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CMS in a Changing Political Landscape

Just a few weeks ago, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched its third 'Global Environment Outlook' - GEO 3. The review of the past three decades of the state and development of the global biological diversity is alarming. According to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre 12 percent of bird species and 25 percent of mammal species are globally threatened.

Implications of human activities, natural disasters and the aggravation of the environmental situation in general seriously effect biodiversity. The figures on migratory species are equally worrying. Whereas the population of Pacific Leatherback turtles amounted to some 90,000 nesting females in the early 1980s, it has steadily declined to just 5,000 today. A similar dramatic decline in numbers can be also observed within the population of the Bukhara deer and the Saiga antelope in Central Asia as well as the Mongolian gazelle and wild asses in Asia. Even more significantly, several species of antelopes and gazelles in Sahelo-Saharan Africa have been eradicated in the past four decades. BirdLife International has recently published a book naming 1,186 bird species at risk worldwide. These are just a few examples how migratory species are increasingly threatened with extinction.

The upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg will focus on poverty alleviation and economic development, including the use of natural resources for these purposes. In addition, the FAO programme intends to end starvation on the globe by 2015. According to the final declaration of the World Food Summit joint efforts will be made to halve hunger by no later than 2015. Consequently, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) considers to reduce its financial support for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in order to create more financial resources for the new goal of poverty eradication through economic development. The justification I heard in the margins of the April 2002 CBD Conference of the Parties (COP6) in The Hague sounds interesting: we have spent enough GEF funds for biodiversity conservation in the past ten years, now we have to set other priorities.

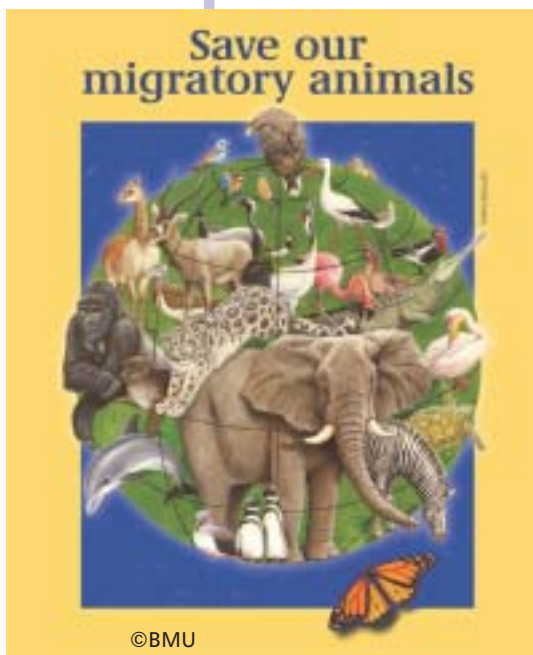
For more news and documents on COP7 please visit the website of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms>

This is an astonishing timely coincidence: CMS is looking back over the past year to the most productive and successful period in its 23 years of existence. A breakthrough was achieved by linking the implementation of CMS and CBD; a new Agreement on the conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was concluded and opened for signature and ratification; four new Memoranda of Understanding were concluded (two for Marine turtles, one each for Middle European Great bustards and Central Asian Bukhara deer); one further agreement (Asian Houbara bustard) is being prepared for consultation among the Range States; while another MoU on the Saiga antelope and on the Aquatic warbler are in an advanced stage of preparation. A number of other agreements and MoUs are in the planning process such as those on Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, on the Western and Central African populations of the African elephant, on the Mongolian Gazelle and on the Snow Leopard.

CMS has been recognised by CBD COP6 to be the lead partner of CBD in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range. A comprehensive CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme is now a cornerstone of the evolving CBD-CMS partnership. It sounds cynical that at this stage of progress, synergies between CMS and CBD may be hampered by a reduction of financial support for biodiversity measures. Moreover the Ministry of Environment of Germany, which at the same time is the Depositary for CMS and host country of its Secretariat claims CMS to be irrelevant for economic development and cooperation measures. Only the Parties to both CMS and CBD can assure that the instruments they have established can be used for the good of mankind.

The CMS COP7 as well as the AEWA MOP2 meetings in Bonn in September this year will show if the Parties are aware of the necessity to increase their support of specialised conventions such as CMS and confirm their decision making, given the tendency to reduce measures aimed at the conservation of biodiversity in favour of increasing measures aimed at enhancing economic development. The CMS Secretariat disposes of the necessary declarations, agreements and treaties to implement solutions to environmental problems and issues. Let's make it happen!

Arnulf Müller Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary



The Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS

COP 7 will be held in Bonn, from Wednesday, from 18 September to Tuesday, 24 September 2002 at the invitation of the German Government. Meetings of the Scientific Council (14 - 17 September) and the Standing Committee (17 September) will precede the conference. The second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement will follow immediately thereafter, from 25 - 27 September.

Please consult the CMS Web site for more information and the latest news:
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms>

Proposals for Amendment of CMS Appendices I and II

On the occasion of the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties in September, the CMS Appendices are open for amendment. This means that any Party can make a proposal for the listing of additional species in Appendices I and II. The deadline for such amendments, which have to be submitted according to the rules set out in the Convention text, was 21 April 2002. The table summarizes all of the proposals received within this time frame.

Several marine mammals have been proposed for inclusion, among them: six species of large whales (by Australia), Amazonian and West African Manatees (by Peru and Ghana, respectively), as well as the South American Sea Lion and the Fur Seal (by Peru). Australia has also proposed the listing in Appendix I and II of the Great White Shark, the only fish species under consideration.

Among the terrestrial mammals, Mongolia has nominated (among others) the Asiatic Wild Ass and the endangered Bactrian Camel. The Saiga Antelope, proposed by Uzbekistan, is already the focus of a Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan under development in recent months.

Paraguay, Mongolia and the Philippines have each proposed the listing of five bird species (mostly in Appendix I), while Chile and Peru have nominated a further four bird species from Latin America. The Turtle Dove, proposed by Senegal, is the sole bird candidate from the African region.

English Name	Scientific Name	Proponent	App. I	App. II
MAMMALIA				
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	AUS	x	x
Bryde's whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	AUS	x	x
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	AUS	x	x
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	AUS	x	x
Pygmy Right Whale	<i>Caperea marginata</i>	AUS	x	x
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter catodon</i>	AUS	x	x
Killer Whale, Orca	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	AUS		x
South American sea lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	PER		x
South American fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	PER		x
West African manatee	<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i>	GHA		x
Amazonian manatee	<i>Trichechus inunguis</i>	PER		x
Wild or Bactrian camel	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i>	MNG	x	
Asiatic wild ass	<i>Equus hemionus</i>	MNG		x
Goitered gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>	MNG		x
Mongolian gazelle	<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>	MNG		x
Saiga Antelope	<i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i>	UZB		x
AVES				
Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	CHL	x	
Peruvian diving petrel	<i>Pelecanoides garnotii</i>	CHL/PER	x	
Japanese Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius goisagi</i>	PHI	x	
Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	PHI	x	
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	MNG	x	
Baikal Teal	<i>Anas formosa</i>	MNG	x	
Pallas Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	MNG	x	
White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>	MNG	x	
Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	MNG	x	
Spotted Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	PHI	x	
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>	PHI	x	
Chinese Crested-Tern	<i>Sterna bemsteini</i>	PHI	x	
Marsh Seedeater	<i>Sporophila palustris</i>	PRY	x	
Cock-tailed Tyrant	<i>Alectrurus tricolor</i>	PRY	x	
Grey-cheeked Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris pyrrhopterus</i>	PER		x
Bearded Tachuri	<i>Polystictus pectoralis pectoralis</i>	PRY		x
Dark-throated Seedeater	<i>Sporophila ruficollis</i>	PRY		x
Dinelli's Doradito	<i>Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus</i>	PRY		x
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur turtur</i>	SEN		x
ELASMOBRANCHII (PISCES)				
White shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	AUS	x	x

Waterbirds and Wetlands of Northern Cambodia

By Jeb Barzen,
International Crane Foundation

As peace unfolds across Southeast Asia, decisions about land use are occurring at a rapidly increasing pace. The open dipterocarp forests of Southeast Asia may be forever changed within the next decade. Development is occurring as quickly in northern Cambodia, where the bulk of this open forest ecosystem remains, as anywhere else.

