

## UNEP/ CMS Mission to Swaziland



**Bonn, 25 August 2009** – CMS Information and Capacity-Building Officer, Francisco Rilla paid a visit to Swaziland on 21 August to meet officials and to promote the country's accession to the Convention and AEWA. The visit was organised through Titus Dlamini, the Chief Executive Officer of the Swaziland National Trust Commission.

In Mbabane, Swaziland's capital located in the Mdimba Mountains, he met Macford Sibandze, Honourable Minister for Tourism and Environmental Affairs and Mrs. Lucy Dlamini, Principal Secretary. He later met the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Clifford Mamba to discuss the benefits of CMS and AEWA membership for Swaziland. Additionally, he addressed the country's CBD Focal Point, Dr. Jameson D. Vilakati, Executive Director of the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA). The officials showed considerable interest in CMS and AEWA as well as other biodiversity MEAs.

Despite the country's relatively small size, a great number of migratory species can be found within the borders of Swaziland. Wildlife reserves such as Malolotja and Hlane Royal National Park are protected areas well known for wildlife watching. Two species of mammal that occur in Swaziland are listed under Appendix II of CMS, the African Elephant and the African wild dog.

Many bird species of special interest for CMS and AEWA can be found in Swaziland. Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species includes three bird species found in Swaziland, namely the Lesser Kestrel, the Blue Swallow and the Maccoa Duck. Fifty-four bird species found in Swaziland are listed in Appendix II of CMS, including the Osprey, Greater Flamingo, Woolly-necked Stork and the rare Wattled Crane.

Swaziland is of great importance to many AEWA species. Of 85 water bird species in the country, 67 are covered by AEWA. Among those, three crane species are listed as vulnerable, the Grey-Crowned Crane, the Blue Crane and the Wattled Crane.