



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



## THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

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### *Note by the Secretariat*

Under this cover are reproduced project concepts for possible priority conservation and research activities to be implemented in the period 2006-2008 under the auspices of CMS.

Most of the proposals have been submitted by members of the Scientific Council, in response to a call made by the Secretariat. A few proposals have been produced by the Secretariat.

The present document includes project concepts produced in the format recommended by the Secretariat. They are grouped according to the traditional subdivision in taxonomic Working Groups within the Scientific Council.

A few other proposals have been received in a different format. They will be distributed separately within the relevant taxonomic working groups.



## BIRDS

<b>Ruddy-headed Goose conservation in Argentina and Chile. Working to educate local communities</b>	<b>Justification:</b> Appendix I / Concerted Actions species	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>The Ruddy-headed Goose <i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i> (RHG from now on) is the smallest austral geese (<i>Chloephaga</i> spp.) inhabiting southern South America. The mainland population of this goose migrates between its breeding grounds in southern Patagonia of Chile and Argentina and its wintering quarters in southern Buenos Aires province, in Argentina. This population has seriously decreased since the end of the 50's and a recent study developed by Wetlands International in 1999-2000 has estimated its current size in around 900-1,000 birds. This population was listed in the CMS Convention's Appendix I and was designated as a "Concerted Action" species (Resolutions 4.2 and 5.1). In spite of legal protection in Argentina and Chile, many factors continue threatening the survival of the endangered goose. The lack of adequate nesting places reducing fox predation appears to be the main factor within the breeding areas, while sport hunting and the persecution by farmers is the main factor threatening the species during the migration and wintering periods. Particularly, in southern Buenos Aires province the current level of hunting and the lack of controls is threatening the survival of the RHG mainland population. Today its conservation depends on the close cooperation between local farmers, hunters, wildlife managers and other stakeholders to reduce the level of conflict and to educate local communities. This project aims to bring the mainland population of the RHG to a more favorable conservation status by different actions to be developed within the species distribution range. We identified the following working areas for next years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey / monitoring of the RHG breeding and wintering areas in Argentina and Chile, to compare with previous counts and to update the current population size.</li> <li>• Work with local farmers, park rangers and other local stakeholders to protect the species during the wintering period in Buenos Aires province and to control geese hunting within the RHG wintering range.</li> <li>• Education / awareness raising activities in cooperation with local stakeholders to educate local communities and farmers about RHG conservation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	Wetlands International, Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de Argentina, Dirección de Recursos Naturales de la provincia de Buenos Aires, Aves Argentinas and researchers from Argentina and Chile	
<b>Project duration</b>	1 year	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	\$20,000	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	Projects funded by CMS in the past to collect baseline information about the species, to monitor its population size, and to implement conservation actions in Argentina and Chile.	

<b>Assessing Site Specific Annual Survival of Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>) at their wintering sites in Tierra del Fuego.</b>	<b>Justification:</b> Appendix II / Appendix I to be considered by the COP	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>The New World subspecies of Red Knots (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>) is one of the world's longest distance migrants, breeding in the Arctic and wintering in South America at two main places, Tierra de Fuego in the southern tip of the continent and Maranhao, Brazil, in the north. Surveys on the main wintering areas on the coasts of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego (Argentina and Chile) showed a 45% decline from 2000 onwards (González et al. 2004, Morrison et al. 2004). This dramatic decline had been related to a limitation of their food, horseshoe crab eggs (<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>), due to their overfishing at Delaware Bay, USA, as well as the late arrivals from the birds coming from South America (Baker et al. 2004). The dramatic decline in numbers continued, with a strong reduction in the aerial census counts of 30,000 in 2004 to 18,000 in January 2005 (R.I.G. Morrison in litt.) being the numbers contracted to two key wintering areas: Bahía Lomas (Chile) and Rio Grande (Argentina). This project aims to estimate site specific annual survival of the Tierra del Fuego population to determine if contraction in numbers is due to lower survival of Bahía Lomas knots (meaning a local conservation problem), or to a buffer effect where birds are moving to a core area (Rio Grande). Annual survival will be estimated from capture-recapture data collected by resightings of color banded knots at wintering and stopover areas in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego which will be analyzed integrated with databases from previous years. Results will be used to delineate site specific conservation actions.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	Fundación Inalafquen, Royal Ontario Museum, WHSRN, Birdlife International, Aves Argentinas, CENPAT, WI, Univ. Patagonia Austral.	
<b>Project duration</b>	1 year	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	USD 20,000	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>		

