

Climate change and other threats

The potentially huge impact of climate change is just beginning to be understood, but it is clear that migratory animals are at risk. Because they are biologically dependent on more than one habitat, migratory species are among the worst affected by climate change.

Unsustainable hunting and fishing practices and incidental capture in fisheries take a heavy toll on thousands of species. Destruction of wetlands, forests and grasslands removes food and shelter vital to life. Barriers to migration such as roads, fences, dams, marine noise and wind farms can disrupt migratory patterns and result in a significant number of deaths. Birds also face the danger of electrocution, injuries or death caused by power transmission lines or towers.

The introduction of alien species and the harmful effects of industrial and agricultural pollutants are further risks. Armed conflicts, other than their obvious threat to humans, can also be a significant threat to migratory species and their habitats.

As a result of all of these human pressures, many migratory animals are becoming increasingly rare. A great many are threatened with extinction.

Working in partnership

CMS develops synergies with other environment-related instruments, such as CBD, of which CMS is the lead partner with regard to the conservation of migratory species. CMS works closely with CBD to ensure that migratory species are included in the revised **National Biodiversity Species Action Plans**.

The MoU between the Secretariat of **CITES**, and **CMS** and the one between the Secretariat of **Ramsar** and CMS seek to ensure cooperation in the fields of joint promotion of the conventions; joint conservation action; data collection, storage and analysis; and new agreements on migratory species, including endangered migratory species and species

with an unfavourable conservation status.

CMS participates in the **InforMEA**, the first project established by the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative. It brings together 12 Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems in support of knowledge management activities for the benefit of Parties and the environment community.

CMS is also part of the **BLG**, the liaison group established between the heads of the secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions to enhance coherence and cooperation in implementation. The BLG meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information.

CMS also benefits from the support of several **NGO, IGO and conservation bodies**.



The CMS Family Guide

In producing the Guide, the aim of the Secretariat was to cover all aspects of the history of the Convention, from its conception when the idea of an instrument to protect migratory species was first suggested, to the present day, over 25 years after CMS was concluded.

We wanted to devise a flexible, readily digestible and attractive format. As the Convention and its associated Agreements evolved, the information contained in the Family Guide was amended, updated and expanded as necessary and the third fully revised edition was published in 2009.

The latest innovation has been to produce an electronic version of the Guide. Departing from the printed format and using the latest technology, we have been able to produce a Guide that is fully searchable and no longer time-bound by print deadlines. We will update the Guide constantly in all three official languages of the Convention and the revised texts will be posted on the CMS website regularly.

www.cms.int

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

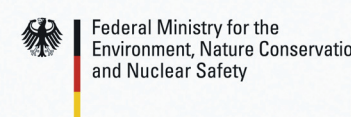
administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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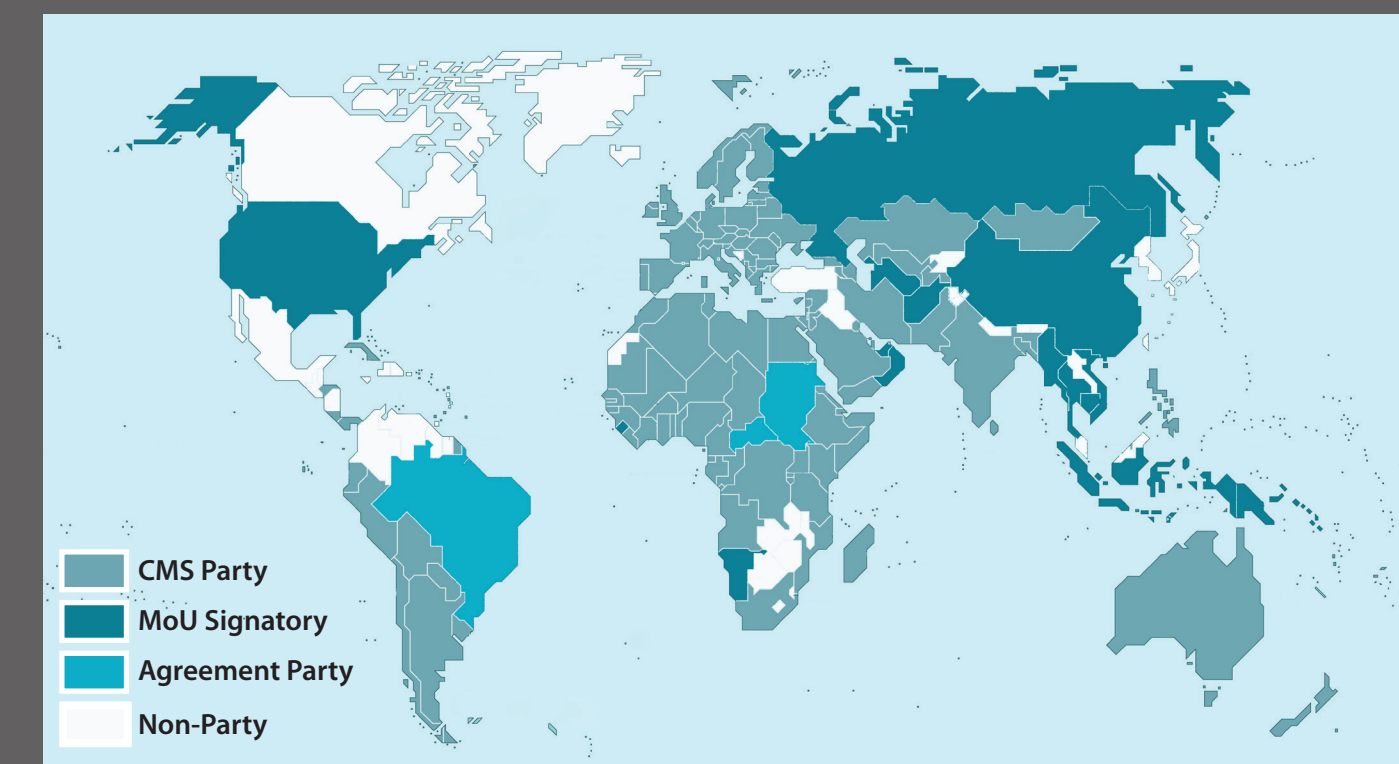
References: The legal challenge of protecting Animal Migration. Robert L. Fischman and Jeffrey B.Hyman |

