

## Ninth World Wilderness Congress in Mexico



**Bonn, 24 November 2009** - Wilderness and the protection of large transboundary protected areas are vital to conserve migratory species. The Ninth World Wilderness Congress made an important contribution in this regard, bringing together government representatives, scientists, conservation managers, NGOs, local people and several UN agencies in Mexico earlier this month.

Meeting outputs include the first international agreement on wilderness conservation, which was signed by Canada, Mexico, the US and several US Federal Agencies. As part of this new agreement, a new transboundary protected area was announced in the El Carmen complex between Mexico and Texas.

Fifteen corporate companies committed themselves to wilderness conservation, including Coca Cola Mexico and Walmart Mexico, and will facilitate much of the monitoring and research required to implement wilderness areas. Other key achievements include the announcement of the "Message from Merida", which brings the need to integrate biodiversity and climate change policy to global attention.

Jane Goodall, Patron of the Year of the Gorilla campaign, was also present and emphasized the need to conserve a robust network of wilderness areas, not least to allow species to adapt as well as possible to imminent climate change. CMS was sponsored to attend as part of the Young Professionals Programme, presented research and action taking place under the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the critically endangered Saiga Antelope in Central Asia and Russia, and fostered linkages with the many stakeholders present to direct more attention to the global conservation of migratory species.

Find out more about the meeting at [www.wild9.org](http://www.wild9.org).