

IUCN position paper

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP15)
23–29 March 2026, Campo Grande, Brazil**

Summary of Key Messages

CMS COP15 is a key opportunity to underscore the vital importance of conserving species and the essential roles they play in sustaining ecosystems and life on Earth. IUCN calls on CMS Parties to take urgent, coordinated action to conserve migratory species and their habitats, emphasizing the following priorities:

Integrate migratory species priorities into national planning

Parties are urged to embed the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2024–2032) into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), national targets, indicators, and reporting processes. Stronger alignment between CMS implementation and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is essential to accelerate global species recovery, connectivity, and ecosystem resilience.

Strengthen species-specific and basin/range-wide conservation

IUCN highlights threats such as fisheries-induced mortality, including bycatch, as key drivers of decline for sharks, rays, marine mammals, seabirds, and fish. Parties should **implement targeted, coordinated mitigation measures, improve monitoring and species-level reporting, and strengthen collaboration between CMS and fisheries management bodies.**

Advance ecological connectivity and transboundary cooperation

IUCN urges Parties to **systematically embed ecological connectivity across rivers, landscapes, seascapes, and flyways into planning, infrastructure, spatial management, and transboundary cooperation.** Maintaining and restoring corridors, migration routes, and functional habitat networks is vital for species recovery, climate adaptation, and ecosystem resilience. Connectivity should be integrated into Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), area-based conservation, marine spatial planning, cross-border initiatives, and other relevant decision-making processes.

Mitigate human–wildlife conflict and promote coexistence

Parties should **strengthen action on addressing human–wildlife conflict, illegal and unsustainable take, pollution (including noise and light), infrastructure impacts, and wildlife health.** IUCN urges CMS Parties to **establish a dedicated multi-stakeholder working group focused on human–wildlife conflict and coexistence** regarding the agenda item 28.4 Communities and Livelihoods, and to strengthen coordinated action to address conflict, illegal and unsustainable take, pollution, infrastructure impacts, and wildlife health.

Support Area-based Conservation and Nature-positive Planning

IUCN emphasizes the value of scientifically identified areas — including **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), and Important Sharks and Ray Areas (ISRAs)** — to **guide protected and conserved area design, marine spatial planning, and impact assessment.** Parties should **apply mitigation hierarchies in infrastructure and energy planning,** protect breeding and feeding sites, migratory corridors, and aggregation areas, and ensure adequate resourcing, capacity-building, and cross-sectoral coordination.

IUCN presents below comments and considerations for CMS Parties on selected COP15 agenda items.

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Strategic and Institutional Matters

Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 (Agenda item 15)

IUCN welcomes progress in operationalizing the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2024–2032 and supports adoption of the proposed monitoring framework, including science-based baselines, indicators and aligned actions to track delivery of the Plan's six goals and 23 targets. **IUCN encourages Parties to integrate SPMS implementation with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and reporting processes**, and values the collaborative role of the Intersessional Working Group, Scientific Council and UNEP-WCMC in ensuring coherence, data robustness and synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Strengthening the CMS National Reporting template, addressing identified data gaps, and aligning the CMS Programme of Work with SPMS priorities will be essential to enable transparent tracking of progress and more effective conservation outcomes for migratory species. **Mobilizing innovative technologies** — including remote sensing, bio-logging, eDNA, acoustic monitoring, AI-assisted data analysis and digital data-sharing platforms — **will be critical to fill key knowledge gaps, improve monitoring efficiency, and enable timely, evidence-based decision-making across migratory species' ranges**. In this context, IUCN will continue to align its work on species conservation technologies and innovation, support knowledge exchange, standards development and capacity building, and foster

collaboration among governments, scientific bodies, MEAs and technical partners to ensure these tools are applied responsibly and effectively.

Collaboration with other entities (Agenda item 18)

18.3 CMS Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

IUCN welcomes the draft CMS COP15 decision as a timely and constructive contribution to strengthening coherence and mutual reinforcement between CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). IUCN strongly supports the continued emphasis on integrating migratory species' needs into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), national targets and transboundary cooperation, recognising that migratory species conservation is fundamental to achieving KMGBF goals on species recovery, ecological connectivity and ecosystem resilience. IUCN supports the request for the CMS Secretariat to continue contributing to KMGBF implementation and to develop a Joint Work Programme with the CBD Secretariat. IUCN stands ready, through its Commissions' Specialist Groups and knowledge products, to support CMS Parties and the Secretariat in operationalising this decision, particularly on ecological connectivity, NBSAP integration, indicator development and capacity-building, in order to accelerate delivery of KMGBF targets for migratory species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

Implementation of Taxa-specific and Cross-cutting Mandates

Aquatic Species Conservation Issues (Agenda item 25)

Global ocean policy needs to provide a coherent framework to secure effective conservation measures across jurisdictions. To efficiently protect migratory marine species—from deep-sea species to seabirds—IUCN **stresses the need for coherence and coordination among the myriad multilateral environmental agreements**, between CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity, International Whaling Commission, CITES, the recently entered into force Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy, the Antarctic

Treaty, and the International Seabed Authority, among others. IUCN is committed to multilateralism in conservation and emphasizes that **coherent and robust international governance regimes can provide the necessary framework for employing the tools needed to implement conservation strategies for migratory species in the ocean**.