Photo provided by ICF



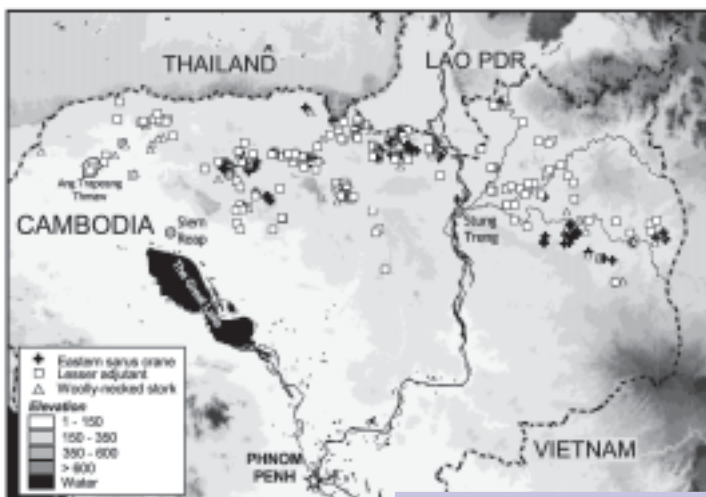
Sarus cranes

With support from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), ICF organized an aerial survey of large waterbirds to assist strategies for conserving biodiversity in northern Cambodia. To utilize 42 hours of flight time efficiently, we mapped and planned our flights to maximize coverage of the approximately 12,000 wetlands that varied greatly in size and were scattered among 5 million hectares of open forest.

What we found from the air was stunning: 82 Sarus crane nesting territories, 381 Lesser Adjutants (with two nesting colonies), 21 Greater Adjutants, 19 Giant Ibis, 180 Woolly-necked Storks, 30 Black-necked Storks, 1 White-shouldered Ibis, 1,262 Open-billed Storks, 143 Painted Storks, 2 Milky Storks and many other species. More importantly, these species were spread across most of northern Cambodia (see map).

Some survey areas held concentrations of several species. Here, the typical approach to conservation might work well: identify boundaries for a reserve and limit development. Yet, given the expansive distribution of these large waterbirds, this “protected area approach” would leave out a significant proportion of the birds that still exist in this threatened region. Clearly, in addition to establishing protected areas, conservationists need to develop ways that people and these native ecosystems can co-exist.

Another surprising result from this survey is the concentration of large flocks at Ang Trapeang Thmaw Wildlife Reserve (ATT) during the rainy season. ATT was established through the efforts of Sam Veasna of the Cambodia Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife (DFW) and Eleanor Briggs of ICF. It was first identified as being an important wetland for Eastern Sarus Cranes and other waterbirds during the non-breeding (dry) season. Our survey suggests that ATT provides non-breeding habitat for large waterbirds during both the dry and wet seasons, making it unique in Southeast Asia.



ICF collaborated with DFW; the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); the Cambodia Ministry of the Environment (MOE); Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF); and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to conduct these surveys in September, 2001. Successful follow-up for conservation will depend upon people from these organizations and more.

For more details, please visit ICF's website: www.savingcranes.org/fedprojects/

Locations of the three most abundant waterbird species found during the September, 2001 survey.

Breeding Centre for the Wild Bactrian Camel Goes Ahead

The Wild Camel Protection Foundation (WCPF), a UK based charitable trust with Jane Goodall as its patron, was established in 1997 for the protection of the wild Bactrian camel (*Camelus bactrianus ferus*). The cooperation between CMS and WCPF began with the publication of the booklet "The King of the Gobi – The story of the wild Bactrian Camel" by John Hare (see CMS Bulletin 13, page 22 and Bulletin 14, page 23). This endeavour, which received financial support from CMS, inspired WCPF to come up with a new environmental children's book. CMS has already promised financing for the translation of this new booklet as part of an awareness campaign, which will focus on the problems encountered by the wild Bactrian camel in its central Asian habitat.

As of now, there are approximately 350 wild Bactrian camels in the Mongolian Great Gobi Reserve A, south of Bayan Toroi and approximately 650 additional camels further south in Xinjiang province, China, living in three isolated and separated pockets. It is amazing that the camel is not only adapted to drink salt water, but might be altogether a species by itself, since DNA tests show an impressive base genetic difference between it and its domestic cousin (3%).

There is a great need to establish a breeding centre for the wild bactrian camel, since the actual number of 15 held in captivity is not sufficient to ensure the survival of the species, in case it were to become extinct in its natural habitat. It is essential to breed enough camels in captivity to avoid this potential disaster. Dr. Sarantuya, a former senior official in the Ministry of Environment and Nature, will establish a new NGO to coordinate this captive breeding project, working directly with the WCPF. The breeding centre is planned to be set up in the south of Mongolia. WCPF is currently raising funds to build a 1 km² fence for the 10 captive camels held in Mongolia.

Meanwhile the WCPF is encountering even more difficulties. The Chinese government is planning to install a gas pipeline across the already existing Arjin Shan Lop Nur wild camel reserve thereby reducing it to about one fifth of its actual size. On top of this, UNEP/GEF subsidies, which have been covering the costs of the reserve, will end in September 2002. Plans for funding and lobbying are already under way.

Another serious threat the camel population faces in southern Mongolia is that numerous camels are reported as not having returned to Mongolia, mainly due to poaching. Therefore, efforts are being intensified to establish a new nature reserve along the border area between southwest Mongolia and the Gansu area in northern China. The CMS Secretariat urgently calls upon Parties and organizations to support conservation and protection measures to save the wild Bactrian camel, a unique treasure of wildlife, from extinction.

For further details and information, please address:

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First ACCOBAMS Meeting of the Parties Concluded in Monaco



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The marine region comprising the Mediterranean and Black Seas provides a special combination of opportunities and problems as far as the conservation of cetaceans is concerned. On the one hand, whales and dolphins are present in the region with a fair number of species, many of which are represented there by sizeable populations. No tradition of whaling nor of organized sustainable use of cetacean products exists in the Mediterranean, while industrialized dolphin and porpoise killing was definitively terminated in the Black Sea decades ago. On the other

hand, marine and coastal habitats throughout the region are subject in places to extremely high human pressure, which often impacts heavily on cetacean populations. Although the people living in the riparian countries have a remarkably benevolent attitude towards cetacean welfare and conservation, problems of coexistence between cetaceans and humans exist in many aspects, and must be addressed largely through the adoption of innovative management measures, the promotion of capacity-building throughout the region, and the advancement of science-based knowledge. To the end, the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) was envisaged under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. The Agreement was signed in November 1996 by 11 riparian States, and came into force in June 2001.

