



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Part II

Opening Ceremony

- **Programme**
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Reproduced in the form submitted to the Secretariat.

**7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Migratory Species
and
2nd Meeting of the Parties to the
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement**

JOINT OPENING CEREMONY

Wednesday, 18 September 2002, 9:30 h am
International Congress Centre Bundeshaus Bonn
15 Görresstrasse, Bonn, Germany

Statement by Mr. Jürgen Trittin
Federal Minister for the Environment of Germany

Welcoming address by Ms. B. Dieckmann
Lady Mayor of Bonn

Welcoming Statement by the CMS Standing Committee Chair
Mr. Demetrio L. Ignacio
*Undersecretary, Department of Environment & Natural Resources,
Philippines*

Welcoming Statement by the AEWA Technical Committee Chair
Dr. Yousoof Mungroo
Director National Parks, Mauritius

Statement on behalf of the NGO community by WWF International
Dr. Claude Martin
Director General, WWF International

Key Note Address by Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel
Deputy Executive Director, UNEP

Welcoming Address by HRH The Prince of Wales
read by: Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht
Executive Secretary, CMS

**Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Migratory Species**

and

**Second Session of the Conference of the Parties
to the Agreement on the Conservation of
African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds**

Speech delivered by

**Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**

Jürgen Trittin

18 September 2002, Bonn

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Mr Kakakhel,
Ms Dieckmann,
Mr Müller-Helmbrecht,
Mr Lenten (Executive Secretary of the AEWA Secretariat),
Mr Ignacio (President of the Permanent Committee),
Mr Mungroo (President of the Technical Committee AEWA),
Mr Martin (WWF),
Ladies and gentlemen,

Migrants and visitors are treated with hospitality in all cultures, as they - unlike those who have settled - do not have the same traditional entitlements. Visitors are dependent on the locals to provide food and shelter for a while. The needs of those who do not 'belong' are most liable to be overlooked. But this is a very short-sighted way of thinking: if everywhere were to be occupied by those who have settled, if hotels, residential and industrial areas or monocultures were to arise along the coasts and in meadows, visitors such as our feathered friends would eventually stay away.

For this reason, 38 countries adopted the international Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn in 1979. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) was elaborated within this framework, targeting the protection of

waterbirds, storks, ducks and geese migrating to the West and Eastern Atlantic. The Secretariats of both Conventions are in Bonn. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you here today to the Conferences of the Parties of both Conventions.

The seasonal migration of animals, in particular birds, has captivated us humans for centuries. How do turtles find their way back to where they were born to lay their eggs? How can a tiny bird weighing two grams fly 800km? How can the Ruppell's vulture fly at heights of 11,500 m when man needs an oxygen mask to climb Mount Everest? How does the Arctic gull reach its breeding ground 30,000 kilometres away? Without a compass, without a map, and, of course, without a global positioning system, without Galileo, without any sustenance other than tiny fat reserves in their small bodies.

We know, and we are researching into how complicated bird migrations are, and how many conditions have to be right in our country and in many other countries for these beautiful birds to survive the winter and migration and for us to have the opportunity to admire them. Even the smallest changes disturb bird migration. The migration routes across the oceans remain - like the oceans themselves - a neglected area of research.

The habitats of animals are changing as a result of climate change. Here in central Europe, temperatures are rising and rainfall is increasing. In other countries, droughts are occurring more frequently and lasting longer. Migratory species are losing the security of clearly defined seasons. This directly affects their migratory patterns and the species distribution. For example, the cold, rainy summer has led to massive mortality among the Schreiber's bent-winged bat in southern Europe. These animals died of starvation because they found too little food, too few beetles, moths and insects. Researchers also trace the increased Kuhl's pipistrelle bat population in southern Germany back to climate change. Previously, the Kuhl's pipistrelle was only found in the Mediterranean.

Will fewer species fly South in winter in future, and will more species be subjected to risk of a sudden cold front in the North? Will others relocate their habitats further north? Or will they have to - and will they be able to? - fly further because snow is no longer a rare occurrence in the Mediterranean? How will climate change affect their feeding and breeding grounds located on the coast? Will some animals settle?

Climate change is a huge threat to migratory species. We must do every possible to limit this change. To this aim, the German Government has adopted an ambitious climate protection programme. But we need a new direction in energy policy all over the world, not just in Germany.

To counteract climate change, our primary goal must be to increase the market share of solar and wind power. We must also launch and develop off-shore wind power. To ensure that the fauna remains unharmed, we have designated zones for economic use as well as protected areas in our new Federal Nature Conservation Act. The German Government plans to install 2000 to 3000 MW in the North and Baltic Seas by 2010 in a step-by-step process. We are starting with small wind parks, and from the very start we will investigate the impacts on birds, marine mammals and fish to limit these impacts as much as possible. This will enable us to gain experience that can be drawn on when considering the construction of further wind parks.

