



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.3

25 June 2023

Original: English

14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 23 - 28 October 2023  
Agenda Item 30.1

**ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL AND AVIAN WILD MEAT OF  
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document reports on the implementation of Decisions 13.109 to 13.112 - *Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* and proposes the adoption of new Decisions.

## ADDRESSING UNSUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL AND AVIAN WILD MEAT OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

### Background

1. The issue of unsustainable use of CMS-listed species for the purpose of wild meat was discussed at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP12, 2017), with a detailed background document ([UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.7/Rev.1](#)) prepared by the Secretariat, setting out the need for action. COP13 (2020) adopted Decisions 13.109 to 13.112 - *Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* on the basis of Document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.3](#):

Decision 13.109 directed to the Secretariat reads as follows:

*The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, and working within the Convention's remit:*

- a) *prepare an analysis on the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of terrestrial and avian species listed on CMS Appendices I and II;*
- b) *on the basis of the findings made under paragraph a), cooperate with the partners of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and, in particular, with the Secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as the Presidencies of their respective Conferences of the Parties through the Secretariats of CBD and CITES, and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) on Sustainable Wildlife Management issues, in raising the importance of unsustainable wild meat taking, trade and consumption within the global policy agenda;*
- c) *report to the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.*

### Implementation of Decision 13.109

2. With funding provided by the Government of Germany, the Secretariat, in line with paragraph a) of the Decision, commissioned the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to prepare an analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of terrestrial species listed in CMS Appendices I and II. This resulted in a report published in September 2021, [Impacts of Taking, Trade and Consumption of Terrestrial Migratory Species for Wild Meat](#). Due to limited available funding, the analysis focused on terrestrial species only. However, additional funding was more recently provided by [ ] for work on avian species, which is now being initiated.
3. In response to the instructions contained in paragraph b) of the Decision, the Secretariat shared the Report for a peer review with most of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), including the Secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), as well as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Secretariat of EUROBATs.

4. The CMS Secretariat also made the Report available to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat during the negotiations on the 8<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the Fund. The GEF-8 Integrated Programme on Wildlife Conservation for Development now includes explicit references to the domestic use of wildlife.
5. The Secretariat issued a press release on 14 September 2021 and, in collaboration with CIFOR, organized a [Virtual Media Launch](#) of the Report on 15 September 2021.
6. With regards to the implementation of Decision 13.109 in relation to avian species, the Secretariat restricted the scope to work that could be carried out with the funding made available by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland. While all bird taxa in CMS Appendices I and II will be considered, the geographic area will be limited to the Range States of the African Eurasian Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP), with a focus on key global regions (especially the Sahel and sub-Saharan, the Middle-East and Central Asia).
7. Although the final report on avian wild meat will not be finalized until 2024, a report on the implementation of this aspect of Decision 13.109, with possible preliminary results of the review, might be submitted to COP14 as an Information Document.
8. In relation to this work, and in cooperation with the Raptors MOU, a specific session on avian wild meat and threats to Vultures is being planned in West Africa, envisaged for November 2023, with a focus on delivering concrete directions for the upcoming West Africa Action Plan for Vultures. This session will create positive synergies with ongoing work on belief-based use of migratory species and with other institutions such as the African Union. As part of this process, data arising from the upcoming Vulture Multiple Species Action Plan mid-term review (which will be conducted in 2023) will also be considered.
9. In line with Decision 13.109 (b), the Secretariat took part in a side event during CBD COP15 (Montreal, 2022) on the need for indicators to measure Target 5 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, with the aim of ensuring that any taking and trade of wild species is legal, safe and sustainable.
10. Due to a lack of human resources, the Secretariat, as requested by Decision 13.109 (b), was unable to further engage with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) on their EU-funded Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme.

#### Other relevant work under CMS

11. In addition to the work pursuant to these Decisions, the Secretariat has been carrying out other work relevant to the taking of CMS-listed species for wild meat, including on Aquatic Wild Meat (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.2), the State of the World's Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.21.1) and the National Legislation Programme (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.24).

#### Discussion and analysis

12. As summarized above, the taking of terrestrial species for wild meat is an increasing threat for many CMS-listed species. At the same time, it is part of a broader set of issues related to intentional taking of migratory species. While some aspects of such taking are being addressed, at least in part, by existing CMS initiatives (such as that on illegal killing of birds), other elements warrant a more cohesive, cross-cutting approach.

