

Delegation from Turkmenistan visit the CMS and AEWA Secretariat



Bonn, 6 August 2009 – A delegation from Turkmenistan met CMS Acting Executive Secretary Elizabeth Mrema and Information and Capacity-building Officer Francisco Rilla in the CMS Secretariat in Bonn. Francisco Rilla explained the benefits and obligations resulting from a membership of CMS to Tezegur Japarowa and Viktoria Kim, who both work for the Ministry of Nature Protection in Turkmenistan. .

Turkmenistan plays a crucial role in Central Asian wildlife conservation strategies. Its many different kinds of ecosystems offer a variety of habitats for animals. Numerous migratory species found in Turkmenistan are listed under Appendices I and II of the Convention. Three important MoUs for Central Asia have already been signed by Turkmenistan: the MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane, the MoU concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer and the MoU concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope.

To promote membership for AEWA, Florian Keil and Nina Mikander from the AEWA Secretariat provided the guests with various information concerning bird species, Single Species Action Plans and other conservation measures that could be implemented in Turkmenistan, such as the Action Plan for the Lesser white-fronted Goose.

Two further participants at the meeting were Oliver Schall from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and Angelina Heidrich from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). They both encouraged Turkmenistan to join CMS and AEWA, and were optimistic to reinforce future cooperation on environmental issues between Turkmenistan and Germany.

All participants agreed to continue to keep in touch in the immediate future, especially regarding upcoming events such as the Meeting for the Saiga Antelope MoU in Moscow and the Meeting for the Siberian Crane MoU in Iran. All sides seemed positive about Turkmenistan's accession to the Convention.