

IUCN position paper

**Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP14)
12-17 February 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

IUCN presents comments and considerations for CMS Parties on selected COP14 agenda items.

IV. Strategic and institutional matters (agenda items 14-19)

Strengthening international and transboundary cooperation for the conservation of migratory species is imperative. Collaborative action among CMS Parties and between Range States is essential to improve the conservation status, achieve the recovery of threatened migratory species, as well as to create the enabling conditions for zoonotic disease identification, prevention, and response. This will support future pandemic preparedness, integrating the One Health approach into global conservation strategies and actions.

IUCN notes with concern the lack of progress for most of the Goals of the *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*. IUCN recognises however, progress made in mainstreaming migratory species priorities across government and society, particularly through awareness raising and improved governance arrangements.

Considering the information presented in Doc.14.1, IUCN calls for increased efforts from CMS Parties to submit their National Reports to have a representative assessment of global implementation.

IUCN welcomes the draft Resolution *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 (SPMS)*, as presented in Doc.14.2 Annex 1 and encourages CMS Parties to adopt the new plan.

The CMS Strategic Plan and concerted actions can help advance the implementation of many targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), especially Target 1 on spatial planning, ecosystem integrity and connectivity, Target 2 on integrity and connectivity, Target 3 on well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, Target 4 on recovery of threatened species and Target 5 on ensuring sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species, and support the creation of fair inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies at local, national and regional scale.

IUCN calls on the CMS Secretariat and Parties to continue their engagement with the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to enhance synergies and strengthen collaboration towards meeting their respective objectives, recognising the role that the SPMS and the conservation of migratory species can play in supporting the GBF. Therefore, IUCN encourages CMS Parties and stakeholders to implement the Strategic Plan, integrate their CMS obligations and the SPMS actions into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for effective implementation at the national level, and contribute to the implementation of the GBF.

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IUCN suggests some text change proposals to the draft decision in Annex 3 of Doc.17, paragraph 14.BB c) to read (new proposed texts in **bold and underlined**, proposed deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~):

14.BB. The Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:
c) contribute to the work of the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including promoting the status of migratory species as headline indicators, **as well as disaggregating the current headline indicators and strengthening complementary indicators of progress for better measuring progress** ~~of progress~~ towards achieving the ecological connectivity **and integrity** elements of the framework.

This suggestion is to highlight that efforts should equally focus on disaggregating the current headline indicators and strengthening complementary indicators for ecological connectivity.

IUCN also stresses the importance of ensuring coherence with other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Biodiversity-related Conventions as well as the newly adopted internationally legally binding Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (High Seas Biodiversity Treaty), and ongoing discussions at the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

IUCN invites Parties to consider the [Global Species Action Plan](#) as a guide to integrate CMS's work into NBSAPs and the actions to take to achieve species conservation outcomes for all the GBF targets and the [IUCN Connectivity Guidelines and Technical Report on Connectivity](#) and linear transport infrastructure as useful resources to support work towards the achievement of proposed SPMS Goals 2 and 3.

V. Scientific assessments and reports (agenda items 20 and 21)

21. Conservation status of migratory species

IUCN commends the work of the CMS Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC to carry out the *Assessment of the Risk Posed to CMS Appendix I-Listed Species by Direct Use and Trade* (Doc.21.2). IUCN supports the suggested recommendation for a more in-depth review of higher-risk taxon, though this should be proportionate considering reported offtake and trade levels and quantities at different scales. Further, IUCN concurs with the suggestion of more in-depth case studies to enhance understanding of the threats posed to Appendix I species and stresses that any case studies should, as far as possible, involve consultation with Range States and key actors, including Indigenous peoples and local communities where feasible, to provide up to date information beyond that contained in Red List assessments and CITES trade data. This should apply to both terrestrial and marine species, and with respect to the latter, place renewed emphasis on incidental catch and discard rates.

Finally, IUCN encourages Parties to record all trade in wild animals to enable proper assessments of the impact and extent of trade (domestic and international). In the case of CMS Appendix I-listed species, IUCN stresses the need for Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and to CMS to ensure they are fully implementing their CMS obligations when implementing requirements.