13. The agenda for COP14 anticipates the need for such an approach in Document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.1 – *Priorities for Addressing Illegal and Unsustainable Intentional Take*.
14. Based on the recommendations of the report, *Impacts of Taking, Trade and Consumption of Terrestrial Migratory Species for Wild Meat*, the full version of which can be found in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.1.3, a set of follow-up Decisions is being recommended for adoption, which are contained in Document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.1.

Recommended actions

15. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
  - a) Take note of the Executive Summary in the Annex of this document;
  - b) Adopt the draft Decisions in Annex 2 of Document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.1.1;
  - c) Delete Decisions 13.109 to 13.112.

## ANNEX

**IMPACTS OF TAKING, TRADE AND CONSUMPTION OF TERRESTRIAL MIGRATORY SPECIES FOR WILD MEAT***Executive Summary*

This study looks, for the first time, at the extent to which terrestrial animals protected by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) are being impacted by wild meat taking, trade and consumption. It contributes to the implementation of a Decision adopted by the CMS Conference of the Parties in 2020 (CMS Decision 13.109). We assessed the direct and indirect impacts of wild meat taking, trade and consumption of 105 terrestrial mammal species listed in CMS Appendices I and II and relevant CMS daughter agreements and initiatives. We first used a systematic review of the published literature, global database searches and the IUCN Red List to determine which CMS species are affected by wild meat hunting. We then reviewed the legislation applicable to the regulation of wild meat hunting and trade and explored the application of hunting legislation using a national case-study example. Finally, we examined the known linkages between zoonotic diseases and wild meat use and trade.

We concluded that a large proportion of the CMS species considered in this report are affected by wild meat hunting. The literature review found that 64% of the 105 reviewed CMS terrestrial mammal species are recorded as hunted. When Chiroptera (bat) species are removed from the analysis, this increases to 98% (47/48) of species; 70% of CMS terrestrial mammal species are hunted for wild meat consumption and 60% are recorded as traded (nationally and/or internationally; legally or illegally). Similarly, global database records of wild meat hunting and trade show that 51% of the CMS terrestrial mammal species are recorded as hunted or traded legally or illegally.

Taking (for all purposes) is reported as a key threat to the survival of many species. Of the 99 CMS species with an IUCN Red List assessment, 50% of species and 98% of all non-bat species are threatened by hunting (including intentional or unintentional hunting and hunting for persecution/control), and 95% of the CMS species classified by IUCN as Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Extinct in the Wild are threatened by hunting.

For most CMS species studied, taking for domestic use has likely a greater impact than taking for international trade. When only meat for consumption was considered, 27 species were reported as consumed for subsistence in their IUCN Red List assessment, 10 species used for national wild meat trade and only two species used for international wild meat trade.

There is strong evidence that zoonotic disease emergence is linked to human activities that bring wildlife, domestic animals and humans into increasingly intense contact, including encroachment into remaining natural habitats and transport of wildlife to urban centres. CMS species used for wild meat can be a potential source of new zoonotic outbreaks. Data from Johnson et al. (2020) suggests that 51% of the CMS terrestrial mammal species were known to host at least one of 60 pathogens that have been, or have the potential to be, transmitted to humans and cause disease.

Management of wild meat hunting generally is challenging; laws and regulations governing wild meat hunting and trade are often outdated, are based on insufficient scientific evidence, and often do not consider the land rights of local and indigenous peoples. Additionally, contradicting regulations, legal loopholes, lack of resources/capacity, and high levels of corruption make enforcement difficult. Migratory species are especially susceptible to over-

hunting; national laws and regulations governing wildlife hunting and wild meat use, enforcement of these laws, and political and social conditions vary widely between nations, presenting a particular challenge for migratory species whose range may cross multiple international borders. Additionally, hunters can take advantage of predictable peaks in the abundance of species along migration routes.

In conclusion, there is strong evidence from the literature that wild meat use is a major driver of unsustainable hunting for numerous CMS species, especially under conditions of conflict, poverty and land-use change. However, additional research is needed for many species, as data on hunting offtakes and species abundance is limited and species may be targeted for multiple reasons.

We recommend several follow-up actions. First, we recommend that comparable and collatable data on hunting offtakes and species abundance are gathered on all the species studied to enable more complete assessments of impacts of hunting for wildlife consumption and trade. Second, a review of existing national hunting legislation and regulations, as well as the enforcement of these regulations, is needed. Third, capacity for monitoring and enforcement should also be examined. Fourth, the drivers contributing to the use of wildlife for domestic consumption, especially in urban areas, should be further identified and addressed. Finally, additional international cooperation will be needed to address wild meat taking, particularly for migratory species whose ranges may span vast areas that include various countries.