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Agenda Item 30.2.1

# ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY - POLICY ASPECTS

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document reports on progress on the implementation of Decision 13.115 and on policy-related provisions of Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13) *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*, and of Resolution 12.07 (Rev.COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*.

The document also proposes the consolidation of Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13), Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13), and the adoption of new Decisions.

This document should be read in conjunction with UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.2 *Ecological Connectivity – Technical Aspects*.

This content of this document was revised by the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, at its first meeting held on 22 June 2023 and through further consultations, and by the Scientific Council at its 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee in July 2023.

# ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY - POLICY ASPECTS

Background

1. Connectivity has been a key topic of focus under CMS for many years. As the primary specialized intergovernmental framework for cooperative efforts on the issue of ecological connectivity in relation to the conservation needs of migratory species, CMS has taken a number of steps to enhance understanding and delivery in this area in recent years.

2. The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13, 2020) reaffirmed the importance of connectivity through the adoption of a number of resolutions, including:
   - CMS Resolution 12.07 (Rev.COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species* and CMS Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13) *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species,* which, inter alia, instruct the Secretariat to coordinate the sharing and review of information on connectivity with other relevant organizations, and, where appropriate, facilitate joint attention at strategic level. Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13) also endorsed a definition of 'ecological connectivity' as "*the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth*".
   - The Gandhinagar Declaration (Resolution 13.1), which highlights the CMS priorities for the Global Biodiversity Framework, and calls for it to include, among others, a commitment to maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity and provisions to promote international cooperation and connectivity for the implementation of the Framework;
   - Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13) *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS,* which invited IPBES to include, to the extent possible, aspects of connectivity in all relevant assessments and technical papers and to consider, at its 9th Plenary session in 2022, the inclusion of the assessment on connectivity in its rolling work programme up to 2030.

3. CMS Decisions 13.114-115 *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species* further specify mandates for the Scientific Council and the Secretariat. Details about the implementation of Decision 13.114 is reported in UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.2 *Ecological Connectivity – Technical Aspects*

   ***13.115 Directed to the Secretariat***

   *The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, shall support Parties in implementing Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13) Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species by providing specific guidance for further improving the effective application of measures for addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species through national laws, policies and plans and through international cooperation.*

4. CMS Decisions 13.11-13 *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS* also further specify mandates for the Parties to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme, and for the Scientific Council and the Secretariat with regard to engaging in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments to ensure that elements of connectivity are integrated. Details

about the implementation of these Decisions are reported in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.2 *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).*

Summary

5. Since COP13, the Secretariat has made considerable efforts, in liaison with Parties and in collaboration with partners, to progress the implementation of the mandate and, more broadly, to promote ecological connectivity in numerous processes. The main developments to date are the inclusion of connectivity in several elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and in most of the Integrated Programmes and Focal Areas of the 8th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Further details are provided in the sections below.

Activities to implement Decision 13.115 *Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*

6. In the intersessional period, the Secretariat worked extensively to promote connectivity in several global forums, especially in the development of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Details are provided in the sections below: *Activities to implement connectivity-related aspects of the Global Biodiversity Framework* and *Activities to implement Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13)*. Also, as part of its efforts to support Parties in developing or improving relevant national legislation in the context of the CMS National Legislation Programme, the Secretariat has developed a *Legislative Guidance for Maintaining, Improving, and Restoring Ecological Connectivity,* which is planned to be published shortly.

Activities to implement Resolution 12.07 (Rev.COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*

7. In line with the Resolution's operative paragraphs 11 and 12, and in response to Decisions 13.116-117 *Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species*, the Secretariat has endeavoured to support Parties in securing funds for specific projects and programmes on TFCAs. Details are contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.2 Transfrontier Conservation Areas.

Activities to implement connectivity-related aspects of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Guidance on GBF implementation

8. CMS made substantial inputs to the technical development and political negotiations that shaped the eventual Framework, through a variety of processes convened under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Details of CMS's engagement in the development of the Framework are contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP14/17 *CMS Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*.

9. While the 'implementation' period has been short, much progress has been made, especially with regard to providing guidance on GBF Target 3 – the '30 x 30' target.

10. In collaboration with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC) and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group (CCSG), and with the generous funding of the Swiss Government, the Secretariat is in the process of producing guidance that maximizes the effectiveness of protected and

conserved areas through the application of ecological connectivity and landscape-scale conservation planning. The guidance will focus on the use of a Systematic Conservation Planning approach to assess and design protected area networks for representativeness and connectivity. The approach will be tested on the transboundary mountain ecosystems of Koytendag on the border of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and will demonstrate methodologies, tools, and applications to other landscapes around the world, with additional considerations for various ecosystem types (i.e., mountains, wetlands, deserts, forests).

11. Two additional initiatives of relevance to the connectivity-related objectives of the GBF have offered opportunities for input from CMS. The first initiative, led by a collaborative partnership of organizations including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), concerns the development of a '30x30' guidance publication on the implementation of Target 3, which builds on a review of evidence produced with funding from UK DEFRA. Drafts of this during 2022-23 have included much useful content on connectivity, provided by or in line with CMS sources.

12. Secondly, the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with IUCN, is developing a global partnership to support the achievement of Target 3. The CMS Secretariat participates in this initiative and attended an initial meeting which took place on 12-14 June 2023 in Cambridge, the United Kingdom.

13. Details about the work to support the development of the GBF monitoring framework are contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.2 *Ecological Connectivity – Technical Aspects.*

Activities to implement Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13) *Improving ways of addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species*

14. In line with Paragraphs 4 and 5 of COP Resolution 12.26 (Rev.COP13) on areas for further work, the Secretariat has promoted the importance and relevance of ecological connectivity for addressing key global priorities in many forums and processes, and has worked extensively with a multitude of organizations to share information, promote synergies and implementation.

15. The paragraphs that follow provide an overview of a variety of initiatives in which CMS has taken part or is doing so. Additionally, there are several existing initiatives of relevance in which CMS might engage. A preliminary list of these other initiatives is provided in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf. 30.2.1.1 *Initiatives on Connectivity*.

*United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)*

16. The Secretariat helped shape the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session in March 2022, in which Member States reaffirmed their commitment to promote ecological **connectivity** as well as the UNEA 5.2. Resolution 9 Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, which call for supporting sustainable infrastructure development that minimizes ecosystem fragmentation and maintains and enhances **connectivity** between ecosystems.

*United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

17. The CMS and UNCCD Secretariats have been working extensively to promote connectivity on a joint basis. In 2022, they produced, in cooperation with the CLLC, a Working Paper on Ecological Connectivity and Restoration, which provided scientific evidence for the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO2), drawing attention

to the key role of **ecological connectivity** in effectively ensuring long-term positive impacts of interventions for restoring degraded lands and ecosystems. Connectivity was also reflected in the UNCCD COP15 'Land, Life and Legacy' Declaration, which encourages Parties to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation by accelerating the implementation of existing national commitments to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, taking into account the connectivity of ecosystems.

*UNESCO*

18. CMS and UNESCO have shared interests in relation to site networks in the context of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). The CMS Secretariat and MAB collaborated on the publication, '**Rethinking Ecological Connectivity'**, produced by an EU support initiative for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This provides a potential springboard for exploring closer synergies with MAB in the future, and the scope perhaps for Biosphere Reserves to act as exemplars of connectivity issues.

*Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*

19. In 2019, the Secretariats of CMS, UNCCD and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Secretariat to the World Heritage Convention), collaborated on formal proposals for an IPBES global assessment on **connectivity**. The 7th IPBES Plenary (IPBES-7) decided to defer consideration of the assessment on connectivity to IPBES-9 in 2022, which, in turn, concluded that an initial scoping for an assessment on ecological connectivity would be undertaken prior to IPBES-10 in 2023 by the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, with input from relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations.

