

## IUCN Statement to CMS COP10

IUCN engagement in CMS work first started with the drafting of the text of the Convention, and the collaboration has continued ever since. In 2003, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between IUCN and CMS which covers all parts of the IUCN family (Global Programmes, Regional Programmes and Commissions). IUCN aims at providing the best possible scientific advice to Multilateral Environmental Agreements and, mainly through the expert network of the Species Survival Commission working in collaboration with the Global Species Programme and the Environment Law Programme in the IUCN Secretariat, it intends to continue in this role with CMS.

As indicated by the number of documents and topics to be discussed at this meeting, CMS is very active and much progress has been achieved in areas where it is uniquely positioned to have an impact. More work has been done on freshwater fishes, birds, bycatch, cetaceans, saiga, marine debris and noise, and wind turbines, to name but a few. The work of CMS has never been more important. Even a cursory examination of the data reveals that we are entering uncharted and disturbing territory regarding migratory species, with serious declines being recorded in many migratory bird species in the Western Hemisphere and in the African-Eurasian flyways, in shorebirds in the Asia-Pacific flyway, and in diadromous fishes worldwide, as epitomized by anguillid eels. There is a severe risk that by the time of the 11<sup>th</sup> CMS COP, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper will already be extinct.

At the last COPs IUCN called on CMS to focus on truly migratory species and still believes that this is where CMS should concentrate its efforts. We were concerned at the multiplication of the number of agreements which were not supported by adequate resources; we welcome the fact that feasibility studies are undertaken before starting the establishment of a new agreement. Consolidation and implementation of previously agreed actions should be given priority. We remain concerned that some of the new agreements under discussion still seem to focus on species that are not truly migratory.

Last week we updated the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species which now includes almost 20,000 threatened species. We are delighted to see that this work is being consulted to guide future listings on CMS. In this regard, we note with concern that, for example, there has been limited progress of the listing of shark species on CMS, all 1,083 of which have been assessed for the Red List. A total of 5,719 freshwater fish species have now been assessed by IUCN and these results could be of benefit to CMS. At least 51 migratory fish species are threatened.

IUCN has been active in supporting the convention mainly through its Species Survival Commission (SSC). Many of the SSC Specialist Groups are contributing actively to CMS work: Antelopes, African Elephant, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, Sharks, Freshwater Fish and Wildlife Health. A few others should be encouraged to contribute. In addition to the Red List of Threatened Species, IUCN is doing work of potential interest to CMS: impact of climate change on biodiversity; implementation of the Aichi biodiversity targets; and synergies between international agreements. We shall be pleased to share information and provide comments on the various documents tabled at this meeting in due course.

IUCN is also involved in wildlife diseases. As demonstrated in the case of the Avian Influenza outbreak, CMS has a clear niche in combating diseases impacting migratory species. However, we believe that CMS's efforts should focus on migratory species and should avoid duplication with existing mechanisms in other institutions and processes. We shall provide more comments and advice when discussing the recently established CMS/FAO Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease.

Finally, and noting that the relationship with the GEF will be discussed, we would like to mention that IUCN, in partnership with the World Bank and the GEF has created SOS - Save Our Species, a fund to support species conservation. Migratory species are of course eligible for support. The objective is to attract new sources of funding in particular from the private sector or governments. Nokia and the French Government through the French GEF have already joined. We believe the objectives of the SOS Fund are shared with those of CMS.

Thank you Mr Chair