VI. Interpretation and implementation of the Convention (agenda items 22 – 32)

26. Definition of the terms 'Range State' and 'Vagrant'

IUCN notes the work of the Working Group to develop a draft guidance on the use of the term “vagrant” (Doc.26/Rev.1/Annex). However, IUCN supports the recommendations of the Scientific Council at its 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee for COP14 to take note of the report and not to adopt the draft guidance.

CMS uses the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to determine the status of species for listings (i.e., to determine Unfavourable status), species distribution, and biological data. “Vagrant” is defined by IUCN as “*The species is/was recorded once or sporadically, but it is known not to be native to the area*”; if a species meets this criterion, it is not included in the IUCN Red List distribution map.

Since assessments are undertaken periodically (at least every 10 years), this also considers the potential range shifts that might occur from climate change or new information that might indicate that a species is not vagrant. Should further work on the definition of term “vagrant” be carried out, IUCN invites Parties to consider using the existing IUCN’s definition above referenced. Furthermore, since the movement of many species remain poorly known, IUCN recommends that CMS Parties should take measures to ensure the protection of these species even if they are vagrant.

27. Aquatic species conservation issues

Migratory marine species, through migration and other behavioural patterns, use ecologically interconnected regions, representing huge swaths of the ocean. As such, global ocean policy needs to be coherent to underpin efficient protection and conservation measures. To efficiently protect migratory marine species (from deep-sea reliant species to seabirds), IUCN stresses the need for coherence between the various multilateral environmental agreements, such as between CMS, Convention on Biological Diversity, International Whaling Commission, CITES, the newly adopted internationally legally binding 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; High Seas Biodiversity Treaty), as well as ongoing discussions at the International Seabed Authority for deep-sea mining. IUCN emphasizes that such coherent and robust international framework can then be the fertile ground where to embed conservation tools needed to implement conservation strategies around the globe.

Bycatch (27.1.1)

IUCN recognizes that bycatch is one of the key threats to marine migratory species. IUCN commends the engagement of CMS and Parties to address this challenging topic on fisheries-induced mortality. IUCN supports the recommended actions in Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1 including for Parties to note the findings of the ‘*Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks*’ report, in particular the difficulties in defining bycatch for sharks and rays and to consider the recommendations contained therein to implement effective bycatch mitigation measures for marine mammals and sharks and rays. IUCN further supports the adoption of the draft decisions in Annex 3.

Vessel strikes (27.2.3)

IUCN supports the draft resolution and recommended decisions proposed in Doc.27.2.3/Rev.1 to reduce ship strikes of marine megafauna (particularly whales and whale sharks). IUCN calls on Parties to implement the resolution and encourages the continuation of the collaboration between CMS with different organisations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Whaling Commission (IWC) to reduce the risk of ship strikes on marine megafauna.

Deep-sea mining (27.2.4)

Regarding deep seabed mining, IUCN welcomes the inclusion of a reference to its [Resolution 122](#) in document Doc.27.2.4/Rev.1, and stresses the need for a moratorium on deep-sea mining unless and until a number of conditions are met, including:

- the risks of mining are comprehensively understood and effective protection can be ensured;

- rigorous and transparent impact assessments are conducted based on comprehensive baseline studies;
- the Precautionary Principle and the 'Polluter Pays Principle' are implemented;
- policies incorporating circular economy principles to reuse and recycle minerals have been developed and implemented;
- mechanisms are in place to consult with the public throughout decision-making; and
- the governance of deep-sea mining is transparent, accountable, inclusive, effective and environmentally responsible.

IUCN further emphasizes the many possible potential negative effects from deep-sea mining activities as highlighted in the CMS submission, which would temper with the ability for the ocean to serve as the most critical climate regulator on the planet as well as limit the provision of its multiple benefits to biodiversity, humankind, and climate alike. In that regard, IUCN welcomes the increased recognition of deep seabed mining impacts and risks, notably in the recently adopted CBD [Resolution 15/24](#) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Area-based conservation management (27.4)

IUCN promotes the use of the [IUCN Green List Standard](#) for equitable and effective area-based conservation as an important tool and guidance for Parties. The IUCN Green List can help area-based conservation to deliver and demonstrate successful outcomes in terms of connectivity and networked protected and conserved areas.

Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) (27.4.1)

IUCN supports the draft resolution pertaining to IMMAs based on the IMMA progress report (Doc.27.4.1) and the recommended decisions include the promotion of recognition of new IMMAs by other MEAs and stakeholders – not only member parties. The IMMA eAtlas and the associated database and shapefiles that can be consulted and requested by a wide variety of stakeholders are increasingly useful tools for cetacean conservation management. Although IMMAs have no legal status and do not provide protection directly, they are being used by governments to identify areas that should be considered for area-based management, and by industry (including the US Navy and other marine users) to identify areas where they should put in place extra risk-mitigation measures.

Important Shark and Ray Areas (27.4.2)

The initiative to identify Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) - place-based conservation measures for sharks, rays, and chimaeras - is led by IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. IUCN highlights the relevance of ISRAs in supporting Parties to make use of delineated areas for marine spatial purposes, including the design and designation of protected areas and the identification of habitats at risk, with the aim of reducing species mortality and restoring populations. IUCN urges Parties to actively engage with the process and prioritize areas that have already been identified in the Central and South American Pacific, Mediterranean and Black Seas, and Western Indian Ocean in area-based management approaches. IUCN recommends COP to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decisions.

Conservation priorities for cetaceans (27.5.1)

IUCN welcomes the progress report and supports the draft resolution and draft decision. IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group endorses the conservation priorities in the draft resolution and decision and stands ready to support the implementation.

*Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) (27.5.2)*

IUCN welcomes the Action Plan. IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group has supported the Plan's development and stands ready to assist its implementation with Range States.

*Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea- (27.7.1)*

IUCN supports the adoption of the Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea. The action plan was led by several members of the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group in addition to other regional shark experts who contributed to its drafting and review. IUCN considers that this Plan accurately depicts the status of the species in the region and highlights the key intervention points that are needed for their conservation. IUCN urges Range States to support the implementation of this plan. IUCN strongly supports the draft decisions and recommends their adoption.

Freshwater Fish, including the European Eel (27.7.2)

IUCN has recently completed the [first comprehensive assessment of the world's freshwater fish species](#), revealing that 25% (3,086 out of 14,898 assessed species) are at risk of extinction. IUCN strongly supports the adoption of the draft decisions. IUCN and IUCN SSC Freshwater Fish Specialist Group stand ready to support more listing of freshwater fish and share data on freshwater migratory fish species. [An IUCN freshwater briefing for CMS COP14](#) is available for the consideration of CMS Parties and stakeholders.

*Implementation of the CMS Appendix I-Listing for the Oceanic Whitetip Shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) (27.7.3)*

IUCN thanks the Government of the Maldives for preparing the set of draft decisions to improve the implementation of the Oceanic Whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) CMS Appendix I listing. IUCN recommends the adoption of the draft decisions.

28. Avian species conservation issues

Flyways (28.4.1)

IUCN supports the proposed amendments to Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and the Initiative for Central Asian Flyway (Doc.28.4.2) and their implementation. IUCN Bangladesh investigated the connectivity of two flyways (East-Asia Australasia Flyway and Central Asian Flyway) through satellite tagging of long-distance migratory ducks, in collaboration with Bangladesh Forest Department. IUCN and the Forest Department provided inputs to recently published Central Asian Flyway – Situation Analysis: The status of migratory birds and their habitats and recommendations for their conservation by Wetlands International based on recent work on flyways. IUCN stands ready to support the Central Asian Flyway Initiative.

Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia (28.5.3)

IUCN supports the adoption of the Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia, to which several members of the IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group contributed material and review. The Action is Plan as a well-considered review of the status of this species in Asia and provides scientifically sound actions for its conservation. IUCN urges Range States to support the implementation of this Plan.

African-Eurasian vultures (28.6)

Members of the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group, working with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, BirdLife International, the Vulture Conservation Foundation and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, at the request of the CMS Raptors MoU Coordinating Unit, conducted a mid-term implementation review of the CMS Multi-species Action for Africa-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) presented in Doc.28.6/Rev.1. The IUCN supports the recommendations and conclusions of this report and encourages all Vulture MsAP Range States to promote and support the implementation of the Plan in the remaining 6 years of its current implementation framework.

