

**Fifth Meeting of the Signatories
of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and
Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard
(*Otis tarda*)**

Bratislava, Slovakia, 18 – 21 September 2023

UNEP/CMS/GB/MOS5/Doc.4.1

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT
(as of 25 August 2023)

Summary:

This report presents developments of activities and policies under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) with relevance to the work under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) since its 4th meeting of the Signatories.

A number of actions are recommended to the meeting.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*; hereafter 'Great Bustard MOU') pursuant to MOU paragraph 1(e). It also acts as the MOU Depository (MOU Paragraph 19).
2. This report provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as Depository, and a summary of the status of signatures to the MOU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MOU's entry into effect and its efforts to generate an up-to-date list of contact points. It also provides a summary of relevant developments since the 4th meeting of Signatories (MOS4), and particularly outcomes of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to CMS, and further developments since then. It includes species-specific provisions for the Great Bustard, other relevant avian-specific provisions, and relevant cross-cutting issues and overarching strategic and institutional matters such as the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

3. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the depository in promoting the MOU. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MOU. It keeps the original version of the MOU on file, notifies the Signatories of new signatures and transmits certified copies of the MOU to the various Signatory States and organizations that have signed the MOU.
4. Document UNEP/CMS/GB/MOS5/Inf.5 notes that as of 25 August 2023 there are 14 State Signatories to the MOU. The last signature was that of the Republic of Serbia on 10 April 2019, announced by [Notification 2019/009](#) to the Parties of the Convention. In addition, four organizations have signed the MOU. Of the 20 Range States eligible to sign the MOU, six have not yet signed: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Slovenia.

List of Designated National Contact Points

5. MOU paragraph 5 invites Signatory States to officially designate an authority or an authorized scientist as a national contact point for all matters relating to the implementation of the MOU and to communicate the name and address to the Secretariat.
6. At the time of writing, thirteen of the fourteen Signatories had provided the Secretariat with the name of their national contact points (document: UNEP/CMS/GB/MOS5/Inf.6). Greece has not nominated a contact point yet. Should there be any updates to this document, the Secretariat requests the Signatories to communicate the change as soon as possible.
7. The Secretariat appeals to the Signatory State that has not yet done so to please designate a national contact point and provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This should be done in writing from the Ministry competent for the Great Bustard's conservation and management.

CMS Decisions and developments relevant to the Great Bustard MOU since MOS4

8. A summary of relevant processes and decisions of CMS COP13, and further developments is included in the Annex of the present document. COP13 took place in Gandhinagar, India, 15-22 February 2020. The outcomes include resolutions and decisions on subjects such as:

Great Bustard-specific provisions:

- The Great Bustard continues to be listed on CMS Appendix I and II;
- The **Concerted Action for the Asian Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)**, originally adopted at COP12, was extended ([Concerted Action 12.8 \(Rev.COP13\)](#)); a further extension of the Concerted Action has been proposed by the Government of Mongolia and its partners, the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, for endorsement at CMS COP14, scheduled to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12-17 February 2024. The report on the implementation of the Concerted Action is available in document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.32.2.7](#).
- As one major activity undertaken in the frame of this Concerted Action, a [draft revised Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia](#) has been prepared, and was submitted by the Government of Mongolia, along with the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia to CMS COP14 and proposed for adoption. The Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia has been prepared in consultation with researchers from across the species' range in Asia, non-governmental organizations and Range States. The range of the Great Bustard, which historically stretched from the Iberian to the Korean peninsula, has been severely fragmented over the past two centuries. Populations of the Western Great Bustard (*O. t. tarda*) in Asia (inclusive of Iran (Islamic Republic of) and eastwards) are currently estimated at only 500 - 1000 individuals. The entirety of the population of Eastern Great Bustards (*O. t. dybowskii*) is now estimated as 1300-2200 individuals. As major threats, apart from agricultural intensification on breeding grounds, adult mortality has been heightened by collisions with powerlines, poaching and poisoning at migratory stopovers and wintering grounds.
- *Otis tarda* is included in Category A - *Globally threatened and near-threatened African-Eurasian migratory landbird species* of the **Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region** (AEMLAP; [Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1/Annex](#))

Other relevant avian-specific provisions:

- **The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds** ([Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.27-13.31](#) and [Decisions 13.32-13.33](#))
- **Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds** ([Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.39-13.40](#))
- **Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region** (AEMLAP; [Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1](#); [Decisions 13.34-13.38](#))
- **Flyways** ([Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.41-13.46](#))
- **Potential Avian Taxa for Listing** ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.2/Rev.1](#))
- **World Migratory Bird Day** ([Resolution 11.9 \(Rev.COP13\)](#))

*Cross-cutting issues and overarching strategic and institutional matters (most relevant items in **bold** are described in more detail in the Annex):*

- **Migratory Species in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** ([Resolution 13.1](#); [Decisions 13.7-13.8](#))
- **Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023** ([Resolution 11.2 \(Rev.COP12\)](#); [Decisions 13.1-13.3](#); [Decision 13.4-13.5](#))
- **Conservation Status of Migratory Species** ([Decisions 13.24 to 13.26](#))
- **Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species** ([Decisions 13.16 to 13.19](#))
- **Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species** ([Resolution 12.6](#))
- **Renewable Energy and Migratory Species** ([Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.106-13.108](#)) and **Power Lines and Migratory Birds** ([Resolution 10.11](#))

