

CMS Regional Report – Asia Region

Very few CMS Asia regional parties have reported their activities which they have carried out during last one year. The following are some of the activities taken place in region since last meeting of CMS Standing Committee held in November 2012.

Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum meeting was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from 22-23 October 2013 wherein besides other CMS parties from Asia region including India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Tajikistan participated. The forum highlighted the commitments of parties to conserve a flagship species of Snow Leopard in its range states. In the meeting forum delegates discussed on draft Global Snow Leopard Strategy and Global SL Ecosystem Protection Programme. The forum also adopted the Bishkek Declaration.

Regional Project on Marine Turtles: Pakistan in collaboration with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka has submitted a regional project on conservation of Marine Turtles to the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) regional programme for funding. This proposal would be discussed in the next meeting of MFF Management Committee and subsequently in the Regional Steering Committee meeting for their endorsement and approval.

New Ramsar Sites: During 2013 two new important migratory birds' habitats have been designated as Ramsar Sites in Asia region. The Ramsar has designated **Las Pinas-Paranaqu Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area** (175 hectares) as sixth wetland of international importance in Philippine. This important wetland hosts around 5000 migratory birds every year including the vulnerable Chinese Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*). Similarly in Sri Lanka, **Wilpattu Wetland Cluster** (165800 hectares) comprising of 205 water bodies of different sizes has been designated as sixth Sri Lankan Ramsar site. The wetland complex offers ideal habitat for migratory bird known as, the vulnerable Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*).

Pakistan:

- Under US Ambassador's Fund Programme recently a project on "Conservation of Marine Turtles along the Coasts of Sindh and Balochistan" has been granted to the IUCN-Pakistan
- In 2013 three juvenile Whale sharks have been rescued and safely released in the Pakistani waters with the support of WWF-Pakistan
- In April 2013 a consignment of 120 Common Cranes have been seized from the poachers and after rehabilitation they were safely released in September

Submitted by Pakistan
CMS Standing Committee Member from Asia,