

FOREWORD

The Agadir Seminar on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes was an important and necessary new step in the work on the conservation and re-establishment of viable populations of six endangered antelope and gazelle species in the Sahelo-Saharan region which began, under the auspices of the Convention for the conservation of Migratory Species, in the mid-1990's and was documented in the results of the Djerba Seminar, held in February 1998. (Reference: CMS Technical Series No. 4).

The main purposes of the Agadir Seminar were to (1) review the conservation status of the respective species and their habitats, (2) inform all Range States, supporting countries, co-operating IGOs, NGOs and individual experts about action taken and in progress to implement the Djerba Action Plan, and (3) to update this plan.

The Agadir Seminar could not have been organised without the extremely generous hospitality of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the very professional assistance of the whole team of the *Haut Commissariat des Eaux et Forêts et de la Lutte contre la Désertification*.

M. Mohamed Anechoum, Secretary General of the Commission, and M. Mohamed Ankouz, Director of *la Conservation des Ressources Forestières*, made it possible for the seminar to achieve its objectives. M. Abdellah El Mastour and Mr. Hans-Peter Müller spared no efforts in the day-to-day organisation of the seminar. A welcome address by the Wali of Agadir, M. Ghennam and the facilities and infrastructure of the city of Agadir were very much appreciated by all participants.

The seminar benefited from the presence and active participation of the UNEP/CMS Executive Secretary, Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, as well as that of the representative of the *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM), M. Rémi Guoin. Indeed during the opening ceremony an agreement on the CMS/FFEM project was signed.

The whole team from the Souss Massa National Park, M. Mohammed Ribí, Director of the Park, Mme. Fatima Oumzai, M. Mohamed Amaqrane Ardíff and M. Mohammed El Bekkay, very professionally provided daily support in running the seminar and arranged and conducted numerous excursions including a visit to the park itself. That visit, under the guidance of the park director and founder M. Mohammed Ribí himself, will remain an unforgettable experience for all the participants.

The Agadir seminar was followed by the 4th meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG). The consecutive meetings allowed active participation of several Range States' delegates as well as SSIG members to both meetings.

Of the 14 Range States of the Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes, eleven countries could fortunately participate and provide valuable input to the seminar. For various technical reasons three Range States (Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Nigeria) were not represented.

Remarks:

- These proceedings include national reports and other presentations made during the first two days of the seminar in their entirety and in the original language used by their author. A few of the powerpoint presentations, however, have been summarised, and in some cases, some illustrations have been removed.
- Updated conservation status reports for each of the six species will also be published separately in the same series, **with updated distribution maps**.

PLEASE NOTE!

A revised Action Plan will be published, on the basis of the work undertaken during the Seminar. It will be published as a separate document, in the CMS Technical Series.