25.1 Fisheries-induced Threats and Direct Take

25.1.1 Bycatch and Other Fisheries-induced Mortality

IUCN recognizes **bycatch as one of the principal threats to marine migratory species**. Fishing

operations in both industrial and small-scale sectors expose CMS-listed species to incidental capture, with mortality occurring through retention, discards, release-related injury, escape, and unobserved interactions. IUCN notes that **effective bycatch mitigation measures include gear modifications, operational practices, safe handling and release protocols, and spatial or temporal closures**, where appropriate and effectively monitored. IUCN further notes that mitigation approaches and implementation pathways may differ regionally and between industrial and small-scale fisheries, and that context-appropriate measures are essential for evaluating conservation outcomes. IUCN notes ongoing discussions regarding the definition of bycatch in the CMS context and considers that clarity in terminology will support consistent implementation and reporting by Parties. **IUCN emphasizes that the scope of bycatch should include incidental take of non-target species**, whether individuals are retained, discarded, released, escape, or are injured, as well as unobserved mortality where relevant. IUCN supports adoption of the draft decisions contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.1, taking into account the amendments suggested by the Scientific Council.

25.1.2 Bycatch of Chondrichthyan Species

IUCN notes that sharks and rays generally exhibit life-history characteristics including slow growth, late maturity, and low reproductive output, which are associated with limited recovery potential under sustained fishing mortality.

IUCN supports efforts to **improve monitoring, species identification, and species-level reporting of shark and ray catch and discards in fisheries where these species occur**. IUCN notes that these elements are important for evaluating the effectiveness of CMS measures and for informing management responses. IUCN also notes the relevance of coordination between CMS and fisheries management authorities, including regional fisheries management bodies with regards to implementation. **IUCN supports the continuation of relevant existing CMS decisions and intersessional work on chondrichthyan bycatch, monitoring, and mitigation.**

25.1.4 Aquatic Wild Meat

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.25.1.4 on the work of the CMS Scientific Council's Aquatic Wildmeat Working Group and strongly supports the **continuation of its assessments of the scope, scale and impacts of aquatic wild meat hunting and trade, as well as the development and implementation of effective measures to reduce**

unsustainable use. IUCN encourages enhanced information-sharing and collaboration with the International Whaling Commission, including participation in relevant Small Cetacean Subcommittee meetings, and underscores the importance of implementing the [Action Plan to address aquatic wild meat harvests in West Africa](#), which is highly relevant to conservation efforts such as the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Cetacean Specialist Group looks forward to supporting the Working Group's work and building synergies with other bodies to better understand and address threats to migratory aquatic species.

25.2 Marine Pollution and Other Threats

25.2.2 Underwater Noise

IUCN welcomes the encouragement for Parties to **disseminate and apply the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for noise-generating activities**, as well as CMS Technical Series No. 46 on best available technologies to mitigate underwater noise from shipping, seismic surveys, and pile driving. IUCN supports the work plan and recommendations of the joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group and emphasizes the need to strengthen and expand guidance on marine noise mitigation. In particular, IUCN **calls for the development of dedicated guidance addressing noise impacts on freshwater cetaceans**, comparable to existing marine-focused guidance, **recognizing the critical importance of reducing acoustic disturbance** for the conservation of **threatened freshwater and riverine species**, consistent with [IUCN Resolution 7.113 \(2020\) Restoring a peaceful and quiet ocean](#).

25.2.3 Deep-Sea Mining

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.25.2.3 on Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory Species, as well as the report "*Impacts of Deep-sea Mining on Migratory Species: Review and Knowledge Gaps*" and appreciates the Scientific Council's analysis and recommendations, which identify emerging risks to migratory species and significant knowledge gaps that warrant a precautionary approach. While recognizing that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) is the body responsible for organizing, regulating and controlling deep-sea mineral activities in the Area, **IUCN supports the inclusion of deep-sea mining (DSM) impacts within the CMS remit given the Area's designation as common heritage of humankind and CMS Parties' obligation to conserve migratory species across their ranges.**

IUCN underscores the **importance of ensuring coherence across international ocean governance frameworks to maintain healthy ocean systems and climate regulation**, and welcomes the draft Decision's call for enhanced research, precautionary management and dissemination of findings to national authorities. IUCN stands ready to collaborate with CMS, ISA and other partners to define a robust research agenda, improve scientific understanding of DSM impacts on migratory species—including sharks, rays, marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles and fishes—and to support development of guidance on environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) approaches that reflect CMS conservation obligations.

IUCN welcomes the recommendations from the Scientific Council and strongly supports adoption of the draft Decision, including proposals to urge Parties to **avoid or defer DSM activities until sufficient scientific evidence is available, to align DSM decisions with CMS obligations**, to facilitate further research on impacts to migratory species and ecosystems, to disseminate the DSM review and recommendations to relevant national departments, and to collaborate with the ISA on ESIAs guidance development.

25.3 Marine Area-based Conservation Management

25.3.1 Priorities for Area-based Conservation of Marine Migratory Species

IUCN **highlights the relevance of spatial management approaches for migratory species** that aggregate predictably in breeding, nursery, feeding, or migratory corridor habitats.

The **initiatives to identify Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)** are led by IUCN Commissions Groups and Partnerships and apply standardized scientific criteria to identify areas of ecological importance to species. **These delineations provide spatially explicit information that can inform marine spatial planning, environmental and social impact assessments, fisheries management, and the design and designation of protected and conserved areas.** Using these datasets for area-based conservation of marine migratory species will directly support the implementation of key targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. IUCN notes that Parties may also draw on complementary global and regional spatial datasets relevant to migratory species, as appropriate, in support of coherent spatial planning. **IUCN supports**

adoption of the draft decisions in document COP15/Doc.25.3.1. IUCN Commission Groups will continue to work with CMS Parties and other relevant stakeholders to support implementation of the resolution.

