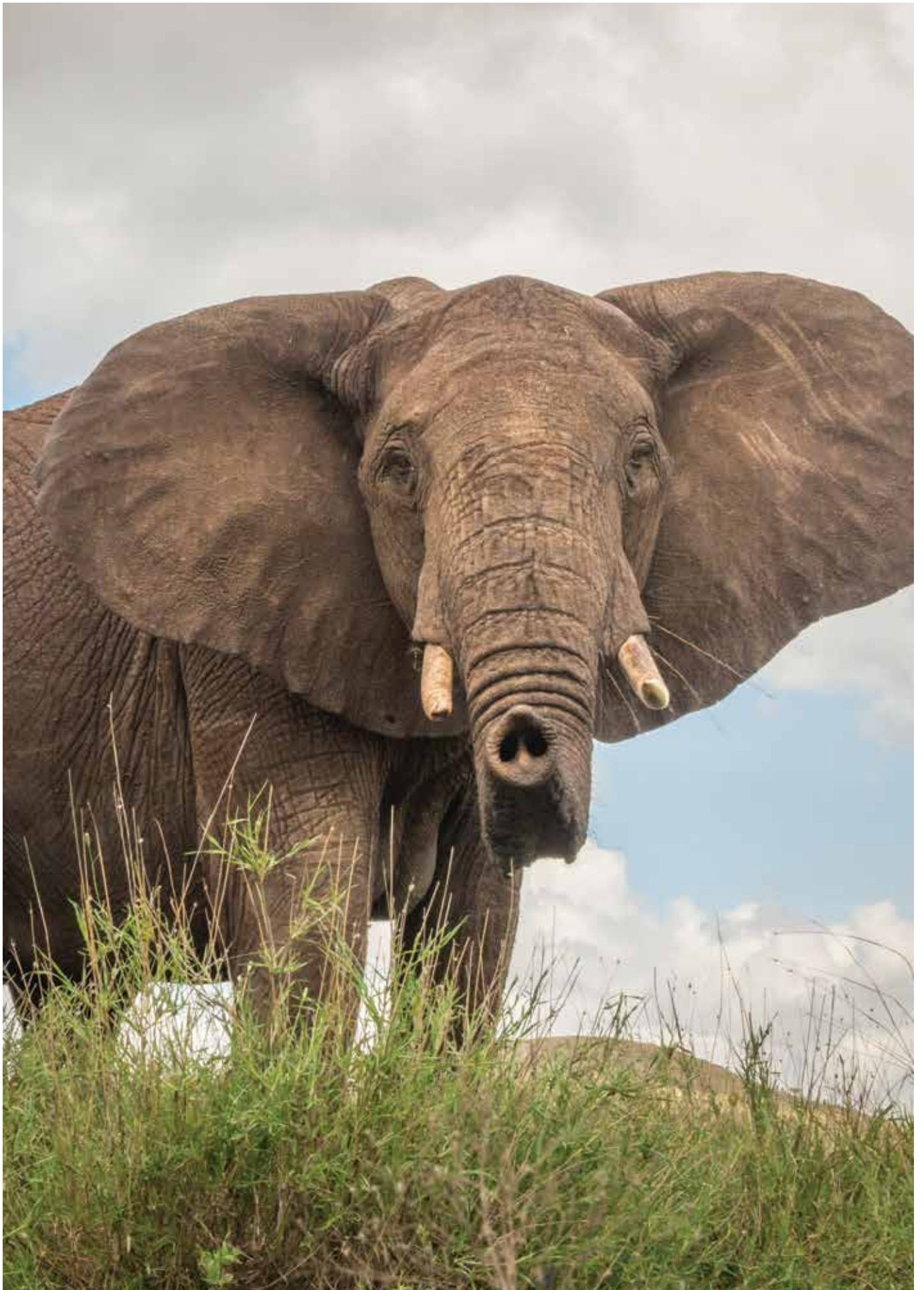


A close-up photograph of a tiger lying in a forest. The tiger is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. Its fur is a mix of orange, black, and white, with distinct stripes and spots. The background is filled with green leaves and brown branches, creating a natural, slightly blurred environment.

**ifaw**

**CMS CoP13  
recommendations**

**convention on the conservation of migratory  
species of wild animals**



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# ifaw recommendations:

## 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

This briefing outlines recommendations from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) on selected proposals under consideration at CMS CoP13. The numbering corresponds to the relevant agenda item. Recommendations on proposals to amend the CMS Appendices are under item 27, after discussion of working documents. The name of the document proponent is given in parentheses.

