ensure adequate conservation and sustainable use of migratory birds throughout their ranges, combining species- and ecosystem-based approaches and promoting international cooperation and coordination among States, the private sector, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), United Nations institutions, non-governmental organizations, local communities and other stakeholders,

*Also recognizing that there are specific threats of particular significance to migratory birds along flyways, as identified in *A Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management CMS Technical Series No. 27*, that continue to have an impact on these species and their habitats including: inland wetland reclamation; destruction of coastal and inter-tidal habitats (Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*); loss of forests and grasslands; agricultural intensification and habitat modification through desertification and overgrazing (Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP12) *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)*); inappropriate wind turbine development (Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*); collisions with power lines and electrocutions (Resolution 10.11 *Powerlines and Migratory Birds*); illegal and/or unsustainable killing, taking and trade (Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*); overfishing and the bycatch of seabirds (Resolution 6.2, Recommendation 7.2, Resolutions 8.14, 9.18 and 10.14²); lead shot and other poisoning (Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP12) *Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds*); invasive alien species (Resolution 11.28 *Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species*) and avian influenza and other disease (Resolutions 8.27, 9.8 and 10.22 on Wildlife Disease³); and marine debris (Resolution 11.30 *Management of Marine Debris*⁴),*

Recognizing that flyways are to be considered as ecological networks, since although there may be no direct physical links between their component parts, the populations of birds using them provide an ecological link themselves, as recognized in Resolution 10.3⁵,

Acknowledging that the very broad and comprehensive mandate of Resolution 10.10⁶ Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements has been streamlined and focused into a more detailed programme of work (POW), via Resolution 11.14⁷ in order to provide Parties and stakeholders with a clear road map with timelines, priorities and indicators for the conservation of flyways and migratory birds,

¹ All consolidated in Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*

² All consolidated in Resolution 12.22 *Bycatch*

³ All consolidated in Resolution 12.6 *Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species*

⁴ Consolidated as Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*

⁵ Consolidated as Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*

⁶ Consolidated as Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*

⁷ Consolidated as Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*

Recalling that Resolution 10.10⁸ requested CMS to work in close partnership with existing flyway organizations and initiatives in the Americas, to develop an overarching conservation Action Plan for migratory birds in the Americas, recognizing especially the established programmes of work and taking into account existing instruments,

Taking note of Resolution 10.18 (Rev.COP12) *Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and other Outcomes from CBD COP10*, which includes guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs),

~~*Aware* that Parties have endorsed a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Resolution 11.2 (Rev.COP12) *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*) with clearly defined goals and targets to promote actions to ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species and their habitats, and that the present Flyways POW will make a significant contribution to delivering major parts of this Plan,~~

Taking note of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022, which includes many goals and targets relevant to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats,

~~*Recalling* Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 approved by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, which states “by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes”, is especially relevant for the conservation of migratory birds,~~

~~*Further recalling* Target 12 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 approved by the Convention on Biological Diversity, which states “by 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained”,~~

~~*Acknowledging* the relevance of the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project, developed under the aegis of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and implemented under the lead of Wetlands International and BirdLife International, as the largest initiative to date in the African-Eurasian region for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, and in particular its associated Critical Site Network Tool, an open-access web portal providing information about waterbird populations and the critical sites required through their annual cycle, and designed to support conservation decision-making at site, national and international levels,~~

Acknowledging with satisfaction the extensive monitoring and conservation work by Partners of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) for migratory waterbirds and their habitats, including through the strengthening of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network and recognizing the development of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2029 with defined Key Result Areas and Indicators to promote actions to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats,

⁸ Consolidated as Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*

~~Acknowledging the conservation work by the partners of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) for migratory shorebirds and their habitats throughout the Americas;~~

~~Recognizing the development of the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative Business Plan and Strategy, the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy, and the Midcontinent Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy, which seek to implement strategies and actions for the conservation of priority migratory shorebirds and their habitats in the West Atlantic and East Pacific flyways;~~

~~Recognizing the decision of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) to request AEWA Contracting Parties to incorporate the CAF Action Plan for Waterbirds and their habitats into AEWA as the preferred legal and institutional framework for the action plan as agreed during the CAF Range States' meeting held in Abu Dhabi, UAE 12 December 2012, and recalling the offer of India at COP12 in Manila (Resolution 12.11 *Flyways*) to champion this process;~~

~~Welcoming the progress made by the Government of India, hosting, in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, the 4th meeting of the CAF Range States in May 2023 to establish the institutional framework and a road map to update the CAF Action Plan, and develop a mid-term plan for further development and operations of the CAF and to advance the creation of a CMS-CAF Coordination Unit/Secretariat for this flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats, in consultation with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats and the Range States, and congratulating India for its National Action Plan on the CAF for migratory birds, and progress in implementing the Action Plan,~~

~~Recognizing also the vital importance of the Arctic as the location of breeding and moulting areas of the world's major flyways and that the region is undergoing rapid change driven by climate effects, development of activities of major extractive industries, land and water transportation routes and other threats,~~

~~Acknowledging the 2013 Resolution of Cooperation signed between the Secretariats of CMS and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF) of the Arctic Council and tripartite CAFF/CMS/AEWA joint work plan to encourage information sharing to assist in the conservation of migratory species along all the world's flyways and to assist cooperation with non-Arctic countries on these issues, and welcoming the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative and its associated 2019-2023 Work Plan,~~

~~Recognizing also that climate change is already having an adverse impact on migratory birds and their habitats as reflected in Resolution 11.26⁹,~~

~~Acknowledging the contributions of the United Nations Environmental Programme Global Environment Facility Siberian Crane Wetland Project implemented by the International Crane Foundation and the Governments of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation to the protection and management of an ecological site network in Asia,~~

~~Recalling Resolution 11.14¹⁰, which reaffirmed the global open-ended Working Group on Flyways (hereinafter Flyways Working Group) within the framework of the Scientific Council to act as a think-tank on migratory bird flyways and frameworks,~~

~~Recalling further that the Flyways Working Group was given the task of reviewing scientific and technical issues concerning the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and~~

⁹ Consolidated in Resolution 12.21 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*

¹⁰ Consolidated in Resolution 12.11 (*Rev.COP13*) *Flyways*

relevant international instruments, initiatives and processes, as the basis for future CMS policy on flyways,

Noting with appreciation the broad participation and work undertaken by the Scientific Council, the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and AEWA, international NGOs (BirdLife International, Wetlands International), the Americas Waterbird Conservation Council, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), EAAFP, the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and international experts as well as a wider consultative group contributing to the work of the Flyways Working Group,

~~*Further noting with satisfaction* that in accordance with the terms of reference of the Flyways Working Group, three global reviews were produced and published in 2014 as *A Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management* (CMS Technical Series No. 27): the first one analyzing the existing CMS and non-CMS administrative arrangements (Review 1); the second regarding scientific and technical issues and priority issues related to flyways and management of migratory species and their habitats (Review 2); and the third regarding policy options (Review 3);~~

~~*Noting with gratitude* the work undertaken by the Flyways Working Group at its meeting in Edinburgh on 20-21 February 2011 and during the whole intersessional period and acknowledging the generous financial contributions provided by Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Wetlands International as well as the support of Flyways Working Group members towards the preparation and organization of the meeting and the drafting of reports;~~

~~*Noting with gratitude* the work undertaken by the Flyways Working Group at its meetings in Jamaica (11-14 March 2014) and Germany (30 June 2014) and during the whole intersessional period and acknowledging the generous financial contributions provided by the Government of Switzerland as well as the contribution of Flyways Working Group members towards the successful completion of these meetings and their outputs;~~

~~*Thanking* the Government of Jamaica for hosting the Flyways Meetings held on 11-14 March 2014 in Trelawney, and the Governments of Canada and Switzerland, the Organization of American States (OAS), WHMSI and the CMS Secretariat for co-organizing and sponsoring these meetings;~~

Noting with appreciation the support and guidance provided by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee respectively to the operation of the Flyways Working Group throughout the intersessional periods,

~~*Acknowledging* other contributing parallel processes undertaken within CMS and *recalling* that, according to Resolution 11.12¹¹, the conclusion of instruments currently under development and the elaboration of new instruments under the aegis of CMS need to be linked to the recommendations of the Future Shape process;~~

Further taking note of the report of the Global Waterbirds Flyways Workshop to promote exchange of Good Practice and Learning that took place in Seosan (Republic of Korea) on 17-20 October 2011, contained in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.41,

~~*Taking note of The Hague Action Statement* issued on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of AEWA in June 2010;~~

¹¹ Consolidated in Resolution 12.8 *Implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention*

Further taking note of the declaration and outcomes of the Global Flyways Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, April 2018,

Considering that policies that encourage environmentally-friendly economic growth and development would be highly beneficial for migratory birds, including bird-friendly agricultural practices that also improve local livelihoods, and that these practices should be promoted along all flyways,

~~*Noting* the various ongoing activities in the Central and South American Region for the protection of migratory species of waterbirds, such as WHSRN, the Neotropical Waterbird Census, as well as projects under the auspices of CMS such as those concerning Andean flamingoes and the Ruddy-headed Goose,~~

Taking further note of the 2019-2020 workplan of the Americas Flyways Action Plan adopted as a result of the 1st Meeting of the Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) Task Force, which took place in Florianopolis, Brazil in July 2018, and *noting* the many ongoing activities in the Americas for the conservation of migratory birds,

~~*Noting* the many ongoing activities in the Americas for the conservation of migratory birds, such as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, Partners in Flight, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Shorebird Conservation Plans for Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador and the U.S.A.,~~

Welcoming World Migratory Bird Day as a joint, more unified, global campaign of CMS, AEWA and Environment for the Americas (EFTA) and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), under a partnership established during the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, Manila, 2017, to strengthen recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation,

~~*Noting* the original initiative by the late Lic. Pablo Canevari to bring many activities together and to establish an America Pacific Flyway Agreement under CMS,~~

~~*Further noting* the work undertaken by the Government of the Netherlands and Wetlands International to develop the original initiative further into a programme proposal: *Wetlands and Birds of the Americas* published as a draft in June 2001, also known as *The American Pacific Flyway Programme*,~~

~~*Aware* of the great importance of the region for migratory waterbirds and their habitats, as cited in *Wetlands of South America: An Agenda for Biodiversity Conservation and Policies Development* (Wetlands International, 2001) and of the great need for conservation of the entire flyway, preferably within the framework of a multilateral flyway Agreement on the basis of Article IV of the Convention,~~

Noting the important habitat changes in non-breeding grounds in the Americas, particularly for shorebirds, and the indications of a decrease in numbers for almost all species of shorebirds,

~~*Aware also* of the strong emphasis in the programme on capacity building, community involvement, international co-operation and the gathering of important data for the management of waterbird populations and their habitats, such as the South American Wetland Assessment and the Neotropical Waterbird Census, and~~

Anxious to see the programme being implemented in due time as an important contribution to the general aims of CMS and with a view towards the possible development of a more formal Americas flyway Agreement such as that developed for African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds.

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

1. ~~Reaffirms the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023 (the POW) included as Annex 1 to this Resolution and urges Parties and signatories to CMS instruments, and encourages non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders to implement the POW as a matter of priority;~~
2. ~~Reaffirms the Americas Flyways Framework included as Annex 2 to this Resolution and urges CMS Parties and signatories to CMS avian instruments in the Americas, and invites non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders to implement the framework to protect migratory birds and their habitats throughout the Western Hemisphere;~~
3. ~~Welcomes the establishment of an Americas Flyways Task Force, to coordinate the development and implementation of an Americas Action Plan, to achieve the global Programme of Work and Americas Flyways Framework including provisions for concerted conservation action for priority species, and to report to COP13 onwards;~~
Agrees to continue the Americas Flyways Task Force, to coordinate the development and implementation of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Americas Flyways Action Plan, developed in full alignment to the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), and to report to meetings of the Conference of the Parties from COP15 onwards;
4. ~~Adopts the Action Plan for the Americas Flyways attached as Annex 3 to this Resolution, and developed under the Americas Flyways Framework, Urges Parties and Signatories to CMS avian instruments, and encourages non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders to implement the Action Plan for the Americas Flyways and support efforts of the Americas Flyways Task Force to coordinate its implementation;~~
5. ~~Instructs the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of resources, to implement those assigned to it in the POW;~~
6. ~~Calls on Parties to effectively implement the priorities set by the Flyways Working Group POW as applicable and in accordance with the circumstances of each Party and invites non-Parties and other stakeholders, with the support of the Secretariat, to strengthen national and local capacity for flyway conservation including, inter alia, by developing partnerships with key stakeholders and organizing training courses; translating and disseminating documents, sharing protocols and regulations; transferring technology; designating and improving management of critically and internationally important sites; understanding the ecological functionality of flyways through research of migratory birds and their habitats; strengthening monitoring programmes; and promoting the conservation of migratory birds and ensuring any use of migratory birds is sustainable;~~
7. ~~Requests Parties, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector and others to provide financial assistance for the implementation of this Resolution, the POW and the Americas Flyways Framework including to developing countries for relevant capacity-building and conservation action;~~
8. ~~Welcomes the further efforts by the Government of India to continue the collaborative process, in close consultation with the CAF Range States and with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to develop under the CMS an institutional framework, with the Secretariat provided by the CMS Secretariat along with a coordinating office hosted by the Government of India, to support the implementation of increased conservation action for~~

- migratory birds and their habitats in the CAF, as well as to support this initiative with resources, in coordination with the existing CMS avian-related instruments;
9. *Further welcomes* the commitment by the Government of India to provide resources for this process including the establishment of the institutional framework, and the provision of a coordinating liaison office in India, under the umbrella of the CMS Secretariat in Bonn;
 10. *Further requests* the continuation of the open-ended Flyways Working Group extending membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions and relevant CMS bodies currently absent;
 11. *Encourages* Parties to promote the conservation and management priorities defined by the Flyways Working Group the POW and the Americas Flyways Framework as global tools to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Aichi Targets in relation to conservation of migratory species and their habitats and to ensure a strong level of support for its implementation by working closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 12. *Encourages* the Secretariat to liaise with the secretariats of CMS instruments, relevant MEAs, international organizations, international conservation initiatives, NGOs and the private sector to promote synergies and coordinate activities related to the conservation of flyways and migratory birds including, where appropriate, the organization of back-to-back meetings and joint activities;
 13. *Requests* the Secretariat, Parties and all others involved with CMS, to seek actively closer cooperation among those instruments, initiatives and partnerships, within and outside the United Nations, relating to migratory birds and the habitats upon which they depend, and as a priority to focus on and address specific threats to halt the decline in the populations of these birds;
 14. *Calls upon* Parties and the CMS Secretariat to promote the collaborative conservation of migratory birds by working with other bodies whose prime objective is not wildlife conservation (governmental institutions, MEAs, UN institutions, non-governmental organizations and other organizations, including from the private sector), to ensure that the requirements of habitats of migratory birds are integrated into land-use policies, including protected areas but also especially outside protected areas;
 15. *Urges Parties, invites* Range States and *calls upon* other partners and stakeholders, including the private sector, through formal designations and voluntary measures as appropriate, to afford high priority to the conservation of sites and habitats identified as being of importance to migratory birds (based on sound scientific information) expanding and strengthening existing flyway site networks (including *inter alia* the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network, African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement Site Network, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, West/Central Asian Site Network, Emerald Network, Ramsar Sites and World Heritage Sites, BirdLife International's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas), and to carry out work to determine how best to manage landscapes, including the designation of protected trans-boundary habitat corridors and ecological networks with suitable and sufficient habitat in which to breed, forage and rest;
 16. *Invites* Parties to implement Resolution 11.26¹² on climate change and continue taking action to mitigate the impacts of climate change on migratory bird species, including

¹² Consolidated in Resolution 12.21 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*

addressing immediate threats that might reduce adaptive potential, ensuring adequate environmental safeguards for renewable energy projects, monitoring the status of migratory birds and their habitats, developing indicators to identify the effects of climate change, promoting adaptive management, seeking new partnerships with other international bodies and considering how to assist species to adapt to climate change (e.g. through securing critical site networks);

17. *Requests* Parties to review the coverage and protection status of current site networks taking into account any exploitation and degradation of sites, and to consider the resilience of sites to climate change, taking account of the potential for shifts in the range of species due to climate change, as well as other factors;
18. *Requests* Parties to ensure that known key migratory stop-over sites are all protected and managed and additional sites identified to form part of coherent site networks for migratory species and to continue to support the development of flyway-scale site networks, especially where they are least developed, to include the widest possible range of available habitat for migratory birds, giving particular attention to tidal flats (see Resolution 12.25 *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species*);
19. *Urges* Parties to foster trans-boundary collaboration within flyway networks and to implement existing site management plans and develop new ones, where needed, at key sites, supporting the development of a Global Critical Site Network Tool modelled on the redeveloped Critical Site Network Tool for the African-Eurasian region launched in 2018;
20. *Recommends* that Parties enhance and strengthen monitoring of migratory bird populations and the important sites upon which they rely (including surveying new sites to fill information gaps), and to increase capacity for and sustainability of such monitoring in the long term, where appropriate by institutionalizing it as an ongoing activity within government, in partnership with other organizations, including through provision of support initiatives such as the Global Waterbird Fund (established in response to the invitation of AEW and the Ramsar Convention and managed by Wetlands International) in order to present to key stakeholders with up-to-date information on the distribution, status and trends of migratory birds and the sites and habitats that they need;
21. *Requests* Parties to support analyses of existing datasets on individual bird movements and to support the development and use of new tools and techniques, including geo-locators, radio and satellite tracking, remote sensing, and genetic and connectivity analyses, in order to help identify migration strategies, covering the entire life cycle of species, and including the routes taken via sites ranging from those used most regularly to those of occasional importance;
22. *Calls upon* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, to strengthen cooperation with the Arctic Council and other bodies focused on the Arctic in order to improve understanding of the ongoing and predicted changes to the environment and impacts on breeding and moulting distributions of species, and to ensure designation and management of all critically important areas;
23. *Requests* the Secretariat to strengthen links with the Secretariat of the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), in the framework of the existing Resolution of Cooperation, especially to ensure that the CAFF Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) has maximum synergies with the priorities defined by the Flyways Working Group ~~the POW~~ to capitalize on the flyway approach in gaining global support for the conservation of the arctic environment;

24. *Calls upon* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to promote development and inclusion of flyway considerations into their operational guidance, to take up stewardship of areas directly linked to or associated with their footprint and beyond, to consider compensation for residual impacts along flyways, to strive for Net Positive Impact, and to be pro-active in using international best practice;
25. *Requests* Parties, GEF, the United Nations and other international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector and others to provide financial assistance to developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and NGO partners for the implementation of this Resolution;
26. *Requests* the Scientific Council to produce guidelines and/or case studies on mechanisms to enhance the conservation of migratory birds through site networks, including important oceanic ecosystems used by marine bird species;
27. *Calls on* Parties to ensure that the priorities of the Flyways Working Group are POW on Flyways is updated in line with the CMS SPM Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and are aligned to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework post 2020 framework as a contribution for the 2050 vision for biodiversity;
28. *Notes* that the following recommendations and resolutions were repealed by previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties:
 - a) Recommendation 7.7, *America Pacific Flyway Programme*
 - b) Resolution 10.10, *Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation and Options for Policy Arrangements*, and
 - c) Resolution 11.14, *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*.

Annex 1 to the Resolution

~~PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MIGRATORY BIRDS AND FLYWAYS (2014-2023)~~

Not included due to its length. It can be found in full here:

<https://www.cms.int/en/document/programme-work-migratory-birds-and-flyways-2014-2023>

Annex 2 to the Resolution

~~AMERICAS FLYWAYS FRAMEWORK: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE AMERICAS~~

Not included due to its length. It can be found in full here:

<https://www.cms.int/en/document/americas-flyways-framework-framework-conservation-migratory-birds-america>

Annex 3 to the Resolution

~~ACTION PLAN FOR THE AMERICAS FLYWAYS 2018 – 2023~~

Not included due to its length. It can be found in full here:

<https://www.cms.int/en/document/action-plan-americas-flyways-2018-2023>

ANNEX 2**DRAFT DECISIONS****FLYWAYS*****Directed to Parties*****14.AA Parties:**

- a) are requested to review the actions in Part A of the Programme of Work for Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023 (POW) and the actions in Part B of the POW identified for their region, as well as the information provided in the CMS Avian Species Team Strategic Review of the Flyways work, and i) share information with the Flyways Working Group and the Secretariat about major implementation gaps and needs, and ii.) address those actions that lack implementation so far and are of highest urgency, where appropriate coordinating with other countries in the region;
- b) are urged to support meetings of the Flyways Working Group and the appointment of its Coordinator for the triennium 2023-2026;
- c) are urged to support the Americas Flyway Task Force's work, in particular the Task Force's meetings and the review and/or update of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan for the Americas;
- d) are urged to report progress in National Reports in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*, including monitoring the efficacy of measures taken, to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15).

Directed to the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway**14.BB Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) are requested to:**

- a) collaborate with the Government of India and the Secretariats of CMS and AEWA during the intersessional period between the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) and COP15 to further advance the outcomes of the 4th meeting of CAF Range States (New Delhi, 2023), namely by supporting the creation of a CAF Secretariat/Coordination Unit, under the umbrella of CMS and in cooperation with the Government of India, helping to elaborate a Programme of Work for this flyway, and contributing financially to this process;
- b) support Parties in the implementation of conservation action for migratory birds and their habitats in the region, including by promoting research, studies, assessments, capacity-building and conservation initiatives, thereby further strengthening the implementation of CMS and its avian-related instruments;
- c) update the CMS Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats, to include all migratory bird species, and consider supporting the process with resources, as applicable.

Directed to intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, others

14.CC Non-Parties, organizations, the private sector, international financial institutions, donors and other stakeholders are invited to support the Flyways Working Group, and to jointly cooperate in the implementation of its strategic priorities.

Directed to non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders in the Americas

14.DD Non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders in the Americas are invited to actively engage in the review and update of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan for the Americas.

Directed to the Flyways Working Group

14.EE The Flyways Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) act as a platform that ensures the exchange of best practices and the identification of global synergies and gaps across the different flyway-related initiatives, either developed within the framework of the CMS or outside, in alignment with the priorities identified in the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and with those of other relevant MEAs working in the areas linked to migratory bird conservation, their habitats or threats associated with them;
- b) with the support of the Secretariat, develop guidance in the form of a questionnaire to aid Parties in identifying key priorities and major implementation gaps in their region to support implementation of Decision 14.AA a);
- c) based on the information provided by the Parties, review the relevant elements of the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023, and propose a way forward for an update or revision of this work programme, in alignment with the priorities and targets identified in the CMS SPMS;
- d) review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes linked to migratory birds, their habitats and the threats associated with them;
- e) with support from the Secretariat, develop a monitoring tool to provide Parties with an objective, fact-based national self-assessment of the current status of flyways at national level, and enable Parties to measure their progress in implementing their flyways-related commitments;
- f) help to ensure the coordination between various CMS Working Groups and Task Forces (e.g., Illegal Killing of Birds, Poisoning, Landbirds, Energy) on flyway-related actions and priorities, and enhance synergies in their implementation;
- g) with support from the Secretariat, develop guidance to help Parties raise awareness of the importance of migratory flyways and the ecosystem services they provide;
- h) report progress to the Scientific Council.

Directed to the Americas Flyways Task Force

14.FF The Americas Flyways Task Force shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) review and update the Americas Flyways Framework, and the Action Plan for the Americas in line with the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) and aligned with those of other relevant MEAs working in the areas linked to migratory bird conservation, their habitats or threats associated with them;
- b) facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan for the Americas.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.GG The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) organize sub-regional meetings aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learned on flyway-scale conservation, awareness-raising, and on the development of adequate institutional frameworks to protect them;
- b) support the work of the Flyways Working Group, in particular by organizing its meetings, aiding the development of a monitoring tool to provide Parties with an objective, fact-based national self-assessment of the current status of flyways at national level, and helping to raise awareness of flyways conservation;
- c) support the Americas Flyway Task Force work, in particular by organizing the Task Force's meetings and helping to update the Americas Flyways Framework and the Action Plan for the Americas.