



# CMS

# Bulletin

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## Give Us Peace

The CMS Secretariat, together with the other UN Agencies in Bonn joined the special commemorations of the United Nations following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania on 11 September. These events have shown new dimensions of brutality and inhumanity in international armed attacks which are beyond our comprehension.

We have to be fully aware that these events will also have an impact on international nature conservation work including the implementation of CMS and the global work of the Secretariat and the other organs of the Convention.

Nevertheless, we should not stagnate nor come to a standstill. We should give people in the world a perspective for their future life, for humankind's survival. The CMS Secretariat is aware of two projects that have been postponed because of civil/military conflict in the regions concerned. I hope that those authorities who have decided to interrupt the work on such projects might reconsider their position and seek advice from the IUCN's work on Guidelines for the Management of Crises. Human beings as well as migratory species and the ecosystems they depend on could greatly benefit from more peace in the world and more optimism of the authorities by undertaking a long-term strategy for securing the living basis for humankind which is, and will be in all eternity, nature or (to use a new term) biodiversity.

I repeat what I have already expressed several times: the implementation of CMS, which champions the transboundary conservation of migratory species and their habitats, can only take place when there is **peace within and between countries**. CMS is prepared and willing to contribute to peacemaking in the world. Let the authorities also be prepared to contribute to the better conservation, including coordinating the sustainable use, of migratory species as well as their habitats.

Migratory species as natural resources of their Range States, symbolise the **common natural heritage** of our global village and it is important that all of us get involved in their conservation and sustainable use.

*Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary*

### ***Congratulations!***

*The CMS Secretariat congratulates UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the United Nations on having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.*

**For more detailed information and regular news please visit the website of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:**  
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms>

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Climate change is one of the greatest environmental threats facing our planet. Temperature records and tree growth rings evidence global warming, melting glaciers and severe droughts provide physical evidence of some of its consequences. It is well known that climate change directly affects the world's biodiversity. Biological responses include for example the lengthening of the growing season and changes in phenology such as earlier flowering of trees and egg-laying in birds.

Many species and ecosystems are not able to adapt to the changes in habitat quality. According to an impact scenario produced by WWF the rapid rates of



Orca (Killer Whale)

global warming are likely to increase rates of habitat loss and species extinction, most significantly in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Moreover, the impact is expected to be non-linear, which means it is particularly severe when certain thresholds are crossed. Certain ecosystem types are more vulnerable to such thresholds than others. Mangrove ecosystems, temperate and boreal forests, tropical montane cloud forests, coastal marshes, alpine/high montane systems and arctic ecosystems are among those more

vulnerable systems, as are wetlands overlying permafrost and coral reefs. In the case of coral reefs, even short-term water temperature increases of no more than 1-2 °C cause irreversible bleaching, while sustained increases of 3-4°C generate significant coral mortality.

In general, climate changes pose additional stress to those ecosystems and species which are affected by habitat fragmentation. A fragmented habitat poses a barrier to migration and thus to adaptation by moving to other areas, which in turn may lead to low genetic diversity and increased vulnerability. Ecosystem degradation also decreases the resilience of ecosystems to climate change.

For migratory species, changes in climate and the natural environment cause particular risks, since migratory animals require separate breeding and wintering habitats in addition to stop-overs along their migration routes. Studies and observations are already showing some very significant effects of global warming on migratory species of several taxa. A few examples may illustrate this:

In parts of Canada, for the last 10 years spring has come earlier than expected. Female caribou, migrating to small pockets of vegetation to feed and raise their calves in spring, found their principal food plant had already gone to seed by the time they reached the coastal plain.

Off the coast of Alaska, global warming has altered fish migration patterns so that sea lions and seals have moved away. This caused killer whales to hunt sea otters instead. However, the loss of sea otters in turn sets off a chain reaction that destroys kelp beds, an important habitat for many ocean species.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> Scientific Council meeting in May, Dr. Colin Limpus, CMS' Scientific Councillor on Marine Turtles, reported on the impact that unusually high temperatures in 1998 had on turtles in South East Asia. Breeding success largely depends on the temperature of the nesting beach: if the sand temperature exceeds 32° C, the eggs will not hatch. Also, higher temperatures

cause the hatching of only females. In 1998, unusually hot temperatures caused a 20 percent reduction of hatching success of Green Turtles and Hawksbill Turtles. So far, this is a rare event, but climate experts warn that in 20 or 30 years this could be a very common phenomenon, which would affect a number of South East Asian nesting beaches. All the more important it will be to preserve the appropriate natural vegetation (shading). In addition, regional climate events such as the La Niña have been linked to the population performance of Dugongs and Green Turtles. The wet La Niña years produce flooding that washes sediment and pollution down the rivers and into the sea grass pastures. Also, increased storms contribute to an increased erosion of sea grass pastures.

In February 2001, researchers from the Koenig Museum of Zoology in Bonn made an interesting observation: They found that migratory birds such as cranes, geese and other water birds, were already returning to Germany in early February. Cranes left their breeding grounds about two months later and returned six weeks earlier than just 20 years ago. Some migratory bird species are increasingly remaining in their central European breeding sites over the winter.

Arctic bird populations are at a particular risk due to global warming, according to a WWF study. As higher temperatures cause wooded forests to advance northward, they replace the Arctic tundra, an essential breeding area for millions of birds. More than two-thirds of all geese and nearly 95 percent of all calidrid waders breed in the Arctic. The study forecasts that a 40 percent to 57 percent loss of tundra in the next 100 years may mean a loss of habitat for 5 million geese and 7.5 million calidrid waders.

In Europe and in North America, butterflies have found to shift their boundaries north over the past 30 to 100 years, for example the Monarch butterfly, a CMS Appendix I species. Rising temperatures are affecting the survival at the southern extreme of their ranges.

Coral reefs and the fish living in the reefs are at a particular risk. Researchers fear that global warming could eliminate coral from most areas of the world by 2100. This could potentially destroy the habitats of a quarter of all marine fish species.

These examples clearly show that international initiatives are urgently needed to coordinate research on the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change.

Some initiatives have already been started by CMS, IWC (International Whaling Commission), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). For example, the IWC established a working group on recent changes in migratory routes of cetaceans off the coast of Chile in relationship with sea temperature changes.

A recommendation made by SBSTA (UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice) calls for the integration of biological considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC. A joint liaison group between the secretariats of the UNFCCC, the CBD and the CCD is to enhance coordination, exchange information and develop a work plan. CMS has continued gathering information on the topic and has promoted matters at different international fora. The Secretariat has also contacted its counterparts in CBD, IWC, Ramsar, UNFCCC-SBSTA, in order to promote collaboration and cooperation.