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– Proposals for amendment of the CMS Appendices	
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# summary of recommendations

Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
<b>Meeting documents</b>		
17	CMS Contribution to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	<b>Support</b> It is critical that the CMS Family continues to advocate for the inclusion of the needs of migratory species in the post-2020 biodiversity framework. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b>
18	Synergies and Partnerships	<b>Support</b> The draft amendments to Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) contained in Annex 1 reflect some of the recommendations proposed by the review of collaboration between CMS and its NGO partners, and the draft Decisions aim to establish a process for special accreditation to those NGOs willing to play a key role in the implementation of the Convention.
24	Review of the Conservation Status of Migratory Species	<b>Amend</b> IFAW recommends that the review of the conservation status of listed species continue. However, we urge that such review should focus equally on Appendix II-listed species that might also require Appendix I listing, as well as reviewing those species that could be removed from Appendix I. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b>



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Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
<b>26</b>	<b>Conservation Issues</b>	
<b>26.2</b>	<b>Aquatic Species</b>	
<b>26.2.1</b>	Conservation Measures Relevant for CMS-listed Species evident from the Identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas	<b>Support</b> Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) are a useful tool for Parties in determining habitat that could benefit from further protection or management measures in order to support migratory species conservation. IFAW welcomes the emphasis in draft Decision 13.DD (b) on identifying potential IMMAs on the high seas, which would fill a gap in current knowledge.
<b>26.2.2</b>	Marine Noise	<b>Support</b> The draft Decisions urge Parties to continue to disseminate and implement the CMS guidelines on reducing the impacts from marine noise, and to review new best practice guidance for certain noise-producing sectors.
<b>26.2.3</b>	Bycatch	<b>Support with amendments</b> IFAW strongly supports continued efforts by CMS Parties to implement effective mitigation of bycatch of CMS-listed species. The draft Decisions could be strengthened with a few small amendments. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b>
<b>26.2.7</b>	Chondrichthyan Species (Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras)	<b>Support</b> IFAW supports the edits made to the consolidated resolution and recommendations made by the Secretariat and Scientific Council to improve the management of chondrichthyan species listed within the CMS Appendices, in particular the need for Parties to prohibit the take of Appendix I-listed shark and ray species. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b>



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Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
<b>26.3</b>	<b>Terrestrial Species</b>	
<b>26.3.1</b>	Joint CITES-CMS-African Carnivores Initiative	<p><b>Support with amendments recommended by the Scientific Council</b></p> <p>IFAW supports the continued development of the African Carnivore Initiative. The Amendments proposed by the Scientific Council improve the draft Resolution and Decisions.</p>
<b>26.3.3</b>	African Elephant Action Plan	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Doc.26.3.3 proposes Signatories of the MoU on West African Elephants to implement their MoU through the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP). IFAW supports this proposal given there are no resources for the MoU, signatories have not met since 2011 and the Programme of Work has not been updated since it expired in 2014. The AEAP was agreed by all African elephant range states, and a number of transboundary and national projects have already been delivered through it in West Africa.</p>

Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
<b>26.4</b>	<b>Crosscutting Conservation Issues</b>	
<b>26.4.1</b>	Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Doc.26.4.1 reports on progress in implementing Decisions 12.75 to 12.77 and recommends new Decisions to carry forward the work of CMS on animal culture, including development of a management tool and prioritising species for Concerted Actions. IFAW supports the continuation of the pioneering work of CMS in recognising the importance of animal culture to conservation outcomes.</p>
<b>26.4.4</b>	Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Doc.26.4.4 proposes amendments to Resolution 12.26 on connectivity and Decisions continuing the work of CMS on this important topic, which is at the heart of why transnational cooperation between states is so important for the conservation of migratory species. IFAW notes, however, that the Resolution remains dense and difficult to read, with limited specific and practical advice to Parties on how to address connectivity, and as such may benefit from revision in the future.</p>
<b>26.4.5</b>	Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Doc.26.4.5 proposed updates to Resolution 12.7 (The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species) to include the concept of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), and renewal of the current Decisions related to TFCAs to identify potential habitats of CMS-listed species that could be candidates for TFCAs.</p>



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## summary of recommendations

Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
26.4.6	Community Participation and Livelihoods	<b>Support with amendments</b> IFAW supports the continuation of work to identify case studies where the conservation of CMS-listed species has involved the participation of local communities and benefitted their livelihoods. IFAW recommends the draft Decisions are amended to ensure any case studies collected are not duplicating efforts undertaken in other forums, such as CITES. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b>
26.4.11	Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species	<b>Support</b> The draft Decisions in Doc.26.4.11 request the Scientific Council to establish a multi-stakeholder Working Group on linear infrastructure, to determine priorities for future CMS work. Globally, at least 25 million kilometres of new roads and 335,000 kilometres of rail track are projected to be developed by 2050. Such infrastructure has numerous impacts on migratory species such as habitat fragmentation, collisions, disturbance and pollution, leading to barriers to movements, deaths and genetic isolation as well as indirect impacts such as increased poaching due to improved access to animals by humans. Therefore, there is a compelling need for further CMS work on this topic.



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Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
<b>Proposals for amendment of CMS Appendices</b>		
<b>27.1.1</b>	Proposal for the Inclusion of the Mainland Asian Elephant/Indian Elephant in Appendix I of the Convention	<p><b>Support with amendments to clarify all populations referred to in Concerted Action in Doc.28.2.2 are included.</b></p> <p>Asian elephants are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and several small, transboundary populations are critical for the persistence of the Asian elephant in range states beyond India. A CMS listing would allow for the development of a range state agreement, which could also include non-CMS Parties.</p> <p><b>See detailed recommendations section.</b></p>
<b>27.1.2</b>	Proposal for the Inclusion of the Jaguar in Appendix I and II of the Convention	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Research has identified at least 26 transboundary jaguar populations, where regular movement across international boundaries can predictably occur as jaguars traverse their ranges in search of mates and food. A 2018 study found that when IUCN Red List criteria is applied to individual jaguar populations, 33 of 34 meet the IUCN criteria for Endangered or Critically Endangered due to their small size, isolation and lack of sufficient management. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b></p>

