

**THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS OF PREY IN AFRICA AND EURASIA**

(Dubai, 3-6 July 2023)

UNEP/CMS/RAPTORS/MOS3/Doc.11

REPORT OF THE CMS SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

Summary: This document reports on relevant work undertaken by the CMS Secretariat since the fourth meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG4). The Meeting is invited to take note of the information presented.

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Introduction

1. The present report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the CMS Secretariat since the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MOU (TAG4, Online, December 2021) and that is of relevance to the Raptors MOU. This work concerns the following issues:
 - a. Implementation of resolutions and related action plans on specific taxonomic groups of birds;
 - b. Addressing illegal killing and poisoning, including through the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and a new proposed Initiative on the Illegal Killing of Birds in South West Asia;
 - c. Addressing impacts of energy infrastructure, including through the Energy Task Force (ETF);
 - d. Implementation of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Initiative;
 - e. Addressing the overarching and cross-cutting issues of connectivity, climate change, and World Migratory Bird Day; and
 - f. Some additional matters.
2. Detail on the above work since TAG4 is provided in the paragraphs that follow, whilst detail on relevant work of the Secretariat prior to TAG4 is available in document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG4/Doc.3.3](#) (only available in English).

Overarching Strategic, Institutional and Scientific Matters

- [Resolution 11.02 \(Rev.COP12\)](#), *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*
 - [Decisions 13.4 to 13.5](#), *Options for a Follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*
3. A summarised assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS) was submitted by the Secretariat to the 53rd Meeting of the Standing Committee (StC53, Bonn, Germany, October 2022) in document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#) (Assessment of Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 - 2023). That document addresses certain aspects of Decision 13.4, in particular: (i) the availability of the agreed indicators for the SPMS; (ii) a discussion on lessons learnt from the process of assessing the impact of the SPMS; and (iii) information on approaches to strategic planning adopted by other biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including how those have taken account of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the proposals for a Global Biodiversity Framework.
 4. Pursuant to Decision 13.5, and drawing on the assessment of the implementation of the SPMS,

lessons learnt, and examples of approaches of other biodiversity-related Conventions (see document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#)), the Secretariat submitted to StC53 for consideration a set of options for follow-up work to the SPMS (see document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.12](#)). Upon consideration of the options suggested by the Secretariat, StC53 decided to establish an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) tasked to develop a draft SPMS for consideration by the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14, Samarkand, Uzbekistan, October 2023). StC53 also requested that the Secretariat prepare a first draft of the SPMS to support the work of the IWG, and any other materials as required. For further detail on the decisions of StC53 regarding the SPMS, see document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Outcome 2](#). At the time of writing, the Secretariat was preparing the requested draft in collaboration with the Coordination Unit of the Raptors MOU.

- **[Resolution 12.06](#), on *Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species***

5. The Fifth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5, Online, June/July 2021) discussed wildlife disease and migratory species based on document [UNEP/SCM/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.4.1](#). The meeting developed terms of reference for the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health (document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 11](#)) and for a Review of Migration and Wildlife Disease Dynamics and the Health of Migratory Species (see document [CRP 6.4.1/B](#)). At the time of writing, the review was being produced by the University of Edinburgh, contracted by CMS, and with the supervision of the COP-appointed Councilor on Wildlife Health. Funding from the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom were enabling the work. Once available, the review is anticipated to inform Scientific Council recommendations to COP14 on wildlife disease and migratory species.

6. A [statement](#) on H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [HPAI] in poultry and wild birds was issued in January 2022 by the CMS and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Co-Convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, to inform stakeholders in governments, the poultry sector, disease control, wildlife management, site management and conservation sectors about HPAI viruses in wild birds and appropriate responses. At the time of writing, a new statement taking into account latest developments was being produced by said Task Force.

- **[Resolution 12.21](#), on *Climate Change and Migratory Species***
- **[Decisions 13.126 to 13.128](#), on *Climate Change and Migratory Species***

7. The Scientific Council Working Group on Climate Change and Migratory Species convened online in April 2023, with the main objectives of:

- a. Reviewing the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species 2015-2023, and discuss and agree on a revision of it to submit to CMS COP14 for consideration;
- b. Informing participants on progress in the development of a review on climate change and migratory species being undertaken by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) under contract with the Government of the United Kingdom, and anticipated to be submitted to COP14 for consideration;
- c. Considering key scientific issues concerning climate change and their links to other workstreams under CMS, such as habitat connectivity; and
- d. Identifying best ways to bring issues relating to climate change and migratory species to the attention of CMS and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conferences of Parties.