25.3.2 Vessel Strikes

IUCN welcomes progress in implementing Decisions 14.48 and 14.50 on reducing vessel strike risk to marine megafauna and supports the proposed draft decisions in document COP15/Doc.25.3.2 for further action. **IUCN strongly supports the requests by the Scientific Council to map shipping lanes against Important Marine Mammal Areas in collaboration with the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, IWC and IMO, to identify CMS-listed cetacean populations at high risk from vessel strikes, and to develop guidance on appropriate placement of routing and speed-mitigation measures for key habitats.** IUCN also supports inclusion of Arabian Sea humpback whales and other large whale populations as priority for ship-strike mitigation, recognizing their migratory ranges through CMS Party States even where adjacent ports, such as Duqm in Oman, are outside the CMS Party State network, and notes the value of aligning these actions with ongoing IWC strategies and joint CMS-IWC conservation planning.

25.3.3 Conserving Seamount Ecosystems

IUCN welcomes and strongly supports the **proposal by Monaco and Panama on conserving seamount ecosystems under CMS.** Seamounts are critical ecological nodes and migratory stepping-stones that sustain marine mammals, sharks and rays, turtles, seabirds, and migratory fish throughout their life cycles. Their **vulnerability to bottom trawling and other destructive practices, combined with their slow recovery rates, makes urgent protection imperative.** This proposal aligns closely with long-standing IUCN policy, including [Recommendation 3.099](#) (2004) and [IUCN Resolution 8.032](#) (2025), which call for protecting seamounts and other vulnerable marine ecosystems from destructive fishing practices and promoting a transition away from bottom trawling on seamounts. Both emphasize science-based identification of seamount networks important for associated pelagic and benthic biodiversity. IUCN recognizes CMS as **uniquely placed to address the role of seamounts in maintaining ecological connectivity for migratory species, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction.** The proposed Resolution and Decisions support implementation

of the Samarkand Strategic Plan, CMS connectivity work, and global biodiversity commitments.

IUCN stands ready, through its Commissions and Members, to support Parties with scientific tools (including IMMAs, ISRAs, and KBAs), research collaboration, and technical guidance to advance effective protection and management of seamount ecosystems.

25.4 Marine Mammals

25.4.1 Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.25.4.1 on progress against Resolution 14.9 and strongly supports the priority actions outlined for the new programme of work of the CMS Aquatic Mammals Working Group (AMWG), which are informed by the comprehensive review commissioned from OceanCare and refined through Scientific Council discussions. **IUCN supports the draft decisions and stands ready to collaborate with and provide scientific input to the AMWG, including on issues such as whaling and aquatic wildmeat takes, climate change impacts on cetaceans, and occurrences of cetaceans outside their typical habitats**, while ensuring synergies with the International Whaling Commission's work and other relevant conservation efforts.

25.4.2 Cetacean Action Plans

IUCN welcomes progress in implementing the Action Plans for cetaceans in the Red Sea region, South Atlantic whales, and the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Critically Endangered Atlantic humpback dolphin and strongly supports the proposal to adopt the draft Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea humpback whale, as presented in document COP15/Doc.25.4.2. IUCN underscores the importance of accurate, comprehensive reporting on SSAP implementation—including by recognizing non-governmental and scientific contributions beyond formal government reports—and encourages renewed efforts by all range states to fully implement and report on actions for Atlantic humpback dolphins, which are a focal species for IUCN's Integrated Conservation Planning for Cetaceans Initiative. IUCN also fully supports the draft Arabian Sea humpback whale regional Conservation Management Plan, recognizing its collaborative development and its value as a model for CMS-IWC collaboration in the region, and urges its adoption by CMS Parties and subsequent consideration by the IWC in 2026.

25.6 Fish

25.6.1 Freshwater Fish

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.25.6.1 and the Global Assessment of Migratory Freshwater Fishes and **underscores the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and protection for migratory freshwater fish**, a group that remains **vastly underrepresented in the CMS Appendices** despite facing severe declines and high extinction risk. Only a small fraction of known migratory freshwater fish species is currently covered by CMS listings, even though many cross-national boundaries and depend on free-flowing rivers—habitats threatened by dams, pollution, water abstraction, climate change and overfishing—highlighting a critical conservation gap that CMS can help address by expanding species listings and coordinated actions at basin scale.

IUCN calls on Parties to support improved data, baselines and targeted proposals to enhance freshwater fish inclusion and conservation under CMS, recognizing their essential roles for river ecosystem health, food security and livelihoods worldwide.

IUCN stands ready to support CMS Parties with scientific data and advice on migratory freshwater fish species and their conservation.

25.6.3 Sharks and Rays

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.25.6.3 and notes that many CMS-listed shark and ray species continue to have unfavourable conservation status based on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessments, with fishing mortality identified as a principal threat in most assessments.

For CMS Appendix I species, IUCN notes the relevance of measures associated with the reduction of directed and incidental mortality and the importance of protection across the species' range. For Appendix II species, IUCN highlights the role of cooperative management among Range States, given documented transboundary movements. IUCN further notes that effective implementation is supported by improved monitoring and reporting of mortality sources and coordination with relevant fisheries management bodies. **IUCN supports COP's adoption of the draft decisions in the document.**

25.6.4 Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sub-Population of the Tope Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*)

IUCN welcomes the **development of the Single Species Action Plan for the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean sub-population of the tope shark**. The species undertakes regional movements across jurisdictional boundaries and is

subject to fisheries interactions in parts of its range. The tope shark is listed on CMS Appendix II and in CITES Appendix II. IUCN strongly supports COP's adoption of the Action Plan.

