



## The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**The UNEP/CMS Secretariat welcomes the accession of Ethiopia to CMS as well as to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). Ethiopia will be the 113<sup>th</sup> Party to the Convention with effect from 1 January 2010 and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Party to AEWA with effect from 1 February 2010.**

The major portion of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia lies on the Horn of Africa. It is a landlocked country, enclosed by Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Kenya, the last four also being a Party to CMS. Ethiopia is one of the most ancient countries in the world, and with an area of over 1,100,000 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the tenth largest African nation. It has a diverse ecosystem due to the great variations in climate, topography and vegetation. Therefore Ethiopia is acknowledged as one of the world's richest countries in biodiversity, particularly important in avifauna.

Historically, throughout the African continent, wildlife populations have been declining owing to various human interference, which has led to habitat degradation. However, Ethiopia is already engaged in various conservation programmes to save wildlife resources. One of them is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and another important one is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Ethiopia lies on the West Asian/African Flyway and is part of the East African Rift System (EARS), which is an important corridor for many migratory birds. 224 species of migratory birds have been recorded in Ethiopia, out of which nearly 100 have been listed in CMS Appendix II, such as the Corncrake (*Crex crex*), the Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*). According to Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), the country has a total of 69 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), which are also important for a large number of other species.

In addition, Ethiopia is populated by many other threatened migratory species. Some of the migratory species listed in CMS Appendix I are the Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*), the White winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*), the Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*) and some birds of prey like the Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) and the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*). African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) can also be found in Ethiopia. They are listed on CMS Appendix II and are classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat is looking forward to a fruitful cooperation in implementing the Convention in Ethiopia.