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Challenges and hopes for the future

Recently, a seemingly endless series of environmental catastrophes — including oil spills and chemical waste accidents — has taken its toll on wildlife. It may be years before the habitats are cleared of contamination. A few observations: the *hope* that nothing will happen is still stronger than the *precautionary principle*; the misuse of natural resources for economic purposes continues; free

rein for the market economy has detrimental consequences for the environment; and finally, international co-operation and concerted action to protect the environment, including migratory animals, is urgently needed.

As Simon Lyster correctly predicted back in 1985, in his review of international wildlife treaties, CMS has developed slowly and this has limited its capacity to act. One impediment has been the reluctance of certain key countries to join. Another is the lack of adequate resources to implement CMS and its related Agreements properly. I might add that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are meeting the environmental challenge better than richer countries which pride themselves on their environmental record.

There is, however, reason for optimism. CMS instruments, although they take time to negotiate, are solidly based. After the Convention's conclusion, it took approximately ten years for the first Agreement, for Wadden Sea Seals, to become operational. Ten years on, we have the experience of the European Bats and Small Cetaceans Agreements, which have become platforms for experts to exchange experience and ideas. These agreements are *grass root* instruments, not just talking shops. Despite modest budgets, the enthusiasm of conservationists is showing exciting results, one example being the "European Bat Night". The Siberian Crane MoU is another success, showing the benefits of CMS Agreements as catalysts for cooperation between governments, scientists and international NGO's.

Twenty years after the conclusion of the Convention, at the start of the new millennium, the balance is positive: the Bonn Convention is playing a unique role within the family of global biodiversity-related conventions for the conservation and management of migratory species and their habitats. We ended the last century on a high point with the entry into force of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and its first Meeting of the Parties in November in Cape Town.

The 6th COP was a great success; not only because of the excellent meeting facilities and organisation provided by the South African authorities — for which we are indebted to Minister Valli Moosa and Dr. Pieter Botha — but also because of the progress achieved at the joint AEWA and CMS meetings. The Parties took stock of the results of the Convention's implementation so far and considered additional issues which will need to be addressed in the future, proving the increasing importance of the Convention. The warm words of encouragement from so many delegates after the conference will serve as a great incentive for the Secretariat to continue its efforts on behalf of migratory species with added zeal.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CMS



Arrival of Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary of CMS, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP and Gerhard Adams, of the German Environment Ministry in the entrance hall of "La Redoute". Photo: © BMU

Many speeches were held in honour of the 20th Anniversary. The history, the goals achieved and the perspective of the Convention were highlighted by the different representatives. We have reproduced here excerpts from the speeches:

Following the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm 1972) which recognized the urgent need to establish an international convention for migratory species, the German Government took the lead in transforming this sentiment into reality. In June 1979, diplomats and conservationists gathered at "La Redoute" in the Bonn suburb of Bad Godesberg to negotiate what was to become the Bonn Convention – the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (or CMS for short).

CMS requires its Contracting Parties to take measures to strictly protect 85 endangered species listed in its Appendix I. In addition, the Convention encourages international co-operation among governments, which can take the form of informal memoranda of understanding or self-standing, legally binding multilateral treaties.

Since the Convention entered into force in 1983, the number of Agreements and MoU's has grown steadily.

The first Agreement concerned the seal populations of the

Wadden Sea. The most recent, coming into force on 1 November 1999, is the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). Memoranda of Understanding are in effect or under negotiation for the following species: Siberian Cranes, Slender-billed Curlews, marine turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa, Great and Houbara Bustards, albatrosses of the Southern Hemisphere and Sahelo-Saharan ungulates.



Twenty years after the Convention was signed, the German Federal Environment Ministry paid tribute to the pioneers of international co-operation, by organising an anniversary celebration on 23 June 1999, which was attended by some of the Convention's original instigators.

About 250 guests from Embassies, Ministries, governmental and non-governmental organisations, CMS Standing Committee members and Scientific Councillors, and representatives of CMS Agreement bodies attended the ceremony. In addition to musical entertainment, a film on the work of CMS and animal migration produced by the German TV Channel, ZDF, was given its first showing.

□ **Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** "The Bonn Convention has played an important role in the development of the extended family of biodiversity-related conventions which covers Ramsar, CITES and CBD. It was, after all, this Convention which made it clear that one can turn an instrument of international law into a practical tool for nature conservation and achieve real progress on the ground towards conservation objectives.

Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, warned that although many species have recovered since the Convention entered into force in 1983, "We must not lower our guard. Even though our knowledge has improved considerably, the threats still persist." Photo: © BMU



Events around the 20th Anniversary of CMS

The biodiversity conventions form a family and like most families, there are fathers, mothers and children. It is wrong to suggest, that just because we now have the Convention on Biological Diversity, there will no longer be any need in future for the smaller Conventions, such as CMS. I believe it would be a big mistake to go along the path of merging Conventions. We would only have to recreate the same instruments again which have developed over the last twenty years. So rather than seeking mergers, we should look for synergies to achieve common goals and maintain the specialised expertise contained within this important Convention."

□ **State Secretary Baake, German Federal Ministry for the Environment** (photo: above left):

"The Convention has attained global importance. This is an encouraging development, bringing the Convention into a period of consolidation. Unfortunately, many regions of the world are still not adequately represented. Important

large countries such as USA, Canada, Brazil, China and Russia are still missing. Encouraging other countries to join the Convention is therefore on the list of priorities, an obligation which the German Government does not take lightly."

□ **State Secretary von Ploetz from the German Federal Foreign Office:** "The Federal Government played a decisive part in promoting the adoption of this global convention on nature conservation and in doing so, it sent a clear signal emphasising environmental policy long before the Rio Conference. The Bonn Convention is a successful example of efficient cooperation between industrialised and developing countries. In my opinion this Convention clearly shows that forcing environmental issues into the constraints of the old North-South-discussion was a mistake of the past, and that it is even more of a mistake today. Only a completely integral approach will enable us to produce results."

□ **Karl-Günther Kolodziejczok, Former Director General for Nature Conservation at the Federal Ministry for Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for the Environment** (photo: below left): "The Convention is the legal and institutional framework for co-operation and ensures, through the Secretariat and the COP, that action is being taken. Apart from that, there was also a diplomatic charm to having such a convention. Regional or range state agreements make it possible for countries that do normally have friendly relations for political or ideological reasons, to work together in a non-political field."

□ **Dr. Pierre Devillers, the then Chairman of the Scientific Council** (photo: above right): "The Bonn Convention has been one of the more fertile conventions largely because of the emphasis placed on scientific work by its founding fathers.

The Convention has highlighted the need to preserve the migratory phenomenon as well as the species themselves as one of the evolutionary wonders of the world increasingly impeded by artificial barriers. It is perhaps the most original characteristic of the Bonn Convention to have successfully devised mechanisms by which it could work directly in the

area concerned rather than proceed by indirect means through successive legislative texts. This has been made possible by the powerful basis for action offered by the combination of the Conference of the Parties with extensive powers and a Scientific Council working in close cooperation with the Conference of the Parties."