25.6.5 Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish

IUCN welcomes the proposed Multi-species Action Plan for Amazonian Migratory Catfish and supports adoption of the draft Resolution and Decisions. The Plan addresses an urgent conservation need for some of the world's longest-distance freshwater migrants, whose populations are under increasing pressure from overfishing, river fragmentation, habitat degradation, pollution, and significant knowledge gaps across their transboundary ranges. IUCN particularly values the Action Plan's basin-wide, multi-species and multi-sector approach, its emphasis on regional coordination, and the engagement of non-Party Range States, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society. This integrated framework aligns with IUCN priorities on ecological connectivity, freshwater ecosystem integrity, and sustainable use. Through its Commissions and Specialist Groups, IUCN stands ready to **provide scientific and technical support to Range States in areas such as IUCN Red List assessments, migration ecology and connectivity planning**, while helping to **strengthen synergies with other regional and global freshwater and biodiversity initiatives.**

26.4.2 Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (2026-2037)

IUCN supports the adoption of the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustards MsAP), compiled by the Bustards Without Borders initiative within the framework of AEMLAP. The Bustards MsAP has been developed through a robust process involving the gathering information and review from national experts by nine regional coordinators, as well as two rounds of review requested from the focal points of 102 Parties. The MsAP has been endorsed by the membership of the IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group, as well as BirdLife International and the World Wildlife Fund. In consideration of the accelerating threats to bustard species, **IUCN urges CMS Parties to dedicate resources to speed the implementation of the science-based actions prioritized in the MsAP.**

Terrestrial Species Conservation Issues (Agenda item 27)

27.1 Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative

Building on the commitments and priorities highlighted at CMS COP14, IUCN strongly supports **accelerating and strengthening implementation of the CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI)** as a key Range State-driven platform for conserving lions, leopards, cheetahs and African wild dogs. While the strategic frameworks, action plans, and regional cooperation mechanisms are in place, their effectiveness depends on sustained political leadership, adequate resourcing, and coordinated action at national and sub-national levels. Governments are therefore called upon to integrate carnivore conservation into all aspects of development planning for effective, sustainable implementation. Through the IUCN Save Our Species (SOS) programme and the 2024 CMS–IUCN Memorandum of Understanding on ACI, **IUCN is helping operationalize ACI priorities via a regranting mechanism that channels funds directly to conservation actors across species' ranges**, supporting coexistence, habitat protection and restoration, and disease risk management. IUCN has also contributed to update regional and national conservation strategies, human–wildlife coexistence policy development, and disease management guidance, aligning with priority ACI Programme of Work (POW) results. **A significant funding pledge secured by IUCN in 2025 presents a major co-financing opportunity for ACI**, but matching contributions are urgently needed to unlock this investment. **IUCN requests donors to prioritise this opportunity and come forward.** IUCN stands ready to work with ACI Parties, donors and partners to **mobilize resources, support the implementation of the revised POW, and scale up coordinated action for African carnivores.**

27.3 Central Asian Mammals Initiative

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.27.3 and supports the draft Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) Work Programme 2026–2032, including its incorporation of climate change considerations, area-specific activities for priority transboundary conservation regions, and the addition of Pallas' cat (*Felis manul*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) to CAMI. IUCN recommends COP adopt the draft amendments and decisions. **IUCN actively contributed to the development of the draft CAMI Programme of Work 2026–2032, and stands ready to support CAMI implementation in collaboration with CMS, including through the IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism as well as the**

IUCN SSC Human–Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group, in response to requests from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

27.4 Jaguar

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.27.4 and the Regional Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation, recognizing it as a critical step towards securing the long-term survival of jaguars (*Panthera onca*) across their range. This initiative aligns closely with [IUCN Resolution 7.090](#) (2020), which **designates the jaguar as a continental conservation priority and emphasizes the importance of coordinated, transboundary actions to maintain viable populations and ecological connectivity**. It is also consistent with the recent [CITES CoP20 Decision on jaguar conservation](#), which calls for strengthened international cooperation to combat illegal trade and support range State implementation efforts, reinforcing the need for complementary action under CMS and CITES frameworks. IUCN stands ready to **provide technical support to Parties to understand, prevent, and mitigate negative human–jaguar interactions, and to promote coexistence in line with best-practice approaches**. The IUCN SSC Human–Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group (HWCCSG) highlights the relevance of the [IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence](#), available in Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages, which provide essential foundations and principles for good practice, with clear, practical guidance on how best to manage conflicts and enable coexistence with wildlife. IUCN encourages Parties to integrate these guidelines into the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, to strengthen monitoring, conflict mitigation, and community engagement, ensuring that jaguar conservation contributes to both biodiversity protection and sustainable human livelihoods.

Crosscutting Conservation Issues (Agenda item 28)

28.1 Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.28.1 and the comprehensive scoping analysis on illegal and unsustainable take, to which IUCN Commission Specialist Groups have contributed substantive material and review, and **stands ready to support the development and implementation of the proposed Global Guidance for Sustainable Wildlife Management**. IUCN also supports the proposed amendments to Resolution 11.31 (Rev. COP14) presented in Annex 4, and urges

CMS Parties to prioritize efforts to eliminate illegal and unsustainable take of Appendix I species as a critical component of effective conservation and sustainable use frameworks.

28.2 Ecological Connectivity

IUCN strongly supports adoption of the proposed amendments to Resolution 14.16 (Rev. COP15) and related draft Decisions, and stands ready to assist Parties in their implementation. Since the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 75/271 (2021), IUCN has actively advocated for the **establishment of ecological corridors to maintain, enhance and restore structural and functional connectivity of habitats and species within and across national borders**. This commitment was most recently reinforced at the 8th IUCN World Conservation Congress (October 2025), which adopted [Resolution 8.126 Recognising and reporting ecological corridors](#) calling on the IUCN Director General, Secretariat, Commissions and Members to **promote a multilaterally agreed definition and frameworks for ecological corridors as a spatially explicit conservation measure**, and inviting Members, governments and institutions to apply the [IUCN Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors](#) to identify and, where appropriate, recognize or designate ecological corridors.