At the time of writing, the outcomes of the mentioned workshop were being compiled in a document to be submitted to COP14 by the Scientific Council for consideration. It is anticipated that the document will include inter alia a proposal for revising Resolution 12.21, including the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species annexed to it.

8. Further information on developments regarding climate change and migratory species is available in document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG4/Doc.3.3](#).
 - [Resolution 12.26 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), on *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*
 - [Decisions 13.113 to 13.115](#), on *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*
9. The two activities foreseen by the [CMS Programme of Work 2020-2023](#) regarding addressing connectivity for migratory species correspond to mandates directed to the Scientific Council specified by [Decision 13.114](#). Thanks to funding provided by the Government of Switzerland in 2021, the Secretariat is undertaking initial work on all elements of said Decision, which will be submitted to the [Scientific Council Working Group \(WG\) on Ecological Connectivity](#) for its review and input.
10. The WG on Ecological Connectivity was established by ScC-SC5, which also agreed on its terms of reference and workplan. In addition to interested Scientific Council members, the WG now includes numerous experts, as well as representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.
11. The primary objective of the WG is to support the delivery of relevant tasks concerning ecological connectivity contained in the Programme of Work of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council. In addition, the WG is expected to support the implementation of relevant resolutions and decisions directed to the Scientific Council, as well as the implementation of connectivity-related goals and targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the further development of its monitoring framework. More broadly, the WG aims to provide a platform to discuss and exchange information and scientific findings on matters related to ecological connectivity.
12. In line with the mandate of the Scientific Council contained in [Resolution 10.8 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), [Decision 13.12](#) and the Programme of Work of the Sessional Committee, the WG might also play an important role in contributing to an initial scoping to form the basis of a fast-track assessment on ecological connectivity under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The Ninth Session of the Plenary of IPBES (IPBES9, Bonn, July 2022) decided that this scoping process would be undertaken by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau of IPBES, with input from relevant MEAs and others. The results are planned for submission to the Tenth Session of the Plenary of IPBES (IPBES10, Bonn, August/September 2023). Further details on the process are contained in document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.13](#).
13. In addition, significant progress has been made to promote ecological connectivity in other fora and global processes in collaboration with many partner organisations. Efforts resulted in the inclusion of ecological connectivity in several key international policies and strategic documents, including:
 - a. Many elements of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (i.e., Goal A and Targets 1, 2, 3 and 12) concerning spatial and urban planning, development of protected and other conserved areas, wildlife management, climate change adaptation, and others;

- b. Provisions of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 5.2 Resolution 9 on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure assisting sustainable infrastructure development that minimizes ecosystem fragmentation;
 - c. UNEA5.2 Declaration, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) COP15 (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9-20 May 2022) "Land, Life and Legacy" Declaration and Second Edition of the Global Land Outlook, which underpin restoration interventions in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for 2021-2030;
 - d. Programming directions of the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8), which gives strong emphasis to the implementation of area-based conservation measures integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes that also aim at restoring, maintaining, and improving ecological connectivity.
14. The Secretariat shall continue supporting the work of the above-mentioned Scientific Council WG and engaging its members in the delivery of anticipated outputs to be reported to Sixth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC6, Bonn, 18-21 July 2023), which precedes COP14.
15. The Secretariat shall also keep seeking opportunities to promote ecological connectivity including through the effective implementation of policies and projects that address connectivity in the conservation of migratory species.
- **[Resolution 12.27](#), on *Taxonomy and Nomenclature***
16. Appendix II of CMS lists 63 bird families and three genera rather than individual species. Using the taxonomy adopted by the 11th and 12th Meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP11, Quito, November 2014; COP12, Manila, October 2017) as the standard for CMS for birds, in the runup to the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13, Gandhinagar, February 2020) the Scientific Council had done some preliminary work to determine which species should be considered covered by those families and genera. The Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its Fourth Meeting (ScC-SC4, Bonn, November 2019) considered that further work was required before it could be in a position to provide a considered opinion to the Conference of the Parties on the advantages and disadvantages of the various ways of treating the species currently aggregated under families or genera under Appendix II, and offered to work inter-sessionally following COP13 to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties at COP14. COP13 agreed with this offer. ScC-SC5 established an IWG on the disaggregation of higher taxa listed on CMS Appendix II, tasked to consider advantages and disadvantages of various options of considering a disaggregation to the species or lower levels of families and genera listed on CMS Appendix II. The terms of reference of the IWG can be found in document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 15](#). The IWG met twice since its establishment. At the time of writing, the outcomes of its deliberations were being compiled in a document to be reviewed by ScC-SC6, prior to submission to COP14.
- **[Resolution 13.7](#), on *Guidelines for Preparing and Assessing Proposals for the Amendment of CMS Appendices***
17. No updates have taken place on this topic since TAG4. Document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG4/Doc.3.3](#)) contains detail on relevant work undertaken prior to that meeting.
- **[Decision 13.140](#), on *Definition of the Terms "Range State" and "Vagrant"***
18. ScC-SC5 established an IWG to discuss the definition of the terms "Range State" and "vagrant".