- [\(Rev.COP13\)](#)
- *National Reports* ([Resolution 12.5](#); [Decisions 13.14 – 13.15](#))
- ***The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species*** ([Resolution 12.7 \(Rev.COP13\)](#))
- ***Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species*** ([Resolution 12.26 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.113-13.115](#))
- ***Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species*** ([Decisions 13.130-13.134](#))
- *Implementation of Articles IV and V of the Convention* ([Resolution 12.8](#))
- ***Climate Change and Migratory Species*** ([Resolution 12.21](#); [Decisions 13.126-13.128](#))
- ***Pastoralism and Migratory Species*** ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.7](#))
- *Sustainable Tourism and Migratory Species* ([Resolution 12.23](#); [Decisions 13.135-13.136](#))
- *Community Participation and Livelihoods* ([Decisions 13.119-13.121](#))
- *Concerted Actions* ([Resolution 12.28 \(Rev.COP13\)](#))
- ***Definition of the Terms "Range State" and "Vagrant"*** ([Decision 13.140](#))
- *Scientific Council* ([Resolution 12.4](#); [Decision 13.6](#))
- *Establishment of a Review Mechanism and a National Legislation Programme* ([Resolution 12.9](#); [Decisions 13.20-13.23](#))

Recommended actions

9. The Meeting is recommended to:
 - a) take note of the Secretariat's report;
 - b) request representatives of Non-Signatory Range States to inform the Meeting of their Government's intentions for signing the MOU;
 - c) review the list of designated national contact points;
 - d) request representatives to provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if not been already forwarded to the Secretariat;
 - e) invite Signatories that have not yet designated a national contact point to provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible;
 - f) take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions and Decisions and engage with their implementation as appropriate.

Annex

**DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION SINCE THE 4TH MEETING OF
SIGNATORIES OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MIDDLE-EUROPEAN POPULATION OF
THE GREAT BUSTARD (*Otis tarda*)**

1. Main issues relevant to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*; hereafter: Great Bustard MOU) over the period since the Fourth Meeting of the Signatories pertain to resolutions, decisions and related action plans on specific taxonomic groups of birds. Specific issues relevant to this species include addressing illegal killing and taking, poisoning, impacts of energy infrastructure and the corresponding work of CMS initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT), a new Illegal Take Task Force in the Asia Pacific region, a new proposed Initiative to address illegal killing of birds in South West Asia and the Energy Task Force (ETF). Other relevant issues are the agreement for a new CMS Initiative in Central Asia, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Initiative, and overarching and cross-cutting issues such as connectivity, climate change and World Migratory Bird Day. In addition, several overarching developments of relevance under CMS are highlighted.

Relevant avian-specific provisions

The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds ([Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.27-13.31](#) and [Decisions 13.32-13.33](#))

2. The ***Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)*** was convened under Resolution 11.16 in 2014. In March 2023, 21 CMS Parties and the European Union represented by the European Commission, were members of MIKT. Three interested Parties and one Non-Party have been participating as Observers. Eleven multilateral environmental agreements and networks, and nine international non-governmental organizations are also observers to MIKT. Finally, MIKT also has access to eight Advisory Bodies.
3. The CMS Secretariat is responsible for the Coordination of MIKT, and since November 2021 it has ensured the uninterrupted coordination of the Task Force.
4. The European Commission has been recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018 – 2023 for funding provided through the Global Public Goods and Challenges Cooperation Agreement with UNEP.
5. To date, five MIKT meetings have taken place. Since 2017, MIKT meets jointly with the Bern Convention. The [fourth MIKT meeting](#) (MIKT4) (the 3rd Joint meeting with the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on IKB (SFPs)) took place online from 9 to 11 June 2021. The meeting was attended by 115 people. Seventeen (17) members out of 21 attended the meeting, as well as the European Commission. [The fifth MIKT meeting](#) (the 4th Joint meeting with the Bern Convention Network of SFPs) was hybrid and held from 7 to 9 June 2022 in Valencia, Spain. The meeting was attended by 120 people, of which 50 attended online. Seventeen members out of 21 attended the meeting, as well as the European Commission.
6. Since November 2021, MIKT members have adopted the [MIKT Workplan for 2021-2025](#) based on [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in](#)

[Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#), which is the Strategic Framework for MIKT. The overarching long-term goal of the Rome Strategic Plan is the eradication of IKB within the geographic scope of the Bern Convention and CMS MIKT. The goal of the plan for 2030 is a 50% reduction of the scale and scope of IKB compared to the 2020 baseline.