28.3 Transfrontier Conservation Areas

IUCN supports adoption of the draft decisions on Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species (COP15/Doc.28.3) and **stands ready to assist Parties through its technical expertise and global experience in transboundary conservation**. This support is reflected in outcomes of the Forum event held at the 8th IUCN World Conservation Congress (October 2025), which produced the report [Transboundary Conservation Around the World: Ecologically and Culturally Well-connected Landscapes and Seascapes](#). The report highlights two key priorities directly relevant to CMS implementation: 1) Emphasize moving from planning to action, harmonizing laws and management across borders, integrating connectivity for all species and ecosystems, and applying conflict-sensitive strategies; and 2) Long-term funding and multi-sector collaboration are critical for sustained success. IUCN therefore **encourages Parties to advance practical, cooperative measures that strengthen connectivity for migratory species across national boundaries**.

28.4 Communities and Livelihoods

IUCN strongly supports the proposal from the Eighth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC8) to establish a dedicated working group that deals with the strategic issues related to interactions between communities and CMS-listed species (UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.28.4/Add.1). However, IUCN suggests COP to amend the text to specifically focus on issues related to 'human–wildlife conflict and coexistence' which are addressed by various CMS frameworks, a multi-stakeholder working group is crucial to promoting alignment and coordination across these initiatives. By leveraging the impartial support of the IUCN SSC Human–Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group, this group would help Parties prevent and mitigate the impacts of human–wildlife conflict on CMS-listed species while promoting coexistence.

28.5 Wildlife Health

IUCN welcomes the continued leadership of CMS in **advancing wildlife health as a core element of migratory species conservation** and strongly supports the proposed revisions to Resolution 12.6 (Rev.COP14) and associated draft Decisions. The experience of COVID-19 and the ongoing panzootic of highly pathogenic avian influenza have underscored that wildlife health, ecosystem integrity, livestock health and human health are inseparable. IUCN endorses the strengthened articulation of One Health and ecosystem approaches within CMS, aligned with the Health Quadripartite and the WHO Pandemic Agreement, and recognizes CMS as uniquely placed to **integrate conservation priorities into global health prevention, preparedness and response**.

IUCN particularly supports the **emphasis on tackling the root drivers of ill health and population decline**—including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, climate change, unsustainable agriculture and aquaculture, and high-risk wildlife trade—**through preventative, cost-effective actions that deliver co-benefits for biodiversity, food security and public health**. We welcome the work of the CMS Working Group on Migratory Species and Health, the One Health case studies and the analysis of CMS mandates, and encourage Parties to apply these resources to strengthen surveillance, health intelligence, cross-sectoral collaboration and evidence-based decision-making.

IUCN urges Parties to adopt the proposed amendments and Decisions, **ensure adequate resourcing for implementation, and support capacity development**—particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Strengthening cooperation with FAO, WOA, WHO, UNEP and

CITES, and ensuring that wildlife is recognized not only as a potential disease host but also as a victim and a beneficiary of healthy ecosystems, will be critical to safeguarding migratory species and advancing equitable, wildlife-centred One Health outcomes.

28.7 Light Pollution

IUCN welcomes the CMS draft decision on light pollution in COP15/Doc.28.7 and supports its emphasis on consolidating and disseminating the CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species. The draft decision appropriately recognises light pollution as a growing, cross-sectoral threat to migratory species and ecosystems, and reflects a mature phase of CMS work in which the priority shifts from developing new guidance to scaling up implementation, outreach and uptake by Parties and stakeholders. IUCN particularly welcomes the conclusion of the Scientific Council that no immediate amendments to the Guidelines are required, and that efforts should **focus on awareness-raising, capacity building, and integration into policy and planning processes**.

The CMS approach aligns closely with [IUCN Resolution 8.046 on a Global strategy for natural darkness restoration: protecting key habitats and mitigating light pollution](#), adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. Both frameworks emphasise the adverse impacts of artificial light at night on migratory birds, bats and other nocturnal species; the need to protect critical habitats and migration routes; and the importance of practical, science-based mitigation measures such as adaptive lighting, zoning, and standards that integrate biodiversity considerations into infrastructure, safety and energy policies. IUCN commends CMS for its pioneering global leadership through the [International Guidelines](#) and **encourages continued collaboration** between CMS and its Parties, IUCN, CBD processes, and relevant technical bodies to **promote natural darkness restoration as a shared conservation objective**.

28.10 Infrastructure

IUCN strongly supports adoption of the proposed amendments to Resolution 07.02 (Rev. COP14) and related draft Decisions on infrastructure development and migratory species (COP15/Doc.28.10 Rev.1), and stands ready to assist Parties in their implementation. This work aligns with IUCN [Resolution 7.071 Wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure](#) (2020), which continues to guide IUCN's efforts to address the environmental impacts of roads, railways, canals, power lines,

fences and pipelines. Guided by [the IUCN Technical Report 'Addressing ecological connectivity in the development of roads, railways, and canals'](#) on maintaining ecological connectivity in infrastructure planning, IUCN and its partners are **advancing solutions to avoid, minimize and mitigate habitat fragmentation**, with particular emphasis on **cross-sector collaboration to mainstream wildlife-friendly infrastructure in science, policy and practice**.

