

MEDIA ADVISORY

What: 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CMS COP12) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), administered by UN Environment

When: CMS COP12 from 23 – 28 October 2017
High Level Ministerial Panel on 22 October

Where: Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines

Website: www.cms.int/cop12

This year's wildlife conference is guided by the theme *Their Future is Our Future - Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People*. The conference will link between the Sustainable Development Goals agreed by the United Nations and international wildlife.

Oceans and marine resources play an essential role in human well-being and social and economic development. However, whales and dolphins, sharks, marine turtles and dugongs face bycatch, pollution, underwater noise, overfishing and hunting for bushmeat. At COP12, governments are expected to agree on actions to reduce harm to marine species.

Preserving terrestrial ecosystems and halting biodiversity loss is another major objective. Big cats are to benefit from a new initiative to be launched at COP.

New species such as the African Lion, all leopard species and giraffes will be proposed for listing on the CMS Appendices. The Whale Shark and several species of vultures may be granted the greatest degree of protection.

Migratory birds are being illegally killed worldwide. A proposal to convene an intergovernmental task force to address this issue in Asia will be considered by COP12.

For more information, please contact

Florian Keil, Coordinator of the Common Information Management, Communication and Outreach Team of the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats, tel: +49 (0)228 815 2451, e-mail: florian.keil@unep-aewa.org

Veronika Lenarz, Public Information, UNEP/CMS Secretariat, tel: +49 (0)228 815 2409, e-mail: veronika.lenarz@cms.int