

MEA Synergy in Action



Doha, Qatar, 16 March, 2010 – the CMS and CITES Secretariats have presented to delegates at the CITES COP highlights of the joint work being undertaken on species common to the appendices of both Conventions.

David Morgan (CITES) introduced the event and explained the context in which collaboration takes place. Elizabeth Mrema (CMS) outlined the similarities and differences between the two Conventions, and in particular the significance of the appendices. Melanie Virtue (CMS) then ran through the collaborative activities for 4 key species and species groups: sharks, elephants, saiga antelope and gorillas. Veronique Herrenschildt, a consultant working for both CITES and CMS, rounded the presentations off with some practical examples.

The event was very well attended, indicating a strong interest in the subject. The discussion was very positive and demonstrated that Parties were engaged with the subject. Ghana, Liberia and New Zealand all described very positive experiences of collaboration between CITES and CMS focal points at the national level. When focal points for each convention are in the same department it makes national implementation much easier. New Zealand suggested that when either secretariat sends correspondence to its focal point on species matters that the focal point of the other Convention should be copied in.

The Arab League called for more capacity building in their region, preferably jointly by both Conventions.