## CONSERVATION OF THE SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW

by *Umberto Gallo-Orsi*

The future of the Slender-billed Curlew is very worrying since the number of confirmed sightings has been decreasing in the last ten years and no regular wintering sites are currently known. After more than one year without confirmed records, the possible sightings of three birds in Italy on December 2000 and of one bird in Hungary have been very good news.

The experts of the Slender-billed Curlew Working Group met in Kyiv on 1-2 April 2001 to review the state of knowledge on the species and the priority actions for the conservation of the species. 12 persons were present from 6 different countries. A number of presentations were given that included the most up-dated information on the species based on analysis of both available data and new data gathered during field-works in potential wintering and breeding areas.



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Slender-billed Curlew

The analysis of available records and museum specimens carried out within the frame of a LIFE Nature programme (Conservation Actions for the Slender-billed Curlew) seems to point out that the species' breeding success is related to climatic conditions in West Siberia and is low during the drought periods. During such periods the numbers of females and juveniles recorded (in the field and as museum specimens) were lower than expected, suggesting that predation at the nest might also have an important role in addition to hunting mortality.

For the first time a comprehensive list of the sites where the species have been positively recorded was produced and circulated to all Slender-billed Curlew Working Group members. All sites used in the last 10 years have been identified as IBAs, and the list includes the protection status and threats to all European sites produced from information included in the BirdLife IBA database.

Two surveys were carried out in Iran in early 2000 by a Dutch-Russian-Iranian and a French-Iranian team, the first one having been funded by CMS. Unfortunately, both expeditions did not find the species, but confirmed the existence of large apparently suitable areas for the species and made a number of other interesting observations.

Of the 22 areas identified in 1996 as potential breeding areas for the species, most have been visited at least once since then and the 6 remaining will be visited by RBCU (Russian Bird Conservation Union, BirdLife in the Russian Federation) in the next 2 years. At least 6 of the sites visited so far are suffering from habitat alteration and loss (caused by overgrazing, drainage and uncontrolled fire).

Significant steps have been taken by a number of Government signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Slender-billed Curlew. The federal and regional laws on nature protection in the Russian Federation have been changed, and the Slender-billed Curlew and the Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*) are now fully protected. However, look-alike species such as the Eurasian Curlew (*N. arquata*), the Whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*) and the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) are protected only in limited areas of the country.

All 6 key sites in Greece have been legally protected. In the Evros Delta, the protected areas have been enlarged to include all types of habitat important for the species. The protection status of the Kalamas Delta has been upgraded to SPA. The Evrotas Delta will soon be designated as SPA. Furthermore, all areas where Slender-billed Curlew have been actually seen or are potentially important for the species have been designated as permanent non-hunting zones.

The Italian government signed the Slender-billed Curlew Memorandum of Understanding in 2000, and the Italian Action Plan for the species is going to be published soon by INFS, the National Wildlife Institute. A national Action Plan has also been prepared for Ukraine.

The Kyiv meeting also included a review of the 1997 agreement on how to act if a breeding pair of Slender-billed Curlew is found. Vladimir Morozov (RBCU) and Alexander Yurlov (Siberian branch of the Academy of Science) were appointed as contact persons, who should be contacted in this case.

Satellite tracking of Slender-billed Curlew was discussed and the lack of further technical development identified as a major limit to the use of such devices. The Working Group appointed K. Smith to develop a protocol on trapping, handling and tagging the species. Furthermore, the Satellite Tracking Working Group of the CMS Scientific Council produced preliminary Guidelines for satellite telemetry of migratory birds. The guidelines advise that the weight of the tag to be used should not exceed 3% of the body mass of the Slender-billed Curlew. For highly migratory species the 1.5% ratio seems more appropriate. The feasibility of the use of radio tracking for locating breeding areas and researching habitat use in wintering areas will be studied in the coming months.

After the meeting a training course on the identification and monitoring of the species was held in Kyiv. Following the course, three teams were sent to Crimea to look for the species during the pre-breeding migration. They will return to the sites between August and November.

The Meeting of the Signatories to the Slender-billed Curlew Memorandum of Understanding will take place in September 2002 in conjunction with the CMS COP7 / AEWA MOP2, where the offer of AEWA to take the lead in the conservation of the species will be discussed.

## HIGH ANDES FLAMINGOS

*by Sandra Caziani and Patricia Marconi, Conservation Group for the Conservation of the Flamingos of the High Andes Secretariat (GCFA), an initiative of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru.*

Scientists and resource administrators of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru, members of GCFA, met from September 2 to 6 in Payogasta, Salta Province, Argentina, to hold a workshop on strategic planning, with the help of Wetlands for the Future.

Dr. Susan Boyle, of the US National Parks Service acted as workshop facilitator. Among the main objectives of the workshop was the identification of concrete measures for the conservation of the flamingos of the High Andes and their environment.

INRENA, Peru, has now been included in the tri-national agreement on the conservation of the wetlands of the High Andes (Argentina, Bolivia and Chile). The draft MoU was reviewed and each country will take initial steps leading to the signing of the Agreement. Since Argentina is the only federal nation among the four countries, measures were initiated so as to incorporate representatives of the natural resources authorities of the provinces of Salta, Jujuy and Catamarca into GCFA. There was also a discussion on aspects of a new proposal, approved by CMS, that aims to monitor and protect groups of Andean flamingos in Chile.

Future activities were organized into programs having the following focal points:

**GCFA's Institutionalization Program:** Responsible for the setting up of an internal functioning standard for GCFA, and the management of international and local agreements.

**Research and Monitoring Program:** coordinates new research projects and the publication of scientific data relative to distribution, range and nesting of flamingos of the High Andes.

**Training Program for the Conservation of High Andean Wetlands:** This program looks out for financial help for the carrying out of a workshop on pastoral use, to take place by the shores of Lake Titicaca, September 2002.

**Protected Areas Program:** It manages, among other matters, the setting out of the protected tri-national area of integrated management (Vilama-Pozuelos in Argentina, Los Flamencos in Chile and Eduardo Avaroa in Bolivia).

**Information Program:** It has started the preparation of a Web page on GCFA and other broadcasting events such as the First Conservation Workshop for High Andes flamingos in Peru, Fourth National Ornithology Seminar, 11 to 14 September 2001, in Puno, Peru.

**Environment Education Program:** will compile information on ongoing projects and will prepare a new global proposal.

**High Andes GEF Program:** devoted to the final preparation of a PDF-B project and searching for new financial sources.

Other activities to be carried out this year and in 2002 include measures for the creation of the Las Parinas National Park and Provincial Reservation in Catamarca, Argentina, and the Ojos del Salado National Park in Region III, Chile. These two parks will create a large protected trans-boundary area. Other activities will include the ringing of Andean flamingo chicks in Chile and in Bolivia, a census and workshops in Peru, as well as an examination of the patterns of displacement and use of habitat by Andean flamingos. Help for these activities, from CMS, Wildlife Conservation Society, International Flamingo Foundation and local institutions, is forthcoming.