□ **Prof. Dr. Abuzinada, the then Chairman of the Standing Committee** (photo below right): "Exactly 20 years after the creation of the Convention here in Bonn, it has gained momentum. It has proved to be a useful conservation instrument. It has complemented the implementation of other conventions in the field of biological diversity and it has brought together the experts and scientists of the Range States with international and national organisations to exchange information and experience, to develop concerted plans of action and to co-ordinate their conservation work."



Sixth Conference of the Parties to CMS

Delegates decide it's time for action

The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS was held in conjunction with the 9th Scientific Council meeting and the First Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, from 4-16 November in Cape Town, South Africa. Experts from 100 countries gathered to decide how best to conserve a wide variety of migratory wild animals. By all accounts, the meetings were a great success.

The conference was launched at a joint CMS - AEWA opening ceremony. Keynote speakers included Mohammed Valli Moosa, South Africa's Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism; Ms. Geke Faber, the Dutch State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries; Ms. Gila Altmann, Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP and Mr. David Pritchard, speaking on behalf of the NGO community.

Appendices

The Conference decided to add a further seven species to Appendix I (endangered species) - six rare birds as well as manatees of the marine areas of Panama and Honduras. Thirty-one species were added to Appendix II (species with an unfavourable conservation status and which would benefit from international co-operative action), including dolphins of South-East Asia, seven species of petrel, numerous species of sturgeon and paddle-fish from various regions, and the Whale Shark.

Concerted Actions

Seven Appendix I species were added to the list of species to be subject of Concerted Actions. It was agreed to continue activities regarding species identified for concerted action at COP5 (Lesser Kestrel, Andean and Puna Flamingo, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Mountain Gorilla, La Plata (Franciscana) Dolphin and South Andean Deer).

Concerted Action Species, Resolution 6.1

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Sarothrura ayresii</i>	Whitewinged flufftail
<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>	Blue swallow
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Aquatic warbler
<i>Lontra felina</i>	Southern marine otter
<i>Lontra provocax</i>	Southern river otter
<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>	Humboldt penguin
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous duck

Cooperative Actions

The Conference recommended that the species added to Appendix II (petrels, sturgeons and the Whale Shark) should be added to the separate list of species to benefit from cooperative action, alongside existing Appendix II species — albatrosses, African Elephant, African Penguin and dolphins of South America.

Budget

Parties accepted the case for a modest increase in core staffing of the Secretariat — the first in several years — and use of some of the reserve in the Trust Fund for direct funding of conservation activities. The new budget reflects the growth in the Convention's membership; the ever-broadening scope of the Convention's activities world-wide, and the need to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to serve the Parties, including the creation of a new post of Agreements Officer. Another innovation for CMS is a budget line to support regional meetings. A total of nearly US\$800,000 (including a voluntary contribution from Germany) has been earmarked to support practical conservation work and implementation measures.

Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan for the period 2000-2005 was adopted. The strategy identifies four principal objectives: promoting the conservation of major migratory species groups included in the CMS Appendices; focussing and prioritising conservation actions; enhancing CMS' global membership; and facilitating and improving implementation of the Convention, by mobilizing resources and strengthening institutional linkages.

Information Management Plan/National Reports

Nineteen key actions were identified in a new Information Management Plan that was agreed by the conference. Highest priority was attached to reviewing Party reports and other data sources to develop an overview of the national and global implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat was urged to explore avenues for cooperation with other conventions, agreements and agencies dealing with migratory species to share information and develop joint programmes. Means of facilitating the preparation of national Parties reports were considered, including standardising reporting requirements with other biodiversity conventions.

Resolutions on By-Catch and Albatross

A resolution on by-catch called on countries to increase their efforts to improve fishing techniques in order to reduce substantially the incidental death of marine turtles, marine mammals (especially dol-

phins) and sea-birds. A separate resolution on southern hemisphere albatross encouraged the Range States concerned to participate actively in the development and successful conclusion of an Agreement for those species.

Recommendations

Recommendations were adopted concerning species actions for Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, building on the Djerba workshop of February 1998; working groups on the Houbara bustard and Great bustard; co-operative action for the African elephant, including the establishment of a working group of the Range States chaired by Burkina Faso. Separate recommendations were adopted for marine turtles of the Indian Ocean/South East Asia and of the Atlantic Coast of Africa. The Conference also agreed a standardised taxonomic nomenclature, bringing the terminology used in the CMS Appendices into line with internationally accepted norms.

In all, ten Resolutions and seven Recommendations were adopted in Cape Town. The text of all of them can be found on the "What's New" page of the CMS website.

Marine Turtles

A significant event at the conference was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa by an additional five Range States, including Nigeria which was represented by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Ima Okopido. Seven Range states already signed the Memorandum in May 1999 in Abidjan during an international conference which was organized by the CMS Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forest of Côte d'Ivoire.



Nigerian Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Ima Okopido, Photo: © CMS

Scientific Council

The COP re-appointed five experts to serve on the Scientific Council for the biennium 2001-2002 (Drs Limpus, Moser, Perrin, Pfeffer and Schlatter) and invited the nomination of an expert on Asiatic fauna. The Conference also formalised the observer status at the CMS Scientific Council of a number of partner organisations, including the advisory bodies of other conventions and international NGOs.

Standing Committee

One consequence of the Convention's recent growth in membership was the need to amend the structure of the Standing Committee. From now on, Europe and Africa, the two regions with the highest number of Parties, will each have two representatives on the Standing Committee. The Philippines was elected Chair, and Belgium Vice-Chair.

Standing Committee following restructuring and elections at COP6

Region	Member	Alternate
Africa	South Africa D.R. of Congo	Kenya Morocco
Americas & Caribbean	Uruguay	Argentina
Asia	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Europe	Poland	Ukraine
Oceania	Belgium (Vice-Chair)	Monaco
Depository	Philippines (Chair) Germany	Australia -

Next Meeting: COP7

The next meeting of the COP will be hosted by the Government of Germany in the latter part of 2002.

Scientific Council

There was a larger than usual gathering of representatives and observers at the ninth meeting of the Scientific Council. Dr. Pierre Devillers (European Union) took the chair for the last time. He had announced his intention to step down as Chairman after the COP having served in this capacity since 1994. His successor is Dr. Colin Galbraith (United Kingdom).

Review of the Appendices

All the proposals to add species to the CMS Appendices were reviewed and were found to be scientifically justified and an appropriate recommendation was incorporated into the report of the Council to the COP.

Concerted Action Species

Dr. Devillers commented on how important the concerted actions for species on Appendix I were for the implementation of the Convention. He also emphasised the need to implement Action Plans, and outlined the benefits derived from the funds allocated at COP4 and COP5 for conservation activities.

Mammals

The concerted action mammals carried over from previous meetings include the Sahelo-Saharan ungulates, Mountain Gorilla, Huemel, Franciscana Dolphin and the Monk Seal.
(continued)

Scientific Council *(continued)*

An Action Plan for Sahelo-Saharan ungulates had been agreed at a seminar held in Djerba, Tunisia, in February 1998. A recommendation, adopted by COP6, urged Range States to pursue conservation efforts and to implement this Action Plan.

