



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 14.15

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**ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS AQUATIC WILD MEAT HARVESTS IN WEST AFRICA**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Samarkand, February 2024)

*Aware* that across most of West Africa, aquatic wild animals, including marine mammals, marine turtles, crocodiles, and Appendix I-listed sharks and rays, are hunted or taken opportunistically, and the meat, body parts and/or eggs are consumed for local subsistence, used for traditional purposes, or as a source of income,

*Concerned* that, even though some wild meat harvests have been sustained for millennia, serving as an important source of nutrition, income and cultural identity for some communities, exploitation of wildlife at higher levels has led to unsustainable and/or illegal exploitation of some CMS-listed species,

*Recalling* Resolution 12.15 *Aquatic Wild Meat*, which recommends increased cooperation between Parties, non-Party Range States and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to increase collaboration and information-sharing to better understand and monitor aquatic wild meat harvests, and to increase scientific knowledge and 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,

*Further recalling* the request to the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the Scientific Council to develop a sub-regional aquatic Wild Meat Action Plan for the Gulf of Guinea for consideration by Range State Parties in the region, and *thanking* the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group for addressing this mandate,

*Recognizing* the support of OceanCare in the implementation of COP mandates related to aquatic wild meat, including leadership on the dialogue process with Range State governments to finalize this Action Plan,

*Noting* the linkages between the Action Plan and other CMS instruments in the region, in particular the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa, the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia, and the Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*),

*Further noting* the link to the work of the Convention on terrestrial and avian wild meat, and to the broader issues of unsustainable and illegal exploitation of CMS species, and

*Affirming* the need to address the threat posed to CMS-listed species from use as aquatic wild meat in close collaboration with the Convention for the Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention),

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Adopts* the Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa contained in the Annex with the goal of making tangible progress towards the sustainable management of aquatic wild meat harvesting across West Africa and securing the conservation status of all impacted CMS-listed species;
2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to implement its relevant provisions;
3. *Calls on* Parties to strive for active collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders within each range country to maximize the effective use of resources and expertise, to ensure that the results of research and awareness-raising activities can support the design and implementation of effective policy and management;
4. *Further calls on* Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate regional collaboration between stakeholders across the area of application of the Action Plan to ensure that knowledge and experience gained in one country can be used to most effectively implement conservation action in another;
5. *Encourages* Parties and non-Party States to provide technical and/or financial support to activities outlined in the Action Plan;
6. *Invites* other relevant intergovernmental frameworks, in particular the Convention for the Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and the African Union to take into account the provisions of the Action Plan in the consideration of their activities and to support implementation of relevant Action Plan activities that fall within their mandate, as appropriate; and
7. *Instructs* the Secretariat to bring the Action Plan to the attention of all Range States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, and to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.