7. Since November 2021, MIKT members have endorsed papers and guidance documents that support the implementation of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025 and the Rome Strategic Plan. Specifically, the MIKT members have endorsed:
 - [Guidance for the development and implementation of National Action Plans \(NAPs\) against the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds \(IKB\)](#) to support the overarching objective of the Rome Strategic Plan and action a) of the Process-oriented Objective on National IKB Plans of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025. The paper was endorsed following consultation in the mid-2022.
 - [A Paper on Baseline and Methodology for Assessing Progress toward Achieving the Rome Strategic Plan 2020- 2030](#) to support the implementation of Objective 1 of the Rome Strategic Plan and the implementation of Action 1.1 of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025. The paper was endorsed following consultation in autumn 2021.
 - [Legislative Guidance Materials Relating to the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds \(Legislative Guidance\)](#) to support the implementation of Objective 3 of the Rome Strategic Plan and implement action 3.1b of the MIKT Workplan 2021-2025. The Legislative Guidance was endorsed following MIKT5 in mid-2022.
 - [Model Law provisions on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds \(IKB\)](#) to support the implementation of Objective 3 of the Rome Strategic Plan and implement action 3.1b of the MIKT Workplan. The Model Law provisions were endorsed following MIKT5 in the summer of 2022.
 - A paper on [Suggested Methodology and Guidance for Conducting Socio-Economic Research into the Motivations behind IKB](#).
8. The [Scoreboard was adopted as Annex 1 of Resolution 11.16 \(Rev. COP12\)](#) in 2017. In line with Decision 13.27, which encourages Parties to “*periodically use the Scoreboard in Annex 1 of Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13) as a national tool to self-assess progress in addressing the illegal killing of wild birds*”, the Secretariat supported the completion of the second Scoreboard which ran from July to November 2020. [The analysis of the results of the second Scoreboard exercise](#) in 2020, including comparisons between 2018 and 2020, showed slight improvements in monitoring IKB and enforcement and enforcement response. The Scoreboard exercise has been launched to run again in 2023 from April to June 2023.
9. Furthermore, to improve the Contracting Parties’ self-assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan, in 2022, additional narrative text to support Scoreboard submissions was adopted by MIKT members. The 2023 Scoreboard will include this additional text (see document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.28.1](#)).
10. In 2021, the CMS and the Bern Convention Secretariats jointly approached the countries that had completed the Scoreboard to obtain their consent to upload their actual answers online, as downloaded from the CMS Online Reporting System. Of the 35 countries that completed the Scoreboard in 2018 and/or 2020, up to March 2023, twenty-four had given permission for their answers to be uploaded online. The answers have been uploaded [in a dedicated Bern Convention website](#).
11. During September 2022, the CMS organized [an online workshop on Monitoring the scope and scale of IKB](#), providing useful examples of methodologies used by different countries and monitoring results.

12. In implementing [Decisions 13.32-13.33](#), thanks to voluntary contributions from the Government of Australia the ***Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East-Asian Australasian Flyway (ITTEA***; proposed to be renamed to Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force). While focusing on the Asia Pacific region, the scope of the Task Force overlaps with some Range States in Asia which hold populations of Great Bustards, namely China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation.
13. At the inaugural meeting of the ITTEA, which was held jointly with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in Brisbane, Australia on 12 March 2023, mandates and activities addressing illegal taking of migratory birds in the framework of CMS were presented, followed by a situation analysis of illegal take of birds in mainland South and Southeast Asia, delivered by BirdLife International. Representatives from CMS Parties, Non-Parties and observer organizations provided updates on relevant recent work, experiences and challenges. A prioritized Programme of Work was developed and endorsed. Next steps were agreed and potential proposals for CMS COP14 relevant to ITTEA discussed.
14. In August 2023, the Secretariat organized a two-session [Virtual Workshop on Market Surveys for Addressing Illegal Take of Migratory Birds](#).
15. Under the mandate from Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP13), in October 2021, the Secretariat, alongside BirdLife International, supported a high-level workshop in Jordan with a view to developing a road map to tackle IKB in South-West Asia. The workshop addressed all countries in the region, with a particular focus on launching a process for the development of an action plan for the following ones: Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The meeting concluded that an action plan to eradicate illegal taking and trade was necessary for the region.
16. A concept note and fundraising brief were developed to outline the steps and necessary financial support needed to establish a mechanism for the delivery of the Action Plan for the region. The concept foresees the development of a new South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force, the hiring of a coordinator and the production of a programme of work. The Secretariat is currently discussing with Parties in the region the options for setting up this new Task Force.
17. In the context of the Great Bustard in Asia, the recently developed [draft revised Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia](#) highlights that poaching is rated most frequently as a high-impact threat, as well as the threat most frequently mentioned as the largest challenge for the species' conservation.

Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds ([Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.39-13.40](#))

18. Through [CMS Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP13\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#), COP13 reaffirmed the adoption of the [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#) and proposed the continuation of the open-ended [Preventing Poisoning Working Group \(PPWG\)](#) until COP14.
19. As instructed through the same Resolution, the Secretariat has supported the development of the [Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights](#). They were adopted by the Standing Committee at its [52nd meeting](#), held online, 21-29 September 2021.