Animals also require improved protection against oil tanker accidents. We need adequate monitoring and warning systems. We must make our contribution to keeping the damage resulting from the leaked oil as low as possible with effective technology, equipment and training. I am delighted that 66 countries have now acceded to the International Convention on preparedness, response and cooperation in the area of oil pollution.

We have set up a sensitivity register for the German Wadden Sea coast to define ecologically oriented criteria and priorities to be applied in emergencies. But such registers are needed even more urgently for coasts in the tropics that take much longer to recover from oil spills than coasts in the North.

These two examples - climate change and oil spills - illustrate the *fundamental* need to globally coordinate nature conservation. This is even more crucial for the protection of migratory species such as red knots and common cranes, antelopes and gazelles, and particularly for migratory species in our oceans, such as whales, turtles, seals, penguins and dolphins.

There is little benefit if these animals are only protected by the country in or off the coast of which they rear their young or winter. All transit countries and the wintering roosting sites must also be actively involved. If, for example, we ban common cockle fishing in the East-Friesian Wadden Sea, we can provide the Northern red knot with the food supplies it needs on its journey to Africa. This illustrates how bird protection measures in East Frisia can contribute to bird conservation in Siberia and Africa. Without this contribution, the measures taken in Siberia and West Africa would probably be doomed to fail. And vice versa.

I am very pleased that further migratory species are to be included in Annexes I and II of the Bonn Convention. Australia has proposed, among others, six large whale species.

South Africa wishes to include several bird species in the AEWA. I welcome the fact that all migratory water bird species are now to be covered by the AEWA - no longer, as was previously the case, the particularly vulnerable species only. We should also consider the possibility of extending the AEWA to Central Asia.

We must cooperate even more closely at international level. I am therefore very grateful for your commitment, Mr Müller-Helmbrecht, to signing up further contracting parties to the Bonn Convention.

Many migratory species are dependent on the poor countries in the South also providing enough land and food for them to shelter. However, if nature is the only reliable resource for survival for a large majority of the population of a country there is a justified conflict of interests and conflicting goals for the country's government. Starving people cannot be expected to leave food for animals in the fields, nor can they be expected to comply with a hunting ban.

Those who wish to protect migratory species in the Sahel zone or in other very poor regions must free the people there from poverty. We must live up to our commitment from Johannesburg to halve the number of poor people by 2015. This is also a prerequisite for successful species and nature conservation projects.

Many measures have been financed by funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). I am pleased that it has been possible to provide the GEF with a budget of \$ 2.92 billion for the next four years (2002-2006). I would have liked this amount to be greater, but as you know we could not find a majority for this proposal. Germany, together with several other EU countries, will therefore provide additional funding. This will enable the GEF budget to reach \$ 3 billion. The share of these funds earmarked for nature and species conservation should at least remain the same.

Such decisions are, of course, very dependent on how much potential the submitted projects have. One project that is very likely to be accepted by the GEF is the project for setting up a network of habitats for African-Eurasian waterbirds. The AEWA Secretariat has developed this project in cooperation with the Ramsar Office and Wetlands International. It provides for capacity-building measures in Eastern Europe, the Orient and on the African continent. One goal of this project is to create and maintain sources of income for the local population that are linked to the species populations. For example eco-tourism.

The level of funding envisaged for this project is \$ 6 million. The same amount must be raised as complementary funding. I am willing to provide a total of EUR 1 million from my budget for this project in the period 2004 to 2008 (*main duration of the project*). I will also strive to ensure that the necessary budgetary prerequisites are created. I hope that other contracting parties to the Bonn Convention and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds will follow my example.

This leads me to addressing the measures Germany has taken for nature and species protection, and for migratory species in particular, by highlighting a few examples.

The German Environment Ministry, in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Federal Länder, has comprehensively documented the populations of migratory species in Germany. According to this information, these populations are stable, and in some cases, particularly waterbirds, there is even a very welcome slight increase.

The Federal Länder were successful in their efforts to protect the white-tailed eagle: 380 pairs now live in Germany. A further success story is that ferruginous pochards have been breeding here once again since 1995, even if in very small numbers. In contrast, the aquatic warbler is sadly only rearing its young in the Lower Oder valley in Brandenburg. The Länder of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt were only able to maintain the populations of great bustards with a great deal of effort and commitment. I am delighted that the Memorandum on the protection of the great bustard can finally be signed during this Conference.

Since 1998, the German Government has been supporting 32 major nature conservation projects with more than EUR 80 million. A further 220,000 hectares of land in eastern Germany were also designated new nature conservation areas. North-Rhine Westphalia, the most densely populated Federal Land, is currently working on the designation of a new Kermeter/Vogelsang national park.