29. Terrestrial species conservation issues

Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) (29.1)

The IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group cooperates with the CITES and CMS Secretariats and the ACI Coordinator on the implementation of the ACI Programme of Work, which amalgamates Resolutions and Decisions on African large carnivores of the two Conventions. After the 2nd ACI Range States Meeting in Uganda in May 2023, priority activities are advancing the conservation agenda for the cheetah especially in the north-eastern part of Africa (the subspecies *A. j. soemmeringii*), agreement on a joint African Lion Database, revision of the Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa, implementation of the spatially explicit conservation action plan for the Northern lion (*P. l. leo*), and update of the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa as a baseline document to develop regional conservation strategies. IUCN recommends the adoption of the draft decisions.

Sahelo Saharan megafauna (29.2)

The IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group Co-Chairs collaborated with the CMS Secretariat on several documents relating to the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action, including development of the revised draft of the SSMF Action Plan that was discussed and adopted at the Third Regional Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna in Agadir, Morocco, 14-16 March 2023. IUCN supports the objectives and actions recommended in the draft Action Plan and encourages all SSMF Range States to undertake their effective implementation.

Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) (29.3)

With formal commitments from Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, in collaboration with CMS, and 7 other implementing partners, IUCN has secured funds under the International Climate Initiative for implementation of a new project “*Enhancing landscape resilience to zoonosis by consolidating nature conservation systems in Central Asia*”. Through the IUCN Green List Standard, this project will support effective protected and conserved area management approaches and help integrate One Health approach in the regional area-based conservation and conservation of species, particularly CAMI listed species with ranges in the project region. It will help improve capacities in the 5 countries multiple sectors to address biodiversity conservation issues and undertake the needed actions as listed in the CAMI Programme of Work, including enabling safe migration, improving conditions for zoonotic disease monitoring and mitigation, as well as contributing to improvements of relevant national level legislation and policies.

IUCN has, within its Save our Species programme, successfully mobilized private foundation funds for implementation of a new initiative for Central Asia, which was realized from 2019-2022. IUCN Save our Species Central Asia program focused in this first phase on conservation of two CAMI-listed species - the Snow Leopard and the Goitered Gazelle. IUCN has created this initiative specifically to support implementation of CAMI, and as such has been recognized in the POW as one of the mechanisms to provide funding for the implementation of the identified needed actions. IUCN is continuing the collaboration with CMS Secretariat in its commitment to further develop and expand this initiative to enable conservation of more CAMI-listed species, and IUCN supports adoption of the draft decisions in the document.

African Wild Ass (29.5)

A CMS funded research project determined what areas in Eritrea and Ethiopia had habitat suitable for African wild ass and provided a possible estimate of population size. In Eritrea the optimal habitat for African wild ass is 130 km² in the dry season and 739 km² in the wet season in a potential range of 11,000 km². Given the Maxent results on optimal and suitable habitat, and known densities of adult African wild ass, the maximum possible population is 500 adults. In Ethiopia the optimal habitat available for the African wild ass during the dry season is 214 km² and during the wet season is 218 km² in a potential range of 56,982 km². The estimated population size for the surveyed area is possibly 153 African wild ass. The future viability of the African wild ass in Eritrea and Ethiopia is dependent on the establishment of a small protected areas for African wild ass in Eritrea (the Messir Plateau) and Ethiopia (Afdera/Bidu and Serdo/Hillu). This research provides the scientific data and maps needed for determining which areas are important for the conservation of African wild ass.

This is an important first step, but it will be critical for management authorities, local administrators and communities, and scientists to have workshops and discussions concerning the demarcation and management of potential protected areas. Surveys funded by CMS and Basel Zoo have determined that African wild ass persist in Djibouti and Somaliland. More surveys and monitoring are needed to ensure appropriate management of conservation of the African wild ass.

Initiative for the Jaguar (29.6.2)

With increasing information on illegal trade in jaguar parts, including by the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, several NGOs, and range States, both CITES and CMS Parties are increasing their attention to the improved protection and conservation of this large cat, and prevention of illegal killing and illegal trade. In line with its [Resolution 7.090](#), IUCN supports and welcomes the joint CITES-CMS Jaguar Initiative proposed in the Resolution in Doc.29.6.2/Rev.1/Annex 1 and recommend its adoption and the adoption of the draft decisions.

