



# CMS Bulletin

4-5 2013

## Guest Article

### Determining Migration Corridors between Ethiopia and Southern Sudan: A Progress Report

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Conservation Authority

CMS, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and other partners initiated the “Ecological Networks in Africa” project to study the migration of White-eared Kob antelopes (*Kobus kob leucotis*) in Gambella, Ethiopia. Collaring antelopes served to determine the ways of managing and protecting White-eared Kobs and developing tourism in the area in future. The project is funded by Norway.

The first collaring exercise to map the critical sites of the transboundary wildlife corridor between Ethiopia and South Sudan took place in June 2012. The expedition obtained first data from the transmitters in the collars and the ground surveys to set up properly designed wildlife corridors.

During the expedition in June, animals were successfully tagged with satellite collars. According to the ground surveys, White-eared Kobs were considered to be migratory and

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## Guest Article

resident. As the team observed several hundred elephants in the Gambella region, it was decided that these too should also be satellite tagged in spring 2013 to better understand their movements within the corridor.

The objective of the project is to determine the migration corridors of White-eared Kobs and other species between Ethiopia and Southern Sudan. The analysis should include estimates of the lowest cost possible for maintaining a corridor and the results obtained from collared animals. Factors deriving from the seasonal migration between the two countries were also examined. Once a map of suitable habitats is developed, potential corridors linking different habitats could be considered in a cost-effective way.

In April 2013, 43 White-eared Kobs, 4 elephants and 4 Nile Lechwee, an endemic antelope, were radio collared from the air by means of a helicopter and on the ground to better understand their

movements and seasonal distribution. A systematic aerial wildlife survey was also conducted to ascertain the current wildlife distribution in the landscape.

Since the collaring was a rather challenging exercise, a veterinarian of the Kenya Wildlife Service was consulted to stun the species with a dart gun before putting a collar on them. The collars, which could also be traced from the ground, kept transmitting signals to satellites. The signals in turn were analysed on a website showing the exact positions of the species.

The expedition was a full and unqualified success. The first data from collaring showed that due to heavy rainfalls the collared species did not move much so far. It became obvious that White-eared Kobs preferred a particular habitat type at different seasons. Understanding this preference and the migration corridors of White-eared Kobs would significantly contribute to the conservation and

management of the species in terms of addressing habitat loss and fragmentation.

The collared animals had been continuously on the move between July 2012 and April 2013. The project report shows that the animals crossed the boundaries of Gambella National Park.

The next step is to conduct a workshop in South Sudan to discuss the findings of this research with international experts and to set the ground for an international wildlife corridor to preserve these stunning migrations.



*Elephant collaring © EWCA/SDPASE/HoAREC\_AAU*





## Conservation News

### ■ ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group Recommends Crucial Actions for Harbour Porpoises in the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea sub-population of the Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) is critically endangered, with only a few hundred individuals left. 'The Harbour Porpoise is the only cetacean species native to the Baltic Sea. In order to save this population from extinction in what was once a region with high densities of these small whales, Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) agreed a *Recovery Plan for the Baltic Harbour Porpoise* (also called Jastarnia Plan).

The Jastarnia Group, an expert working group established to take forward the implementation of the Plan, held its 9th meeting from 16-18 April 2013 in Gothenburg, Sweden, upon the kind invitation of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Rüdiger Stempel (Coalition Clean Baltic), the Group considered the progress made with respect to the various recom-

mendations of the Jastarnia Plan. Also, for the first time the Group discussed how to implement the new *Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat*, which was adopted by ASCOBANS Parties in October 2012.

The Jastarnia Group agreed recommendations to be forwarded to the 20<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting to be held from 27-29 August 2013, in Warsaw, Poland), which will identify actions to be taken and priorities for the effective implementation of the two Plans.