28.11 Renewable Energy

IUCN supports the rapid shift to renewable energy as vital for combating climate change but **stresses that this transition must contribute towards nature-positive targets, and aligned with CMS goals for migratory species protection**. In line with [IUCN Resolution 8.044 Preventing population impacts of wind energy facilities on bats](#), Parties should **rigorously apply the mitigation hierarchy**—prioritizing avoidance, then minimization, restoration, and last-resort offsetting—across national energy policies and projects. **IUCN urges integrating migratory species needs early in energy planning by using Strategic Environmental Assessments, robust Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, and science-based spatial planning to avoid sensitive areas** like protected areas, KBAs, IMMAs, ISRAs, flyways, and migration corridors. Addressing cumulative impacts at large scales is also essential. IUCN values the work of the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF) and technical guidance supporting best practices, highlighting the role of multi-stakeholder coalitions like the **Renewables for Nature Coalition, Global Initiative for Nature, Grids**, and Renewables collaboration, and industry leaders such as **Ecowende** in developing nature-positive energy transitions. To go beyond “no harm”, IUCN promotes the **use of cumulative impact assessment, biodiversity enhancement, and science-based spatial planning** through [its guidance and frameworks](#), to **maximize environmental and social co-benefits in renewable energy development**.

28.12 Climate Change

IUCN welcomes the proposed amendments to Annex 2 of Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) and supports the revised Decision Framework as a timely and science-based response to the accelerating impacts of climate change on migratory species. The framework provides clearer guidance to Parties on how to interpret “favourable

conservation status” in the context of climate-induced range shifts, and appropriately recognizes that effective conservation action will increasingly be required both within and beyond historic species ranges. IUCN particularly supports the structured scenario approach and the articulation of four complementary strategies—conservation, restoration, adaptation and translocation—underpinned by explicit core conditions. This approach aligns well with established conservation planning principles and reflects IUCN guidance, including the Guidelines for Reintroduction and Other Conservation Translocations. The emphasis on forward-looking planning to 2100, multi-scale decision-making (species, population and sub-population levels), and the consideration of ecological, social and financial feasibility strengthens the practical applicability of the framework for Parties.

28.13 Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.28.13 on Conservation Implication of Animal Culture and Social Complexity, and recognizes its alignment with [IUCN Resolution 8.112](#) (2025) *Strengthening planning for preserving biodiversity through the use of Longevity Conservation approaches to ensure naturally age-structured populations of species*. Scientific evidence demonstrates that older individuals in animal populations often perform disproportionately important ecological, demographic, and social roles, serving as repositories of ecological knowledge, behavioural traditions, and socially learned strategies that enhance survival, reproduction, and population resilience—concepts closely linked to emerging global work on animal culture and social learning under CMS.

IUCN appreciates the positive dialogue with the CMS Secretariat on the topic of animal culture. In collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and the Chair of the CMS Expert Group on Animal Culture, and through the IUCN CEESP–SSC Conservation of Animal Culture Task Force, IUCN seeks to advance the integration of animal culture into conservation policy and practice. Complementing CMS’s focus on migratory species, IUCN promotes a holistic approach across migratory and non-migratory species, inclusive of traditional knowledge and Indigenous perspectives. IUCN looks forward to contributing to the work of the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and supports continued progress in this area.

Appendices and Concerted Actions

CMS Appendices (Agenda item 29)

29.3 Taxonomy and Nomenclature Updates

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.29.3, which reiterates Resolution 12.27 (Rev. COP14) designating the Committee on Taxonomy's List of Marine Mammal Species and Subspecies as the standard reference for marine mammal taxonomy. The IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group (CSG) fully supports this designation, as it forms the basis for IUCN Red List assessments, and is also used by the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force in identifying Important Marine Mammal Areas. The IUCN position aligns with other authoritative bodies, including the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which recognizes the Society for Marine Mammalogy ([SMM](#)) Taxonomy list as the primary reference for cetacean nomenclature. Maintaining a consistent, authoritative taxonomic standard is essential for coherent assessment, reporting, and conservation planning for marine mammals globally.

29.5 Towards Harmonization of Taxonomy and Nomenclature

IUCN takes note of document COP15/Doc.29.5. IUCN recognizes the potential benefits of a single, harmonized repository for taxonomic information, which could improve consistency and accessibility for conservation planning. However, inconsistencies may arise between IUCN and CMS designations if the Catalogue of Life is not regularly updated or does not draw from the same authoritative sources. IUCN therefore **encourages careful evaluation of alignment mechanisms** to ensure that any harmonized system supports accurate, up-to-date, and globally accepted taxonomic references.

Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention (Agenda item 30)

30.2 Proposals to COP15 for Amendment of Appendices I and II of the Convention

30.2.1 Proposal for the inclusion of the Populations of Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia on Appendix I and II of the Convention

IUCN welcomes the proposal document COP15/Doc.30.2.1 for the inclusion of the Populations of Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia on Appendix I and II of the Convention and recommends COP to adopt the proposal.

30.2.12 Proposal for the inclusion of the Pelagic thresher (*Alopias pelagicus*), the Bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*), and the Common thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*) on Appendix I of the Convention

IUCN notes that the pelagic thresher, bigeye thresher, and common thresher are pelagic sharks with documented movements across national jurisdictions and into areas beyond national jurisdiction. Available information, including tagging studies and fisheries data, indicates transboundary movements consistent with CMS migratory criteria. IUCN notes that all three species share life-history characteristics including slow growth, late maturity, and low fecundity, which are associated with limited recovery potential under sustained fishing mortality. Fishing mortality, both targeted and incidental, is identified as a principal threat in assessments of these species. IUCN further notes that despite listings of these species on CITES Appendix II, as well as retention bans in several RFMOs, populations continue to decline. A CMS Appendix I listing would complement existing international trade regulation frameworks by focusing on coordinated conservation and management measures across their migratory range.

IUCN notes the discussion of this proposal within the CMS Scientific Council and supports adoption of the proposal.