30. Crosscutting conservation issues

Priorities for addressing Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species (30.1.1)

IUCN supports the recommended actions presented in Doc.30.1.1/Rev.1 and strongly encourages CMS Parties to take the recommended actions to eliminate illegal and unsustainable take of migratory species. IUCN supports the recommendations of the Scientific Council at its 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee to COP and recommends the adoption of the amendment to Resolution 11.31 and Decisions.

Ecological Connectivity - Technical Aspects (30.2.1.2)

IUCN suggests amending paragraph 24 in Doc.30.2.1.1/ Annex 1 as follows:

24. More recently, UNEP-WCMC, working with IUCN, the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, **Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, World Wide Fund for Nature, and members of the IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group and others** has proposed the development of a ***World Database on Ecological Corridors...***

and add at the end of the paragraph:

24 (...)For parts of the eastern US and Canada, GEO BON has built a dashboard for projects on ecological connectivity - <https://ecologicalconnectivity.com/explore>. **As of 2024, the database is undergoing pilot testing in collaboration with Parks Canada.**

This database is emerging to be one of the more prominent and globally-applicable databases on this list once it is fully established.

Wildlife disease (30.4.3)

IUCN welcomes the report *Migratory Species and Health: A Review of Migration and Wildlife Disease Dynamics, and the Health of Migratory Species, within the Context of One Health*. One Health approach aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, wild and domestic animals, and ecosystems, as clearly outlined by report. Preventative approaches to health management are more cost-effective than addressing human, animal and ecosystem health problems once they occur. IUCN highlights the relevance of Resolution 12.6 and proposed amendments, as well as the new Resolution on avian influenza to Target 5 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over. IUCN supports the recommended actions to the COP, including the adoption of the draft resolutions and draft decisions.

IUCN brings to the attention of the CMS Parties its new project “*Enhancing landscape resilience to zoonosis by consolidating nature conservation systems in Central Asia*”, supported by Germany’s

International Climate Initiative (IKI). With formal commitments from Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in collaboration with CMS, and 7 other implementing partners, this 5 year commitment will support the establishment of an equitable and effective regional network of PAs and OECMs in Central Asia that, enabled through capacity building, sound policies and integrated legal frameworks, will act as an early warning system to better predict, detect and promptly react to zoonotic disease emergence.

With key project objectives of generating knowledge on key species and major pathways of pathogen transmission, integrating disease and pathogen monitoring into nature conservation planning and actions and decreasing human population susceptibility to zoonoses by facilitating the knowledge to minimise spill-over risk, the implementation will also focus on communications and knowledge sharing, enhanced use of technology for zoonotic diseases prevention and environmental and health law and policy integration. Through this integrated approach the IUCN will encourage cross-sectoral coordination and planning, core guiding principle of the One Health approach and will have measurable and specific impacts through the adoption and implementation of the IUCN Green List Standard for effective area-based conservation in the five target countries.

Aquatic wild meat (30.1.2)

IUCN supports the proposed *Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa*. This is an important programme of work relevant to cetaceans, and IUCN SSC CSG endorses it and supports its implementation. IUCN supports the draft decisions and the recommendations of the Scientific Council and recommends the adoption of the draft decisions.

Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat (30.1.3)

IUCN commends the work of the CMS Secretariat to produce the report on the implementation of Decisions 13.109 to 13.112 - *Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*. IUCN supports the Scientific Council at its 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee's (ScSC6) recommendations to COP14 and recommends the adoption of the draft resolution and decisions with ScC-SC6's text amendments.

31. Amendment of CMS Appendices

Taxonomy and nomenclature (31.1)

IUCN welcomes the recommendation for a new taxonomic reference for marine mammals – the online resource of the Society for Marine Mammalogy, Committee on Taxonomy, List of marine mammal species and subspecies as it would ensure harmony between the taxonomy used for the IUCN Red List assessments of cetacean species, subspecies and subpopulations.