In spring this year, the German Government implemented an amendment to the Federal Nature Conservation Act, despite considerable opposition. It ensures nature conservation in a densely populated industrialised country whose population makes extensive use of nature in its leisure time.

Nature conservation cannot succeed in the 21 century on the sidelines - it can only succeed if a balance of interests can be achieved between all groups of users.

The new Federal Nature Conservation Act commits the Länder to creating a biotope network on at least 10% of the surface area of the respective Land. It also commits the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors to a code of practice. It provides for the retrofitting of power lines - a lifesaving provision for large migratory birds such as storks and cranes. This will protect young birds in particular from being killed by electricity. I would recommend such bird-protection measures on power lines to all countries, and therefore submit a proposal for a recommendation.

Finally, I am happy that we have been able to sign the Headquarters Agreement for the CMS Secretariat today. It replaces the previous agreement which existed since the CMS Secretariat located to Bonn in 1984. The new regulations make some improvements in the legal position both for Secretariat staff and for those participating in events under the Convention. It gives the same status as that accorded to the Secretariats for the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification. The new agreement is also open to the Secretariats of regional agreements located in Bonn. Due to the extensive concessions with regard to immunity regulations, this agreement must be brought into force in Germany with a legal Act. I consider it realistic for the Act sanctioning the Agreement to enter into force in about one year's time.

I now wish both Conferences every success, and wish you all a pleasant stay here in Bonn in the former governmental quarter, which we intend to transform into a German centre for the United Nations over the coming years.

Thank you.

Welcome address of the Lady Mayor of Bonn

Mrs. Bärbel Dieckmann

on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the
7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
(COP 7) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, at 9.30 am in the
International Congress Centre Bundeshaus Bonn

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Federal Minister Trittin
Chairman of the CMS Standing Committee
Chairman of the AEWA Technical Committee
Deputy Executive Director of UNEP
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Executive Secretary
Dear Guests

The two meetings of CMS and AEWA are the first Conferences of the Parties which take place after the Johannesburg-Summit.

We are particularly proud that they take place in Bonn, where all the Rio-Secretariats” of the United Nations have their headquarters, except one.

In this sense as Mayor of the City of Bonn I most warmly welcome you to Bonn.

The worldwide protection of migratory wild animals and my city are closely linked. Here in Bonn your Convention was founded and signed 23 years ago. This is why it is also called the Bonn Convention.

For more than a hundred years, Bonn has been the home to the Zoological Museum Alexander Koenig. It is at present being refurbished and rearranged according to a completely new concept. I am particularly happy that scientists of this Museum and of the newly founded Center for Development Research of our University with the support of the Ministry for the Environment have developed a global register of migratory species of wild animals. It will be handed over to the Secretariat on the occasion of this conference. This has been an excellent example for networking in our city.

Bonn as an United Nations seat has the right size for networking and it is one of our aims to encourage networking between the numerous international institutions in Bonn. Many of them work in the field of environment and development.

Your conference takes place in the Plenary Hall of the former German Bundestag building, where the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany met and worked for many years.

Now it functions as a Congress Centre, especially as a Centre for international dialogue.

A second even much larger congress hall which will meet the requests of the United Nations and of world conferences will soon be erected. And in the immediate vicinity the United Nations Campus will be set up.

All this has been laid down in an agreement signed in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Johannes Rau, in February this year.

With about 500 UN-staff members, Bonn still ranks as a small UN-city. However, it is growing all the time.

The organizations which at the moment have their headquarters in House Carstanjen will all move to the new UN-Campus within the next few years.

This Conference is one of a series of important events that have been held here in Bonn:

- Conferences of the Parties of the Climate Convention and of the Desertification Convention
- Conferences on Food Security, Biological Diversity, Fresh Water, Media, Peace and Conflict, just to name a few, and not to forget the UN-talks on Afghanistan. And immediately after this migratory species meetings Germany and Bonn will host the INC 9 PIC-meeting here in the same building.

Since 1991, Berlin is the German Federal Capital again. And as the capital, Berlin is the main stage for German politics. The City of Bonn, however, has developed into a place of global dialogue, a centre of international cooperation and science. Here in this city, the issues that determine our future are discussed and decided.

Many partners contribute to this process: - six German Ministries that have remained in Bonn - twelve United Nations Organizations located here

- the German Development Agencies
- a series of non governmental organizations,
- scientific organizations, and
- the Media,

to mention only a few.

And a number of embassies are still in Bonn while other countries have established outposted offices or consulates.

In addition, Germany's international broadcaster, Deutsche Welle, will also soon be relocating to Bonn.

Bonn is also a city of international culture.