A status report had been prepared on the Mountain Gorilla, showing that populations were restricted to the Virunga Mountains in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Burundi. Deforestation and war were identified as the main threats.

Two neotropical mammals, the Huemel, a small deer from South America, and the Franciscana dolphin, are both the subject of CMS conservation projects.

An observatory is being constructed in Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina, to increase public awareness of the Huemel. For the Franciscana dolphin, abundance estimates using aerial surveys, studies of habitat use and genetic analyses will be undertaken off the coast of Argentina during 2000, to identify the most appropriate conservation efforts to be applied.

Birds

Concerted actions are already underway for the Siberian Crane, Andean flamingoes, and the Lesser Kestrel. A GEF supported project to conserve globally significant wetlands and migration corridors required by Siberian Cranes and other migratory species in Asia has recently been approved. Andean flamingos will be the subject of a large co-ordinated winter census with the objective of increasing understanding, and therefore conservation of important habitats. Action Plans are being developed for the Lesser Kestrel and the Corncrake, an Appendix II species. A recommendation, adopted by the COP, will see the formation of working groups for the Houbara and Great Bustard.

Marine Turtles

Australia reported on a workshop held recently in Perth which resulted in a commitment to develop a new regional conservation instrument for the Indian Ocean. The Conference-appointed expert for marine turtles drew attention to alarming declines in populations of the Leatherback Turtle of the eastern Pacific, with preliminary data indicating this was a result of longline fisheries bycatch.

Cooperative Action species

Reports on activities for the Black-necked Swan, the Corncrake and a species of quail were made. The COP approved the Scientific Council's recommendation to add a number of species to the Cooperative Action list (see inset).

The COP also adopted a recommendation for co-operative action for the western and central African populations of the African elephant, including the for-

mation of a working group made up of representatives of the Council and the Range States.

The Council discussed a proposal from the UK on by-catch, which called for cooperation among Range States of affected seabirds, marine turtles and cetaceans. A resolution, later adopted by the COP, urged Range States to make concerted efforts to reduce the incidental take of such migratory species.

Agreements under development

A number of current initiatives may lead to the conclusion of Agreements or Memoranda under CMS. Work is underway in both southern South America and south-east Asia to develop agreements for the conservation of cetaceans. Project work presently being undertaken in West Africa may also foster in agreed regional cooperation.

Australia is pursuing the development of an agreement for the Southern Hemisphere to ensure the reduction in seabird (especially albatross) deaths through incidental capture in long-line fisheries. A meeting of the "Valdivia Group" took place in Australia in July 1999, where there was consensus that an instrument is needed to address the continuing decline of albatross populations.

South Africa is coordinating regional cooperation on the conservation of the South African sand grouse with a view to concluding an MoU and an Action Plan with Botswana and Namibia.

Co-operative Action Species, Resolution 6.2

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	African elephant
<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	African penguin
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern giant petrel
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern giant petrel
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned petrel
<i>P. aequinoctialis</i> <i>conspicillata</i>	Spectacled petrel
<i>P. cinerea</i>	Grey petrel
<i>P. parkinsoni</i>	Black petrel
<i>P. westlandica</i>	Westland petrel
<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i>	Pontoporia
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin; blackchin dolphin
<i>L. obscurus</i>	Dusky dolphin
<i>Phocoena spinipinnis</i>	Burmeister porpoise
<i>Australophocaena</i> <i>dioptrica</i>	Spectacled porpoise
<i>Cephalorhynchus</i> <i>commersonii</i>	Commerson's dolphin
<i>C. eutropia</i>	Chilean dolphin
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark

First Meeting of the Parties of AEWA



MOP 1 - A Flying Start for AEWA

The First Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement took place near Cape Town, South Africa, from 6-9, November 1999. It was attended by 250 delegates from 80 countries, including 24 contracting Parties to the Agreement and numerous other Range States as well as international NGOs. The first session set the initial course for the Agreement, which came into legal effect on 1 November 1999.

The Agreement, described as “the major tool for waterbird conservation in the next century”, is the most ambitious regional Agreement so far concluded under the auspices of CMS — covering 170 species and 117 Range States. The first Session of the Meeting of the Parties was organised back to back with the Sixth Conference of the Parties of CMS. The Agreement’s small Interim Secretariat provided by the Government of the Netherlands, worked closely with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat to organise both meetings. That so many delegates of Range States participated at the Meeting was due to the Netherlands’ commitment to the Agreement and their generous donation to help cover the costs of delegates from Africa and Eastern Europe. UNEP Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, acknowledged the holding of this meeting by the Netherlands in South Africa as a “living proof of partnership between the industrialised countries of Europe and the countries of Africa”.

The most important conclusions and outcomes of the Meeting were:

- the adoption of a revised Action Plan covering all 170 species listed in the Agreement’s annexes
- the approval in principle of the Conservation Guidelines, subject to their further consideration by the newly established Technical Committee including guidelines for emergencies which warrant immediate action
- the adoption of the proposal for International Implementation Priorities for the five years, 2000 - 2004
- the establishment of a register of International AEWA projects
- the adoption of a proposal to establish a Permanent Secretariat, co-located with the CMS Secretariat within the future Agreements Unit at the UN Premises, Bonn, Germany
- the adoption of a budget for the years 2000 - 2002

Parties

The following countries have ratified the Agreement.

Benin
Congo
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
FYR of Macedonia
Gambia
Germany
Guinea
Jordan
Mali
Monaco
Netherlands
Niger
Romania
Senegal
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Togo
United Republic of Tanzania
United Kingdom

Ratifications are expected soon from Kenya, Mauritius and Uganda.

Signatories to the AEWA are:

Belgium
Bulgaria
the European Community
France
Greece
Ireland
Luxembourg
Morocco
Ukraine

Special thanks are due to the team from Wetlands International who provided support — both at the meeting and beforehand — to prepare the documentation.



COP 6 Symposium

Scientific Symposium on Animal Migration

Yellow-nosed albatross: © Seitre, BIOS

A one day international Symposium on Animal Migration took place in the plenary hall of the CMS Conference of the Parties as the participants had a day's break from the business of the Conference proper on Saturday, 13 November 1999.

Professor Les G. Underhill, Avian Demography Unit of the University of Cape Town, chaired the Symposium, which dealt with different aspects of the phenomenon of species migration in almost all regions of the world. The first half of the meeting focussed on the marine regions of the southern hemisphere and southern part of the African Continent. After introductory contributions on the effects of the **Benguela ecosystem on predators** (Dr. R. J. Crawford, Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa) and the interdependences of **albatross migration and long-line fishery** (John Cooper, BirdLife International Seabird Programme), Dr. Peter Best (Mammal Research Institute, University of Pretoria) explained **the distribution and migration of the southern-right whale** to the audience — a perfect prelude to the optional whale watching tour, scheduled for the next day at Hermanus Bay.

Lectures on the exciting **movements of sandgrouses in South Africa**, (Mark Anderson, Northern Cape Conservation Service) and the long tradition of **Bird Ringing activities in Africa** (Prof. Underhill, chairman) closed the "African session " of the symposium.