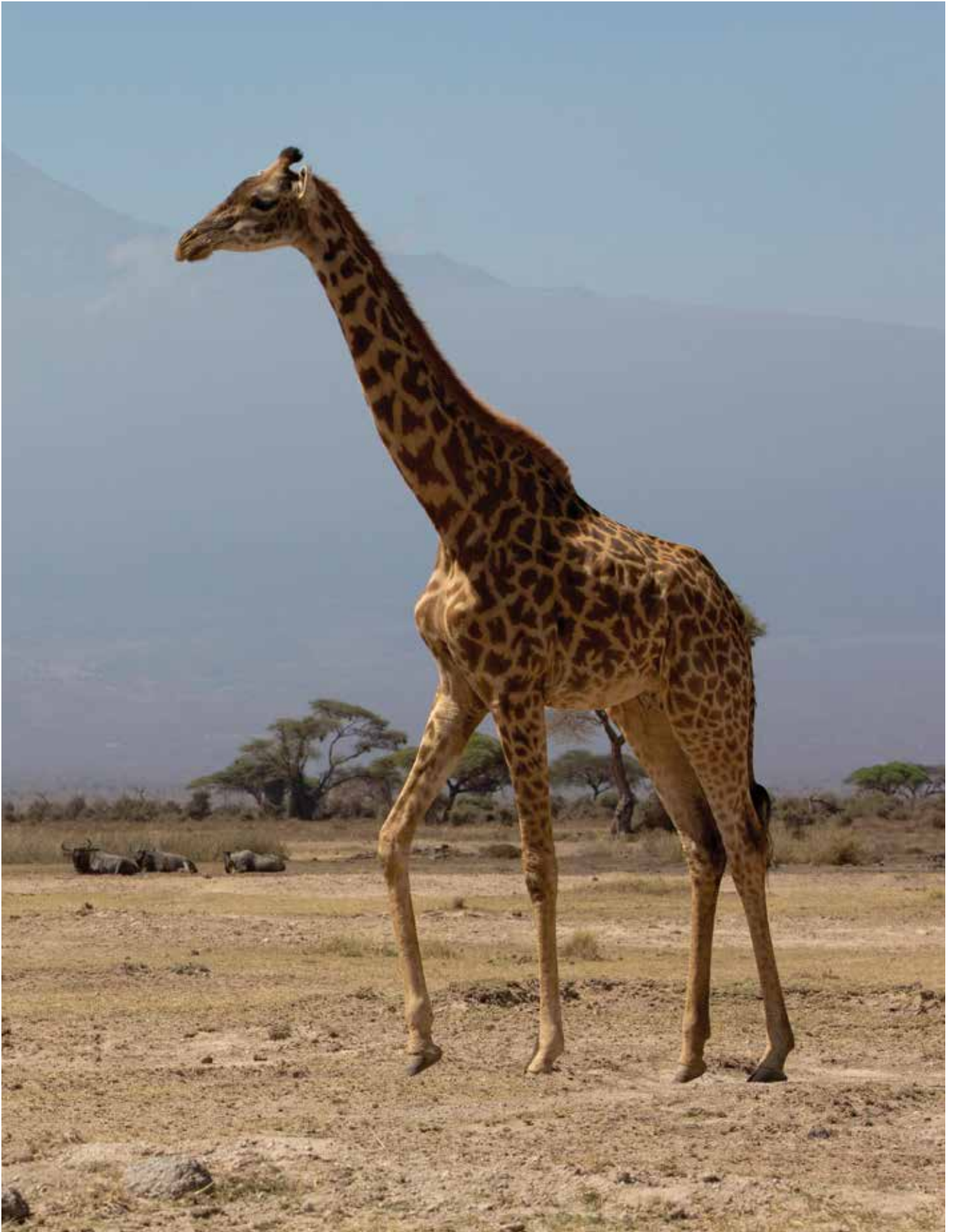


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Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
27.1.8	Proposal for the Inclusion of the Oceanic Whitetip Shark in Appendix I of the Convention	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>In December 2019, the IUCN Red List released a new global assessment on oceanic whitetip sharks, estimating the median decline of this species to be 98-100% worldwide, downgrading their status from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered. All major Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) prohibit the catch and retention of oceanic whitetip sharks. In 2019, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) predicted that even with a prohibition on catch and retention of the species, they will likely become extinct in the Pacific Ocean. <b>See detailed recommendations section.</b></p>



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Agenda item	Document title	IFAW recommendation
<b>Concerted Actions</b>		
<b>28.2</b>	<b>New Proposals for Concerted Actions for the Triennium 2021-2023</b>	
<b>28.2.2</b>	Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Asian Elephant ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ), proposed for inclusion on Appendix I of the Convention	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Given the migratory nature of elephants and few range states that are Parties to CMS, this Concerted Action suggests the creation of a range state agreement that would foster participation of non-CMS Parties as well.</p>
<b>28.2.3</b>	Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Giraffe ( <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i> ) already listed on Appendix II of the Convention	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Concerted Action proposes the development of national, regional and continental action plans for the conservation of giraffes, based on decisions reached by all CMS giraffe range states at a meeting in 2019.</p>
<b>28.2.9</b>	Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Common Guitarfish ( <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> ) and the Bottlenose Wedgefish ( <i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i> ) already listed on Appendix II of the Convention, and the Families Rhinobatidae and Glaucostegidae.	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The IUCN Shark Specialist group has submitted a comprehensive Concerted Action to build capacity and promote regional conservation of species in the Rhinobatidae and Glaucostegidae families.</p>



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# detailed recommendations

## 17

### **CMS Contribution to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (Secretariat)**

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Document 17 describes the work of the CMS Family in contributing to the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This work has been conducted by an intersessional Working Group and the Secretariat. The focus of CMS submissions to CBD and related meetings has been the theme of ecological connectivity and how maintaining connectivity is critical for the conservation of migratory species.

The draft Decisions seek to continue the mandate for this work, in order to ensure the needs of migratory species are represented in the final post-2020 Framework and that the next CMS Strategic Plan reflects the framework agreed later in 2020 by CBD.

IFAW has participated in the work of the intersessional Working Group and strongly supports the continued input of the CMS Family into the CBD negotiations. It is vital that the final post-2020 framework reflects the needs of migratory species and provides for coherence between the UN biodiversity conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

As per the recommendations of the Scientific Council in Doc.17/Add.1, draft Decisions 13.AA (b) could be deleted as the concept is already included in Decisions 13.BB (b).



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# 24

## Review of the Conservation Status of Migratory Species (Secretariat)

Document 24 outlines the Secretariat's aims to produce an analysis of the conservation status of species listed within the CMS Appendices and provide recommendations on potential amendments to the listings based on their findings.