The IWG met twice since its establishment, developing guidance on the use of the term “vagrant” in a CMS context. At the time of writing, the outcomes of the deliberations of the IWG were being compiled for review by ScC-SC6 and subsequent submission to COP14.

- **Decisions 13.14 to 13.15, on *National Reports***

19. No updates have taken place on this topic since TAG4. Document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/TAG4/Doc.3.3](#) contains details on activities that took place before then.

- **Decisions 13.16 to 13.19, on *Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species***
- **Decisions 13.24 to 13.26, on *Conservation Status of Migratory Species***

20. Through Decision 13.24, the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13, Gandhinagar, India, 2020) requested that the Secretariat further develop the preliminary review of the conservation status of migratory species submitted to COP13, and provided guidance towards its further development, including an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, and undertaking an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of species listed on Appendix I.

21. Through Decision 13.17, COP13 also requested the Secretariat to undertake, within the scope of the above-mentioned conservation status report, an assessment of the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species.

22. Following COP13, fundraising efforts by the Secretariat to implement Decisions 13.24 and 13.17 succeeded in obtaining support from the Government of Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), the Government of Switzerland (Federal Office for the Environment FOEN), and the Government of the United Kingdom (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA). Thanks to these contributions, the Secretariat has been able to establish an agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to assist with undertaking the activities foreseen in Decision 13.24 (a) to (c) and 13.17.

23. As an initial step, the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC developed a framework, criteria, and methodologies to undertake the foreseen activities. Three documents were submitted to ScC-SC5 (see document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.5](#) for details), which finalised and endorsed them:

- a. A proposed framework for a review of the conservation status of migratory species that can serve as a basis for the compilation of the report for COP14;
- b. A template for a set of case studies providing an in-depth assessment of CMS-listed species;
- c. A proposed methodology for a rapid assessment of Appendix I taxa to provide further insights on (i) the impact of direct use and trade on the conservation status of Appendix I-listed taxa, and (ii) the conservation status of Appendix I-listed species.

24. Based on the framework, template and methodology mentioned above, the following documents are being produced by UNEP-WCMC for submission to ScC-SC6 and subsequently COP14 for consideration:

- a. An assessment of the impact of direct use and trade on the status of Appendix I-listed species;
- b. A review of the conservation status of CMS Appendix I-listed taxa;
- c. An in-depth assessment on the status of 5 species listed on Appendix I (including the

White-tailed Sea Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*);

- d. A review of the conservation status of CMS Appendix II-listed taxa;
- e. An in-depth assessment on the status of 5 species listed on Appendix II;
- f. A report on the state of the world's migratory species.

25. In further response to Decision 13.16, a list of species included in Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are included in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), has been produced. It will be submitted to COP14 for consideration.

Avian-related Resolutions and Decisions

- **Resolution 11.09 (Rev.COP13), on World Migratory Bird Day**

26. Resolution 11.9 (Rev.COP13) invites Parties, the Secretariats of CMS and of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other global, regional and sub-regional organisations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organisations and individuals, to celebrate and raise awareness on World Migratory Bird Days (WMBD), celebrated on the second Saturday of the months of May and October. The CMS-AEWA Joint Communications Team, has run biannual campaigns on WMBD since 2006, and in cooperation with Environment For The Americas (EFTA) since 2017. Information on the themes since 2006 is available on the [WMBD website](#).

27. The WMBD 2021 ran under the slogan “Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!” on 8 and 9 October 2021, in a bid to strengthen recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation. More than 330 events were registered, and 36 countries were involved.

28. WMBD 2022 focused on “Light Pollution” and took place on 14 May and 8 October 2022. More than 500 events were registered, and 66 countries were involved, showing increasing interest worldwide in the initiative.