I would like to bring to your attention the International Beethoven Festival which at the moment takes place in Bonn. Just have a look into the event's guide which the City of Bonn has prepared for you and which you can collect at the Bonn information desk.

I only hope that you will have a little spare time to make use of the offer.

We will meet again on Friday evening, when the Federal Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry for the Environment and I have the pleasure to invite you to a boat trip on the Rhine.

I wish you a good and successful conference here in Bonn. Let me welcome you once more with all my heart here in the UN-city on the banks of the Rhine.

Demetrio L. Ignacio

CHAIRMAN, STANDING COMMITTEE

OPENING REMARKS

CMS-COP, Sept. 17, 2002

Amenities:

Distinguished delegates, our honored guests and partners in conservation, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Germany for the excellent facilities and arrangements provided to this meeting of the Conference of Parties.

It is only fitting that we hold COP7 in this beautiful City of Bonn where the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was born 20 years ago, in 1979. I would also like to commend the Government of Germany for all the support that it has given the CMS all through this years. The headquarters agreement just signed this morning with Germany will further strengthen the secretariat to provide more and even better support to the CMS. Germany has also been consistent in providing financial assistance to the convention through its assessed and voluntary contributions and has initiated a number of proposed resolutions, which will be discussed during this conference.

The past two decades of CMS:

The Convention on Migratory Species has evolved substantially over the past two decades, especially during the last three years. Nearly 100 countries are now involved in CMS activities through the parent convention or its related agreements for birds, marine species and terrestrial mammals.

The extent of the issues covered by the CMS Scientific Council over the past four days demonstrate the maturity of the convention as it tackled the fundamental threats to migratory species posed by unsustainable exploitation, by-catch and habitat loss. I also understand that the discussions during the meeting of the Council the past four days have been very progressive and the participants very enthusiastic.

The CMS has been recognized by the Convention on Biodiversity COP6 to be its lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species. A comprehensive CBD-CMS Joint Work Program is now an evolving cornerstone of the CBD-CMS partnership. We have also witnessed a number of very important agreements recently on albatross and petrels, marine turtles, great bustards and bukhara deer. Many more agreements are in process.

But while we have done much, there are still more to do. The figures on migratory species are still worrying. The number of Pacific leatherback turtles has been reduced to about 5,000 from 90,000 just two decades ago. The BirdLife International has estimated about 1,186 bird species at risk worldwide.

The Philippine experience:

We, in the Philippines, in our little corner of Southeast Asia, we have actively initiated and collaborated with our neighbors in protecting and conserving our biodiversity. The Philippines ranks number 8 in the world in total diversity. The Philippines is also an important passageway of migratory

marine species like Humpback whales, Whale sharks, dolphins and several species of turtles and migratory birds like Spoon bill and the Chinese crested tern.

We have established a network of 85 protected areas, many of which are passageways of migratory species. It may be noted that these passageway areas are among our successful protected areas.

We are also concentrating now on what we call the rainforest of the sea ... the coral reefs and the marine ecosystem. We have just delineated an area of 15 kilometers from the shoreline in all of our 7,105 islands, during high tide, where commercial fishing are now banned. We expect this to result in increased income for our small fishermen and, at the same time, allow the recovery of our marine ecosystem to support the food supply for migrating mammals, reptiles and birds.

We are proud of our agreement and active collaboration with Malaysia to save migrating marine turtles in a border area where we jointly established the turtle island heritage protected area, with the assistance of WWF. We found out that these same turtles migrate across the Indian Ocean. Last year therefore, we hosted the signing of the Indian Ocean – Southeast Asia Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Marine Turtles attended by 21 countries. During the conference, a memorandum of understanding, under the framework of the CMS, was drawn up.

We are achieving little victories in our conservation efforts, as we know that our colleagues in this conference are also achieving theirs. Many little victories amount to a big victory for our migratory species and, eventually, for our people.

The road ahead:

In the course of our meeting the next few days, we will be discussing many issues, which, we expect, will lead to even bigger victories. And a bigger part of these victories will be based on our ability to follow through existing and initiate new partnerships with our neighbors, our NGO partners and the various multilateral environment agreements.

The challenge before us is to enhance and strengthen our conservation efforts amidst the challenge posed by the agreement in the world summit on sustainable development in johannesburg to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

With this challenge, I would like to welcome you all to this Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties and I know that we will be more enthusiastic and progressive than our colleagues in the Scientific Council.

Thank you very much.

Yousoof Mungroo
AEWA Technical Committee Chair

Your Excellency, the Federal Minister for Environment
Lady Mayor of Bonn

Distinguished delegates

Dear Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure and honour for me as Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds to address this august assembly today.