*Proposal for the inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) in Appendix I of the Convention (31.4.1)*

The Eurasian lynx is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List. However, this is mainly due to the large and stable populations of the two boreal subspecies, whereas the four southern subspecies (*L. L. balcanicus*, *carpathicus*, *dinniki*, and *isabellinus*) are threatened or their status and trend is unknown. In either case, all subspecies in the temperate zone are transboundary and are in need of joint international conservation efforts.

*Proposal for the inclusion of the Pallas's Cat (*Felis manul*) in Appendix II of the Convention (31.4.2)*

The Pallas's cat or manul is a smaller cat of the Central Asian steppes. Most populations are transboundary, strongly fluctuating and threatened by climate change, linear infrastructure development and overgrazing of the steppe habitat. The implementation of the range-wide conservation strategy, which was developed in 2019 by scientists, NGOs, and the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, would be enabled by the CMS listing and the formal involvement of the Range States united under the CMS CAMI.

Proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention (31.4.3 – 31.4.8)

IUCN recommends adoption of the following listing proposals; these species are of high conservation concern for IUCN SSC Specialist Groups (South American Camelid SG, Cetacean SG and Vulture SG), and they fully meet the criteria for inclusion in the respective CMS Appendices:

- Proposal for the inclusion of the Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) in Appendix II of the Convention COP14/Doc.31.4.3 proposed by the governments of Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru.
- Proposal for the inclusion of Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) in Appendix I and II of the Convention COP14/Doc.31.4.4 proposed by Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.
- Proposal for the inclusion of the Baltic Proper population of the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Appendix I of the Convention COP14/Doc.31.4.5 proposed by The European Union and its Member States.
- Proposal for the inclusion of the Southern African population of the Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis*) in Appendix I of the Convention COP14/Doc.31.4.8

Proposal for the inclusion of the Sand Tiger Shark (Carcharias taurus) in Appendix I and II of the Convention (31.4.9)

The Sand Tiger Shark is highly threatened across its known range and local extirpations have already been documented in several regions of the world. This Critically Endangered species can undertake substantial migrations across the waters of several CMS Range States and Parties, comprising the bulk of its range. The species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendices I and II, IUCN recommends adoption of the proposal and considers that this species would benefit from a CMS listing.

Proposal for the inclusion of the Blackchin Guitarfish (Glaucostegus cemiculus) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I of the Convention (31.4.10)

The Blackchin Guitarfish has been assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Population declines are due to the threat from targeted and incidental fisheries. Little information is available on the migratory nature of this species. However, animals of the same genus tracked in Australia suggest migrations of over 700 km. Considering the known range of the species, and the small jurisdictional boundaries of many of the countries in which it is captured (e.g., Togo, Liberia, Benin), IUCN considers that it is highly likely that this species crosses national jurisdictional boundaries. The species meets the criteria for inclusion in the relevant CMS Appendices. IUCN is supportive of this proposal, recommends its adoption, and considers that this species would benefit from a CMS listing.

Proposal for the inclusion of the Bull Ray (Aetomylaeus bovinus) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I of the Convention (31.4.11)

The Bull Ray (*Aetomylaeus bovinus*) has been assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Population declines are largely due to impacts of industrial and artisanal fisheries. There is currently no evidence to support that this species is migratory. However, considering that this species occurs across relatively small jurisdictional boundaries in West Africa (e.g., Togo, Liberia, Benin), it is plausible that the species might cross national jurisdictional boundaries. The species meets the criteria for inclusion in the relevant CMS Appendices, and IUCN recommends adoption of this proposal. IUCN considers that this species is in need of joint international conservation efforts and would benefit from a CMS listing.

Proposal for the inclusion of the Lusitanian Cownose Ray (Rhinoptera marginata) in Appendix II and the Mediterranean Sea population of this species in Appendix I of the Convention (31.4.12)

The Lusitanian Cownose Ray has been assessed as Critical Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The key threat is targeted and incidental catch in fisheries across its range. This species generally

migrates in large schools seasonally. Information on the scale of these migrations is limited but is likely that this species crosses national jurisdictional boundaries. The species meets the criteria for inclusion in the relevant CMS Appendices, and IUCN recommends adoption of this proposal. IUCN considers that this species needs joint international conservation efforts and would benefit from a CMS listing.

