



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**Original: English

**DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CMS
IN EFFECT AFTER ITS 14TH MEETING**

This list of Decisions has been produced in accordance with UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.6 (Rev.COP12) on *Review of Decisions*. It contains the Decisions (other than Resolutions) adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP14, Samarkand, 2024). The Decisions in this list are grouped by subject in accordance with the agenda of COP14.

Table of Contents

Strategic and Institutional Matters.....	5
Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species – <i>Decisions 14.1 – 14.4</i>	5
Subject Areas of COP-Appointed Councillors – <i>Decision 14.5</i>	6
CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework – <i>Decisions 14.6 – 14.7</i>	7
Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Groups in CMS Processes – <i>Decisions 14.8 – 14.10</i>	8
Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS – <i>Decisions 14.11 – 14.14</i>	9
Communication and Information Management – <i>Decisions 14.15 – 14.16</i>	10
Scientific Assessments and Reports.....	10
Atlas on Animal Migration – <i>Decisions 14.17 – 14.19</i>	10
Conservation Status of Migratory Species – <i>Decisions 14.20 – 14.24</i>	11
Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention.....	12
National Reports – <i>Decisions 14.25 – 14.27</i>	12
Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme – <i>Decisions 14.28 – 14.29</i>	13
Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-Listed Species – <i>Decision 14.30</i>	14
Aquatic Species	15
Bycatch and Other Fisheries-Induced Mortality – <i>Decisions 14.31 – 14.34</i>	15
Fish Aggregating Devices – <i>Decisions 14.35 – 14.37</i>	17
The Maltreatment and Mutilation of Seabirds in Fisheries – <i>Decisions 14.38 – 14.40</i>	20
Marine Pollution – <i>Decisions 14.41 – 14.43</i>	20
Marine Noise – <i>Decisions 14.44 – 14.47</i>	22
Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna – <i>Decisions 14.48 – 14.50</i>	25
Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species – <i>Decisions 14.51 – 14.53</i>	26
Marine Wildlife Watching – <i>Decisions 14.54 – 14.56</i>	27
Important Marine Mammal Areas – <i>Decisions 14.57 – 14.60</i>	28
Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) – <i>Decisions 14.61 – 14.64</i>	29
Seagrass Ecosystems – <i>Decisions 14.65 – 14.68</i>	30
Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans – <i>Decisions 14.69 – 14.73</i>	31
Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning – <i>Decisions 14.74 – 14.75</i>	33
Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region – <i>Decisions 14.76 – 14.78</i>	34
Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales – <i>Decisions 14.79 – 14.80</i>	34
Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (<i>Sousa teuszii</i>) – <i>Decisions 14.81 – 14.86</i>	35
Sirenians, Pinnipeds and Otters – <i>Decisions 14.87 – 14.92</i>	36
Marine Turtles – <i>Decisions 14.93 – 14.95</i>	37

Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region – Decisions 14.96 – 14.100.....	38
Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea – Decisions 14.101 – 14.105.....	40
European Eel – Decisions 14.106 – 14.109.....	42
Freshwater Fish – Decisions 14.110 – 14.113.....	42
Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-Listing for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) – Decisions 14.114 – 14.116.....	44
Chondrichthyan Species (Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras) – Decisions 14.117 – 14.118.....	44
Avian Species.....	45
Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) – Decisions 14.119 – 14.124.....	45
Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force – Decision 14.125.....	47
South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force – Decisions 14.126 – 14.129.....	47
Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP) – Decisions 14.130 – 14.133.....	48
Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds – Decisions 14.134 – 14.136.....	51
Flyways – Decisions 14.137 – 14.142.....	53
Initiative for Central Asian Flyway – Decision 14.143.....	55
Action Plans for Birds – Decisions 14.144 – 14.147.....	56
Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures – Decisions 14.148 – 14.156.....	56
Saker Falcon (<i>Falco cherrug</i>) Global Action Plan (SAKERGAP) – Decisions 14.157 – 14.160.....	60
Terrestrial Species.....	60
Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative – Decisions 14.161 – 14.166.....	60
Central Asian Mammals Initiative – Decisions 14.167 – 14.170.....	61
Conservation of the African Wild Ass (<i>Equus africanus</i>) – Decisions 14.171 – 14.172.....	63
CMS Jaguar Initiative – Decisions 14.173 – 14.178.....	63
Pastoralism and Migratory Species – Decisions 14.179 – 14.181.....	65
Crosscutting Conservation Issues.....	66
Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife – Decisions 14.182 – 14.185.....	66
Aquatic Wild Meat – Decisions 14.186 – 14.189.....	70
Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa – Decisions 14.190 – 14.193... ..	72
Ecological Connectivity – Decisions 14.194 – 14.196.....	73
Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species – Decisions 14.197 – 14.199.....	75
Communities and Livelihoods – Decisions 14.200.....	76
Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species – Decisions 14.201 – 14.203.....	76
Impact Assessment and Migratory Species – Decisions 14.204 – 14.206.....	80
Renewable Energy and Migratory Species – Decisions 14.207 – 14.210.....	81
Climate Change and Migratory Species – Decisions 14.211 – 14.215.....	83
Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations – Decisions 14.216 – 14.217.....	87
Wildlife Health – Decisions 14.218 – 14.220.....	88

CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species – <i>Decisions 14.221 – 14.222</i> ..	89
Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species – <i>Decisions 14.223 – 14.226</i>	89
Conservation Implications of Animal Culture – <i>Decisions 14.227 – 14.230</i>	91
Amendment of CMS Appendices	95
Taxonomy and Nomenclature – <i>Decision 14.231</i>	95
Guidance on the Creation of an Advisory List of Species Aggregated in Families and Genera Listed Under Appendix II – <i>Decisions 14.232 – 14.234</i>	95
Potential Avian Taxa for Listing – <i>Decisions 14.235 – 14.236</i>	95

Strategic and Institutional Matters			
14.1	Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implement the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2024-2032 and ensure linkages with their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks; b) support the work of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on the SPMS and the work of the Secretariat; and c) report on the implementation of the SPMS through their National Reports, as appropriate.
14.2		Directed to the Standing Committee	<p>The Standing Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue the work of the IWG on the SPMS, which will be tasked, with the support of the CMS Secretariat, with developing, for endorsement by the Standing Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the actions needed to implement the SPMS and achieve its goals and targets, ii. appropriate baselines for each of the SPMS targets, iii. indicators for each of the SPMS targets and a monitoring framework to assess progress against the indicators, and iv. agree of a new template for National Reports, aligned to the SPMS by the Standing Committee for use by Parties in their reporting for COP15; and b) provide advice on the implications of the implementation of the SPMS for the CMS Programme of Work, to better align it with the SPMS and its priorities.
14.3		Directed to the Scientific Council, Working Groups & Task Forces	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to provide inputs to the IWG on the SPMS, specifically by providing scientific advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the actions needed to implement the SPMS and achieve its goals and targets, b) baselines for each of the SPMS targets with a scientific component,

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) indicators for each of the SPMS targets with a scientific component, d) a monitoring framework to assess progress against the indicators, and e) guidance for the elaboration of a new template for National Reports, aligned to the SPMS.
14.4		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the work of the IWG on the SPMS, including a proposal for revising the National Report template for Standing Committee to consider before the 15th meeting of the conference of the Parties drafting of documents for their consideration and the dissemination of its outcomes; b) raise awareness of the implementation of the SPMS and share experiences in monitoring and reviewing such plans with other multilateral environmental agreements and relevant entities, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity; c) identify data gaps that could be hindering progress in relation to indicators of the SPMS, and support the filling of those gaps; d) provide advice on the implications of the implementation of the SPMS for the CMS Programme of Work, to better align it with the SPMS and its priorities; and e) undertake an assessment of the implementation of the SPMS in time for the next CMS Conference of the Parties (COP15).
14.5	Subject Areas of COP-Appointed Councillors	Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, with support from the Secretariat, to review the existing COP-Appointed Councillor subject areas and propose to COP15 any changes for the subsequent period between COP15 and COP17, as appropriate.
14.6		Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that migratory species' needs and considerations are

	<p>CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework</p>		<p>integrated in the revision and update of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national targets in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework including relevant national action plans and in bilateral and regional cooperation as part of their Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation; and</p> <p>b) consider engaging in the Bern Process, facilitated by UNEP, to contribute to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and consider its relevant outcomes.</p>
<p>14.7</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</p> <p>a) contribute to supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;</p> <p>b) continue actively engaging in the Bern Process, facilitated by UNEP, to contribute to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;</p> <p>c) support the CMS Family Working Group on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;</p> <p>d) consider how to support and apply the monitoring framework agreed under the CBD for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in measuring progress towards the goals and targets of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032, including promoting the status of migratory species as headline indicators, as well as disaggregating the current headline indicators and strengthening complementary indicators for better measuring of progress towards achieving the ecological connectivity and integrity elements of the framework;</p> <p>e) produce updated <i>Guidelines for CMS Parties on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)</i>;</p> <p>f) develop a new Joint Work Programme with the CBD Secretariat; and</p>

			g) report to the Standing Committee at its 56 th and 57 th meetings and to COP15 on the progress in implementing this Decision.
14.8	Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations and Other Groups in CMS Processes	Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and others	Parties, NGOs and other relevant organizations are invited to support the Secretariat in exploring options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS for the consideration of COP15.
14.9		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) assess the significance of multiple systems of knowledge and understanding, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge, for supporting effective migratory species conservation; and b) provide a report to COP15 with suggestions for ways in which CMS might facilitate inclusion of additional systems of knowledge and understanding for enhanced implementation of the Convention.
14.10		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish an Intersessional Working Group comprising Parties, the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other relevant organizations to explore options for a special accreditation for NGO partners to CMS, including a process and a template for reporting to the Conference of the Parties; b) present a proposal for accreditation for NGO partners to CMS to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and adoption; c) continue exploring and proposing ways to increase the involvement of Indigenous Peoples, youth groups and local communities in CMS processes, building on the experiences from other multilateral environmental agreements, and present suggestions, including their cost implications, to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15); and d) in collaboration with interested Parties, UNESCO and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, undertake a

			concise review of the values, policy principles and concrete opportunities that exist in relation to the tangible and intangible cultural values associated with migratory species and their conservation.
14.11	Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to review the findings of the IPBES and consider their relevance to CMS and how to reflect such findings in their conservation actions at the national level.
14.12		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources, actively engage in relevant scoping and review processes of the IPBES assessments agreed by the IPBES Plenary at its tenth session, including with respect to the assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity and a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a view to ensure that CMS priority elements are addressed.
14.13		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to consider the findings of recent and forthcoming IPBES deliverables, including the assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, the assessment of the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature, the assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control, the IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change, the assessment on the of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health, the assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, the assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, and the assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, and to prepare recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 15 th Meeting.
14.14		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council in engaging in relevant scoping and other processes of the IPBES assessments agreed by the IPBES-10 Plenary, including with respect to the assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity and a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services; b) engage with the IPBES Secretariat to further cooperate on issues of

			<p>relevance to migratory species; and</p> <p>c) report to the Standing Committee at its 56th and 57th meetings and to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</p>
14.15	Communication and Information Management	Directed to Parties	Parties are encouraged to support the implementation of the recommendations provided in the 'Strategic Communication Assessment'.
14.16		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, develop a plan for the recommendations provided by the 'Strategic Communications Assessment' and, to the extent possible, work towards its implementation.
Scientific Assessments and Reports			
14.17	Atlas on Animal Migration	Directed to Parties	Parties are encouraged to make use, as appropriate, of the numerous modules of the atlas on animal migration prepared thus far in their policies, decision-making and management, and in implementing the provisions, Resolutions and Decisions of the Convention on Migratory Species.
14.18		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</p> <p>a) provide advice and guidance to the Secretariat on updating existing and developing additional modules of the atlas;</p> <p>b) provide advice and guidance to the Secretariat on improving the usability of the atlas, if required;</p> <p>c) work closely with the Secretariat and relevant stakeholders in promoting the knowledge and use of existing modules through appropriate means, such as webinars; and</p> <p>d) provide recommendations to COP15 on future development of the atlas.</p>
14.19		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat should, subject to the availability of external resources, and in cooperation with the Scientific Council:</p> <p>a) further develop the modules currently underway;</p> <p>b) promote the knowledge and use of existing modules through appropriate means, such as webinars;</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) consider the need for any update of existing modules, and improvement of their usability; d) explore options for the development of additional modules, in consultation with the Scientific Council; e) explore options for improving the availability of the various modules of the atlas, e.g., through a global database; f) promote information on the atlas on the CMS website; and g) clarify the type and content of the information to be provided by Parties in relation to the experience with using the modules of the atlas, and request feedback from Parties through notification for future development of the atlas.
14.20	Conservation Status of Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the findings and recommendations of the reports considered at COP14: <i>State of the World's Migratory Species; Assessment of the Risk Posed to CMS Appendix I-Listed Species by Direct Use and Trade; and In-Depth Review of the Conservation Status of Individual CMS-Listed Species</i>; b) identify the implications of these reports on their efforts to implement the Convention; and c) take additional actions as needed to address the findings and recommendations of these reports at the national level.
14.21		Directed to Parties	Parties shall report progress in National Reports on implementing Resolution 14.4, to the 15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
14.22		Directed to the Standing Committee	The Standing Committee is requested to consider the information gathered under 14.24 (b) and take any appropriate actions including potentially through the Review Mechanism in accordance with Resolution 12.9.
14.23		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council, supported by the Secretariat, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide guidance to the Secretariat on scope and any additional 'spotlight' sections on specific topics or issues of importance for the

			<p>second edition of the <i>State of the World's Migratory Species</i> report; and</p> <p>b) provide guidance to the Secretariat on the development of the online CMS Data Dashboard.</p>
14.24		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <p>a) disseminate the reports on the <i>State of the World's Migratory Species, Assessment of the Risk Posed to CMS Appendix I-Listed Species by Direct Use and Trade</i>, and an <i>In-Depth Review of the Conservation Status of Individual CMS-Listed Species</i> to the relevant stakeholders, and raise awareness of them, and their findings and recommendations, in appropriate forums;</p> <p>b) in accordance with Resolution 12.9, engage with relevant Parties on the instances of potential contravention of the Convention identified in the report in the COP14 document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21.2 to seek further information from these Parties on these cases and report this information to the 56th Meeting of the Standing Committee;</p> <p>c) review the findings and recommendations of the reports and consider their implications for setting priorities in the development of the Programme of Work following COP14;</p> <p>d) during the intersessional period prior to COP15, identify any major developments regarding the conservation status of migratory species, including emerging trends or threats, and prepare a summary for the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee and for the attention of COP15; and</p> <p>e) identify possible issues that could be the subject of spotlight sections in any future State of the World's Migratory Species report(s).</p>
Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention			
14.25	National Reports	Directed to the Standing Committee	<p>The Standing Committee is requested to consider and, as appropriate, endorse the revision of the National Report format and the guidance document produced by the Secretariat further to Decision 14.27, so that it can be issued at least a year (preferably more) in advance of the deadline for submission of reports to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the</p>

			Parties; and make any appropriate recommendations to the 15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the National Report format, including on its subsequent use.
14.26		Directed to the Standing Committee	The Standing Committee is requested to review the reporting requirements under the Resolutions adopted by the Convention as part of the revisions to the National Report format under Decisions 14.25.
14.27		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, is requested to consider the need for, and, as appropriate, undertake a revision of the National Report format and its guidance document to reflect lessons learned during the reporting period and the outcomes of the 14 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to align with the goals and targets of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032.
14.28	Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme	Directed to Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parties that have submitted the National Legislation questionnaire and received a National Legislative Profile from the Secretariat are urged to take appropriate measures to implement Article III, paragraph 5, in line with the Secretariat's recommended actions, as indicated in the National Legislative Profile; b) Parties that have not completed and submitted the questionnaire are strongly encouraged to do so; c) Parties are reminded to inform the Secretariat of any exceptions made pursuant to Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention; and d) Parties are invited to provide financial or technical support to further strengthen the legal frameworks and institutional capacity through the implementation of the National Legislation Programme and the Review Mechanism.
14.29		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) follow up with Parties that have completed and submitted the National Legislation Programme (NLP) questionnaire on their progress in implementing recommended actions, and provide technical support to assist Parties in drafting adequate national legislation to implement the provisions of Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention, as possible and appropriate; b) encourage Parties that have not yet joined the National Legislation

			<p>Programme to complete the NLP questionnaire and submit it to the Secretariat;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) in close collaboration with UNEP, organize a dedicated workshop for UNEP and CMS Parties to support them in strengthening national legal frameworks for the implementation of CMS; d) subject to the availability of external resources, commission a study on penalties, including both criminal penalties and administrative sanctions, to determine whether national legislation allows for effective, deterrent and proportionate penalties for Appendix I species taken in violation of the Convention; e) develop an online registry of Review Mechanism files and update it with relevant information on ongoing files; f) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision; and g) continue and enhance the collaboration with existing initiatives facilitating national legislative review such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) National Legislation Project and the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with a consortium of partners including the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).
<p>14.30</p>	<p>Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-Listed Species</p>	<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, develop a list of species included in Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are also on the CITES Appendices, and if so, on which CITES Appendix they are listed. This list should take into account possible differences in nomenclature used in the two Conventions. b) publish this list on the CMS website and revise it as necessary.

Aquatic Species			
14.31	Bycatch and Other Fisheries-Induced Mortality	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) take account of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Technical Guidelines to prevent and reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries and the associated Technology Fact Sheets (2023) in addition to the best available scientific advice for the fisheries concerned, and implement effective bycatch mitigation measures for marine mammals, as appropriate to their fishing operations including the introduction of alternative gears; b) apply the recommendations included in Drynan and Baker (2023), <i>Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks</i>, provided in Annex 2 to UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1, with emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) applying tailored solutions with timebound action plans for individual fisheries, ii) considering species specificity and management objectives including for individual fisheries, iii) balancing target catch and minimizing bycatch while accounting for unintended impacts, iv) techniques need to be assessed for the species and regions where they will be deployed, and the involvement of the fishing industry must be encouraged and actively sought early in the process, v) if capture cannot be avoided, then efforts need to be made to allow escape prior to hauling in the gear, vi) if escape prior to hauling is not possible, efforts need to be made to reduce at-vessel mortality and increase post-release survival, vii) collecting detailed data on shark species movements and life history characteristics as a matter of priority, viii) capitalizing on the knowledge of and support from the fishing industry and fisheries management and advisory bodies, that are necessary for developing and deploying effective bycatch mitigation and post release survival strategies, and

			<p>ix) supporting fishers to modify fishing techniques as well as ensuring appropriate regulatory measures with oversight, and adequate penalization for lack of compliance; and</p> <p>c) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the implementation of Decision 14.31 (b) through their National Reports.</p>
14.32		Directed to Parties that are Range States of the Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise	<p>Parties that are Range States of the Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise are requested to:</p> <p>a) urgently implement time-bound action plans and measures for effective bycatch mitigation; and</p> <p>b) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the implementation of Decision 14.32 (a) through their National Reports.</p>
14.33		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) identify regions where reviews of relative levels of bycatch of CMS-listed marine mammals and marine turtles in commercial and artisanal fisheries would be a priority and/or beneficial; collaborate with all relevant organizations including fisheries management bodies to develop regional reviews with a view to reducing the levels of bycatch of all CMS-listed marine mammals and turtles in commercial and artisanal fisheries; identify and prioritize fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are highest for CMS-listed marine mammals and turtles; cooperate with the relevant organizations, including fisheries bodies to develop the most appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority; and develop appropriate bycatch mitigation measures with associated timebound action plans;</p> <p>b) in collaboration with the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and, if possible, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Caribbean Environment Programme, review current knowledge about existing measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch of marine turtles for both commercial fisheries and artisanal fisheries, and make recommendations to Parties and the Signatory States of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU on the most effective and</p>

			<p>appropriate measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch, while ensuring that recommended measures do not act to the disadvantage of other CMS-listed marine species;</p> <p>c) in collaboration with the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU, review and appraise current data and knowledge regarding the levels of fisheries-induced mortality of CMS- and Sharks MOU-listed shark and ray species and to prepare recommendations on reducing fisheries-induced mortality;</p> <p>d) in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, ensure cross-referencing with seabird bycatch work, to ensure consideration of cross-taxa implications, and identify opportunities for further collaboration on addressing fisheries-induced mortality across taxa;</p> <p>e) to assess the experience gained from bycatch mitigation strategies of: marine mammals as developed for COP13, sharks and rays as developed for COP14, seabirds as developed by AEWA and the ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group in collaboration with CMS, and on marine turtles as developed as part of paragraph 14.33 (b), and any new relevant scientific information which arises, prepare a synthesis report on all species and an update of Resolution 12.22 on Bycatch for COP15; and</p> <p>f) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing Decisions 14.33 (a) – (c).</p>
14.34		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) support the Scientific Council with the implementation of Decision 14.33; and</p> <p>b) engage with the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), and Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs) and Action Plans regarding bycatch of CMS-listed aquatic species.</p>
14.35	Fish Aggregating Devices	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <p>a) address the potential negative impacts of FADs, including on CMS-</p>

			<p>listed species, such as sharks, rays, turtles, marine mammals, which may get entangled in such devices, as well as the impact on marine ecosystems, such as pollution, beaching, ghost fishing, and their transformation into marine debris;</p> <p>b) ensure that FADs deployed within their jurisdiction or by vessels for which they are a flag state are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. of non-entangling nature, designed to reduce the likelihood of them being lost, and, to the extent possible, subject to regular inspection and maintenance to avoid loss, ii. marked, monitored, maintained and retrieved in an environmentally sound manner by the fisheries concerned, iii. located, where possible, away from shipping routes or areas where they will be in conflict with other fisheries and migratory routes for CMS-listed species, iv. deployed at times of the year and in locations where their beaching is less likely, according to relevant scientific advice, and v. disposed of appropriately when they are no longer required; <p>c) where they are a flag state for FAD fisheries and/or FAD deploying vessels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ensure, whenever possible and feasible, that natural biodegradable materials are used in the construction of FADs, noting that more research is needed on this topic, and ii. ask fisheries to use real-time lost gear reporting to track rates of loss, identify high risk locations and gear types, and promote retrieval, particularly in sensitive marine habitats or areas of high importance for food security, where it is environmentally safe to do so; <p>d) continue working with and within relevant fisheries organizations to promote the adoption of conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainability of FAD fisheries, including a progressive ban of entangling FAD designs to eliminate ghost fishing and related impacts;</p>
--	--	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) develop solutions to reduce loss or prevent dumping, as well as ensure the full retrieval and proper disposal of FADs; f) promote the progress of ongoing scientific work within relevant fisheries organizations for the development of biodegradable FADs; g) include terms on environmental control measures in fishing licences and in development of related guidelines aimed at mitigating the impacts on CMS-listed species; h) support inclusion of effective steps to address fishing gear as part of the new global plastics treaty, including abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear; i) conduct clean ups to remove abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded FADs from the sea including ghost nets; j) work within relevant fisheries organizations to promote effective design, construction and use of FADs to reduce the risks to CMS-listed species; and k) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.
<p>14.36</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) evaluate the relationship between FADs and marine debris and establish principles for best practice to avoid their loss, entanglement with marine wildlife, and beaching in corals, mangroves and other aquatic and coastal habitats, and that seek to reduce their contribution to plastic pollution. This should include liaison with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), further to their work on improving FAD design, and the relevant fisheries organizations; b) consider a possible case study area looking at FADs as a source of marine debris, for example in the Mediterranean Sea, to:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. look at compliance with existing regulations, ii. recommend environmental management and control measures to avoid gear loss, and iii. explore ways of improving the environmentally sound retrieval of lost FADs; and <p>c) report to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress in implementing this Decision.</p>
14.37		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 14.36.
14.38	The Maltreatment and Mutilation of Seabirds in Fisheries	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties bordering the south-west Atlantic Ocean are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) work with their fisheries management agencies to identify ways to address this issue impacting seabird populations; b) endeavour to prevent further injuries to threatened and at-risk migratory species in their Exclusive Economic Zones; and c) report to the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting on any further developments on this issue.
14.39		Directed to Parties	Other Parties are requested to report back to the Scientific Council if they become aware of this issue occurring within their jurisdiction or elsewhere in the future.
14.40		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to keep the issue of the maltreatment of seabirds in fisheries under review in case any further instances of mutilation are brought to its attention.
14.41	Marine Pollution	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) when developing conservation plans for migratory marine species, integrate the need to address the threat of marine pollution, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. considering pollution-induced threats to the survival, health and welfare of the taxa concerned, including sub-lethal effects on behaviour, health and reproduction; ii. describing and publicizing the threats to affected populations, species and their habitats; and iii. developing actions to address threats taking account of feeding,

			<p>breeding and migratory grounds;</p> <p>b) identify habitats and populations affected by chronic pollution threats, for example from legacy pollutants, and identify actions to mitigate such threats;</p> <p>c) set up rapid-response systems to effectively deal with acute pollution problems, such as a chemical, oil or plastic pellet spills; and</p> <p>d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the Decision.</p>
14.42		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</p> <p>a) identify priority forms of pollution affecting CMS-listed marine species, avoiding overlap with Decisions 14.44-14.47 on Marine Noise and Decisions 14.221-14.222 on Light Pollution, and develop a review of these threats, including cumulative impacts, and identify localities where marine pollution and migratory marine species significantly intersect;</p> <p>b) seek to collaborate with relevant daughter Agreements, IWC, IMMA process for marine mammals, ISRA process for sharks and rays, and other fora where similar initiatives are being investigated;</p> <p>c) with regard to plastic pollution as outlined in 14.42 (a), carry out the work in conjunction with implementing Decision 14.225 on Plastic Pollution;</p> <p>d) hold an expert workshop to identify priority species, populations and habitats for immediate action, based on findings of the review, and develop recommendations for consideration by ScC-SC8; and</p> <p>e) in support of the workshop outlined in 14.42 (d), establish a steering group of appropriate experts to guide the focus, agenda and other modalities of the workshop.</p>
14.43		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council in developing the review convening the associated workshop and establishing the steering group foreseen in Decision 14.42; and b) seek enhanced cooperation and coordination with other UN bodies and multilateral environmental agreements, including the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the international treaty to end plastic pollution currently being negotiated.
14.44	Marine Noise	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) disseminate the <i>CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i> to all national departments involved in deciding on noise-generating activities and encourage their application; b) through the Secretariat, inform the Scientific Council at the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee about experiences and lessons learned in the application of these Guidelines, and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise; c) support the Secretariat in securing the external expertise required to update the Technical Support Information, prepare a gap analysis and identify further needed guidance, as well as to develop a report on available information on the impact of noise and the potential need for guidance regarding freshwater cetacean species; d) make use of Technical Series No. 46 <i>Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BET) for Mitigating Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys and Pile Driving</i> and bring it to the attention of appropriate regulatory bodies concerned with marine spatial planning and licencing processes relating to underwater noise-generating activities; and e) provide information on the implementation of Resolution 12.14 through National Reports.

<p>14.45</p>		<p>Directed to the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS</p>	<p>The Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide a peer review of the updated <i>Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i>; b) prepare a gap analysis of guidance available from CMS and other forums and identify where further guidance is needed on mitigation of the effects of marine noise in order to address the needs of migratory species and their prey; c) prepare a report on the state of knowledge of noise impacts and noise mitigation measures for CMS-listed freshwater mammal species and assess the need for specific guidance for freshwater habitats; and d) report to the Scientific Council at the 8th meeting of its Sessional Committee on the progress in implementing this Decision.
<p>14.46</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide advice to the Secretariat and Joint Noise Working Group as to where to focus efforts to support the implementation of mitigation measures; b) provide advice on the future role of the Convention to ensure timely and effective guidance continues to be given to governments and other stakeholders, making use of and building upon related work in other forums; c) consider the recommendations of the Joint Noise Working Group regarding the need for the development of further guidance on mitigation of the effects of marine noise, including on specific guidance regarding freshwater cetacean species, and facilitate their development accordingly, with a view to presenting any outputs to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and d) subject to the availability of external resources, in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group, and, where relevant, with competent national authorities, assess the application and effectiveness of

			existing guidance regarding impact of military sonar and other sound sources generated by military activities on migratory species and to investigate whether further guidelines may be needed to address and mitigate these impacts.
14.47		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) share Technical Series No. 46 <i>Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BET) for Mitigating Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys and Pile Driving</i> with other appropriate regional and international organizations to strengthen collaborative efforts to reduce underwater noise emissions; b) facilitate an update of the <i>Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i>; c) publish the updated <i>Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i> as a Technical Series to make it easily accessible to Parties and other stakeholders; d) in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group, continue providing up-to-date information on the CMS website on marine noise to assist Parties and other stakeholders in effective mitigation of impacts of underwater noise on marine species; e) support the Joint Noise Working Group in developing the requested reports and any further guidance on mitigation of the effects of marine noise, as required; and f) request information from Parties about experiences and lessons learned in the application of the <i>CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i>, and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise, in time for consideration by the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.
14.48		Directed to Parties that are	Parties that are Range States are requested to:

	<p>Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna</p>	<p>Range States¹ to CMS-listed species of marine megafauna that are subject to vessel strikes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reach out to relevant stakeholders engaged in commercial, recreational or other vessel activities to encourage systematic reporting of all vessel strike incidents involving whales, dolphins or porpoises to the Ship Strikes Database of the International Whaling Commission (IWC); b) review and apply, as appropriate, the findings of and recommendations provided in the CMS report <i>Limiting Global Ship Strike on Whale Sharks - Understanding an increasing threat to the world's largest fish</i>; c) collaborate with other Range States on the implementation of the <i>Guidance on Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Whale Sharks</i>, annexed to Resolution 14.5 <i>Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna</i>; and d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the decision through their National Reports.
<p>14.49</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the reports submitted by Parties through their National Reports on the implementation of Decision 14.48 (a) - (c) and make recommendations to Parties; b) collaborate with the IWC and International Maritime Organization (IMO) to identify areas where CMS-listed cetaceans are at high risk from vessel strikes, including by mapping shipping lanes against Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), develop advice on appropriate placement of re-routing measures, including area avoidance and/or the establishment of vessel speed restrictions for key cetacean habitats, and make recommendations to Parties; c) assess the collision risk for further CMS-listed marine megafauna taxa that are likely to suffer from vessel strikes, and identify areas

¹ CMS Article I, paragraph 1 (h) "Range State" in relation to a particular migratory species means any State (...) that exercises jurisdiction over any part of the range of that migratory species, or a State, flag vessels of which are engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in taking that migratory species;

			<p>where conservation measures are most needed, also considering existing information about identified Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and future information about identified Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs); and</p> <p>d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</p>
14.50		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) assist the Scientific Council with the implementation of Decision 14.49 (a) - (c);</p> <p>b) engage with the IMO to collaborate on measures to reduce vessel strikes on CMS-listed marine species; and</p> <p>c) bring the following reports to the attention of the IMO:</p> <p>i. the report to be developed by the Scientific Council on areas with a high risk of vessel strikes for cetaceans and the recommendations on appropriate mitigation measures;</p> <p>ii. the report <i>Limiting Global Ship Strike on Whale Sharks - Understanding an increasing threat to the world's largest fish</i>, found in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.2.3, and the <i>Guidance on Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Whale Sharks</i> which is annexed to Resolution 14.5 <i>Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna</i>.</p>
14.51	Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <p>a) inform the Secretariat by 30 June 2024 of any relevant scientific or other information, including any EIA guidance, that considers the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems;</p> <p>b) prioritize research, including monitoring programmes as appropriate, into the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems; and</p>

			c) support the work of the Scientific Council, as directed in 14.52 (a) and (b).
14.52		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) develop a report on the state of knowledge of the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems, including identifying knowledge gaps that should be addressed;</p> <p>b) based on the results of the above report, collaborate with the International Seabed Authority to share expertise, and develop such specific EIA guidance as may be required, in addition to any other relevant guidance available, which considers the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems; and</p> <p>c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</p>
14.53		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) inform the ISA of this COP14 decision and facilitate collaboration with ISA and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, in order to increase awareness for migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems in relevant discussions on deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities; and</p> <p>b) facilitate the work of the Scientific Council as directed in 14.52 (a) and (b).</p>
14.54	Marine Wildlife Watching	Directed to Parties	Parties are encouraged to disseminate the <i>Guidelines on Recreational In-water Interactions with Marine Wildlife</i> to relevant organizations and operators in their countries, and to utilize them in national planning.
14.55		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) develop a report to assess the long-term effects and biological significance of disturbances from boat-based and in-water interactions for all CMS-listed marine species, and make</p>

			<p>recommendations to Parties;</p> <p>b) recommend in which areas activities should be strictly limited to boat-based activities from an increased distance for particularly vulnerable populations, and make recommendations to Parties;</p> <p>c) investigate the desirability of developing guidance regarding the use of unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles, and other relevant technologies used around marine wildlife during recreational activities; and</p> <p>d) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</p>
14.56		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</p> <p>a) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 14.55; and</p> <p>b) combine the <i>Guidelines for Boat-Based Wildlife Watching</i>, annexed to Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12), and the <i>Guidelines for Recreational In-water Interactions for Marine Wildlife</i>, annexed to Resolution 12.16 (Rev.COP14), into a CMS Technical Series Publication.</p>
14.57	Important Marine Mammal Areas	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <p>a) make use, as appropriate, of the identified Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) posted on the website of the IUCN Joint Species Survival Commission/World Commission on Protected Areas (SSC/WCPA) Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force (www.marinemammalhabitat.org) when identifying habitat at risk or designing threat mitigation measures, and when designating marine protected areas, or generally for marine spatial planning purposes, to support the conservation of CMS-listed marine mammals; and</p> <p>b) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the decision.</p>

14.58		Directed to Parties	Parties are encouraged to apply the IMMA criteria in identifying areas important for marine mammals, including in regions not yet assessed by IUCN SSC/WCPA.
14.59		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to collaborate with the IUCN SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force to include data on CMS-listed marine mammals in the identification of IMMAs.
14.60		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) inform Parties of newly identified IMMAs and the relevant CMS-listed species; b) reach out to other relevant regional and international organizations to bring to their attention the value of the identification of IMMAs for conservation planning, as well as already identified IMMAs; and c) seek enhanced cooperation and coordination with the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).
14.61	Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the identification of new ISRAs; b) take into account identified ISRAs for spatial planning and conservation action with a view to implementing Targets 1 and 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, including through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); and c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the decision to mitigate threats to ISRAs through their National Reports.
14.62		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to actively engage with and provide technical support to the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group for the process of identifying Important Shark and Ray Areas globally.
14.63		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to work with the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, in collaboration with relevant experts of regional fisheries management and advisory bodies, (specialist) groups from Regional Sea

			Conventions and the Sharks MOU Advisory Committee, in a cost-effective and non-duplicative manner with the identification of ISRAs for CMS-listed shark and ray species, through sharing information and data and contributing to ISRA expert workshops.
14.64		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue to liaise with the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group to promote the value of ISRAs for the conservation of CMS-listed sharks and rays; b) promote consultation and coordination between IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, Parties, Range States, relevant international and regional organizations and relevant fisheries management and advisory bodies with a view to mutually support the objective of science-based conservation and sustainability of fishing of sharks and rays based on a science-based and an ecosystem-based approach; c) inform the Scientific Council, the Parties and other relevant bodies of newly identified ISRAs; and d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the implementation of this Decision.
14.65	Seagrass Ecosystems	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify, at the national level, migratory species that use seagrass meadows, the most important seagrass ecosystems for migratory species, the most important ongoing threats to seagrass and drivers of seagrass loss, the main historical reasons that have resulted in the loss of seagrass beds, the most important activities that prevent their recovery, and the conservation actions necessary to reduce seagrass loss and restore it, including the conservation of migratory species that support healthy seagrass ecosystems; b) include identified seagrass meadows in marine protected areas, locally managed marine areas, or other effective conservation measures, as well as in marine spatial plans; and

			c) report, through the national reports, to the Conference of Parties at its 15 th meeting on the progress.
14.66		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide technical support to conservation, sustainable management and research in seagrass ecosystems that are of particular importance to marine migratory species globally.
14.67		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to availability of resources, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide technical support to Parties to identify an inventory of migratory species that use seagrass ecosystems and those that contribute to their functioning, the most important seagrass meadows for migratory species globally, the most important past and current threats to seagrass and drivers of seagrass degradation and loss, and the conservation actions necessary to reduce seagrass loss and restore it; and b) collaborate with the Dugong MOU and other intergovernmental organizations or initiatives such as UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the IUCN SSC Seagrass Specialist Group, to accelerate the process described in paragraph 14.67 (a).
14.68		Directed to the Secretariat	Where appropriate, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with Parties and subject to availability of resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide technical support to Parties on conservation, sustainable management and research in seagrass ecosystems that are of particular importance to marine migratory species; b) develop and disseminate guidelines and management tools for conservation, sustainable management and research in seagrass ecosystems that are of particular importance to marine migratory species; and c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.
14.69	Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the regional priorities for cetacean conservation identified in Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1a for their region as well as

			<p>the detailed recommendations outlined for each of the priority threats in Resolution 14.9 <i>Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans</i> and address those of highest urgency, where appropriate coordinating with other countries of the region;</p> <p>b) report on progress through their National Reports; and</p> <p>c) where possible, provide technical and capacity-building support to other Parties as required to facilitate knowledge sharing and effective collaboration.</p>
14.70		Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <p>a) engage in the negotiation process to develop an international legally-binding instrument to end plastic pollution;</p> <p>b) support the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), in particular the development of robust, modern and uniform Environmental Impact Assessment for activities with potential impacts on cetaceans in areas within and beyond national jurisdictions; and</p> <p>c) include cetaceans within their respective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and ensure that the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are applied in such a way that positively aligns with the conservation priorities for cetaceans.</p>
14.71		Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	<p>Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support Parties with mitigation of priority threats identified for their region in Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1a, including through provision of technical support and expertise.</p>
14.72		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council, subject to the availability of external resources and where applicable with support from the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, is requested to:</p> <p>a) in cooperation with the IWC, quantify the contemporary whaling and aquatic wild meat takes of all CMS Appendix I-listed cetaceans in all</p>

			<p>regions, and make recommendations to Parties;</p> <p>b) in the context of threats from climate change, develop a report on the potential impacts that climate-induced migration will have on both the welfare and the conservation outcomes of affected cetacean species, and make recommendations to Parties;</p> <p>c) recommend the use of standard stranding and necropsy protocols, taking into account work done by ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and the IWC, in order to help investigate the causes of mortality events;</p> <p>d) develop a report about the monitoring, welfare and conservation of 'Out of Habitat' CMS-listed cetaceans, provide advice on appropriate responses to them, and make recommendations to Parties;</p> <p>e) synthesize research on the emerging understanding of how cetacean welfare can impact conservation outcomes, and make recommendations to Parties; and</p> <p>f) review the recommendations for potential future action by the Scientific Council as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1b and make recommendations to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on priority actions to progress in the following intersessional period.</p>
14.73		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat, subject to the availability of external resources, shall support the Scientific Council in the development of the reports and recommendations requested in Decision 14.72.
14.74	Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning	Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to, through the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, provide advice and input with regards to expanding the work on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning in close collaboration with the IWC.
14.75		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) continue to liaise with the IWC Secretariat regarding work on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning; and</p>

			b) report on the outcomes of the second joint IWC-CMS workshop on cetacean ecosystem functioning to the next meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.
14.76	Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to work with the Secretariat on the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region, and support the organization of a regional workshop.
14.77		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council, with support from the Aquatic Mammal Working Group, is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region; and b) review the final draft Action Plan at the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP15 and make recommendations to Parties.
14.78		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) organize a workshop of interested Parties, scientists and conservation organizations working in the Red Sea region to identify how best to take forward cetacean conservation there and assist in the development of an Action Plan; b) consult with relevant regional and technical bodies such as the Secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group to seek their support to take forward cetacean conservation in the Red Sea, as recommended by the above-mentioned workshop; and c) present the draft Action Plan to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for review before COP15.
14.79	Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to report through their National Reports on progress in implementing the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 <i>Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region</i>), including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at its 15 th meeting.
14.80		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

			<p>a) organize a regional workshop to improve capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales (Annex 1 to Resolution 12.17 <i>Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region</i>); and</p> <p>b) continue to collaborate with the IWC on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales.</p>
14.81	Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (<i>Sousa teuszii</i>)	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:</p> <p>a) undertake those actions of the SSAP specified for immediate implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing activities, and start implementation of those actions of the SSAP specified to be addressed within five years;</p> <p>b) set up the necessary structures to ensure active collaboration among stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, for example through the formation of national working groups;</p> <p>c) actively engage with stakeholders in neighbouring <i>Sousa teuszii</i> Range States to facilitate knowledge-sharing and effective collaboration, especially where cross-border populations are suspected to occur;</p> <p>d) provide a brief report on their implementation of the SSAP in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) using a template provided by the Secretariat; and</p> <p>e) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP for their use.</p>
14.82		Directed to Parties	Non-Range Parties are requested to provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan.
14.83		Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support implementation of the SSAP, including through provision of technical support and expertise.

<p>14.84</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group</p>	<p>The Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Secretariat in the development of a simple reporting template designed to gather information on the implementation of SSAP; b) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP and prepare a brief summary and analysis; and c) make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15.
<p>14.85</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP, as well as the summary and analysis and the resulting recommendations of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group; and b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.
<p>14.86</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP; b) develop a simple reporting form in collaboration with the Aquatic Mammals Working Group enabling assessment of progress in the implementation of the SSAP, and disseminate this to Parties that are Range States to the species to enable reporting sufficiently in advance of the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15; and c) convene a meeting of Range States, as soon as possible after COP14 and subject to the availability of external resources, regarding implementation of priority actions and to facilitate coordination across the region.
<p>14.87</p>	<p>Sirenians, Pinnipeds and Otters</p>	<p>Directed to Parties</p>	<p>Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to consider the possibility of proposing for listing the East African and New Caledonia</p>

			Dugong populations, which have been listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered in the IUCN Red List, on Appendix I of CMS.
14.88		Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to support the Secretariat in securing the external expertise required to develop draft reviews of conservation status and threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammal species and recommendations for the consideration of the Scientific Council as foreseen in Decision 14.90.
14.89		Directed to non-governmental organizations	Non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide in-kind and technical support to the development of draft reviews of conservation status and threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammal species and recommendations.
14.90		Directed to the Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group	The Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals other than cetaceans, with priority given to species or populations not currently covered by CMS agreements and/or with a less favourable conservation status; b) based on this assessment of threats and regional priorities, prepare detailed recommendations for these other aquatic mammal species for consideration by the Scientific Council; and c) assess whether any additional sirenian, pinniped or otter species might meet the criteria for listing on the CMS Appendices I or II and might benefit from being so listed.
14.91		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to review the assessments of regional threats and resulting recommendations developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and provide recommendations to COP15.
14.92		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, facilitate the development of draft reviews of conservation status and threats to CMS-listed aquatic mammal species and recommendations for the consideration of the Scientific Council as foreseen in Decision 14.90.
14.93	Marine Turtles	Directed to Parties	Parties are encouraged to provide funding to the Secretariat to secure the external expertise required to develop a draft review and recommendations for the consideration of the Scientific Council as foreseen in Decision 14.94.

<p>14.94</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review, as far as feasible in collaboration with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles in a region- and species-specific context, including their vulnerability to climate change, the threats of plastic pollution and light pollution on post-hatchlings, and the identification of habitats resilient to climate change as these habitats may require increased conservation effort over time; and b) based on this review, develop new recommendations for the conservation of all species of marine turtle included in Appendix I or II of the Convention including on the preservation of the current nesting beaches and the identification of new nesting beaches, and collate current and innovative management options to mitigate the effects of climate change on nesting beaches, such as beach cooling and beach restoration projects, for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
<p>14.95</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) facilitate the review to be undertaken by the Scientific Council by securing necessary funding and external expertise to develop drafts for review by the Scientific Council; and b) report to the Scientific Council at the 7th meeting of its Sessional Committee on the progress in implementing this decision.
<p>14.96</p>	<p>Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region</p>	<p>Directed to Parties that are Range States to the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP)</p>	<p>Parties that are Range States to the SSAP are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as foreseen in CMS/IOSEA/Hawksbill-SSAP/Doc.8 <i>Suggestions for a Governance Structure to Support the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan</i>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. nominate one national government representative (Focal Point) and one national expert per Range State to serve on the

			<p>Steering Group, and support activities of the Steering Group, in particular by providing regular reports on implementation of the SSAP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. establish National Working Groups consisting of National Focal Points, local stakeholders and scientists, particularly those who would be involved to implement actions; iii. develop a national work plan focusing on priority actions relevant to their country or territory; <p>b) address, as a matter of priority, subject to the availability of resources, essential and high priority SSAP actions as soon as possible, and take into account relevant medium-priority actions in national planning; and</p> <p>c) actively encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP for their use.</p>
14.97		Directed to non-Party Range States of the SSAP	<p>Non-Party Range States of the SSAP are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) adopt the SSAP; and b) once the SSAP is adopted, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) nominate one national government representative (Focal Point) and one national expert per Range State to serve on the Steering Group; ii) establish National Working Groups consisting of National Focal Points, local stakeholders and scientists, particularly those who would be involved to implement actions; iii) urgently implement actions for immediate implementation and for delivery within three years, and start implementation of those to be addressed within five years.
14.98		Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	<p>Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the SSAP.</p>
14.99		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the report received from the Steering Group on implementation of the Action Plan, as foreseen in

			<p>CMS/IOSEA/Hawksbill-SSAP/Doc.8; and</p> <p>b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.</p>
14.100		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the Action Plan for their use;</p> <p>b) support States that have adopted the Action Plan in its implementation by facilitating meetings of the Steering Group;</p> <p>c) develop a reporting form enabling the Steering Group of the Action Plan and the Scientific Council to assess progress in the implementation of the Action Plan; and</p> <p>d) prepare a report to the Scientific Council at the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee and COP15 on progress in implementing the Action Plan.</p>
14.101	Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties that are Range States to the species are requested to:</p> <p>a) undertake, to the extent possible, those actions of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med) specified for immediate and short-term implementation and for delivery within three years as a matter of priority, continue ongoing and medium-term activities, and start implementation of long-term activities within five years;</p> <p>b) provide relevant information and materials to update Annex III of the SSAP Angelshark Med Legislation relevant to the conservation of Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>), and to develop Annex IV, Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation of the SSAP;</p> <p>c) establish a governance structure, including a Working Group of Range States, as required, to support and monitor implementation and to facilitate cooperation and communication among Range States;</p> <p>d) consider establishing additional national Working Groups, as</p>

			<p>required, to ensure active collaboration between stakeholders within each Range State to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise;</p> <p>e) provide a brief report on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) using a template provided by the Secretariat;</p> <p>f) review information provided by Range States on the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med and prepare a brief summary and analysis;</p> <p>g) make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med to COP15; and</p> <p>h) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP Angelshark Med for their use.</p>
14.102		Directed to non-Party Range States	Non-Party Range States are requested to engage with Party Range States in the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med.
14.103		Directed to intergovernmental organizations	Intergovernmental organizations, in particular the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks and its Advisory Committee, are encouraged to continue to engage with the implementation of activities outlined in the SSAP Angelshark Med.
14.104		Directed to non-governmental organizations and experts	Non-governmental organizations, the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN) and other experts are encouraged to provide technical support to Range States for the implementation of the Action Plan and the development of Annex IV, <i>Tools and Guidelines to Support Implementation of the SSAP</i> .
14.105		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) encourage non-Party Range States to adopt the SSAP Angelshark Med;</p> <p>b) assist Range States in the establishment of a governance structure and monitoring system and provide a platform for communication upon request and subject to the availability of resources;</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) develop a simple reporting form, in collaboration with the Range States Working Group, to enable assessment of progress in the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med, and disseminate this to Range States to facilitate reporting in advance of COP15; and d) convene, subject to the availability of external resources, a meeting of Range States to stimulate implementation of priority actions and facilitate coordination across the region.
14.106	European Eel	Directed to Parties	Parties that are Range States to the European Eel are urged to provide support for the development of the Action Plan, including the convening of a Range State Meeting to finalize it.
14.107		Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to provide expertise and funding for the development of the Plan, including the convening of a Range State meeting to finalize the plan.
14.108		Directed to the Standing Committee	The Standing Committee shall consider the Action Plan for adoption at one of its meetings before COP15.
14.109		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the finalisation of the draft Action Plan for the European Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>); b) hold consultations among the Range States and relevant IGOs and NGOs on the draft Action Plan by correspondence and, if funding permits, by convening or supporting another meeting of Range States; c) collaborate with the CITES Secretariat on their respective intersessional activities relating to European eel; and d) submit the draft plan to the Standing Committee at a meeting before COP15 for adoption.
14.110	Freshwater Fish	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are urged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote the sharing of data with other Range States and/or international bodies on transboundary freshwater migratory fish species, including current abundance, fish ecology and habitat degradation, especially for those species identified on national,

			<p>regional or global red listings;</p> <p>b) take actions with respect to hydroelectric dams to mitigate the effects of barriers in rivers, such as the creation of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the upper and lower floodplains that are important for the feeding and spawning cycles of wild migratory fish populations;</p> <p>c) take action to ensure ecological flow in fluvial ecosystems in order to ensure good conditions for the existing ecosystems and avoid the negative consequences on fisheries that they support;</p> <p>d) consider, taking into account the advice of the Scientific Council, developing a multispecies action plan based on minimizing the main threats to a group of species;</p> <p>e) work together with other Range States to propose the inclusion of additional threatened freshwater migratory fish species in the CMS Appendices; and</p> <p>f) promote awareness on the conservation status of CMS-listed freshwater fish.</p>
<p>14.111</p>		<p>Directed to non-governmental organizations</p>	<p>Non-governmental organizations are urged to:</p> <p>a) work closely with Range States to provide expertise and funding for the collection and sharing of data on transboundary freshwater migratory fish species, including current abundance, fish ecology and habitat degradation, especially for those species identified on national, regional or global red listings;</p> <p>b) provide expertise and funds to Range States to support their research and data sharing; and</p> <p>c) promote awareness on the conservation status of CMS-listed freshwater fish.</p>
<p>14.112</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <p>a) update the review of freshwater fish found in UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.33;</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) provide advice on the development of a multispecies action plan for freshwater fish to address the main threats to this group of species; and c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.
14.113		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Scientific Council in the development of the review outlined in Decision 14.112; b) provide technical support to Parties for the implementation of activities outlined in Decision 14.110; and c) develop and disseminate relevant guidelines and management tools as requested by Parties.
14.114	Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-Listing for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>)	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to provide to the CMS Secretariat information on their domestic and regional management measures for the oceanic whitetip shark by the 56 th Meeting of the Standing Committee, clarifying how they meet the objectives and obligations of the CMS Appendix I listing.
14.115		Directed to the Standing Committee	The Standing Committee is requested to review the compilation of information provided by the Secretariat in fulfilment of Decision 14.116, and to both report progress, and make recommendations for further action, to the Conference of the Parties at its 15 th meeting.
14.116		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) issue a notification to seek information from Parties in fulfilment of Decision 14.114; and b) collate the information provided by the Parties in response to Decision 14.114, and to transmit this information by 31 May 2024 to allow submission to the Standing Committee for review at its 56th meeting.
14.117	Chondrichthyan Species (Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras)	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to review their existing legislation and enact new legislation, as required, with a view to addressing the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species.

14.118		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall subject to the availability of resources and in the context of the National Legislation Programme: i. prepare legislative guidance materials and model laws, and ii. provide technical support to assist Parties in drafting adequate national legislation to support the implementation of Article III (5) of the Convention regarding the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species.
Avian Species			
14.119	Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)	Directed to Parties	Parties that are members of the MIKT are invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) periodically use the Scoreboard as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing the illegal killing of wild birds; and b) provide to the Secretariat, voluntarily and to the extent of availability and relevance of information for the indicators, the information requested in the Scoreboard, for the purposes of discussion within the MIKT and to facilitate the sharing of information and best practice among Parties.
14.120		Directed to Parties and Range States	Parties and Range States are invited to undertake national reviews of the production, sale, use and regulation of use of mist nets and other nets that are used for illegally trapping wild birds, as an input for the task directed to the Scientific Council on this matter.
14.121		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and others	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and others are encouraged to implement the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: <i>Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region</i> and the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025.
14.122		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council, subject to the availability of external resources, in liaison with the CMS Secretariat, and in conjunction with Decision 14.182 (a) <i>Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife</i> , is requested to undertake a scientific review on the scope and scale of illegal killing and taking of birds, as well as illegal trade of birds across sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia to enable Parties, policy instruments and NGOs to set appropriate priorities to address the issue.
14.123		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council, as far as possible in cooperation with the relevant bodies of other appropriate multilateral environmental agreements, and subject to the availability of resources, is requested to contribute as appropriate to a global situation analysis on production, sale, use and

			<p>regulation of the use of mist nets and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) compiling data on the global scale of the use of nets for killing, taking and trade of birds to support an assessment of the illegal component and impact on CMS-listed species; b) identifying where mist nets are produced and sold, including by building on information from existing ringing schemes such as EURING and similar schemes available in other regions; c) producing an overview of national legislation regulating production, sale, possession and use of mist nets and other sorts of nets used for bird trapping; d) produce guidance on undertaking national assessments of production, sale, use and regulation of mist nets and other nets used for trapping birds; e) produce guidance for governments and enforcement authorities on regulation of production and sale of mist nets and other nets used for bird trapping; and f) produce guidance on the legal aspects of trade of mist nets and other nets that can be used for illegal killing, taking and trade of birds for online retailers and other retailers.
<p>14.124</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) compile, in the intersessional period between the 14th and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the information provided by the Parties under Decision 14.119; and b) share that information with MIKT members for the purposes outlined in Decision 14.119 in the intersessional period between the 14th and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

14.125	Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force	Directed to Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and others	Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others are encouraged to: a) support the operations and the coordination of the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA); and b) contribute with relevant data and expertise on the Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds in their territories and cooperate in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA).
14.126	South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force	Directed to Parties and non-Parties	Parties are encouraged, and non-Parties are invited to: a) investigate current levels of illegal taking of migratory birds in this region and to actively contribute to the establishment and operation of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force; b) set up the structures required, for example through the elaboration of national action plans against the illegal taking of migratory birds, to ensure active collaboration between stakeholders to address this threat; and c) support the establishment, operations and coordination of the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force.
14.127		Directed to intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and others	Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others are invited to engage, as members or observers, in the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force and to contribute with relevant data and tools on the illegal taking of migratory birds in the South-West Asia region.
14.128		Directed to the Standing Committee	The Standing Committee is requested to approve Terms of Reference for the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force.
14.129		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, convene the South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force, in line with the Terms of Reference drafted by the Secretariat and approved by the Standing Committee.
14.130		Directed to Parties	Parties:

	<p>Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are urged to support the coordination of the activities needed for the implementation of the AEMLAP and the Working Group's Programme of Work, and for the organization of at least one meeting of the Working Group during the intersessional period between the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) and COP15; b) particularly those that are also Parties or Signatories to, or Range States of species covered by, the two other relevant CMS instruments – the Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) – are encouraged to support, as soon as possible, the timely implementation of the joint project on the assessment of the status of and the development of action plans for priority principal bird habitats along the African-Eurasian flyways; c) are encouraged to promote the use of satellite imagery in conjunction with on the ground habitat and bird monitoring, to better understand the impacts of land cover and land use change on African-Eurasian migrant birds, and the drivers of those impacts and avoid land use and land use change harmful to migratory birds; d) are encouraged to take note of relevant projects such as the Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas and the African Bird Atlas, and incorporate their findings into their species conservation and restoration policies for migratory landbirds; e) are encouraged to take note of the recent developments towards defining a new institutional framework under the CMS for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF), and ensure synergies are sought across Range States of both AEMLAP and CAF; f) are encouraged to assess the status, and contribute towards the development of action plans for priority bird species using the African-Eurasian flyways; g) are requested to report on progress in implementing the AEMLAP and integrating it into delivery against other relevant international
--	---	--	--

			<p>agreements, including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to COP15, via their National Reports, in order to achieve CMS objectives;</p> <p>h) are encouraged to significantly increase the area under biodiversity/migratory species friendly practices in agriculture and forestry; and</p> <p>i) are encouraged to promote nesting site detection in relevant agricultural areas to avoid their destruction and degradation.</p>
<p>14.131</p>		<p>Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations</p>	<p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:</p> <p>a) and particularly Parties as well as bilateral and multilateral donors, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Economic Community of West African States and other relevant international organizations, in the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15, are urged to engage in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the AEML WG, namely by facilitating the exchange of information on key species and habitats, in particular to tackle the barriers to sustainable land use and conservation of habitats in Africa, including the priorities for West Africa and Central Asia, and through the provision of technical assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity-building;</p> <p>b) are urged to support and cooperate on existing international approaches to retain and enhance tree cover (e.g., Bonn Challenge, Trillion Trees, Great Green Wall) and local aid and development projects around agriculture and forestry, through monitoring outcomes, enabling comparisons between sites and across years, where possible in properly designed experiments, to provide insights on interventions that can create win-win scenarios for birds as a proxy for biodiversity, for local communities in terms of socioeconomic benefits, and for land degradation neutrality and nature-based solutions, or that, at the least, can benefit birds without detriment to these other objectives; and</p> <p>c) are invited to promote the enrichment of vegetation cover (including,</p>

			but not limited to trees) through the use of native species and promotion of ecologically sustainable land management practices and wise use of water.
14.132		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue the Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds until COP15, extending its membership and incorporating expertise from geographical regions currently absent, to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, developing indicators to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work 2021-2026; b) work with the Migratory Landbird Study Group, relevant academic institutions, research-funders and the Working Group, to actively promote research that addresses key knowledge gaps relating to migratory landbird conservation in Eurasian landscapes, as outlined in paragraph 9 of Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP14) <i>Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)</i>; and c) provide support to the Working Group, its Steering Group and Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Working Group Programme of Work.
14.133		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote the importance of sustainable land use for migratory birds, and the specific practices and approaches outlined in the Programme of Work of the Working Group of the AEMLAP, together with relevant UN agencies and other international institutions, and seek opportunities for collaborative action to encourage sustainable land use for migratory species and people; b) work together with relevant United Nations agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders to organize a workshop on the integration of biodiversity requirements into land degradation neutrality delivery at appropriate scale; c) support discussion within the Preventing Poisoning Working Group concerning possible action to minimize the impact of agricultural pesticides on landbirds in line with the African-Eurasian Migratory

			<p>Landbirds Action Plan, as well as the delivery of the pesticide mandate under Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14); and</p> <p>d) organize, in the intersessional period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, a consultation meeting of Range States to discuss and agree possible options to improve implementation of the AEMLAP.</p>
14.134	Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <p>a) review, in light of the scientific evidence of the harms caused by lead ammunition to wildlife and the wider environment, the provisions and effectiveness of implementation of their legal instruments (legislation and policies) that regulate the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights, and modify these or introduce additional measures where necessary to restrict use of lead in ammunition and fishing weights;</p> <p>b) actively facilitate and support the development and availability of expanded product ranges of non-toxic alternative to lead ammunition and fishing weights, including through the innovative use of economic measures;</p> <p>c) implement ongoing national-level monitoring and collate and analyze information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance with any restrictions;</p> <p>d) collate national information on shooting activities, ammunition use across different areas and over time, and compliance; and map this information against at-risk migratory bird habitats to determine likely affected areas and scale of impacts;</p> <p>e) share this information with the Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force);</p> <p>f) take active measures to implement the recommendations set out in UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2 to substitute lead ammunition and fishing weights for non-toxic alternatives; and</p>

			g) enhance and continue efforts to prevent poisoning of migratory birds to contribute to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
14.135		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and others	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors are encouraged to nominate representatives to the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG), and provide financial support to the Secretariat for the organization of meetings of the PPWG and for the production of communication outputs linked to priority areas/flyways within the triennium 2024-2026.
14.136		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) appoint a Coordinator of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights (Lead Task Force) for the triennium 2024-2026, in collaboration with Parties and the PPWG, and convene the first meeting as early as possible after COP14; b) collate the information provided by Parties in response to Decision 14.134 through the Lead Task Force, and, based on this information, determine the efficacy of regulations, and develop guidance on the steps and procedures to adjust or develop legislation for a complete phase-out of the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing weights in all habitats, in line with the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2), and existing information on alternatives; c) support a discussion within the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group concerning possible action on minimising the impact of agricultural pesticides on landbirds in line with the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, as well as the delivery of the pesticide mandate under Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP14); d) organize regional workshops of the PPWG within the triennium 2024-2026 in high-risk areas/flyways, to promote the implementation of the Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.1.2 Annex 2) and to share best practices and lessons learned amongst its members and stakeholders; and

			e) report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its meeting before COP15 and to the COP15 itself on the progress in implementing these Decisions.
14.137	Flyways	Directed to Parties	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; and d) are urged to report progress in National Reports in implementing Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) <i>Flyways</i> , including monitoring the efficacy of measures taken, to the 15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15).
14.138		Directed to non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and others	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.
14.139		Directed to non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders in the Americas	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.
14.140		Directed to the Flyways Working Group	The Flyways Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Samarkand 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, and in coordination with regional flyway initiatives, develop guidance to aid Parties in identifying key priorities and major implementation gaps in their region to support implementation of Decision 14.137 (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) 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; f) facilitate a discussion amongst Parties, non-Party Range States, relevant regional mechanisms and stakeholders to explore opportunities for advancing a comprehensive seabird agenda, taking into account existing programmes of work; 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; and h) report progress to the Scientific Council.
--	--	--	---

<p>14.141</p>		<p>Directed to the Americas Flyways Task Force</p>	<p>The Americas Flyways Task Force shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review and update the Americas Flyways Framework, and the Action Plan for the Americas in line with the CMS Samarkand 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; and b) facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan for the Americas.
<p>14.142</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; and 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.
<p>14.143</p>	<p>Initiative for Central Asian Flyway</p>	<p>Directed to Parties, non-Party Range States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations of the Central Asian Flyway</p>	<p>Parties, non-Party Range States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations of the Central Asian Flyway are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide financial resources for the establishment and functioning of the Initiative for Central Asian Flyway (ICAF) Coordination Unit and for the Initiative for the Central Asian Flyway in the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15; and b) work in coordination with the Secretariat towards a meeting of the ICAF, members and the endorsement of a Programme of Work.

14.144	Action Plans for Birds	Directed to Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders	Parties and non-Parties, particularly those being Range States of the Indian Skimmer (<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>), together with relevant organizations and stakeholders, are encouraged to make rapid progress on the development of a proposal for listing the species under CMS Appendix I and a single species action plan and its implementation including further investigation of the status of the species for consideration at COP15.
14.145		Directed to Parties and non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders	Party and non-Party Range States of the Steppe Eagle (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>), together with relevant organizations and stakeholders, are encouraged to make rapid progress in the development of a Single Species Action Plan and its implementation, in particular in connection with the Central Asian Flyway Initiative under Resolution 14.13, including further investigation of the status of the species, and to report on progress and present options for future action under CMS for adoption at COP15, as appropriate.
14.146		Directed to the Standing Committee	Following consultation with the Scientific Council, the Standing Committee shall consider and adopt the Sooty Falcon Action Plan upon its finalization, in the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15.
14.147		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) bring the action plans to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, invite those Range States that are not yet Parties to ratify or accede to the Convention (or at least support the relevant action plan) and to report on the implementation of these action plans, and monitor the implementation of these action plans during the intersessional period up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15); and b) coordinate with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) regarding the implementation of the Action Plans for Baer's Pochard, the Christmas Island Frigatebird, the Far Eastern Curlew, the Dalmatian Pelican and the White-headed Duck and with the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the Action Plans of the Dalmatian Pelican and the White-headed Duck during the intersessional period up to COP15.
14.148	Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures	Directed to Parties, non-Party Range States, intergovernmental organizations and non-	<p>Parties, non-Party Range States and stakeholders are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop partnerships with anti-poaching initiatives and conservation groups concerned with poisoning of other taxonomic groups,

		governmental organizations	<p>including developing training courses, translating and disseminating examples of best practice, sharing protocols and regulations, transferring technology, and promoting the use of online tools to address specific issues that are relevant to the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan;</p> <p>b) actively engage with the Energy Task force, the CMS regional task forces on illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds and the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights;</p> <p>c) participate in the ongoing development of the Mid-term Review of the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan and take the findings into consideration while implementing the Action Plan;</p> <p>d) support the upcoming Mid-term Review of the Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan; and</p> <p>e) ensure the national implementation of the Vulture MsAP integrates the findings of the Mid-term Reviews into their (revised) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).</p>
14.149		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with information on the activities carried out towards the implementation of the Vulture MsAP in time for the Secretariat to report at the 15 th Conference of the Parties.
14.150		Directed to West African Parties and Range States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo)	<p>The West African Range States for White-backed vulture (<i>Gyps africanus</i>), Griffon vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>), Rüppell's vulture (<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>), Hooded vulture (<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>), Egyptian vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>), Lappet-faced vulture (<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>), and White-headed vulture (<i>Trionoceps occipitalis</i>) are urged to:</p> <p>a) ensure that national laws to protect vultures – in particular, all vulture species listed in Appendix I – are effectively enforced by sufficiently trained and equipped police forces, and ensure that penalties for non-compliance are effectively administered and sufficient to deter illegal activities;</p> <p>b) work with relevant experts and organizations and stakeholders for identifying and implementing demand reduction strategies for</p>

			<p>vultures and their parts and derivatives including for belief-based use and consumption and, where appropriate, expand the implementation of strategies that have been successful;</p> <p>c) work with relevant organizations to initiate wide-scale public awareness campaigns at regional, national and local levels about the impacts of belief-based use of body parts of vultures, including the importance of these species to ecology and human health, and existing national and international legislation that protects vultures; and</p> <p>d) provide information to the CMS Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision to assist it in reporting to the 15th meeting of the COP.</p>
14.151		Directed to West African Range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	<p>The West African Range States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:</p> <p>a) support the finalizations and implementation of the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan 2023-2043 and collaborate in the conservation and restoration of West African vultures;</p> <p>b) gather and exchange scientific knowledge and expertise on West African vultures, with a particular focus on: i) documenting the scale of vulture internal trade by surveying markets and identifying national trade routes; ii) characterizing links between poisoning and trade in vultures, and contributing to the African Wildlife Poison Database; and iii) updating the conservation and population status information of West African vultures, and White-backed Vultures (<i>Gyps africanus</i>), Rüppell's Vultures (<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>) and Lappet-faced Vultures (<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>) in particular.</p>
14.152		Directed to the Standing Committee	<p>Following consultation with the Scientific Council, the Standing Committee shall consider and adopt the West African Vulture Conservation Action Plan upon its finalization, in the intersessional period between COP14 and COP15.</p>
14.153		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to consider the West African Vultures Action Plan, if provided to the Scientific Council at the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council and recommend it to the Standing Committee for adoption.</p>

14.154		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall convey these Decisions to the secretariats of other multilateral environmental fora, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), seeking their support, contributions, cooperation and collaboration in the implementation of the Vulture Multispecies Action Plan, subject to the availability of resources.
14.155		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) operationalize the mandated Vulture Working Group and associated structures and facilitate continuation of the Vulture Coordination Team in the interim; b) liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) to assist in the implementation of the trade-related aspects of the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) 2017-2029, building on ongoing initiatives such as the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) and subject to external funding; c) subject to external funding, support the implementation of capacity-building activities aimed at providing support to the West African Range States in implementing the Vulture MsAP; d) in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, consider available conservation status information from the whole geographic range of the vulture species concerned for inclusion in the CITES Secretariat reporting to the Animals and Standing Committees; and e) subject to external funding, support the implementation of capacity-building activities aimed at providing support to the range States in implementing the Vulture MsAP.
14.156		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of these Decisions to the next Meeting of Signatories of the CMS Raptors Memorandum of Understanding and CMS COP15.
14.157		Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to participate in the review of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan during the coming triennium.

14.158	Saker Falcon (<i>Falco cherrug</i>) Global Action Plan (SAKERGAP)	Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council shall keep under review the work to implement the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan and to advise on the scientific principles and precedents involved, notably in relation to the adaptive management of the species and on the significance of data and information gaps in assessing the impact of electrocution on the viability of populations across the global range of the species.
14.159		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall convey Resolution 11.18 (Rev.COP14) to the secretariats of the other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular CITES, seeking their support and contributions to the implementation of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan.
14.160		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure coordination across CMS working groups and task forces and those of AEWA, especially in relation to the adaptive management of species and in relation to the assessment of the impact of electrocution on species populations; b) organize regional workshops of the Saker Falcon Task Force within the triennium 2024-2026 in the breeding range, to promote the implementation of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP); and c) review and update the SakerGAP.
Terrestrial Species			
14.161	Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative	Directed to Party and non-Party Range States to the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative	Parties and non-Parties that are Range States to the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) are requested to review and extend the Programme of Work (POW), and thereby ensure the further implementation of the POW and Resolution 13.4.
14.162		Directed to Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe	Botswana and Namibia are invited, and Zimbabwe is requested to supply, by the end of the second quarter of 2024, data and information on the conservation status of their Cheetah populations to the CMS Secretariat for review and consideration by the 7 th meeting of its Sessional Committee.
14.163		Directed to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the ACI, its POW and the Range States meeting.
14.164		Directed to the Standing Committee	The Standing Committee is requested to consider the recommendations emanating from the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council as per Decision 14.165 and approve or reject the recommendations.

<p>14.165</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) at the 7th meeting of its Sessional Committee and in collaboration with the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, discuss the information provided to the Secretariat in response to Decision 14.162 and the report on the <i>Conservation status of the Cheetah populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe and considerations for listing on CMS appendices</i>; and b) provide recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 56th or 57th meeting.
<p>14.166</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support Range States with the implementation of the ACI POW, specifically the results and activities prioritized by the Range States at their second meeting and set out in CITES-CMS/ACI2/Outcomes; and b) in close cooperation with the Secretariat of CITES, convene an ACI Range State meeting in 2025 to support Range States with the implementation of Decision 14.161.
<p>14.167</p>	<p>Central Asian Mammals Initiative</p>	<p>Directed to Parties</p>	<p>Parties that are CAMI Range States are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the reports, 'Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative' and 'Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management of CAMI Species', to be shared by the Secretariat; b) enhance transboundary cooperation in hotspot areas, as identified by the study, 'Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative'; c) consider adding species newly listed on CMS to CAMI, if they share similar threats and habitats with existing CAMI species and, if needed, propose respective modifications to the current CAMI POW for consideration by the 3rd Meeting of CAMI Range States; d) revise, for adoption by COP15, the CAMI POW for the period 2027-

			<p>2032, with the aim of streamlining its actions to focus on cross-cutting activities that benefit multiple species and to reflect updated CMS mandates relevant to the region, in alignment with Parties' commitments to the Global Biodiversity Framework, ensuring that emerging threats such as climate change are understood and included; and</p> <p>e) develop, in cooperation with the CMS Secretariat, and implement a strategy or other actions to promote the use of the various reports and other guidance materials developed under CAMI in relevant organizations, entities and processes.</p>
14.168		Directed to the Scientific Council	Party-appointed Councillors from the CAMI Region are requested to present the study 'Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative' and actions taken to promote conservation of selected transboundary hotspots to the Scientific Council at the next meeting of the Sessional Committee.
14.169		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <p>a) evaluate the methodology and findings of the study, 'Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative', and consider applying them to other regions; and</p> <p>b) considering paragraph 11 of Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP13) and building on Decision 14.167 (e), advise on relevant forums and dissemination mechanisms to promote the visibility of the findings and recommendations of the study 'Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative'.</p>
14.170		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) support Parties in implementing Decision 14.167;</p> <p>b) subject to the availability of external resources, translate the studies, 'Transboundary Conservation Hotspots for the Central Asian Mammals Initiative' and 'Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management of CAMI Species', into Russian to facilitate their review and endorsement by the concerned Range State Parties;</p> <p>c) share both studies with the Range State Parties for comment, integrate their feedback and make them publicly available;</p>

			<p>d) subject to availability of external resources, support the effort of the Government of Uzbekistan to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study, including restoration of the prey base, habitat suitability and extension of space available for cheetahs by providing capacity-building and support to fundraising efforts on the reintroduction of cheetah in Uzbekistan using cheetahs and prey base from appropriate sources; and</p> <p>e) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</p>
14.171	Conservation of the African Wild Ass (<i>Equus africanus</i>)	Directed to Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan	Djibouti, Egypt, and Somalia, as former Range States, are requested and Sudan is invited to conduct research into whether naturally occurring extant populations of African Wild Ass remain in their territories, as set out in the <i>Road Map for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass (Equus africanus) 2017 – 2027</i> , and to report findings to the 15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
14.172		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, support confirmed and former Range States with the implementation of the Road Map.
14.173	CMS Jaguar Initiative	Directed to the Jaguar Range States	Parties are requested, and non-Parties are invited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to collaborate with the CMS and CITES Secretariats in preparing a Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work; b) to participate in a Range State meeting to discuss and agree upon the Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work; and c) to report to the Standing Committee at its 56th meeting on the progress toward implementing this Decision.
14.174		Directed to Parties	Parties that are Jaguar Range States are requested to invite non-Party Range States to consider joining the Initiative, using the Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work as a harmonizing document.
14.175		Directed to Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Parties, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide financial/technical support to prepare a Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work and hold a meeting of the Range States; and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) coordinate and align efforts of this Initiative with those related to Jaguars under frameworks such as the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap, national jaguar action plans and others, conventions such as CITES and CBD, and others.
14.176		Directed to the Standing Committee	<p>The Standing Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review and approve the Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work submitted by the Secretariat; and b) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on progress toward implementing this Decision.
14.177		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review and advise on the Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work proposed for the Jaguar; b) provide available information to the Initiative in support of the coordinated approach to improve knowledge; and c) report to the Standing Committee at its 56th meeting on progress towards implementation of this decision.
14.178		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to funding availability,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prepare, in close collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap's Coordination Committee, along with the Jaguar Range State Parties, and other relevant actors, a draft Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work, aligned with the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap and all National Jaguar Action Plans; b) organize a Range State meeting in close collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and with the support of the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap's Coordination Committee to discuss and agree upon the draft Joint CITES-CMS Programme of Work for the conservation of the Jaguar; and c) submit the Programme of Work for approval to the CMS Standing Committee.

<p>14.179</p>	<p>Pastoralism and Migratory Species</p>	<p>Directed to Parties</p>	<p>Parties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) invited to carry out studies at the national level to assess the impact of transhumance on biodiversity, well-being, and the risk of zoonotic disease emergence at the human/wildlife/livestock interface; and b) requested to submit to the Secretariat information on these studies and national measures for rangeland management and pastoralism and share information on challenges, lessons learned and needs for further capacity development.
<p>14.180</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to establish a multi-stakeholder Working Group on pastoralism and CMS-listed species, composed of stakeholders with experience and knowledge on managing rangelands, pastoralism and wildlife. The Working Group is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) analyze available information relevant to pastoralism, the impact of transhumance on biodiversity, well-being, and the risk of zoonotic disease emergence at the human/wildlife/livestock interface; and potential impacts on CMS-listed species, including existing models and best practice case studies and the compilation of responses received by the Secretariat under Decision 14.179; and b) provide recommendations to support Parties in addressing the impact of pastoralism on CMS-listed species and in realizing the potential benefits to ecosystem health and resilience associated with the holistic management of rangelands and migratory species including soil restoration and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
<p>14.181</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request Parties to submit information on national measures for rangeland management and pastoralism and share information on challenges, lessons learned and needs for further capacity development; b) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 14.180 (a); c) convene at least one meeting of the Working Group established by the Scientific Council under Decision 14.180;

			<p>d) participate in and provide inputs to the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Working Group on Rangelands and Biodiversity;</p> <p>e) liaise with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its relevant Conventions, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and other relevant international and regional organizations, multilateral environmental agreements, development agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, as appropriate, to support the operation of the Working Group and to assist Parties in addressing the impacts of pastoralism on CMS-listed species such as through joint capacity-development activities; and</p> <p>f) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the recommendations of the Scientific Council and progress in implementing this decision.</p>
Crosscutting Conservation Issues			
14.182	Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <p>a) undertake efforts to identify the extent and drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species within their jurisdiction, including for use and sale of aquatic, avian and terrestrial wild meat;</p> <p>b) assess and, as needed, amend or adopt legislation, regulations and permitting measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention, including with respect to the taking of species listed in Appendices I and II;</p> <p>c) participate in the CMS National Legislation Programme;</p> <p>d) strengthen awareness and cooperation with relevant national agencies to address wildlife trafficking and to monitor trade in specimens of species not currently listed in CITES Appendices;</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) improve enforcement of legislation, regulations and other measures related to taking of migratory species, and strengthen the capacity of enforcement, prosecutorial, judiciary and conservation management personnel through training on wildlife crime and offences and integrating such training into the national curricula of relevant training academies/schools where possible; f) implement environmental education programmes to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of migratory species, and of laws concerning them; g) increase engagement of local communities in addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species; h) pursue other policies, initiatives and activities to address the direct and indirect drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking; i) collaborate with other Parties, relevant regional bodies such as regional fisheries management organizations and stakeholders to develop international and regional action approaches and plans for addressing illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species; j) provide support for implementation of Decision 14.185, and cooperate with the Secretariat in implementing Decision 14.185 (b) - (d); and k) include updates on the implementation of this Decision and Resolution 11.31 (Rev.COP14) in their national reports to be submitted in advance of the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting.
<p>14.183</p>		<p>Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations</p>	<p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) collaborate with the Secretariat and Parties in the implementation of activities set out in Decision 14.185 (b) – (c); b) support Range State Parties to effectively address the direct and indirect drivers of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, including through provision of technical support and

			<p>expertise;</p> <p>c) provide recommendations to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting; and</p> <p>d) implement the elements of the ACI Programme of Work directed to illegal and unsustainable taking, in accordance with the priorities set by the Range States.</p>
14.184		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</p> <p>a) review the analysis commissioned by the Secretariat at the 7th or 8th meeting of its Sessional Committee and provide recommendations on further measures to be taken by Parties and other stakeholders to address the illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species for consideration by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>b) establish a Working Group on the taking of migratory species for various uses, taking into account ongoing work under the Convention;</p> <p>c) consider the need to modify the terms of reference of any existing Working Groups to effectively address the issues of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species; and</p> <p>d) provide recommendations to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting.</p>
14.185		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) review the various activities and programmes addressing illegal and unsustainable taking established under CMS and its Agreements to identify aspects that can be implemented in a cross-cutting and more coordinated manner; such as the development of guidance on the use of adaptive harvest management to ensure that any take of migratory species is sustainable;</p> <p>b) subject to the availability of external resources, undertake an analysis on:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the main drivers and scale of illegal and unsustainable take of species listed in CMS Appendices I and II, based on comparable and collatable data; ii. the impacts of illegal and unsustainable take on the conservation status of such species, including cumulative impacts on species at the migration range and population level; and the consequences of these impacts on affected ecosystems and the services they provide; iii. measures used by Parties, non-Parties and relevant international and regional organizations such as CITES and RFMOs aimed at ensuring that taking of wildlife is legal and sustainable, with a view to identifying case studies of effective practices; and iv. priorities for increasing capacity of Parties for monitoring and enforcement of national legislation and regulations and other measures pertaining to the taking of migratory species; <p>c) subject to the availability of external resources, support efforts to address illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species, in collaboration with relevant entities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. facilitating educational and capacity building activities for Parties; ii. mobilizing projects and initiatives aimed at developing effective measures for Parties and stakeholders to address illegal and unsustainable taking; and iii. engagement with local communities; <p>d) raise awareness of the issue of illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species among Parties and stakeholders and within regional and global forums;</p> <p>e) collaborate with partners, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the United Nations</p>
--	--	--	--

			<p>Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as relevant non-governmental organizations, on the implementation of these Decisions;</p> <p>f) continue strengthening collaboration with relevant organizations and stakeholders such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), in order to address illegal trade of wildlife specimens and to strengthen monitoring of trade in specimens of CMS-listed species not currently listed in CITES Appendices; and</p> <p>g) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</p>
14.186	Aquatic Wild Meat	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <p>a) provide technical and capacity-building support to Range States of the Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa for the implementation of activities outlined in the Action Plan, as well as support as required to the activities of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group; and</p> <p>b) consider the development of action plans to reduce aquatic wild meat hunting and consumption in East, South-East, and South Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands Region.</p>
14.187		Directed to the Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group	<p>The Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, is requested to:</p> <p>a) develop criteria for considering if some Appendix II-listed sharks and rays should be included within the scope of the Working Group;</p> <p>b) collect and present information about seabird harvests as aquatic wild meat in collaboration with the Task Forces on illegal take established by Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14);</p> <p>c) collaborate with the relevant IUCN Specialist Groups to present a case to the Scientific Council for the assessment of the migratory nature of crocodylians (Genera: Gavialis, Crocodylus, Mecistops, Caiman, Melanosuchus) and freshwater chelonians, and the relevance of CMS to their conservation and management, including</p>

			<p>whether or not they may fit the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices;</p> <p>d) support, as capacity allows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. studies of the human dimensions of aquatic wild meat use, which are critical for designing effective conservation and management programmes that favour sustainable over unsustainable uses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contemporary and historical socio-cultural aspects of harvesting and consuming aquatic wild meat, including the role of taboo systems, to provide insights or management measures that can be respectful of the cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities; • the drivers of the harvest and consumption of aquatic wild meat; • the nutritional roles aquatic wild meat provides, the strengths and weaknesses of alternatives, and the health risks from both; • food security and safety of aquatic wild meat use; ii. increased quantitative assessments of consumption and trade in aquatic wild meat to better understand demand and trade pathways; iii. increased efforts to assess the efficacy of existing legislation with regard to specific aquatic wild meat uses, and the degree to which enforcement capacity alone can address unsustainable aquatic wild meat harvests; iv. implementation of environmental education programmes to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of migratory megafauna, and laws concerning them; v. analysis of the extent of discard cases and their impact on the availability of aquatic wild meat; <p>e) encourage the establishment of networks of appropriate experts to foster collaborative efforts to develop regional action plans for reducing unsustainable aquatic wild meat harvests; and</p> <p>f) ensure dissemination of information on its work on aquatic wild meat and the resulting recommendations by:</p>
--	--	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sharing information with the International Whaling Commission and participating in future Small Cetacean Subcommittee meetings with a focus on aquatic wild meat; ii. continuing to provide advice to the CMS Secretariat to input to the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management; iii. extending collaboration to include COMFAUNA, CIMFAUNA, the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, and the WILDMEAT Project; iv. supporting efforts for coordination between CMS and CITES for improved regulation and sustainable management of trade in aquatic wild meat species; v. publishing consolidated papers in their individual expert capacity about aquatic wild meat harvests, and drawing these to the attention of the Scientific Council.
14.188		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the recommendations of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group submitted to the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee and address any matters requiring broader Scientific Council attention; and b) consider the recommendations of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group submitted to the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee, and provide advice to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
14.189		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consult with the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the Scientific Council regarding information that should be shared with other international forums, such as the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and CITES; and b) support the work of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group.
14.190	Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties that are Range States to the Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as a matter of priority, address actions marked for immediate implementation, and those for delivery by 2025 and 2026;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) set up the structures required, for example through the formation of national working groups, to ensure active collaboration between stakeholders within each range country to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise; and c) provide a brief report on the implementation of the Action Plan in time for the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) using a template provided by the Secretariat.
14.191		Directed to the Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group	<p>The Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the Secretariat in the development of a simple reporting template designed to gather basic information on the implementation of the Action Plan; b) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Action Plan and prepare a brief summary and analysis; and c) make recommendations on the further implementation of the Action Plan at the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15.
14.192		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as the summary and analysis and the resulting recommendations of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group; and b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.
14.193		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall develop a simple reporting form in collaboration with the Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, enabling assessment of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan, and disseminate this to Parties that are Range States to the Action Plan to enable reporting sufficiently in advance of the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15.</p>
14.194	Ecological Connectivity	Directed to Parties	Parties are invited to:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) include connectivity in the implementation of other relevant international agreements, and in Spatial Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, notably its Targets 1, 2, 3 and 12, and operationalize a strengthened regime of indicators on connectivity in that context; b) provide support for the implementation of Resolution 14.16 <i>Ecological Connectivity</i> and for the activities called for in Decisions 14.195 and 14.196 and their outcomes; and c) report on actions undertaken in line with (a) and (b) in the National Report to be submitted to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
<p>14.195</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to work on the following tasks for enhancing the scientific understanding of connectivity issues in relation to migratory species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the results of its survey of existing major databases that may support relevant analyses and syntheses of information on connectivity, and identify options inter alia for ensuring sustainability and enhanced operability and coordination of such databases for this purpose; b) investigate options and develop proposals for creating relevant data and knowledge holding capabilities and for enhancing analysis capabilities under the auspices of the CMS, in collaboration with suitably qualified institutions and processes; c) produce a synthesis of collated information on the linkages between migratory species connectivity and ecosystem integrity and resilience; d) having regard in particular to the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, assess the needs and develop focused objectives for new research on key connectivity issues, including but not limited to climate change, which affect the conservation status of each of the major taxonomic groups of migratory wild animals covered by CMS

			<p>in each of the world's major land and oceanic regions, and produce a report on the findings of this assessment prior to the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties;</p> <p>e) provide recommendations concerning any additional guidance that may be needed within the framework of the CMS on assessing threats to migratory species connectivity in particular priority situations identified by the work described in sub-paragraph (d) above; and</p> <p>f) make further recommendations as appropriate arising from the work described in this Decision.</p>
14.196		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, shall:</p> <p>a) drawing on the most appropriate data sources and with the advice of the Scientific Council, identify the habitats, areas, corridors and networked sites that are of greatest global importance for the conservation of migratory species including through modules of the CMS Atlas on Animal Migration;</p> <p>b) support Parties in implementing Resolution 14.16 <i>Ecological Connectivity</i> by providing specific guidance for further improving the effective application of measures for addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species through national laws, policies and plans, including Spatial Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and through international cooperation;</p> <p>c) engage in the CBD-led partnership promoting area-based conservation measures with a view to contributing to the achievement of Target 3 and other related targets notably Targets 1 and 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and</p> <p>d) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 14.195.</p>
14.197	Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties that are members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) are invited to:</p> <p>a) consider testing, as appropriate, the UNEP-WCMC pilot Transboundary tool (the 'Tool') to identify potential opportunities for</p>

			<p>transboundary conservation using data from the World Database on Protected Areas and the World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas; and</p> <p>b) consider reporting through the Secretariat to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 7th and/or 8th meeting on the potential opportunities for identifying transboundary conservation areas, as well as the functionality and usefulness of the Tool in supporting Parties to identify these.</p>
14.198		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to review the usefulness of the Tool based on the reports submitted by Parties through the Secretariat, in line with Decisions 14.197 (b) and 14.199 (b), and make appropriate recommendations to the Secretariat and Parties on its further use and to help identify improvements that should be incorporated into the Tool and to inform the future expansion of the Tool.
14.199		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <p>a) in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and other partners, raise awareness of the Tool among Parties mentioned in Decision 14.197;</p> <p>b) request Parties referred to in Decision 14.197 to consider sharing feedback on the functionality and usefulness of the Tool in identifying potential opportunities for transboundary conservation, and submit a report on the feedback received to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 7th and/or 8th meeting; and</p> <p>c) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing these Decisions.</p>
14.200	Communities and Livelihoods	Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) publish the case studies contained in Section 10 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.2.3 on the CMS website; and</p> <p>b) report to the Standing Committee at its 56th or 57th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</p>
14.201	Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <p>a) submit tracking and tagging data of CMS-listed species, including</p>

			<p>data resulting from public and private research and monitoring to publicly accessible databases, as identified by the Scientific Council in line with Decision 14.202 (d);</p> <p>b) submit spatial data on existing, planned and foreseen linear infrastructure, including data held by multilateral development banks, bilateral donors, private investors and development finance institutions to publicly accessible databases identified by the Secretariat;</p> <p>c) identify opportunities for mitigation of barriers to migration, mortality hotspots and bottlenecks caused by existing linear infrastructure;</p> <p>d) identify, in collaboration with experts, border fences and walls that pose significant threats to migratory species, and facilitate dialogue among Parties, with support of the Secretariat, on mitigating their effects;</p> <p>e) identify actions to plan and project new linear infrastructure using the green infrastructure approach, and taking into account ecological connectivity and ecological restoration; and</p> <p>f) promote the participation of infrastructure companies in national and regional Business and Biodiversity initiatives and encourage the contribution of these initiatives to the CBD's Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.</p>
<p>14.202</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to establish a working group, consisting of experts identified in cooperation with the Secretariat, to advise the Scientific Council and Secretariat on issues of infrastructure and migratory species, including to:</p> <p>a) provide advice on possible actions that could be taken to address the impacts of dams and urban sprawl and development on CMS-listed species;</p> <p>b) assess whether current methodologies and criteria for the definition of "critical habitat", as used by financial institutions and the impact assessment community, are an appropriate trigger to undertake further assessment on risks to and impacts on migratory species and</p>

			<p>their habitats; and if these methodologies and criteria are deemed not appropriate, make proposals on how they can be improved, including actions to ensure ecological connectivity and restoration;</p> <p>c) assess whether current best practice strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment methodologies, including the preparation of environmental/biodiversity management plans, sufficiently address the impact linear infrastructure projects have on migratory species throughout the infrastructure’s lifecycle;</p> <p>d) develop guidance, based on the above assessments, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the scoping process which includes migratory species in the tasks and scope of investigations; ii. scientifically robust and cost-effective means of monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the effectiveness of mitigation measures in linear infrastructure developments; and <p>e) identify reliable data on and databases containing the movements, habitats and occurrence of CMS-listed species as a body of knowledge in support of planning, assessment and decision-making, and, with the support of the Secretariat, establish relationships with institutions holding that data;</p>
<p>14.203</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) include in its communication strategy engagement with the financial and infrastructure-related sectors;</p> <p>b) subject to the availability of external resources, organize regional and national workshops to raise the awareness and increase the capacity of government representatives who are working in sectors concerned with linear infrastructure development of the needs and requirements of migratory species, in close collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders, multilateral development banks, bilateral development banks, donors and other organizations and institutions that are involved in linear infrastructure development;</p> <p>c) develop and circulate among Parties a questionnaire on the</p>

			<p>availability of data on migratory species and linear infrastructure and repositories of this data, and report the results to the Scientific Council;</p> <p>d) identify databases for spatial data on existing and planned linear infrastructure in cooperation with relevant experts;</p> <p>e) establish an online library of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. existing databases on the movements, habitats, and presence and absence of migratory species, such as Movebank, EURING and IBAT and those identified by the Scientific Council, ii. guidelines, and iii. learning resources; <p>f) review the implementation of <i>Guidelines for Addressing the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Large Migratory Mammals in Central Asia</i> by Parties and update the Guidelines on the basis of the lessons learned from their review and other sources;</p> <p>g) develop guidelines for preparing and using ecological connectivity plans as tools for migratory species conservation;</p> <p>h) subject to the availability of external resources, develop and circulate among Parties impact assessment (including strategic environmental assessment) screening guidelines, taking into consideration existing regional or national tools, including requirements of migratory species, ecological connectivity and ecological restoration in linear infrastructure development, as guidance materials for the implementation of CMS Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP14) <i>Impact Assessment and Migratory Species</i>;</p> <p>i) subject to the availability of external resources, develop guidelines, including checklists, on the impact of infrastructure sectors (e.g., transport, energy, water) on migratory species for all geographic regions on the basis of the lessons learned from the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) infrastructure guidelines review and other sources; and translate CMS guidelines into national languages;</p>
--	--	--	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) compile available information, in cooperation with partners, on the effectiveness of CMS-listed species-specific mitigation solutions, including lessons learned, for landscapes and types of barriers in the CAMI region and beyond; and identify those species that need further analysis/research; k) subject to the availability of external resources, update the Central Asian Mammals Migration and Linear Infrastructure Atlas (CAMI Atlas) through improving resolutions and making the maps more user-friendly and accessible online; updating range delineation and linear infrastructure information, where necessary; and extending it to include all CAMI species and countries; and l) subject to the availability of external resources, include in its communication programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. development of fact sheets and policy briefs based on CMS guidance materials; and ii. visualization of species distribution, and existing and planned infrastructure extracted from interactive online tools (including the CAMI Atlas and Bird Migration Atlas).
14.204	Impact Assessment and Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) through the Secretariat, inform the Scientific Council at the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee about national policies regarding cumulative effects assessments from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), including any experiences and lessons learned, as well as indicating whether there is a need for guidance on cumulative effects assessments for marine mammals; and b) if a need for guidance on cumulative effects assessments for marine mammals is identified, support the Secretariat in securing the external expertise required to develop it.
14.205		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to consider the information submitted by Parties regarding the application of cumulative effects assessments and the need for further guidance, to prepare a report on how such assessments are undertaken and the relevance for migratory species conservation, and to develop

			guidance on cumulative effects assessments for marine mammals if required, with a view to presenting any outputs to the 15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
14.206		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request information from Parties about national policies regarding cumulative effects assessments, including any experiences and lessons learned, as well as indicating whether there is a need for guidance on cumulative effects assessments for marine mammals, in time for consideration by the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council; and b) support the development of the report on cumulative effects assessments and of guidance, as required.
14.207	Renewable Energy and Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) requested to integrate biodiversity and migratory species conservation needs into national energy and climate policy and action plans, land and maritime spatial planning and legislation and regulations on siting of new energy infrastructure with the aim of avoiding negative impacts on migratory species, and aligned with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; b) encouraged to support an evidence-based renewable energy mix in the design and implementation of renewable energy policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Energy and Climate Plans, and integrate Strategic Environmental Assessments and sensitivity mapping for migratory species, especially for those protected at national or international level into decision-making processes for climate targets and into land and maritime spatial planning; c) invited to provide to the Energy Task Force and the Secretariat information and indicators that have been integrated into national climate action plans and NDCs; d) requested to report to COP15 on the above activities in their National Reports; and

			<p>e) recommended to take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable the energy sector to regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity along their operations, supply and value chains, in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.</p>
14.208		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-government organizations, and others	Parties, including their representatives from both environment and energy ministries and authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to support the implementation of the Energy Task Force Workplan and the ongoing operations of the Energy Task Force.
14.209		Directed to the Energy Task Force	<p>The Energy Task Force is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <p>a) review tools and provide guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments on migratory species across flyways and throughout species' ranges, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction; this includes standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects, and a review of existing tools, such as AVISTEP;</p> <p>b) produce guidance on the format and scope of a database on CMS Appendix I species mortality caused by renewable energy developments;</p> <p>c) coordinate the collation of mortality data for birds and bats with other CMS task forces working on similar initiatives, such as the CMS Saker Falcon Task Force, the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the CMS Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force;</p> <p>d) gather information on the risks, and negative impacts on migratory species of the energy sector along their operations, supply and value chains, in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on</p>

			<p>biodiversity, increase positive impacts and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production;</p> <p>e) expand the scope of the ETF to include consideration to the Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) as well as the impacts on cetaceans of offshore renewable energy;</p> <p>f) engage with the corporate and international financial sector to support the integration of best practices and mainstreaming of migratory species into industry policies and safeguards; and</p> <p>g) encourage the international donor community to mainstream biodiversity into funding strategies related to the transition to renewable energy.</p>
14.210		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:</p> <p>a) include in its communication strategy the guidance and tools produced by the ETF, as well as the engagement with IFIs and the full range of renewable energy agents;</p> <p>b) support the ETF and ensure its membership is increased and its scope regularly reviewed to address all potential threats from renewable energy infrastructure to migratory species;</p> <p>c) seek partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention against Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other relevant entities, to expand the role and awareness of the ETF and the implementation of safeguards, spatial planning tools and guidance to avoid the negative impacts on migratory species of renewable energy infrastructure; and</p> <p>d) support the organization of ETF workshops to raise the awareness and increase the capacity of government representatives who are working in the areas of renewable energy and migratory species.</p>
14.211	Climate Change and Migratory Species	Directed to Parties	Parties are requested to:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) incorporate the impacts of climate change on migratory species and the opportunities for conserving migratory species by enhancing actions to address climate change when developing, <i>inter alia</i>, national climate change strategies, national adaptation plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, designating/implementing Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures and other habitat protections including through the consideration of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches; b) implement actions to address the effects of climate change on migratory species and their habitats as identified in Annex 1 of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) appropriate to national circumstances; c) develop and implement adaptation plans for migratory species based on the framework outlined in Annex 2 of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14), recognizing that different conservation actions may be needed in different parts of a species' life-cycle, in marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments, and that the appropriate actions may change as climate change progresses; d) place increased emphasis on the need for international co-operation and concerted action to maintain and improve the connectivity of migration routes, for example by addressing the multiple threats that species face as a result of being migratory, and by considering potential/probable changes in migration routes in response to climate change; e) include the implications of extreme weather events on migratory species in their human-related contingency planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and f) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision through the provision of case studies, and via their National Reports.
--	--	--	--

<p>14.212</p>		<p>Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations</p>	<p>Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider and use the framework outlined in Annex 2 of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14); b) provide financial resources and/or in-kind support to allow the Scientific Council to convene an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change; and c) provide the Secretariat, at least six months in advance of COP15, with case studies of climate change adaptation and nature recovery including on the use of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, that may help Parties to implement the framework in real-world scenarios.
<p>14.213</p>		<p>Directed to the Standing Committee</p>	<p>The Standing Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review/amend the National Report format to capture Parties' responses to Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) and the climate change-related Decisions agreed at COP14; and b) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.
<p>14.214</p>		<p>Directed to the Scientific Council</p>	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) re-establish its Climate Change Working Group for the next triennium and develop Terms of Reference for the Working Group according to the rules of procedure of the Scientific Council; b) identify those migratory species that, on balance, are likely to be negatively impacted by climate change, especially those that are likely to need human-mediated interventions, such as translocations, to moderate the impact of climate change; c) identify species that have a high probability of changing their migration routes as a result of climate change and the connectivity options available to them;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) identify further case studies of the role of migratory species in maintaining and enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation (and other related ecosystem services) and develop resources for Parties to promote greater understanding of the provision of ecosystem services by migratory species; e) propose measures to help facilitate migratory species' range changes; f) provide advice on possible interventions, including nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, in relation to conserving migratory species habitats, including maintaining or enhancing connectivity and ecosystem integrity; g) provide advice on how work under CMS on climate change could interact with implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including, but not limited to, area-based conservation measures, connectivity and restoration, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC; h) develop an interpretation of the term "barrier", so that there is consistency in the obligation to remove barriers to migratory species; i) convene an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change to facilitate implementation of the actions above, and provide support to Party implementation of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14); and j) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.
<p>14.215</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat and the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change</p>	<p>The Secretariat and the COP-appointed Councillor for Climate Change, subject to the availability of external resources, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) engage with other MEAs, including in particular the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

			<p>at relevant meetings, to provide information about the impact of climate change on migratory species, and the ways in which the conservation of migratory species can enhance nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches so that they can be part of the solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, leading to win-win results;</p> <p>b) promote knowledge exchange between relevant authorities about the impacts of climate change on migratory species including changes in Range State status that may occur, and the benefits of conservation of migratory species for enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation;</p> <p>c) propose revisions to the National Report format for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 56th and/or 57th Meeting;</p> <p>d) support the Scientific Council in convening an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change; and</p> <p>e) report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its meetings before COP15, and to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting, on the progress in implementing this Decision.</p>
14.216	Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations	Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to consider and, as appropriate, to provide recommendations to COP15 on:</p> <p>a) the findings of the report “Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations”;</p> <p>b) prioritizing the main factors causing the established loss of insect biomass;</p> <p>c) collecting additional relevant information regarding the current insect decline, and assessing its cascading effects on migratory insectivorous animal species, including the role of insects in connectivity; and</p> <p>d) developing guidelines for the prioritized actions identified.</p>
14.217		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) disseminate the report on “Insect Decline and its Threat to Migratory Insectivorous Animal Populations” to relevant stakeholders, and raise awareness of its findings and recommendations in appropriate forums; and b) support the Scientific Council in reviewing the findings and recommendations of the report and in implementing any follow-up actions as part of its programme of work.
14.218	Wildlife Health	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) take note of the Migratory Species and Health Review and implement its key recommendations; and b) engage with WHO in the ongoing development of a new instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and encourage the incorporation of the key elements of operative paragraph 12 and other key elements of the operative section of Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP14) into the instrument.
14.219		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested to provide any recommendations on issues related to migratory species and health, as appropriate, to COP15, noting the establishment of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health (Terms of Reference are contained in the document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 11) and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.
14.220		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) engage with WHO regarding the development of an instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response; b) organize an online meeting of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to set up their work programmes; and c) provide support for implementation of the work programmes of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild

			Birds, including commissioning studies or organizing workshops, as appropriate.
14.221	CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species	Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to consider the issues under Decision 14.222 in the 7 th or 8 th meeting of the Sessional Committee, including possible new evidence of impacts and developments concerning mitigation methods, and provide recommendations to COP15 and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 14.222.
14.222		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) subject to the availability of resources, consider the preparation of additional annexes to the <i>CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species</i> for adoption by COP15 on how to effectively avoid and mitigate the indirect and direct negative effects of light pollution for those taxa not yet in the focus of the guidelines, such as fish, taking also into account other existing guidance as relevant; b) disseminate the <i>CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species</i> widely, including to other multilateral environment agreements, regional agreements and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, Parties and other stakeholders; and c) subject to the availability of resources, support Parties and stakeholders in implementing the <i>CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species</i>, through webinars or other activities.
14.223	Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) fully support the negotiations for a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution currently ongoing in response to UNEP/EA.5/Res.14 <i>End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument</i>, with the ambition to complete them by the end of 2024, by raising issues associated with plastic pollution of importance to migratory species and identify locally appropriate solutions, striving to ensure that communities actively participate, taking into account relevant provisions of CMS Resolution 12.20 <i>Management of Marine Debris</i> and the recommendations of the report, <i>Impacts of Plastic Pollution</i>

			<p><i>on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region;</i></p> <p>b) disseminate the findings of the report, <i>Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region</i>, within their Governments and among other stakeholders, and take steps to address the conclusions;</p> <p>c) engage with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, in line with the recommendation contained in Resolution 12.20, implement strategies to increase gear traceability through the implementation of fishing gear marking schemes in line with the FAO voluntary guidelines and participate in the ongoing FAO global assessment of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG);</p> <p>d) encourage further research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders on the impact of plastic pollution, including plastics of all sizes and materials, on marine, freshwater and terrestrial CMS-listed species with a view to providing clear recommendations; and</p> <p>e) develop, in collaboration with relevant agencies, a harmonised standard and guidance relating to the circular design of fishing gears in order to prepare for their re-use, repair or recycling, and sharing best practices, including in relation to the collection of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears.</p>
14.224		Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to identify and mobilize resources to support activities and initiatives to prevent and mitigate plastic pollution, including actions towards combating and removing accumulated marine debris and supporting upstream activities towards prevention of plastic pollution in areas of high importance for migratory species on the basis of the precautionary principle, recognizing the challenges faced by Parties and the specific challenges faced by developing country Parties including least developed and small island developing states.
14.225		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:

			<p>a) noting the work undertaken already with respect to the Asia Pacific region, develop a concise report summarizing the status of knowledge on the impact of plastic pollution on CMS-listed species that inhabit terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems in other regions taking into account plastics of all sizes and materials, along with recommendations to address such threats, and submit the report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting; and</p> <p>b) taking into account Decision 14.42 on Marine Pollution, collaborate with other scientific mechanisms such as those under the International Whaling Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral environmental agreements to exchange available scientific and other relevant data and information related to the prevention and reduction of the impact of plastics on migratory species, including the report developed under paragraph (a).</p>
14.226		Directed to the Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) subject to the availability of resources, support implementation of Decisions 14.223 – 14.225; and</p> <p>b) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on progress of the implementation of Decisions 14.223 - 14.225.</p>
14.227	Conservation Implications of Animal Culture	Directed to Parties	<p>Parties are requested to:</p> <p>a) support actions and research, including of Concerted Actions, that investigate the conservation implications of animal culture and social learning for a diverse range of taxa, including fish and reptiles;</p> <p>b) apply a precautionary approach by considering cultural processes as relevant for the conservation of all species for which there is evidence for social learning;</p> <p>c) where specific cultural groups have been identified, give specific attention to threats (including human-wildlife conflict) and good practices that might be specific to this particular cultural unit;</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) upon receiving a request from the Secretariat, submit information on any actions taken in line with paragraphs (a) to (c) for transmission to the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity; e) use information generated by the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity on the growing understanding of the conservation implications of animal culture and social complexity within their interactions with the CMS daughter agreements; and f) provide technical and/or in-kind support to allow the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity to undertake the reviews, develop the guidance and facilitate the cooperation with IUCN as requested in Decision 14.228, and to convene an in-person workshop during the intersessional period before COP15.
14.228		Directed to the Scientific Council	<p>The Scientific Council is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) invite newly appointed Councillors that have relevant expertise to engage in the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity; and b) consider the outputs of the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity and make recommendations to COP15, based on its findings.
14.229		Directed to the Scientific Council, through its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity	<p>The Scientific Council, through its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, subject to the availability of external resources, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote the practical application of the increasing knowledge about animal culture and social learning in conservation management by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) exploring shortcuts for incorporating social learning into management, complementing traditional management techniques, including developing guidance on methodologies for detecting social learning and providing advice on phylogenetic inference; ii) reviewing updates on culture-related Concerted Actions and providing guidance as required; iii) considering whether further culture-related Concerted Actions

			<p>should be brought forward and developing proposals as appropriate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv) conducting a review that identifies instances in which social learning is involved in animal behaviours and mitigation measures for human-wildlife conflict; v) conducting a review of examples at the intersection of social learning and changes in behaviour related to climate change in human-wildlife conflict; vi) developing guidance for engagement with stakeholders to illustrate why animal culture and social learning are relevant to conservation; vii) continuing further development of case studies illustrating the importance of animal culture and social learning in the conservation of CMS-listed species; viii) exploring the potential link with Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and other place-based conservation tools that identify sites or seascapes of biodiversity importance; ix) exploring the impacts of hunting on social structure; x) exploring opportunities for linking with the GEO BON global biodiversity observation network; <p>b) support research on animal culture and social learning by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) developing guidance on methodology for detecting social learning; ii) incorporating a variety of 'lines of evidence' on social learning and animal culture, including from local communities, and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples; <p>c) make use of the potential synergies with CMS Agreements/MOUs/Initiatives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) developing a table of all CMS Agreements/MOUs/Initiatives to identify the species of highest priority; ii) compiling examples into a document or brochure outlining the relevance of animal culture and social learning;
--	--	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) passing this publication on to Parties and Signatories in the context of upcoming meetings; and d) increase collaboration with IUCN on matters related to animal culture, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) bringing the issues and opportunities around social learning and animal culture to the attention of the World Conservation Congress in 2025; ii) convening a workshop in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group to further explore human-wildlife interactions in connection with social learning; iii) engaging with the relevant IUCN bodies to develop synergies for integrating social learning and cultural processes into management activities.
<p>14.230</p>		<p>Directed to the Secretariat</p>	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request Parties to submit, about 18 months before COP15, information on actions taken in line with Decisions 14.227 (a) to (c) for transmission to the Scientific Council and its Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity; b) subject to the availability of external resources, convene an in-person workshop to assist the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity with providing best practice advice on the implementation of management strategies for species that learn socially, categorizing and designating cultural units and identifying any further culture-based Concerted Actions; and c) subject to the availability of external resources, support the Scientific Council and its Expert Working Group with the development of a publication outlining the relevance of animal culture and social learning for publication on the CMS website and support the development of the reviews and guidance foreseen in Decision 14.229.

Amendment of CMS Appendices			
14.231	Taxonomy and Nomenclature	Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the utility of the Catalogue of Life as a potential source for all taxonomic and nomenclatural information for CMS, including evaluating the processes of updating nomenclature within the Catalogue of Life; and b) liaise with taxonomic and/or nomenclatural advisors to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on the practical challenges of extracting species lists for MEAs by a particular date for use as standard references by these MEAs.
14.232	Guidance on the Creation of an Advisory List of Species Aggregated in Families and Genera Listed Under Appendix II	Directed to Parties	Parties are invited to use the list annexed to Resolution 14.19 to assist with their national reporting of which species they are a Range State for.
14.233		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) update the list annexed to Resolution 14.19, which provides advice on species in aggregated families for which a significant proportion of the individuals cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries and which have an unfavourable conservation status; and b) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.
14.234		Directed to the Secretariat	The Secretariat shall alert Parties to the existence of the list annexed to Resolution 14.19 during preparation of National Reports.
14.235	Potential Avian Taxa for Listing	Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to consider working collaboratively to develop listing proposals according to the guidance in Resolution 13.7, and Concerted Actions according to the guidance in Resolution 12.28 (Rev. COP14), for species listed in the Annex to the Resolution 14.20, including by undertaking all necessary consultation with Range States, and to submit these listing proposals and proposals for Concerted Actions for the consideration of the 15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
14.236		Directed to the Scientific Council	The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the list of species in the Annex to the Resolution 14.20 in advance of COP15 and make proposals for any revision; b) develop equivalent lists for other taxonomic groups for adoption at COP15; c) advise with regard to the priority avian taxa for listing within Appendices I and/or II of CMS; d) develop advice to Parties on a strategic approach to maximizing conservation of the priority avian taxa; and e) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.
--	--	--	---