It is evident that through the years the important role of the CMS as well as the AEWA has been recognised by the Range States. The growing number of Parties to the Convention and the Agreement is clear evidence of this. The number of Parties to AEWA has doubled since MOP1 in 1999 to reach 34 at present. It is foreseen that in coming years this number will grow steadily as the Secretariat is actively working on getting the remaining countries of the AEWA migratory flyway to join the Agreement.

My own home country Mauritius signed and ratified the AEWA in 1999. Just before this meeting the Ambassador of Mauritius in Germany signed the MOU on Marine Turtles for the Indian Ocean and South East Asia. Currently the accession of Mauritius to CMS is in an advance stage. This shows the commitment of my country, which is convinced of the important role the CMS and its Agreements play in the conservation of part of our biodiversity.

As Chairman of the Technical Committee of the AEWA, I would like to urge all Range States to the CMS and the AEWA to join the Multilateral Agreements as soon as possible.

Over the last few years the AEWA Secretariat did its utmost to implement the decisions taken by the previous MOP.

The Secretariat will give a full report on its activities during the MOP. At this stage I will just mention the implementation of many projects foreseen in the AEWA International Implementation Priorities 2000–2004.

This was possible mainly due to the generous financial support from several Contracting Parties and some organisations.

On behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to express our gratitude to these benefactors.

Another substantial project developed during the last three years is the African-Eurasian GEF project. Just after MOP1, Wetlands International received a grant to develop a full size project proposal. Currently this project proposal is being finalized and will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat in early 2003. If everything goes as we expected, an amount of up to US \$ 12 million for the full size project will be approved by mid 2003. This would mean a huge step forward regarding the implementation of the RAMSAR Convention and the AEWA.

With very limited human and financial resources and in spite of its relatively young the Agreement Secretariat has done an excellent job over the last three years. The AEWA Secretariat has become an

interesting Party for example the Ramsar Bureau and Wetlands International. Joint Programmes are under preparation between the Secretariat and these organisations.

Many other activities are under way, unfortunately the limited time allocated to me to address you prevents me to go in more detail on these activities.

At the last AEWA Technical Committee Meeting held earlier this year in Tanzania, the representative of Germany, Mr. Gerhard Adams, made a presentation of the proposal arrangements for the COP7 and MOP2 to the members of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee was impressed by the effort made by the German Government to make the necessary logistical arrangements available.

Right from the beginning, the Secretariat has had the full collaboration and cooperation of the representatives of the German Government and as indicated by the Executive Secretary everything was organised 'grundlich', which means perfect. All of us can witness it in the excellent venue and facilities. Therefore, also on behalf of the Agreement Secretariat, I would like to sincerely thank the Government of Germany for all the efforts made to host this meeting.

I would like to thank the Agreement Secretariat for the incredible amount of work they put in over the last few months. The efforts made by the Government of Germany and the Secretariat form the basis for a good meeting, it is now up to us the participants to give our input and to set the priorities for the Agreement for the next triennium.

Finally, I wish you all a nice and fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Bonn.

CMS COP7 – Opening Ceremony Address, 18 September 2002, Bonn
Dr Claude Martin
Director General
WWF International

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The CMS recognises the role and contribution of NGOs in the fulfilment of its Mission, as well as in the AEWA and other agreements explicitly. I am thus addressing you on behalf of a wider community of civil society organizations active in the relevant fields. More specifically I am today representing the:

- World Conservation Union (IUCN)
- Birdlife International
- Wetlands International
- and of course my own organization WWF–The World Wide Fund For Nature

However, I am aware that the Convention has established a fruitful cooperation with a number of other specialized NGOs such as:

- International Crane Foundation
- Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society
- European Natural Heritage Foundation (EURONATUR)
- Global Nature Fund
- Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeresäugetiere
- Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Dolphine

and a number of others.

Today, it is exactly two weeks since the WSSD in Johannesburg came to a close with a Plan of Implementation, which many NGOs criticized as disappointing, and even government representatives questioned whether we had reached the limits of the multilateral system. On the positive side of the Summit, however, we witnessed an unseen number of forward-looking partnerships between governments, intergovernmental institutions, corporations and NGOs addressing sustainable development and poverty reduction needs in practice, and where the negotiated text fell short of expectations. Johannesburg will primarily be remembered for these new alliances.

A number of these initiatives specifically addressed transfrontier conservation issues – the European Water Initiative or the Congo Basin Partnership are but two examples of such cross-sectoral and trans-frontier initiatives. Somewhere, there was this spirit of "let's do it despite all" – in addition to a fairly ambiguous part in the official text referring to halting the degradation of biodiversity. We have yet to see what comes out of that, but what is increasingly clear, biodiversity loss cannot be stopped without looking at the wider geographic context, the ecoregions, river basins, the global commons and the transfrontier migration of species. If the world community is to become serious about the declarations

made in Johannesburg, it has to invest in cross-border cooperation, support UNEP, the Biodiversity Convention, CITES, Ramsar, the Bonn and Bern Conventions. We all talk of the advantages and downsides of a globalized economy, but environmental thinking and understanding globalized much earlier, when these vitally important multilateral instruments were created. The time has come when governments have to become serious and provide them with the financial means to fulfil their missions, as Germany has demonstrated this morning, to mitigate the negative effects of a globalized economy – and "walk the talk" of Rio and Johannesburg. I am sure the replenishment of the GEF, for which we have been fighting, will help with project funding, e.g. for the AEWA proposal, but the Parties to the Conventions must not use this as an excuse for not providing adequate core budgets.

There are many things the Secretariats of the Convention, or CMS in this case, can do to more effectively address international cooperation and communications, e.g. through the joint Workplan with Ramsar, through the implementation of the recommendations of the Performance Working Group, or the improvement of the evaluation of project proposals – but Secretariats are as effective as they are given the means and are supported by the Parties – not just with words.

The CMS provides a sound basis for transboundary cooperation not least with NGOs, which since Rio alone have invested many hundreds of millions of USD in biodiversity conservation, through its instruments of regional agreements, such as the ones on albatross and petrels, sea turtles and cetaceans. It seems to me that the AEWA in particular, in which Birdlife and Wetlands International have invested with scientific input, offers a real chance in this period after Johannesburg. There remain a number of structural issues to be resolved, such as the International Implementation Priorities and Register of Projects. This is the time to get it right.

According to WWF's Living Planet Report, we have lost one third of the Earth's natural wealth in the last 30 years and the ecological footprint may rise to twice the regenerative capacity of the biosphere in the next 50 years. We don't have much time left to save the bulk of this planet's biodiversity.

Thank you.

**Key Note Address of
UNEP Deputy Executive Director S. Kakakhel
at the Joint Opening Ceremony for the
Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and
the Second Meeting of the Parties to the
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement,
International Congress Centre, Bundeshaus Bonn,
Germany, 18 September 2002**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am honoured to represent Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, this morning at the joint official opening ceremony of the CMS COP-7 and the AEWA MOP-2 being held here in Bonn.
2. Honourable Minister, Mr. Jurgen Trittin - we are grateful for your personal involvement in hosting this conference.

And through you we extend to your Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany our thanks for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded us since our arrival in -- and I happy to say it in your presence, Lady Mayor, dear Ms. Dieckmann -- this beautiful city, Bonn, and for the excellent arrangements made for our deliberations here in this historic building.

3. I wish to thank you as well, Honourable Minister, for your personal attention in bringing about the conclusion of the Headquarters Agreement for the CMS Secretariat reaffirming Germany's support for the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species.
4. Just this morning, You and I signed the Agreement along with Mr Mueller-Helmbrecht, the Executive Secretary. The Agreement formally places the Convention and the Secretariat on equal legal footing with the other UN-based conventions located in Bonn.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The Seventh CMS COP and the Second AEWA MOP are significant events on the global biodiversity agenda, as these are the first major United Nations meetings since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) concluded, exactly a fortnight ago.

The international community has its first opportunity to seize on the momentum generated at Johannesburg where the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity figured prominently.

At the WSSD, Governments agreed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity. It is important that CMS contributes to this as well as other WSSD targets, such as the initiatives for hotspot areas, the development of regional corridors, the

establishment of marine protected areas by 2012, and a UN process for reporting the status of the marine environment by 2004.

We need to consider how exactly CMS will contribute to achieving these targets, and what measures we will put in place to materialize that contribution.

6. One of the important outcomes of the WSSD was a renewed awareness of and commitment to fostering partnerships for achieving the goals of Agenda 21 and now the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The CMS family of instruments is an example of how international Agreements can catalyze partnerships, in this case between States that share migratory species as a common natural heritage. CMS provides the international legal framework for countries to take individual actions on endangered species. But uniquely this Convention combines this with the opportunity for individual actions on endangered and other migratory species to be coordinated through specialized Agreements and action plans.

CMS is the only global UN-based mechanism addressing comprehensively all migratory species.

7. Despite CMS's small size with 80 Parties to date, I wish to stress that the CMS family is actually significantly bigger. Altogether approximately 100 countries in total - both Parties and non-Parties - cooperate in CMS through the main convention and associated Memoranda of Understanding.

The African-Eurasian Water Bird Agreement (AEWA) is a great example of the value the international community places on CMS Agreements.

It is practically a mini-Biodiversity Convention for African-Eurasian Waterbirds. AEWA came into force in 1999 with 14 ratifications and three short years later it has tripled and grown to 35 Parties.

8. Perhaps the best example of how CMS is "ahead of the curve" on a major WSSD outcome is in respect of Africa's sustainable development. African migratory species have always figured prominently in CMS's work.

