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# Relevance of the Global Biodiversity Framework to the Convention on Migratory Species – *Analysis*

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The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) concluded on 19 December 2022 with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and many other important decisions underpinning its implementation. This milestone global agreement includes many broad goals and targets for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the period 2022-2030.

The GBF and related CBD decisions include many of the key CMS priorities set out in the Gandhinagar Declaration adopted at CMS COP13 (2020), and will contribute to addressing key conservation needs and threats to migratory species. Likewise, implementation of CMS commitments will directly contribute to the implementation of many aspects of the GBF.

A summary of the most relevant aspects of the GBF and related decisions is set forth below.

# Ecological Connectivity

Ecological connectivity is a core aspect of nature. It is a fundamental requirement for functioning ecosystems and is essential for migratory species. Ecological connectivity has also been recognized as being key for addressing climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation, land degradation and ecosystem restoration. Hence, ecological connectivity is relevant for achievement of the three Rio Conventions.

The 2019 IPBES Global Assessment found that connectivity had not been adequately addressed by governments under the framework of the Aichi Targets. In the newly adopted GBF, connectivity is well-reflected in Goal A and in numerous targets:

## Goal A – Ecosystem, Species and Genetic Diversity ([Decision 15/4](#)).

Connectivity is one of the three specific elements of the ecosystem component of Goal A (integrity, connectivity and resilience) with its role clearer recognized as a distinct and key aspect of functioning ecosystems.



## Target 1 – Land and Sea-Use Planning ([Decision 15/4](#)).

While the word ecological connectivity was ultimately not included in Target 1, it can be understood to be implicit, given the close linkage between spatial planning and ecological **connectivity**.

**Target 2 – Ecosystem Restoration ([Decision 15/4](#))** calls for at least 30% of degraded ecosystems to be under effective restoration by 2030. Connectivity is explicitly included as a purpose of restoration: “...in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and **connectivity**.”



**Target 3 – Protect and Conserve Land and Sea – “30 x 30” target (Decision 15/4).**

The commitment under Target 3 to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world’s lands and oceans was a key outcome of the GBF. Importantly, the target prioritizes areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services, and requires that protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures are ecologically-representative, **well-connected** and equitably governed systems of conserved areas. The text thus captures the concept of connectivity not only in terms of connecting contiguous areas but also as part of a connected network of areas of importance, including for migratory species. To effectively implement this target, connectivity must play a central role in decisions on which areas to protect or conserve, not as an afterthought. By connecting a mix of areas with different levels of protection, the target also addresses the reality of multiple-use landscapes.

**Target 12 – Increase access to Blue and Green Spaces (Decision 15/4)**, which aims to reach “improved **connectivity** of biodiversity through these spaces in urban areas”, brings elements that are new to the Aichi Targets and underlines the increasing attention by cities to ecological connectivity as part of their urban planning process, to ensure high levels of connectedness within urban and peri-urban landscapes.

The importance of ecological connectivity was also reflected in the request by the CBD COP15 to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**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 in 2023 ([Decision 15/19](#) and its Annex).

# Species

Extinction of species and collapsing abundance and distribution of populations are worsening.



With **Goal A** and **Target 4 – Active Management of Species and Genetic Diversity** ([Decision 15/4](#)) calling for stopping the extinction of known species, and by 2050 reducing tenfold the extinction risk and rate of all species as well as increasing the abundance to healthy and resilient levels (**Goal A**), the GBF defines recovery outcomes through the implementation of urgent response activities. This is a crucial target for CMS, in line with its mandates and the implementation of its numerous conservation actions.

**Target 5 – Harvest, Trade and Use of Wild Species** ([Decision 15/4](#)) focuses on ensuring that any taking, trade or other use of wild species is legal, sustainable and safe, and that overexploitation is prevented. This target is highly relevant to the mandate of CMS, both with respect to species listed on CMS Appendix I and those listed on Appendix II, as well as being relevant to the work of CMS on zoonotic diseases.

**Target 9– Sustainable Use and Benefit Sharing** ([Decision 15/4](#)) focuses on the importance of linking benefits from sustainable use to indigenous peoples and local communities, also a very important aspect of the work of CMS.



