



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Agenda Item 18

## REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CMS AMBASSADORS

### Introduction

1. The Secretariat established the role of “CMS Ambassador” in 2006. Ambassadors are eminent personalities in the field of conservation, and use their personal connections to decision- and policy-makers within states, NGOs and institutions to cultivate links between CMS, science, society, politics and economy.
2. The 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee endorsed document StC37/19, which states that:
  - The title of Ambassador should be a rare distinction, and the number of appointees at any one time should be kept low. However, no arbitrary limit shall be applied.
  - Ambassadors shall be appointed by the Executive Secretary of CMS.
  - The term of office shall be set at three years, with the possibility of serving more than one term if deemed appropriate.
  - Ambassadors should be eminent in the field of conservation or other relevant activity, and be prepared to promote the aims and objectives of the Convention.
  - The function does not attract a salary but reasonable out-of-pocket expenses arising from missions agreed in advance with the Secretariat will be reimbursed.
  - Appointments may be terminated in the event of behaviour likely to bring the Convention into disrepute.
3. Detailed Terms of Reference were also developed by the Secretariat and approved by the 37<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee (see Annex 1 attached).
4. There are currently four CMS Ambassadors, Ms. Kuki Gallmann (Kenya-based conservationist), Mr. Peter Schei (Norwegian environmentalist), Mr. Stanley Johnson (British writer and conservationist) and Mr. Ian Redmond (British Ape and Elephant expert and conservationist). Their activities are summarized below.

### Kuki Gallmann

5. Ms. Kuki Gallmann is an environmentalist and writer. Born in Italy, she moved to Kenya in 1972 and is now a Kenyan citizen. She has written several books about her life in Africa, where she manages several social, environmental and scientific projects. Ms. Gallmann was the main

organizing partner for AEWA's first World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) in 2006, which she hosted at her Kenyan estate in Laikipia. In 2011, she provided a statement of support for WMBD. She remains available for ambassadorial activities as appropriate.

### **Peter Schei**

6. Mr. Peter Schei is one of the 'founding fathers' of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has held a number of high-ranking conservation positions within the Norwegian Government, as well as in IGOs and NGOs, including IUCN and Birdlife International.

7. He played a key role in CMS activities on avian influenza prior to COP9. In particular, he significantly contributed to the organization of the Scientific Seminar on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, convened by CMS and AEWA in collaboration with UNEP in Nairobi in April 2006, by steering its preparation and chairing it. The outcomes of the Seminar guided the policy and actions of CMS, AEWA and the Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds in the following months and years. The Task Force helped to provide accurate and up-to-date information on the role that migratory birds play in the spread of the disease, leading to the adoption of resolutions by Ramsar, AEWA and CMS. The positive experience with this Task Force has led to the creation of the joint CMS/FAO Task Force on Wildlife Diseases. Peter Schei remains available for ambassadorial activities as appropriate.

### **Stanley Johnson**

8. Mr. Stanley Johnson is a British author and politician, and a noted expert on environmental and population issues. He is a former employee of the World Bank and the European Commission.

9. Mr. Johnson wrote a large format illustrated book "*Survival – Saving Endangered Migratory Species*" together with Mr. Robert Vagg (CMS Editor), published in English and German. It was launched in London, in June 2010. Containing over 200 colour photos of CMS-listed species, the book explains the activities undertaken by CMS as the only Convention dealing with the protection of migratory animals across the globe, highlights the importance of migratory species in conserving their habitats and underlines the urgent need to help them adjust to the impact of climate change.

10. At the Global Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation (November 2010), attended amongst others by Vladimir Putin of Russia and Wen Jiabao of China, Mr. Johnson used his impressive network to enable CMS representatives to approach several key figures in a direct, informal way to discuss points of interest. He delivered a speech on behalf of CMS, which was received positively. His engagement at this event significantly increased the visibility of CMS in the tiger conservation community and with overarching stakeholders such as the World Bank.

