



Joint Statement by CIC, FACE and IAF to the 10th Convention on Migratory Species Conference of the Parties

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS also known as Bonn Convention) aims to conserve migratory species and their habitats on a global scale. At the 10th Conference of Parties of the Convention in Bergen, Norway from 20-25 November 2011 several important decisions will be made and many recommendations are to be given. To stress the importance of sustainable use of wildlife as a tool in conservation of migratory species the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) raise the following issues in the agenda of the forthcoming CoP10.

Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) is in a need of serious protection measures and conservation programmes based on the principle of sustainable use, especially through its Asiatic range countries. There is an immediate need for a global assessment of the Saker population through a thoughtful, well developed field research plan, resulting in a worldwide conference on the Saker falcon status and the development of a conservation programme for this species. Eventual decision on uplisting Saker to Appendix I of CMS (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.15/I/1.Rev.1) should be postponed until the results of the proposed research programme are available. We would be pleased to assist in the proposed actions for Saker study and conservation.

We hope that the proposed listing of the **Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*)** to Appendix II (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.15/II/1) under the CMS, will foster further cooperation amongst the range states in the management for the benefit of local people and the conservation of the species and its habitats. The best practice example of the species' conservation comes from Tajikistan where big part of the significant revenue from the small scaled hunting tourism is reinvested into conservation, rural development and anti-poaching efforts of the hunting concessionaires. As a result, the argali numbers have been stabilized leading to population growth.

We will particularly welcome the work of the **Flyways Working Group** and in further support the Resolution providing **Guidance on Global Flyway Conservation** (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.10) and options for policy arrangements, call upon all parties to work with the hunting community in developing long term sustainable transboundary harvest regimes that meet the needs of people and conservation.

Recognizing the seriousness of the issue of **poisoning to a wide array of wildlife** (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.26) and acknowledging the roles of harvesting, conflict and poaching amongst other motivations for poisoning, we consider that the hunting community has a particular role to play. Notwithstanding the impacts of lead in ammunition (such as the impacts of leadshot on waterfowl) we do not believe that this topic should be considered within the broad framework of this resolution. We consider that the issue of lead in ammunition should be dealt with as a separate subject and are willing to support this and the work on poisoning. It is important to keep in mind that many countries have already established bans for using lead ammunition in wetlands.

We join other NGO's and IGO's in calling for a continued role for civil society organisations and wish to point out that the many millions of hunters, including falconers, that we represent have a strong and vested interest in the conservation of migratory species. Whilst we certainly recognise the need for protection and strict protection in certain circumstances, the greater part of our global conservation needs require that we understand and implement proper sustainable use strategies, especially involving local communities into conservation.

In this regard and because wildlife knows no national borders, more regional and cross-boundary efforts are needed to achieve sustainability in the management of populations of migratory species. In order to reach this goal, collaboration between the international organizations and convention secretariats with a programme or keen interest in wildlife management is needed. By sharing know-how and experiences, such partners can produce added value and new benefits for their respective constituencies and provide reliable data to decision makers. Referring to the **Resolution on synergies and partnerships** (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.21) we clearly see the CMS having a role in the emerging "Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife Management" – which is in the process of bringing together a community of professionals and decision makers advocating sustainable wildlife management for the benefit of people and nature conservation.

Signed on the 18th November 2011 by,

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, CIC (www.cic-wildlife.org)

Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU, FACE (www.face.eu)

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, IAF (www.iaf.org)