<b>Monitoring the Olog's Gull migration in southern South America</b>	<b>Justification:</b> Appendix I	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>The Olog's Gull (<i>Larus atlanticus</i>) is a migratory species endemic from southern South America, which distributes in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. It is considered a "Vulnerable" species and was recently included in the CMS's Appendix I, with a population size estimated in around 7,000 birds. The species main breeding areas are well identified, but important gaps remain regarding its migratory route and main wintering sites. The aim of this project is to improve the knowledge regarding the Olog's Gull migration in southern South America, forward the implementation of conservation actions within the species whole distribution range. The specific objectives are: 1) to study the migration based on banding activities, 2) to identify the species main wintering areas in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, 3) to create a birdwatchers network to monitor the species migration in the three countries, and 4) to raise awareness within local communities regarding the critical status of this gull. Planned activities include: a) a banding programme to be implemented in the breeding areas, b) monitoring activities during the non-reproductive period, and c) preparation of outreach material to distribute within local communities.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina, Dirección de Recursos Naturales de la provincia de Buenos Aires and researchers from Uruguay and Brazil.	
<b>Project duration</b>	1 year	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	\$17,200	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>		

<b>Contribute to the proposed GEF Project Cooperation in Conservation: Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)</b>	<b>Justification:</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>The goal of the proposed 5-year, US\$15m project (\$5m GEF, \$10m co-financing) is to build upon existing WHMSI efforts and significantly enhance the conservation of shared migratory species throughout the Americas by strengthening institutional and human capacity, political commitment, international cooperation, and public-private partnerships at regional, national and local levels. WHMSI objectives include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Build country capacity</u> to conserve and manage migratory wildlife and its habitat, enforce national wildlife laws and meet international obligations.</li> <li>• <u>Strengthen wildlife administration</u> through training programs.</li> <li>• <u>Raise public awareness</u> of the ecological, economic and cultural importance of migratory species and the need to conserve them.</li> <li>• <u>Promote coordination and partnerships</u> to facilitate information sharing, monitoring and research.</li> <li>• <u>Exchange scientific and technical expertise</u> through collaborative projects and other efforts to build capacity in human and technological resources;</li> <li>• Identify effective ways to <u>counter threats</u> to migratory species, including inadequate land use planning, habitat loss and invasive species.</li> </ul>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	<p>This proposal has been prepared and endorsed by the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative's Interim Steering Committee, including:</p> <p>Government representatives from the following countries: United States (Chair), Colombia, Costa Rica, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay; International Conventions: Wetlands (Ramsar), Migratory Species (CMS), Inter-American Marine Turtles, and Specially Protected Areas of the Caribbean (SPAW); and International NGOs: Birdlife International, American Birding Conservancy, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and World Wildlife Fund.</p> <p>In addition, the proposal has been shared with and received preliminary support from contributor countries such as Canada, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago. Ecuador and Panama have sent additional letters of support for WHMSI</p>	
<b>Project duration</b>	5 years	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	US\$15 million project (\$5m GEF, \$10m co-financing); CMS contribution: USD 300,000	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	<p>To be confirmed but including:</p> <p>Survey work and training workshops that build the skills to survey priority migratory species to determine conservation and management priorities and their execution</p> <p>Creation of a tools for coordinated management across a migratory range of selected migratory species, including Agreements and Action Plans</p> <p>Other activities to be defined in consultation with CMS Parties from the region as part of the WHMSI process</p>	