Andean Flamingos



## WORKSHOP ON SOUTH AMERICAN ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS

by Isabel Loinaz and Adrián Stagi (*Aves Uruguay - GUPECA*).

During the week of September 24 to 28, *Aves Uruguay - GUPECA* and BirdLife International carried out the "First South American Workshop on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels", with the patronage of the Zoology Section of the Faculty of Sciences, the County Board and the Maldonado House of Culture. The Workshop took place in the La Capilla Hotel in Punta del Este.

*Aves Uruguay - G.U.P.E.C.A.* is a non-governmental organisation devoted to research on, and the conservation of, the wild bird species of Uruguay. It also represents BirdLife International, the world federation of organisations devoted to the conservation of birds species and their habitats. The workshop is evidence of their common effort to solve the problems associated with the by-catch of seabirds due to the use of fishing trawlers. The decrease in population sizes of different species of albatrosses and petrels is a cause of world wide concern.

Among other important achievements, this South American workshop has set up a "South American Strategy for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels" which will make it possible to quantify and diminish the mortality of these seabird species in the region. The meeting benefitted from the presence of authorities from the National Directorate for Water Resources - DINARA (formerly INAPE), local biologists and biologists from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, Malvinas/Falklands, Peru and South Africa; as well as that of Mr. K.C. Kapitan, a special guest from the South African embassy.

Since 1994 Uruguay has also been carrying out studies - through *Aves Uruguay*, DINARA and the Sciences Faculty - of the interaction between these bird species and the use of fishing hooks in fisheries. During 1998-99, CMS played an active role by giving financial support to Uruguay. This allowed the effective achievement of many goals that otherwise would have been totally unreachable due to the country's present economic situation. Uruguay is today the first country that has set up fishery regulations in connection with the problem posed by by-catches (decree number 248/997). The regulations include various mitigation measures, such as the compulsory presence of an observer on fishing trawlers, the use of scarecrows on fishing lines, the sinking of the fishing lines during night time, and the use of defrosted bait. All the same, there remains a long way to go before achieving the full implementation of many of these measures.



Yellow-nosed albatross

## ACAP ADOPTS TWO ALBATROSSES

by John Cooper, *Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town*

After balancing the books of the successful Cape Town meeting to finalize the new CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), a small sum of money was left over from the grants received from the governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

With the whole-hearted approval of these three sponsoring countries, the money is to be used to sponsor the purchase of two miniaturized, leg-mounted tracking devices to follow the non-breeding movements of two albatrosses, a Wandering *Diomedea exulans* and a Grey-headed *Thalassarche chrysostoma*, from South Africa's sub-Antarctic Marion Island. These two species are biennial breeders and very little is known about their movements in their non-breeding years. These devices can potentially log information on movements for up to five years. The research will be conducted by Dr. Peter Ryan, of the University of Cape Town's FitzPatrick Institute.

The knowledge gained will be of help in understanding the geographical overlaps and interactions between albatrosses and longline fishing vessels in the Southern Ocean when the birds are not breeding. It is hoped to be able to report to ACAP where its albatrosses get to during their non-breeding periods over the next few years.

## RESULTS OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF SIBERIAN CRANE RANGE STATES

The *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane* was concluded under CMS auspices in 1993. Originally concentrating on the Western and Central populations of Siberian Cranes, which migrate between breeding grounds in Western Siberia and wintering sites in Iran and India, the scope of the Memorandum was extended in 1998 to cover the larger Eastern population which winters around Poyang Lake, China, and now accounts for most of the world population.

The Fourth Meeting of Siberian Crane Range States was held at the headquarters of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, United



Siberian Crane

© International Crane Foundation



Participants to the Siberian Crane Range State meeting

© Steve Landfried

States, 20-24 May 2001. Discussions focussed on reviewing implementation of the Conservation Plan over the previous two years, elaborating or updating the plan for all three populations through the end of 2003, and finalising preparations for an associated Siberian Crane/Wetlands GEF project being carried out in Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Iran and China.

The proceedings of the meeting, including the text of the Memorandum of Understanding and revised Conservation Plan, will be available from the CMS Secretariat in autumn 2001.

**Stop Press!** As many as five Siberian Crane are reported to have arrived at their traditional wintering grounds in Iran in late September / early October.

## THE CENTRAL ASIAN-INDIAN FLYWAY: TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR WATERBIRDS AND WETLAND CONSERVATION

Options for an international coordination of the conservation and sustainable use of waterbirds and wetlands in the Central Asian-Indian Flyway (CAIF) were discussed in a workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 18-20 August 2001. Government representatives, scientists and conservation experts from 15 of the 21 Range States of the Central Asian-Indian waterbird migration system, IGOs and specialised international NGOs gathered in this meeting. It was initiated by the secretariats of CMS and AEW, hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan and organised by Wetlands International (WI). The event was financed by the Government of the Netherlands, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the CMS.

The overall workshop goals were (1) to develop co-ordination and collaboration among the Central and South Asian and Trans-Caucasus States in the research and conservation of migratory waterbirds and

their habitats, (2) to examine the current conservation status of migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the CAIF and propose a new initiative in the region, and (3) to review a draft Action Plan and come up with recommendations for a follow up approach.

Country reports made by the delegates showed that efforts are being made by the countries to conserve and manage their wetlands and waterbirds, in some cases with international technical and financial assistance. However, it became evident that systematic transboundary research, monitoring, conservation and management of the 158 waterbird species identified is lacking and urgently needed. The delegates therefore agreed on elements of an Action Plan for the entire migration range and appealed for its early conclusion. The meeting requested the secretariats of AEWA and CMS to develop a proposal, with the assistance of WI, and to elaborate a recommendation on how this Action Plan could be linked to the AEWA and the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (APMWC).

Mr Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary of CMS, argued that only systematic and sound research and monitoring of the species and their habitat could lay the basis for a successful and at the same time economic conservation policy. This, and an agreed shared utilisation by the Range States, can guarantee their sustainable use, which is urged by international treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and - for migratory species - the Convention on Migratory Species. He is optimistic that such an Action Plan will attract sponsorship from developed countries and international organisations.

Finally, India volunteered to take the lead in the further development and consultation of the Action Plan, the Netherlands provided the funds for the further work of WI to develop the Plan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan was acknowledged for its effective hosting of the workshop.