20. The Secretariat continued to monitor the impacts of poisoning on migratory birds and to support the elaboration of national strategies and national action plans to minimize detrimental impacts. As an example, the Secretariat, through the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU, supported a workshop led by the Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF), to address the catastrophic poisoning of Hooded Vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) in Guinea Bissau in March 2020.
21. In close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the CMS Secretariat supported an ad-hoc CMS Expert Group for the Evaluation of Exposure of European Union Birds to Lead Fishing Weights and Lead Ammunition in Terrestrial Environments, established thanks to the voluntary work of several members of the PPWG. The group responded to a call of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), on this matter.
22. In September 2021, the Secretariat submitted comments prepared in consultation with the ad-hoc expert group on the ECHA Annex XV restriction report on lead in outdoor shooting and fishing.
23. ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) adopted its opinion on the restriction proposal in its meeting in May/June 2022. It supported the proposal while recommending a shorter transition time to phase out lead gunshot for hunting. The Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) adopted its opinion in its meeting in December 2022. The opinions of both committees were sent to the European Commission in February 2023. If approved by the European Parliament, the ban on lead-ammunition and fishing weights at all territories within the EU will be a major step forward to combatting the unintentional poisoning of migratory birds in this region.
24. Similarly, in November 2022, the Secretariat supported the expert group by submitting comments to the United Kingdom's Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) consultation on the Annex 15 restriction report - proposal for a restriction of lead ammunition.
25. The Secretariat initiated contacts with officials at UNEP to seek further cooperation with regard to working at a global level to achieve a full ban on lead ammunition.
26. Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) and the [Guidelines](#) also address the issue of poisoning by insecticides, rodenticides as well as intentional poison-baits. In the context of the Great Bustard in Asia, the recently developed [draft revised Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia](#) reports the death of Great Bustards due to poisoning from these sources both accidentally and intentionally in that region.

Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP; Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP13)/Rev.1; Decisions 13.34-13.38)

27. [CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\) Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region \(AEMLAP\)](#) urges Parties and encourages Non-Parties to address the issue of loss and degradation of habitat of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa. The issues covered by AEMLAP provide linkages to many other activities and initiatives such as on addressing IKB, infrastructure developments, collision risks etc. [Decision 13.36](#) expresses the concrete requirements for the continuation and coordination of the [Working Group on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds \(AEML WG\)](#), under the CMS Scientific Council.

28. A number of efforts have taken place since MOS4 to raise awareness for landbirds and the AEMLAP and to support its implementation.
29. To address Decision 13.34b, the Secretariat has been exploring funding opportunities in cooperation with other partners. In 2021-2022, significant joint work was carried out with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD also with the support of a joint consultant who assisted the Secretariats with the implementation of cooperative activities including the development of a working paper titled *Ecological connectivity: An essential component of ecosystem restoration*. The paper was produced also in cooperation with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation to provide the scientific evidence and measures for implementing the pathways for land restoration of the Global Land Outlook (GLO2), the UNCCD flagship publication. It showcases how the restoration interventions in the sub-Saharan region in the context of the Great Green Wall have the potential to improve ecological connectivity at many scales including to support processes such as landbird migrations in the African-Eurasian flyway.
30. To support the implementation of Decision 13.35a), the Secretariat has supported the AEML WG in continuing its work. The Secretariat issued a call in 2023 requesting all AEMLAP Range States to revalidate and extend Working Group's membership, and updated the membership list accordingly.
31. A Coordination Unit for the AEML WG was established at the Swiss Ornithological Institute (SOI – Vogelwarte Sempach) in 2022 through funding from the Government of Switzerland, and Terms of Reference were agreed with the CMS Secretariat, thus contributing to the implementation of Decision 13.36b.
32. To support the implementation of Decision 13.38, the Secretariat conducted a survey to assess the status of implementation of the AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) 2016-2020. The following main limitations for implementation were identified: lack of funding for support and on-the-ground work and monitoring, the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of expertise and capacity, and political instability in some key areas.
33. Based on the survey, the preparation of an updated version of the AEML WG POW for the years 2021-2026 was coordinated by the AEML Steering Group (SG), supported by the SOI as the Coordination Unit of the AEML WG, and approved via electronic correspondence by the AEML WG in November 2022, thereby completing Decision 13.38. In this revised [POW 2021-2026](#), new strategic fields were defined, and well-defined activities were proposed.
34. Members of the AEML SG promoted the AEMLAP and issues around landbirds in this flyway at congresses, such as the Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) which was attended by members of the CMS Secretariat and the SOI.
35. A member of the AEML SG and representative of the SOI participated in the [Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway](#) (New Delhi, 2-4 May 2023) to ensure that there are synergies that can efficiently be addressed, to highlight gaps, and to prevent unnecessary overlaps.
36. The project [Integrating science, policy and sustainable development to address African-Eurasian migrant landbird declines: African perspectives on a flyway-wide issue](#) is an activity of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative that was started in 2020 and is supported by the CMS Secretariat and members of the AEML WG.
37. Through the AfriBiRds project, a [monitoring toolbox](#) was developed to train people on site in monitoring landbirds, which had also been included in the previous AEML WG POW.

Further resources and information on many projects can be accessed online through the [NABU AfriBiRds website](#).

Flyways ([Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.41-13.46](#))

