



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP14)

Original: English

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

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

Concerned that avoidable detriment to migratory species often occurs through lack of adequate prior assessment of the potential environmental impacts of projects, plans, programmes and policies, carried out in a way that is systematic and formally taken into account in decision-making,

Emphasizing that migratory species are especially in need of international cooperation in this respect owing, inter alia, to their particular susceptibility to impacts which may be manifest far beyond the territory of the country in which they originate, and to cumulative impacts,

Desirous that migratory species interests and ecological connectivity be given improved treatment in biodiversity-related aspects of environmental impact assessment, including through cumulative effects assessments, and strategic environmental assessment,

Conscious that Article I (1) (c) of the Convention defining favourable conservation status, Article II (2) regarding avoiding endangerment of species and Article III (4) regarding protection of Appendix I species all imply a need to anticipate and predict effects,

Aware that many Parties already operate legal and institutional systems of environmental assessment in various forms, but that most would benefit from international harmonization of guidance on principles, standards, techniques and procedures, and confirmation of their applicability to migratory species interests,

Aware that environmental impact assessment is foreseen in other conventions concerned with biodiversity conservation, including the Rio Conventions and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and in CMS Agreements,

Noting that CBD Decision VI/18 on impact assessment, liability and redress specifically encouraged similar cooperation in relation to the development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into legislation and/or processes on strategic environmental assessment, and included the CMS Scientific Council among those with whom cooperation was requested,

Welcoming the endorsement by CBD COP6 of the “Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation and/or Processes and in Strategic Environmental Assessment” annexed to its Decision VI/7,

Taking note of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Target 14 requesting governments to ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework, and

Desiring as always to maximize synergy and joint working efficiencies between all biodiversity-related Conventions,

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

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of good quality environmental impact assessment (EIA), including an assessment of cumulative effects, and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as tools for implementing Article II (2) of the Convention on avoiding endangerment of migratory species and Article III (4) of the Convention on protection of Appendix I species, and as important elements to include in AGREEMENTS concluded under Article IV (3) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II species, and in agreements concluded under Article IV (4) of the Convention in respect of Appendix II and other species;
2. *Urges* Parties to include as complete a consideration as possible of effects involving impediments to migration, in furtherance of Article III (4) (b) of the Convention, of transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns or on migratory ranges in EIAs and by applying strategic environmental assessment in the early stages of planning and policy development in sectors linked to infrastructure (e.g. transport, energy, water), and in planning for economic corridors and linear infrastructure programmes (e.g. Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), Belt and Road Initiative, etc.) including in order to develop these infrastructures taking into account ecological connectivity and ecological restoration aspects;
3. *Requests* Parties, according to national legislation, to publicly disclose and share information on linear infrastructure development plans and impact assessments affecting migratory species, taking as an example the 1997 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its 2003 Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv Protocol);
4. *Asks* Parties to include migratory species when revising legal requirements for impact assessment and when generating considerations for screening criteria, including the construction of barriers such as fences and walls when these might be an impediment for ecological connectivity;
5. *Requests* Parties to consider the recovery potential of CMS-listed species when planning new infrastructure or when mitigating for the impacts of existing linear infrastructure;
6. *Recommends* Parties, when not formally required, to encourage project proponents to prepare and implement biodiversity management plans for linear infrastructure developments that impact CMS-listed species;

7. *Further urges* Parties to make use, as appropriate, of the “Impact Assessment: Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-inclusive Impact Assessment” endorsed by Decision VIII/8 of CBD COP 8;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to pursue its contacts with secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements in evaluating with them the potential implications of the decisions of their Conferences of the Parties on the conservation of migratory species;
9. *Further requests* the Secretariat to cooperate with other biodiversity-related conventions and raise the issue of linear infrastructure development impact on migratory species within the Biodiversity Liaison Group to foster synergies and jointly engage with sectors relevant to infrastructure development to contribute to and influence infrastructure planning and design;
10. *Instructs* the Secretariat to explore opportunities of engaging with and contributing expertise on migratory species to policies and processes of relevant international and regional forums, such as multilateral development banks’ safeguards working groups, G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles, the Belt and Road Initiative, the EU Green Deal, Global Gateway and Green Infrastructure, Blue Dot Network, Regional Economic Communities, UN Economic and Social Commissions, International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), SOURCE (the Multilateral Platform for Sustainable Infrastructure), infrastructure ecology networks and knowledge-sharing platforms (e.g. IENE, ICOET, www.TransportEcology.info), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), etc.;
11. *Instructs* the Secretariat to engage with the Global Environment Facility, development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, bilateral donors, and commercial banks to explore opportunities for including CMS guidelines in, and sourcing relevant expertise in support of, their policies, guidance materials, strategic plans, periodic country strategies, and performance indexes to encourage the consideration of migratory species both at strategic and project levels;
12. *Encourages* Parties to establish contact with relevant national contact points from within the networks of the International Association for Impact Assessment with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with migratory species-related impact assessment as part of impact assessment procedures in general; and
13. *Encourages* project proponents that are designing mitigation measures for the impacts of linear infrastructure for migratory species, to take into account benefits for associated species and their habitats.