Also, in a joint session with the project management team of SAMBAH – Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise the Group reaffirmed its full support for the project. SAMBAH is funded by Life+, the Financial Instrument for the Environment of the European Commission. The Jastarnia Group is keen on anticipating its results, which will fill a very important information need regarding the distribution and abundance of the critically endangered Baltic sub-population of the harbour porpoise. Population densities are so low that traditional survey methods are not suitable for assessing this population. The project results will therefore be vital not only for increasing our knowledge of the status of this species in the Baltic Sea, but also for deciding on appropriate management measures. The report of the meeting, including all recommendations agreed, will become available shortly and will be published on this [website](#).

*Related links:*

**Recovery Plan for the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (Jastarnia Plan)**

**Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat**

**SAMBAH**



*Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, Natural Museum of History, Gothenburg © Krzysztof Skóra*



## Conservation News

### ■ Project of the Month of May: Distribution and Abundance of Andean Flamingos in Peru

Andean Flamingos bring life and colour to the marshes, lagoons, estuaries and lakes they inhabit. Flamingos are some of the largest birds found at high altitudes of 4,000 meters. They are habitat specialists, have specific eating habits and move to different habitats depending on seasonal changes



Monitoring Andean Flamingos  
© Celeste Santos Apolinario

in habitat and food quality. Extreme environmental events, such as droughts, along with habitat loss caused by human activities, can cause a serious decline. As a result, flamingos are globally threatened.

Out of six flamingo species in the world, three occur in Peru: the Chilean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), the Andean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus andinus*) and the James flamingo (*Phoenicopterus jamesi*). The last two are mainly restricted to the Andes. The Andean Flamingo and the James Flamingo are included in CMS Appendix I to grant them full protection and in CITES Appendix II.

In Peru, information on distribution and ecology is largely insufficient. Only 22 sites out of more than 900 lakes in the southern Andes that may be used by flamingos have been evaluated. A better understanding of flamingos and their habitats is urgently needed. Scientists therefore need to find out the number and location of the birds.

As research and monitoring programmes are essential to effectively protect the species, CMS de-



Andean Flamingos and other waterbirds  
© Celeste Santos Apolinario





## Conservation News

cided to fund the project through its Small Grants Programme. The application was submitted by the General Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife of

the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru, in collaboration with the Centre for Ornithology and Biodiversity (CORBIDI) and the Center for the Study and Promotion of Development (DESCO). The organization Fondo para las Américas also helped realize this project.

The 22 known sites will be reassessed in August 2013, austral winter in the Southern hemisphere and dry season in the highlands. They will be evaluated again in February 2014, during austral summer wet season. New locations will be selected and evaluated. Geographic Information Systems, a database of 88 sites proving the historical presence of flamingos, 900 potential lakes, the 22 known sites and bio-climatic data will help identify potential new areas. ■



*Andean Flamingos in wetlands, Peru*  
© Celeste Santos Apolinario



# Conservation News

## ■ Project of the Month in April: Promoting Transboundary Cooperation to Save Snow Leopards in Central Asia

Scientists estimate that Snow Leopards (*Uncia uncia*), which live in the high mountains of Central Asia, have declined by at least 20 per cent over the past 16 years. The estimated global population of between 4,000 and 6,600 animals keeps decreasing. Poaching, reduced availability of prey and habitat loss are the main drivers of their decline. As wild sheep and goat, the favourite prey species, have become less abundant, Snow Leopards are turning to livestock, which triggers retaliation and direct killing by farmers. Moreover, climate change poses an additional threat to the feline and its fragile mountain habitats.

As a result, Snow Leopards are listed on CMS Appendix I. Along with the Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*) and the Wild Yak (*Bos grunniens*), the Snow Leopard is one of the species from Central Asia which have been designated for Concerted Action. The objective is to stop the deterioration of the conservation status of these particularly threatened species. They are also categorized as Endangered by the IUCN, and listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). CMS also works to enhance the transboundary conservation of argali (*Ovis ammon*) – a prey species of the snow leopard

– *inter alia* through the development of an international argali action plan.

