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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on
Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP 13)
(Gandhinagar, India, 15 - 22 February 2020)
- Report by the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex a report by the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject.

**Outcome of the thirteenth Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP 13)
(Gandhinagar, India, 15 - 22 February 2020)**

- Report by the Presidency and the Commission -

CMS COP13 was held in Gandhinagar, India, from 15 to 22 February 2020. It was the largest ever, with 2 550 people attending, including delegates representing 82 Parties and 5 non-Party countries, United Nations agencies, international and national NGOs and media.

CMS COP13 adopted the Gandhinagar Declaration, which sent a message to the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held in Rome from 24 to 29 February 2020. The Declaration calls for migratory species and the concept of ‘ecological connectivity’ to be integrated and prioritised in the new Framework.

Ten new species were added to CMS Appendices at COP13:

- five species were listed for protection under Appendix I: Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*), Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*), Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis bengalensis*), Antipodean Albatross (*Diomedea antipodensis*) and Oceanic White-tip Shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*),
- two under both Appendix I and II: Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), and
- three under Appendix II: Urial (*Ovis vignei*), Smooth Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) and the Tope Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*).
- Three of these were proposed by EU: Little Bustard (App. I & II), Smooth Hammerhead Shark (App. II) and the Tope Shark (App. II).

Concerted Actions with targeted conservation plans were agreed for 14 species.

The first Report on the Status of Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.24) showed that populations of most migratory species covered by the CMS are declining and that biological resource use is a significant threat to the listed species. It was agreed that a more comprehensive review should be undertaken to better understand the status of individual species and the main threats. The Secretariat will initiate an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual CMS-listed species, starting with those species listed in Appendix I, and will carry out an assessment of the impact of direct use on the conservation status of these species. Special consideration will be given to taking species from nature for international trade. The CMS Secretariat will therefore, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, develop a list of species included in Appendix I, annotated as to whether they are also on the CITES Appendices, and assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of relevant Appendix I species (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.21).

The decision on the conservation of the Critically Endangered European eel (*Anguila anguila*) was adopted. The decision includes the development of the Action Plan for the conservation of the European eel, which includes all range states. The EU and its Member States suggested ensuring close cooperation between range states and other states regarding the Sargasso Sea area, the common spawning ground of the European eel, which should fall within the scope of the Action Plan.

Regarding avian issues, it was stressed that the lack of resources and CMS Avian Officers were responsible for the low level of implementation of the Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region (UNEP/CMS/COP13/AEMLAP), the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) and the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways. The Resolution on the Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc 26.1.1) focuses activities on two areas: the Mediterranean and Southeast Asia, which are covered by two Intergovernmental Task Forces: MIKT and ITTEA. MIKT members and observers are encouraged to finalise and adopt a strategic framework for the MIKT on eradicating the illegal killing, taking and trade in migratory birds in the Mediterranean region. The Resolution on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc 26.1.3) reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group (PPWG) and asks the Secretariat to convene the Intergovernmental Task Force on Phasing Out the Use of Lead Ammunition and Lead Fishing Weights.

COP13 highlighted the importance of ‘ecological connectivity’. The Resolution on improving ways of addressing connectivity in the conservation of migratory species (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc 26.4.4) requests that special attention is to be paid to issues of connectivity when planning, implementing and evaluating actions designed to support the conservation and management of migratory species, both at national and international level. It calls for an intensification of efforts to address threats to the conservation status of migratory species which are threats to connectivity, including barriers to migration, fragmented resources and disrupted processes, genetic isolation, etc.

Doc UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.1/Rev.1 Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity deepen the understanding of the importance of animal culture and social complexity for the conservation of endangered species. The decision calls on the Parties to submit information on any assessments of anthropogenic threats to socially complex mammalian species on the basis of evidence of interactions of those threats with social structure and culture.

COP13 elected new members for the Standing Committee: for the European region these are Italy, Georgia and Monaco, and as alternates France, Switzerland and Croatia. The members of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council for the European region are Ruben Moreno-Opo from Spain and João José de Bastos Loureiro from Portugal. Alternate members are Jean-Philippe Sibley from France and James M. Williams from the UK.

Three proposals and three resolutions were submitted by the EU and its MS.

Proposals:

Listing of the Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) under Appendix I and II, and the Smooth Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*) and the Tope Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) under Appendix II.

Resolutions:

The Resolution on reservations with respect to amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.27.4) stresses that reservations with respect to an amendment to Appendix I or II must be submitted by notification in writing to the Depository Government within 90 days after the meeting in accordance with Article XI, paragraph 6 of the Convention.

The Resolution on Light Pollution (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc 26.4.9) implores Parties to manage artificial light so that migratory species are not disrupted within, nor displaced from, important habitats, and calls for the adoption of appropriate measures and processes designed to assess if a lighting project is likely to negatively affect wildlife and for the identification of management tools to minimise and mitigate that impact. The resolution endorses Guidelines for Wildlife, including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds and calls on the CMS Secretariat to prepare additional guidelines on the effects of light pollution for those taxa not yet included in the existing guidelines.

The Resolution and Decision on Insect Decline (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc 26.4.10) and its threat to migratory insectivorous animal populations call for an analysis and action concerning insect decline and its negative effects on many migratory bird and bat species, asks the Scientific Council to assess the current understanding of this issue and to consider developing guidelines to improve the situation, and calls on Parties to avoid detrimental effects of pesticide use on non-target insects in and around areas that are important for the conservation of migratory insectivorous species.