11. In February 2011, Mr. Johnson wrote to the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on shark finning regulations in the EU, addressing remaining loopholes and pushing for further policy improvements.

12. During a personal visit to the People's Republic of China in March 2011 to study the current conservation situation of the Giant Panda, Mr. Johnson met officials from the wildlife conservation authorities to encourage their greater involvement with CMS.

13. Throughout his term, Mr. Johnson has consistently found ways to mention and generate publicity for CMS in his articles, which he writes for a variety of newspapers and magazines.

### **Ian Redmond**

14. Mr. Ian Redmond O.B.E. is a tropical field biologist and conservationist. Best known for his work with mountain gorillas and elephants, Mr. Redmond has been involved in more than 50 documentaries for, amongst others, BBC, National Geographic and the Discovery Channel. Mr. Redmond worked closely with Ms. Dian Fossey in the Virunga Volcanoes and was a consultant for the making of the film *Gorillas in the Mist*.

15. Before becoming a full Ambassador to CMS in 2010, Mr. Redmond accepted the role of Ambassador for the Year of the Gorilla campaign in 2009. He proved to be a very active, highly energetic and credible ambassador throughout the entire campaign.

16. During August and September 2009, Mr. Redmond undertook a unique *State of the Gorilla Journey*. In five weeks, he travelled through seven of the 10 gorilla range states in Central Africa, by local bus wherever possible. Mr. Redmond maintained daily blogs of his encounters along the way with local villagers, traders, hunters, conservationists, government officials and even former child soldiers. He recorded over 100 video interviews with a wide range of people, illustrating the complexities of trying to conserve gorillas and their habitats in a region beset by poverty and frequent unrest. Transcripts of many interviews were used in the influential report *Last Stand of the Gorilla*, which Mr. Redmond co-authored with colleagues in GRASP and INTERPOL. For the First Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement in March 2011, a short film was produced on the *State of the Gorilla Journey*. It can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LramufCBDPk>.

17. Other activities Mr. Redmond undertook for the Year of the Gorilla 2009 include:

- Participation in all YoG press conferences (Rome during CMS COP9, Frankfurt Gorilla Symposium, State of the Gorilla Journey, zoos, museums and other events).
- Lecture tours comprising 30 presentations in Europe, Africa and the United States, on topics from the vital role of gorillas in maintaining forest integrity to human energy needs and their effects on gorilla conservation. Funds raised during this lecture tour went to a YoG-supported conservation project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Participation in fundraising events organized through WAZA in Los Angeles and surrounding locations.
- Special guest at the “Kwita Izina” annual gorilla naming ceremony in Rwanda.
- First Meeting of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat, 15-17 October 2009, in run-up to FAO World Forestry Congress, Buenos Aires.

18. Since becoming a full CMS Ambassador in 2010, Mr. Redmond has undertaken the following activities:

- February 2010: featured in the issue of UNEP’s “*Our Planet*” – as one of eight people doing outstanding work for biodiversity conservation.
- March 2010: launched, at CITES COP15 in Qatar, the “*Last Stand of the Gorilla*”, a publication financed by France under the YoG campaign. He spoke eloquently on the

relationship between human conflict and conservation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- June 2010: at the Rwandan Biodiversity Symposium, Globe Energy Awards and Kwita Izina gorilla-naming ceremony, which also celebrated World Environment Day, Mr. Redmond represented CMS and convinced Rwanda's Minister of the Environment and Lands to host the First Technical Committee meeting of the Gorilla Agreement.
- June 2010: active in the Terrestrial Mammals working group at CMS Scientific Council, encouraging Parties to consider listing further endangered migratory species.
- October 2010: at the CBD COP10 in Nagoya, Mr Redmond convened a meeting between CMS and the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund with a view to developing a relationship to fund CMS priority projects.
- March 2011: attended First Technical Committee of the CMS Gorilla Agreement in Kigali as CMS Ambassador and Senior Expert.
- Mr. Redmond has consistently found ways to promote CMS in the numerous interviews, broadcasts and public lectures he gives and articles he writes.

19. The secretariat is delighted with the performance of the Ambassadors to date. They have worked with great enthusiasm for both CMS and the migratory species we serve. We commend the Ambassadors for their service.

**Action requested:**

- The Parties are requested take note with appreciation of the activities of the CMS Ambassadors and to approach the Secretariat if they identify an event at which the presence of the Ambassadors would enhance the cause of migratory species conservation.

## CMS AMBASSADORS - TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Background

1. CMS ambassadors are eminent personalities well known and respected in the conservation or media worlds for their work relating to environmental management and the conservation of threatened migratory animals.
2. They are selected by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on the basis of their outstanding achievements in the field, and asked to accept the CMS Ambassadorship, both in recognition of their accomplishments and as a commitment to promote the cause of the CMS and its agreements, namely the conservation of migratory species and their habitats.
3. CMS ambassadors will promote the conservation of migratory species through their work using their existing and other networks, thus contributing to the enhancement of knowledge of the public and decision makers worldwide about the animals and the threats they face.
4. Each ambassador has a unique set of skills and interests. The purpose of having several different ambassadors is to enable each one to contribute in their own way, according to their strengths, capabilities and interests. The list of activities below is therefore not exhaustive but intended simply as a guide to the range of activities an ambassador may consider to undertake.

### Ambassador's Role and Responsibilities

5. A CMS Ambassador will be expected to actively promote CMS, and where appropriate, its agreements and MoUs through a range of activities, according to their particular skills and interests. Such activities may include, but not be limited to:
  - Promoting the implementation of the CMS mandate and policies, such as the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference of the Parties, Meeting of the Parties, and/or meeting of signatories;
  - Representing CMS at meetings relevant to migratory species, as may be requested and appropriate;
  - Undertaking missions on behalf of CMS to range states of migratory species;
  - Engaging with the media in order to present statements or press releases in support of CMS Family and its activities;
  - Writing popular, policy and/or scientific publications on behalf of CMS, or contributing to CMS initiated publications;
  - Taking part in the launch of CMS publications or other products;
  - Giving lectures on CMS related themes;
  - Chairing and/or organising meetings or working groups on CMS related themes within their area of expertise;
  - Raising funds for CMS projects and initiatives, including utilizing their networks to support CMS fundraising activities;
  - Providing advice to the Secretariat on specific areas of relevance;

- Attending appropriate CMS meetings (such as the Conference of the Parties, Standing Committee or Scientific Council) to keep abreast of developments within CMS; and
- Undertaking other activities as may be considered necessary and appropriate by the CMS Secretariat.

6. In fulfilling their role, CMS Ambassadors will:

- Provide their time at no cost to the Secretariat (agreed out-of-pocket expenses will be met);
- Acknowledge CMS in relevant communications;
- Maintain regular contact with the CMS Secretariat;
- Only use the UNEP and CMS logo and name appropriately; and
- Ensure that the reputation of UNEP and CMS are at all times maintained by ensuring the use of accurate information, best operating practices, ethical behaviour and respect for national and international laws.

### **CMS Responsibilities**

7. In appointing and supporting an Ambassador, the CMS Executive Secretary will:

- Provide regular updates on the work of the Secretariat;
- Render support to assist the Ambassador in carrying out their role;
- Appoint a focal point for the Ambassador within the Secretariat to facilitate day-to-day communication;
- Invite the Ambassador to conduct missions and to participate in important fora relating to migratory species; and
- Provide funds for travel, per diem and related expenses in accordance with UN rules and procedures, as necessary.

### **Conditions**

8. The period of appointment will be for three years, after which time the Secretariat and the Ambassador will review arrangements and mutually decide whether to proceed with a subsequent term.

9. CMS Ambassadors are neither "staff members" under the Staff Regulations of the United Nations nor "officials" for the purpose of the Convention of 13 February 1946 on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.