29. WMBD 2023 will take place on 13 May and 14 October 2023, focusing on the theme “[Water: Sustaining Bird Life](#)”, to highlight the importance of water for migratory birds and identify key actions for protecting water resources and aquatic ecosystems important for birds, including inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes, and ponds.

- **Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13), on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds**
- **Decisions 13.39 to 13.40, on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds**

30. Through Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13), COP13 reaffirmed the adoption of the “[Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#)” and proposed the continuation of the open-ended [Preventing Poisoning Working Group \(PPWG\)](#) until COP14.

31. As instructed in said Resolution, the Secretariat has supported the development of the [Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights](#). These terms of reference were adopted by the Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting (StC52, Online, September 2021).

32. In cooperation with the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU and other relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat continued to monitor the impacts of poisoning on migratory birds and to support the elaboration of national strategies and action plans to minimize detrimental impacts. As an

example, with funds provided by the Environmental Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), the Secretariat supported a workshop led by the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF) in Guinea Bissau in March 2020, to address the catastrophic poisoning of Hooded Vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*).

33. The Secretariat also submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) a concept note for protecting vulnerable communities and migratory species in West Africa against zoonotic diseases through building connected landscapes and habitats. However, the concept note was rejected in October 2021.
34. In close cooperation with the AEWA Secretariat, the CMS Secretariat supported an ad-hoc CMS Expert Group for the Evaluation of Exposure of European Union Birds to Lead Fishing Weights and Lead Ammunition in Terrestrial Environments. This Expert Group was established thanks to the voluntary work of several members of the PPWG. As explained below, the Group responded to a call of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on this matter.
35. In September 2021, the Secretariat submitted comments prepared in consultation with the Expert Group on the ECHA "[Annex XV Restriction Report - Lead in outdoor shooting and fishing](#)".
36. The ECHA Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) adopted its opinion on the restriction proposal in May/June 2022. It supported the proposal and recommended a shorter transition time than recommended in the "[Annex XV Restriction Report - Lead in outdoor shooting and fishing](#)" to phase out lead ammunition for hunting. For more details about the RAC's opinion, see [here](#). The ECHA Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis adopted its opinion in December 2022. The opinions of both Committees were sent to the European Commission in February 2023.
37. If approved by the European Parliament, the ban on lead ammunition and fishing weights across the European Union will be a major step toward combatting the unintentional poisoning of migratory birds in this region.
38. Similarly, in November 2022, the Secretariat supported said Expert Group by commenting on the United Kingdom's Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals consultation on the "[Annex 15 restriction report - proposal for a restriction of lead ammunition](#)".
39. Since 2022, the Secretariat also initiated contacts with UNEP officials to seek options for cooperation towards achieving a global ban on lead ammunition.
 - [Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), on *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*
 - [Decisions 13.27 to 13.31](#), on *Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)*
40. The MIKT was established in 2014 under Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13). As of March 2023, 22 CMS Parties, including the European Union (represented by the European Commission), were members of MIKT. Three interested Parties, one non-Party, eleven MEAs or networks, and nine international non-governmental organisations are Observers to MIKT. The MIKT also has access to eight Advisory Bodies.
41. The Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of MIKT, and it has ensured its uninterrupted coordination since November 2021.
42. The European Commission has been recognised by the [CMS Family as Champion Plus](#) for its generous support and commitment towards addressing illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory

birds (IKB) in the Mediterranean during the period 2018 – 2023. This recognition was awarded due to funding that it provided through the Global Public Goods and Challenges Cooperation Agreement with UNEP.