Six of CMS's thirteen instruments comprise African Range States as Parties or State signatories.

CMS Instruments address 6 species of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes in Africa through an Action Plan; 7 species of marine turtles on the western and eastern coasts through two MoUs; 10 species of cetaceans off the North African coast through ACCOBAMS; and through AEWA over 100 species of migratory waterbirds moving within Africa and between Africa and Eurasia. Future work to develop additional CMS Instruments will include the African elephant and the Monk seal.

CMS is also actively participating in UNEP's conservation and development initiative "GRASP" for the great apes of Africa and the communities in the range states.

9. A second important WSSD outcome was a new political consensus that significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity “is a priority to achieve sustainable livelihoods for all”.

When he last spoke to this forum in 1999, Dr. Klaus Töpfer stressed that CMS and AEWA must concern themselves deeply with the human dimensions of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, because biodiversity is closely correlated with both cultural and spiritual values.

He also noted that species conservation and the conservation of their ecosystems must be linked to the eradication of poverty, which he described as the “most poisonous commodity in the world.”

CMS is also contributing to this goal.

10. It is gratifying that CMS is working globally to make the link with the issue of poverty and acting upon it.

I would like to give two examples. First, we in UNEP share CMS’ concerns about the apparent collapse in the numbers of Saiga Antelope - from over a million animals only a decade ago to perhaps less than 90,000 today. The CMS publication for WSSD “*Biodiversity in Motion*” describes how poaching, illegal trade in the horns of Saiga antelope and uncontrolled hunting, have contributed to its recent decline.

The case of the Saiga also illustrates another issue which remains high on the international agenda following WSSD – the need for collaboration between international agencies, especially those working in related fields. CMS and CITES are well-placed to take a major role not only by giving protection to this species in the species listing under the Conventions, but as members of a global partnership to implement the necessary action to halt the headlong decline of this species which is valuable from both economic and conservation standpoints.

11. The second example is the CMS Action Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes.

This Action Plan will not only benefit the species and the ecosystems where they are found but most importantly it will also benefit the people that coexist with these animals in some of the most extreme conditions on the planet through improved rangeland, the supply of meat and possibly eco-tourism dollars.

The French GEF has recently contributed financially to this Action Plan which will help 7 of the 14 Range States organize their collective and individual activities to restore the range and numbers of 6 highly endangered antelopes. I wish to express UNEP's and CMS's deep appreciation to the French Government for the contribution.

In short, CMS demonstrates that migratory species conservation and sustainable use can make tangible contributions to poverty eradication.

12. Another major WSSD outcome was the renewed political recognition that the world's marine fisheries are unsustainable exploited. There is a new political commitment to achieve sustainable fisheries, especially the restoration of depleted stocks, by 2015. Gauging the sustainability of a fishery must be based not only on direct impacts on the fish themselves, but also the impacts the fishery has on other animals.

13. It is gratifying to note that since the Capetown COP in 1999, CMS has been at the forefront of efforts to minimise by-catch of seabirds and marine turtles, both within a coastal State's maritime zones and on the high seas.

For example, MoUs and comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans addressing by-catch have been finalised for turtles of the West African Coast and in the Indian Ocean as well as Southeast Asia.

What's more, since Capetown, the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was concluded to protect these magnificent birds in the Southern Hemisphere.

III. CMS Then and Now: An ever Growing Convention with a Clear Focus on Implementation

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. The picture of CMS that emerges is that of an evergrowing Convention with a clear focus on, and a steady resolve towards implementation.

It may be recalled that in 1992, when the international community met in Rio, CMS was seven years old. Only three Agreements had been concluded under its auspices by then: Wadden Seals, EUROBATS and ASCOBANS.

Today, ten years later, and two weeks after Johannesburg, there are six formal CMS Agreements, and six (less formal) Memoranda of Understanding and one Action Plan.

These are important stand-alone achievements. But CMS cannot and does not work alone. CMS instruments cut across almost all of the CBD thematic programmes and crosscutting themes with a high level of complementarity. A comprehensive draft joint CBD/CMS work programme is before you. CBD COP 6 has recognised CMS as "lead partner" on migratory species conservation and sustainable use.

15. Since 1999, CMS has been working hard to "formalise" relationships with other instruments such as the International Whaling Commission. MoUs with CITES and UNESCO will be signed this evening.

In all cases, CMS brings to these other fora a comprehensive approach for migratory species conservation and sustainable use.

In essence, CMS broad-based, yet focussed approach takes over where other instruments may be too general to be specific-enough for migratory species, or focus on a single threat or habitat type.

16. CMS has been hard at work to better link information technologies and management to its activities to support implementation. In this regard, UNEP/WCMC has played a key role in realising the potential of information management for CMS work. The concrete evidence of all this work is before you at this meeting.

