



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12 – 17 February 2024  
Agenda Item 29.2

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION FOR  
SAHELO-SAHARAN MEGAFUNA:**

**ADDAX (*Addax nasomaculatus*)**

**BARBARY SHEEP (*Ammotragus lervia*)**

**CUVIER'S GAZELLE (*Gazella cuvieri*)**

**DAMA GAZELLE (*Nanger dama*)**

**DORCAS GAZELLE (*Gazella dorcas*)**

**RED-FRONTED GAZELLE (*Eudorcas rufifrons*)**

**SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX (*Oryx dammah*)**

**SLENDER-HORNED GAZELLE (*Gazella leptoceros*)\*\***

Summary:

This document reports on the implementation of the Concerted Action for Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna 13.4 and recommends the closure of the Concerted Action.

This document was revised by the Scientific Council at its 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee in July 2023.

\*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

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UNEP/CMS/CONCERTED ACTION 13.4

**1. CONCERTED ACTION**

Title: Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna

Document number: 13.4

**2. REPORTING GOVERNMENT or ORGANIZATION**

The CMS Secretariat

**3. TARGET SPECIES/POPULATION**

**ADDAX**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Addax nasomaculatus*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**DAMA GAZELLE**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Nanger dama*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**BARBARY SHEEP**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Ammotragus lervia*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**DORCAS GAZELLE**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Gazella dorcas*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**CUVIER'S GAZELLE**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Gazella cuvieri*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**RED-FRONTED GAZELLE**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Eudorcas rufifrons*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Oryx dammah*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**SLENDER-HORNED GAZELLE**

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae

Species: *Gazella leptoceros*

Population: Sahelo-Saharan

**4. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES**

The implementation of activities is described below and summarized in a table in the Annex to this document. The implementation of this Concerted Action was funded by the Government of Germany.

**Activity: 1. Conduct a stock-taking of past and ongoing activities in the region related to the conservation of Sahelo-Saharan megafauna and their habitats**

The Secretariat enlisted the support of the Co-Chairs of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Antelope Specialist Group (ASG) in May 2022 to conduct the stocktaking exercise.

In June 2022, the Secretariat introduced the ASG Co-Chairs to the CMS National Focal Points of the Range State Parties to the Concerted Action and to the relevant CITES<sup>1</sup> Range State Management and/or Scientific Authorities. The Co-Chairs then requested the Range States to provide information on past and ongoing activities for the Concerted Action species.

As prominent experts in the field, the ASG Co-Chairs were able to engage their vast network of IGOs, NGOs, academics and private sector representatives to collect additional information, to be included in the updated Action Plan found in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.29.2.1](#).

**Activity: 2. Prepare an updated action plan for Sahelo-Saharan megafauna**

Following the stocktaking exercise, the ASG Co-Chairs began developing the draft updated Action Plan. The updated draft summarizes past and ongoing conservation activities for each species in their Range States and includes both a regional action plan and species-specific action plans.

The draft updated Action Plan was presented to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna, held in March 2023 in Agadir, Morocco (Activity 3), where it was endorsed by the Range States to the Concerted Action. The updated Action Plan can be found in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.29.2.1](#).

**Activity: 3. Organize a third regional seminar on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan megafauna**

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the National Agency of Waters and Forests of Morocco, organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna (the 'Regional Seminar') from 14 -16 March 2023 in Agadir, Morocco. The meeting report can be found in [UNEP/CMS/SSMF-RS3/Report](#).

<sup>1</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Activity: 4. Strengthen partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations as well as multilateral environmental agreements

The Secretariat invited partners to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Seminar, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Sahara Conservation, Noé Conservation, Marwell Wildlife, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Zoological Society of London, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, African Parks, Wild Africa Conservation, the Spanish National Research Council's Estación Experimental de Zonas Áridas, the French Development Agency, the German Agency for International Cooperation, and the World Bank..

Activity: 5. Provide technical support to the Range States for the implementation of the updated action plan

The Secretariat will, subject to the availability of external resources, provide technical support to the Range States for the implementation of the Action Plan once it is adopted by the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) and as part of the future directions of the Concerted Action set out in the document *Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative* ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.2](#)).