### The Great Bustard Memorandum of Understanding is now in effect

On 16 May 2001 the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria in Germany signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Conservation and Management of the Central-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*). After Hungary, the FYR of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Romania, Bulgaria is the fifth range state to sign this MoU. As provided in paragraph 17, the MoU became effective on the first day of the month following the signature of the fifth Range State (1 June 2001).

The Consul General of the Hellenic Republic signed the memorandum in the name of the Greek Government on 22 May 2001. With the signature of the Croatian Environment Minister Božo Kovačević on 9 October 2001, the MoU has

now 7 signatories. More will be added in the course of the next few months following the finalization of consultations with some of the Range States.

The Great Bustard is one of the largest birds capable of flight, with males weighing up to 17 kg and females up to 8 kg. Although still quite numerous on the Iberian peninsula and in the Russian Federation, the species has become extinct or been reduced to vagrant status in parts of its former range. It is one of Europe's most endangered bird species.

The MoU calls for cooperation among national authorities to promote the conservation of the Great Bustard. It demands the strict protection of the species and the maintenance and restoration of its habitat. It also includes an Action Plan with two sections - one of general applicability and a second listing specific activities appropriate for each Range State.



Great Bustard / © BIOS

Great Bustard



Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht (CMS) with Bulgarian Ambassador Nikolai Apostoloff and the Greek Consul General Leonidas Rokanas (left)



## CONSERVATION OF MARINE TURTLES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Co-operative efforts to conserve globally threatened marine turtles received a boost in June 2001 with the completion of the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia*. The Memorandum is the second of its kind to be concluded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species.

Twenty-one States were represented at the negotiation session, held in Manila from 19-23 June 2001, and hosted by the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The main objective of the conference was to develop the text of a comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, to underpin the basic MoU already agreed in Kuantan, Malaysia, in July 2000. The Memorandum of Understanding puts in place a framework through which States of the region - as well as other concerned States - can work together to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility. It acknowledges a wide range of threats to marine turtles, including habitat destruction, direct harvesting and trade, fisheries by-catch, pollution and other man-induced sources of mortality.

The Memorandum of Understanding has a potential membership of at least 40 countries, covering the entire Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. Activities may also be co-ordinated through sub-regional mechanisms in South-East Asia, as well as in the northern, western and southwestern Indian Ocean. The signatory States plan to hold their first formal meeting in the second quarter of 2002.



David Balton, accompanied by members of the United States delegation, signing the IOSEA Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of Hon. Heherson T. Alvarez, DENR Secretary, and Douglas Hykle, CMS Deputy Executive Secretary.

The Conservation and Management Plan - containing 24 programmes and 105 specific activities - aims to reverse the decline of marine turtle populations throughout the region. The measures to be taken focus on reducing threats, conserving critical habitat, exchanging scientific data, increasing public awareness and participation, promoting regional cooperation, and seeking resources for implementation.

The Memorandum of Understanding entered into force on 1 September 2001 for the following eight countries:

Australia, Comores, Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, and United States of America. For Viet Nam, which signed the MoU on 24 July 2001, the MoU came into effect on 1 October 2001.

The Manila conference approved a proposal to establish a small secretariat to help co-ordinate activities under the MoU. The office is to be housed with an existing UNEP regional office in Bangkok, and is expected to be operational next year. The Governments of the United States and Australia, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme, have all pledged financial support towards the cost of establishing and running the secretariat, but more funds are needed before the office can be set up.

## MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA: 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, Chief (Dr) Imeh T. Okopido, the CMS Secretariat wishes to announce that it has been decided to postpone until **February 2002** the above-mentioned conference (mentioned in CMS Bulletin 13 of April 2001), which is to be held in the Nigerian capital of Abuja. New dates will be announced in the coming weeks.

Representatives of the Governments concerned to whom the original invitation has been sent are invited to note the new timing for the conference, with a view to assuring the fullest and most appropriate level of representation possible from each of the Range States.



Green Turtle

The conference, taking place within the framework of the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa*, has the following objectives:

- Conclusion of a comprehensive Conservation Plan to accompany the Memorandum of Understanding adopted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in May 1999
- Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by a majority of the States concerned that have not already done so
- Prioritization of key areas of work to be undertaken during the next three years of the MoU's operation, including activities to be undertaken in selected countries under a project being developed for submission to the French GEF (FFEM) programme;
- Initiation and/or further development and refinement of initiatives at the sub-regional level, based on existing or proposed institutional arrangements, including collaboration with other organizations (eg. ACOPS, UNESCO/MAB);
- Identification of further sources of funding for implementation of the MoU.

## FIRST MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE ON MARINE TURTLES, 24-28 OCTOBER

The First Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles will take place in Rome (24-28 October). The Conference is a joint initiative of the secretariats of the three main conventions responsible for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean region namely, the Barcelona, Bern and Bonn Conventions, with the collaboration of ICRAM (*Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare* - Italy) and IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (Mediterranean Region).

More than 120 participants have already registered. Most groups active in marine turtle research and conservation in the Mediterranean region will be represented at the Conference. Selected, highly qualified attendance from outside the region is also expected.

The programme of the Conference provides for four thematic sessions:

(1) Identification and conservation of critical habitats; (2) Population dynamics and genetics; (3) Interaction of marine turtles with fisheries and (4) Biology and ecology. Eighty communications, both oral and poster presentations, have been accepted by the Programme Committee of the Conference. Several invited and keynote presentations, four round tables and three workshops complete the technical programme of the conference.

For more information please access: [www.medturtleconf.net](http://www.medturtleconf.net)

## More Help for the Great Apes?

### CMS a partner of UNEP's Great Apes Survival Project

On 25 September this year, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Dr. Klaus Töpfer, launched a global partnership led by UNEP to combat the threats faced by the great apes of Africa and Asia, as flagship species for forest habitats and hotspots for many other species of wildlife. The partnership is called GRASP - **G**reat Apes Survival Project. UNEP, together with CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and a number of other partners, will bring world-wide attention to the ape crisis, raise funds for conservation, and develop a global conservation strategy for all great ape populations.

In a letter of support for the GRASP initiative, the Executive Secretary of CMS, Mr Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, noted: "The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species wishes to endorse and offer its full support for the Great Apes Survival Project. As a partner of the

In 2001, Deutsche Post AG produced a stamp dedicated to the Mountain Gorilla.



Mountain Gorilla

United Nations Environment Programme's initiative, CMS is particularly responsible for the Mountain Gorillas. It is hoped that both the CMS Parties, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, as well as Rwanda, will take advantage of the legislative framework offered by the Convention on Migratory Species and, now, through the new dynamic offered by GRASP, engage in concerted, collaborative actions to stabilise and bolster the remaining populations of Mountain Gorillas, which are a magnificent symbol of Africa's rich natural heritage."

