

## Future Shape Working Group Reviews Phase 1 Report



**Bonn, 22 October 2009** – the Inter-Sessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS met at the CMS HQ in the UN Campus in Bonn from 19 to 20 October to review the first draft of report compiled by the consultancy firm, ERIC (Environmental Regulation and Information Centre). The report deals with the current organisation of CMS and the CMS Family.

Under the chairmanship of Olivier Biber (Switzerland), the Working Group took the opportunity of questioning the representatives of the Bonn-based Secretariats and the consultants. Significant headway was made in refining the text of the report, prior to its submission to the Standing Committee in December. The Group also started planning the next two stages of the Future Shape process, which will culminate in three options being submitted to the next COP, due to be held in 2011.

The Future Shape Process, mandated by Resolution 9.13 adopted in Rome, is also intrinsically linked to three other initiatives: (1) the series of species reviews, also commissioned by the Parties at COP9 (in Resolution 9.02), (2) the work of the Scientific Council's Working Group on Flyways, and (3) the elaboration of the Strategic Plan for the period 2012-17.

Parties attending the Working Group were Switzerland, France, the UK, South Africa, Kenya and Cuba, together with Saudi Arabia and Ghana participating in their respective capacities of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee.

The report and meeting were made possible through generous voluntary contributions from the governments of France and Germany respectively.