The Agreement and its Twelve Parties

The Parties to ACCOBAMS held their first meeting in Monaco from 28 February to 2 March 2002. The Principality of Monaco has a tradition for extra-ordinary commitment to the cause of marine conservation. Ten contracting Parties (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Spain, and Tunisia) attended the meeting; meanwhile Tunisia has ratified the Agreement. Other countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Portugal, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the European Commission), for many of which the ratification process is still in progress, were present as observers. On the 18 of June 2002, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya deposited the instrument of ratification to ACCOBAMS. For Libya the Agreement will enter into force the 1st September 2002 bringing the total signatories to twelve.

In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the IWC, of the Barcelona, Bucharest and Berne Conventions, and of a number of international and national NGOs including the CIESM, the IUCN and the European Cetacean Society. During the course of the meeting, a permanent Secretariat of the Agreement was established, having its headquarters in Monaco. As the Minister of International Cooperation for Environment and Development in Monaco, SEM B. Fautrier, and A. Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary of CMS, pointed out in their correspondence, the hosting of the Secretariat by Monaco will contribute to a sustainable management plan for migratory species.

A Scientific Committee was also established, composed by five experts designated by the CIESM, four designated by the Parties, and one each from the IUCN, the IWC and the ECS. The Scientific Committee is expected to hold its first meeting in October 2002.

Cetacean of the Mediterranean and Black Seas: State of Knowledge and Conservation Strategies

A report, "Cetacean of the Mediterranean and Black Seas: state of knowledge and conservation strategies", now available on the ACCOBAMS web site, was presented and distributed the meeting, and priority actions designed to implement the Conservation Plan of the Agreement were presented and approved as well.

These strategies include preparatory or implementation activities to:

- develop criteria and provide *ad hoc* support for the harmonization of commercial whale watching regulations with science-based knowledge on the protection needs of the involved cetacean populations;
- investigate competitive interactions between coastal dolphins and artisanal fisheries;
- create a cetacean bycatch database;
- develop and implement pilot conservation and management actions in well-defined key areas containing critical habitat for populations belonging to priority species;
- develop methods for the evaluation of habitat degradation and its effect on cetacean populations;
- develop conservation plans for all cetaceans species found in the Black Sea, and for short-beaked common dolphins and common bottlenose dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea;
- organize a basin-wide sperm whale survey in the Mediterranean;
- identify sites of conservation importance for fin whales;
- develop photo-identification databases and programmes encompassing the entire Agreement area;
- establish and implement a long-term training programme on cetacean research, monitoring and conservation/management techniques and procedures;
- develop an educational tool for the organization of research projects and basic technical studies;
- create sub-regional directories of national authorities,
- research and rescue centers, scientists, governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the Agreement's objectives;
- support the implementation of national stranding networks and their co-ordination into a wider regional network;
- develop a network of specialized bibliographic collections and databases; establish a system of tissue banks; and finally, establish a task force for special mortality events.

Significant financial support will have to be secured, in addition to the regular contributions from the Parties to the Agreement, in order to implement all of the actions listed above, and a voluntary fund was thus established to fulfill this purpose.

Additional information and documentation may be found on the Agreement website: <http://www.accombams.mc>

Jastarnia Plan to Save Baltic Harbour Porpoises



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From 9 – 11 January 2002 ASCOBANS, in cooperation with the Hel Marine Station and the Foundation for the Development of the University of Gdańsk (Fundacja Roswoju Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, FRUG) organized a workshop in Jastarnia, Poland. This workshop was aimed at drafting a recovery plan for Baltic harbour porpoises. Harbour porpoises are the only native species of cetaceans in the Baltic Sea. With only some 600 animals believed to remain in the Baltic, this species is highly endangered and action is urgently required to prevent a further deterioration of their conservation status. Consequently, the elaboration of a recovery plan was long-standing aim of ASCOBANS.

Thanks to the positive and cooperative spirit that prevailed in Jastarnia and the hard work of all participants of the workshop, considerable progress was made towards laying the groundwork for the recovery plan. After three days of intensive, constructive and fruitful discussions the workshop produced a number of recommendations. Based on this input, the chairman, Dr. Randall R. Reeves, produced a draft recovery plan (Jastarnia Plan), which was reviewed and finalized by Parties and Range States at the 9th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, held in Hindås, Sweden, from 10 – 12 June. The Jastarnia Plan will be submitted for adoption by the 4th Meeting of the Parties, to be held in Esbjerg, Denmark, in June of next year.



Dr. Randall R. Reeves, the chairman of the workshop.

ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

The 9th meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee took place from 10 – 12 June in Hindås (near Gothenburg), Sweden. In addition to the Jastarnia Plan for Baltic harbour porpoises, bycatch mitigation throughout the ASCOBANS area was, as usual, high on the meeting's agenda. Another important item the meeting dealt with was abundance survey planning.



Photo: Krzysztof Skóra

ASCOBANS Exhibition – Still Touring the Baltic Region

The ASCOBANS exhibition continues its tour of the Eastern Baltic region. From Latvia, where a large number of visitors saw it at the Latvian Nature Museum in Riga this spring, it has now moved further North: from June to September it will be shown in following places in Finland: Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki (4 – 30 June), Tampereen Särkaniemi (Dolphinarium), Tampere (4 – 25 July), The Blåmusslan Visitor Center, Kasnäs (31 July – 22 August), The Biological Museum, Turku/Åbo, (28 August – 19 September). In October, Russians in St Petersburg and Moscow will have the chance to learn about "Harbour Porpoise in Distress", before the exhibition will be displayed at the Estonian Museum of Natural History in Tallinn starting in November. Watch this space for more news on where to catch our exhibition next if you have not yet seen it – or would like to see it again.

Amendment and New Title of EUROBATS Agreement



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The 7th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC 7) took place at the generous invitation of the Government of Romania in Bucharest from 27 to 29 May 2002 and established once again a new participation record with 63 delegates from 32 countries.

The agenda focussed on the implementation of the large work programme adopted at the previous Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP). In particular it was discussed how implementation procedures could become more efficient.

The Meeting also adopted a new and very attractive logo for the Agreement, which integrates the very successful and dynamic elements of the "International Year of the Bat" logo.

The conference noted with satisfaction that the Amendment to the Agreement adopted at MoP 3 in July 2000 had already entered into force in August 2001. This was taken as a clear indicator for the necessity of the Amendment and the Parties' support. The most important element of the Amendment is an appendix, which lists the species covered by the Agreement. Already now it has become evident that quite a number of additional species will be presented to MoP 4 for listing.

Another change resulting from the amendment is the new title of the Agreement: "The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats". Although slightly technical, this new title demonstrates that bio-geographical boundaries rather than political ones define the Agreement area. In the future this might become relevant in particular for the southern Mediterranean. The AC 7 Meeting decided that the new title should be used with immediate effect.



Petru Lificiu, Minister of Waters and Environmental Protection of Romania.