The Executive Secretary of CMS had made contact in the past to invite the Depositary of the Convention, the German Foreign Minister, to urge the Rwandan state authorities to join CMS when he paid a visit to Rwanda. Unfortunately, this key

country is still not yet a Party to CMS. Another more recent contact has been directed to facilitate efforts of a project-oriented NGO to support the management of a protected site in the living area of the Mountain Gorillas.

## CMS AGREEMENTS



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## 10 years of successful Bat Conservation in Europe - but the journey is by no means complete...

As they have almost no natural enemies, bats are amongst the animals that have suffered the most from increased agricultural and forest exploitation as well as the degradation of the countryside by human activities. This has caused the loss of many of their traditional roost sites, and the reduction of their habitats and feeding areas. These changes have been compounded by the public's ill-informed prejudices against bats.

Being aware of these facts and the essential role that bats play in any terrestrial ecosystem, European countries concluded the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS). With 6 Signatories in 1991, membership has now grown to 24 Parties, and the Agreement secretariat has been integrated with UNEP/CMS.



© NABU

Brown long-eared bat

Within the 10 years since its conclusion the Agreement has impressively improved its presence, its impact and its success. It has done so by setting up legal protection standards as well as by developing and promoting transboundary conservation and management strategies, research and public awareness across the whole Agreement area. It also assisted in finding financial sponsorship for mainly cross-border oriented projects. Since its entry into force in 1994, EUROBATS has developed a wide-ranging Bat Conservation and Management Plan which is the key instrument for the implementation of the Agreement and sets out priorities concerning legal requirements, population survey and monitoring, roosts,

foraging habitats, promotion of public and professional awareness, use of pesticides, and international co-operation.

## Towards Agreements on the Conservation of Bats in the Nearctic, the Neotropics, Tropical Africa, the Indomalayan and the Australasian regions

From the very beginning the Parties to CMS saw EUROBATS as a prototype for similar agreements on other continents. The development of such agreements is an operational objective in the strategy for the future development of the Convention.

The fact that bat species and threats to them vary considerably across the globe suggests the convenience of working towards agreements according to the zoogeographic regions. It can be assumed that in all the above-mentioned regions there are some bat species which have an unfavourable conservation status or are even seriously threatened.

Unfortunately, the scientific data available concerning the species status and migratory behaviour is relatively poor in many areas and/or for certain species. Taking this and actual conservation needs into account, the Neotropical region



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(Central and South America including contiguous islands - see Map, areas 2, 3 and 4) might in the nearer future be the most promising area for the successful conclusion of an intergovernmental agreement and its implementation. But in the Afrotropical region (Map, area 6b) as well - also in view of Megachiropteran bats - an urgent need for action is given (pending sufficient scientific evidence, area 6a might in the future be covered by EUROBATS). It is very much hoped that the countries in the regions concerned would consider taking the lead in working towards Agreements on the conservation of bats.



Microchiropteran bat distribution - delineated areas

(This article is a summary of a presentation by Andreas Streit, UNEP/EUROBATS Executive Secretary, given on behalf of EUROBATS at the 12th International Bat Research Conference, Bangi, Malaysia, in August of 2001. Map used with kind permission of: Hutson, A.M., Mickleburgh, S.P., and Racey, P.A. (comp.). (2001). *Microchiropteran bats: global status survey and conservation action plan*. IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.)

### 5<sup>th</sup> European Bat Night all over Europe

The EUROBATS Secretariat co-ordinated the 5<sup>th</sup> European Bat Night, which took place in about 30 countries all over Europe in August 2001. Bat walks and bat talks, excursions, exhibitions, posters, press releases and new information material were organised and produced to celebrate not only the European Bat Night but also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EUROBATS Agreement.

The United Kingdom organised a Bat Week with a major launch in London, and even small countries like Andorra offered a bat exhibition and excursions to the public. In Germany, two big events took place in Berlin and Bad Segeberg, in addition to many smaller ones throughout the whole country. In France, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland and all the other participating countries the manifold Bat Night events would not have been possible without the immense enthusiasm of local bat workers and national Bat Night co-ordinators, who spent much time preparing and realising the events. The high numbers of people attending these events demonstrate the growing public interest in the fascinating world of bats.

### Non-toxic Shot workshop

The AEWA Secretariat, in close cooperation with FACE (Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation of the E.U.) is organising a non-toxic shot workshop. It will take place from 24 to 26 October 2001 in Bucharest, Romania. The aim of this workshop is to phase out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands. In Western Europe the phasing out of lead shot is already in progress and therefore it is time to focus on Central and Eastern Europe. The target groups are policy officers and representatives of hunting organisations from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The documents produced for this workshop will be soon available on the AEWA web site.



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## Issue 7 of the AEWA Newsletter

The AEWA Newsletter is considered an important information tool regarding ongoing activities in the agreement area. Its seventh issue will be ready by mid-October. It includes articles provided by organisations and ministries of Range States, informing of forthcoming meetings and activities in scientific and technical fields, the move of the secretariat, recruitment of new staff and new parties to the Agreement. If you have an article on Waterbirds and wish to have it published in the next issue, please send it to the AEWA Secretariat.



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## ACCOBAMS: New Party & New Date for First MoP

ACCOBAMS now has 11 Parties. The Syrian Arab Republic ratified the Agreement on the 13 August 2001.

Please note also that the ACCOBAMS MOP1 has been postponed due to the convening of the very important UNEP ministerial meeting on Environmental Governance in Cartagena. The new dates for the first Meeting of the Parties are: 28 February - 2nd March 2002.



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## 10th Anniversary

ASCOBANS commemorated its tenth anniversary with an exhibition entitled "Oblicza morza - Gesichter des Meeres - Faces of the Sea". The exhibition was organized by the ASCOBANS Secretariat in cooperation with Gdansk University's Hel Marine Station, the Foundation for the Development of Gdansk University (FRUG) and Stowarzyszenie Promocji Artystów Wybrzeża Era-Art. z Gdyni - Ewa Golebiowska (Association for the Promotion of Artists Era-Art. Gdynia - Ewa Golebiowska). It was shown at the UN Premises in Bonn from 24 September until 5 October 2001. Twelve contemporary Polish artists provided works of art with maritime motifs. Many of the exhibits were created specifically for this exhibition.

The 10th anniversary brochure, "From Idea to Implementation - ASCOBANS Ten Years On" contains contributions from various key actors involved in the ASCOBANS process over the past ten years. It is available from the ASCOBANS Secretariat.

## ASCOBANS Goes East

The ASCOBANS exhibition "Harbour Porpoise in Distress", which has been shown widely in a number of ASCOBANS countries, is currently being presented to the public in the Agreement's Baltic Range States. It was shown at the Museum in Klaipeda from August to December. In the spring of 2002 it will be on display at the Latvian Nature Museum in Riga. From there it will travel to Finland.