IFAW recognises the financial burden of unnecessary listings and agrees that an in-depth analysis of long-standing listings would be a helpful exercise for the CMS, although perhaps not an immediate priority given budgetary pressures. Furthermore, IFAW echoes the caution voiced by the 4th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council in November 2019. Conservation status alone rarely captures the entire picture of health of a species, and each species has been listed on the Appendices after much discussion and agreement on the part of all CMS Parties. Additionally, the organisation and people responsible for assessing the conservation status of the world's species have such a large remit, that it is unlikely all assessments will have been updated since the time of the original CMS listing.

IFAW suggests that if this project moves forward, the analysis first focuses on Appendix I species whose IUCN Red List conservation status has improved since their listing, as these would be clear candidates for re-evaluation and test cases for review.

The preliminary analysis of the IUCN status of CMS species in Annex 3 also highlights that collectively 22% of species listed on Appendix II are rated by IUCN as Extinct in the Wild (1%),

Critically Endangered (10%) or Endangered (11%), which under CMS guidelines suggest they would qualify for an Appendix I listing. Furthermore, the analysis shows that resource use of these species is by far the predominant threat, affecting 93% of all Appendix II-listed species, which further suggests an Appendix I listing may be of merit in reducing direct threats to these species.

Therefore, IFAW believes the draft Decision 13.AA (b) in Document 24 should be amended as follows:

13.AA

**b)** initiate, in consultation with the Scientific Council and in collaboration with competent organizations, an in-depth review of the conservation status of individual ~~Appendix I~~ CMS-listed species, starting with those species listed in Appendix I classified in the categories of lowest threat of extinction in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and whose conservation status has improved since first listed, and those species listed in Appendix II classified in the categories Endangered, Critically Endangered and Extinct in the Wild, with a view to determining inter alia:

**(i)** differences in the conservation status of individual populations or management units;

**(ii)** the importance of the protection provided by the listing on Appendix I for the conservation of the species and its individual populations;

**any review of listings should focus equally on Appendix II-listed species that might also require Appendix I listing, as well as reviewing those species that could be removed from Appendix I**

## 26.2.3

### Bycatch (Secretariat)

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This document proposes Decisions directed to Parties to apply new guidelines to reduce bycatch of marine mammals and for future work on bycatch of shark and ray species. On the latter, IFAW is very supportive of such efforts.

Regarding marine mammals, the draft Decisions recommend Parties review the recent study by Hamilton and Baker and forthcoming FAO technical guidelines to see what can be implemented in their jurisdictions. While this is welcome, both documents only discuss technical measures to modify gears that pose a high risk and do not address effort reduction or alternative gears.

The earlier CMS review (Leaper RC, Calderan S (2018))<sup>1</sup> puts much greater emphasis on operational measures as part of fisheries management. It states that *“where reductions in bycatch have occurred, a feature of these situations has often been that a systemic change in the fishery itself has resulted in reduced cetacean bycatch, rather than the success of any mitigation measures specifically imposed for cetaceans. ... The most generally effective mitigation of cetacean bycatch and entanglement is reduction in effort, starting with those fisheries that have the largest bycatch.”*

Therefore, IFAW suggests amending draft Decision 13.AA directed to Parties to add a new sub para 13.AA (c) in similar structure to current sub-paragraphs (a) and (b). Current sub-paragraph (c) would then become (d), which IFAW recommends should also be amended to emphasise the need to implement effective mitigation, including consideration of changes to fisheries effort where appropriate. The amended Decision would be as follows:

13.AA

**(c)** review the Leaper and Calderan (2018) study of methods used to reduce risks of cetacean bycatch and entanglements (CMS Technical Series Publication No. 38).

**(d)** implement appropriate effective mitigation measures for marine mammals, as appropriate to their fishing operations, including consideration of management strategies that address over-capacity and reduce effort and therefore may be effective also at reducing marine mammal bycatch.

IFAW also supports all the suggested amendments to the draft Decisions made by the Scientific Council in Doc. 26.2.3/Add.1.

**ifaw urges parties to review what bycatch mitigation measures can be implemented in their jurisdictions, including gear modification, alternative fishing gears and targeted reductions in fishing effort**

<sup>1</sup> Leaper RC, Calderan S (2018). Review of methods used to reduce risks of cetacean bycatch and entanglements. UNEP/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 76 pages. CMS Technical Series Publication No. 38





## 26.2.7

### Chondrichthyan Species (Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras) (Secretariat)

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IFAW supports the edits made to this consolidated resolution and recommendations made by the Secretariat and Scientific Council to improve the management of chondrichthyan species listed within the CMS Appendices.