38. [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#) re-endorsed the [Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023](#), which covers all major flyways, and calls for its implementation. The Programme of Work (POW) brings together all major actions required to promote the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and keeps with the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023. It encourages cooperation and streamlining of actions; and identifies and promotes implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide by providing a framework for protection of migratory birds throughout their life-cycles, and enhancing synergies among relevant flyway-related instruments and programmes. Thereby, it assists countries in establishing national programmes of work through identifying priority actions, indicators, key stakeholders and time frames. The Great Bustard MOU is one of the CMS Family instruments implemented and promoted under the umbrella of the Flyways POW.
39. As instructed by the COP, the Secretariat has undertaken several activities to implement actions identified in the POW, specifically in conjunction with other CMS initiatives e.g. on IKB, energy infrastructure, habitats etc. on regional, flyway and global level, respectively, and coordination among them. In this context, it has supported the activities of the Flyways Working Group regarding the expansion of its membership and facilitating the coordination with other CMS Working Groups and Task Forces such as MIKT, the PPWG, the AEML WG, and the Energy Task Force (ETF).
40. To support implementation on regional level, the Secretariat made efforts in further strengthening the cooperation with the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), in line with POW actions 24 and 25, particularly with regard to the prevention of illegal taking and trade of migratory birds (see [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.1](#)) and international single-species action plans (see [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.1.5](#)).
41. To implement [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) and [Decision 13.46](#), the Secretariat has been continuing the collaborative process with the Government of India and the AEWA Secretariat to develop under CMS an institutional framework for the Central Asian Flyway (CAF):
 - both Secretariats were represented at a meeting hosted by the Government of India in November 2019;
 - In September 2020, the Government of India, the UNEP Country Office in India, and other partners organized a webinar on the topic *Wetlands as Ecological Connections in the Central Asian Flyway*, including a presentation contributed by the CMS Secretariat;
 - in 2021, the CMS Secretariat called upon the CAF Range States to nominate special focal points for the CAF initiative;
 - an online workshop for CAF Range States, relevant partner organizations, and experts was organized by the Government of India in October 2021, supported by the CMS Secretariat. The workshop provided an update on the implementation of CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*, showcased the work led by the Indian Government through the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and India's National Action Plan for the CAF 2018-2023, and shared information on activities and conservation priorities, and actions taking place within CAF. Participants raised the importance of connecting activities among the Range States in the view of next steps;

- the 4th Meeting of the CAF Range States (CAF4) took place from 2nd to 4th May 2023 in New Delhi, as an in-person meeting and at the invitation of the Government of India. The Range States agreed on the establishment of a new Initiative under CMS as an institutional framework and platform for international cooperation on the conservation and sustainable management of migratory birds in the CAF. Consequently, a draft resolution proposing the establishment of the new Initiative, including Terms of Reference and draft decisions were submitted by the Government of India to COP14 (see [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.28.4.2](#)). The CAF4 meeting also drew conclusions from a CAF conservation situation analysis report launched in mid-2022 and coordinated by BirdLife International, and discussed priority areas for implementation. The existing *Concerted Action for the Asian Population of the Great Bustard* (*Otis tarda*; [Concerted Action 12.8 \(Rev.COP13\)](#)), and the [draft revised Action Plan for the Great Bustard in Asia](#) proposed for adoption at COP14 can play a significant role in guiding implementation on this flagship species in the CAF.

Potential Avian Taxa for Listing ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.2/Rev.1](#))

42. Along developing Guidance on the Disaggregation of Families and Genera listed in Appendix II (see document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.2/Rev.1](#)), the CMS Scientific Council developed a list of potential avian taxa for listing, presented in document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.31.3](#), submitted to COP14 for consideration. It lists avian species that meet the CMS movement criteria and have an unfavourable conservation status, and that are not individually listed in Appendix I or II and are not a member of an aggregated family or genus under Appendix II. The list may help Parties to prioritize future listing proposals for avian species. *Inter alia*, it contains five species of the family Otidae: Ludwig's Bustard (*Neotis ludwigii*), Denham's Bustard (*Neotis denhami*), Nubian Bustard (*Neotis nuba*), Arabian Bustard (*Ardeotis arabs*), and Lesser Frigatebird (*Sypheotides indicus*).

World Migratory Bird Day ([Resolution 11.9 \(Rev.COP13\)](#))

43. Through [CMS Resolution 11.9 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) *World Migratory Bird Day*, COP invites Parties, the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, the United Nations Environment Programme and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, to celebrate and raise awareness of World Migratory Bird Days (WMBDs) on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October. Since 2018, the CMS-AEWA Joint Communications Team and Environment for the Americas (EFTA) have run a biannual joint campaign. The WMBD campaign of 2018 ran under the slogan "Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation"; in 2019 under "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution"; in 2020 "Birds Connect Our World".
44. The WMBD 2021 ran under the slogan "Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!" on 8 and 9 October 2021, in a bid to strengthen recognition and appreciation of migratory birds and highlight the urgent need for their conservation. More than 330 events were registered, and 36 countries were involved.
45. The focus of the 2022 WMBD campaign was "Light Pollution". It took place on 14 May and 8 October 2022. More than 500 events were registered, and 66 countries were involved, showing increasing interest worldwide in this initiative.
46. The WMBD 2023 takes place on 13 May and 14 October 2023, with a focus on the theme "[Water: Sustaining Bird Life](#)", to highlight the importance of water for migratory birds and identify key actions for protecting water resources and aquatic ecosystems important for birds, including Inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes, and ponds.

Information on [WMBD themes since 2006](#) is available on the WMBD website.

Overarching strategic, institutional and scientific matters and decisions

Migratory Species in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ([Resolution 13.1](#); [Decisions 13.7-13.8](#))

47. Since the COP13 and in line with CMS Decision 13.8 a), the Secretariat has been engaging in the process related to the development of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) as well as supporting CMS Parties and the Working Group on the CMS Family inputs to the GBF, which comprised representatives of governments and organizations and CMS Councillors. The Secretariat promoted CMS priorities through a set of recommendations to improve text of elements of the GBF, particularly the inclusion of the term 'Connectivity' in Goal A of the GBF. A comprehensive report of the activities was presented to the 53rd meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, held in Bonn, Germany, 19-20 October 2022 (StC53; see [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.17](#)). An updated report will be submitted to CMS COP14 ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.17](#), under finalization at the time of writing).