30.2.13 Proposal for the inclusion of the Patagonian narrownose smoothhound (*Mustelus schmitti*) on Appendix II of the Convention

IUCN notes that the Patagonian narrownose smoothhound is a coastal shark occurring in the Southwest Atlantic and recorded in the waters of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Available information indicates seasonal movements across national jurisdictions, with the species forming a transboundary population unit subject to fisheries across its range.

IUCN notes that the species is assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with fishing pressure, including bycatch, identified as a principal threat. IUCN further notes that Appendix II listing under CMS supports cooperative conservation and management measures, monitoring, and information exchange among Range States for migratory species that regularly cross jurisdictional boundaries. IUCN supports adoption of the proposal.

30.2.14 Proposal for the inclusion of the Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*)

on Appendix I of the Convention and 30.2.15 Proposal for the inclusion of the Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) on Appendix I of the Convention

IUCN supports the inclusion of the scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) and the great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) on CMS Appendix I. Both species are widely distributed coastal–pelagic sharks undertaking large-scale and long-distance movements across national jurisdictions and into areas beyond national jurisdiction, including movements between coastal nursery areas, offshore aggregation sites and oceanic habitats, consistent with CMS migratory criteria. Both are assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with fishing mortality—through targeted catch and bycatch—identified as a principal threat. While both species are listed in CITES Appendix II, CMS Appendix I listing would complement existing international trade controls by strengthening coordinated conservation, protection and management measures across their migratory ranges.

These proposals are fully aligned with IUCN Resolution 8.117 [Conservation of the Critically Endangered scalloped hammerhead shark \(*Sphyrna lewini*\) and its look-alike species the smooth hammerhead shark \(*Sphyrna zygaena*\) and the great hammerhead \(*Sphyrna mokarran*\)](#), which calls for strengthened international cooperation, improved fisheries management, effective enforcement, and enhanced conservation measures throughout the range of these species. CMS Appendix I listing represents a necessary and coherent step toward delivering these commitments and advancing urgent conservation action for these highly threatened migratory sharks.

30.2.16 Proposal for the inclusion of the Angular angelshark (*Squatina guggenheim*) on Appendix II of the Convention

IUCN notes that the angular angelshark is a demersal coastal species occurring in the Southwest Atlantic, with a distribution that includes the waters of Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. While detailed movement data are not available, the species' geographic range spans multiple national jurisdictions, and individuals may occur across jurisdictional boundaries, indicating a transboundary context for conservation and management.

IUCN notes that the species is assessed as Endangered globally on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and has been assessed at

higher risk in parts of its range. Fisheries interactions, including bycatch in demersal trawl and gillnet fisheries, are identified as principal threats in assessments of the species. IUCN notes that Appendix II listing under CMS supports cooperation among Range States in the development of coordinated management measures, monitoring, and information exchange for species whose conservation and management benefit from international collaboration.

IUCN supports adoption of the proposal.

30.2.17 Proposal for the inclusion of the Spotted sorubim (*Pseudoplatystoma corruscans*) on Appendix II of the Convention

IUCN welcomes and supports the proposal to list the Spotted sorubim (*Pseudoplatystoma corruscans*) on CMS Appendix II. This large migratory catfish relies on long-distance river connectivity and seasonal flows for spawning, growth, and feeding, making it highly vulnerable to habitat fragmentation from dams, altered flows, overfishing, and hybridization risks from aquaculture. Populations have declined significantly across the São Francisco and La Plata basins, resulting in its status of Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and highlighting the need for transboundary conservation measures. Listing on CMS Appendix II would facilitate international cooperation among Range States, enabling coordinated fisheries management, protection of migration routes, monitoring, and information sharing. It would support the species' ecological role as a top predator and its socioeconomic importance, while strengthening ongoing national conservation efforts. IUCN considers the listing both timely and fully aligned with the objectives of CMS.

Concerted Actions (Agenda item 31)

31.2 Progress in the Implementation of Concerted Actions

31.2.1 Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) behavioural diversity and cultures

Implementation of the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Behavioural Diversity and Cultures was led by the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Great Apes (PSG SGA) Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures (WGCC) which is comprised of leading experts in this field. As a result of their collaborative efforts, substantial progress has been made in achieving the objectives outlined in the CA. IUCN is particularly pleased to see their advancement in developing frameworks to elevate local

stakeholders to leadership in research and advocacy of behavioural diversity as a conduit of conservation and their increased engagement with conservation practitioners to identify their needs for practical implementation of the culture concept. IUCN will continue to foster the integration of culture into conservation by promoting its inclusion in the Best Practice Guideline (BPG) series and the Ape Atlas. IUCN recommends renewing the Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Behavioural Diversity and Cultures and stands ready, with its WGCC, to continue expanding innovative and collaborative approaches to assessing and preserving chimpanzee behavioural diversity and culture across equatorial Africa.

31.2.6 Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) of the Arabian Sea

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.31.2.6, and the brief report on the Concerted Action for Arabian Sea humpback whale. IUCN supports this evolution, recognizing that a structured, long-term CMP will provide a stronger framework for coordinated conservation measures, implementation planning, monitoring and resource mobilization for this Endangered subpopulation. The transition reflects constructive collaboration between CMS and the International Whaling Commission, and IUCN stands ready to support the ongoing implementation of the CMP to ensure sustained and effective conservation outcomes for Arabian Sea humpback whales across their range.

31.2.7 Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) of the Eastern Tropical Pacific

IUCN welcomes the report document COP15/Doc.31.2.7 on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. IUCN encourages the continuation of this concerted Action into the next triennium (see 31.3.6 below).

