



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY SPECIES 14TH  
CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES: DRAFT  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**2024**

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# WHAT IS CMS?

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is also known as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention signed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It aims to conserve migratory species throughout their ranges. The convention entered into force in 1983. There are 133 Parties (countries). Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention. Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention.

Although the US and Canada are not Parties to CMS, we follow the Convention and engage where necessary because CMS decisions can influence CITES decisions and domestic policy. There are species native to the US and Canada listed in Appendix II as well. The following agenda items were reviewed by AFWA, state, provincial, and territorial staff; and partners that have specific expertise. Their input formed our draft recommendations contained here.

- [New Strategic Plan for Migratory Species](#)
- [Atlas of Animal Migration](#)
- [Assessment of the risk posed to CMS Appendix I-listed species by direct use and trade](#)
- [Prevention of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds](#)
- [Preventing poisoning of migratory birds](#)
- [Initiative for the Jaguar](#)
- [Priorities for addressing illegal and unsustainable intentional take](#)
- [Terrestrial and avian wild meat](#)
- [Ecological connectivity Policy and ecological connectivity technical](#)
- [Community participation and livelihoods](#)
- [Renewable energy and powerlines](#)
- [Climate change](#)
- [Wildlife disease](#)
- [Conservation implications of animal culture](#)



The overarching goal is to bring the perspectives of on-the-ground wildlife managers to help ensure resolutions, actions, and decisions are implementable and reasonable and support the conservation of wildlife in the the US or Canada and our migratory species. One theme that is evident in a number of the documents is an increased focus on domestic trade in CMS-listed species. Draft recommendations and next steps include:

New Strategic Plan for Migratory Species: Recommended edits focus on noting the IPBES Assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species; edits to Target 3.1 on sustainable, safe, and legal trade; and edits to Target 2.2 to ensure it includes both protection and conservation of key areas.

Preventing poisoning of migratory birds: Recommend following this issue post-CoP and including the CMS recommendation for a global ban on lead ammunition and lead fishing weights.

Priorities for addressing illegal and unsustainable intentional take: Encourage clearer language around illegal and unsustainable take. In the draft resolution they are linked while the actions to address them can be quite different.

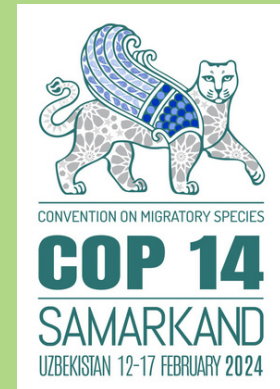
Terrestrial and avian wild meat: In September 2021, CMS released the report, Impacts of Taking, Trade and Consumption of Terrestrial Migratory Species for Wild Meat. The general summary is that “the taking of terrestrial species for wild meat is an increasing threat for many CMS-listed species.” While this can be true, we feel it would be good to showcase examples from the US and Canada where wild meat is harvested and used sustainably, and supports local communities and locally sourced meat consumption. We also want to consider if and how we should be involved in the recommended follow-up actions. Those include the following.

- comparable and collatable data on hunting offtakes and species abundance are gathered on all the species studied to enable more complete assessments of impacts of hunting for wildlife consumption and trade.
- a review of existing national hunting legislation and regulations, as well as the enforcement of these regulations, is needed.
- capacity for monitoring and enforcement should also be examined.
- the drivers contributing to the use of wildlife for domestic consumption, especially in urban areas, should be further identified and addressed.
- additional international cooperation will be needed to address wild meat taking, particularly for migratory species whose ranges may span vast areas that include various countries.

The avian wild meat report will be released in 2024 and will include numerous CMS-listed waterfowl.

The following documents were supported with a couple minor editorial recommendations. Ecological connectivity Policy and ecological connectivity technical Community participation and livelihoods Renewable energy and powerlines Climate change

The 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP), will be held February 12-17, 2024 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



**Wildlife disease:** The reviewers of the wildlife disease document generally supported its content and the two resolutions on wildlife disease and avian influenza. However, they did provide a number of edits to strengthen the resolutions.

**Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species resolution**

- provide clarity around the use of the terms disease and health.
- not enough focus on the impacts of habitat loss and degradation, and climate.
- edits to language around wildlife trade and disease.
- lack of mention of indigenous communities.

**Avian Influenza resolution**

- include wildlife health officials.
- distinguish between domestic and wild birds.
- include language to not unnecessarily burden the transport of harvested wild game birds where appropriate and where done with measures to mitigate risk.
- include preservation of contiguous habitat.

**Additional comments or input?**

Send them to [Deb Hahn](mailto:dhahn@fishwildlife.org) (dhahn@fishwildlife.org) by COB January 15th.

**Conservation implications of animal culture:** A CMS resolution “recognizes that emerging evidence of social learning and animal culture[1] across diverse taxa and the role of culture as a driver of evolutionary diversification, network and population structure, as well as demographic processes, may be essential for augmenting conventional conservation approaches and decision-making.” CMS defines culture as “information or behaviour shared within a community which is acquired from conspecifics through some form of social learning” (after Whitehead and Rendell, 2015).

- Need to better understand what is meant by and how statements such as this would be implemented by wildlife managers. “Apply a precautionary approach by considering cultural processes as relevant for the conservation of all species for which there is evidence for social learning.”
- Ensure that recommendations are practical and implementable.
- Include wildlife managers on the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity (WG).
- Engage in discussions around the work between the WG and the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group

International Relations Committee Briefing Paper: Convention on Migratory Species  
Conference of the parties 14: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS