

## UNEA-6 High-level Segment

### Statement by

**Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary**

### **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to speak on behalf of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, or CMS.

The theme of UNEA-6 underscores the fundamental mission of CMS, which is to strengthen transboundary, regional, and international cooperation for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats across their full range.

For over 40 years, Parties to CMS, have worked collaboratively and with stakeholders to protect migratory species and their habitats. There have been many successes over these years. Yet, migratory species are in trouble.

Just two weeks ago at the 14<sup>th</sup> CMS Conference of the Parties in Samarkand, Uzbekistan – we launched the first-ever “**State of the World’s Migratory Species Report**”.

The report shows that 1 in 5 CMS-listed species are threatened with extinction, that 44% of CMS-listed species have a decreasing population trend, and that the global extinction risk is escalating for all migratory species around the world, including those NOT listed on CMS. These trends are mainly driven by overexploitation, habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, as well as climate change and pollution. Many of the drivers of these trends are the same drivers of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

The outcomes of the recent CMS COP14 held in the beautiful city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan begin to address the alarming findings of this report. They also contribute directly to addressing the triple planetary crisis.

COP14 yielded many significant outcomes, including the adoption of new conservation actions, such as

- A Strengthened Programmes of work on Flyways and Cetaceans,
- New initiative for the Central Asian Flyway
- New range-wide Jaguar initiative, and
- Regional conservation measures for Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna.

The COP also adopted **actions on threats**, including

- on Illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species
- Climate change
- Light pollution
- Linear infrastructure
- Chemical Pollution
- Wildlife disease,
- Deep Sea Mining and
- Bycatch of aquatic species.

A new Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity was launched at COP14, to help ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained, enhanced, and restored in areas important for migratory species, and to address other global priorities.

But to address the drivers of environmental change, including threats to migratory species and their habitats, we need to band together and find ways to leverage our respective mandates priorities to achieve change. One of the most important priorities for synergies is at the national level – and we need to work together to support governments to implement their various commitments under the various MEAs

I look forward to continuing our close collaboration with UNEP, member states, and stakeholders to to address the common, global environmental issues of our time.

Thank you very much.