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 ([Resolution 11.2 \(Rev.COP12\)](#); [Decisions 13.1-13.3](#); [Decision 13.4-13.5](#))

48. A summarized assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) 2015-2023 was submitted by the CMS Secretariat StC53 in document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#). The same document also addresses certain aspects of decision 13.4, in particular: (i) indicators for the SPMS; (ii) lessons learned from the process of assessing the impact of the SPMS; (iii) approaches to strategic planning adopted by other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including how these have taken account of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the proposals for a Global Biodiversity Framework.

49. Drawing on the assessment of the implementation of the SPMS, lessons learned and examples of approaches in other biodiversity-related Conventions provided in document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.11](#), the CMS Secretariat, in pursuance of Decision 13.5, developed and submitted to StC53 for consideration a set of options for follow up to the SPMS 2015-2023, in document [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Doc.12](#). Upon consideration of the options suggested by the Secretariat, StC53 decided to establish an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) tasked to develop a draft concise Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, as a follow-up to the SPMS 2015-2023, for consideration by COP14; and requested the Secretariat to prepare a first draft of the Strategic Plan to support the work of the IWG, and any other materials as required. For further details on StC53 decisions, see [UNEP/CMS/StC53/Outcome 2](#).

50. The Secretariat has commissioned a small-scale funding agreement to Foundations of Success U.S. for the preparation of a draft SPMS; and organized and facilitated meetings of the IWG; and compiled the inputs. After official endorsement by the Standing Committee, the commented draft will be posted as an Annex to the related COP14 document (available in due course [here](#)).

Conservation Status of Migratory Species ([Decisions 13.24-13.26](#); also [Decisions 13.16-13.19](#) *Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species*)

51. Through Decision 13.24 *Conservation Status of Migratory Species*, COP13 requested the Secretariat to further develop the preliminary review of the conservation status of migratory

species submitted to COP13, and provided guidance towards its further development, including an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, and undertaking an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of species listed on Appendix I.

52. Through Decision 13.17 *Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species*, COP13 also requested the Secretariat to undertake, within the scope of the Conservation Status Report, an assessment of the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species.
53. For implementing Decisions 13.24 and 13.17 resources were provided by the Government of Australia, the Government of Switzerland, and by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Consequently, the Secretariat has been able to establish an agreement with the UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to assist with undertaking the activities foreseen in Decision 13.24 (a) - (c) and 13.17.
54. As an initial step, the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC developed a framework, criteria, and methodologies to undertake the activities. Three documents were submitted to the Fifth meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council ([ScC-SC5](#)), held online from 28 June to 9 July 2021, which finalized and endorsed them:
 - a. A proposed framework for a review of the conservation status of migratory species as a basis for the compilation of the report for COP14;
 - b. A template for a set of case studies providing an in-depth assessment of CMS-listed species;
 - c. A proposed methodology for a rapid assessment of Appendix I taxa to provide further insights on (i) the impact of direct use and trade on the conservation status of Appendix I-listed taxa, and (ii) the conservation status of Appendix I-listed species.
55. The following documents were produced by UNEP-WCMC and submitted to the Six meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council [ScC-SC6](#), and further revised (in finalization at the time of writing of this report) for submission to COP14:
 - [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.7.1](#) *State of World's Migratory Species*: It reports that one in five CMS species are threatened with extinction and a substantial proportion (44 percent) are undergoing population declines. Eighty-two percent of Appendix I species are threatened with extinction and 76% have a declining population trend. A tenth of Appendix II species are globally threatened, with almost half (42%) showing decreasing population trends. Although the Living Planet Index (LPI) indicates that populations of CMS-listed birds have increased by 11% on average, trends at the broad taxonomic level may mask population declines in specific subsets of species. Analyses based on other datasets provide strong evidence for declines in the abundance of long-distance migratory birds;
 - [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.7.2](#) *Assessment of the Risk posed to CMS Appendix I-listed Species by direct Use and Trade*: three species of Otidiformes (Houbara Bustard, *Chlamydotis undulata*; Great Bustard, *Otis tarda*; and Bengal Florican, *Houbaropsis bengalensis bengalensis*) are among the taxa likely to be most at risk from direct use and trade;
 - [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.7.3](#) *In-depth Review of the Conservation Status of Individual CMS-listed Species*;
 - [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.7.2](#) *Output of the Rapid Assessment of Appendix I-listed Species*;
 - [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.7.3a](#) *Review of the Conservation Status of CMS Appendix I-Listed Taxa*;
 - [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.7.3b](#) *Review of the Conservation Status of CMS Appendix II-Listed Taxa*.

56. Also, in response to Dec.13.16 *Application of Article III of the Convention Regarding International Trade in Appendix I-listed Species*, a list of species included in Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are also on the CITES Appendices, has also been produced.

Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species ([Resolution 12.6](#))

57. [ScC-SC5](#) discussed the matter based on Document [UNEP/SCM/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.4.1](#). The meeting developed Terms of Reference of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Migratory Species and Health ([UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 11](#)), and Terms of Reference for a Review of Migration and Wildlife Disease Dynamics and the Health of Migratory Species (available [here](#)). A draft review was produced by the University of Edinburgh under contract with the CMS Secretariat and the supervision of the CMS COP-appointed Councillor on Wildlife Health, and thanks to funding from the governments of Germany and the UK. The review was presented in Document [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.12.4.3](#) to the [ScC-SC6](#), as basis for providing recommendations by the Scientific Council to COP14 on the subject of wildlife disease and migratory species. A corresponding [outcome document](#) was being prepared at the time of writing, foreseen to be submitted to COP14.

58. Related to recent outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, the CMS and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds issued two statements: in January 2022 [with focus on mass mortality of wild birds in UK and Israel](#), and in July 2023 on [H5N1 High pathogenicity avian influenza in wild birds - Unprecedented conservation impacts and urgent needs](#), in order to inform stakeholders in governments, the poultry sector, disease control, wildlife management, site management and conservation sectors about HPAI viruses in wild birds and appropriate responses.

Renewable Energy and Migratory Species ([Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.106-13.108](#)) and *Power Lines and Migratory Birds* ([Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#))

59. The CMS COP, as well as the governing bodies of many of its daughter agreements, have adopted numerous Decisions on the impact of wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies on migratory species. Significant work has been undertaken pursuant to these Decisions, and a number of guideline documents and reports have been endorsed and published by the CMS Family Secretariats in their Technical Series, in cooperation with partners. Implementation of these guidance documents has been promoted through the provisions contained in [CMS Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#) and [CMS Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#). For a detailed list and description of decisions and documents, see reports to the meetings of the COP (Document [UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.6](#); [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.1](#)) and the mentioned Resolutions.

60. Since COP13, the Secretariat has closely collaborated with the ETF and its Coordinator, supporting various activities, including:

- the organization of the Fifth and the Sixth ETF meetings ([ETF5](#), 30 November to 1 December 2021, online; [ETF6](#), 9-10 February 2022, online). A new [ETF Workplan for the period 2021-2024](#) was endorsed. Progress in its implementation was presented and discussed during the ETF6 (see [ETF6/Doc.2](#)). The activities linked to the scientific prioritization and to resource mobilization were highlighted as areas where further progress was needed. On the other hand, the activities linked to the promotion of relevant guidance and stimulating communication and information exchange showed good progress;

- two interim virtual ETF meetings on [3 August 2020](#) and [28 April 2021](#), including establishing the scope and plans of a Powerlines and Technical Working Groups;
- fundraising activities and outreach, and the preparation and dissemination of a [fundraising brief](#); and fundraising letters addressed to development banks and other financial institutions;
- communication with governments and partners to promote the ETF and strengthen its membership. Further major activities and events are highlighted in the [report to the ETF5 meeting](#), and to the [ETF6 meeting](#);
- presenting at ETF webinars and side events at the New York Climate Change week (September 2021), MENA Climate Week (March 2022) and UNFCCC COP26 and COP27, and Bonn Climate Change Conferences (UNFCCC SBI57 and SB58; see also a list of events on the [ETF website](#));
- contributing to a Project Concept of a Birdlife International Consortium for the IKI Country Specific Selection Procedure for South Africa, August 2020, on the topic "*Restoring ecosystems in South Africa to capture carbon, enhance people's resilience to climate change and safeguard biodiversity*" and included budget proposals for coordination of ETF work. However, the concept was rejected by IKI.

61. With regards to Decision 13.107 (a), the ETF, through its implementing partner, members and stakeholders, has been able to disseminate and promote several tools focused on managing and monitoring the impacts of renewable energy infrastructure. Some of these tools include the [Migratory Soaring Bird Tool](#) and [AVISTEP](#), launched in 2022 by BirdLife International and presented at various ETF webinars. A complete list of the technical guidance delivered within the ETF can be found on the [ETF website](#), under the 'Resources' section.
62. In relation to the engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs), the ETF has supported – virtually and in-person – several consultations on updated policies and safeguards of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, Equator Principles EP4 and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
63. Over the current intersessional period, the ETF membership has increased, with 24 new members and observers including CMS Parties, international financial institutions, research organizations and NGOs. A continuously updated list of members and observers is available from the Energy Task Force website (ETF Members and Observers Lists).
64. The Secretariats, technical bodies and relevant working groups have continued to cooperate and have undertaken relevant work on the impact of powerlines, wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies on migratory species, as reflected in various guidance produced within the framework of the ETF.
65. The ETF Technical Working Group (TWG) held its first meeting in February 2021, and reported on its composition and progress against its research priorities at ETF6. Little progress was reported, mainly due to the lack of financial resources. The ETF Powerline Working Group convened its first meeting in February 2021 and also reported on its updated composition and deliverables at ETF6.
66. With regards to Decision 13.107 (b) - (e) and as discussed in an ETF webinar organized in March 2023, ETF members and observers noted that the collation of species' mortality data in global databases was a very complex task for the ETF to deliver on its own, and recommended a clearer focus to be defined through a [new Decision](#) proposed to CMS COP14 for adoption.

