

German Minister Visits CMS Family in Bonn

Bonn, 4 February 2010 – Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Ursula Heinen-Esser visited the CMS Secretariat to meet staff and hear about the Activities of the Convention and the co-located Agreements, AEWA, ASCOBANS and EUROBATS.



Elizabeth Mrema (CMS) and State Secretary Ursula Heinen-Esser



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In welcoming the Minister, CMS Executive Secretary, Elizabeth M. Mrema thanked the German Government for its long-standing support of the Convention since its very inception in 1972 when the idea of an international treaty for the protection of migratory species was first suggested.



Ms Mrema, the Minister and Christiane Paulus (BMU)



Staff of CMS and the BMU with the Minister

After presentations on current activities being undertaken by CMS, the Minister heard from AEWA about the Wings over Wetlands project, and two programmes to build capacity in Africa – Wet Cap which was receiving substantial support from Spain, and the Africa Initiative established by AEWA's Parties at MOP4. ASCOBANS would contribute to the target of establishing designated marine protected areas by 2012, while EUROBATS presented its series of practical guidance publications and proposals to include the Southern Mediterranean within its Agreement Area.

State Secretary Heinen-Esser expressed her pleasure at returning to “Langer Eugen” which now houses most of the UN Agencies based in Bonn but which had previously served as office accommodation for German parliamentarians before government institutions moved to Berlin.

She promised that Germany would continue its support in recruiting new Parties to CMS and its Agreements and in promoting CMS activities with the same enthusiastic commitment in the future as it had done in the past. The Frankfurt Symposium, as one of Germany's contributions to the Year of the Gorilla, had highlighted the importance of these charismatic species, which were a key element of their forest habitats, which in turn played a significant role in rain generation. Environmental policy had an increasingly international dimension. Although finding solutions acceptable to all countries was not always easy – as the Copenhagen Climate Conference had shown all too well – UN bodies such as CMS provided a forum where the world community could at least try to address common concerns.