43. At the time of writing, five MIKT meetings had taken place. Since 2017, MIKT has met jointly with the Bern Convention. The [Fourth Meeting of MIKT](#) (MIKT4, Online, June 2021; the Third Joint Meeting with the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on IKB [SFPs]) was attended by 115 people. Eighteen (including the European Union) of its 21 members attended the meeting. [The Fifth Meeting of MIKT](#) (MIKT5, Valencia, Spain and online, June 2022; the 4th Joint meeting with the Bern Convention Network of SFPs) was attended by 120 people, 50 of which attended online. Eighteen (including the European Union) of its 21 members attended the meeting.
44. Since November 2021, MIKT members have adopted the [MIKT Workplan for 2021-2025](#) based on the [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#), which is the Strategic Framework for MIKT. The overarching long-term goal of the Rome Strategic Plan is the eradication of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds within the geographical scope of the Bern Convention and MIKT. The goal of the plan for 2030 is a 50% reduction of the scale and scope of IKB compared to the 2020 baseline.
45. Since November 2021, MIKT members have endorsed papers and guidance documents that support the implementation of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025 and the Rome Strategic Plan. Specifically, the MIKT members have endorsed:
 - a. [“Guidance for Development and Implementation of National Action Plans Against the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Birds”](#) to support the overarching objective of the Rome Strategic Plan and action a) of the Process Oriented Objective on National IKB Plans of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025. The paper was endorsed following consultation in mid-2022;
 - b. [A paper on “Baseline and Methodology for Assessing Progress toward Achieving the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean Region”](#) to support the implementation of Objective 1 of the Rome Strategic Plan and the implementation of Action 1.1 of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025. The paper was endorsed following consultation in the second half of 2021;
 - c. [“Legislative Guidance Materials Relating to the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds \(Legislative Guidance\)”](#) to support the implementation of Objective 3 of the Rome Strategic Plan and implement Action 3.1b of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025. The Legislative Guidance was endorsed following MIKT5 in mid-2022;
 - d. [“Model Law provisions on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds \(IKB\)”](#) to support the implementation of Objective 3 of the Rome Strategic Plan and implement Action 3.1b of the MIKT Workplan. The Model Law provisions were endorsed following MIKT5 in mid-2022;
 - e. Finally, a paper on [“Suggested Methodology and Guidance for Conducting Socio-Economic Research into the Motivations behind IKB”](#) is expected to be finalised during mid-2023.
46. The first [Scoreboard to Assess the Progress in Combating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds \(IKB\)](#) was adopted as Annex 1 of Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) in 2017. In line with Decision 13.27, which encourages Parties to “periodically use the Scoreboard in Annex 1 of Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing the illegal killing of wild birds”, the Secretariat supported the completion of the second Scoreboard which ran from July to November 2020. [The analysis of the results of the second Scoreboard exercise](#) in 2020, including comparisons between 2018 and 2020, showed slight improvements in

monitoring IKB and enforcement responses. The Scoreboard exercise has been launched to run again in 2023 from April to June 2023.

47. Furthermore, to improve the MIKT members' self-assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan, in 2022, additional narrative text to support Scoreboard submissions was adopted at MIKT5. The 2023 Scoreboard includes this additional text.
48. In 2021, the CMS and the Bern Convention Secretariats jointly approached the countries that had completed the Scoreboard to obtain their consent for making their answers available online, as downloaded from the CMS Online Reporting System. Of the 35 countries that completed the Scoreboard in 2018 and/or 2020, up to March 2023, 24 had given permission for their answers to be uploaded online. The answers have been uploaded [on a dedicated webpage of the Bern Convention website](#).
49. In September 2022, the Secretariat led [an online workshop on monitoring the scope and scale of IKB](#), where the methodologies used by different countries to monitor IKB and their respective results were showcased.
50. In 2022, the Secretariat also upgraded the [MIKT website](#) to include a new section on the [Rome Strategic Plan](#).
 - [Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), on *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds*
 - [Decisions 13.32 to 13.33](#), on *Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East-Asian Australasian Flyway*
51. In October 2022, thanks to financial support from the Government of Australia, the CMS Secretariat hired a coordinator for the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA). The Task Force was convened under Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) and held its inaugural meeting jointly with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in March 2023 in Brisbane, Australia. The meeting was attended by 20 participants (in-person and virtual), including two CMS Parties, two non-Party Range States, and eight observer organisations. Ms. Narelle Montgomery from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of the Government of Australia was elected as Chair of the Task Force. A subsequent side event on "Priorities for addressing the illegal take of migratory birds in the Asia Pacific" was held in the frame of the 11th Meeting of Partners of EAAFP (MOP11, Brisbane, March 2023), which was attended by 15 participants (in-person and virtual), including three CMS Parties, four non-Party Range States, and four observer organisations.
52. At the mentioned inaugural meeting, the Secretariat introduced its mandates and work concerning the illegal taking of migratory birds. This was followed by a presentation by BirdLife International on a situation analysis of illegal take of birds in mainland South and Southeast Asia. Representatives of CMS Parties, non-Parties and observer organisations also provided updates on recent work they had conducted and shared experiences and discussed challenges.
53. At that inaugural meeting, the Task Force adopted a *Modus Operandi*, and discussed a draft prioritised Programme of Work that was shared for comments after the event. The meeting also discussed potential proposals for COP14 relevant to ITTEA and agreed on subsequent steps.
 - [Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1](#), on *Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the*

African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)

- **Decisions 13.34 to 13.38, *Action Plan for Migratory Land Birds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP)***

54. Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13) urges Parties and encourages non-Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa. The issues covered by the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP) provide linkages to many other activities and initiatives under CMS, such as those addressing IKB, infrastructure development, collision risk, among others. Decision 13.36 indicates the requirements for the continuation and coordination of the [Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds \(AEML WG\)](#) under the Scientific Council.
55. A number of efforts have taken place since TAG4 to raise awareness for landbirds and AEMLAP and to support its implementation.
56. To implement Decision 13.34 b), the Secretariat has approached potential donors, including Parties and multi-year funding schemes. For example, in 2020, and together with BirdLife, the Secretariat submitted to IKI a project proposal land use and climate change mitigation in South Africa. The concept note submitted proposed the coordination and implementation of AEMLAP over a seven-year period. However, the project proposal was not successful.
57. Other multi-year funding schemes would also need to be explored and suggestions would be welcome. Further funding opportunities would also be explored in cooperation with other partners, e.g., the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). In 2021-2022, significant joint work was carried out with UNCCD and with the support of a joint consultant who assisted the Secretariats with the implementation of cooperative activities including the development of a working paper titled “Ecological connectivity: An essential component of ecosystem restoration”. The paper was produced also in cooperation with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation to provide the scientific evidence and measures for implementing the pathways for land restoration of the Global Land Outlook (GLO2), a UNCCD flagship publication. While the paper is yet to be published, it showcases how the restoration interventions in the sub-Saharan region in the context of the Great Green Wall have the potential to improve ecological connectivity at many scales including to support processes such as landbird migrations in the African-Eurasian flyway.
58. To support the implementation of Decision 13.35 a), the Secretariat has supported the AEML WG in continuing its work. The Secretariat issued a call in 2023 requesting all AEMLAP Range States to revalidate and extend Working Group membership throughout the AEMLAP range, and updated the membership list accordingly.
59. A Coordination Unit for the AEML WG was established at the Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI – Vogelwarte Sempach) in 2022, with funding from the Government of Switzerland. Terms of reference for the WG were agreed with the Secretariat, thus contributing to the implementation of Decision 13.36b.
60. To support the implementation of Decision 13.38, the Secretariat conducted a survey to assess the status of implementation of the AEML WG Programme of Work 2016-2020 (POW). The following main implementation limitations were identified: lack of funding for support, on-the-ground work, and monitoring, the COVID-19 pandemic, general lack of expertise and capacity, and political instability in some key areas (e.g., West Africa).

61. Based on the survey, the preparation of an updated version of the AEML WG POW for the years 2021-2026 was coordinated by the AEML Steering Group (SG), supported by SOI as the Coordination Unit of the AEML WG, and approved via electronic correspondence by the AEML WG in November 2022, thereby completing the implementation of Decision 13.38. In the revised [POW 2022-2026](#), new strategic fields were defined, and specific activities proposed.
62. Members of the AEML SG promoted AEMLAP and issues around landbirds in this flyway at congresses, such as the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC), which was attended by the Secretariat and the SOI.
63. A member of the AEML SG and representative of the SOI participated in the Fourth Meeting of the CAF Range States (CAF4, New Delhi, May 2023) to ensure that there are synergies that can efficiently be addressed, to highlight gaps, and to prevent unnecessary overlaps.
64. The project [Integrating science, policy and sustainable development to address African-Eurasian migrant landbird declines: African perspectives on a flyway-wide issue](#) is an activity of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. It was initiated in 2020 and is supported by the Secretariat and members of the AEML WG.
65. Through the AfriBiRds project, a [monitoring toolbox](#) was developed to train people in monitoring landbirds on-site, which had also been included in the previous Working Group POW. Further resources and information on many projects can be accessed online through the [NABU AfriBiRds website](#).
66. The Secretariat organised and supported annual AEML SG meetings to support the update of the AEML WG POW and enable members to discuss relevant matters. The Secretariat also held regular meetings with the Coordination Unit at the SOI.
67. The Secretariat revised the [AEMLAP website](#) in 2020 and in 2023, making available on it the new WG POW and other relevant materials.
 - [Resolution 11.18 \(Rev.COP12\)](#), on *Saker Falcon (Falco cherrug) Global Action Plan (SakerGAP)*
68. For an update on the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGap), refer to document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/Doc.13.1](#).
 - [Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), on *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*
 - [Decisions 13.106 to 13.108](#), on *Support to the Energy Taskforce*
 - [Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), on *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*
69. The CMS COP, as well as the governing bodies of many of its daughter agreements, have adopted various decisions addressing the impact of wind turbines and other renewable energy technology on migratory species. Significant work has been undertaken pursuant to these decisions, and several guidance documents and reports have been endorsed and published in the CMS Technical Series in cooperation with partners. Implementation of these guidance documents has been promoted through provisions of Resolutions 11.27 (Rev. COP13) and 10.11 (Rev.COP13). For a more detailed list and description of relevant decisions and documents, refer to documents [UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.6](#) and [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.1](#) and the mentioned Resolutions.