The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species ([Resolution 12.7 \(Rev.COP13\)](#)) and
Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species ([Resolution 12.26 \(Rev.COP13\)](#); [Decisions 13.113-13.115](#))

67. 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 (GBF) and in most of the Integrated Programmes and Focal Areas of the 8th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
68. Further details are available in a comprehensive report which has been submitted by the Secretariat to CMS COP14 in the following Documents, related to policy aspects in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.1](#), and related to technical aspects in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.2](#). The latter document also reports on the Scientific Council's work supporting the implementation of connectivity-related goals and targets of the Post-2020 GBF and the further development of its monitoring framework. The 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 the [ScC-SC6](#) in July 2023 (see the recommendations and inputs captured in document [ScC-SC6 CRP 12.2.1.1](#) and [ScC-SC6 CRP 12.2.1.2](#)). In Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.2.1.1](#), the consolidation of the two Resolutions 12.7 (Rev.COP13) and 12.26 (Rev.COP13) is proposed to COP14.

Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species ([Decisions 13.130-13.134](#))

69. To implement [Decisions 13.130-13.134](#) and in the context of CMS [Resolution 7.2 \(Rev.COP12\)](#) *Impact Assessment and Migratory Species*, the Secretariat commissioned an EIA/SEA expert, made possible by funding from the Government of Germany, and established and facilitated a multi-stakeholder Working Group on Linear Infrastructure under the Scientific Council. The information gathering exercise fed into the report *Linear Infrastructure and Migratory Species – The Role of Impact Assessment and Landscape Approaches* (see [UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Inf.3](#)). The analysis outlines a proposed workplan and priority tasks for the Working Group based on the compilation of existing standards, guidelines and best practices.
70. The Working Group's findings reveal significant gaps in infrastructure development planning regarding migratory species, including a lack of consideration and limited accessibility to relevant data. It was found that decision makers in finance, planning and development sectors demonstrate insufficient awareness of the importance of animal movements and lack the capacity to implement international policies and guidelines. The ongoing and projected increase in linear infrastructure, and the consequent destruction and fragmentation of habitats, poses a significant threat to migratory species. Urgent action is needed to address these challenges and ensure the conservation of migratory species in the face of infrastructure development. Details and new draft Decisions proposed for adoption by COP14 can be found in document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.3.1](#).

Climate Change and Migratory Species ([Resolution 12.21](#); [Decisions 13.126-13.128](#))

71. Annexed to Resolution 12.21 is a Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species. In addition, [Annex 6 of Resolution 13.2](#) contains a Programme of Work for the Convention, including activities relating to climate change.

72. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in cooperation with the British Trust for Ornithology has undertaken a [review of impacts, conservation actions, ecosystem services, and indicators](#). It consists of four work packages: 1) Impact of climate change on migratory species; 2) Migratory species and their role in ecosystems. 3) Future scenarios. 4) Conclusions and recommendations (see also Document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.1/Rev.1](#) for details). In addition, work has been undertaken to provide guidance on the historical range of CMS-listed species in relation to climate change (Decision 13.128; see also [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.4.1/Rev.1](#)).
73. The Scientific Council Working Group on Climate Change met on 26 and 27 April 2023 to consider the work undertaken to implement Resolution 12.21 and Decision 13.128, and to consider potential changes to the Resolution and potential new Decisions in the light of the current situation. The draft amendments to Resolution 12.21 include, among others, a new Annex containing a Decision Framework to Provide Guidance to Parties on Implementation on Paragraph 9 of the proposed revised Resolution.

Pastoralism and Migratory Species ([UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.7](#))

74. European grassland birds, such as the Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) and the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) have suffered severe population declines in areas with high densities of cattle (see for example [Marques et al. \(2020\)](#)). The CMS Secretariat has submitted document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.29.7](#) to COP14, which introduces the impact of pastoralism on migratory species and proposes the adoption of Decisions on this topic, with the aim of gathering information on national measures for rangeland management and pastoralism and information sharing on challenges, lessons learned and needs for further capacity development.

Definition of the Terms "Range State" and "Vagrant" ([Decision 13.140](#))

75. The [ScC-SC5 meeting](#) established an Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on the definition of the terms "Range State" and "vagrant". The IWG met twice since its establishment, developing guidance on the use of the term "vagrant" in a CMS context. A document was submitted to and reviewed at the [ScC-SC6](#) meeting and the revised version submitted to COP14 for consideration as document [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.26/Rev.1](#). As agreed by the IWG, factors, which *considered together*, might support assessment of a species as a vagrant include: a) observations are irregular or sporadic (i.e., without a pattern or predictability); b) the number of observed individuals is not increasing over time; c) observations are located outside the known current range, historic range or normal migration routes for the species/population; d) the number of individuals observed is considered very small relative to the size of the population listed by CMS (which might be global or regional).
76. Specific relevance of range-shifts due to climate change, and re-establishment of species in States adjacent to reintroduction areas is emphasized in the document. Regarding the latter, if such occurrences are within the historical range, countries supporting such establishing populations, even if very small, would be considered Range States for these species. It is further recommended that Parties should note that there may be remaining populations of declining species occurring in a country. In this case, Parties should consider themselves as Range States even if numbers are very small. Good evidence, including knowledge on a species' full distribution and migration patterns, is key to being able to apply these factors, and care is needed to ensure that new evidence is brought to bear when it becomes available (e.g., from new monitoring methods).