31.2.8 Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Franciscana dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*)

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.31.2.8 on the conservation of the Franciscana dolphin, prepared by the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, and endorses the progress report on national conservation plans, strengthened regional capacity, and bycatch mitigation efforts. IUCN acknowledges that implementation has been delayed in some areas due to gaps in funding and critical data on abundance and mortality in

Argentina, and supports continued efforts to address these challenges. IUCN affirms the value of the collaborative conservation approach and encourages Parties and partners to sustain and enhance capacity building, data collection and resources to ensure effective conservation outcomes for this threatened species, in line with the authors' recommendation to continue the Concerted Action.

31.2.10 Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)

IUCN welcomes the report on progress in implementing the Concerted Action for the blue shark. IUCN notes that the species is a highly migratory pelagic shark occurring across ocean basins, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, and recorded in multiple pelagic fisheries.

IUCN notes the relevance of continued coordination among Range States and with relevant fisheries management bodies in relation to monitoring, data collection, and management of fisheries interactions affecting the species. IUCN supports the continued implementation of the Concerted Action.

31.2.11 Report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Common guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*) and the Bottlenose wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*)

IUCN welcomes the report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the common guitarfish and bottlenose wedgefish and notes the progress made under this initiative. These coastal rays occur across multiple jurisdictions and are subject to fisheries interactions in coastal and demersal fisheries. Both species are listed on CMS Appendices I and II and in CITES Appendix II.

IUCN notes that the activities under the Concerted Action have been completed and that the process has contributed to advancing conservation planning and coordination among various stakeholders. IUCN further notes ongoing support for continued conservation planning efforts, including through recently secured funding, which provides a basis for maintaining cooperation and implementation beyond the formal Concerted Action period. IUCN supports the closing of this Concerted Action.

31.3 Proposals for Concerted Actions for the Triennium 2026- 2029

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

The proposed Concerted Action for Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Behavioural Diversity and Cultures was developed by the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Great Apes (PSG SGA) Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures in collaboration with the CMS Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity. It has been positively reviewed by the CMS Scientific Council and leading experts in the field.

Implementation of the previous Concerted Action relied largely on in-kind contributions and resources mobilized through IUCN SSC networks. Effective delivery of the renewed Concerted Action will require dedicated and sustained financial support, including for the Working Group on Chimpanzee Cultures and the APES Atlas, which serves as the central data repository underpinning conservation planning and monitoring.

IUCN stands ready, through the PSG SGA and the APES database, to provide technical and scientific support. IUCN recommends adoption of the proposed Concerted Action and encourages Parties and donors to mobilize resources and align it with existing regional and national IUCN Ape Action Plans to ensure effective implementation.

31.3.6 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) of the Eastern Tropical Pacific already listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.31.3.6 on the Concerted Action for Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) sperm whales and endorses the proposal to strengthen long-term, cross-national monitoring and collaboration for this highly mobile population. The initiative's emphasis on coordinated acoustic monitoring, establishment of a standardized regional database, a regional workshop, and targeted awareness-raising to promote citizen science will provide critical insight into distribution, seasonal movements and population dynamics. The proposed transboundary cooperation on acoustic research and comparison of photo-identification catalogues aligns with key CMS priorities and will contribute to related work streams, including animal culture and migratory species conservation more broadly. IUCN supports continuation of this Concerted Action as an important mechanism to enhance scientific understanding and collaborative conservation of ETP sperm whales across national jurisdictions.

31.3.7 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Franciscana dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*)

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.31.3.7 on the continuation of the Concerted Action for the

Franciscana dolphin, building on the initiative adopted in 2024. The proposal was developed in close collaboration with stakeholders involved in the IWC Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the species during the [IWC workshop on South American CMPs in Santos, Brazil, in June, 2025](#). The Franciscana dolphin has been identified as a high-priority species for the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group and is a focal species under IUCN's Integrated Conservation Planning for Cetaceans Initiative, which supports health assessments and application of the IUCN One Plan Approach to conservation for some Franciscana populations. IUCN views this Concerted Action as an important mechanism to strengthen synergy and complementarity among CMS, IWC and IUCN, and to advance coordinated conservation measures for this Vulnerable species across its range.

31.3.8 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Lahille's bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) already listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention

IUCN welcomes document COP15/Doc.31.3.8 on the Concerted Action for Lahille's bottlenose dolphin and affirms that this Endangered subspecies is a priority for conservation action, consistent with the view of the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group. IUCN highlights the significance of this initiative as the first formal collaboration between the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to apply CPSG planning processes and principles to a species/population that is also the focus of an IWC Conservation Management Plan. This collaborative approach is expected to strengthen the Concerted Action's effectiveness and foster greater synergy among CMS, IWC and IUCN, enhancing coordinated conservation planning, implementation and monitoring to support recovery of Lahille's bottlenose dolphin across its range.

31.3.13 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) already listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention; 31.3.14 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) already listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention; 31.3.15 Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) already listed on Appendix II of the Convention; and 31.3.16 Proposal for a Concerted Action for all species of Devil and Manta rays (*Mobulidae*) already listed on Appendix I and II of the Convention

IUCN notes that the Sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*), Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), and all species of Devil

and Manta rays (Mobulidae) are migratory marine species listed on CMS Appendices I and/or II, with several also included in CITES Appendices. These species are characterized by low productivity, wide-ranging movements across national jurisdictions and areas beyond national jurisdiction, and vulnerability to fisheries mortality, including targeted and incidental catch. Some populations, such as the Sand tiger shark, are assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN notes the relevance of spatial tools, including Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs), and emphasizes that CMS Concerted Actions provide an important mechanism to strengthen coordination among Range States and relevant fisheries bodies on monitoring, research, data collection, and management measures across migratory routes. IUCN supports adoption of the proposed Concerted Actions.

IUCN supports adoption of these proposed Concerted Actions.