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CMS Parties so far



The Parties of CMS

In August 2011 CMS has a membership of 116 Parties. A number of further countries participate in regional Agreements and MoU despite not being Parties to the parent Convention.

Many countries have progressed from participation in an agreement to full membership of CMS.

Tailored global and regional solutions

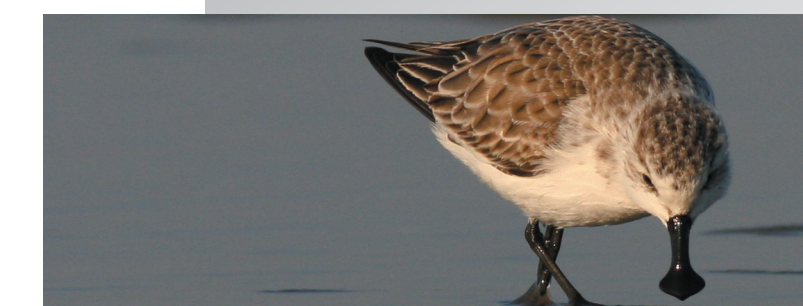
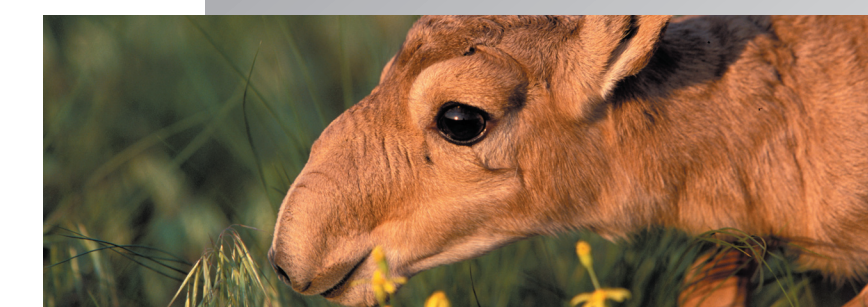
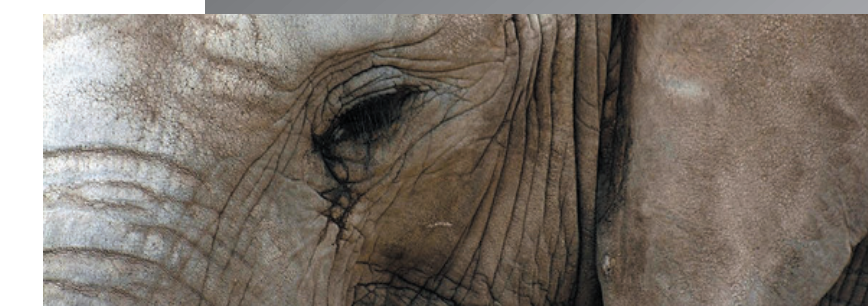
As an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

UN ACTION TO CONSERVE WILDLIFE IN A CHANGING WORLD

«...The States are and must be the protectors of the migratory species of wild animals that live within or pass through their national jurisdictional boundaries...»

«...Conservation and effective management of migratory species of wild animals require the concerted action of all States within the national jurisdictional boundaries of which such species spend any part of their life cycle...»

- from the preamble of the Convention



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