Over 50% of chondrychthians are Threatened or Near Threatened with extinction. Overfishing drives much of the declines for chondrychthian species, and without effective management, these declines are likely to continue.

Noting that almost 75% of CMS Parties have not enacted national legislation to prohibit the take of Appendix I-listed sharks and rays, it is likely that many populations have continued to suffer declines since their original listings within the Appendices. For this reason, IFAW calls on governments to adopt and prioritise proposed Decision 13.AA to ensure the prevention of further declines and extinction of these endangered species.

**over 50% of chondrychthians are threatened or near threatened with extinction. overfishing drives much of the declines for chondrychthian species, and without effective management, these declines are likely to continue**

## 26.4.6

### Community Participation and Livelihoods

Document 26.4.6 reports on progress to implement Decisions 12.98–12.100 on Community Participation and Livelihoods. It suggests amendments to the Decisions to continue to gather and analyse case studies.

Unsurprisingly, the only case studies found by the research conducted by the Secretariat relate to trade in CMS species that are also listed on CITES, because CITES has been collecting such case studies for some time.

The draft Decisions asks for Parties, IGOs and NGOs to submit case studies on community involvement in livelihoods projects benefitting CMS species conservation. The Decisions should be amended to encourage the submission of case studies separate to those already collected under CITES so as to avoid duplication. Otherwise, inevitably the only case studies collected are likely to be those that already exist and relate solely to trade in CMS species, which is not the only way communities are involved in or benefit from their conservation.

Therefore IFAW recommends Decision 13.BB (a) be amended as follows:

13.BB Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations are encouraged to:

**a)** submit to the Secretariat, using a standard template, relevant case studies on community engagement in the conservation and management of CMS-listed species, not already submitted to other forums;

Furthermore, given that these are case studies of management (and policy), it is not clear why they need to be submitted to or reviewed by the Scientific Council, particularly given the heavy workload of the Scientific Council. If any review is required, the Standing Committee may be more appropriate given its focus on policy and management. Therefore, IFAW suggests draft Decisions 13.AA (d) could be removed or amended to refer to the 52nd and 53rd meetings of the Standing Committee, and Decision 13.CC removed, or replaced with a Decision directed to the Standing Committee. At a minimum, Decision 13.CC should be amended to direct the Scientific Council to review and provide recommendations only on the scientific elements of the compilation and the analysis referred to in Decision 13.AA.



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# proposals for amendment of the CMS appendices

## 27.1.1

**Proposal for the inclusion of the Mainland Asian Elephant in Appendix I  
(India)**

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IFAW supports the listing of the Asian elephant on Appendix I of CMS and recommends that the proposal be amended to include the same taxonomy as the proposed Concerted Action for Asian elephants.

In its comments on the proposal (Doc.27.1.1/Add.1), the Scientific Council recommended India clarify the scope of the proposal vis-a-vis the Concerted Action proposal regarding the Asian elephant (Doc.28.2.2). Rule 21.2 of the CoP Rules of Procedure allows for a proponent to amend a listing proposal to make it more precise. In the interests of clarifying the extent of application of the listing and the inconsistencies between the listing proposal and the Concerted Action proposal accompanying it (Doc.28.2.2), IFAW recommends that the listing proposal is amended to be more precise; that it 1) includes the whole species and 2) is a request to include the Asian elephant in Appendix I and Appendix II. This would mean the listing then clearly allows for an agreement to be formed (the purpose of Appendix II listings) and that this can include all range states, not just mainland ones, as would currently have to be the case if the listing proposal remains as applying only to the mainland population. In that context, it is worth noting that elephants on the island of Borneo regularly cross the international boundary between the Malaysian and Indonesian parts of the island. They therefore clearly meet the CMS criteria for migratory like mainland Asian elephants do.

The exact wording of rule 21 is important. It says “the Party that has submitted a proposal for amendment of Appendices I or II may, at any time, withdraw the proposal or amend it to reduce its scope **or** to make it more precise” [Emphasis added]. The use of the word “or” clearly means that a proposal can be amended for either of two reasons: 1) to reduce its scope, 2) to make it more precise. These are clearly separate reasons. The Indian government

has been requested by the Scientific Council to clarify the taxonomic scope of the proposal and the Concerted Action. Therefore, the approach above is legitimate under the Rules of Procedure as it is clearly for the purposes of being more precise, as explicitly requested by the Scientific Council.