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New Party Joins the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

© BIOS, Seitre

Yellow-nosed albatross

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was signed in June 2001 in Canberra, Australia. Spain signed the Agreement on 30 April 2002 with Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, New Zealand, Peru and the United Kingdom and bringing the total signatories to eight. The interim secretariat services are provided by Australia, until the first Meeting of the Parties, to be convened within a year. As the first major fishing nation, Spain acknowledges the importance of the agreement in the conservation of these seabirds. Spain's signature reveals its strong commitment to protect albatrosses and petrels that forage in the Southern Ocean. This marks a considerable step forward in the fight to protect these great migratory seabirds.

The biggest albatross species, the Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*, which is listed on Appendix II, has with 3.5 m the largest wingspan of all living birds. As the wings are very narrow compared to their length, albatross are magnificent gliders. For their wings to perform to their fullest extent, albatrosses require extremely high air speeds. Therefore you will find albatrosses frequently flying over very windy seas blowing from west to east across the southern oceans. Winds blowing from and to Australia were not only very important for sailing ships in former times, but they also enable albatrosses to fly without difficulty around the whole world.

Most of the albatross species migrate. Following trade winds, they fly over the entire Pacific and the Southern oceans. Like other birds they seem to have the astonishing capacity to find their way while relying on the sun and stars as a means of navigation. A Laysan Albatross, which had been taken away from its nest, could cover the distance of 6000 km in order to return back in only 32 days.

As albatrosses have the largest number of threatened species in any bird family, they are the most vulnerable and threatened of all seabirds. Nearly all of the 24 species of albatross have declining populations while half of albatross species contain less than 100 annual breeding pairs. Considering the ever declining population sizes, albatrosses are even particularly threatened by longline fishing, marine pollution, contamination of their breeding sites and over-exploitation of food resources.

Twenty-one of the 24 species of albatrosses worldwide can be found within the Australian Fishing Zone. Among the signatories to the Agreement, Australia has therefore committed itself to the conservation of these seabirds and taken the lead in implementing conservation measures. Whereas four species out of these 21 are listed as nationally endangered under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC), a further 13 species have been listed as nationally vulnerable. As a means of protecting these threatened species, the Australian fishing industry is actively contributing to the development of novel and effective techniques to reduce seabird by-catch in the Australian Fishing Zone.

Source: Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australia

African Marine Turtle Conservation Plan finalised

A detailed Conservation Plan for marine turtles of Africa's Atlantic coast was agreed by Government officials and experts in Nairobi on 9 May 2002. The plan is linked to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding that was adopted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire three years ago. The meeting was held at UNEP Headquarters and was chaired by the Nigerian Minister of State for Environment, H.E. Dr. Imeh Okopido.

The Conservation Plan is the product of extensive discussion and revision by two working groups which, for practical reasons, were organized along linguistic lines. The francophone and anglophone groups were facilitated by Jacques Fretey and Jack Frazier, respectively, in their capacity as CMS resource persons. The time required to complete the Plan was a positive reflection of how much progress had been made in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding since it came into effect three years ago under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. The revision process was highly inclusive, contributing to a strong sense of ownership among participants.

The meeting also agreed the content and format of a template for national reports, mirroring the content of the Conservation Plan. The Secretariat is charged with finalizing the presentational aspects of the report format and circulating it in the coming weeks, with a view to soliciting the first formal reports from Signatory States by 30 September.

Progress was made towards the development of strategy for identifying potential funding sources for marine turtle conservation activities, from a wide range of local, national and international donors. Mark Rennie (Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program), who chaired the working group, has offered to collaborate with the Secretariat to develop a Web- and paper-based resource that would match funding requests to potential donors, based in part on experience gained to date.

A highlight of the meeting was the closing ceremony which featured the signature of the MoU by representatives of a further five Range States — Angola, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Sierra Leone — bringing to 17 the total number of States participating in the Memorandum. Thereafter, the Kenyan Minister of Environment,

H.E. Joseph Kamotho, was invited to sign the corresponding Memorandum of Understanding for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia — making Kenya the eleventh signatory of that CMS instrument.

As part of the ceremony, David Olendo, the chair of the Kenya Sea Turtle Conservation Committee (KESCOM) gave a demonstration of a Turtle Excluder Device (TED), a metal frame with rungs that fits into a shrimp trawl net and which allows for inadvertently caught marine turtles to escape. The TED had been donated for the occasion by the United States National Marine Fisheries Service. Following the demonstration, Minister Okopido symbolically transferred the TED on behalf of the Signatory States of the Atlantic MoU to his Kenyan counterpart, on behalf of the IOSEA MoU Signatory States. The timing of the event was particularly appropriate for Nigeria, which had been certified only days earlier by the United States Government as complying with that country's programme requiring the use of TEDs in order to be allowed to export or market shrimp to the USA.



H.E. Dr. Imeh Okopido, Nigerian Minister of State for Environment, with the Deputy Executive Secretary, Douglas Hykle.

The Nairobi Declaration was presented to the Meeting in its final form by Minister Okopido. Among other things, the Declaration draws attention to the problem of marine turtle by-catch in industrial fishing operations and emphasizes the importance of involving resident communities in the development and implementation of conservation activities. It welcomes the positive indications from Spain and France — the latter being a major sponsor of the MoU's development — to consider joining the MoU, and calls upon the eight non-signatory Range States to become members as soon as possible. The Declaration also encourages links with other conventions, intergovernmental bodies and NGOs, and seeks the integration of marine turtle conservation measures within the emerging African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa.

New CMS MoU to Save the Bukhara Deer from Extinction Concluded by Central Asian Environment Ministers

The Ministers for Environment of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 16 May 2002, and concluded a new agreement to save the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*) from the brink of extinction.

The agreement, opened for signature at the Meeting of the Environment Ministers of the Central Asian Region, was developed under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species, in collaboration with the Central Asia Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Uzbekistan will sign the agreement after the approval of its Cabinet of Ministers.

The species risks extinction from a number of human threats. Artificial regulation of the water regime, habitat destruction, as well as illegal hunting and poaching are the main reasons for the Bukhara's alarming decline in numbers. Historically the species' area of distribution included all river valleys of Amudaria and Syrdaria and all their river basins. Now only approximately 350-450 animals remain, scattered in a few small populations in limited areas.

The Central Asian peoples in former times called the Bukhara Deer "Hangul" (the King's flower). It was almost as holy as the cows are in India. The species was under the special protection of the feudal kings. But the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 exposed Central Asians to great economic hardship. With no economic prospects, individuals turned to poaching to survive. Poaching has increased to levels that are detrimental to the deer. For example, in a prime area for the deer, the Tigrovaja Balka zapovednik (a strictly protected area), the deer population decreased between 1990-2000 from about 400 individuals down to only 8 animals.

By signing the "Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*)" the Central Asian Ministers acknowledge their countries' shared responsibility to conserve and restore the Bukhara Deer and the habitats upon which the animals depend. They recognise that they must take concerted, coordinated action to immediately prevent the disappearance of the remaining populations.

The Chairman and host of the meeting, the Minister of Nature Protection of Tajikistan, HE Mr Usmokul Shokirov, declared at the signing ceremony that he hopes that the MOU and its comprehensive Action Plan will create an incentive for the Range States' authorities to do more for the species and to cooperate with their neighbours, while attracting international agencies to provide substantial assistance. He thanked the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the WWF Central Asia Programme for the thorough preparation of the MOU and Action Plan. He said the maintenance of viable wild populations in the region is more than just nature conservation: the deer are part of the identity of the Amudaria and Syrdaria river basins, incorporating tradition, history and symbiosis of man and nature.

Mr Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, the Executive Secretary of CMS, highlighted that the Bukhara Deer migrate across boundaries of the Central Asian Range States. Therefore they can be only effectively conserved by concerted action of the respective States. The fact that the Agreement will also be signed by cooperating international organisations - WWF, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the UNEP/CMS Secretariat - demonstrates the international concern about the loss of Central Asia's biodiversity, and its global importance. More importantly, their signature demonstrates that the international community will assist the Range States in their efforts to conserve the Bukhara Deer.

Dr Olga Pereladova, the Director of the WWF Central Asia Programme, referred to the project work already started or under development in some of the Range States with the active assistance of WWF. However, she made clear that much more must be done to achieve the species' survival in the wild. The President of the CIC, Mr Dieter Schramm, declared the CIC's willingness to commit itself to the rescue efforts: "Only if we first succeed in returning the species to a favourable conservation status, can there then be a possibility for opening the Bukhara to sustainable use in a shared manner among the Range States in order to contribute to the economic development of the region and the welfare of the local communities. The CIC feels committed to help achieving this goal".

The Environment Ministers of the Central Asian States met from 15-17 May to discuss how to organise their regional consultation and cooperation. They also took decisions on the Central Asian Environment Programme prepared under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme. The MOU will perfectly complement the programme.

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Great Bustard MoU: Ukraine and Albania Become Signatory States

Ukraine and Albania became the tenth and eleventh Range States to join the CMS MoU on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard, affixing their signatures in The Hague in April 2002.

The Great Bustard is listed in CMS Appendix II because of its unfavourable conservation status, which the MoU is intended to improve through focused conservation and management efforts. The other nine Signatory States are: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Republic of Moldova, and Slovakia.

Signature of the MoU is still under examination in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia; Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to signal its intentions. The Minister of Environment of Germany has officially stated that the German Government will not sign.

There are grounds for optimism for the successful implementation of the MoU. Direct contacts have been established between the Moldovan Great Bustard Focal Point and the Pannonian Society for the Protection of the Great Bustard in Austria. Transboundary cooperation between Austria, Hungary and Slovakia is already well under way. Encouraged by their fruitful cooperation with Ukraine and Russia, German experts from the federal state of Brandenburg are now extending their contacts to Austria, Hungary and Slovakia. The CMS Secretariat is presently investigating whether the first expert meeting of the signatories to the MoU can be convened in autumn 2002; however it seems that this issue will be discussed at an expert meeting within a much larger framework on 13-14 April 2003.



Great Bustard

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Saiga Antelope: International Workshop Considers Draft CMS MoU and Action Plan

Elista, 10 May 2002. Ninety international experts met in Elista, Russian Federation, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Kalmykia, for a 5-day workshop (5-10 May 2002). They considered a draft CMS Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan to conserve the remaining populations of Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*) in the Eurasian steppe. The meeting was co-organised by the Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources in the Republic of Kalmykia, the Caspian Programme of ISAR and the Russian Committee for the UNESCO Programme on Man and the Biosphere. The meeting was co-sponsored by CMS and CITES.

Despite the species' listing on CITES Appendix II, the number of Saiga has dwindled in Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan primarily from poaching to supply male horns to Asian markets for medicinal use. Between 1998 and 1999 the Saiga numbers declined at an estimated rate of 35 percent. This jumped to 56 percent between 1999 and 2000. According to David Mallon of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the rapid rate of decline will result in a revised listing for the subspecies in the IUCN Red Book in 2002 - a downgrading to critically endangered.

While international trade in horns appears to be the greatest threat to remaining Saiga populations, workshop participants exchanged opinions on different aspects of combating poaching, habitat degradation and obstacles to migration. They also discussed natural factors, such as predation and climate change, which may be accelerating the decline.

In his address to the workshop, Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, CMS Executive Secretary, noted that the combination of threats, which affects Saiga in varying degrees in different parts of its range, requires a comprehensive approach designed to work across the animal's range. Mueller-Helmbrecht described to the participants how a CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and action plan could be used to reduce mortality, restore numbers and enhance international co-operation across the range. The draft MoU and action plan are now being revised for further consideration by the Range States.

A CMS MoU and action plan, if operationalised, could also provide an effective tool through which to address concerns raised by a significant trade review considered during the forty-fifth meeting of the CITES Standing Committee held in Paris from 19-22 June 2001. The Russian Federation suggested that a regional conservation strategy could be one means to place international trade on a more sound, managed and sustainable basis.

The CMS Secretariat and CITES Secretariat – represented in Elista by Tom de Meulenaer, Principal Scientific Officer - agreed during the workshop to work together to make the MoU and action plan a joint undertaking that could in part fulfil the needs of the range States to satisfy CITES concerns.



Saiga-Antelope

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In April 2002, the French authorities approved an international GEF project on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes, which is co-funded by the French *Fonds Français de l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM), and other sponsors, e.g. the Flemish region (Belgium) and CMS. This project covers the range of six large ungulate species, namely Scimitar-horned Oryx, Addax, Dama Gazelle, Slender-horned Gazelle, Cuvier's Gazelle and Dorcas Gazelle. As flagship species of the Sahelo-Saharan they can be also seen as indicator species for the status of the biodiversity of this desert and sub-desert habitat.

Following the Djerba workshop on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in February 1998 during which all of the fourteen Range States adopted a regional Action Plan, the French GEF project is another attempt for the implementation of this Action Plan. It includes conservation measures and research activities in seven countries (Chad, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia). A special focus lies on three pilot projects in Mali, Niger and Tunisia.

The overall aim is to conserve and restore the antelope species in either their original or other suitable habitats. In order to achieve this, the project aims on the setting up of necessary institutional, regulatory and human frameworks as well as the preservation of the last vestiges of natural environments and the restoration of habitats on the basis of historic data. Local communities will be involved in the conservation work linking the project hereby to the socio-economic development and to efforts to combat desertification. It is further planned to develop an environmental friendly tourism and to promote the sustainable use of the natural resources in the region.

As the implementing organization CMS is responsible for the management, coordination and administration of the project. It is supported by the *Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage* (ONFS) and the *Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique* (IRSNB). The Standing Committee of CMS has recently decided to create a Project Review Group that is composed by five specialists on these species. It will play an important part in the supervision and evaluation of the envisaged project.

All participating Parties are making efforts to implement the project. CMS still needs to gain the capacity to comply with the request of the French Government to take over the administration of the project. Trilateral talks between UNEP/UNON, the French Government and CMS in Nairobi in May 2002 already brought first positive results.

Future Agreements: CMS and Bats

The development of Agreements is one of the key operational tools of the Convention on Migratory Species. The Secretariat will be reporting to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties on Agreements under development. One of the highlights of this report is CMS work being undertaken on bats.

Bats are key components of biodiversity throughout the world, especially in tropical and arid areas where they contribute to ecosystem structure and function. Bat species represent approximately 25 percent of all mammalian species. To date only one bat species, *Tadarida brasiliensis*, has been listed on CMS Appendix I. Despite this, of the approximately 1100 bat species in the world, about 22 percent are considered threatened, and a further 25 percent are considered near threatened according to Tony Hutson, co-chair of the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group.

In early 2002, the Secretariat commissioned a study by Mr Hutson to review the feasibility of developing additional CMS Agreements on bats. The objectives of the study were to: (1) identify at least one biogeographical area for a future CMS Agreement on bats (both migratory and non-migratory); (2) identify migratory bat species that could qualify for listing in CMS Appendices; and (3) identify experts and interested organisations that could support further work by CMS on possible bats Agreements.

At the time of writing the study is still in its early stages of completion. However, the study is expected to be made available to the 11th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council for its consideration. Even after the study's completion, Tony Hutson would be very happy to receive information on migratory bats species throughout the world, including in the four study areas: South-east Asia, South Asia, Africa and South America. Please contact him at hutsont@pavilion.co.uk.

New Case of Seal Mortality in Denmark



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In the last three months up to 2,190 common seals have been found dead in the the Danish and Swedish Kattegat/Skagerrak area, the same area where a mass mortality of seals started in April 1988. Half of the seals were still pups. The carcasses were found in the Dutch part of the Wadden Sea, on the Danish isles of Anholt, Laesø, Hesselø and the north coast of Sealand and in the outer parts of the Oslofjord in Norway. As a result of the increasing mortality among seals on the Swedish west coast only, the death toll is estimated to amount to 1000 animals.

The Danish and Dutch veterinarian investigations confirmed that the cause of mortality is the phocine distemper virus (pdv), the same virus which caused the death of more than 50 % of the whole Wadden Sea population of the seals in 1988. In the past, only domestic animals were affected by the virus. The Phocine distemper virus spreads rapidly through harbour seal populations, attacking the immune system. Once the animals are infected, pneumonia is the most common cause of death. Several of the dead seals found also suffered from bronchopneumonia, parasites and bacteria.

For more information, please visit the website of the [Agreement on the Conservation of the Seals in the Wadden Sea](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org): <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org>

The Amazon Manatee – On the Brink of Extinction?

The Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties will decide on merits of including further species in the Appendices of the Convention, either by virtue of their endangered status (thus warranting strict protection) or their suitability for the development of CMS Agreements in order to promote their conservation. One of the species being proposed by Peru for listing in Appendix II is the Amazon manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*).

The following diary entry of a manatee researcher (Sabine Weisser) shows how difficult it is to get a reliable estimate on the actual population size of the Amazon manatee. It is the smallest species of Manatee and is completely adapted to the Amazonian sweet water systems. It prefers lakes, oxbows, and lagoons with deep connections to large rivers and abundant aquatic vegetation. Being a herbivore, it feeds on aquatic vegetation near lake edges, such as aquatic grasses, and floating vegetation such as water lilies.

“I was sitting in my canoe observing the water surface. Since it was a big lagoon, it was difficult to know where to look out for the famous Amazon manatee. Our only clue was that they had been spotted at various times in the ‘Laguna grande’ of the Cuyabeno National Park in Ecuador where a researcher had seen them in small groups in 1986. We looked for floating vegetation and aquatic grasses. Even though it was a white water system making anything below the water surface literally invisible, an upcoming fecal pellet or small nostrils peeping out to breathe would have revealed their presence [...]”

The Amazon manatee is reported to have one offspring every two years. Reproduction in captivity has only been reported to have succeeded once at the Brazilian “Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia” in Manaus. Their long reproductive cycle makes them even more vulnerable to disturbances and unsustainable taking.

The most reliable source of information as to their distribution are the native Indios living close to the watercourses, since they have made sustainable use of their meat, oil and fat for centuries. Interviews with them make clear an ever declining population. According to scientific literature the Amazon manatee used to live in large groups of more than ten individuals. Nowadays, if they are spotted, it is rarely more than one individual. Sometimes field researchers spend weeks without seeing a single animal.

A major reason for their rapid decline is the continual increase in unsustainable taking, due to the opening of pristine rainforest areas to modern civilization. But changes in the sustainable hunting patterns of indigenous people also account for their threatened conservation status. Since their meat fetches a good price at markets it is also very interesting for commercial hunters. Motorboat activities, destruction and pollution of their habitats due to gold mining and oil industry constitute other threats to their existence. The Columbian Plan “Plan Colombia” (set up by the USA and Colombia) aimed at stopping illegal coca plantations in the Amazon area, also involves the use of chemical substances like pesticides, which have a huge impact on the rainforest ecosystem, thus also affecting the manatee populations in Colombia and northern Ecuador.

The Manatees status is listed as “vulnerable” in the IUCN category and it is included in Appendix I of CITES. As a migratory species crossing the borders between Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil, its inclusion on Appendix II of CMS could provide a legal platform for the Range States to develop common conservation measures. This would be the first step to implement measures for a migratory species of the Amazon rainforest, where to date CMS’ representation is limited to Peru.

CBD COP: CMS the Lead Partner on Migratory Species



Developing synergies with the major global biodiversity-related treaties is critically important to CMS and to worldwide efforts to conserve and sustainably use migratory species. The sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in The Hague in April this year, was a watershed event for CMS and its associated Agreements.

Of particular interest to CMS was the decision of CBD COP6 to recognize CMS as its lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range. The decision was the outcome of several years of preparation between the two convention secretariats and it fulfils the spirit of CMS Resolutions (4.4, 5.4 and 6.4.) adopted by the 4th, 5th and 6th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties.

CBD Decision VI/20 highlights the central role CMS has in providing an international legal framework through which range States can cooperate on migratory species issues. Most importantly, the CBD COP recognized "migratory species as a unique globally important component of biological diversity" whose "conservation and sustainable use [...] need to be undertaken in their migratory range and through cooperative actions." These statements demonstrate the need for all CBD Parties, even if they are not CMS Parties, to take action to conserve and sustainably use migratory species. They spotlight CMS as the global forum through which this can be achieved.

A draft CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme (JWP) is the cornerstone of the evolving CBD-CMS partnership. Initial work was guided by a 2000 study of the complementarities between CMS, the Agreements developed under its auspices and the CBD. The objectives of the CMS Strategic Plan (2000-2005), adopted by the CMS COP at its sixth meeting, as well as the Strategic Plan for the CBD adopted at COP6 were also considered. The various CBD thematic and cross cutting areas provide the framework around which the draft JWP is organised. Background information is provided. A non-exhaustive, indicative list of actions to be taken is given, along with an indication of the priority that should be accorded to undertake the activity. Finally, the draft JWP suggests the actors responsible for undertaking the actions, along with the possible mechanisms and financial considerations.

CBD and CMS Parties as well as Parties and Signatories of the CMS Agreements, will have the primary responsibility to implement the JWP. The active involvement of other actors, such as scientific bodies, the CMS and CBD Secretariats and international organizations would support this. The JWP is viewed as an evolving document. Its implementation would be kept under regular review by each convention's respective Conference of the Parties and secretariats. The initial period of application is 2002-2005. The Conference of Parties to CMS will consider the draft JWP and the relevant CBD COP decisions by September 2002.

Promoting the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds in the Asia Pacific Region: Achievements of the 7th MWCC in Malaysia



By Taej Mundkur, Programme Director

The Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC) responsible for coordinating the development, monitoring and implementation of the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005* held its 7th Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 19-20 June 2002. The MWCC comprises representation from seven governments (Australia, People's Republic of China, Japan, India, Russia, Indonesia and USA), the Ramsar and Bonn Conventions, BirdLife International, World

Wide Fund for Nature, Chairs of Species Working Groups (Anatidae, cranes and shorebirds), UNDP/GEF and Wetlands International Specialist Groups.

The Meeting approved Ms Alison Russell-French of Environment Australia as Committee Chair and Mr Diazaburo Kuroda of Ministry of Environment, Japan as the Vice Chair for the next two years. The Committee also proposed strengthening its structure and functioning through various measures, including through closer integration with the Ramsar and Bonn Conventions, their Joint Work Plans and other mechanisms.

The Committee reviewed and commended the range of work that has been undertaken during 2001-2002 to promote and ensure the conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the region. It called for renewed efforts and focus along the main migration patterns of species along three flyways: Central Asian-Indian, East Asian-Australasian and Central Pacific through the implementation of well developed Action Plans and programmes.

It noted and welcomed the addition of several new sites to the international site networks during 2001-2002: Mai Po Marshes (Hong Kong SAR, China) and Utonai-ko (Japan) to the *East Asian Anatidae Site Network*; six sites to the *North East Asian Crane Site Network* from the People's Republic of China (Zhalong National Nature Reserve, Sanjiang National Nature Reserve, Xianghai National Nature Reserve, Shuangtai Hekou National Nature Reserve, Shengjin Hu National Nature Reserve and Cao Hai National Nature Reserve) and two sites, Kashima Shingomori (Japan) and Sungai Buloh Wetland Reserve (Singapore) to the *East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site Network*.

The Committee acknowledged the large amount of work needed over the next three years to raise awareness, build capacity and manage wetlands in the region to achieve conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands. It called for the development of National Implementation Programmes and costed annual Work Plans for the Strategy and Action Plans.

More information on the outcomes of the 7th Meeting will be posted on the Wetlands International website at:
<http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/waterbirdstrategy/default.htm>

Southern African Development Community to Collaborate with CMS

The Executive Secretary of CMS was invited to an extraordinary meeting convened in Berlin on 21 June 2002 by the Ambassadors of the countries of the *Southern African Development Community (SADC)* in Germany. He gave a briefing on the aims, instruments and main achievements of the Convention with a focus on Africa as a priority area for CMS.

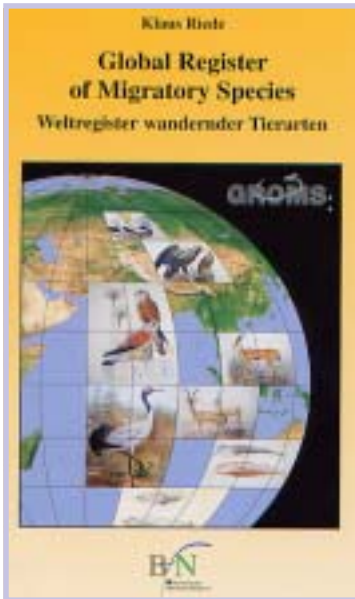
With a view to the upcoming 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) to CMS and 2nd Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in September in Bonn, Germany, the Executive Secretary invited the ambassadors to forward the invitation to the capitals of their countries and/or participate in and contribute to the COP and MOP most preferably as Parties.

The Ambassadors noted with satisfaction the linkage between the SADC' and CMS' objectives and recognized the importance of concerted efforts in conservation measures. Being aware of serious threats of certain wild life species and linkages to the poverty trap, they welcomed close collaboration between the SADC and CMS Secretariats; they endorsed the intervention of the SADC Secretariat which aims at facilitating and co-ordinating the recruitment of non Parties and invited the CMS Secretariat to visit the region to disseminate information on conservation efforts in countries with geographic affinities.

Conference of the Lower Danube Euroregion Environment Commission and the Joint Commission on Transfrontier Protected Areas in the Danube Delta and Lower River Prut

This conference on one of the most important regions for biodiversity and migratory species, in particular waterbirds, took place in Odessa, Ukraine, from 8 to 10 April 2002. The purpose of the conference was to analyse the status and to develop the future of the cross-border co-operation on the conservation of the Danube Delta region between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova. The Executive Secretary of EUROBATS had been invited to represent CMS and the related Agreements at the conference and to make an opening statement. He outlined the importance of this key region for biodiversity and the necessity for further conservation measures. The fruitful discussions among the highly qualified delegations from the three countries led to a very promising proposal for a "Cross-Border Co-operation Project for Protected Area Management and Sustainable Development in the Lower Danube Euroregion" containing an impressive list of actions.

First Global Register of Migratory Species Just Published



This Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) reflects current results of scientific research in a database combined with a Geographic Information System (GIS). The new structure of the database provides information on the species, GIS-maps, population data and a comprehensive bibliography. Dr. Klaus Riede, the author of this study, published first results based on a global analysis of threat status. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz), the Alexander König Zoological Research Institute and Museum of Zoology in Bonn, which have been overseeing this pilot project, fully approve its scientific achievements. Given the incomplete knowledge of animal migration, the CMS Secretariat took the initiative to summarize the widely scattered knowledge within a comprehensive database. It gained support from the Federal Ministry of Environment (BMU), which fully funded the project.

The "Global Register of Migratory Species" has compiled a first multilingual list of 2,880 migratory vertebrate species in digital format including their threat status according to the CITES International Red List 2000. Migrating routes and distribution of another 545 species can be traced in digital maps, which are compatible with any Geographic Information System. Examples of geographic queries and threat analysis by intersection with other GIS

layers can be found on the GROMS CD. This set of digital maps, based on a graphical user interface, discloses information on which species live in a certain area.

Maps show migration and distribution of 90 species in the printed edition. In addition to a complete list of migratory animals, birds and reptiles, 600 species of bats, terrestrial mammals, marine mammals, birds and reptiles are listed on the appendices of the book. A web version of the geodatabase is available at www.groms.de. A further application of GIS-analysis allows locating possible threats as a result of changing land use, risks brought about ecological disasters, habitat destruction as well as effects of climate changes.

Migratory animals are particularly exposed to habitat destruction, pollution, overfishing and hunting. They move to provide themselves with food like grazing mammals and animals living in aquatic habitats such as whales, dolphins, seals, turtles and fish. These animals also migrate to remote breeding and resting sites. Birds in particular travel enormous distances between two continents on their way to wintering and breeding sites. Experts estimate the number of migratory animals at around 5,000 species, among which 1,000 are fish species. Whereas the migration of birds is well monitored, the migration of merely economically important species of mammals, fish and insects is documented. Severe gaps persist in our knowledge of bats, Asian antelopes, cetaceans, and fish in tropical river systems and insects.

GROMS helps CMS to identify more threatened migratory species, which have not yet been listed on its appendices by the Secretariat. It will contribute to complete biological data and in obtaining more information on the conservation status of selected species. Reference to GIS-maps enables an automatic calculation of Range States. CMS may turn to the Global Register of Migratory Species as a valuable contribution to the application of the Bonn Convention aiming at enhancing international cooperation while committing itself to the protection/conservation of migratory animals.

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New Parties

A further three Parties have acceded to the convention since the last edition of the CMS Bulletin. We welcome the accession of Lithuania, Sao Tome and Principe and Cyprus bringing the total membership of CMS to 79.

Lithuania – This Baltic country is located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea, between Belarus, Latvia, Poland and Russia. Its terrain features lowland and many scattered small lakes, and fertile central plains separated by hilly uplands that are ancient glacial deposits. Lithuania is already Party to several international environmental conventions. It has acceded to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe.

Sao Tome and Principe – This archipelago is situated in Western Africa, its constituent islands in the Gulf of Guinea, straddling the Equator, west of Gabon. With a surface of 1000 sq km Sao Tome and Principe is the smallest country in Africa. Its two main islands form part of a chain of extinct volcanoes, both of which are fairly mountainous. Sao Tome and Principe is an important Range State for marine turtles and various African-European migratory waterbirds, among other species.

Cyprus - After Sicily and Sardinia Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, situated south of Turkey and west of Lebanon. Its topography features a central plain with mountains to the north and south and scattered but significant plains along the southern coast. Cyprus is already party to several international environmental conventions. Cyprus also signed the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).

Latest news: As 80th Party the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on 24 June 2002 with effect from 1 September 2002. Welcome!

Appointment of a New Councillor for Asiatic Fauna



Dr. Noritaka Ichida

Following the decision of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cape Town, 1999) to appoint a Scientific Councillor for Asiatic fauna, the CMS Standing Committee confirmed at its meeting last December the appointment of Dr. Noritaka Ichida (Japan), a renowned ornithologist.

After completion of his studies on Animal Ecology at the Tokyo University, Dr. Ichida's career was closely linked to the development of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, of which he was Director from 1975 to 2001. Among his present assignments, he is member of the Environment Council of the Ministry of Environment of Japan, and of the Global Council of Birdlife International, and he is chairman of BirdLife's Asia Council, just to mention the main ones.

Among his considerable achievements that warrant mention are the establishment of the first bird sanctuary in Japan in 1981 and subsequent development of a national network, as well as the establishment of international networks of nature reserves in East Asia for cranes and the Black-faced Spoonbill. As a chairman of the Asia Council, he has led the Red Data Book project and published the Threatened Birds of Asia in 2001. Among his numerous other publications, he has been co-author of *Birds of Japan* (1982) and editor of *Birds of Taiwan* (1991) and *birds of Korea* (2000).

Thanks to his experience and extensive network of contacts throughout Asia and beyond, Dr. Ichida is expected to give fresh and substantive impetus to the work of the Scientific Council and the development of the Convention in the Asia region. We welcome him to the CMS family.

News from the Secretariat

During the last year, the CMS Secretariat said farewell to two colleagues who contributed to the further development of the Convention on Migratory Species.

Robert Vagg. From October 1998 until June 2001 Robert Vagg was seconded by the UK Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (now known as DEFRA), first to the CMS Secretariat and then to EUROBATS. In addition to assisting the secretariats in their daily work, Robert was instrumental in the preparation of numerous meetings that advanced the Convention's work. Though dearly missed in the Secretariat, Robert's links to CMS have been maintained through his current work in the Global Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Beatriz Torres. Beatriz joined CMS as Information and Capacity Building Officer in September 2000. In addition to overseeing production of the CMS Bulletin, as Capacity Building Officer she was responsible for CMS-related projects in Latin America, as well as the organization of a regional workshop held in Peru in October 2001. Beatriz left the CMS Secretariat in March 2002 to take up a post with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility in Copenhagen.

Our former colleagues take with them the best wishes of the Secretariat for their future careers and activities.

The CMS Secretariat is pleased to introduce new staff members who are currently assisting the Secretariat in various capacities.

Lyle Glowka. I joined CMS in January 2002 as the Agreements Development and Servicing Officer. Within the last ten years I have worked on the legal and institutional aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use as Acting Legal Advisor to the Interim Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as Legal Officer at the IUCN Environmental Law Centre and through my consultancy Biodiversity Strategies International.

Enkhtuya Sereenen. I have been working as Finance Assistant at UNEP/CMS Secretariat since February 2002 handling all financial issues, procurement of office supplies and equipment, and Trust Fund from Parties to UNEP/CMS. Before I came here, I worked at the UNDP Country office in Mongolia.

Veronika Lenarz. After having graduated in romance languages and Chinese I decided to work in China for more than a year. Back in Germany, I found a job at the news division of the Federal Press and Information Office. As a public relations consultant I worked in the division of international cooperation of a political foundation and most recently as a research assistant at the Center of Development Research in Bonn. Having joined the Secretariat as Information Assistant I will also contribute my experience as a freelance online-editor.

Nalanda Wijeratne. Ayubowan ! I come from Sri Lanka. I am employed as registration clerk at CMS where I perform my duties mainly recording in and copying documents, and organizing CMS information packs etc. Having gained a lot of experience serving a couple of Foreign Missions in Bonn on various tasks with different delegations, I am excited to be in the atmosphere of UN and also in the beautiful field of Migratory Species and Wild Animals. Peace and Happiness !

Onesmus Thiong'o. I have been working with United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) in the Budget and Financial Management Service for the last three years. At present, I am on official mission for two months in UNEP/CMS focussing on the budgetary and financial matters of the Secretariat. Among other duties, I will implement the Integrated Accounting and Budgeting System (IABS) which is the new finance system for the UNEP offices away from Headquarters.

Second International Conference on the Marine Mammals of Southeast Asia

At the moment this issue of the Bulletin is being edited, the Second International Conference on the Marine Mammals of Southeast Asia (SEAMAM II) is about to take place in Dumaguete, Philippines (22-26 July 2002). Upon favourable advice of the 10th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, the Conference is being convened under the auspices and sponsorship of CMS. It is organized and hosted by the Marine Laboratory of Silliman University (SUML) at Dumaguete in the Philippines, in collaboration with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The conference will consist of an open two-day symposium and a three-day workshop by invitation.

The symposium will deal with the diversity, status and conservation of marine mammals of the region. The three-day invitational workshop will focus on by-catch in fisheries. Expected products of the meeting include a draft action plan for the collection and analysis of by-catch data, with emphasis on establishment of means for data collection in the individual participating nations, as well as a draft CMS regional agreement.

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Calendar of Events

DATES	TITLE	VENUE	ORGANISED BY
6-8 August	Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention - 1 st Conference of the Parties	San José, Costa Rica	Min.Environment, Costa Rica
4-9 August	4 th Conf.of the Working Group on Aquatic birds of the Int. Society of Limnology	New Brunswick, Canada	Envr. Canada
11-17 August	23 rd International Ornithological Congress	Beijing, China	
20-25 August	Global Nature Fund (GNF): Living Lakes Conference Johannesburg,	Johannesburg, South Africa	Global Nature Fund
26-30 August	9 th European Bat Research Symposium	Le Havre, France	IOC
26 August - 4 September	The World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg	South Africa	United Nations
14-17 September	11 th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council	Bonn, Germany	UNEP/CMS
18-24 September	7 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS Bonn	Bonn, Germany	UNEP/CMS
25-27 September	2nd Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)	Bonn, Germany	UNEP/AEWA
3-5 October	First Scientific Committee Meeting of ACCOBAMS	Tunis / Tunisia	ACCOBAMS
11-14 October	International Workshop - "Ferruginous Duck: From Research to Conservation"	Sofia, Bulgaria	BSPB/BirdLife International
6 - 9 November	32 nd Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research	Vermont, USA	NASBR
16-18 November	8th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Valencia, Spain	Ramsar
19-22 November	2 nd International Fishers Forum (IFF2)	Honolulu, Hawaii	WPRFMC
2-5 December	Bern Convention Standing Committee	Strasbourg, France	Bern Convention
12-13 December	Ad hoc Meeting for Birds Species listed in Annex II of the Protocol of Specially Protected Areas (SPA)	Tunis, Tunisia	SPA/RAC