



## PRESS RELEASE

### CMS Welcomes Yemen to be 100th Party

Bonn, 17 January 2007 – It is Party-time today as CMS celebrates the accession of Yemen, which took effect on 1 December 2006. Yemen's Minister for the Environment, Mr. Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani, Jochen Flasbarth, Director General of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Lady Mayor of Bonn; Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann, are key-note speakers at the 100<sup>th</sup> Party Party. To mark the accession of Yemen and that of Angola as 99<sup>th</sup> Party the German Ministry for the Environment and the CMS Secretariat joined forces to host a reception at CMS Headquarters at Langer Eugen, Bonn.

Yemen has a huge variety of natural habitats and species including many endemic examples. Yemen's coastal and marine ecosystems with extensive mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass areas are of major importance. More than 70 recorded land mammal species, such as the Idmi or Arabian Mountain Gazelle and the Oryx Antelope, constitute a kaleidoscopic biodiversity typical of this region. A variety of marine mammals inhabit Yemeni waters, among them the Dugong and several species of dolphins and whales especially along the Red Sea coast. The Year of the Dolphin will offer many possibilities for cooperation on this topic.

The Convention is continuing to recruit parties across the globe. The Secretariat believes that the accession of 13 new Parties during the past two years is no coincidence: Since early 2005 the Convention has been conducting a concerted campaign to improve its visibility and targeted outreach and communication plan.

CMS now hopes to recruit further countries of key importance for their biodiversity such as China and Russia. The CMS Secretariat and Germany, the host country and Depositary, are working to inform and involve these target countries.

“Germany is very proud of hosting the secretariat of this growing Convention. The CMS Secretariat follows a modern and effective way of implementing its work and involving its Parties. This has encouraged some of them to be more pro-active. Germany will continue to assist the CMS Secretariat in recruiting more Parties and in supporting the work of CMS and its Agreements. CMS can become a shining example of efficient management and coherence within the UN system”, says Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for the Environment of Germany.

Robert Hepworth, CMS Executive Secretary added: 'I would like to pay tribute to the continuing commitment of the Federal Ministry for the Environment for actively supporting the Convention. Today we are very pleased to welcome Yemen as the 100<sup>th</sup> Party to the Convention. We look forward to increasing our presence and work in this region. The accession of Yemen marks another stage in the development of a global environmental agreement that can implement transboundary management of wildlife in all regions across the world. Yemen host key species that are an important natural resource and part of our heritage such as whales, dolphins and dugongs.’’

CMS will soon follow up the accession of Yemen with official visits to the Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions of Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Iraq in Berlin in order to improve the conservation of migratory animals in this region.