



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14)

Original: English

### SAHELO-SAHARAN MEGAFUNA INITIATIVE

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

*Recalling* Recommendations 4.5 *Concerted Action for Six Appendix I Species of Sahelo-Saharan Ungulates* and 9.2 *Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna*<sup>1</sup>,

*Recognizing* that the large mammal fauna of the arid lands of the Sahelian and Saharan regions of Africa have many species with threatened populations that are in a profoundly unsatisfactory, and often critical, state of conservation,

*Noting with satisfaction* the progress made by the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action,

*Conscious* that the arid lands of the Sahelian and Saharan regions of Africa, with their exceptional natural and cultural heritage and their unique migration phenomena, are a crucial area for the action of the Convention,

*Recalling* that several species found in that biome are on Appendix I of the Convention,

*Recalling* the decisions under the Future Shape process, including activities 8 and 15 under Resolution 10.09 *Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family* urging Parties to “identify opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography”, and “to seek opportunities to develop synergistic relationships either based on geography or species clustering”, such as with the development of a common conservation programme,

*Acknowledging* the recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council that the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Concerted Action be closed, and a Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative be established that extends to the Danakil and adjoining desert and semidesert, adding the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*) to the Initiative as well as Soemmerring's Gazelle (*Nanger soemmerringii*) should it be listed on CMS, and

*Recognizing* the successes of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) in strengthening the conservation of Central Asian migratory mammals through a common framework to coordinate conservation activities in the region and to coherently address major threats to migratory species) as an example for a Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative,

---

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 4.5 and Recommendation 9.2 were consolidated by COP12 into Resolution 9.21 (COP12) and repealed.

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

1. *Establishes* the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMFI) covering the Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*), Barbary Sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) Cuvier's Gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*), Dama Gazelle (*Nanger dama*), Red-fronted Gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*) Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*), Slender-horned Gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*), and Dorcas Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*), occurring in the Sahel, Sahara, and Danakil Desert and adjoining desert and semidesert, with Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan and Tunisia as the Range States of the Initiative;
2. *Adopts* the Action Plan for the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative, including the species-specific plans, contained in the Annex to this Resolution;
3. *Agrees* to use the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass *Equus africanus* 2017-2027 as the framework for the conservation of the African Wild Ass under the Initiative;
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to take up the role of coordinating the Initiative and implementation of the Action Plan and, subject to the availability of resources, convene regular Range State meetings to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, revise the Action Plan as necessary and monitor the functionality of the Initiative;
5. *Encourages* Range States and other interested Parties to prepare, in cooperation with the Scientific Council and the Secretariat, the necessary proposals to include in Appendix I or Appendix II threatened species that would benefit from the Initiative;
6. *Encourages* the Secretariat to pursue efforts to bring into the Convention, Range States of the Sahelo-Saharan fauna that are not yet Parties;
7. *Encourages* the Secretariat to establish and strengthen partnerships with relevant organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Great Green Wall Initiative, the World Bank, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
8. *Encourages* the Secretariat to collaborate with the Sahel and Sahara Interest Group to support the Initiative with technical advice;
9. *Urges* Parties to apply an ecosystem approach and to strengthen efforts to conserve and restore habitats for Sahelo-Saharan megafauna, in particular, in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030);
10. *Urges* Non-Party Range States to support the SSMFI, in recognition of its global significance; and
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of this Resolution to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.