## Baltic Workshop

Preparations are well under way for an ASCOBANS workshop aimed at drafting a recovery plan for Baltic harbour porpoises. The elaboration of such a recovery plan has been a long-standing aim of ASCOBANS. The workshop will take place in Jastarnia, Poland, from 9 - 11 January 2002 and should bring together a wide range of experts and stakeholders from all Baltic Parties and Range States.

## AQUATIC WARBLER

Aquatic Warblers (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) migrate up to 6000 km from their breeding areas in Poland, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to the subsaharan regions for wintering. The species was listed on Appendix I and II of CMS at the CMS COP5 in Geneva, April 1997. The BirdLife International Partner in the UK has volunteered to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for a better protection of the species. The MoU is proposed to better coordinate research, monitoring and protection of the birds by the Range States which belong to the breeding area and the Range States which are presently known as stopover and wintering places. After intensive consultations between the BirdLife experts and the CMS Secretariat, the proposal was sent in early October to the Ministers, CMS Focal Points and CMS Scientific Councillors, BirdLife partners and relevant international governmental organisations for consideration and comments. We hope that by Spring next year the consultations will have led to a consensus and to the development of a draft Action/Conservation Plan.

Meanwhile, research and monitoring are going on in different places. Ornithologist Dr. Fernando Jubete (La Nava project leader, Fundacion 21) reported that during the last year 195 aquatic warblers were ringed in Spain and two were recovered from Poland.

## SMALL CETACEANS AND MANATEES OF TROPICAL WEST AFRICA

Work has started on the preparation of an Action Plan for the conservation of small cetaceans and manatees of tropical West Africa. It follows one of the recommendations of the CMS-sponsored workshop "Conservation and Management of small cetaceans of the coast of Africa" (Conakry, Guinea, 8-12 May 2000).



Spinner Dolphin

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On behalf of CMS and in consultation with Dr. Bill Perrin, appointed CMS Scientific Councillor for small cetaceans, a first outline of the Action Plan has been prepared by Dr. Koen Van Waerebeek. He is well-known for his work on marine mammals in West Africa. A preliminary list of Range States of the action plan indicates coverage of 25 countries, including 17 CMS Parties (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo) and 8 non-party countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Liberia, Sao Tomé and Principe, Sierra Leone). The taxonomic scope includes small cetaceans (defined as all Odontocetes minus the sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus*), and the West African manatee *Trichechus senegalensis*.

The document was presented to the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, where was well received by the Councillors from the Range States present, who expressed their general support towards the continuation of the initiative.

## SEABIRDS BREEDING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the conservation of seabirds breeding in southern Africa is high on the agenda of experts of the Avian Demographic Unit (ADU), University of Cape Town, South Africa. The initiative is an extension of an initially proposed MoU on the African penguin *Spheniscus demersus*

between South Africa and Namibia (the sole breeding Range States for the species). In the progress of the activity it was considered desirable to expand the scope of the MoU to cover all the continental breeding birds of southern Africa, considering that these species confront basically the same threats faced by the penguins.



Penguins on South African shores

Three countries are expected to be involved initially in the negotiation of the MoU: Angola, Namibia and South Africa. Fifteen species of seabirds that breed within the Benguela Upwelling System and cross political boundaries during part of their life cycle are considered for inclusion (besides the African penguin, the Leach's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, the Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, the Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*, and 4 cormorant, 3 gull and 4 tern species). Detailed action plans are expected to be developed for each species and attached to the MoU that will provide the framework for their implementation.

Substantial progress in the development of these instruments is expected to be made in the forthcoming months through the organization of a Southern African Seabird Conservation Workshop, scheduled to be held in Cape Town from 4-8 February 2002. The initiative of the ADU is supported by the Government of South Africa, as well as by the Namibian Nature Foundation, the World Wide Fund for Nature - South Africa, the Penguin Fund of Japan, the Convention on Migratory Species and most likely Wetlands International and the Government of the Netherlands.

## CENTRAL ASIA: BUKHARA DEER NEAR TO EXTINCTION

Historically seen, the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*), a subspecies of the red deer, had a large range in the river basins of Amudarya and Syrdarya in Central Asia. Its living area as well as its populations have decreased enormously and this decline could not be stopped in the last ten years. In addition to habitat destruction, including artificial regulation of water regimes, illegal hunting and poaching are thought to be important factors.

At present there are isolated populations scattered in small areas of four countries, i.e. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In the first half of 2000 the CMS Secretariat had arranged to cooperate with WWF International to internationally coordinate the conservation and, where appropriate in the future, sustainable utilisation through a Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan under CMS.

Owing to lack of capacity, the project did not progress. However, it gained momentum at the recent CAIF Workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan when consultations with authorities of some of the Range States as well as the Central Asian Project Officer of WWF International, Dr Olga Pereladova, were made. At the time of writing, the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan were almost finalised as drafts. Now, a translation of English into Russian will be produced by Dr Pereladova; thereafter the draft Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan will be sent to the Environment Ministries of the Range States concerned for consultation and hopefully speedy approval.

## OUTCOMES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

At the kind invitation of the Scottish Natural Heritage, the CMS Scientific Council held its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 2-4 May 2001. The meeting was attended by over 50 councillors and observers, well above the number of participants of previous inter-sessional meetings, confirming the interest within and outside the Convention in the work of the Council.

Dr. Colin Galbraith, Chairman of the Council, had the challenging task of leading the meeting through a very full agenda, which included presentations and discussions in plenary sessions. Substantial progress was achieved on a number of issues by the establishment of working groups that met beyond the normal conference hours.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to a review of the actions undertaken to conserve a wide range of migratory species, notably those identified by the Conference of the Parties for concerted action. A significant result of this review was the recommendation of the Council to prepare a rolling paper on the conservation status of Appendix I species, to be regularly updated at the Council and COP meetings, and aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the Convention and evaluating the need for further action.



© Dougie Barnett

CMS Scientific Council Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 2001.

In keeping with one of its main tasks within the development of the Convention, the Council was called to examine and provide advice on several proposals for the amendment of CMS appendices. The meeting endorsed draft proposals for the upgrading to Appendix I listing of the Gangetic river dolphin *Platanista gangetica gangetica* (already listed in Appendix II). It also recommended for inclusion in Appendix II the West African Manatee *Trichechus senegalensis* and recommended a new taxonomy for the Right Whale (already listed in Appendix I).

Another major task of the meeting was the identification of small-scale projects warranting financial assistance by the Convention. The examination of project proposals received prior to the meeting and the extensive discussions within *ad hoc* working groups and in plenary led to the compilation of a list of projects, which are recommended for funding and reported on in this article.