## 5. CHANGES TO THE CONCERTED ACTION

### Extension of the Concerted Action to other species and biomes

At its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP13, 2020) adopted Decision 13.101 directed to the Scientific Council and the Secretariat:

#### **Decision 13.101**

*The Scientific Council and the Secretariat are requested, subject to the availability of resources, to examine the possibility of an extension of the area of the Concerted Action to the deserts of the Horn of Africa and associated biomes and provide their recommendations to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

In preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5, online, 2021), the Secretariat prepared a document for their consideration, *Extension of the Area of Concerted Action 13.4* ([UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.3.2](#)), to examine the possibility of extending the area covered by the Concerted Action to include the deserts of the Horn of Africa and associated biomes, and to make recommendations in this regard to COP14. The Sessional Committee subsequently produced the *Programme of Work Terrestrial Species Conservation Issues* ([UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 1.3](#)), which sets out the activities for implementing Decision 13.101:

*Investigate the possibility of extending the Concerted Action to the Horn of Africa and provide recommendations. Liaise with National Focal Points of the concerned Range States as to the options set out in document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.3.2 and potential other scenarios regarding target species for the Concerted Action.*

The Secretariat used the Regional Seminar as an opportunity to liaise with the concerned Range States – as requested by ScC-SC5 – to explore the options outlined in the document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.3.2](#) as well as other potential scenarios regarding target species for the Concerted Action. The Range States unanimously agreed to recommend to COP14 that the Concerted Action be extended as per Scenario (b) set out in the document: the extension of the Concerted Action to the Danakil and adjoining desert and semidesert, and the addition of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*). This scenario also provides an opportunity to add Soemmerring's Gazelle (*Nanger soemmerringii*) to the Concerted Action, if and when it is listed in CMS.

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC6) accepted the recommendation of the Range States and recommends COP14 to extend the area and species covered by the Concerted Action to the Danakil and adjoining desert and semidesert, and the addition of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*). If COP14 accepts the recommendations of ScC-SC6 on the matter, it would then be requested to delete Decision 13.101.

Should the African Wild Ass be included in the Concerted Action, and should COP14 adopt the amendments to Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP13) proposing the establishment of a Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMFI) contained in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.2](#) the [Road Map for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass \(2017-2027\)](#) will be added to the Action Plan contained in Annex 2 of [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.2](#).

### **Future directions of the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action**

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Seminar, the Range States and other stakeholders were invited to discuss the future directions of the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action, including its operational arrangements. The Secretariat presented options, such as the renewal of the Concerted Action and the establishment of a Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMFI) modelled on the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), and presented possible provisions for a resolution to establish an SSMFI.

The Range States unanimously agreed on the benefits of establishing the SSMFI and the Government of Morocco stated that it would propose a resolution to this effect at COP14. Draft amendments to Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP13) proposing the establishment of the SSMFI can be found in *Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative* ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.2.2](#)).

## **6. ACTION**

Action completed: Concerted Action can be closed, and the species removed from the list in Res.12.28 Concerted Actions.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected outcomes</b>	<b>Original timeline</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Changes or solutions</b>
1. Stocktaking of the past and ongoing activities in the region related to the Concerted Action	A summary report compiling submissions by the Range States and relevant stakeholders and highlighting gaps	2020	One report is prepared which summarizes past and ongoing conservation activities in the region	Completed successfully in 2023 due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The summary report is integrated into the updated Action Plan ( <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.29.2.1</a> ).	-
2. Preparation of an updated action plan	An updated action plan	2020	One updated action plan is endorsed by the Range States by 2022	Completed successfully in 2023 due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The updated action plan endorsed by the Range States can be found in <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.29.2.1</a> .	-
3. Organization of the 3rd regional seminar	A meeting report  A list of project concepts	2021	One Range State meeting is organized by 2023  One meeting report is prepared by 2023	Completed successfully in 2023 due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held, and the Meeting Report is contained in <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/SSMF-RS3/Report</a> .  Project concepts were not developed due to the delays caused by the pandemic.	The development of project concepts will be carried over to the future direction of the Concerted Action
4. Strengthen partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations, and multilateral environmental agreements	Documents demonstrating partners' commitments to the implementation of the regional action plan	2020-2023	At least one partner recognizes or endorses the regional action plan by 2023	Not completed. Due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the updated action plan was only endorsed by the Range States in 2023.	The strengthening of partnerships will be carried over to the future direction of the Concerted Action, if adopted by COP14

Activity	Expected outcomes	Original timeline	Success criteria	Progress	Changes or solutions
5. Provide technical support to Range States for the implementation of the updated action plan	Project proposals	2020-2023	At least one project proposal is prepared by 2023	Not completed. Due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic the updated action plan was only endorsed by the Range States in 2023.	The provision of technical support to Range States for the implementation of the updated action plan will be carried over to the future direction of the Concerted Action, if adopted by COP14.