The CMS Small Grants Programme is funding a project supporting Tajikistan to lead on transboundary cooperation on Snow Leopards. The project is implemented by Flora & Fauna International in collaboration with the Department of Forestry and Hunting under the Committee of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan. Other



Snow Leopard on the hunt, Hemis National Park, Jammu and Kashmir, India  
© Snow Leopard Conservancy

collaborating partners include governmental and non-governmental agencies from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as Panthera, an NGO focusing on the conservation of wild cats.

The Snow Leopard population in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan counts about 180–220 individuals, which form a key link to populations in Kyrgyzstan and the Tien Shan mountains to the





## Conservation News

North, and Afghanistan and the Hindu Kush to the South. Together, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan are crucial for Snow Leopard distribution through the “Mountains of Central Asia” biodiversity hotspot.

The key goal of the project is to bring the three countries together to coordinate activities on Snow Leopards and other species migrating in this region. In addition, training, mentoring and network development will help to develop and implement action plans.

As a whole, the project will significantly contribute to the implementation of the Central Eurasian

Aridland Mammals Concerted Action, which was established by COP9 in 2008 and its associated draft Action Plan. It also helps realize objectives of another CMS Resolution adopted in 2008 on the conservation of Asian Big Cats.

This initiative is part of the Small Grants Programme funded by UNEP.

It also complements efforts of the World Bank Global Tiger Initiative to develop a Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Programme to be adopted at the International Snow Leopard Conservation Forum later this year. ■



*Snow Leopard on the lookout, Hemis National Park, Jammu and Kashmir, India*

© Snow Leopard Conservancy



## Conservation News

### ■ ACAP Meetings Review Bycatch Mitigation Measures, Conservation Status and Species Action Plans

The Seventh meeting of ACAP's Advisory Committee was held in May in La Rochelle, France. It was preceded by meetings of its Population and Conservation Status (PaCSWG) and Seabird Bycatch Working Groups (SBWG).

The PaCSWG undertook the most comprehensive assessment of current population trends for ACAP species yet undertaken. The assessment reviewed available data over the last twenty years and found that populations of nine ACAP species were considered to be increasing, eleven species were decreasing and seven were considered stable, with the trend status for three species remaining unknown.

The Working Group also reviewed progress on action being taken to manage land-based threats at breeding sites of ACAP species. Considerable advances were reported in the planning and implementing large-scale eradication programs that will ultimately improve the conservation status of ACAP species, e.g. the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Plan, which is targeting European rabbits, ship rats and house mice. Following an extensive baiting and follow-up hunting phase, there have been no signs of target species for almost two years.

The SBWG reviewed recent research on seabird bycatch mitigation measures and updated its best-practice advice for avoiding the incidental capture of seabirds in demersal and pelagic longline, trawl and gillnet fishing operations, as well as identifying future mitigation research priorities. The Working Group also reviewed bycatch data collection requirements, which are critical for determining, amongst other things, the effectiveness of the mitigation measures being used. It was agreed to seek a progressive improvement in the resolution



*Yellow-nosed Albatross*

© Tony Palliser

of the data submitted and to also engage in initiatives to investigate and promote the use of electronic monitoring, as another means of collecting relevant data.

In addition to reviewing and endorsing relevant advice from its Working Groups, the Advisory Committee assessed proposals for the inclusion of two new species under Annex 1 of the Agreement, the Pink-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus creatopus* and the Galapagos Petrel, *Pterodroma phaeopygia*. Its recommendations will be forwarded to the next Meeting of the Parties, to be held in 2015.

The Committee also reviewed progress with development and implementation of species action plans. France reported on its National Plan of Action for the Amsterdam albatross. Six actions have progressed since the last Advisory Committee meeting. The monitoring of the population has





# Conservation News



L-R: Mark Tasker (Advisory Committee Vice-Chair), Dr Marco Favero (Advisory Committee Chair), Pascal Bolot (Prefect for Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises) and Martine Bigan (France's National Contact Point for ACAP)  
© ACAP

continued, and shows a continuous increase of the population size reaching 38 pairs in 2012. However, the breeding success appears to continue to decline progressively. Since 2011 a comprehensive study of the diseases occurring in the 5 main sea-bird species at Amsterdam has been carried out. The study shows that avian cholera and Erysipelas was present in all species including Amsterdam



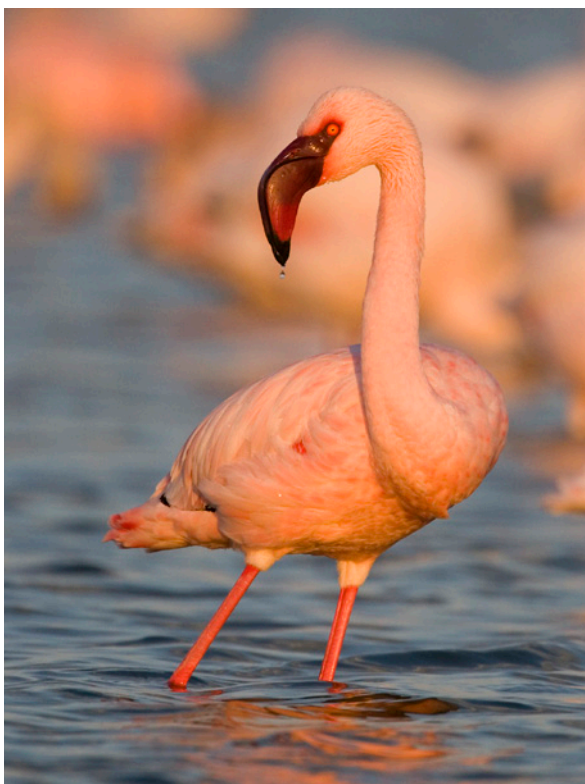
Pink-footed Shearwater  
© Dr Peter Hodum

albatrosses, Yellow-nosed and Sooty albatrosses. Present studies aim at identifying the reservoirs of the bacteria (environment and/or birds), the disseminators (birds, human, introduced mammals), at genetic characterization of *P. multocida* (a coccobacillus) isolates and examining the possibility of vaccination by the production of an auto vaccine. ■



# Species Campaigns

## ■ World Migratory Bird Day Calls for International Response to Address Habitat Loss



*Lesser Flamingo* (*Phoenicopterus minor*)  
© Marc Anderson

As an estimated 50 billion birds – from around 19 per cent of the world’s 10,000 bird species – undertake annual migrations. However, the critical staging areas they need to complete these journeys continue to be degraded or are disappearing completely.

In his message marking the Day, celebrated annually over the second weekend of May celebrated each year in over 65 countries on 11 and 12 May, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underscored the need for greater international action in protecting the winged fauna and saving their natural habitats. With the stepping stones to their migration under

increased pressure, some bird species could face extinction within a decade.



World Migratory Bird Day

UNEP’s Executive Director, Achim Steiner highlighted the need to conserve migratory birds. Beyond being a source of joy and inspiration for millions of people, they also are part of the web of life that underpins nature’s multi-trillion-dollar ecosystem services.

Many migrating birds – including cranes, storks, shorebirds and eagles – travel thousands of kilometres across flyways that span countries and continents. Nevertheless, pressures resulting from rapid urbanization, pollution and climate change have caused the steady loss of the natural habitats along the birds’ migration routes.

Migratory waterbird species that depend on the intertidal habitats along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway – which stretches from Russia to New Zealand and encompasses some 22 countries – are showing rapid decline and are among the planet’s most-threatened migratory birds. Coastal land reclamation, particularly around key coastal staging areas in the Yellow Sea, has caused this decline.



*Spoon-billed Sandpiper* (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*)  
© Smith Sutibut





## Species Campaigns



*World Migratory Bird Day Event (New Caledonia)*  
© Jerome Spaggiari

CMS Executive Secretary, Bradnee Chambers, explained that transboundary collaboration was essential to ensure that migratory birds can continue to travel, refuel and reach their destinations.

This year's Day highlighted the importance of ecological networks for the survival of migratory birds, the important human networks dedicated to their conservation, the threats migratory birds face, and the need for more international cooperation to conserve them. A regional event along the African-European Flyways was held on the shores of Kenya's Lake Elementaita to pay tribute to the



*White Pelican (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)*  
© Sergey Dereliev (UNEP/AEWA),  
[www.dereliev-photography.com](http://www.dereliev-photography.com)

11 globally threatened bird species which are supported by the Kenya Lakes System.

The annual campaign is organized by CMS and AEWA to celebrate migratory birds and promote their conservation worldwide. People across the globe joined the celebrations through bird festivals, education programmes, presentations, film screenings and birdwatching.

*Full Press Release:*

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2716&ArticleID=9498&l=en> ■



# Species Campaigns

## World Migratory Bird Day 2013 Celebrated in Record 86 Countries



World Migratory Bird Day

For the first time, the World Migratory Bird Day campaign received prominent, high level support from UN Sec-

retary-General Ban Ki-moon. In addition, UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner addressed the public through a video message to mark the global commemorative event. An amazing 345 registered events in 86 countries worldwide made World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2013, celebrated on 11-12 May 2013, the most successful year to date.

The 2013 World Migratory Bird Day Theme – “Networking for migratory birds” highlighted the importance of ecological networks as well as networks of governments, conservation organizations and people for the survival of migratory birds.

Migratory birds travel incredible distances on their annual journeys relying on intact networks of sites for breeding, feeding, resting and wintering purposes to successfully complete their strenuous migrations. However, the impacts of people around the world have led to habitat loss and degradation, greatly affecting many migratory bird species. As a result, collective conservation actions by governments, nature conservation organizations, scientists and the general public are needed to ensure the survival of migratory birds.

All across the world, governments, wildlife conservation organizations, scientists, journalists, teachers, students, clubs, and many other dedicated groups and individuals celebrated World Migratory Bird Day 2013. People came together to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by organizing events, such as birdwatching activities, exhibitions, educational activities, film screenings, concerts and other public events united by the global theme “Networking for migratory birds”.

## Highlights of Events from World Migratory Bird Day 2013 around the World

### Regional World Migratory Bird Day Event at Lake Elementaita, Kenya



Performance of school children © Birgit Drerup / AEWA



L-R: Ruth Gathura, CMS Ambassador Kuki Gallmann, James Waweru and Mungai Gathu © Birgit Drerup / AEWA

On 11 May 2013, a regional World Migratory Bird Day event was held on the shores of Lake Elementaita in Kenya, the country where WMBD was first launched in 2006. Lake Elementaita is an important site for migratory birds such as Lesser Flamingos and Great White Pelicans. Over 14 Eastern and Southern African countries were represented at the event.





# Species Campaigns

Key stakeholders and bird conservation organizations in Kenya displayed a number of exhibitions. In their speeches, CMS Ambassador Ms. Kuki Gallmann who hosted the launching event of World Migratory Bird Day in 2006, UNEP Spokesperson and Director of Communications Mr Nick Nuttall and other prominent guests reflected the growing importance they attach to the event. Performance by local schools and an acrobatic show were part of a diverse entertainment programme. The event provided also an opportunity to launch Lake Elementaita as a World Heritage Site and Wildlife Sanctuary. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) hosted the event in collaboration with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

## ***Benefit Concert for the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane in Bonn, Germany***



*Bologna Opera Choir in Namen-Jesu-Church, Bonn © Francisco Rilla Manta / CMS*

On Saturday, 11 May in Bonn, Germany, the opera choir Corale Lirica San Rocco from Bologna, Italy, sang a selection of works by Verdi in the Namen-Jesu-Church. The initiative came from Fernando Spina, Chair of the CMS Scientific Council, who is a member of the choir. Donations made at the concert will be used to support the conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane, an endangered species.

## ***Awareness Raising Events in the City of Vancouver, Canada***



*Vancouver Skyline © Andre Chan*

During the week of 6-12 May, 2013 the City, along with the Stanley Park Ecology Society, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Vancouver, Tourism Vancouver and other partners, recognized World Migratory Bird Day in a series of events held across the city. The City of Vancouver Park Board proclaimed World Migratory Bird Day, in a declaration signed by Mayor Gregor Robertson. The declaration recognizes the better management of birds and their habitats through initiatives such as Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan would benefit residents and over 407 bird species.



*Birdwatching in Stanley Park, Vancouver © Andre Chan*



## Species Campaigns

### *World Migratory Bird Day Partners*

World Migratory Bird Day Partners is supported by a growing number of committed partners: **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), BirdLife International, Wetlands International, the Partnership for the East Asian - Australasian Flyway (EAAFP) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).** Once again WMBD was made possible through the kind voluntary contribution to the CMS and AEWA Secretariats by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (**BMU**).

An impressive number of dedicated statements to mark World Migratory Bird Day 2013 were received from WMBD Partners, Experts, Ambassadors, and supporters from around the world, including amongst many others UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres. Marco Lambertini, CEO BirdLife International and the German Minister for the Environment Peter Altmaier marked the Day. All statements can be found on the WMBD Statements Page.

**Visit the WMBD Statements Page** ■





# Species Campaignes

## ■ 19 May 2013: Celebrating the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise

This year's International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (IDBHP) was celebrated on the weekend of Sunday, 19 May 2013. It was the 11<sup>th</sup> time that this special day in honour of the critically endangered native whale species of the Baltic Sea was observed around its shores. The Day is celebrated in countries around the Baltic Sea every year on the third Sunday in May.

Museums in Denmark, Finland and Lithuania shared details of their campaign activities with the ASCOBANS Secretariat.

In Denmark, a historical society interested in the past tradition of hunting porpoises was working with the Forside Middelfart Museum and other partners to participate in the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise for the first time.

The town of Middelfart had a hunting tradition going back to the middle ages. Until 1892, about 30 hunters went out every winter in ten boats hunting porpoises in order to use their blubber for producing lamp oil. Nowadays, porpoises are protected in Denmark, and the society is using the local tradition as a way of highlighting the need to protect the species, which now has many threats to contend with. Educational activities such as a competition for children, historic exhibition and whale watching on the Belt attracted public interest in the small whales.

The **Särkänniemi Dolphinarium** in Finland provided a variety of information and activities centring on the harbour porpoise for children and adults alike.

The **Lithuanian Sea Museum** invited primary class students to get to know the little whales of the Baltic Sea. During educational talks the children learned about these

rare Baltic Sea inhabitants and discussed with the museum's biologists the environmental issues threatening the species' survival. During a creative workshop participants jointly created a sculpture dedicated to the Baltic harbour porpoise, to be placed in the entrance of the museum.

In order to recruit creative minds for the cause of the harbour porpoise, the ASCOBANS Secretariat and its NGO partners, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), NABU and OceanCare, have launched the creativity competition



*Educational activities during ASCOBANS Roadshows*  
© Ana Berta García / ASCOBANS



## Species Campaignes

“The last 300 – What do Germany’s Native Whales Mean to You?” The competition is aimed at German-speaking countries. More information on the can be accessed at [www.schweinswal.eu](http://www.schweinswal.eu).

Amateurs and professionals are called upon to reflect through their art and design works the importance they attach to these unique animals in the Baltic Sea in. The competition is open until 19 October 2013.

*Related links:*

**Forside Middelfart Museum**

**Särkänniemi Dolphinarium**

**Lithuanian Sea Museum**

**Competition: The last 300**



*Educational activities during ASCOBANS Roadshows*

■ © Ana Berta García / ASCOBANS





## CMS Participation in Other Events

### ■ Meeting on Sahelo-Saharan Wildlife Acknowledges Role of CMS

During a meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) in Agadir, Morocco, 2-4 May 2013, the role of CMS in catalyzing action for the conservation of the region's antelopes was highlighted. Antelopes in this region include the Addax and the Dama Gazelle, which are on the brink of extinction, while the Scimitar-Horned Oryx is already extinct in the wild.

Participants discussed the widespread poaching of gazelles in the region. In the past, camels were victims of poaching, now overhunting affects gazelles. Organized gangs use motorbikes and 4x4 vehicles for hunting. In addition, baby gazelles are captured for trade. Governments have organized anti-poaching measures to stop the slaughter.

Since 1994 CMS has been leading a major concerted action for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes to restore populations of these herbivores. The culmination and conclusion was the designation of the Nature Reserve of Termit tin Toumma in Niger, Africa's largest protected area. Co-funding from the *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM) and the European Union (EU) for two large projects helped implement the Action Plan. The *Agence Française pour le Développement* has granted funding for phase III.

SSIG meetings provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and to join forces to continue working on behalf of Sahelo-Saharan wildlife and people. Presentations and discussion groups cover a number of topics. The meeting is facilitated by the Sahara Conservation Fund. ■



Bou Hedma National Park, Tunisia © A. Jebali



## News from the Secretariat

### ■ First Draft Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 Released for Comments

The first draft of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, prepared by the CMS Parties' Inter-sessional Strategic Plan Working Group, has been released for comments to be submitted by 30 September 2013.

The draft presents the proposed Goals and Targets, based on the approach used in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Other chapters, such as the one on implementation, will be elaborated in detail for a future round of consultation.

The Working Group agreed at its first meeting held in November 2012 that the future Plan would focus on conservation issues as a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species. The CMS convention text defines migratory species as follows: "Migratory species means the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries".

The Plan will therefore serve as a guiding framework for all of those working towards the conservation of these migratory species and also support the entire CMS Family. The current draft takes into consideration CMS Parties' and partners' views on the implementation of the current Strategic Plan 2006-2014 as well as ideas on the content of the future Plan.

There will be further opportunities to comment on the different stages of the Plan while it is being elaborated, and all CMS Parties and stakeholders are highly encouraged to engage early in this important exercise by commenting on this first draft.

The final draft will be presented to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties in late 2014.

Views should be emailed to [cms@cms.int](mailto:cms@cms.int), [inesverleye@gmail.com](mailto:inesverleye@gmail.com) and [wjackson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wjackson@doc.govt.nz).

The draft Plan is available in French, Spanish and English at this web link:

[http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic\\_plan\\_2015\\_2023\\_wg/strpln\\_wg\\_drafts.html](http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/strategic_plan_2015_2023_wg/strpln_wg_drafts.html) ■

### ■ CMS Requests to IPBES

The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-1), held in Bonn from 21 to 26 January 2013 (see Bulletin February/March), requested its Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and Bureau to develop a draft programme of work for 2014-2018 in order to advance the Platform's four functions (assessment, knowledge generation, policy support and capacity building) (Decision IPBES 1/2).

Pursuant to this decision, the IPBES Secretariat called for the submission of requests, inputs and suggestions on scientific and technical matters that require the Platform's attention and could be considered for the programme of work (Decision IPBES 1/3).

In response to this call, Prof. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Chair of CMS Standing Committee, who also chaired the IPBES Session, submitted the following six requests for scientific assessments to IPBES on behalf of CMS, AEWA, and EUROBATS.

1. The function of migratory species in ecosystems
2. The economics of ecosystem services provided by migratory species
3. Protected areas systems and the needs of migratory species





## News from the Secretariat

4. Migratory species in areas beyond national jurisdiction
5. Migratory species and climate change
6. Traditional knowledge and migratory birds

Assessment based on any of the six proposals are expected to have a significant impact on making the case for migratory species conservation, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Strategic Plans of CMS and its related instruments, and, more broadly, to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The requests also highlight the expertise that is available for addressing these issues through the CMS network of specialists.