The Asian elephant is classified as Endangered by the IUCN and some populations regularly migrate within their home ranges, which can occur across international boundaries. India is home to 60% of Asian elephants, and while those residing in the centre of the country may not cross international borders, populations residing along international boundaries may represent a significant proportion of the neighbouring country’s populations. For example, according to the Bangladesh Elephant Conservation Action Plan,<sup>2</sup> 30% of their elephants are transboundary. Thirty per cent is a significant proportion for Bangladesh, especially in a total population of as few as 289 elephants.

Transboundary cooperation therefore becomes essential for the persistence of these populations, and indeed, to the extent similar situations exist in other range states, it becomes important for the persistence of Asian elephants in more countries than just a core population within India. Adoption of this proposal is also necessary for the adoption of the Concerted Action for Asian elephants as well, a proposal that suggests the creation of a range state agreement that would also include participation of non-CMS Parties, amplifying the effectiveness of a CMS listing alone.

This proposal was also recommended by the Scientific Council for adoption, pending clarification on the taxonomy of the listing.

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://www.asesg.org/PDFfiles/2017/Bangladesh%20Elephant%20Conservation%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

# 27.1.2

## **Proposal for the Inclusion of the Jaguar (*Panthera Onca*) in Appendix I and II of CMS (Costa Rica, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay)**

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IFAW supports the listing of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in Appendix I and II of CMS. Ranging from the United States down to Argentina, at least 40% of jaguar habitat has been lost over the last hundred years and further destruction of jaguar habitat and critical migratory corridors likely poses the greatest threat to the survival of the species.

Studies of jaguar in Latin America have found at least 26 transboundary populations, where regular movement across international boundaries can predictably occur as jaguars traverse their ranges in search of mates and food.<sup>3</sup> In addition to the documentation of regular international crossings posed in the original proposal, Costa Rica submitted an addendum with additional documentation of jaguars repeatedly crossing between the borders between Paraguay and Bolivia, and Paraguay and Brazil.<sup>4</sup>

While the jaguar is assessed as Near Threatened globally, this is due to the assessment focusing on the largest and healthy population in the Amazon.<sup>5</sup> A 2018 study found that when IUCN Red List criteria are applied to the other 33 jaguar populations, they qualify as Endangered or Critically Endangered due to their small size, isolation and lack of sufficient management.<sup>6</sup> Domestically, 13 range states for the jaguar have declared the species to be Endangered, four Vulnerable and two have already suffered local extinctions of the species.

The CMS Convention Text states that an Appendix I listing is warranted if the species has an endangered status “throughout all or a significant part of its range”. As stated above, 33 of the 34 subpopulations qualify as Endangered or Critically Endangered using IUCN criteria. These 33 subpopulations reside in all 19 current Range States. Domestic assessments in 68% of Range States also identify jaguars as Endangered. This clearly qualifies as “a significant part of its range” when considering the proportion of subpopulations and range states to which it applies, rather than just considering the number of jaguars involved as a percentage of the global population.

A CMS Appendix I and II listing will encourage greater regional cooperation, particularly for the management of transboundary populations, the maintenance or creation of key migratory corridors for isolated populations, and prevent further jaguar habitat loss and population declines.

<sup>3</sup> de la Torre, J.A., González-Maya, J.F., Zarza, H., Ceballos, G. and Medellín, R.A., 2018. The jaguar's spots are darker than they appear: assessing the global conservation status of the jaguar *Panthera onca*. *Oryx*, 52(2), pp.300-315.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms\\_cop13\\_doc.27.1.2\\_addendum2\\_e.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_doc.27.1.2_addendum2_e.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Quigley, H., Foster, R., Petracca, L., Payan, E., Salom, R. & Harmsen, B. 2017. *Panthera onca* (errata version published in 2018). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T15953A123791436.

<sup>6</sup> de la Torre, J.A., González-Maya, J.F., Zarza, H., Ceballos, G. and Medellín, R.A., 2018. The jaguar's spots are darker than they appear: assessing the global conservation status of the jaguar *Panthera onca*. *Oryx*, 52(2), pp.300-315.







## 27.1.8

### Proposal for the inclusion of the Oceanic Whitetip Shark in Appendix I of CMS (Brazil)

IFAW supports the listing of the oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in Appendix I of CMS. Oceanic whitetip sharks were once considered one of the most common tropical shark species in the world.<sup>7</sup> Decades of unmanaged overfishing, driven largely by their highly valued fins for shark fin soup, has led to severe population declines across their range. To address these declines, all major Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) prohibit the catch and retention of oceanic whitetips in their waters and in 2016 the species was listed in Appendix II of CITES.

