



## THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAZIL FOR MIGRATORY ANIMALS

Manatees often visit Brazilian coastal waters © Andre Seale/Robert Harding

### KEY MESSAGE

Brazil is exceptionally rich in biodiversity and boasts a great variety of habitats united in an outstanding bionetwork. It includes South America's most extensive Neotropical grass- and wetlands as well as immense areas of tropical moist lowland forests. These environments provide the basis for Brazil's extraordinary diversity of fauna, some of which – including migratory species – is critically endangered or has an unfavourable conservation status.

### Brazilian Wildlife

Its wide range of migratory animals underlines Brazil's role as residual major refuge for such species globally. For Brazilian people, migratory wild animals represent economic, cultural and social value, having served as an essential source of livelihood and a fundamental element of religious traditions for centuries.

To date, 40,000 plant species, 427 mammals, 1,300 birds, 378 reptiles, more than 400 amphibians and around 3,000 freshwater fishes have been found in the Amazon.

Many migratory species face threats both on their travels and on their seasonal resting grounds.

### Key CMS species found in Brazil

#### Mammals

- > A great diversity of marine species is found in Brazil's coastal waters, including Blue and Fin Whales *Balaenoptera musculus* and *B. physalus*, Southern Right Whale *Eubalaena australis*, Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*, Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* and La Plata Dolphin Franciscana *Pontoporia blainvillei*; all have an alarming conservation status which has led to their inclusion on Appendix I of CMS.
- > Other cetacean species such as the Tucuxi *Sotalia fluviatilis*, Bottu *Inia geoffrensis*, Burmeister's and the Spectacled Porpoises *Phocoena dioptrica* and *P. spinipinnis*, Bryde's Whale *Balaenoptera edeni*, Antarctic Minke Whale *Balaenoptera bonaerensis* and Orca *Orcinus orca* regularly visit Brazil's inshore waters. Their unfavourable conservation status means that they have been included on Appendix II of CMS.
- > Two species of the Trichechidae family are found in Brazilian waters: the Caribbean Manatee *Trichechus manatus* (Appendix I) and the Amazonian Manatee *Trichechus inunguis* (Appendix II).

#### Birds

- > Among species included in Appendix I of the Convention are the Eskimo (or Northern) Curlew *Numenius borealis*, the Strange-tailed and Cock-tailed Tyrants *Alectrurus risora* and *A. tricolor*, the Chestnut seedeater *Sporophila cinnamomea*, the Rufous-rumped seedeater *S. hypochroma*, the Marsh seedeater *S. palustris*, the Entre Rios Seedeater *S. zelichi*, and the Saffron-cowled Blackbird *Agelaius (Xanthopsar) flavus*.
- > The Dark-throated Seedeater *Sporophila ruficollis*, Dinelli's Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus* and the Bearded Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis pectoralis* are listed on Appendix II.

- > Among other species that cross Brazil's boundaries are the Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* and Olrog's Gull *Larus atlanticus*, listed on Appendix I due to their endangered status.
- > Brazil collaborates with other countries in Southern South America to better protect migratory species of grassland birds of the region under the CMS "umbrella" through a Memorandum of Understanding.

### Turtles

- > The great diversity of turtle species found in Brazil includes the Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*, Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta*, Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* and the South American River Turtle *Podocnemis expansa*. All these species are critically endangered (Appendix I).

### Fish

- > Brazilian rivers host more diversity of freshwater fish than any other country on Earth, 2,481 known species, many of them migratory.
- > Among the numerous shark species that regularly visit Brazil's coastal waters are the Great White Shark *Carcharodon carcharias* and the Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus* (Appendix I), as well as the Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* (Appendix II).



The Hawksbill Turtle, Ruddy Turnstone and Basking Shark are some of Brazil's key migratory species © Dan Burton//Robert Harding/Francisco Rilla

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Migratory species represent an important component of the biodiversity of the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Many serve as a crucial element in the subsistence and culture of numerous human populations, yet they are especially vulnerable to human-induced threats when travelling vast distances in search of feeding and breeding sites.

Their conservation and sustainable use present a challenge that cannot be met by any one country alone.

Joining forces with other South American countries that are Parties to the Convention – Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay – will allow Brazil to boost the conservation of migratory species in the region.

### About CMS

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) works for the conservation of endangered migratory animals worldwide through negotiation and implementation of agreements and species action plans. CMS has 122 Parties.

CMS engages all relevant stakeholders in addressing wildlife crime in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management.

### CMS instruments

Animals receive protection under CMS through listing on its two Appendices, through global or regional agreements and through action plans.

- > CMS Appendix I lists migratory species that are endangered.
- > Appendix II lists migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status and that require international agreements for their conservation and management.

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