A substantive part of the meeting's work focussed on the identification of performance indicators appropriate to assess the success of the Convention in regard of species conservation, and the performance of the Scientific Council in the conduction of its own work. Furthermore, this constituted input by the Council to the work of the group on performance indicators established under the CMS Standing Committee. For this purpose an *ad hoc*

working group was established within the Council, which met six times between 2 and 4 May. Its output was a document included as an annex to the report of the meeting. The Council acknowledged that substantive progress had been made, although time constraints did not allow final conclusions to be reached on all the issues addressed by the group. It was therefore decided to maintain the working group and continue its work via e-mail correspondence until the next meeting of the Council.

The meeting discussed a number of other issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention. These included, among others, the recent revision of the IUCN Red List Categories and its implication for CMS listing, the potential impact of offshore wind power plants on migratory species, and the effect of climate change on migratory species. It was agreed to prepare specific reports to be considered for the next Council meeting.

A full report of the meeting is available on the CMS website. French and Spanish translations are available from the CMS Secretariat.

#### LIST OF PROJECTS / CONCEPTS

approved in principle during the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council

##### BIRDS

- \* Location of wintering areas of *Anser erythropus* by satellite tracking
- \* Status overview and recommendations for *Oxyura leucocephala* Central Asian populations
- \* Range State/expert group meeting on *Otis tarda*
- \* Status overview and extension of action plan for *Aythya nyroca*
- \* Matching funds to GEF project concerning *Grus leucogeranus*
- \* Actions to follow-up the *Otis tarda* meeting
- \* *Numenius tenuirostris* : Follow up of recommendations of the meeting of the working group in Kyiv
- \* Conservation actions for *Sarothrura ayresi*, *Hirundo atrocaerulea*, *Acrocephalus paludicola*, *Falco naumanni*, Albatrosses and Petrels

##### MAMMALS

- \* Meeting for the development of an MoU on Central and West African Elephant populations
- \* Matching funds to FFEM project, and development of projects in the countries which are not, or to a limited extent, covered by the FFEM project, notably Chad
- \* Kouprey survey in Cambodia

##### SMALL CETACEANS AND LARGE FISHES

- \* Abundance estimation, habitat use, and stock identity of the Franciscana Dolphin, *P. blainvillei*
- \* Workshop on whale shark fisheries and international traffic in whale shark products
- \* Second conference on the biology and conservation of small cetaceans in Southeast Asia
- \* South American dolphins - Projects emanating from the 2nd Neotropical Marine Mammal congress (Valdivia, Chile, Nov-Dec. 2001)
- \* Conservation of sturgeons



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Green Turtle caught in fishing net

### MARINE TURTLES:

- \* Green turtle migration: Guinea-Bissau
- \* Marine turtle web-based database
- \* Pilot project to develop funding support for the IOSEA MoU and Conservation Plan
- \* International by-catch workshop- Matching CMS contribution
- \* Marine Turtle tagging and by-catch survey follow-up

### NEOTROPICS:

- \* Implementing priority actions for the conservation of the High Andes Flamingos
- \* Habitat use of endangered bird species in subtropical pastures of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay
- \* Concerted actions for the conservation and management of *C. rubidiceps* in Argentina and Chile
- \* Survey of population and habitat requirements of the Humboldt Penguin
- \* Survey of population and habitat requirements of the Southern Sea Otter

## 23<sup>rd</sup> CMS Standing Committee Meeting

The forthcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CMS Standing Committee will take place in Bonn, Germany from 13 to 14 December. It will address some key issues for the Convention, namely CMS administrative and financial matters, collaboration with other organizations and conventions, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2000-2005 and the Information Management Plan. It will also review the agenda and preparations for CMS COP 7 to be held in Bonn, from 15 to 28 September 2002. The discussions will also include possible new Appendix listings and potential resolutions and recommendations that could be considered at COP 7. The Host Government Agreement (HGA) for the holding of the COP and a budget proposal for the 2003-2005 triennium will also be discussed.

Information on the background documents for the Standing Committee meeting can be found at: [www.wcmc.org.uk/CMS/Events](http://www.wcmc.org.uk/CMS/Events)

## CMS Regional Workshop for Latin America

In preparation for COP 7, a regional workshop for Latin America on the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has been convened from 29-31 October in Lima, Peru.

This event is being organized with the valuable collaboration of the National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA), the CMS National Focal Point in Peru.

The meeting aims to:

- promote the goals and objectives of the Convention in the region
- encourage the ratification process in Latin America
- improve the communication and exchange of information of migratory species among Range States
- set priorities for action and identify the appropriate mechanisms to achieve them
- further the update of Appendix I and II species
- reactivate the Valdivia Group.

Documents for the meeting are posted at: [www.wcmc.org.uk/cms](http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms)

## COOPERATION WITH IGOS AND NGOS

The CMS Secretariat was instructed by the COP to liaise with other IGOs and specialised NGOs in order to intensify the development and implementation of the Convention. Without being able to provide a comprehensive report, a few highlights are given here:

### Development of Memoranda of Cooperation

**UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)  
A memorandum of cooperation has been finalised between the CMS Secretariat and the responsible branches of the World Heritage Conservation and Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO. The CMS Secretariat will submit the proposal to the Standing Committee (December 2001) for endorsement and UNESCO will have the endorsement on its agenda at its next meeting in May 2002.

**CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)  
Owing to other pressing work, it has not been possible so far to have further consultations on a draft Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the CITES Secretariat. These will take place as soon as the long-awaited Programme Officer for Agreements Development enters on duty.

**UNCCD** (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)  
The CMS is presently in consultation with UNCCD on a Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Work Programme. After the conclusion of the current CCD COP5 in Geneva, consultations on cooperation will be resumed.

**IUCN** (The World Conservation Union)  
Consultations on a Memorandum of Understanding are still in progress.

The CMS Secretariat has received requests from some regional IGOs and a global NGO on the development and conclusion of a Memorandum of Cooperation. It has not been possible, unfortunately, to work towards their realization - not out of a lack of interest, but simply a matter of capacity to follow up on these requests.

## Involvement of NGOs in CMS Work

With a view to the forthcoming meetings of the COP in September 2002 and for the purpose of gaining synergies for the implementation of CMS, the Secretariat has had several contacts with non-governmental organisations specialised in international programme work for, *inter alia*, migratory species. Here are just a few key topics:

- WWF International Large Herbivores Asia (Bukhara Deer)
- Wild Camel Protection Foundation (production of a brochure in several languages and joint implementation of a letter of intent between the Environment Ministries of Mongolia and the People's Republic of China)
- BirdLife International/RSPB (development of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Aquatic Warbler)
- NABU (involvement in some Asian projects for CMS species, *inter alia*, snow leopards, Central African Indian Waterbird Flyway, support of NGOs specialised in bird conservation)

With a number of NGOs, arrangements have been made that they intensify their contribution to transboundary conservation of migratory species and to contribute to a large poster exhibition on the occasion of CMS COP7 and the AEWA MOP2.

BirdLife International and WWF contributed to the negotiation of the Agreement for Albatross and Petrel Species. CIC and IUCN committed themselves with their signatures to assist in the conservation of Great Bustards in central Europe.

### A TRIBUTE TO PROF. LEKE GJIKNURI

With deep regret the CMS Secretariat learnt that Professor Dr. Leke Gjicknuri passed away at the end of August. Professor Gjicknuri was a committed conservationist who promoted the idea of the preservation of nature and the environment in Albania. He also furthered the opening of Albania for concerted action with neighbouring countries, international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

As a member of the Albanian Parliament, the Vice Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for the Environment as well as the President of the Albanian Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment Association (PPNEA), he was the key contact for the CMS Secretariat for a joint venture of EURONATUR, the German Association for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and CMS to establish a Prespa National Park in Eastern Albania and to promote plans for a transboundary (trilateral) biosphere reserve integrating the entire Ohrid-Prespa lake system of Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Greece.

Leke Gjicknuri's circle of influence was wide. The contacts he established not only resulted in a wide extension of the protected areas in Albania but also in Albania's accession to CMS, ASCOBANS, AEWA, and Eurobats.

During this entire period Leke Gjicknuri suffered from an incurable illness, the battle against which he eventually lost. He will remain in our hearts.

## NEW PARTIES

We welcome two new Parties. With their recent accessions, CMS now has 76 Parties.

**ALBANIA** - Albania became a CMS Party on 1 September 2001 and has also acceded to the Agreements on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas (ACCOBAMS), the African-Eurasian Waterbirds (AEWA) and Bats in Europe (Eurobats).

A date is to be arranged for the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding for the Slender-billed curlew and Great bustard (Central European populations).

**CYPRUS** - Cyprus has deposited its instrument of accession and will become a Party on 1 November 2001.

## CMS FAMILY

### **Congratulations Claudia !**

Claudia Schmidt-Packmohr recently had a baby boy (Alexander), both the mother and the baby are doing really well.

### **Welcome Susanne !**

Susanne A. Rose (Germany) has joined the Secretariat as Information Assistant. A journalist by profession, she brings in much experience in editorial work and publishing.

### **Good-bye to Thilo !**

Our colleague Thilo Schliebener (Finance Assistant) after many years of valuable contributions to the CMS Secretariat left at the end of September for a new post in Barcelona, Spain. Todos te deseamos la major de las suertes !

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Now in Mongolian: Booklet on Bactrian Camel**

Urgent efforts are needed to conserve a remarkable wild animal of the deserts of China and Mongolia: the Bactrian camel. This species has lived in the heart of the Gobi desert for thousands of years, and is now on the brink of extinction, with less than 1,000 camels surviving in the wild (see CMS Bulletin 13, page 22)

The call is being made by the Wild Camel Protection Foundation, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Jane Goodall Institute in a booklet now available in English, Chinese and Mongolian. The author, John Hare, has spent a considerable part of the last few years trying to raise awareness in the world's conservation community. The booklet "The King of the Gobi - The story of the wild Bactrian camel" is particularly aimed at children and adults in China and Mongolia to make them aware of the problems facing the wild Bactrian camel and to educate them on the importance of protecting their common natural heritage.

"One of the rarest animals of Mongolia is one that is also very amazing - the wild Bactrian Camel", Jane Goodall of the Jane Goodall Institute points out in her foreword. "Few creatures can live in such a hostile place. This fascinating book tells you how the camels manage to do so. For one thing they can, amazingly, drink salt water.... When you have finished reading this book, I think you will understand why these camels are so very special and why it would be so sad if they became extinct." "CMS is delighted to support John Hare's efforts", Ulf Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary to CMS notes. "However, we are aware that we can only assist. You, The Chinese and Mongolian children, have the future of not only the wild camels but other endangered species in your hands."

Thanks to the generous support of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, 12,000 brochures have been printed. The CMS Secretariat had arranged for the translation from English into Mongolian and the Mongolian Ministry of Education has undertaken to distribute the brochure in schools and other educational institutions. The Mongolian member of the CMS Scientific Council, Mr Lhagvasuren, played a key role in obtaining a solid translation and adaption of the brochure to Mongolian living areas of the camels. CMS is grateful for the cooperation of all those who have worked on the booklet and organised its distribution in the schools of Mongolia and China.

The Camel Foundation has organised the same exercise in Chinese for the Northern Chinese region.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATES	TITLE	VENUE	ORGANISED BY
24 - 27 October	AEWA lead workshop	Romania	AEWA
29 - 31 October	CMS Regional Meeting for Latin America	Lima, Peru	CMS
29 October - 9 November	UNFCCC COP 7 and 15th session of the SBSTA	Marrakech, Morocco	UNFCCC
5 - 7 November	AEWA Technical Committee Meeting	Tour-du-Valat, Le Sambuc, France	AEWA
6 November	Emmy and Karl Kaus Award	Bonn, Germany	CMS
10 - 13 November	Eastern Atlantic Monk Seal Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) Workshop. Meeting on the Draft Recovery Plan	Valsain, Spain.	Ministry of the Environment of Spain, CBSG, IUCN
14 - 17 November	Barcelona Convention COP 12 and Mediterranean Action Plan	Monaco	Barcelona Convention
26 - 30 November	Ad-hoc workshop group on interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change	Helsinki, Finland	CBD
13 - 14 December	23rd CMS Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany	CMS
<b>2002</b>			
9 - 11 January	Workshop on a recovery plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises	Jastarnia, Poland	ASCOBANS
February	2nd International Conference on Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa	Abuja, Nigeria	FEPA / CMS
28 February - 2 March	ACCOBAMS 1st Meeting of the Parties (MOP)	Monaco	ACCOBAMS
8 - 19 April	CBD COP 6	The Hague, Netherlands	CBD
13 - 14 May	Sahelo-saharan Antelopes. 3rd SSIG Meeting	Bratislava, Slovakia	SSIG
10 - 12 June	ASCOBANS 9th Advisory Committee Meeting	Sweden	ASCOBANS
3 - 15 September	World Summit on Sustainable Development	Johannesburg, South Africa	UN
15 - 28 September	CMS COP 7 (including AEWA MOP 2)	Bonn, Germany	CMS / AEWA
4 - 6 November	CITES COP 12	Santiago, Chile	CITES
16 - 18 November	Ramsar COP 8	Valencia, Spain	Ramsar

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