*Proposals for the inclusion of the Gilded Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) and the the Laulao Catfish or Piramuta (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) (31.4.13 – 31.4.14)*

IUCN welcomes the two proposals for the inclusion of two freshwater fish: the Gilded Catfish (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) and the Laulao Catfish or Piramuta (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii*) in Appendix II of the Convention and recommends the adoption of both proposals. IUCN commits to supporting the implementation of these two listings as well as listing of more freshwater migratory fish. IUCN stresses the importance of both of these catfish to the greater Amazon basin ecosystem, as well as to the livelihoods and food security of Indigenous peoples and Local communities (and thus the cooperation inherent in an Appendix II listing will help ensure health populations of these two species).

32. Implementation of the Concerted Actions process

Assessment of progress in the implementation of Concerted Actions and possible proposals for their extension (32.2.3 – 32.2.4)

IUCN supports the extension of the following Concerted Actions. IUCN SSC Cetacean SG supports the implementation of these Concerted Actions.

- The Concerted Action for the Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) of the Arabian Sea, COP14/Doc.32.2.3
- The Concerted Action for the Eastern Tropical Pacific Sperm Whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), COP14/Doc.32.2.4

*Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Asia (32.2.7)*

IUCN supports the continuation of this Concerted Action, for which IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group members provide support.

*Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Common Guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*) and the Bottlenose Wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*) (32.2.9)*

IUCN supports the continuation of this Concerted Action for two species of rhino rays. These are some of the most threatened ray species in the world and IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group members are providing support to ensure the work can progress and the actions are implemented.

*Proposal for a Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) behavioural diversity and cultures already listed in Appendix I and II of the Convention (32.3.1)*

The proposed Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Behavioral Diversity and Cultures was developed by the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Great Apes (PSG SGA) Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures (WGCC) in collaboration with the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity. This initiative has been positively reviewed and endorsed by both the CMS Scientific Council and prominent leaders within this specific field. The newly proposed CA builds upon the previous Concerted Action which focused exclusively on Nut-Cracking Chimpanzee Populations which was developed by the CMS Scientific Council, but depended heavily on resources aggregated by IUCN PSG members and activities implemented by the SGA and related groups. Therefore, it should be noted that successful implementation of the newly proposed Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioural Diversity and Cultures will require direct support to these IUCN groups. The IUCN SSC PSG SGA WGCC is dedicated to actively

addressing issues of chimpanzee behavioural diversity, animal cultures, and conservation perspectives. In addition, the SGA maintains the APES Database and Wiki that serves as the central repository for data related to the Concerted Actions for chimpanzees. The IUCN with IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group stand ready to provide technical and scientific advice, but we would like to emphasize that support for the WGCC and APES Database should be considered inherent to the effective implementation of the CMS Concerted Action for Chimpanzee Behavioural Diversity and Cultures. The IUCN recommends that the COP adopt the proposed Concerted Action and calls upon all of the range states to take action to conserve chimpanzees. We also suggest that synergies between the proposed Concerted Action and existing components of regional and national IUCN Ape Action Plans should be identified and supported.

*Proposal for a Concerted Action (CA) for the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) proposed for listing in Appendix II (and Appendix I for *Lynx lynx balcanicus*) of the Convention (32.3.4)*

If the listing proposal (see above) is adopted, it should be followed-up through a CA. For the Critically Endangered Balkan lynx, the CA proposal foresees the development of a range-wide conservation strategy under the auspice of CMS and facilitated by IUCN, for the other three temperate subspecies, a transboundary and inter-sectoral cooperation and subsequent robust survey of the populations and their conservation status would be needed. CMS (and possibly its CAMI) could help to advance the cooperation between and with the Range States.

*Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Franciscana Dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) already listed in Appendix I and II of the Convention (32.3.5)*

The IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group has supported and continues to support [the Franciscana CMP under the International Whaling Commission framework](#), which by all appearances is functioning as intended. If time, effort and other resources are to be invested in a CMS concerted action, such action should bring something new and different, important and tangible/specific to the overall effort to conserve Franciscanas.

*Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) already listed in Appendix II of the Convention (32.3.7)*

IUCN supports the changes requested by the CMS Scientific Council for the Concerted Action for the Blue Shark.