



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 30.2.3

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Decisions 13.119 – 13.121 *Community participation and livelihoods* and proposes the adoption of a new Resolution and Decision on this matter.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

Background

1. Community participation and livelihoods have been included in many CMS agreements, action plans and programmes of work, recognizing the importance of communities in the conservation of species.
2. The term ‘community participation and livelihoods’ – inspired by the concept of ‘community-based natural research management’ – has been in use since the initial adoption of Decisions on this issue by the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12). Community participation in this context means the involvement of indigenous people or local communities living in the range of migratory species in the conservation of those species.
3. Subsequently, at COP13 (2020), Decisions 13.119 – 13.121 *Community participation and livelihoods* were adopted, providing an opportunity to focus in more detail on this issue.

Directed to the Secretariat

13.119 *The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources, and in collaboration with relevant organizations*

- a) *review already available case studies on the livelihood section of the website of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which includes best practice case study examples of CITES/CMS-listed species such as the Vicuna, the Polar Bear, Saltwater Crocodile, and Hammerhead Shark;*
- b) *identify ongoing initiatives and best practice case studies and prepare a compilation of case studies and initiatives related to community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species that include a focus on the particular challenges of migratory species, including factors such as land rights, management responsibilities, authority over distribution of benefits by communities, spiritual values and cooperation among communities along migratory pathways to promote community connectivity, and prepare a standard template to be used by Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for submission of new cases;*
- c) *analyze the case studies referred to in paragraph (b) and assess implications for future actions to assist Parties in using community-based initiatives for the conservation and management of CMS-listed species along their migratory pathways in addition to what is already available under CITES;*
- d) *based on the results of the compilation and analysis, and, where feasible, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the CITES and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), facilitate the organization of workshops and side-events to showcase livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;*
- e) *submit to the Scientific Council at the 5th or 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee, the compilation and the analysis referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b);*
- f) *report to the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision*

Directed to Parties, IGOs, and NGOs

13.120 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to:*

- a) *submit to the Secretariat, using a standard template, to be prepared by the Secretariat if needed, relevant case studies on community engagement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species along their migratory pathways;*

- b) *submit information on instruments, including legislation, policies and action plans and related initiatives that promote community involvement in the conservation of CMS-listed species;*
- c) *provide technical and financial support to the Secretariat for the preparation of the study referred to in Decision 13.119 paragraph (a).*

Directed to Scientific Council

13.121 *The Scientific Council is requested, subject to availability of resources, to review and provide recommendations on the compilation and the analysis referred to in Decision 13.119 paragraphs (a) and (b).*

Activities to implement Decision 13.119

4. During the current intersessional period, the Secretariat undertook efforts to identify and prepare a compilation of best practice case studies and ongoing initiatives related to community involvement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species, as requested by Decision 13.119 paragraph (b).
5. In line with paragraph (a) of Decision 13.119, the Secretariat had already submitted to CMS COP13 several existing reports and databases that compile case studies on community-based wildlife management (CBWM) and community involvement to address illegal wildlife trade and other related topics.¹ Although some may have included CMS-listed species, the studies on CBWM did not fully examine the particular challenges facing migratory species. Thus, the Secretariat conducted additional desk-based research to identify relevant work around community-based management and conservation of CMS-listed species.
6. As instructed through paragraph (b) of Decision 13.119, the Secretariat prepared a standard template for the submission of successful cases of local community involvement in the conservation of terrestrial, aquatic and avian species, and sent it to CMS Parties, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on 9 January 2023 via [Notification \(2023/001\)](#). Following this request, seven contributions from two governments, three NGOs, one IGO and one academic institution were received by the Secretariat.
7. In liaison with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Secretariat identified additional case studies. In total, the CMS Secretariat and JNCC compiled 78 case studies, covering terrestrial (39), avian (24) and aquatic (15) ecosystems.
8. In line with Decision 13.119 paragraph (c), the Secretariat requested JNCC to analyse the case studies and assess implications for future actions to assist Parties in using community-based initiatives for the conservation and management of CMS-listed species. The outcome of the analysis, including the case studies, is presented in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.2.3](#).
9. In addition, and in line with Activity 5.14 of the Programme of Work of the [Central Asian Mammals Initiative \(CAMI\)](#), Frankfurt Zoological Society and collaborating organizations were commissioned to prepare the study, 'Potential for Community-based Wildlife Management of CAMI Species'. The study was funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). The goal of this study was to assess the potential of community-based wildlife management (CBWM) for the conservation of selected wildlife species covered by CAMI. Saiga Antelope (*Saiga*

¹ [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.6](#)

tatarica), Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*), Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus yarkandensis*) were selected and options for CBWM approaches for these species evaluated in order to develop recommendations that could support the successful application of CBWM in the CAMI region. Further information on this activity can be found in Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.3.](#)

Discussion and analysis

10. Community engagement is important for the conservation of many migratory species. Human-wildlife conflicts are often most effectively addressed through the involvement of communities. Based on the analysis of the collected case studies, a set of 10 key guiding principles were identified for the successful inclusion of communities living in the range of migratory species in the conservation of those species. To provide Parties with long-term guidance, the principles have been included in a draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of this document, which is proposed to COP for adoption.

Recommended actions

11. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of this document, including the Key Guiding Principles;
 - b) adopt the draft Decision contained in Annex 2 of this document;
 - c) delete Decisions 13.119 – 13.121.

ANNEX 1**DRAFT RESOLUTION**
COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

Recalling Resolution 12.3, the Manila Declaration on Sustainable Development and Migratory Species,

Recognizing that improving the conservation status of migratory species requires action at global, regional and local levels,

Recognizing the value of traditional knowledge of lands, natural resources and the environment held by local communities and the vital role local communities can play in effective wildlife conservation,

Further recognizing that community participation in conservation can increase awareness and drive positive attitudes towards wildlife and wildlife conservation, consequently reducing human-wildlife conflict and enhancing conservation effectiveness,

Recalling Targets 4, 5 and 9 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, all of which highlight the interactions of local communities in conservation efforts,

Aware of the diverse forms that community participation in conservation can have, including community-based natural resource management, payments for ecosystem services, conservation enterprises and the development of alternative, sustainable livelihoods,

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

1. *Urges* Parties and other stakeholders to enhance the participation of local communities in the implementation of the Convention,
2. *Adopts* the Guiding Principles contained in the Annex to this Resolution, and *urges* Parties to implement and bring them to the attention of the communities and organizations that are carrying out conservation work involving communities;
3. *Requests* Parties and other stakeholders to make information available to communities about migratory species to emphasize how individuals of a species may have shared value across a migration route;
4. *Requests* Parties and the Secretariat to compile information and case studies on community participation in the conservation of migratory species to support the exchange of best practice experiences among Parties.

Key Guiding Principles on the involvement of communities in the conservation of migratory species:

Land and user rights

- 1. Secure and equitable land and resource user rights for communities are important for migratory species conservation.** Communal conservancies and locally managed areas can form valuable corridors for migratory species outside of protected area networks. Rights to land and wildlife resources can enable communities to benefit from the presence of migratory species economically, such as through wildlife-based enterprises or payments for conservation. Communities also gain socially from empowerment to manage their own landscapes and resources, for example through land-use zoning or reinstating traditional management practices.
- 2. Communities need to be supported in their rights to manage and protect migratory species from external influences.** Capacity-building and establishing or reinforcing local institutions to sustainably manage migratory species and distribute benefits from their conservation is required to enable communities to provide effective protection and stewardship. Communities may carry out actions such as designating protected areas, self-restricting resource use, or implementing anti-poaching and monitoring efforts to protect migratory species from poaching and overexploitation. Wider governance is also important to support communities' interests from powerful external actors who may compete for resources, such as commercial resource extraction or the illegal wildlife trade.

Management responsibilities

- 3. Local management can support the long-term sustainability of conservation measures to increase coexistence with migratory species.** Community-based management is particularly important in local-scale coexistence projects between communities and large migratory species such as big cats and elephants. Through supporting local leadership, management and implementation of conservation measures, communities gain ownership of projects and are invested in their success. As such, capacity-building and community participation in all stages of a project is important, and also serves to increase the suitability of interventions to local needs.
- 4. Co-management and collaboration can integrate traditional ecological knowledge and practices into successful migratory species conservation.** For area-based management in particular, community involvement in management decisions can increase effectiveness through adapting measures to local needs, socioeconomic contexts and beliefs, increasing acceptance of conservation and promoting conservation of broader biocultural landscapes.
- 5. Community involvement can facilitate sustainable use of migratory species as part of international coordinated and regulated management.** Achieving sustainable use of migratory species is challenging, requiring range-wide information on species population status. However, involvement of local stakeholders is increasingly recognized in the successful implementation of international trade regulations, such as CITES and adaptive management strategies. This enables local cultural and livelihood considerations to be recognized and supported, preventing illegal trade and subsistence use from undermining sustainable use, and encouraging local involvement in the management of migratory species.

Spiritual values and attitudes

6. **Understanding and integrating traditional beliefs can increase migratory species conservation effectiveness.** Positive attitudes and traditional practices can promote coexistence and management of migratory species and the habitats they rely on, and can motivate engagement in conservation. An understanding of cultural practices regarding species is vital to prevent conflict and promote involvement of cultural practices and stakeholders in conservation activities, for example through changing local perceptions of species use, or encouraging participation in sustainable management.

Cooperation among communities along migratory pathways

7. **Bottom-up knowledge exchange between community members promotes effective cooperation in migratory species conservation and can be facilitated through top-down involvement in transboundary initiatives.** Local leadership and management are essential in spreading successful conservation measures between communities. At larger scales, bringing community representatives together for knowledge exchange can promote cooperation to target specific threats for migratory species. International NGOs and transboundary initiatives also play an important role in supporting the inclusion of communities along migratory pathways and promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange between communities.

Intersectional issues

8. **Communities located around important migratory species aggregation sites can be a priority for engagement with conservation.** Communities around important stop-over, breeding or feeding grounds for migratory species can have a disproportional impact on migratory populations. While overexploitation or threats in these areas can be particularly damaging for species, effective conservation involving local communities can provide substantial benefits, both for the migratory species and for local communities through promoting sustainable development or providing a source of pride and connection to nature.
9. **Conflict can arise between local communities managing migratory species in different parts of their range, putting some local communities at a disadvantage.** A key challenge in migratory species conservation occurs when benefits or costs of the presence of migratory species are localized to different parts of their ranges. Management in these locations can therefore come into conflict. An understanding of the impacts of this on local communities and livelihoods, and who has authority over reconciling these differences, is important for ensuring that all communities can sustainably benefit from conservation.
10. **Community-based conservation of migratory species can be undermined by the illegal wildlife trade.** A key feature required for long-term community commitment to conservation is for benefits to outweigh costs such as restricted access to resources or living close to potentially dangerous wildlife. For some migratory species, there is an added pressure when species are particularly high value, such as for elephants because of demand for ivory, which can undermine community conservation as individuals can make more money from poaching than protection. This can be exacerbated in remote transboundary landscapes with poor law enforcement and high levels of poverty. In such cases, strong disincentives to prevent poaching by community members through strengthening law enforcement may be required.

DRAFT DECISIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

14.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) Publish the case studies contained in Section 10 of UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.2.3 on the CMS website;
- b) Report to the Standing Committee at its 57th or 58th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.