After the lunch break different subjects relating to animal migration were raised. First, with a focus on polar regions, **the use of indigenous knowledge to understand migration patterns of marine mammals** (Henry Huntingdon, Working Group Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna) was discussed in depth. A further lecture, stressing the importance of the human impact on species conservation was an overview on the **Progress towards the Conservation of Saharan Antelopes** (Dr. Rosaline Beudels, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique).

Topics of a more global nature were presented by the last two speakers. The connection of the North and the South was impressively summarised by the lecture on **Long Distance migratory patterns of arctic waders** (Dr. Pavel Tomkovich, Ornithology Department, Moscow State University). A report on the current state of development and the perspectives of the **Global Register on Migratory Species** (Dr. Klaus Riede, University of Bonn), a publicly accessible Map- and Database (www.groms.de), presented an opportunity for several of the issues that had been discussed during the day to be revisited.

Proceedings will be published by the University of Cape Town in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat.

NEW PARTIES TO CMS

Welcome to CMS

A further seven Parties have acceded to the Convention since the last edition of the CMS Bulletin. The recent ratification of the Republic of Georgia will take effect on 1st June bringing the total membership of CMS to 67.

The ratification by Greece, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine has dramatically increased the Convention's coverage in south-eastern Europe. Mongolia and Congo are welcome additions to the Asian and African region respectively.

Ukraine — After Russia, Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe encompassing very different landscapes such as coastal regions along the Black Sea, steppe and forest-steppe in the south and the centre, and the Carpathian mountains in the west offering suitable habitats for a plurality of migrating wild animals.

Greece — Europe's southeastern extremity, consists of the mountainous mainland and the islands of the Aegean and Ionian Seas and encompasses a variety of sites for breeding, wintering and resting migratory animal species.

Mongolia — With only 2.3 million inhabitants, Mongolia's population density of 1.5 persons per square kilometre is the lowest in Asia. Like few other places in the world, Mongolia possesses a great range of natural ecosystems within its borders. It is a transition zone, where the flora and fauna of Siberia meet the very different species of the deserts and steppes of Central Asia.

Bulgaria and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia — These neighbouring countries are situated in southeastern Europe on the Balkan peninsula. Bulgaria has the Black Sea as its eastern border and its topography is marked by two mountain ranges and two great valleys. It holds a rich and varied fauna and flora. The FYR of Macedonia is characterized by various natural features such as high mountain massifs, mountain rivers and tectonic lakes, numerous thermal springs, basins and valleys.

Congo — The Republic of the Congo, on the equator, is situated in west-central Africa with a short stretch of coast on the south Atlantic Ocean. A treeless coastal plain rises to central highlands. Most of the interior is covered by tropical rainforest drained by tributaries of the Congo River.

Republic of Georgia — Georgia is bounded by the Russian Federation to the north, by Azerbaijan to the east, to the south by Armenia and Turkey, and to the west by the Black Sea. The Greater Caucasus and the South Georgian uplands join with the Likhi Range, which divides Georgia into two contrasting climatic zones. The fauna and flora of this country are extremely rich and diverse.

News has just reached Secretariat that the Cabinet of Uganda has decided to approve the ratification of the Convention. In a number of other countries the accession procedures are well advanced.

UPDATE ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

A SURVEY OF THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF CETACEANS IN SENEGAL, THE GAMBIA AND GUINEA - BISSAU

by Koen van Waerebeek

A first survey of the status of cetaceans in Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, was undertaken in 1997-98, funded by CMS as part of a long-term international effort to stimulate broad regional involvement in research and conservation of West African cetaceans (WAF CET Programme). Counterparts included, in Senegal, the *Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noir*, *Université Cheikh Anta Diop* (IFAN-CAD) and the *Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar-Thiaroye* (CRODT); in The Gambia, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM); and in Guinea-Bissau, the *Centro de Investigacao Pesquero* (CIPA) and IUCN-Bissau office. However, field activities in Guinea-Bissau had to be aborted early on due to the war in 1998.

The status, distribution and biological characteristics of 24 species of dolphins and whales confirmed to occur in the study area were reviewed and unpublished data were added. The authors collected new biological voucher material, such as skeletal specimens, soft tissue, genetic material and photographic evidence of many dozens of individuals of 11 cetacean species. Included are the first specimen descriptions of minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* and sei whale *Balaenoptera borealis* for Senegal, the first records of Clymene dolphin *Stenella clymene* and short-finned pilot whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* for The Gambia and the first Fraser's dolphin *Lagenodelphis hosei* for mainland West Africa. Both long-beaked *Delphinus capensis* and short-beaked *D. delphis* common dolphins were shown to occur off Senegal. Studies are being undertaken into the intraspecific variability.

A total of 269 historical specimens (mostly skulls) were registered in a comprehensive review and rehabilitation of the IFAN cetacean collection curated at IFAN-CAD (73 specimens) and the Musée de la Mer on Gorée Island (196 specimens):

<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> (3),	<i>Orcinus orca</i> (3),
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> (1),	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (10),
<i>Balaenoptera sp.</i> (2),	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> (2),
<i>Delphinus capensis</i> (83),	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (34),
<i>Delphinus cf. capensis</i> (17),	<i>Sousa teuszii</i> (15),
<i>Delphinus delphis</i> (11),	<i>Stenella sp.</i> (4),
<i>Delphinus cf. delphis</i> (7),	<i>Steno bredanensis</i> (14),
<i>Delphinus sp.</i> (43),	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> (1),
<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> (10),	material of unidentified cetaceans (7)

Although no cetacean catch rates could be estimated, both firm and circumstantial evidence was gathered for dolphin by-catches and direct takes in Senegal and The Gambia. Low to moderate mortality levels in fisheries occur in most of the study area, except Guinea-Bissau, for which there is no information. While nothing indicated substantial direct takes, these could occur covertly since most fishermen were found to be acutely aware of the legal protection of dolphins.

Detection avoidance strategies included the hiding of fresh carcasses, burial of butchered remains on the beach and offshore dumping. Cetacean meat is a local

(continued)

(continued)

commercial commodity and is consumed covertly in several places. Confirmed catches include Atlantic hump-backed dolphin *Sousa teuszii*, bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* and a short-finned pilot whale.

Circumstantial evidence from small boat surveys, stranded remains, and fisheries monitoring, suggests that the Atlantic hump-backed dolphin has become rare in Senegalese and Gambian coastal waters. Only in Guinea-Bissau were hump-backed dolphins observed with any regularity during boat sorties. Also, its habitual range was found to be considerably smaller than previously assumed and does not seem to include true riverine habitat. Where occurring in outer estuaries, these had predominantly marine characteristics. Against expectations, all dolphins sighted or by-caught beyond the outer estuary of the Gambia and Casamance Rivers have proved to be bottlenose dolphins.

By-catches in artisanal fisheries continue to affect several species, especially near-shore living bottlenose dolphins and Atlantic hump-backed dolphins. Artisanal fishing effort, which has dramatically increased over the past decade both in the number of fishermen and the number of boats, in conjunction with expanding coastal development, is possibly fracturing the hump-backed dolphin's range. If so, the ensuing reproductive isolation (however partial) would be a serious threat to the species' long-term survival. The Saloum delta system (Siné, Saloum, Diombos and Bandiala), part of which constitutes the *Parc National du Saloum* in Senegal, as well as the adjacent Gambian waters of the Niuni National Park (north bank of outer Gambia estuary) constitute a major refuge for Atlantic hump-backed dolphins and deserve the highest possible protection. If further work confirms the precarious status of the species, listing on Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species may be necessary.

Commercial dolphin-watching in the region is firmly established only on the Gambia River. Although no current problems were noted, the survey team recommended that a licensing system and an official code of conduct for tour operators be adopted, as well as an enforcement scheme that would allow an efficient regulation. Properly controlled dolphin-watching can be a welcome form of eco-tourism and a genuine educational experience. It is recommended that the Gambian Government should consider ratifying CMS at its earliest convenience so as to ensure maximum protection for aquatic mammals and other wildlife in the region.

In November 1997, the NGO 'Conservation and Research of West African Aquatic Mammals' (COREWAM) was launched, a first in sub-Saharan West Africa. Principal aims are to stimulate autochthonous involvement at grass-roots level in: 1- the implementation of scientific research of cetaceans and manatees; 2- promotion of the conservation of aquatic mammals in the West African region; 3 - organization of aquatic environmental education.



Spinner dolphin;
© Seitre BIOS

UPDATE ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Potential Agreement for Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South – East Asia

Last October in Perth, Environment Australia organised a consultation meeting on marine turtle conservation. Most Indian Ocean and regional ASEAN countries were represented, with an appropriate mix of officials from the fisheries and environment sectors.

The meeting was chaired by Conall O’Connell, Head of Environment Australia’s Marine Group. Selected representatives of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group were invited to provide regional and species overviews. Presentations were also made on various instruments of relevance, including one given by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Douglas Hykle, on CMS and associated Agreements.

The meeting discussed the substantive elements of a potential regional agreement. A consensus emerged that a non-binding instrument, possibly under the auspices of CMS, is needed to link up and build upon existing co-operative arrangements between nations. It was noted that some sub-regional initiatives already exist but have yet to be fully implemented, while others are still at a nascent stage of development.

Following the Perth meeting, Environment Australia has prepared, in consultation with CMS, a first working draft of an agreement. The draft text is currently being reviewed by the governments concerned, in preparation for a second consultation meeting, to be hosted by the Government of Malaysia in July 2000.



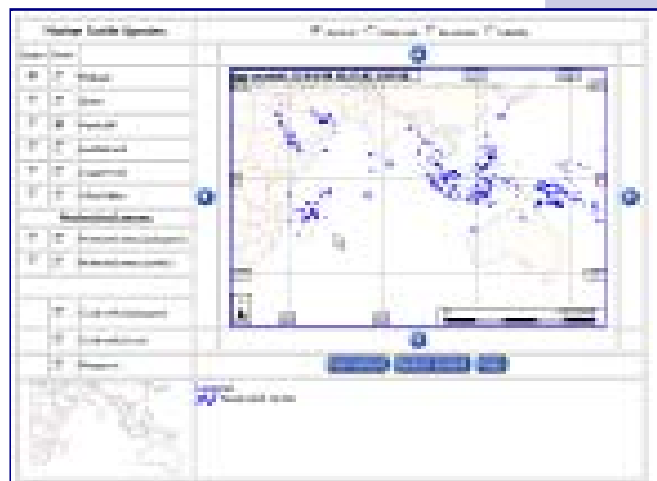
The Conference of the Parties to CMS, at its meeting in November 1999, endorsed the resolution that emerged from Perth and encouraged all Parties in the region, as well as all interested States from outside the region, to actively pursue the conclusion of an Agreement.

Marine turtle, © P. Gicquel, Bios

Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Nesting Beach Maps

The CMS Secretariat and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre have collaborated on the development of a unique GIS application to present spatial data, over the Internet, on marine turtle nesting in the Indian Ocean (www.wcmc.org.uk/cms - Marine Turtles). This prototype, first released in 1999, has recently been improved and now sports a new interface that allows users to combine nesting beach data with information on protected areas, coral reefs and mangroves. Users may also query the underlying GIS data, which are a subset of a global database developed by WCMC.

The project is intended as a model for the delivery, revision, maintenance and exchange of information on marine turtle nesting beaches. While the prototype concentrates on the Indian Ocean, the activity may, in future, be broadened to cover other regions.



UPDATE ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Marine Turtle Workshop Planned for United Arab Emirates

CMS has co-sponsored a number of regional meetings on marine turtles — notably strategic planning/training workshops in South Africa and India in 1995 and 1997, an African conference organized in Abidjan in May 1999 and, most recently, a regional consultation meeting in Australia.

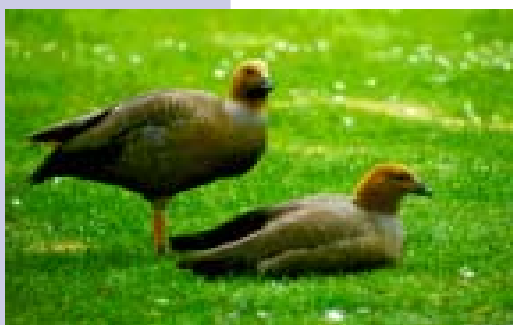
A workshop is now being planned for countries of the Gulf/Red Sea region, which would complement and complete the series of workshops centred on the Indian Ocean. In February, the Deputy Executive Secretary met with Dr. Saif Al-Ghais, Secretary General of U.A.E.'s Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA) to discuss arrangements for a meeting to be hosted by U.A.E. later this year.

Experts and officials from about a dozen countries from the region, as well as specialists from the IUCN/MTSG, will be invited to attend the 5-day meeting, likely to take place in late October. Further details will be announced in the next Bulletin.

Good News about Ruddy-headed Geese

CMS Bulletin no.8, 1998, gave an account of ongoing CMS activities for the endangered population of Ruddy-headed Geese (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*), which breeds in Tierra del Fuego and Chilean south Patagonia, in the far south of South America.

The population of Ruddy-headed Geese, shared between the Range States of Chile and Argentina, is included in CMS Appendix I and has been designated a 'Concerted Action' species. For unknown reasons, the population has crashed since the 1950s, and is estimated at only 300-400 individuals. In late 1999, Wetlands International, with sponsorship from CMS, carried out a field study in the breeding area with the aim of improving understanding of why the population declined and has not recovered. The field work was carried out by goose specialist, Dr. Jesper Madsen, CMS Scientific Councillor from Denmark, in collaboration with Chilean and Argentine ornithologists.



Ruddy-headed Goose, © C. Carboneras

Habitat utilization by Ruddy-headed Geese was described and, with the use of Landsat 7 satellite imagery, all major potential areas clearly identified on the imagery were visited. Many new areas used by the geese were found, and a total of 590 adults and 106 young Ruddy-headed Geese were counted. It is estimated that the total population is approximately 800 individuals.

A total of 29 pairs with broods of young were found, of which 25 were in one area in the Chilean mainland. In Tierra del Fuego, only two broods were found; the vast majority of geese were non-breeders. Broods were only found in association with very wet inland marshes called 'vegas'.

The broods are highly susceptible to predation by foxes, and in the marshes, which are interspersed with ponds, families can seek protection. However, in most areas in Tierra de Fuego, such marshes are not available. In the 1950s, the Patagonian fox (*Duscycion griseus*) was brought to the area to control introduced rabbits. This appears to be the crux of the problem for the geese. Before the introduction of the foxes, the geese were not restricted to marshes, but now they are.

The new results point to the importance of effective conservation of the key breeding area in Chile. To restore the population, it will be necessary to reduce fox predation of eggs and young. It is questionable whether the fox population can be controlled; a more realistic option is for habitats to be managed in a way to reduce fox access, e.g. by temporarily flooding the vegas.

UPDATE ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Sahelo - Saharan Antelopes



As a result of the work achieved over the last three years, two more documents have been published in the CMS Technical Series. The first one (CMS, No.3) is the Proceedings of the Seminar on the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes that was held in Tunisia in 1998. The second (No.4) comprises the revised version of the Action Plan for the conservation and the restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes, adopted at the Djerba workshop, together with comprehensive up-to-date status reports on each of the 6 species. These documents are currently being distributed to all governments concerned, as well as to all potentially interested organizations and agencies.

The Conference of the Parties of CMS reaffirmed its commitment to the conservation of these highly endangered species in a new recommendation adopted in Cape Town. To begin implementing the Action Plan, a four year regional project has been submitted for approval to the FFEM (*Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial*).

Siberian Crane



Much of the CMS Secretariat's Siberian Crane work over the past year focused on the development, with the International Crane Foundation and UNEP, of a "PDF-B" project proposal for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project goes by the title "Conservation of Globally Significant Wetlands and Migration Corridors required by Siberian Cranes and Other Globally Significant Migratory Waterbirds in Asia". It is the first such project approved by GEF in support of the objectives of CMS.

While continuing to use Siberian Cranes as a flagship species, the proposal now has a much broader focus on wetlands critical for the survival of the species, as well as other migratory waterbirds, in four key Range States: China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation. The \$350,000 in funding received from GEF is being used to develop a multi-million dollar wetland-species conservation project in the countries concerned.

The first meeting of the project's Steering Committee was held in Moscow in mid-March. An update on the project's activities, which are being co-ordinated by ICF, will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Photos: above: Cuvier's Gazelle, © M. Gunther, Bios; below: Siberian Crane, © ICF

Migration Discussion List

The Migration discussion list (www.eelink.net/~asilwildlife/discussion.html) provides a forum for researchers, conservationists and members of the legal profession interested in the conservation of migratory species. The list is sponsored by Zoological Research Institute and Museum Alexander König (ZFMK) and the American Society of International Law - Wildlife Interest Group.

Subscription instructions:

Send an email message to: majordomo@listserv.uni-bonn.de;
Leave the subject line blank;
In the body of the message, type: subscribe migration

On the Wings of Eagles



Lesser spotted Eagle
© Prof. B. Meyburg

Four eagles started their flight in mid-September of last year from their breeding sites in Eastern Germany and Poland to migrate to their African wintering grounds. By end of October they had already reached the southern hemisphere, refuelling at "stepping stone" habitats near Lake Victoria before heading down to southern Africa.



Unknowningly they were embarking on a special mission. They were taking special luggage with them on their 10,000 kilometre journey. Each of them carried a miniature transmitter and a small metal capsule containing a message of greeting to the South African President, Thabo Mbeki from Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This message (see original size left) was sent on the occasion of the 6th Conference of the Parties, held in Cape Town, South Africa.



In the key note speech of the opening ceremony of COP 6, Dr. Töpfer stressed the long and perilous journey of these flying "travellers without a passport" through a demonstration of the current flyway. A computer-based multimedia moving map showed the audience how two tracked eagles had already reached Zambia. From there some of the wintering eagles had undertaken their journey to South Africa.

Meanwhile the first eagle has returned to Poland while the others are still on the way (Israel, Hungary). The "Movie Map" can be seen online on the internet under the web address of CMS.

Thanks to this modern satellite technology new and precise data on the migration routes and the stop-overs of different species of larger birds such as White Storks, Siberian Cranes and Eagles can be obtained. The knowledge that the White Storks of the two different west and east populations in Europe have partly the same wintering grounds in and around Chad in Africa is only one example of the results of this technology.

Agreement Secretariats



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ACCOBAMS is making progress and may even enter into force before the end of this year. Four countries have so far ratified the Agreement (Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Bulgaria) and similar steps are being considered by the parliaments of three others. Seven ratifications are needed before the Agreement can take effect. As the Agreement Area is divided into two subregions, two of the requisite signatories must come from Range States bordering the Black Sea and five from countries on the Mediterranean.

The Interim Secretariat has increased its activities to raise public awareness. In cooperation with the ICRAM (*Institut Central pour la Recherche Marine Appliquée*) a poster has been produced depicting threatened species of the two Seas. Their habitats, their diet as well as the dangers they are exposed are explained.

In addition to this, ACCOBAMS is establishing its own web site. Official documents and the latest news of the Agreement will be accessible online. Direct links to other agreement partners will offer users the possibility of finding out about a range of activities undertaken by other related conservation conventions.

In order to improve the promotion of the Agreement, efforts have been made to establish contact with organisations and institutions working in the field of the conservation of marine mammals. In particular co-operation with experts in Bulgaria and Ukraine, in the regional Centre of Biodiversity in Batumi, Georgia, and in the Romanian Institute of Marine Research is likely to be of considerable benefit.



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ASCOBANS Incidental entanglement of cetaceans in fishing gear, so-called by-catch, is considered the most important threat to porpoise and dolphin populations throughout the ASCOBANS Area. This situation requires immediate action. Otherwise the high mortality coupled with relatively low reproduction rates will cause a continued decline of harbour porpoise populations and make their recovery impossible.

To reduce by-catch and in order to implement the relevant "Resolution on Incidental Take of Small Cetaceans" adopted by the 2nd Meeting of Parties ASCOBANS is focussing on the development and implementation of by-catch mitigation measures. Following this objective a review of by-catch mitigation measures with special reference to the ASCOBANS Area will be undertaken. The 7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS, held in Bruges, Belgium from 13 – 16 March 2000, decided that a report on this issue should be available by the end of 2000. Prior to the 8th Advisory Committee Meeting, Range States will discuss this report at the national level. In light of these discussions, the report will be evaluated by the 8th Advisory Committee Meeting in order to formulate advice to Range States.

ASCOBANS is striving to address other threats to cetaceans in the Agreement area, including acoustic disturbance and marine pollution. In close co-operation with other international organisations, ASCOBANS is working to achieve a reduction of hazardous substances in the marine environment. Furthermore, the Secretariat will continue to monitor information on high-speed ferries, which may have adverse effects on whales and dolphins.

A Working Group on "Protected Areas" has been introduced to identify criteria on the designation and implementation of protected areas for harbour porpoises and bottlenose dolphins.

With regard to the Baltic harbour porpoise population, all Parties and Range States in the Baltic region are invited to contribute to the development of a recovery plan by the year 2000.

Membership of ASCOBANS continues to grow. The most recent signatory, Finland, acceded to the Agreement in September 1999.

ASCOBANS has a new Executive Secretary. At the end of August 1999, Holger Auel left this post to take up an appointment at the University of Bremen. He has now been replaced by Rüdiger Stempel.

The 3rd Meeting of Parties to ASCOBANS will take place in Bristol, United Kingdom, from 26 – 28 July 2000.

EUROBATS The Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe continues to grow considerably. With the accession in 1999 of Bulgaria, Finland, FYR Macedonia, Monaco and Ukraine, it now counts 19 Parties.

The highlight of last year's publicity work was once again the "European Bat Night" which took place in 19 countries all over Europe. The numerous events included excursions, conferences, exhibitions and special activities for children.

The 5th Meeting of the Advisory Committee took place from 21 to 23 February in Zagreb, Croatia and the 3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties will be held from 24 to 26 July in Bristol, United Kingdom. Substantial input for the future development and implementation of the Agreement can be expected from this conference. Further details can be found on the EUROBATS website.



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A Tribute to Pablo Canevari

It was a great shock to all staff at the CMS Secretariat to learn of the tragic death of Pablo Canevari, on March 22nd, in Argentina. We are all very saddened by the sudden loss, due to illness, of a committed conservationist, colleague and friend.

Pablo returned to Buenos Aires in July of last year to take up the position of Director of the South America Programme of Wetlands International. He was looking forward to a return to his roots and the opportunity of applying his extensive experience in the area of nature conservation.

Apart from his three years as Technical Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, where he advanced the work of the CMS Scientific Council and many conservation projects which are continuing to this day, Pablo worked previously for Wetlands for the Americas, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), the Pan-American Office of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICPB) and the Argentine National Park Service — always with a keen interest in conserving migratory birds. He was the author of several books, including one on Argentina's protected areas and another on the birds of his native country, as well as numerous articles and technical reports.

During the period in which Pablo worked at the CMS Secretariat, he became a valued colleague, liked by all. His professional approach and his cheerful and pleasant personality gained him respect and friendship everywhere, not only within our secretariat but amongst all the international community at the United Nations in Bonn.

It was a privilege to have known him and worked with him; we will remember him with great affection. At this sad time of reflection, our thoughts go to Pablo's wife, Maria José, their three children and extended family.

Secretariat Staff

In the course of 1999 the CMS Secretariat said farewell to a number of colleagues who had contributed considerably to the development of the Convention. They take with them the best wishes of the Secretariat for their future careers and activities.

Carles Carboneras joined CMS as Information Officer in March 1998 having been an advisor to the Catalan Ministry of the Environment and involved in environmental education. At the Secretariat, Carles helped to raise the profile of the Convention by developing the CMS website and editing the CMS Bulletin. He returned to Barcelona in July 1999 to work for a local NGO and to resume his media work.

Bothena Bendahmane has returned to UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, after a two year spell on loan to the CMS Secretariat where she was Administrative and Fund Management Officer. The Secretariat benefitted from her wide experience of UN procedures. She will retain a connection with the Secretariat as her new post includes responsibility for looking after the CMS Trust Fund.

Karen Weaver, who joined the Secretariat temporarily as Acting Technical Officer in succession to Pablo Canevari, has returned to Australia to take up a post with Environment Australia. A former national representative on the Scientific Council, Karen's assistance at the COP in Cape Town was invaluable.

Bernhard Grunsky-Schöneberg worked for six months in the Secretariat as a consultant conducting desk studies of various exotic species for which agreements may later be elaborated.

The recruitment process for the posts of Technical, Information and Administrative/Fund Management Officer is currently under way. The Secretariat hopes to be able to announce the appointments this summer.

Celebration of the UN Day in Bonn

The now traditional annual celebration of the founding of the United Nations organised by the City of Bonn was held on 24th October 1999 in the Market Square. It took on extra significance this year, as the event was dedicated to the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Bonn Convention.

Despite persistent drizzle, over 5,000 of the city's inhabitants were attracted by the information stands set up by Bonn-based UN organisations, embassies and NGOs in front of the City's historic Old Town Hall. The theme of UN Day 1999 was migratory species, which accounted for the presence of two full sized replicas of whales. Other attractions were a presentation of three-dimensional photographs of bats and a showing of a film "World Natural Heritage — 20 Years of the Bonn Convention". This film was financed by the German Nature Conservation Agency and was shown several times on German TV. Copies of this film are available from the Secretariat.

Younger visitors to the CMS tent were given a set of "Happy Families" playing cards, bearing pictures of migratory species. Thanks are due to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for donating the cards.

A message of support was received from HRH Prince Philip, Honorary President of the WWF, in which he stressed that "Individual countries can do a great deal to protect their native wild animal species; but to



secure the survival of migratory species the states have to act jointly". In addition to this a video greeting from UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, was relayed to the crowd. Other leading dignitaries who attended in person included Germany's newly elected President, Mr. Johannes Rau, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation, Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul and the Lord Mayor of Bonn, Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann.

The results of a competition organised by the City of Bonn were also announced. School children from the City were invited to design a poster for the Convention, and 15 of the 150 entries were on display. Mechthild Meyer's winning poster (pictured), which captured the notion that the whole world needs to nurture migratory species, will be used by the Convention to promote its activities world-wide.

Mechthild's prize (courtesy of Lufthansa and Global Nature Fund) was a trip to South Africa, where she was guest of honour at the Opening Ceremony of the CMS COP. Consolation prizes for the runners-up were provided by Sparkasse Bonn and Postbank.

From the North Sea's Shore to the Edge of the Desert

In the run-up to the UN Day celebrations on the Market Square on 24 October, another exhibition commemorating the anniversary of the Bonn Convention took place from 1st-28th October in the foyer of the Town Hall of Bonn.

The exhibition focussed on the natural and cultural relationships of two national parks lying in different ecosystems in Europe and North Africa. Using the example of the Red Knot on its migration route along the east coast of the Atlantic between the German Wadden Sea and the lagoon

Other Events around the 20th Anniversary of CMS

area of Banq d'Arguin in Mauritania, the exhibition used multimedia techniques to illustrate the linkages between the stop-over sites along the way.

The exhibition, conceived and developed by the National Park Administration of Lower Saxony was opened by the CMS Executive Secretary, Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht in the presence of high-ranking guests representing the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the German Society for Nature Conservation (NABU).

There are plans for this exhibition to be shown in Mauritania during the course of the year 2000.

Migratory Species - Ambassadors between the Continents

A special exhibition on migratory species took place from 2nd June to 11th July to mark the 20th Anniversary of CMS. Housed in the halls of the *Museum Koenig* in Bonn, the exhibition not only covered biological aspects of selected migratory species, but also explained to the visitors the need for the transboundary conservation work sponsored by CMS.

Regional media reported extensively on all of the events taking place in Bonn. Thousands of people had visited the exhibition at the Museum Koenig. Main attractions included the presentation of satellite-based telemetry to track the migration of White Storks, an explanation of the different navigation techniques of migratory species, a model of a "wintering tree" of the monarch butterfly and, art work by the German artist, Jörg Mazur, including 45 half-size sculptures depicting small cetaceans and dolphins.

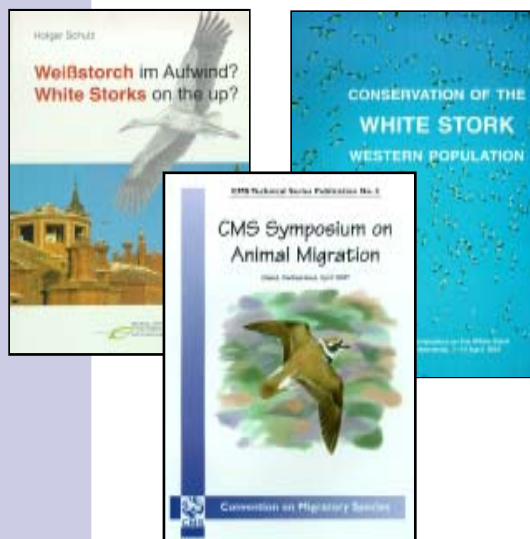
Presidential Audience

CMS Executive Secretary, Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, was among the guests received by the German President, Johannes Rau, at his official residence, Bellevue, Berlin. The invitation to this prestigious event is a further indication that the Convention has come of age and is achieving recognition on the broader political stage. The reception, which was held on 19th January, was also attended by the heads of the other UN Organisations located in Bonn.

The German President, Johannes Rau, welcomed the Executive Secretary of CMS.
Photo: © Presse-Service, Bonn.



New Publications



The proceedings of the first symposium on Animal Migration, held on the occasion of the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Geneva, 1997), are now available.

The central theme of the symposium was the impact on migratory species of habitat loss, as well as habitat restoration and management, including the effects of human conflicts.

Funded by a contribution of the Government of the Netherlands, this publication is part of the CMS Technical Series (No 2) and is available direct from the CMS Secretariat.

The Secretariat would like to take the opportunity to draw readers' attention to two books on the White Stork:

Proceedings of the International Symposium on the White Stork (Western Population) reviews recent trends in both breeding and wintering White Stork populations. It identifies ways to solve the conservation problems and to develop action plans as well as international conservation actions.

White Storks on the up? produces an extensive and a comprehensive picture of the conservation status of the White Stork, over nearly all of its breeding range.

Thanks to financial support from the Swiss Federal Office of Environment, Forests and the Countryside (OFEFP) it was possible to distribute most of the books during the AEWMA MOP1 and the 6th Conference of the Parties to CMS in Cape Town. The CMS Secretariat is prepared to forward any orders direct to South Africa, from where the books can be despatched at cost price.

Biber O., P. Enggist, C.Marti & T. Salathé (eds) 1995: *Proceedings of the International Symposium on the White Stork (Western Population)*, Basel 1994.

Weißstorch im Aufwind? - White Storks on the up? - Proceedings, International Symposium on the White Stork, Hamburg 1996: Hoger Schulz (ed.).- Bonn: NABU (Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V.) 1999.

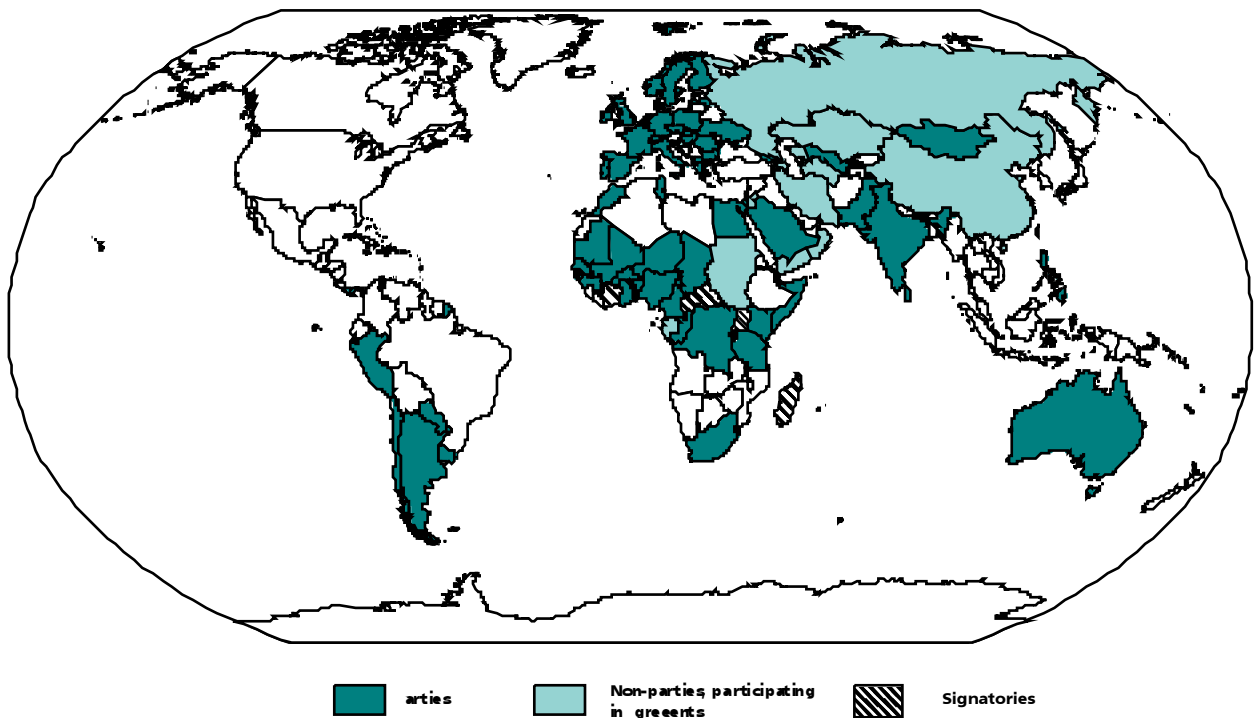
Calendar of Events

DATES	TITLE	VENUE	ORGANISED BY
8 -12.5.2000	Workshop on small cetaceans of the African coast	Conakry	Guinea
15 -17.5.2000	Workshop: Migratory Arctic Breeding Birds	Wageningen	
15 - 26.5.2000	Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 5	Nairobi, Kenya	CBD Secretariat
12 - 13.6.2000	Small Cetaceans Sub-Committee (Sc.Com.)	Adelaide, Australia	IWC
3 - 6.7.2000	52 nd Annual Meeting	Adelaide, Australia	IWC
24 - 26.7.2000	EUROBATS MOP 3	Bristol, UK	ASCOBANS
26 - 28.7.2000	ASCOBANS MOP 3	Bristol, UK	EUROBATS
21 - 22.9.2000	CMS Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany	CMS Secretariat
4 - 11.10.2000	IUCN World Congress	Amman, Jordan	IUCN

Map of CMS Parties

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Map of CMS Parties, Signatories and other participating States (as of 01.6.2000)



The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNEP