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News: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS 14)

- The Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS 14) has been concluded in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

CoP 14: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Key Highlights of CMS COP 14

Adoption of Listing Proposals

- Parties agreed to adopt listing proposals for 14 migratory species, including the Eurasian lynx, Peruvian pelican, Pallas's cat, guanaco, Lahille's bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise, Magellanic plover, bearded vulture, Blackchin guitarfish, Bull ray, Lusitanian cownose ray, Gilded catfish, and Laulao catfish.
- These listings aim to enhance protection and conservation efforts for these species.

Cooperation and Conservation Efforts

- The proposals emphasised the importance of cooperation between range states to address threats to migratory species, conduct research, and implement conservation activities.
- Range states refer to countries or territories that are within the geographical range where a particular species occurs naturally. These countries or territories are directly involved in the management, conservation, and protection of the species and its habitat.
- Efforts were focused on maintaining existing populations, improving connectivity, safeguarding habitats, and restoring populations.

Focus on Threats

- Various threats to migratory species were highlighted, including habitat degradation, fragmentation, illegal trade, bycatch, contaminants, and human activities such as fencing, oil and gas development, mining, and underwater noise.
- The inclusion of these species in the CMS appendices aims to address these threats and promote their conservation.

International Collaboration

- Range states collaborated to propose listing amendments and adoption of conservation measures.
- Countries like North Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Panama, and others supported listing proposals and urged for joint efforts to protect migratory species and their habitats.

Recognition of Endangered Status

- Several species, such as the Lahille's bottlenose dolphin, Peruvian pelican, and Magellanic plover, were recognized as 'Vulnerable,' 'Endangered,' or 'Critically Endangered' in IUCN Red List, due to population decline and various threats.
- Listing these species in CMS appendices aims to improve their conservation status and provide support for habitat protection.

Regional and Global Conservation Initiatives

- The adoption of proposals reflected efforts to address conservation issues at regional and global levels.
- Measures were recommended to protect specific populations, such as the Baltic Proper population of the harbour porpoise and the Mediterranean Sea

populations of various species, while also considering broader conservation strategies.

Migratory Species

- A species or lower taxon of wild animals of which the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.
- The word ‘cyclically’ relates to a cycle of any nature, such as astronomical (circadian, annual, etc.), life or climatic, and of any frequency.
- The word ‘predictably’ implies that a phenomenon can be anticipated to recur in a given set of circumstances, though not necessarily regularly in time.

Convention on Migratory Species (BONN convention)

- Convention on Migratory Species is the only global, and United Nations-based, intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species with the aim “conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range”.

- It was signed on 6th November 1979 and came into force on 1st November 1983 as and when 15 members ratified.
- India has signed non-legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016) like Dugong, under the Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.

BONN Convention has two appendices:

- Appendix I lists migratory species that are classified as endangered and where urgent international cooperation is necessary to address the issue.
- Appendix II lists other species that require or would benefit significantly from international agreements under the Convention.
- CoP is done once in every 3 years.