However, in December of 2019, the IUCN Red List released a new global assessment on oceanic whitetip sharks, estimating the median decline of this species to be **98-100% worldwide**, downgrading the status of oceanic whitetips from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered.<sup>8</sup> In the Pacific Ocean, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) released a stock assessment in 2019 predicting that even with a prohibition on catch and retention, the species will likely become extinct.

Oceanic whitetip sharks are already included in Annex I of the CMS Sharks Memorandum of Understanding. An Appendix I listing for oceanic whitetip sharks will strengthen the measures RFMOs have already put in place, potentially filling in management gaps and adding an additional legal obligation to domestically protect oceanic whitetips, ensuring a prioritisation of efforts to prevent a global extinction of this species.

**in december of 2019, the IUCN red list released a new global assessment on oceanic whitetip sharks, estimating the median decline of this species to be 98-100% worldwide, downgrading the status of oceanic whitetips from vulnerable to critically endangered**

<sup>7</sup> Young, C.N., Carlson, J., Hutchinson, M., Hutt, C., Kobayashi, D., McCandless, C.T., Wraith, J. 2016. Status review report: oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*). Final Report to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources. November 2016. 162 pp.

<sup>8</sup> Rigby, C.L., Barreto, R., Carlson, J., Fernando, D., Fordham, S., Francis, M.P., Herman, K., Jabado, R.W., Liu, K.M., Marshall, A., Pacoureaux, N., Romanov, E., Sherley, R.B. & Winker, H. 2019. *Carcharhinus longimanus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2019: e.T39374A2911619. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T39374A2911619.en>.

# tentative schedule

## saturday 15

10:00 – 13:00  
Stakeholder Dialogue:  
CMS NGO Coordination  
(NGOs only)

14:30 – 17:00  
Stakeholder Dialogue:  
Discussion on the  
Post-2020 Framework  
(NGOs, Stakeholders  
and Governments)

18:00 – 19:00  
Book Launch

## sunday 16

8:00 – 10:00  
Regional Meetings

10:00 – 13:00  
Meeting of the Standing  
Committee (StC)

14:00 – 17:00  
High-Level Segment

19:00 – 19:30 onwards  
Champion Night:  
Award Ceremony/  
Reception

## monday 17

8:30 – 9:30  
Regional Meetings

9:30 – 12:30  
CoP Plenary

12:45 – 13:30  
Side Event A

13:45 – 14:30  
Side Event B

15:00 – 18:00  
CoP Committee of the  
Whole (C.O.W)

18:15 – 19:15  
Bureau

18:15 – 19:00  
Working Groups (WG)

19:30 onwards  
Reception

## tuesday 18

8:30 – 9:30  
Regional Meetings

9:30 – 12:30  
CoP C.O.W.

12:45 – 13:30  
Side Event A

13:00 – 15:00  
Working Groups

13:45 – 14:30  
Side Event B

15:00 – 18:00  
CoP C.O.W.

18:15 – 19:15  
Bureau

18:15 – 19:30 onwards  
Working Groups

18:15 – 19:00  
Side Event

**wednesday 19**

8:30 – 9:30  
Regional Meetings

9:30 – 12:30  
CoP C.O.W.

12:45 – 13:30  
Side Event A

13:00 – 15:00  
Working Groups

13:45 – 14:30  
Side Event B

15:00 – 18:00  
CoP C.O.W.

18:15 – 19:15  
Bureau

18:15 – 19:30 onwards  
Working Groups

18:15 – 19:00  
Side Event

**thursday 20**

8:30 – 9:30  
Regional Meetings

9:30 – 12:30  
CoP C.O.W.

12:45 – 13:30  
Side Event A

13:00 – 15:00  
Working Groups

13:45 – 14:30  
Side Event B

15:00 – 18:00  
CoP C.O.W.

18:15 – 19:15  
Bureau

18:15 – 19:30 onwards  
Working Groups

18:15 – 19:00  
Side Event

**friday 21**

8:00 – 19:30 onwards  
Excursion Day

**saturday 22**

8:45 – 9:30  
Regional Meetings

9:30 – 12:30  
CoP Plenary

14:30 – 17:30  
CoP Plenary

17:30 – 18:15  
Meeting of the StC

International Fund for  
Animal Welfare

Recommendations:  
CMS CoP13

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