<b>Investigate Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i> migration routes and abundance in its non-breeding African range and the origin of the African wintering population</b>	<b>Justification:</b> CMS SP 1.1 COP Res. 5.1	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>The Lesser Kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>) is a migratory globally threatened species which has shown a rapid and major decline across much of its breeding (Biber 1996) and wintering ranges (Pepler 1999). Research on the limiting factors of the Lesser Kestrel has been carried out in many breeding areas, together with standard surveys and habitat management. But, there is not clear understanding of the migration routes and wintering areas of the different populations. The purpose is to co-ordinate and merge different research groups in order to improve the knowledge by building an international network of Lesser Kestrel data collection and standardizing research methodology. The network should include: an international Lesser Kestrel ringing scheme that will work with a common data pool, extensive work on the wintering roost sites and exploration of other techniques such as stable isotope analyses of feathers and genetic blood analysis. The objectives of the project are in line with the Action Plan for the Lesser Kestrel prepared by BirdLife International on behalf of the CMS in July 2000. It will in particular contribute to the achievement of the following objectives of the Action Plan: 3. 1. Monitoring and surveying, 3. 3. Investigate origin of wintering population in South Africa and 3.7. Information exchange, 4. Promote awareness of the Lesser Kestrel and its conservation.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	SPNI, LIPU, LPO, SEO, BirdLifeSA, BirdLife African Division, University of Stellenbosch (SA)	
<b>Project duration</b>	3 years	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	USD 150,000 (50K per year)	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	<p>An Action Plan for the Lesser Kestrel was prepared under the aegis of CMS. Allocate funding to undertake baseline survey in two key African countries in the wintering range, including the mapping of wintering grounds, training, setting up of co-ordinating mechanisms (a project proposal along these lines has been submitted for the consideration of ScC11) ca. 40,000 USD</p>	

## MARINE MAMMALS

WDCS continues to support the proposal to conduct a Workshop on biology and assessment of status of small cetaceans of the southwest Indian Ocean as previously submitted to the CMS SC.

<b>Two regional workshops for local/regional cetacean researchers participating in the various base-line cetacean surveys throughout the Bay of Bengal.</b>	<b>Justification:</b> CMS Resolution 7.2	<b>Project ID:</b> WDCS 3
<p>A joint WDCS/WCS/CMS project has already commenced cetacean surveys in the Bay of Bengal region, with the aim to eventually survey the coastal and offshore waters of Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia, and the inland waters of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh where cetaceans occur. The goal is to work towards the development of an appropriate regional mechanism to address cetacean conservation issues under the auspices of CMS.</p> <p>The project has, so far, achieved initial surveys in Bangladesh and Myanmar and conducted a training course for South Asian scientists in Myanmar.</p> <p>Two workshops will be held in 2006 and 2008 involving the various cetacean researchers who participated in the various base-line cetacean surveys conducted throughout the Bay of Bengal. (Bangladesh – Feb. 2004; Myanmar – Feb/March 2005; India – TBC; Sri Lanka – TBC). The workshop will assess the data collected to date and will draw together the various stakeholders to review the cetacean survey programme, and to develop recommendations that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. identify critical research requirements and conservation measures needed to protect threatened species and populations;</li> <li>b. develop regionally appropriate techniques for monitoring populations and mortality and for mitigating identified threats;</li> <li>c. create a technical support network for scientists and conservationists involved with cetacean conservation;</li> </ol> <p><b>Location:</b> - Bangladesh</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	WDCS, WCS	
<b>Project duration</b>	3 years	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	US\$100,000 (approximately US\$45,000 per workshop, plus US\$10,000 for resource materials)	
<b>CMS Seed activity</b> (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)		

<b>Conduct a regional training course on population and bycatch assessment techniques for coastal cetaceans and supervising local-scientist-led research and mitigation projects.</b>	<b>Justification:</b> Recommendation 7.4 Resolution 6.2/Recommendation 7.2	<b>Project ID:</b> WDCS 5
<p>Progress on reducing the conservation impact of cetacean bycatch has been limited to a few specific fisheries or circumstances. As a result, bycatch remains perhaps the greatest immediate threat to cetacean populations globally. The short-term goal of this project is to equip Asian scientists with the skills they need to tackle severe bycatch problems in their region before they get worse. The long-term goal is to create a cadre of local experts in Asia capable of leading conservation efforts. The project is intended to be conducted collaboratively with the US-World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and WCS, and the underpinning for it will be the prioritization of cetacean bycatch problems conducted by a working group from the US-WWF Cetacean Bycatch Task Force. Working with the task force and other colleagues from WCS and WWF, we will identify the best qualified people to carry out actions to assess and reduce cetacean bycatch in Asia, determine what skills they need to be most effective, and</p>		