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# Climate Change

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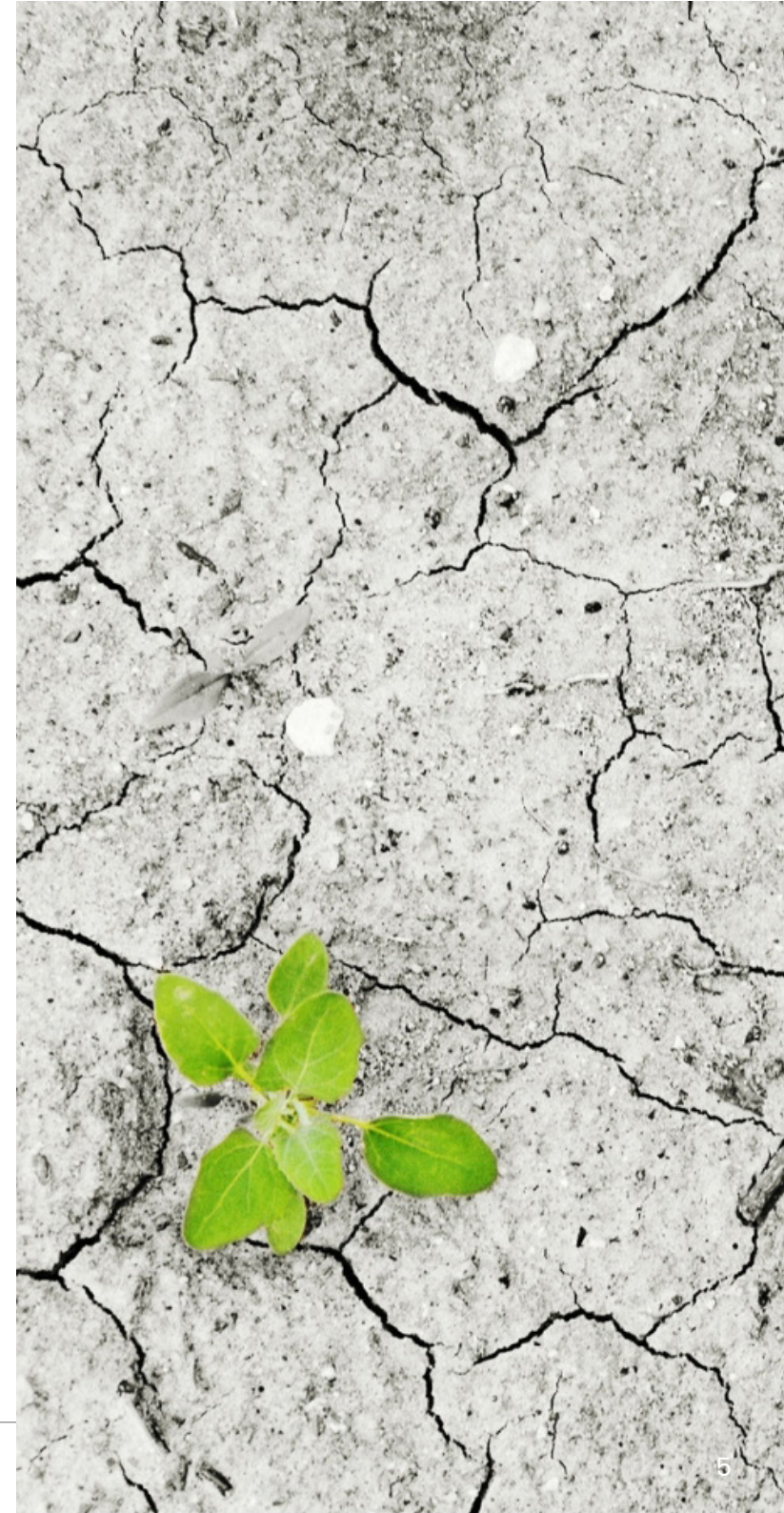
**Target 8 – Minimize the Impact of Climate Change** ([Decision 15/4](#)), which focuses on minimizing the impacts of climate change as well as ocean acidification while increasing biodiversity resilience, is very relevant for migratory species and their habitats. Migratory species are showing the effects of climate change, including through changes in patterns of migration, the routes used and the timing of migrations.

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# Pollution

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**Target 7 – Reduce Pollution** ([Decision 15/4](#)) aims at reducing the overall risk and negative impacts of pollution from all sources by 2030 to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, focusing on reducing by half the risk posed by pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals and eliminating plastic pollution. This target underpins the work of CMS to address impacts on wildlife from various sources of pollution including plastics (both in aquatic and terrestrial environments), pesticides (used in agriculture as well as poison bait), noise and light pollution, as well as pollution from lead (ammunition, fishing weights, and industrial sources).







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## Mainstreaming

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**Target 10 – Sustainable management of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Forestry and Target 14 – Mainstreaming Biodiversity ([Decision 15/4](#))** reinforce the efforts being made by CMS with regards to integrating migratory species needs into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, including those related to infrastructure, energy, agriculture, tourism and fishing.

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## International Cooperation

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The GBF and its supporting decisions recognize the importance of cooperation at the **transboundary, regional and international** levels among Parties and other Governments (paragraph 5 of [Decision 15/4](#) and paragraph 24 of [Decision 15/6](#) and paragraph 6 of [Decision 15/13](#)). CBD COP15 also called for strengthened collaboration among CBD, CMS and other conventions, MEAs and processes (paragraph 7 (q) of [Section C](#) of the GBF and [Decision 15/13](#)) in the implementation of the GBF. This is of great importance to CMS as promoting international cooperation for migratory species is at the core of its work.

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# National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

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CBD COP15, through [Decision 15/6](#) (paragraph 23) and its Annex, encourages Parties **to include actions to implement commitments and recommendations under the various Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), as relevant for each country, in NBSAPs** and to facilitate engagement with and coordination among focal points. [Decision 15/13](#) (paragraph 11) further encourages Parties to implement the Convention and other MEAs in a complementary manner, including in reviewing and updating their NBSAPs for the

effective implementation of the GBF.

This has been called for in numerous COP decisions of CBD, CMS and other MEAs and is the most effective means to ensure better coordination of implementation efforts of the various biodiversity MEAs at the national level.





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## Recognition of the role of CMS and other biodiversity-related Conventions and MEAs

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COP15 recognized that other biodiversity-related **MEAs will provide essential contributions to the implementation of relevant elements of the GBF** consistent with their mandates and priorities (paragraph 22 of Decision 15/6).

The work under CMS and other MEAs can play an important role in the GBF implementation and monitoring to ensure its coordinated delivery at the national level.



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# Global Environment Facility

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[Decision 15/15](#) Annex I, contains the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022–2026 which highlights:

- that the **implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and MEAs in the context of NBSAPs will contribute to the GBF** (paragraph 7);
- the important **contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions and MEAs in the GBF implementation while promoting synergies, cooperation and complementarity** (paragraph 12).

[Decision 15/15](#) (paragraph 16) also reiterated the invitation to the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, to develop strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the GEF in time for consideration by the CBD COP16.



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# More Information

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A full compilation of text extracts of relevant provisions CBD COP 15 decisions can be found [here](#).

These are presented both in numerical order and grouped by topic.

For more information about CMS and its work, please visit:

[www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int)

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