

# Secure the Future of CMS

## Open NGO Statement to the 10<sup>th</sup> Convention on Migratory Species Conference of the Parties

*The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are important international conventions that together provide the combination of strict protection for endangered migratory species and habitat, facilitation and coordination of species and transboundary research, restriction of trade, targeted conservation activities for species migrating across national boundaries, as well as the organization and conclusion of multilateral agreements for species with an unfavourable conservation status. This complete package is crucial for migratory species conservation.*

**As you begin your deliberations for this 10<sup>th</sup> CMS Conference of the Parties (CMS CoP10), including your discussions on the Future Shape of CMS - as you work towards your decisions about the important conservation priorities before you and the budget implications inherent in these decisions - we ask you to ensure that strengthening of the CMS conservation agenda is secured.**

CMS uniquely provides a flexible platform to develop measures tailored to particular conservation needs. The convention has important mechanisms to implement on-ground conservation activities, attributes that offer a great potential for multiple threat mitigation and the protection of endangered species. It cannot be overstated how important it is that the work of this convention is supported and encouraged to grow.

The undersigned non-governmental organisations wish to draw your attention, in particular, to a number of important matters.

### **Keep the CMS conservation agenda alive**

CMS must have sufficient budget to progress the conservation priorities determined by CMS CoP10. It is also critical that all CMS agreements have sufficient budget allocation to enable them to progress with their conservation work. We strongly urge you agree to a significant increase in CMS budget to enable appropriate agreement growth, provide for regular funding to ensure agreement progress, sufficient resources to ensure the triennium progress on conservation work and to enable tangible reporting of conservation activities to CMS CoP11 and beyond.

### **Build capacity into the Scientific Council and the Small Grants Programme**

None of the work of the convention can be progressed without a strong programme of scientific support. The CMS Scientific Council underpins the work of the entire organisation and we feel that we should at this time be building its competency.

In particular we believe that the small grants programme has been a life-blood for the organisation, providing vital support and encouragement across the whole range of CMS activities. These projects have underpinned and contributed significantly to the development of most of the agreements and action plans that are now part of the CMS suite of tools. These projects have also assisted States, particularly developing countries, by helping to address and raise the profile of a range of threats to migratory species. Furthermore there is a considerable leveraging mechanism in these small grants and other project money made available by the convention. We urge you to provide funding for these important areas of CMS's work.

### **Remember that we are stakeholders**

We are stakeholders in this process. Civil society contributes substantially to this convention, through voluntary and monetary contributions and through strong programmes of work supporting and promoting and implementing on-ground CMS conservation activities. We also speak to and educate our supporter constituencies about the progress of this conservation work. The combined value of this support amounts to millions of Euro per annum.

**We appreciate the difficulties and constraints involved in budgeting for the many complex and interrelated aspects of the work of CMS, but we urge you not to handicap the convention at this point in its evolution. The position of CMS in the global conservation effort is vital, and it is imperative that we sufficiently support CMS in order to drive forward an agenda that is of the greatest importance to us all.**

Signed on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 by:

**Animal Welfare Institute**

**Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan**

**Australian Marine Conservation Society**

**Birdlife International**

**Born Free**

**Centre for Marine Mammal Research - Leviathan**

**Cetacean Society International**

**Conservacion de Mamiferos Marinos de Mexico**

**Defenders of Wildlife**

**Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness**

**Endangered Wildlife Trust**

**Friends of CMS**

**Humane Society International**

**International Crane Foundation**

**International Fund for Animal Welfare**

**Large Herbivore Network**

**Max-Planck-Institut für Ornithologie**

**Migratory Wildlife Network**

**Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union International**

**Oceana**

**OceanCare**

**ProWildlife**

**Shark Advocates International**

**Tethys Research Institute**

**Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society**

**Whales Alive**

**World Animal Net**

**World Society for the Protection of Animals**

**World Wide Fund for Nature**