<p>then organize a hands-on training program for them. After the training, participants will submit proposals for projects identified in the prioritization. The best ones will receive funding. Local scientists will work collaboratively with task force members, putting their enhanced skills to use immediately and strategically. During the first year of the project we will conduct at least one training program and support two to three local-scientist-led projects.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> - TBC (either Thailand or Bangladesh)</p>	
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/ sponsors</b>	WDCS
<b>Project duration</b>	3 years
<b>Indicative budget</b>	US\$90,000 (US\$45,000 workshop; US\$15,000 per annum per local-scientist-led project)
<b>CMS Seed activity</b> (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)	

<p><b>Regional workshops for local/regional cetacean researchers and platform of opportunity cetacean observation programme in the central west Pacific Region (Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands)</b></p>	<p><b>Justification:</b> Resolution 7.2</p>	<p><b>Project ID:</b> WDCS 10</p>
<p>Building on the expertise within the CMS network, workshops such as those held in South and South-East Asia for training in identification, strandings, survey design and implementation will be conducted. Two 5-day workshops (including 2-day cruise) to include training on identification, how to handle strandings, by-catch assessment, and survey techniques are proposed. Once training is completed, observers would then work from platform of opportunities such as foreign fishing vessels, or fisheries patrol vessels that could be a useful.</p> <p>There is a particular need for baseline information for Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Together this region constitutes an enormous EEZ. It is acknowledged that surveying the entire EEZ would be a complex and expensive undertaking, and a step-by-step approach is needed, in which local people, fishers and government agencies play a part.</p> <p>An initial desktop study will be completed in early 2005 to provide a baseline set of known information. The data would be collected and maintained by WDCS in once centralized location. WDCS would work to secure suitable platforms of opportunity.</p> <p>There is also a crucial need for fisheries observers, local researchers etc. to have a comprehensive “species guide” to assist them in their research. WDCS will collaborate with other species-experts such as Birdlife International and the IUCN Turtle specialist group, to compile a multi-species Observers guide, to be used by researchers in the field utilising a variety of platforms of opportunity.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> - Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/ sponsors</b>	WDCS	
<b>Project duration</b>	3 years	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	US\$100,000 (\$45,000 workshop, \$10,000 Observers guide, \$15,000/annum to maintain data and pay observer expenses)	
<b>CMS Seed activity</b> (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)		

## TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS AND BATS

<b>Initiate the concerted action on Asian desert and semi-desert mammals.</b>	<b>Justification:</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>Desert and sub-desert terrestrial faunas have been demonstrated to be a particularly appropriate field for CMS. The Convention is practically international instrument with extensive interest and experience in the field. The central Asian mammal fauna is that respect, after the Sahelo-Saharan one, the most important in the world. It is also a natural extension of its North African counterpart. A number of keystone and flagship migratory species have their main centre of occurrence in the desert zones of Central Asia. Most of those migratory species are highly threatened. Several belong to Appendices of the Convention, others need to be added. All can be immediately included in a concerted action.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	Mongolian Academy of Sciences, IRSNB, WCS, Bactrian Camel Foundation, Bukhara Deer Foundation.	
<b>Project duration</b>	18 months	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	100000 US dollars, of which 25000 US dollars contributed by collaborating organisations.	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	<p>Development of status reports for each species, with updating of information in each Range State.            Preparation of applications for inclusion in the appendices of the Convention.            Drafting of an action plan, which should include; habitat conservation and restoration measures; actions to curb illegal taking, including support in non Range States, public awareness, additional surveys.            Organisation of a Range States meeting to finalise the action plan.            Preparation of regional projects</p>	

<b>Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action</b>	<b>Justification:</b> CMS SSA Action Plan implementation	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>Continuation of implementation of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action Action Plan. Complementary activities in Range States concerned by the FFEM project to insure a perenisation of its results after its completion. Preparation in other Range States of projects amenable to funding by other agencies. Completion and updating of the information instrument of the Concerted Action.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	DCFAP (Chad), Libya Foundation, African Parks, IRSNB, EU Commission	
<b>Project duration</b>	18 months	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	25.000 US dollars	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consolidation of projects in State partners to FFEM/CMS project: 5.000 dollars</li> <li>2. Consolidation and maintenance of the Concerted Action geographical information system and communication tools: 10.000 dollars</li> <li>3. Preparation of projects in non FFEM States: 10.000 dollars</li> </ol>	

<b>Support for on-going conservation and monitoring measures to re-establish Bukhara Deer in transboundary territories of the Zarafshan River Valley (Uzbekistan-Tajikistan), Amudarya (Tajikistan-Afghanistan, Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan) and Syrdarya (Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan)</b>	<b>Justification:</b> CMS SP 1.1	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>Bukhara Deer was threatened with extinction at the end of the previous century (350 animal in numerous small populations throughout the species area). Special measures undertaken lead to population stabilization and growth (800 in 2004). Main populations develop in transboundary areas – major river valleys of Central Asian region. Amudaria populations seriously suffer from artificially regulated floods in wet years, migrating across the river from one country to another, and leaving the protected areas for agricultural lands. Besides special measures to protect the existing populations, reintroduction has been initiated in the areas previously inhabited by Bukhara Deer: Syrdarya (last deer in natural populations registered in 1962) and Zarafshan (1950-th). Tajik part of Zarafshan population was re-established in 1972-78, but there was no information on the deer survival in 1990-th. In 2005 the first group of deer was set free in Uzbek part of Zarafshan river valley, simultaneously some traces of deer migrations from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan were registered.</p> <p>It is planned both to continue practical activities on Bukhara Deer conservation and re-introduction in the key areas (Syrdaria and Zarafshn), and to conduct regular monitoring of deer migrations, expanding the area - in order to identify needs in the development of transboundary protected area system, special measures on deer protection in the area of state borders, etc. The countries of the region have confirmed their preparedness to establish such a system by adopting the draft of the Econet scheme, developed by WWF, which includes all transboundary river valleys as core areas or important ecological corridors.</p> <p>Collaboration among Governments and NGOs is assured through the <i>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of Bukhara Deer</i></p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	WWF International, active national NGOs, State Committee of Forestry and Protected areas (Uzbekistan), Ministry of Nature Conservation (Tajikistan), Ministry of Nature Conservation (Turkmenistan), State Committee of Forestry and Protected Areas (Kazakhstan), National Academies of Sciences; Disney Fund, Minnesota Zoo.	
<b>Project duration</b>	3 years	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	\$150,000 (50K per year)	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	Production in cooperation with CMS in 2002 of <i>Action Plan on Bukhara deer conservation and restoration</i> .	

<b>Faire un bilan de la situation des espèces migratrices de chauves-souris en Côte d'Ivoire</b> <b>Déterminer leur éthologie</b> <b>Proposer un statut de protection dans la législation ivoirienne</b>	<b>Justification :</b>	<b>Identification de Projet :</b>
<p>Plusieurs espèces de chauves-souris vivent en Côte d'Ivoire, dans plusieurs biotopes. Il existe des espèces de moyenne et petite taille. Leur écologie serait intéressant à connaître afin d'établir leur statut. Dans plusieurs milieux (naturels ou anthropiques) des colonies de chauves-souris sont observées. Certaines petites espèces vivent même en compagnies des hommes, c'est-à-dire dans les agglomérations, s'abritent notamment sous les toits en paille des cases.</p> <p>D'autres espèces de taille moyenne sont observées dans les arbres en grandes colonies, aussi bien en milieu naturel qu'en agglomération. L'exemple de la colonie des chauves-souris du Plateau, un quartier de la ville d'Abidjan, capitale économique de la Côte d'Ivoire où se trouvent en grande partie les services administratifs.</p> <p>Il est important et nécessaire de mener une étude qualitative pour déterminer les espèces et leur biotope. Assurer un suivi rationnel des espèces de chauves souris migratrices.</p> <p>Le projet vise à identifier les différents sites et les différentes espèces de chauve souris migratrices vivant en Côte d'Ivoire, étudier l'étiologie de ces espèces (notamment en matière d'endémisme ou de migration).</p> <p>Le projet prévoit également d'évaluer le niveau de menace s'exerçant sur ces espèces afin de proposer un statut de protection dans la législation ivoirienne et leur inscription sur la liste des espèces protégées par la CMS.</p>		
<b>Organisations/sponsors de collaboration possible</b>	Etat de Côte d'Ivoire	
<b>Durée du projet</b>	12 mois	
<b>Budget indicatif</b>	\$ 92 000	
<b>Activités menées par CMS</b>	Ce projet étant à sa première phase, la CMS n'a mené aucune action dans ce domaine.	