The related Resolution 10.8, adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS in 2011, also invited IPBES to address these science-policy linkages and highlighted the need for assessments, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species of wild animals.

All requests submitted to the IPBES Secretariat are available online at <http://www.ipbes.net/intersessional-process/comments-received.html>.

### ■ The Republic of Fiji joins as 119<sup>th</sup> Party to CMS

The Republic of Fiji has acceded as 119<sup>th</sup> Party to the Convention with effect from 1 April 2013.

Fiji comprises an archipelago of more than 300 islands, amounting to a total land area of exceeding 18,000 square kilometres. The marine biodiversity of Fiji is very rich and diverse: dolphins, sharks, swordfish can be found in the surrounding seas. Around 30 species of seabirds and 22 waders migrate through the country. In addition, there is a

significant number of other migratory species such as turtles, sharks and whales.

In 2006, Fiji signed the CMS Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their habitats in the Pacific Islands Region under the umbrella of CMS. The Convention welcomes the country's contribution to the conservation of marine turtles, cetaceans and other species so far.

As a Party to the Convention, the Republic of Fiji has increased CMS membership in the Pacific region and among Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which play a key role for the species listed on both CMS Appendices.

With its accession, Fiji paves the way for CMS's ambitious goal to address more challenges in conserving sharks, whales, dolphins and porpoises which inhabit its waters and those of neighboring states.

Species such as the Blue Whale, the Green Turtle, which are classified as endangered, might receive additional support in terms of conservation and management.

Furthermore, the Monarch Butterfly, seabirds and other marine mammals inhabiting in Fiji are listed on both by CMS Appendices could significantly benefit from enhanced regional co-operation. ■

### ■ Better Prospects for Migratory Species in the Arctic

CMS and the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), have signed a resolution of cooperation to better integrate efforts to protect and conserve Arctic migratory species. Evgeny Syroechkovskiy, Chairman of the CAFF Board, and CMS Deputy Executive Secretary Bert Lenten signed the cooperation agreement on 29 April 2013 in Budapest, Hungary.



## News from the Secretariat

In the light of significant stress factors on Arctic fauna, understanding biodiversity changes and responses is necessary to ensure the conservation of migratory species. The Arctic is an essential breeding and feeding area for hundreds of species that migrate across the region and beyond.

The Arctic hosts a significant array of biodiversity, including migratory species such as the Blue Whale, the Fin Whale, the Harbour Seal, shark species and birds such as the Red Knot, which are listed on the CMS Appendices.



The objectives and activities of both CMS and CAFF complement one another. CMS provides an important global framework for conserving migratory species, while CAFF carries out important work for biodiversity and assessments in the Arctic region. In this context, CMS welcomes the findings and policy recommendations of the new *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment* released by CAFF in May.

Mutual sharing of information and data assessments on migratory species between the CMS Family and CAFF is a crucial element of the Joint Work Plan 2013-2015 which was recently developed in the context of the resolution of cooperation. ■





# News from the Secretariat

## ■ CMS Family Meetings

Date	Event	Venue
27-28 May	Technical Workshop on Poisoning of Migratory Birds	Tunis, Tunisia
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	International Single Species Action Planning Workshop (Egyptian Vulture)	Bulgaria
26 August	ASCOBANS: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the North Sea Group	Warsaw, Poland
27-29 August	ASCOBANS: 20 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting	Warsaw, Poland
9-12 September	Saker Falcon Task Force: Stakeholders Workshop	Abu Dhabi, UAE
18-20 September	AEWA: 9 <sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting	Trondheim, Norway
9-10 October	CMS Scientific Council Strategic and Planning Meeting	Gaeta, Italy
5-8 November	ACCOBAMS: 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties	Tangier, Morocco
October/November	CMS Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting (prior to the StC41)	Bonn, Germany
25-26 November	Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting	Bonn, Germany
26 November (aft)	Budget and Finance Sub-Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany
27-28 November	CMS: 41 <sup>st</sup> Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany



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