20. Meanwhile, CBD COP15 requested IPBES to consider an additional fast-track assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity in its rolling work programme at its Plenary-10. In line with Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13) and especially Decision 13.13, the Secretariat has worked extensively to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme by IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022. Further details are contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.2 *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).* On 5 June 2023, the IPBES Secretariat provided the CMS Secretariat with the initial scoping report for a methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity for its input. The CMS Secretariat shared the report with the CMS Scientific Council Working on Connectivity for its expert review, and submitted its inputs on 12 June for consideration by IPBES-10.

*Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank*

21. The Secretariat was engaged actively in the 8th replenishment of the GEF (GEF-8, 2022-26), which gives strong emphasis to connectivity. Six of the eleven Integrated Programmes – including the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Programme (WCD IP) – and three of the five Focal Areas of GEF-8 include provisions for restoring, maintaining and promoting **connectivity**, whether it is in relation to infrastructure development, securing key ecosystems or wildlife populations. The WCD IP is led by the World Bank, which invited CMS to be a member of the WCD IP Steering Committee to support the coordination of the IP.

22. Also, the World Bank plays a key role in enhancing ecological connectivity in projects under the framework of two existing GEF-funded programmes (Global Wildlife and Amazon Sustainable Landscapes). As well as having helped to shape the GEF-8 global priorities, CMS works with countries and GEF agencies to support the development of suitable project proposals under GEF-8 that will support connectivity conservation objectives. Further details are contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.13.4 *Resource Mobilization.*

*IUCN World Conservation Congress*

23. The Secretariat collaborated in the submission of a number of proposals for Resolutions that include important references to **connectivity**, and which were adopted by the most recent World Conservation Congress in 2020-21. An analysis of the implications of these references for supporting CMS interests, and the ways in which they might be followed up, might be/could prove useful.. The relevant Resolutions are:

- Resolution 008 on *Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate*
- Resolution 034 on *Ecological Integrity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*
- Resolution 071 on *Wildlife-friendly linear infrastructures*
- Resolution 073 on *Ecological connectivity conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: from local to international levels*
- Resolution 081 on *Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity*
- Resolution 101 on *Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife*

*World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)*

24. The Secretariat recently joined the initiative, '**WildlifeConnect**', launched by WWF together with CCSG and CLLC. This aims to: maintain or increase ecological connectivity in four demonstration landscapes (one each in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe) through protecting, managing and restoring corridors and networks; promote policies and commitments among governments, corporations and financial institutions that drive effective connectivity conservation outcomes on the ground; and provide tools and approaches for scaling and replicating effective connectivity conservation approaches around the world.

Discussion and analysis

25. This document was issued in June 2023 as UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.1 together with UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.2 *Ecological Connectivity – Technical Aspects.* After the expert review by the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity at its meeting on 22 June 2023, an addendum to this document, as well as a revision of UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.2 were made available for consideration by the 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council. The meeting provided comments and suggestions which are have been taken into account in the finalization of both documents.

26. It is vital to continue work on this important topic, not only with regard to improving knowledge and data, but also to promote practical implementation of the CMS objectives – and in support of the GBF implementation.

Consolidation of Resolutions 12.26 (Rev.COP13) and 12.07 (Rev.COP13) and draft Decisions on *Ecological Connectivity*

27. Proposed amendments to both Resolutions as well as draft Decisions were contained in annexes 1, 2 and 3 of document UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.1 respectively. The Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, during its first meeting held on 22 June 2023 and through further consultations, proposed to consolidate these resolutions and suggested amendments to the draft Decisions. The consolidation of resolutions aimed at streamlining them, avoiding duplications and better reflecting long-term provisions in Resolutions instead of in Decisions (ii) incorporating recent developments, and (iii) reflecting the need for further work on specific areas. These proposals were compiled in an addeddum to the document (UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.2.1.1/Add.1) for consideration by the 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC.). The meeting provided suggestions which are reflected in the text of the consolidated Resolution and draft Decisions on *Ecological Connectivity* presented as follows and proposed for adoption:

28. Annex 1 of this document presents a draft consolidated resolution that includes, in the left-hand column, the original text and preamble of the Resolutions being consolidated. The right-hand column indicates the source of the text and a comment regarding any proposed change.

29. Annex 2 of this document contains the clean version of the draft consolidated Resolution, taking into account the comments in Annex 1.

30. Annex 3 of this document also proposes draft Decisions.

Recommended actions

31. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:

    a) adopt the draft consolidated Resolution contained in Annex 2 of this document;

    b) adopt the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 3 of this document;

    c) delete Decisions 13.113-13.115.

**ANNEX 1**

## DRAFT CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION: ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

*NB: Proposed new text is underlined; Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.*

| Text from Existing Resolutions | Origin/Comment |
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| *Recalling* Resolutions 10.3 and ~~Resolution~~ 11.25 on the role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species ~~highlighting the critical importance of area-based connectivity for conservation and management in the CMS context, inviting the exploration of the applicability of ecological networks to marine migratory species and recommending actions for advancing the design and implementation of ecological networks to address the needs of migratory species~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Detail can now be repealed |
| *Also recalling* Resolutions 12.7 (Rev. COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species* and 12.26 (Rev.COP13) *Improving ways of addressing ecological connectivity in the conservation of migratory species* | New text to reflect consolidation |
| *Bearing in mind* that ecological connectivity (hereafter "connectivity") is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| *Recognizing ~~in particular~~* that opportunities for dispersal, migration and genetic exchange among wild animals depend on the quality, extent, distribution and connectivity of relevant habitats, which support both the normal cycles of these animals and their resilience to change, including climate change, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>"In particular" deleted because of re-positioning this paragraph; otherwise retain |
| ~~*Noting* that the Convention text makes specific reference to habitat conservation, for example in Article III.4, Article V.5e and Article VIII.5e,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: largely redundant given the paragraph that follows |
| *Recalling* Article III.4 of the Convention under which Parties shall endeavour to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore the habitats of Appendix I species, which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction and to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, obstacles that seriously impede the migration of the species, and Article V.5 under which Agreements in respect of Appendix II species should provide for maintenance of a network of suitable habitats "appropriately disposed in relation to the migration routes", | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| *Also recalling* Article I.1 of the Convention under which "range" is defined for the purposes of the Convention as all the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |

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| *Recognizing* that to meet their needs throughout their life history stages ~~marine~~ migratory species depend on a range of habitats across their migratory range<u>s</u> ~~whether in marine areas within and/or beyond the limits of national jurisdiction~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Marine specificity no longer needed |
| *Further recognizing* that sites that perform a critical role in a wider system, such as core areas, corridors, restoration areas and buffer zones, may be linked by strategies that, through a concept of ecological networks, address habitat fragmentation and other threats to migratory species, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| <u>*Recognizing in particular* the importance of rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in the context of climate change, for facilitating flows of water and migrations of aquatic species,</u> | New text<br>(Based on contributions from the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity) |
| <u>*Further r*</u>~~*R*~~*ecognizing* that habitat destruction and fragmentation are among the primary threats to migratory species, and that the identification and conservation of habitats of appropriate quality, extent, distribution and connectivity are thus of paramount importance for the conservation of these species in ~~both~~ the terrestrial<u>, coastal</u> and marine environments, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with Scientific Council input |
| *Deeply concerned* that habitats for migratory species are becoming increasingly fragmented across terrestrial, <u>and aquatic</u>~~, freshwater and marine~~ biomes, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with Scientific Council input |
| <u>*Further concerned* that infrastructure projects that constitute barriers to migration with negative impacts on migratory species, including at population scale, continue to be authorised and built, including at critical points in migratory routes,</u> | New text recommended by the Scientific Council |
| *Aware* that several initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks are already in existence at different scales, including bird flyway initiatives, protected area programmes under the auspices of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and initiatives that extend to areas that are not protected, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| *Further aware* that the success of many <u>relevant</u> ~~of these~~ initiatives and programmes depends fundamentally on, inter alia, effective regional and international cooperation, including transboundary cooperation, among governments <u>at national and local levels</u>, different conventions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other actors, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Amended with Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity input |
| *Considering* that migratory species merit particular attention in designing and implementing initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks, in order to ensure that the areas selected are sufficient to meet the needs of such species throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| <u>*Further c*</u>~~*C*~~*onsidering* that the designation of protected areas across very large areas is not always possible and that additional wider landscape measures usually need to be applied in order to address and mitigate anthropogenic changes at the wider landscape scale, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |

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| *Recalling* Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: "Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories". ~~Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 approved by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, which states: "By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes", is especially relevant for the conservation of terrestrial and marine migratory species~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Updated to reflect the replacement of the Aichi Targets by the GBF |
| ~~*Further acknowledging* that processes, workshops and tools are underway within the Convention on Biological Diversity that can assist in identifying habitats important for the lifecycles of migratory marine species listed under CMS Appendices,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, as no longer necessary |
| ~~*Noting* that the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 emphasizes that the conservation of migratory species at the population level demands the application of a migration systems approach, involving conservation strategies that give holistic attention to populations, species and habitats as well as the entire span of migration routes and the functioning of the migration process,~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, as will become out of date – could consider new alternative at COP14 |
| ~~*Further noting* that the Strategic Plan emphasizes that the multi-dimensional connectedness of migratory species gives them a special role as ecological keystone species and indicators of the linkages between ecosystems and of ecological change, while also exposing these species to special vulnerabilities,~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, as will become out of date – could consider new alternative at COP14 |
| ~~*Noting in particular* Target 9 of the Strategic Plan, which concerns the application of a migration systems approach in cooperative activities between States, and Target 10, which concerns the adoption of a functional basis for area-based conservation measures,~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal (an updated equivalent of this text might be considered at COP14 in light of decisions on the Strategic |

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| | Plan for Migratory Species - SPMS) |
| ~~*Reaffirming* Target 10 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Annex 1 to Resolution 11.2), which states that "all critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures so as to maintain their quality, integrity, resilience and functioning in accordance with the implementation of Aichi Target 11,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal (an updated equivalent of this text might be considered at COP14 in light of decisions on the SPMS) |
| *Aware* of the importance ~~for the conservation of migratory species~~ of integrating approaches to ecological networks in national environmental planning, including ~~plans currently being developed~~ under the auspices of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (under the Convention on Biological Diversity), ~~as recognized by UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.18,~~ and National Adaptation Plans (under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain with amendments |
| *Acknowledging* that since its entry into force in 1983 the Convention on Migratory Species has provided the primary specialized intergovernmental framework for cooperative efforts on issues of connectivity in this context, and that the implementation of relevant provisions under the Convention forms a key contribution to the achievement of objectives adopted in other intergovernmental fora including Goals 14 and 15 in "Transforming our World", the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal A and Targets 1, 2, 3 and 12 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ~~Aichi Targets 11 and 12 in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020~~ and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain with update regarding GBF |
| *Recognizing* the important role played by existing ecological networks worldwide in the conservation of migratory species particularly through the role of these networks in supporting connectivity, including the networks reviewed for COP11 in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2 as well as those operated at national level, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| ~~*Also a*~~*Aware* of the importance of promoting cooperation though the competent international and regional organizations where appropriate to seek the adoption of conservation measures to support ecological networks in the marine environment, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| ~~*Also r*~~*Recognizing* that the approach of CMS to coordinated conservation and management measures across a migratory range can contribute to the development of ecological networks and promote connectivity that are fully consistent with the law of the sea by providing the basis for like-minded Range States to take individual actions at national level and regarding their flag vessels in marine areas within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to coordinate these actions across the migration range of the species concerned, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |

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| *Recalling* Resolution ~~10.3 *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*[1] on the role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species~~ 12.21 (Rev.COP13) ~~10.19 *Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of* *Climate Change* *and Migratory Species* on climate change, both of~~ which highlights the critical importance of connectivity for conservation and management of migratory species, and its Annex 1 which includes priority actions for Parties and other stakeholders including to expand existing protected area networks to cover important stop-over locations and sites for potential colonization, and ensure the effective protection and appropriate management of sites to maintain or to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations to extreme stochastic events~~, and in the case of Resolution 10.3 encouraged Parties to enhance connectivity of protected areas and to make explicit the relationship between areas of importance for migratory species and other areas, which may be ecologically linked to them; to select areas for conservation in such a way as to address the needs of migratory species throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges; and to set network-scale objectives for the conservation of migratory species relating for example to restoration of fragmented habitats and removal of barriers to migration on land and at sea~~, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Reference to the Ecological networks Resolution is unnecessary, as it has been consolidated here. Aspects of this paragraph could be updated at COP14 |
| ~~*Recalling* Resolution 10.19 *Migratory Species Conservation in Light of Climate Change*[2], urging Parties to maximize species and habitat resilience to climate change through appropriate design of ecological networks, ensuring sites are sufficiently large and varied in terms of habitats and topography, strengthening physical and ecological connectivity between sites and considering the option of seasonal protected areas,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: now redundant given the preceding paragraph |
| ~~*Recalling* Resolution 11.25 on *Advancing Ecological Networks to Address the Needs of Migratory Species*[3], which expresses deep concern at the increasing fragmentation of habitats for migratory species and urged Parties to promote connectivity inter alia through the development of site networks that are appropriately defined, coordinated and managed, and other measures, which cater for the entire migratory range and migratory lifecycle requirements of the animals concerned, giving consideration to ways in which connectivity can contribute to the elimination of obstacles to migration, including disturbance, habitat fragmentation and discontinuities in habitat quality as well as more obvious physical obstacles, while also taking care to assess any risks of potential unwanted consequences of increased connectivity~~, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: unnecessary considering the consolidated Resolution |
| *Acknowledging* that the practical approach to the identification, designation, protection and management of critical sites will vary from one taxonomic group to another or even from species to species, and that while the flyway approach provides a useful framework to address habitat conservation and species protection for migratory birds along migration | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with Scientific Council input |

[1] ~~Now consolidated as Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13)~~

[2] ~~Repealed by Resolution 12.21 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*~~

[3] ~~Now consolidated as Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13)~~

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| routes, similar approaches to articulating connectivity may be applicable to other taxa, | |
| *Also acknowledging* the nearly 10,000 sites of international importance for migratory species highlighted in the State of Migratory Species Report which are Key Biodiversity Areas identified using a standardised set of criteria applied across different migratory taxa, | New text recommended by the Scientific Council |
| *Further acknowledging* that flyways constitute a specific type of migration corridor, that migratory birds depend on widely separated areas for their survival, and that measures designed to conserve these networks ~~should~~require focus on the breeding grounds, stop-over sites, non-breeding areas and feeding and resting places as well as on preventing and addressing threats at these locations and on the routes between them | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with Scientific Council input |
| *Welcoming* ~~the progress described in Document UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.33 on bird flyway conservation policy, as well as~~ Resolution ~~UNEP/CMS/10.10~~ 12.11 (Rev.COP13) on guidance on global flyway conservation and options for policy arrangements, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>This text could potentially be updated at COP14 |
| *Welcoming* ~~the progress made in producing~~ thea~~a~~ strategic review on ecological networks ~~thanks to a voluntary contribution from Norway~~ (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2) and ~~thea~~ compilation of case studies illustrating how ecological networks have been applied as a conservation strategy to different taxonomic groups of CMS-listed species (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.22) ~~as requested by Resolution 10.3~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain with amendments |
| ~~*Also acknowledging* that the Important Bird Areas (IBAs), both terrestrial and marine, identified by BirdLife International under criteria A4 (migratory congregations) comprise the most comprehensive ecological networks of internationally important sites for any group of migratory species, which should be effectively conserved and sustainably managed under the corresponding and appropriate legal frameworks, taking note in particular of the list of 'IBAs in Danger', which need imminent decisive action to protect them from damaging impact,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity comments suggest these specifics are no longer necessary to include |
| ~~*Welcoming* global databases such as MoveBank which make tracking data available to conservation planners and to the public, and which are likely to assist in the identification of critical conservation sites,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: detail no longer necessary |
| ~~*Acknowledging* that the ability to increasingly track animals globally will greatly enhance the knowledge base for informed conservation decision making, for example through global tracking initiatives such as ICARUS (International Cooperation for Animal Research Using Space), planned to be implemented on the International Space Station by the German and Russian Aerospace Centres (DLR and Roscosmos) in 2017.~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: detail no longer necessary |
| *Recognizing* the increasing number of national and regional migratory species-related networks globally ~~and welcoming the two CMS-linked ecological networks to promote conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats: the~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13) |

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| ~~Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds under the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environmental Facility Siberian Crane Wetland Project to further implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the Siberian Crane, as an important step to establish a network to protect migratory waterbirds in this region, and the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership and its East Asian – Australasian Flyway Site Network (as recognized by Resolutions 9.2 and UNEP/CMS/Res.10.10)~~, | Retain but without detail on individual initiatives, which continue to evolve |
| ~~*Taking note with interest* of several processes under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which may contribute to the conservation of migratory species and, when adopted, promote ecological networks and connectivity, including the draft IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guideline on Transboundary Conservation drafted by the IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, the IUCN WCPA / SSC Joint Taskforce on Protected Areas and Biodiversity work on a standard to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force process to develop criteria for identifying Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: detail no longer necessary |
| ~~*Expressing satisfaction* with the formal establishment and launch of a Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles within the framework of the CMS Indian Ocean – South-East Asia Marine Turtle MOU (IOSEA) with particular emphasis on the development of robust criteria intended to lend credibility to the site selection process~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: detail no longer necessary |
| ~~*Noting with pleasure* the widespread recognition of the recently developed Critical Site Network Tool under the African-Eurasian Flyways GEF Project, also known as Wings over Wetlands, as an innovative and effective instrument for underpinning the management of important sites for waterbirds in the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement area, and which *inter alia* sets those sites in their flyway context~~, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: detail no longer necessary |
| *Recognizing* that transboundary area-based conservation measures including networks of protected and other conserved~~management~~ areas can play an important role in improving the conservation status of migratory species by contributing to ecological networks and promoting connectivity particularly when animals migrate for long distances across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries, and *welcoming* the UN General Assembly Resolution 75/271 that urged Member States to increase international cooperation to maintain and enhance connectivity of transboundary habitats, cross-border protected areas, vulnerable ecosystems, and ecosystems that are a range of a specific species, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain, with addition of reference to UNGA Resolution and as amended with Scientific Council input |
| ~~*Acknowledging* progress made by some Parties and other Range States with the establishment of transboundary area-based conservation measures as a basis for ecological networks and promoting connectivity, for example through the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Treaty on Conservation Areas (TFCA), signed by Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe on 18 August 2011, which is a large ecological~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, as this degree of singling-out of particular initiatives (when there are |

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| ~~region of 519,912 km2 in the five countries encompassing 36 national parks, game reserves, forest reserves and community conservancies, and further *recalling* that the KAZA region is home to at least 50 per cent of all African Elephants (Appendix II), 25 per cent of African Wild Dogs (Appendix II) and substantial numbers of migratory birds and other CMS-listed species,~~ | others) is no longer seen as useful or appropriate |
| *Welcoming* ~~*Aware* of the United Nations General Assembly Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction, including its deliberations with respect to area-based conservation measures and environmental impact assessment in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction~~ the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Updated to reflect adoption of the instrument |
| ~~*Welcoming further* the progress made in the process being undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity, which has convened regional workshops covering most of the world's oceans, to scientifically describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs),~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: no longer current |
| ~~*Recognizing* that the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs has been undertaken on an individual site basis and that scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas is provided in Annex II to CBD COP Decision IX/20,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: no longer necessary |
| ~~*Considering* that some of the scientific criteria applied to describe EBSAs are particularly relevant to marine migratory species, namely 'special importance for the life history stages of species', importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats', 'vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery' and 'biological productivity',~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: no longer necessary |
| ~~*Also recognizing* the importance of promoting the development of ecologically coherent networks of EBSAs,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: no longer necessary |
| ~~*Welcoming* as a contribution to the strategic review on ecological networks, the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI) review of EBSAs and marine migratory species undertaken to determine how marine migratory species have factored in the description of EBSAs and, through the use of preliminary case studies on cetaceans, seabirds and marine turtles, to explore the potential for the scientific data and information describing EBSAs to contribute to the conservation of migratory species in marine areas within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, particularly with respect to ecological networks and connectivity,~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: out of date and no longer necessary |
| ~~*Aware* that data on marine migratory species provide a useful basis to further review the potential contribution of the scientific data and information used to describe EBSAs to the development of ecological networks and the promotion of~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13) |

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| ~~connectivity by exploring whether these data and information could contribute to identifying areas meeting the needs of marine migratory species which use multiple habitats throughout the stages of their life history and across their migration range,~~ | Repeal: no longer necessary |
| *Acknowledging* the tools contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1 as contributions to the provision of a sound scientific basis for action and to the fostering of greater public awareness concerning connectivity issues ~~relevance of the Critical Site Network Tool developed initially for waterbird populations in the African-Eurasian flyway under the aegis of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and led by Wetlands International and BirdLife International with the support of the Government of Germany, and its recent redevelopment as an open-access web portal providing a strong basis for identifying ecological networks and emphasizing their connectivity aspects, while also providing insights into climate change vulnerability and informing conservation decision-making at site, national and international levels~~', | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Amended to remove details that are out of date or no longer necessary. This might be updated with references to other inputs coming to COP14 |
| *Welcoming* the report ~~of the expert meetings on connectivity~~ on available scientific evidence, experiences, and recommendations for addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species, ~~convened in Italy in 2015 and 2017, provided to COP12~~ contained ~~–~~in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.20, | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain but amended |
| ~~*Having regard* to the report of the 2nd Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council,~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: no longer current or necessary |
| *Welcoming* the efforts made by the Secretariat in collaboration with Parties and partners to promote connectivity in various fora and platforms; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| *Recalling* the Gandhinagar Declaration (Resolution 13.1), which highlights the CMS priorities for the Global Biodiversity Framework, and calls for it to include, among others, a commitment to maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity and provisions to promote international cooperation and connectivity for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. | New text<br><br>Addition to reflect outcomes of CMS COP13, may be amended at COP14 |
| *Noting* that Goal A, and Targets 2, 3 and 12 of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework include effective language on ecological connectivity, and that it is implicit in Target 1; | New text<br><br>Addition to reflect outcomes of CBD COP15 |
| *Welcoming* the engagement of the CMS Secretariat in the 'WildlifeConnect' initiative, | New text<br><br>Addition to reflect recent development |
| *The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* | |

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| 1. *Urges* Parties and invites others to give special attention to the issues highlighted in this Resolution when planning, implementing and evaluating actions designed to support the conservation and management of migratory species, both at national level and in the context of regional and international cooperation, including in particular when implementing the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, and when: | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain, with update to reflect link to GBF |
| (i) devising strategic conservation objectives, so that these may more often be expressed in terms of whole migration systems, and in terms of the requirements for the functioning of the migration process itself, as opposed to merely the status of populations or habitats; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| (ii) identifying, prioritizing, developing and managing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, taking account inter alia of the best available science, the need for connectivity to be a key factor in the definition of appropriate conservation management units, including at the landscape or seascape scale, and the need for actions to be addressed to the connections between places as well as to the places themselves; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| (iii) identifying, strengthening and expanding, based on the best available science, ecological networks to conserve migratory species worldwide and enhancing their design and functionality ~~in accordance with Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*~~; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain: as amended in line with the present consolidation |
| (iv) evaluating the sufficiency and coherence of ecological networks in functional and qualitative terms as well as in terms of extent and distribution, ~~having regard to Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13)~~ and to the desirability of sharing experiences and best practices on this issue; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain: as amended in line with the present consolidation |
| (v) monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the protection and management of the areas and networks referred to in the present paragraph; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| (vi) monitoring and assessing the evolution of ecological networks over time; | New text, based on Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity input |
| 2~~1~~. *Calls on* Parties and Signatories of CMS Memoranda of Understanding to consider the network approach and ecological connectivity in the implementation of existing CMS instruments and initiatives; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| ~~19. *Encourages* Parties, other Range States and relevant organizations to apply the IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guideline on Transboundary Conservation, the IUCN WCPA / SSC Joint Taskforce on Protected Areas and Biodiversity's Key Biodiversity Areas standard and the criteria for identifying Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) developed by the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force once adopted by IUCN;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: as is now covered more generally by a subsequent paragraph |

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| ~~2. *Invites* Parties to make use of existing guidelines including those prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: now covered by the paragraph that follows |
| 3~~18~~. *Encourages* Parties to adopt and implement those guidelines developed within CMS and other relevant processes, which aim to promote connectivity and halt its loss, for example through the provision of practical guidance to avoid infrastructure development projects disrupting the movement of migratory species; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 4~~3~~. *Encourages* Parties and invites others, working with all relevant stakeholders in national and local government authorities, local communities, the private and other sectors, to intensify efforts to address threats to the conservation status of migratory species and the integrity of their habitats, which are manifested as threats to connectivity, including barriers to migration, anthropogenic additional mortality, fragmented resources and disrupted processes, genetic isolation, population non-viability, altered behaviour patterns, shifts in range caused by climate change or depletion of food or water resources, inconsistencies in management across and beyond national jurisdictions, and other factors; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain; as amended with input from Scientific Council and its Working Group on Ecological Connectivity ~~input~~ |
| 5~~4~~. *Requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the sharing and review of information on connectivity within and between the instruments of the CMS Family, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and others, and, where appropriate, facilitate joint attention by such instruments, agreements and organizations at strategic level to the matters; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 6~~2~~. *Takes note* of the compilation of case studies on ecological networks (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.22); | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 7~~3~~. Takes notes also of ~~*Endorses*~~ the recommendations made in the strategic review on ecological networks contained in (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2) and *requests* Parties and invites all other Range States, partner organizations, relevant funding agencies and the private sector to provide adequate, predictable and timely financial resources and in-kind support to assist in their implementation~~, included in the Annex to this Resolution~~; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain but amended |
| 8~~4~~. *Encourages* Parties and other Range States, when identifying areas of importance to migratory terrestrial, avian and aquatic species, to take into account and make explicit by description, schematic maps or conceptual models the relationship between those areas and other areas which may be ecologically linked to them, in physical terms, for example as connecting corridors, or in other ecological terms, for example as breeding areas related to non-breeding areas, stopover sites, feeding and resting places; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |

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| 9~~5~~. *Also Invites* Parties and other Range States and relevant organizations to collaborate to identify, designate and effectively maintain comprehensive and coherent ecological networks of protected sites and other adequately managed sites of international and national importance for migratory animals while taking into account best available science, resilience to change, including climate change, and existing ecological networks; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 10~~13~~. *Urges* Parties to identify and promote ecological networks and connectivity through, for example, the development of further site networks within the CMS Family or other fora and processes, that use scientifically robust criteria to describe and identify important sites for migratory species and promote their internationally coordinated protection, conservation ~~and~~ management and restoration, with support from the CMS Scientific Council, as appropriate; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with input from Scientific Council and its Working Group on Ecological Connectivity ~~input~~ |
| 11~~6~~. *Urges* Parties and other Range States and partners to make full use of all existing complementary tools and mechanisms for the identification and designation of critical sites and site networks for migratory species and populations, including through further designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for migratory waterbirds and other migratory wetland-dependent taxa; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 12~~7~~. *Highlights* the added value of developing ecological networks under CMS where no other network instruments are available, ~~as for example with the West Central Asian Flyway Site Network and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network~~, and urges Parties and invites Range States to strengthen management of existing network sites and their further development through designation and management of additional sites based on the best available science; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain but without citing just one example |
| 13~~27~~. *Encourages* Parties to support ~~provide financial resources and in-kind support to underpin and strengthen~~ existing ecological network initiatives within the CMS Family of instruments~~, including the Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds, the Critical Site Network of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, the newly launched CMS/IOSEA Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles and the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Site Network~~; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain but amended to avoid citing specific (non exclusive) examples, and without trying to describe types of support |
| 14~~8~~. *Further encourages* Parties and relevant organizations, when implementing systems of protected areas, and other relevant site- and area-based conservation measures, to: | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| a) select areas in such a way as to address the needs of migratory species as far as possible throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| b) set network-scale objectives for the conservation of these species within such systems, including by restoration of fragmented and degraded habitats and removal of barriers to migration; and | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| c) cooperate regionally and internationally for the achievement of such objectives; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13) |

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| 159. *Invites* Parties, in collaboration with other MEAs, NGOs, local governments and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance the quality, monitoring, management, extent, distribution and connectivity of terrestrial and aquatic protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), including coastal and marine areas, in accordance with international law including UNCLOS, so as to address as effectively as possible the needs of migratory species throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges, including their need for habitat areas that offer resilience to change, including climate change, taking into account the wider landscapes and seascapes and migratory routes; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended to include reference to OECMs, and to reflect input from Scientific Council and its Working Group on Ecological Connectivity input on local governments |
| 1625. *Requests* the Secretariat to support Parties in the establishment and management of conservation areas and networks, including existing protected areas and Transfrontier Conservation Areas; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 1710. *Further iInvites* Parties and other States as well as relevant regional and international fora, as appropriate, to explore the applicability of ecological networks to marine migratory species, especially those that are under pressure from human activities such as over exploitation, oil and gas exploration/exploitation, fisheries, infrastructure and other coastal development; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with Scientific Council input |
| 1811. *Calls upon* Parties, as appropriate, to apply the concept of Transfrontier Conservation Areas, meaning an area or component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries and is within their national jurisdiction, which may encompass one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resource use areas, in their transboundary conservation efforts; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 1912. *Encourages* Parties to identify transboundary habitats of CMS-listed species, which could be considered as transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), for cooperation and possible bi- or multilateral agreements between neighbouring Range States, to improve the conservation of the habitats and species concerned; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 2014. *Invites* Non-Parties to collaborate closely with Parties in the management of transboundary populations of CMS-listed species, including by joining CMS and its associated instruments, to support the development and implementation of ecological networks globally; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 2115. *Urges* Parties to address immediate threats to national sites important for migratory species within ecological networks, making use, where appropriate, of international lists of threatened sites, such as the 'World Heritage in Danger' list of UNESCO, the 'Montreux Record' of Ramsar and the 'IBAs in Danger' list of BirdLife International; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 2216. *Also urges* Parties to monitor adequately ecological networks to allow early detection of any deterioration in quality of sites, rapid identification of threats and timely action to maintain network integrity, making use where appropriate of | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |

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| existing monitoring methods, such as the IBA Monitoring Framework developed by BirdLife International and the International Waterbird Census coordinated by Wetlands International; | |
| 235. ~~*Also r*~~*Requests* the Secretariat to bring this Resolution to the attention of ~~the process under the auspices of~~ the Convention on Biological Diversity~~ for identifying and describing Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas~~, the ~~process under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly to develop an~~ international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, ~~the United Nations Environment Programme Global Connectivity Conservation Project and the IUCN World Commission of Protected Areas Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group,~~ and to take cognizance of serial nominations of World Heritage Sites under the World Heritage Convention within a multinational context of migration; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain but with streamlining |
| ~~32. *Encourages* Parties and the Secretariat to bring this resolution and the experience of CMS relevant to identifying pathways for marine migratory species, critical habitats and key threats, and promoting coordinated conservation and management measures across a migratory range in marine areas to the attention of the United Nations General Assembly Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: it is mostly out of date |
| ~~21. *Encourages* CMS Parties to engage in the ongoing work taking place within the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop EBSA descriptions, noting that CBD COP decision XI/17 states that the description of areas meeting the EBSA scientific criteria is an evolving process to allow for updates;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: these specifics are no longer necessary |
| ~~22. *Calls on* Parties, other Range States, relevant organizations and individual experts in the research and conservation community to collaborate with and participate actively in the EBSA process and mobilize all available data and information related to migratory marine species, to ensure that the EBSA process has access to the best available science in relation to marine migratory species;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: these specifics are no longer necessary |
| ~~23. *Invites* Parties, other Range States and competent international organizations to consider the results of the initial GOBI review (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.23) with respect to EBSAs and marine migratory species as they further engage in the EBSA process and further invites a more in-depth review by GOBI to explore the potential for the scientific data and information describing EBSAs to contribute to the conservation of migratory species in marine areas within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, particularly with respect to ecological networks and connectivity;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: these specifics are no longer necessary |
| 2424. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to work with Parties and the Scientific Council and other international and regional organizations, including | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13) |