70. Since COP13, the Secretariat has closely collaborated with the ETF and its coordinator, supporting various activities, including:
- a. The organisation of the Fifth Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder ETF (ETF5, Online, November/December 2021). A major achievement of the meeting was the adoption of the new [ETF Workplan](#) for the period 2021-2024;
 - b. Two virtual interim ETF meetings (August 2020 and April 2021), including establishing the scope and plans of a Powerlines and Technical Working Groups;
 - c. Fundraising activities and outreach, and the preparation and dissemination of a fundraising brief; fundraising letters to addressed to development banks and other financial institutions;
 - d. The development of the draft new ETF Workplan presented to and adopted at ETF5;
 - e. Maintenance of the ETF website and creation of meeting webpages, supported by the Joint CMS-AEWA Communications Team;
 - f. Communication with governments and partners to promote the ETF and strengthen its membership. Further major activities and events are highlighted in the document [ETF5/Doc.2](#);
 - g. Presenting at an ETF webinar held during the New York Climate Change week (September 2021);
 - h. Contributing to a Project Concept of a Birdlife International Consortium for the IKI Country Specific Selection Procedure for South Africa, August 2020, on the topic “Restoring ecosystems in South Africa to capture carbon, enhance people’s resilience to climate change and safeguard biodiversity” and included budget proposals for coordination of ETF work. However, the concept was rejected by IKI.
- **[Resolution 12.10](#), on *Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures***
71. The Vulture Multi-species Action Plan 2017-2029 (Vulture MsAP) was adopted through Resolution 12.10. The Vulture MsAP delivers on the implementation of the Flyways Programme of Work adopted through [Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#). Resolution 12.10 invites Parties and non-Parties to establish National Vulture Task Forces or equivalent bodies and integrate them into their (revised) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially to deliver Aichi Target 12. No revisions were made to Resolution 12.10 by COP13.
72. For further information on the conservation of African-Eurasian vultures, refer to document [UNEP/CMS/Raptors/MOS3/Doc.13.2](#).
- **[Decisions 13.109 to 13.112](#), on *Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat of Migratory Species of Wild Animals***
73. COP13 adopted Decisions 13.109 to 13.112 on the basis of document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.3](#).
74. To implement Decision 13.109, which called for the Secretariat to prepare an analysis of the impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption on bird species listed in CMS Appendices I

and II, a call for tender was launched in late 2022. No suitable candidate could be identified due to the limited number of applications and the broadness of the initial scope of the review (i.e., all bird taxa globally), as well as its tight timeframe and limited budget. The consultancy was re-advertised in 2023 with revised terms of reference and budget. In the revised terms of reference, all CMS Appendix I and II bird taxa will be considered, and the geographic scope shall focus on the Range States of AEMLAP, focusing on key global regions (especially Sahel and sub-Saharan, Middle East and Central Asia). The final product is anticipated for 2024, and an implementation progress report is envisaged at COP14.

75. Lastly, the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU is exploring options to convene a workshop in West Africa in November 2023 to finalise a West Africa Vulture Conservation Action Plan. The Secretariat is exploring options to hosting at that potential event a discussion on avian wild meat. If materialised, this discussion could create synergies with the work on belief-based use of migratory species of other international platforms, such as the African Union. As part of the process, data arising from the upcoming Vulture MSAP Mid-term Review (anticipated for 2023) would also be considered.

- [Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#), on *Flyways*
- [Decisions 13.41 to 13.46](#), on *Flyways*

76. Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) re-endorsed the [Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023](#), which covers all major flyways, and calls for its implementation. The Programme of Work (POW) brings together all major actions required to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and keeps with the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023. It encourages cooperation and streamlining of actions; and identifies and promotes implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide by providing a framework for protection of migratory birds throughout their life cycles and enhancing synergies among relevant flyway-related instruments and programmes. Thereby, it assists countries in establishing national programmes of work through identifying priority actions, indicators, key stakeholders and time frames.