## TURTLES

<b>LEATHERBACK TURTLES IN SW ATLANTIC: GENETIC COMPOSITION, ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Justification:</b> CMS SP 1.1 COP7 Rec. 7.2 – Rec. 7.6	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>Leatherback turtles (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) are the most widely distributed of reptiles occurring throughout tropical, as well as temperate and cold oceans of the world (Carr 1952; Pritchard, 1971); yet little is known about this species' basic biology in the marine environment. The incidental killing of leatherbacks by commercial fisheries has been implicated in the dramatic decline at major leatherback nesting beaches around the world (Eckert 1997). Thus, leatherback turtles are currently listed as Critically Endangered (IUCN 2004) and may be facing imminent extinction in the Pacific (Spotila et al. 2000). We propose to investigate the biology of leatherbacks at southern latitudes (Uruguayan-Argentinean common fishing zone and adjacent waters) and identify potential threats to turtles in these areas by considering information from entanglement records and also by collecting environmental data such as temperature, salinity and depth. To date, there is no available information regarding the beach origin of the individuals of <i>D. coriacea</i> encountered along this region. Thus, in this proposal we pretend to perform genetic studies to elucidate their beach origin and also to asses which contributing stocks aggregate to feed over this vast area. A recent initiative “<i>Movements of Atlantic leatherback turtles – steps toward by-catch reduction and trans-oceanic cooperation for conservation</i>” has been launched this year with the deployment of sat tags on leatherbacks from French Guiana, Suriname, Panama, and Gabon nesting beaches and off the coast of Uruguay. This represents the first effort to document movements of leatherbacks from southern countries in the Atlantic such as Uruguay and Gabon in order to address travel route information about the trans-oceanic movements of leatherback turtles. As a result the present proposal also will help to fill those gaps in knowledge by the use of molecular techniques and complementary ecological and environmental information for the subsequent development of conservation measures to protect this species.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	Argentina: Fundación Aquamarina, Fundación Mundo Marino, Proyecto Peyú, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Pesqueras, Programa de investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas de Argentina – PRICTMA, Acuario de Buenos Aires, University of Buenos Aires and Coordinación de Conservación de la Biodiversidad ( Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable). Uruguay: Proyecto Karumbé, Direccion Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos, Dirección de Recursos Naturales Renovables (Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca).	
<b>Project duration</b>	1 year	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	\$19,900	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	CMS provided funds for the initiative “ <i>Movements of Atlantic leatherback turtles – steps toward by-catch reduction and trans-oceanic cooperation for conservation</i> ”.	

<b>Undertake essential baseline mapping of nesting beaches and feeding grounds, and assess the nature and extent of exploitation and threats to marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa</b>	<b>Justification:</b> MT-AFR MoU	<b>Project ID:</b>
<p>Marine turtles are thought to be numerous along much of the Atlantic coast of Africa, extending some 14,000 km from Morocco to South Africa, including nesting sites, feeding areas and migration corridors of importance for six species. While interest in basic research and conservation activities in a number of countries has grown considerably in recent years, the gaps in knowledge of marine turtle distribution and abundance remain vast, particularly in countries with long, uninhabited coastlines. This project will provide for systematic aerial and ground surveys of the coastline, beginning with countries thought to have high concentrations of marine turtles, and will identify critical habitats for the species. Building on information already collected and presented in <i>Biogeography and Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa</i> (J. Fretey, 2001), parallel surveys will be undertaken using a harmonised methodology to collect more detailed information on the nature and extent of exploitation and threats to marine turtles (especially on nesting beaches, development of habitats and feeding areas) along the Atlantic coast of Africa. Collaboration among Governments and NGOs is assured through the <i>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa</i>.</p>		
<b>Possible collaborating organizations/sponsors</b>	Conservation International, WWF International, UNESCO-MAB, active national NGOs	
<b>Project duration</b>	2 years	
<b>Indicative budget</b>	\$120,000	
<b>CMS Seed activity (funding needs are indicated, where applicable)</b>	Production by CMS in 2001 of <i>Biogeography and Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa</i> (J. Fretey)	