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| the Convention on Biological Diversity, in ~~organizing regional and sub-regional workshops to~~ promoting the conservation and management of critical sites and ecological networks among Parties; | Retain, but with deletion of reference to workshops |
| 25~~17~~. *Invites* the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and others to use existing ecological networks, such as the Important Bird Areas of BirdLife International, to assess and identify gaps in protected area coverage, and secure conservation and sustainable management of these networks, as appropriate; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| 26~~6~~. *Also i~~I~~nvites* Parties, other States and relevant organizations to ~~assess the continued relevance and where appropriate update the content and~~ provide support for the long-term maintenance and application of large-scale databases on migratory species distributions, movements and abundance such as those included in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1 and any additional ones resulting from the survey contained in Annex 2 of the same document~~, the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING), Movebank, the International Waterbird Census, BirdLife International's Seabird Tracking Database, the World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO) and the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) system and the knowledge of marine migratory connectivity being aggregated therein~~; | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Updated and unnecessary detail removed |
| ~~30. *Urges* Parties, the scientific community and other organizations to support the use of existing databases for research aimed at scientifically based conservation decisions within the CMS framework and other policy fora;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal at suggestion of Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity |
| ~~7. *Further invites* Parties, other States and relevant organizations to provide support for the enhancement of the databases referred to in the preceding paragraph in order to address in more targeted ways a range of connectivity questions of relevance to CMS implementation as well as to engage in targeted joint analyses of animal movements and other factors using these databases in an integrated way across the marine and terrestrial realms so as to improve understanding of the biological basis of migratory species connectivity;~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: now considered too specific/out of date |
| ~~8. *Invites* Parties and others to foster the development of radio receiver systems that could be deployed worldwide to detect movements of small animals on land and at sea, if applicable and in accordance with the national conservation plans and practices;~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: was specific to a previous technical need in a specific context |

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| ~~9. *Furthermore invites* Parties to disseminate and deploy a large number of energy-efficient and low-cost radio base stations coupled with radio transmitters in solar-powered "life-long" tags for tracking migratory species so as to improve knowledge about connectivity issues affecting these species; and~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: was specific to a previous technical need in a specific context |
| ~~10. *Also invites* Parties in accordance with the national conservation plans and practices to reserve small allocations of the radio frequency spectrum in a standardized way for tracking migratory species and transferring data from radio tags.~~ | Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: was specific to a previous technical need in a specific context |
| ~~20. *Calls upon* Parties and invites other Range States and relevant organizations to use tools such as Movebank, ICARUS and other tools to better understand the movements of CMS-listed species, including the selection of those endangered species, whose conservation status would most benefit from a better understanding of their movement ecology, while avoiding actions which may enable the unauthorized tracking of individual animals and facilitate poaching;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, as this detail is no longer considered necessary in the Resolution |
| ~~31. *Urges* CMS National Focal Points and Scientific Councillors to work closely with relevant organizations such as the European Space Agency and its Focal Points to support new technology developments such as the ICARUS experiment to track the movement and fate of migratory animals globally;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, as this detail is no longer considered necessary in the Resolution |
| ~~26. *Requests* Parties and invites all other Range States, partner organizations, relevant funding agencies and the private sector to provide adequate, predictable and timely financial resources and in-kind support to assist in implementing the recommendations within this Resolution, including those in the Annex;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal: now covered by more specific provisions |
| 27~~28~~. *Further i~~I~~nvites* the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in making its funding disbursement decisions to give support to activities that will assist in taking forward the areas of work defined in the present Resolution, in particular, to support improved habitat management and restoration at the site level through the use of tools and resources developed specifically for the conservation of migratory species in their flyway, migratory path or ecological network context, and to support the sharing of information and experience; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain as amended with Scientific Council input |
| 28~~29~~. *Calls* on MEAs, regional and other intergovernmental organizations and relevant Non-Governmental Organizations to support the implementation of the present Resolution, including by sharing information and by collaborating in the technical work described above; | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Retain |
| ~~33. *Urges* Parties, the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to address outstanding emerging, or recurring actions;~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, but addressed via expectations expressed in COP Decisions instead |

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| ~~34. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at each of its regular meetings on the progress of implementation of this Resolution; and~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Repeal, but addressed via expectations expressed in COP Decisions instead |
| ~~35. *Notes* that this Resolution repeals:~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Necessary repeal |
| ~~a) Resolution 10.3, *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*; and~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Already repealed and reflected in the preambular section |
| ~~b) Resolution 11.25, *Advancing Ecological Networks to Address the Needs of Migratory Species*~~ | Resolution 12.7 (Rev. COP13)<br><br>Already repealed and reflected in the preambular section |
| 29. Repeals<br><br>(a) Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13), *The role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species*; and<br><br>(b) Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13), *Improving ways of addressing ecological connectivity in the conservation of migratory species* | New text<br><br>Necessary to reflect the effect of the current document |

**ANNEX 2**

DRAFT RESOLUTION

## ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

*Recalling* Resolutions 10.3 and 11.25 on the role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species,

*Also recalling* Resolutions 12.7 (Rev. COP13) *The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species* and 12.26 (Rev.COP13) *Improving ways of addressing ecological connectivity in the conservation of migratory species*,

*Bearing in mind* that ecological connectivity (hereafter "connectivity") is the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth,

*Recognizing* that opportunities for dispersal, migration and genetic exchange among wild animals depend on the quality, extent, distribution and connectivity of relevant habitats, which support both the normal cycles of these animals and their resilience to change, including climate change,

*Recalling* Article III.4 of the Convention under which Parties shall endeavour to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore the habitats of Appendix I species, which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction and to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, obstacles that seriously impede the migration of the species, and Article V.5 under which Agreements in respect of Appendix II species should provide for maintenance of a network of suitable habitats "appropriately disposed in relation to the migration routes",

*Also recalling* Article I.1 of the Convention under which "range" is defined for the purposes of the Convention as all the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route,

*Recognizing* that to meet their needs throughout their life history stages migratory species depend on a range of habitats across their migratory ranges,

*Further recognizing* that sites that perform a critical role in a wider system, such as core areas, corridors, restoration areas and buffer zones, may be linked by strategies that, through a concept of ecological networks, address habitat fragmentation and other threats to migratory species,

*Recognizing in particular* the importance of rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in the context of climate change, for facilitating flows of water and migrations of aquatic species,

*Further recognizing* that habitat destruction and fragmentation are among the primary threats to migratory species, and that the identification and conservation of habitats of appropriate quality, extent, distribution and connectivity are thus of paramount importance for the conservation of these species in the terrestrial, coastal and marine environments,

*Deeply concerned* that habitats for migratory species are becoming increasingly fragmented across terrestrial and aquatic biomes,

*Further concerned* that infrastructure projects that constitute barriers to migration with negative impacts on migratory species, including at population scale, continue to be authorised and built, including at critical points in migratory routes,

*Aware* that several initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks are already in existence at different scales, including bird flyway initiatives, protected area programmes under the auspices of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and initiatives that extend to areas that are not protected,

*Further aware* that the success of many relevant initiatives and programmes depends fundamentally on, inter alia, effective regional and international cooperation, including transboundary cooperation, among governments at national and local levels, different conventions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other actors,

*Considering* that migratory species merit particular attention in designing and implementing initiatives aimed at promoting ecological networks, in order to ensure that the areas selected are sufficient to meet the needs of such species throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges,

*Further considering* that the designation of protected areas across very large areas is not always possible and that additional wider landscape measures usually need to be applied in order to address and mitigate anthropogenic changes at the wider landscape scale,