77. As instructed by the COP, the Secretariat has undertaken several activities to implement actions identified in the POW, specifically in conjunction with other CMS initiatives at regional, flyway and global level, and coordination among them, as reported above in the relevant sections of the present report, as well as in reports to COP13, mentioned in the next paragraphs.

78. The Secretariat has supported the activities of the Flyways Working Group according to the POW, regarding the expansion of its membership and facilitating the coordination with other CMS Working Groups and Task Forces such as MIKT, the PPWG, the AEML WG and the ETF.

79. To support implementation at regional level, the Secretariat made efforts to strengthen the cooperation with the EAAFP Secretariat, in line with POW actions 24 and 25, particularly with regard to the prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (see document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1](#)) and international single-species action plans (see document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.5](#)).

80. As called for in Resolution 12.11, especially to ensure that the activities of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group – Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (CAFF-AMBI) have maximum synergies with the POW, collaboration with the Secretariat of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) was further strengthened through the update of the CAFF-CMS-AEWA Joint Workplan in September 2018. This workplan also strengthens the potential for joint actions focused on the Arctic to improve understanding of the ongoing and predicted changes to the

environment and impacts on breeding and moulting distributions of species, and to promote designation and management of critically important areas, as called for in Resolution 12.11. Furthermore, the CMS Secretariat attended an AMBI implementation workshop in the margins of the Tenth Meeting of Partners to the EAAFP. At this workshop, the MIKT was specifically showcased as a model for addressing illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (see also document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1](#)).

81. To implement Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and Decision 13.46, the Secretariat has been continuing the collaborative process with the Government of India and the AEWA Secretariat to develop under CMS an institutional framework for the CAF:
- a. Both Secretariats were represented at a meeting hosted by the Government of India in November 2019;
 - b. In September 2020, the Government of India, the UNEP Country Office in India, and other partners organised a webinar on the topic “Wetlands as Ecological Connections in the Central Asian Flyway”, including a presentation contributed by the CMS Secretariat;
 - c. In 2021, the CMS Secretariat called upon the CAF Range States to nominate special focal points for the CAF Initiative;
 - d. An online workshop for CAF Range States, relevant partner organisations, and experts was organised by the Government of India in October 2021, supported by the CMS Secretariat. The workshop provided an update on the implementation of Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13), showcased the work led by the Indian Government through the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and India’s National Action Plan for the CAF 2018-2023, and shared information on activities and conservation priorities, and actions taking place within CAF. Participants raised the importance of connecting activities among the Range States for next steps;
 - e. CAF4 was hosted by the Government of India. The objectives of the meeting were to: a) develop and, if possible, agree on an institutional framework for the CAF; b) draw conclusions from a CAF conservation situation analysis report launched in summer 2022 and coordinated by BirdLife International, and discuss priority areas for implementation; c) discuss and agree on a draft roadmap for updating the CMS CAF Action Plan; and d) further develop and agree on the next steps to inform draft decisions to be proposed to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Migration Atlas Work

82. The development of an Atlas on Animal Migration is a long-standing initiative of the Convention, which has been included in the CMS Programme of Work since the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11, Quito, 2014). The Atlas is planned to be developed with a modular approach. Progress in the development of the Initiative since its inception until COP13 is summarised in document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.25](#).
83. The [Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas](#) project was [launched in 2022](#). It was undertaken by a large international team co-ordinated by the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING), including members of the AEML WG. Movements in time and space of 300 bird species are mapped and analysed drawing on data gathered by [European Ringing Schemes](#) over more than a century and collated by the [EURING databank](#). The work was undertaken on behalf of CMS and funded by the Government of Italy.

84. The [African Bird Atlas Project \(ABAP\)](#), a citizen-science bird-monitoring programme that relies on a robust, repeatable protocol (BirdMap) and allows insights into the distributions of African birds and their conservation, was launched in 2022. At a symposium of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC, Luzern, Switzerland, April 2022), a roundtable session addressed “The African Bird Atlas Project (ABAP) – European Ornithology’s greatest need”, a continent-scale atlas project to fill the largest information gap in the African-Eurasian bird migration system. Switzerland provided support toward this meeting of EBCC and Atlas.

Attendance at Meetings of the Technical Advisory Group of the Raptors MOU

85. The Secretariat participated in TAG4 and in the Fifth Meeting of the TAG (TAG5, Online, December 2022).

Action requested

86. The Meeting is invited to take note of the information reported above.