17. Another major example of information technology for conservation management is the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS).

Honourable Minister, I am very happy to acknowledge that your government has played the lead role in the research and development phase of the Global Register.

Accordingly, GROMS is well-placed to serve as:

- (i) a specialised CMS database;
- (ii) a publicly accessible information platform;
- (iii) a tool for any research work on migratory species; and
- (iv) a specialised database for other international instruments and programmes.

18. CMS has also been a strong proponent of harmonization of reporting and information management for the global biodiversity-related treaties, and continues to work closely with UNEP. The early results of our pilot studies in harmonization of reporting are available at this Conference, but we will need support, including financial support, if we are to create genuine synergies within the system.

IV. Moving Beyond the WSSD

Distinguished Delegates,

Before and during the WSSD, the press was filled with all shades of views about the achievements or redemption of promises of governments since Rio.

Of course, there have been achievements, frustrations and even failures.

But a closer examination would have found that Rio catalysed a wealth of awareness and action globally.

It is my belief that in the final analysis, it may well be stated with due justification that the CMS has led the charge for global action on migratory species.

I wish all of you a most productive and intellectually stimulating conference.

Thank you very much.

WELCOMING ADDRESS – HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, or simply the CMS, has for more than 20 years now been a splendid champion of those species, often especially vulnerable, which cross and re-cross the planet on their regular migrations. In carrying out this work, the Convention was one of the first of a handful of global treaties that focus on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and play a major role in helping to maintain the natural base of human life. For these reasons, the CMS deserves the full support of us all, and I am delighted to be able to send this message of support at the beginning of its Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The CMS came into being thanks to the leadership of the Federal Republic of Germany, with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and with the assistance of the World Conservation Union. Germany, and the city of Bonn, have continued to make a generous commitment to the Convention, acting as the Depositary, housing the Secretariat since its establishment in 1984 and hosting the first Meeting in 1985. Now the Conference of the Parties has returned to the city of Bonn once more, and I am confident that its business will prosper as a result.

So, what has been achieved in these 20 years or so? Clearly, a great deal. We have only to look at the several Agreements reached under the Convention, and the direct conservation action that they have enabled. As one example, I would cite the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea - that biologically rich, marine area shared by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. In the late 1980's, the Agreement played a vital role in helping to control the ravages of distemper, which regularly affects this population of seals. Indeed, the continuing efforts of the Agreement are needed again now as the disease has recurred this year. Other successful Agreements covering mammals, concluded over the years, are those on European Bats and on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas, and these are acting as models for the creation of regional agreements in other parts of the world, such as an Agreement on the Cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Birds have certainly not been neglected. The African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement is the largest and most important instrument of flyway conservation worldwide, and a model of how an international treaty can gain momentum in its implementation. Its Second Meeting of the Parties will follow immediately on from this meeting of its parent convention here in Bonn.

I have taken particular note of the recent development, under the leadership of the governments of Australia and South Africa, of an Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. These sea-wanderers have developed their astounding powers of navigation over millions of years, but are now threatened by man - in particular, by (and I quote the Preamble of the Agreement) “use and abandonment of non-selective fishing gear and by incidental mortality as a result of commercial fishing activities”. BirdLife International has had my support for its campaign to find solutions to these problems. I am pleased to sustain that support by calling upon the world community, and especially the governments of the Range States and those with relevant fishing fleets, with the help of international organisations, to ratify the Agreement and to get it working so as to reduce as soon as possible the factors which have brought these splendid birds to the brink of extinction.

The development of these Agreements, and a great deal of other work, relating to both endangered and non-endangered migratory species, is greatly to the credit of the Convention. There is, however, a lot more to do. Of some five thousand known migratory species, only a few hundred so far benefit from the organised, cross-border approach of the CMS. Furthermore, as we are all aware, the pressure on the natural world is growing relentlessly. According to the estimates of a recent study, the biosphere now needs a year and three months to renew what humanity takes from it in a single year. Whatever the accuracy of such estimates, I have the feeling that the trend indicated is correct. All countries should do their utmost, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, to reverse that trend and to return to a situation where we keep our consumption within the Earth's regenerative capacity - in other words, to return to sustainability.

CMS has a prominent role to play in this, by working to guarantee the survival of migratory species. It can help to conserve vital habitats, combat over-exploitation and guard against man-made obstacles along the migration routes. It can bring species back to a favourable conservation status, both for their own sakes and so that they may contribute to humanity's needs, including poverty alleviation and equal and shared use of natural resources in a world at peace. Your work is of vital importance to all who care about the planet.

My best wishes go to those assembled at this seventh Conference of the Parties - from governments, international organizations, NGOs and other bodies. Your energy and determination is urgently needed to ensure the future of our migratory species.