



1. The Convention on Migratory Species is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA), signed in 1979 and in force since 1983. It currently has 130 Parties. This treaty of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) aims to facilitate close cooperation on the conservation of migratory species between the countries through which these animals travel on their annual journeys. Among the species that do so and that are listed on the Convention's Appendices are many marine mammals, marine turtles, fish and seabirds. CMS is actively engaged in many global and regional species-specific activities, but also a large range of broader environmental ocean matters such as unsustainable fishing, including bycatch, vessel collisions, ocean noise and marine pollution, including marine debris.

2. CMS Appendix I contains migratory species that are endangered throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Parties that are Range States for Appendix I species endeavour to conserve and restore habitats; to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimise, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles, which prevent or impede migration; and to prevent, reduce or control factors that endanger the species. Taking of specimens of Appendix I species is generally prohibited and Parties allowing exceptions must inform the Secretariat.

3. CMS Appendix II contains species with an unfavourable conservation status that would significantly benefit from the international co-operation that could be achieved through international agreements for their conservation and management. Currently there are also twelve individual agreements under CMS, which are explicitly aimed at marine taxonomic groups, such as turtles, whales, dolphins, sharks, dugongs, albatrosses and petrels. Detailed information can be accessed at

5. The outcomes of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties, which took place in February 2020 in Gandhinagar, India, provide a good overview of the considerable contribution that this focussed treaty makes to the global protection of ocean biodiversity.

6. A number of Resolutions and related Decisions focus specifically on marine issues, and are listed below. Many others are of overarching interest. All CMS Resolutions currently in force can be downloaded here: <https://www.cms.int/documents/cop-resolutions>. Decisions adopted at COP13,

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- x Resolution 12.15 [Aquatic Wild Meat](#) and [Decisions 13.64 to 13.65](#)
The Resolution and Decisions set up mechanisms aimed at increasing understanding of the impacts of subsistence use of CMS-listed species as aquatic wild meat on the survival and regeneration of these species, in the context of growing human populations and pressures on wildlife resources and ecosystems, and at improving management to ensure any such use is sustainable.

- x Resolution 12.16 [Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals](#), Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12) [Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching](#) and [Decisions 13.66 to 13.68 - Marine Wildlife Watching](#) [Species-specific Guidelines for Boat-based Wildlife Watching](#) are annexed to Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12). The Decisions request the development of guidelines, including a recommended code of conduct for operators on recreational in-water interactions with CMS-listed species.

- x Resolution 12.17 [Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region](#) and [Decisions 13.84 to 13.85](#)
The Decisions request the Secretariat to organize a regional workshop to improve capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales.

- x Resolution 12.20 [Management of Marine Debris](#) and [Decisions 13.122 to 13.125 - Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species](#)
The Decisions request the development of a concise report summarizing the status of knowledge on the impact of plastic pollution on CMS-listed species that inhabit in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, as well as a summary of existing guidance on measures to address such threats. Based on this report, possible next steps for addressing this threat to CMS-listed species are to be recommended.

- x Resolution 12.22 [Bycatch](#) and [Decisions 13.61 to 13.63](#)
The Resolution and Decisions give guidance to Parties on implementing a best practice approach to mitigating bycatch, with a specific focus on cetaceans, and request a review of current data and knowledge about levels of bycatch of CMS-listed chondrichthyan species and existing measures to mitigate bycatch based on species, fishing area, fisheries, fishing season and gear type.

- x Resolution 12.24 [Promoting Marine Protected Area Networks in the ASEAN Region](#)
The Resolution encourages ASEAN members to promote marine protected area networks and connectivity that will improve the identification and governance of important sites for migratory species.

- x Resolution 11.22 (Rev.COP12) [Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes](#) and [Decisions 13.74 to 13.75](#)
Annexed to the Resolution are Best Practice Guidelines relating to the Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes.

- x Resolution 10.15 (Rev.COP12) [Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans](#) and [Decisions 13.80 to 13.83](#)
The Decisions request consultations regarding the development of an action plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region, as well as collaboration with the International Whaling Commission with a view to co-hosting a workshop on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning.

Concerted Actions

8. Concerted Actions are priority conservation measures, projects, or institutional arrangements undertaken to improve the conservation status of selected Appendix I and Appendix II species or selected groups of Appendix I and Appendix II species. The following ones are currently active:

- x 13.5 [Concerted Action for the Irrawaddy Dolphin \(*Orcaella brevirostris*\)](#)
- x 13.6 [Concerted Action for the Ganges River Dolphin \(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*\)](#)
- x 13.7 [Concerted Action for the Harbour Porpoise \(*Phocoena phocoena*\) in the Baltic Sea a A](#)

specific conservation measures were reviewed and a comprehensive Programme of Work was agreed for the triennium 2019-2021.

Projects

11. The Secretariat collaborates with BirdLife International on the implementation of the project Minimizing Bycatch of Seabirds and Sea Turtles in West African Industrial Fisheries, funded by MAVFA, and which addresses bycatch of marine turtles and seabirds in West African industrial fisheries. The project aims at improving fisheries governance through a revision of policy, conducting research on bycatch and mapping hotspots, setting up observer programmes, where needed, and developing standards and providing training for data collection. Activities are being implemented in seven countries in the region (Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone) with support from a range of national and international partners, which are working on the various components in each country.