*Recalling* Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: “Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories“,

*Aware* of the importance of integrating approaches to ecological networks in national environmental planning, including under the auspices of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (under the Convention on Biological Diversity), and National Adaptation Plans (under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change),

*Acknowledging* that since its entry into force in 1983 the Convention on Migratory Species has provided the primary specialized intergovernmental framework for cooperative efforts on issues of connectivity in this context, and that the implementation of relevant provisions under the Convention forms a key contribution to the achievement of objectives adopted in other intergovernmental fora including Goals 14 and 15 in “Transforming our World”, the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal A and Targets 1, 2, 3 and 12 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024,

*Recognizing* the important role played by existing ecological networks worldwide in the conservation of migratory species particularly through the role of these networks in supporting connectivity, including the networks reviewed for COP11 in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2 as well as those operated at national level,

*Aware* of the importance of promoting cooperation though the competent international and regional organizations where appropriate to seek the adoption of conservation measures to support ecological networks in the marine environment,

*Recognizing* that the approach of CMS to coordinated conservation and management measures across a migratory range can contribute to the development of ecological networks and promote connectivity that are fully consistent with the law of the sea by providing the basis for like-minded Range States to take individual actions at national level and regarding their flag vessels in marine areas within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to coordinate these actions across the migration range of the species concerned,

*Recalling* Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP13) Climate Change and Migratory Species which highlights the critical importance of connectivity for conservation and management of migratory species, and its Annex 1 which includes priority actions for Parties and other stakeholders including to expand existing protected area networks to cover important stop-over locations and sites for potential colonization, and ensure the effective protection and appropriate management of sites to maintain or to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations to extreme stochastic events,

[Note that this text might be updated at COP14]

*Acknowledging* that the practical approach to the identification, designation, protection and management of critical sites will vary from one taxonomic group to another or even from species to species, and that while the flyway approach provides a useful framework to address habitat conservation and species protection for migratory birds along migration routes, similar approaches to articulating connectivity may be applicable to other taxa,

*Also acknowledging* the nearly 10,000 sites of international importance for migratory species highlighted in the State of Migratory Species Report which are Key Biodiversity Areas identified using a standardised set of criteria applied across different migratory taxa,

*Further acknowledging* that flyways constitute a specific type of migration corridor, that migratory birds depend on widely separated areas for their survival, and that measures designed to conserve these networks require focus on the breeding grounds, stop-over sites, non-breeding areas and feeding and resting places as well as on preventing and addressing threats at these locations and on the routes between them,

*Welcoming* 12.11 (Rev.COP13) on guidance on global flyway conservation and options for policy arrangements,

*Welcoming* the strategic review on ecological networks (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2) and a compilation of case studies illustrating how ecological networks have been applied as a conservation strategy to different taxonomic groups of CMS-listed species (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.22),

*Recognizing* the increasing number of national and regional migratory species-related networks globally,

*Recognizing* that transboundary area-based conservation measures including networks of protected and other conserved areas can play an important role in improving the conservation status of migratory species by contributing to ecological networks and promoting connectivity particularly when animals migrate for long distances across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries, and welcoming the UN General Assembly Resolution 75/271 that urged Member States to increase international cooperation to maintain and enhance connectivity of

transboundary habitats, cross-border protected areas, vulnerable ecosystems, and ecosystems that are a range of a specific species,

*Welcoming* the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

*Acknowledging* the tools contained in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1 as contributions to the provision of a sound scientific basis for action and to the fostering of greater public awareness concerning connectivity issues,

*Welcoming* the report on available scientific evidence, experiences, and recommendations for addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species, contained in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.20,

*Welcoming* the efforts made by the Secretariat in collaboration with Parties and partners to promote connectivity in various fora and platforms;

*Recalling* the Gandhinagar Declaration (Resolution 13.1), which highlights the CMS priorities for the Global Biodiversity Framework, and calls for it to include, among others, a commitment to maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity and provisions to promote international cooperation and connectivity for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Noting* that Goal A, and Targets 2, 3 and 12 of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework include effective language on ecological connectivity, and that it is implicit in Target 1,

*Welcoming* the engagement of the CMS Secretariat in the 'WildlifeConnect' initiative,

*The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* Parties and invites others to give special attention to the issues highlighted in this Resolution when planning, implementing and evaluating actions designed to support the conservation and management of migratory species, both at national level and in the context of regional and international cooperation, including in particular when implementing the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, and when:

    (i) devising strategic conservation objectives, so that these may more often be expressed in terms of whole migration systems, and in terms of the requirements for the functioning of the migration process itself, as opposed to merely the status of populations or habitats;

    (ii) identifying, prioritizing, developing and managing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, taking account inter alia of the best available science, the need for connectivity to be a key factor in the definition of appropriate conservation management units, including at the landscape or seascape scale, and the need for actions to be addressed to the connections between places as well as to the places themselves;

(iii) identifying, strengthening and expanding, based on the best available science, ecological networks to conserve migratory species worldwide and enhancing their design and functionality,

(iv) evaluating the sufficiency and coherence of ecological networks in functional and qualitative terms as well as in terms of extent and distribution, having regard and to the desirability of sharing experiences and best practices on this issue;

(v) monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the protection and management of the areas and networks referred to in the present paragraph;

(vi) monitoring and assessing the evolution of ecological networks over time;

2. *Calls* on Parties and Signatories of CMS Memoranda of Understanding to consider the network approach and ecological connectivity in the implementation of existing CMS instruments and initiatives;

3. *Encourages* Parties to adopt and implement those guidelines developed within CMS and other relevant processes, which aim to promote connectivity and halt its loss, for example through the provision of practical guidance to avoid infrastructure development projects disrupting the movement of migratory species;

4. *Encourages* Parties and invites others, working with all relevant stakeholders in national and local government authorities, local communities, the private and other sectors, to intensify efforts to address threats to the conservation status of migratory species and the integrity of their habitats, which are manifested as threats to connectivity, including barriers to migration, anthropogenic additional mortality, fragmented resources and disrupted processes, genetic isolation, population non-viability, altered behaviour patterns, shifts in range caused by climate change or depletion of food or water resources, inconsistencies in management across and beyond national jurisdictions, and other factors;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the sharing and review of information on connectivity within and between the instruments of the CMS Family, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and others, and, where appropriate, facilitate joint attention by such instruments, agreements and organizations at strategic level to the matters;

6. *Takes note* of the compilation of case studies on ecological networks (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.22);

7. *Takes notes* also of the recommendations made in the strategic review on ecological networks contained in (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.1.2) and requests Parties and invites all other Range States, partner organizations, relevant funding agencies and the private sector to provide adequate, predictable and timely financial resources and in-kind support to assist in their implementation,

8. *Encourages* Parties and other Range States, when identifying areas of importance to migratory terrestrial, avian and aquatic species, to take into account and make explicit by description, schematic maps or conceptual models the relationship between those areas and other areas which may be ecologically linked to them, in physical terms, for example as connecting corridors, or in other ecological terms, for example as breeding areas related to non-breeding areas, stopover sites, feeding and resting places;

9. *Also invites* Parties and other Range States and relevant organizations to collaborate to identify, designate and effectively maintain comprehensive and coherent ecological networks of protected sites and other adequately managed sites of international and national importance for migratory animals while taking into account best available science, resilience to change, including climate change, and existing ecological networks;

10. *Urges* Parties to identify and promote ecological networks and connectivity through, for example, the development of further site networks within the CMS Family or other fora and processes, that use scientifically robust criteria to describe and identify important sites for migratory species and promote their internationally coordinated protection, conservation management and restoration, with support from the CMS Scientific Council, as appropriate;

11. *Urges* Parties and other Range States and partners to make full use of all existing complementary tools and mechanisms for the identification and designation of critical sites and site networks for migratory species and populations, including through further designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for migratory waterbirds and other migratory wetland-dependent taxa;

12. *Highlights* the added value of developing ecological networks under CMS where no other network instruments are available, and urges Parties and invites Range States to strengthen management of existing network sites and their further development through designation and management of additional sites based on the best available science;

13. *Encourages* Parties to support existing ecological network initiatives within the CMS Family of instruments,

14. *Further encourages* Parties and relevant organizations, when implementing systems of protected areas, and other relevant site- and area-based conservation measures, to:

    a) select areas in such a way as to address the needs of migratory species as far as possible throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges;

    b) set network-scale objectives for the conservation of these species within such systems, including by restoration of fragmented and degraded habitats and removal of barriers to migration; and

    c) cooperate regionally and internationally for the achievement of such objectives;

15. *Invites* Parties, in collaboration with other MEAs, NGOs, local governments and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance the quality, monitoring, management, extent, distribution and connectivity of terrestrial and aquatic protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), including coastal and marine areas, in accordance with international law including UNCLOS, so as to address as effectively as possible the needs of migratory species throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges, including their need for habitat areas that offer resilience to change, including climate change, taking into account wider landscapes seascapes and migratory routes;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to support Parties in the establishment and management of conservation areas and networks, including existing protected areas and Transfrontier Conservation Areas;

17. *Invites* Parties and other States as well as relevant regional and international fora, as appropriate, to explore the applicability of ecological networks to marine migratory

species, especially those that are under pressure from human activities such as over exploitation, oil and gas exploration/exploitation, fisheries, infrastructure and other coastal development;

18. *Calls* upon Parties, as appropriate, to apply the concept of Transfrontier Conservation Areas, meaning an area or component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries and is within their national jurisdiction, which may encompass one or more protected areas, as well as multiple resource use areas, in their transboundary conservation efforts;

19. *Encourages* Parties to identify transboundary habitats of CMS-listed species, which could be considered as transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), for cooperation and possible bi- or multilateral agreements between neighbouring Range States, to improve the conservation of the habitats and species concerned;

20. *Invites* Non-Parties to collaborate closely with Parties in the management of transboundary populations of CMS-listed species, including by joining CMS and its associated instruments, to support the development and implementation of ecological networks globally;

21. *Urges* Parties to address immediate threats to national sites important for migratory species within ecological networks, making use, where appropriate, of international lists of threatened sites, such as the 'World Heritage in Danger' list of UNESCO, the 'Montreux Record' of Ramsar and the 'IBAs in Danger' list of BirdLife International;

22. *Also urges* Parties to monitor adequately ecological networks to allow early detection of any deterioration in quality of sites, rapid identification of threats and timely action to maintain network integrity, making use where appropriate of existing monitoring methods, such as the IBA Monitoring Framework developed by BirdLife International and the International Waterbird Census coordinated by Wetlands International;

23. *Requests* the Secretariat to bring this Resolution to the attention of the Convention on Biological Diversity international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and to take cognizance of serial nominations of World Heritage Sites under the World Heritage Convention within a multinational context of migration;

24. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to work with Parties and the Scientific Council and other international and regional organizations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in promoting the conservation and management of critical sites and ecological networks among Parties;

25. *Invites* the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and others to use existing ecological networks, such as the Important Bird Areas of BirdLife International, to assess and identify gaps in protected area coverage, and secure conservation and sustainable management of these networks, as appropriate;

26. *Also i~~I~~nvites* Parties, other States and relevant organizations to provide support for the long-term maintenance and application of large-scale databases on migratory species distributions, movements and abundance such as those included in Annex 1 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1 and any additional ones resulting from the survey contained in Annex 2 of the same document,

27. *Further invites* the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in making its funding disbursement decisions to give support to activities that will assist in taking forward the areas of work defined in the present Resolution, in particular, to support improved habitat management and restoration at the site level through the use of tools and resources developed specifically for the conservation of migratory species in their flyway, migratory path or ecological network context, and to support the sharing of information and experience;

28. *Calls* on MEAs, regional and other intergovernmental organizations and relevant Non-Governmental Organizations to support the implementation of the present Resolution, including by sharing information and by collaborating in the technical work described above;

29. *Repeals*

    (a) Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13), *The role of ecological networks in the conservation of migratory species*; and

    (b) Resolution 12.26 (Rev. COP13), *Improving ways of addressing ecological connectivity in the conservation of migratory species.*

**ANNEX 3**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT DECISIONS

**~~IMPROVING WAYS OF ADDRESSING~~ ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY ~~IN THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES~~**

NB. Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out.~~

***Directed to Parties***

14.AA (13. 113) Parties are invited to:

a) ~~address connectivity, including through international cooperation, in the conservation of migratory species set out in relevant~~ Decisions and Resolutions ~~of the Conference of the Parties, making use of available guidance, as appropriate, and~~ include connectivity in the implementation of other relevant ~~and applicable~~ international agreements, ~~such as in commitments, including~~ and in Spatial Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, notably its Targets 1, 2, 3 and 12, ~~connectivity elements~~, and operationalize a strengthened regime of indicators on connectivity in that context ~~and include such actions in the National Report to be submitted to the 154th meeting of the Conference of the Parties~~;

~~b) support (i) the application of the African-Eurasian Bird Migration Atlas; (ii) the development of the proposed CMS Global Atlas of Migratory Animal Movements in digital format, (iii) the further redevelopment and application of the African-Eurasian Critical Site Network tool as well as the development and application of the tool to cover other major flyways, and (iv) the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) system, as contributions to the provision of a sound scientific basis for action and as contributions also to the fostering of greater public awareness concerning connectivity issues;~~

~~c~~b) provide support, ~~both financial and in kind,~~ for the implementation of Resolution *[to be numbered]* ~~12.26 (Rev.COP13)~~ ~~*Improving Ways of Addressing*~~ *Ecological Connectivity* ~~*in the Conservation of Migratory Species*~~ and for the activities called for in Decisions 14. BB (13.114) and 14.CC b (13.115 b) and their outcomes~~.~~;

c) report on actions undertaken in line with a) and b) in the National Report to be submitted to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

14.BB (13. 114) The Scientific Council ~~is requested~~ shall, subject to the availability of resources, to ~~continue~~ work on the following updated continuation of the following tasks for enhancing the scientific understanding of connectivity issues in relation to migratory species:

a) review the results of its survey of ~~scope for~~ existing major databases that may ~~to~~ support relevant analyses and syntheses of information on connectivity, and

identify options inter alia for ensuring sustainability and enhanced operability and coordination of such databases for this purpose;

b) investigate options and develop proposals for creating relevant data and knowledge holding capabilities and for enhancing analysis capabilities under the auspices of the CMS, in collaboration with suitably qualified institutions and processes;

c) produce a synthesis of collated information ~~investigate and report~~ on the linkages between migratory species connectivity and ecosystem resilience;

d) having regard in particular to the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, assess the needs and develop focused objectives for new research on key connectivity issues, including but not limited to climate change, which affect the conservation status of each of the major taxonomic groups of migratory wild animals covered by CMS in each of the world's major land and oceanic regions, and produce a report on the findings of this assessment prior to the 14~~5~~th meeting of the Conference of Parties;

e) provide recommendations concerning any ~~consider the need~~ for additional guidance that may be needed within the framework of the CMS on assessing threats to migratory species connectivity in particular priority situations identified by the work described in sub- paragraph (d) above; and

f) make further recommendations as appropriate arising from the work described in this Decision;

***Directed to the Secretariat***

14.CC (13. 115) The Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, shall:

a) drawing on the most appropriate data sources and with the advice of the Scientific Council, identify the habitats, areas, corridors and networked sites that are of greatest global importance for the conservation of migratory species;

b) support Parties in implementing Resolution ~~12.26 (Rev.COP13)~~ *[to be numbered]* ~~*Improving Ways of Addressing*~~ *Ecological Connectivity* ~~*in the Conservation of Migratory Species*~~ by providing specific guidance for further improving the effective application of measures for addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species through national laws, policies and plans, including Spatial Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and through international cooperation~~.~~;

b) engage in the CBD-led partnership promoting area-based conservation measures with a view to contributing to the achievement of Target 3 and other related targets notably Targets 1 and 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

c) support the Scientific Council in implementing Decision 14.BB.