



# CMS Bulletin

12-2013  
2 - 2014

## Editorial

**World Wildlife Day – A powerful coalition for conservation**



**WORLD  
WILDLIFE DAY**  
3 MARCH

Today is the third of March—a day chosen last year by the United Nations as World Wildlife Day—with the aim of celebrating the many beautiful and varied forms of fauna and flora and raising awareness of the multitude of benefits people derive from wildlife.

CMS, like CITES, stands at the forefront of international efforts to conserve endangered species and the threats that we have to address are almost as varied as the animals themselves. From addressing unsustainable levels of bird trapping in North Africa, to maintaining the last few Addax antelopes and Dama gazelles in the Sahara; from engaging in the struggle against poaching and the illegal ivory trade that is driving the African elephant to the brink, to ending the overexploitation of sharks, that as apex predators play a crucial role in the marine environment; the challenges we face are difficult but we are undaunted, determined to turn the expressions of political will into effective action on the ground.

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## Editorial

Therefore we welcome the further opportunities to work together with CITES, other biodiversity-related Conventions and partners in pursuit of the common cause of conserving the world's endangered wildlife that this event presents. And how fitting it is that the date chosen for World Wildlife Day is the anniversary of the signing of CITES!

Rio + 20 acknowledged that Wildlife has intrinsic value contributing to sustainable development and human well-being because of its ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic qualities. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution which was passed in December last year designating the third of March as World Wildlife Day has reaffirmed that recognition. It is a day when we can have the world focus its attention on our shared natural heritage.

This year on 10-11 May we will also be celebrating World Migratory Bird Day for the ninth time with the theme "Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism" and we hope to break last year's record of over 350 events in 88 countries and territories worldwide.

Over the years we have built World Migratory Bird Day into a truly global and highly diverse campaign.

CMS is of course ready to join the coalition that CITES is constructing on World Wildlife Day and will lend its weight to ensuring that WWD will establish itself just as quickly in the international conservation calendar as World Migratory Bird Day. I have every confidence that we will succeed. ■



*Dr. Bradnee Chambers*



## Guest Article

### ■ Ring Tells Corncrake Migration Linking Scotland with the Congo

*By Rhys Green, Professor of Conservation Science in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge and Principal Research Biologist at the RSPB*

In 2012, new data from tracking devices provided surprising evidence of Corncrakes in Congo. The Corncrake is listed on CMS Appendix II; a joint CMS-AEWA International Species Action Plan has been in place since 2006.

Corncrakes are migratory birds that breed in Eurasia and winter in sub-Saharan Africa. The loud rasping song of the males, delivered continuously by night from May to July, makes them easy to hear, but throughout the rest of the year they are silent and conceal themselves in tall grass and herbage.

Maps of the distribution of Corncrakes away from the breeding grounds are based on a small number of recorded sightings, and the localities from which museum specimens were collected. Scientists assumed that the entire world breeding population, from Ireland in the west to Siberia in the east, wintered in the grasslands and savannas of the south-eastern quarter of Africa. However, the only Corncrake ringed in Britain and recovered in Africa caused some puzzlement. This bird, ringed in Scotland, was found dead in January 1978 well outside the presumed wintering area, in the Republic of Congo, an area better known for its rainforests, forest elephants and gorillas than for species associated with grassland.

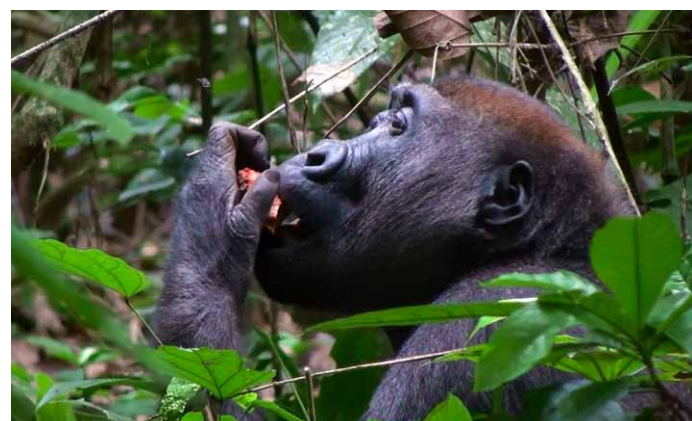
To find out more about migration patterns, fifty adult male Corncrakes were captured in June 2011 on the island of Coll in south-west Scotland and fitted with archival light intensity loggers (geo-locators) mounted on leg rings. Geo-locators work by measuring and storing the light intensity at intervals of a few minutes. The tags used on corncrakes weigh about one gram and this makes them easy for the 170-gram birds to cope with. Data can be retrieved when a bird is recaptured



*Corncrake with a geolocator © Ben Phalan*

by connecting the tag to a laptop computer. Results show the time of sunrise and sunset in all the places where the bird has been since its release. This allows the birds' latitude and longitude to be calculated.

When the geo-locators' messages had been decoded, they told an amazing story of the movements of the five birds from which tags were recovered. The birds had moved rapidly south through Britain and France, across the Sahara Desert and arrived in West Africa after the end of the wet season in October. They were then scattered across a large area from Ghana to Nigeria, but each of them stayed in a fairly small range. The



*Blackback western lowland gorilla, Balema, eating fruit, Mondika, Congo © Ian Redmond*





## Guest Article

region has a mixture of savannas and, in the south, land converted from forest for pastoralism and farming. The Corncrakes moved on, flying a further 2,000 km in a few days to the western part of the Congo Basin, arriving around the end of November. In March, they began their return journey, probably with brief stop-overs in West Africa, before setting out north across the Sahara. After a refuelling stop in North Africa or Spain, the birds arrived in Coll in late April or early May.

The previously puzzling ring recovery of a Scottish Corncrake in the Congo turned out to be right in the centre of the late winter ranges of the five tagged Corncrakes from Coll. Although much of this area is covered by rainforest, there are also habitats without trees that would be suitable for Corncrakes. These in-

clude "bais"—which are openings in the forest maintained by grazing and browsing by forest elephants, buffaloes and bongo antelopes, made up of areas of savanna grasslands interspersed with tracts of riverine forest, cropland and pastures. Knowing more about Corncrakes' migration will be useful for their conservation. The phenomenon of these small birds from Scotland sharing their winter habitats with forest elephants and gorillas is an intriguing possibility which hopefully might be resolved by further study.

Gorillas and elephants are listed on the CMS Appendices because they migrate between neighbouring countries in Africa. As they do so, they carry the seeds of fruit trees in their gut which are then deposited in a pile of rich manure, miles from the parent plant, in another country. This ecological role as seed dispersal agents is one reason why they are considered keystone species on which the health of Africa's forests depend.

Evapotranspiration from these forests generates weather systems that travel around the globe, watering crops in Britain and Europe; as a result, agriculture in the Northern hemisphere depends on healthy tropical forest ecosystems. Migratory birds such as Corncrakes play a role in the ecosystems along the whole of their flyway, and show that it is not just through the movement of water vapour in the stratosphere that the tropics and temperate zones are ecologically linked.

On hearing of this research, Dr Jane Goodall, attending the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, commented, "This is a good example of the interconnectedness of nature, and so of the need for interconnected conservation. If British Corncrake numbers are to recover, it is no good just improving their habitat in Britain—we need to ensure healthy ecosystems at both ends of their migration, so protecting these beautiful birds also means protecting chimpanzees, gorillas and elephants in the Congo Basin." ■



*Forest elephant, Nouabale-Ndoki NP, Congo*  
© Ian Redmond



# Conservation News

## ■ Shark Conservation in the Spotlight – Nine Countries Sign the CMS Sharks MOU in Dubai



*Belal Alhayek, Director of Biodiversity, Land and Natural Reserves, the Syrian delegate, signing the Sharks MOU (Photo: IFAW)*

International shark conservation has received a strong boost this month, with 9 of the 13 countries which gathered in Dubai for a training workshop signing the CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

The training workshop was organized by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Middle East from

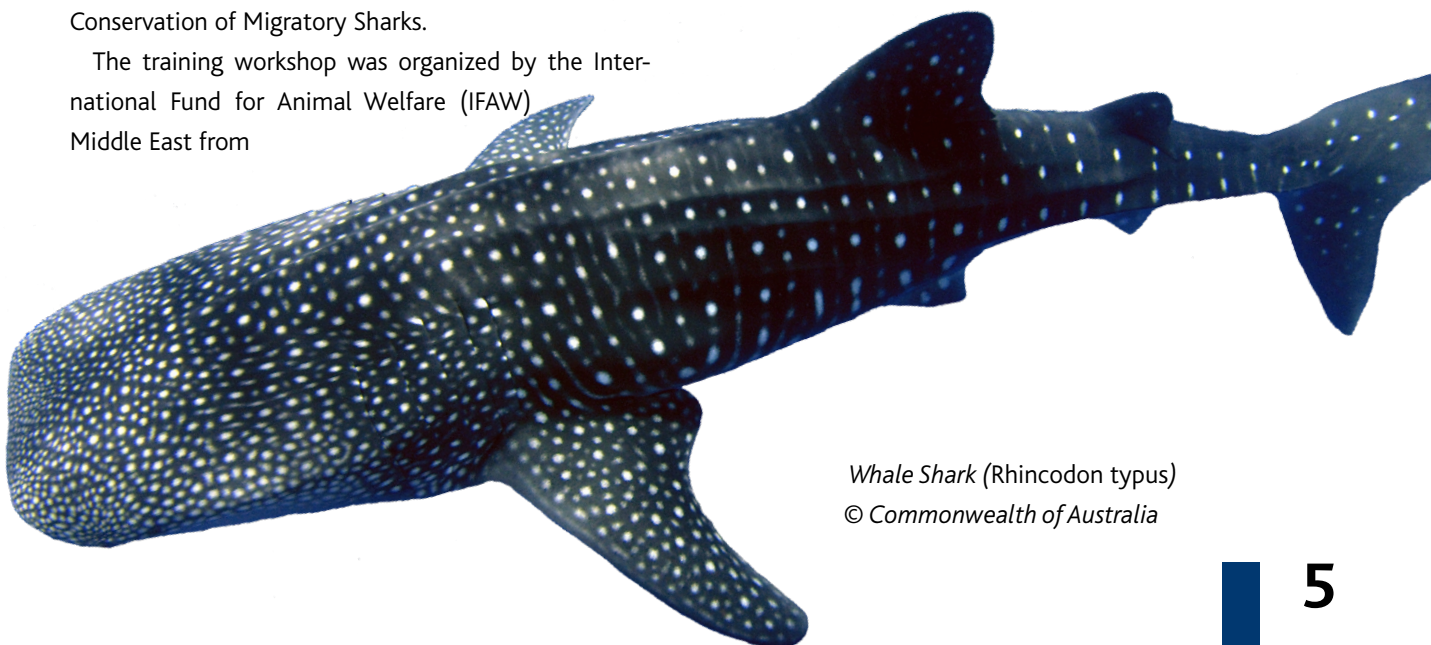
17 – 20 February 2014 and was hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai, with funding also coming from the European Commission’s contributions to CMS.

“The signing of the CMS Sharks MOU by nine Arab countries in Dubai is a strong signal which shows commitment and confidence in international cooperation to conserve migratory sharks. We hope this sets a good example for other countries in the world to do the same.” said Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary of CMS.

Action to help conserve sharks is urgently needed. According to a recent analysis carried out by the IUCN one quarter of the world’s 1,041 shark, skate, ray and chimaera species are threatened.

Representatives from 13 Arabic-speaking countries ranging from Mauritania through the Syrian Arab Republic to the Comoros attended the workshop, and nine of them—the Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen signed the MOU. This brings the number of Signatories to 36 – 35 countries and the European Union (a full list of Signatories can be found here: <http://sharksmou.org/list-of-signatories>).

Commenting on the extraordinary 33 per cent growth in the MOU’s membership, Melanie Virtue, Head of the Aquatic Species Team at the CMS Secretariat, said:



*Whale Shark (Rhincodon typus)  
© Commonwealth of Australia*





## Conservation News

“For many species of sharks time is running out and we need to act before their numbers face even further declines. The clear message being sent from the IFAW Dubai workshop is that Arab countries stand together to combat illegal international trade in endangered sharks and want to work together under the framework of the CMS Sharks MOU to protect these species that are so crucial for marine ecosystems and local economies”.

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization an estimated 0.6 million metric tons of shark have been caught every year for the last two decades and 26 to 73 million sharks are killed each year to support the global shark fin market (according to a study led by Shelley C. Clarke and published in 2006: “*Global estimates of shark catches using trade*



*Great White Shark (Carcharodon carcharias) © Terry Goss*

*records from commercial markets”).* This figure, however, does not take into account the vast illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of sharks.

Most sharks are long-living species which grow slowly, mature late and produce few young. These biological factors make sharks particularly vulnerable to overfishing and mean that populations will be slow to recover once depleted.

Egypt and Sudan also used the occasion of the workshop in Dubai to sign the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA), bringing the number of Signatories to that CMS instrument to 35. For further information on the IOSEA news, please see the IOSEA website. ■



# Conservation News

## ■ European Bat Numbers are Soaring

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has published a new study showing that European bat populations have significantly increased during the last two decades. Following a dramatic decline, bat populations increased by 43 per cent between 1993 and 2011 at hibernation sites.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) has reinforced the positive trend, but also other international treaties that promote targeted conservation measures such as the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Council of Europe) and the European Union’s Flora Fauna Habitat Directive contributed to the success.

done, especially in other regions of the world. Population trends elsewhere are most alarming, particularly where bats are excessively hunted for bush meat or deliberately killed out of prejudice. Other threats relate to habitat loss, such as deforestation.”

In the course of the survey, 16 of the 45 European bat species were monitored in Latvia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Germany. All nine countries are Parties to EUROBATS.

According to the study, the conservation status of most species remained stable; however the Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*) and Brandt’s Bat (*Myotis brandtii*) showed a very positive trend. Only the Grey



*Plecotus austriacus* © Jaska Dekker / Flickr



*Myotis mystacinus* © en.wikipedia / Mnolf



*Myotis brandtii* © en.Wikipedia / A.V. Borissenko

Andreas Streit, Executive Secretary of EUROBATS, welcomed the promising findings of the study and remarked that the high level of commitment of the Parties to the Agreement was bearing fruit.

“It is rewarding to see that our concerted international actions on species conservation are clearly producing results”, he said. “But a lot still needs to be

Long-Eared Bat (*Plecotus austriacus*) was in decline. All species are covered by EUROBATS.

Bats live long and mature slowly, which makes them especially vulnerable to human induced threats. Therefore, many species would continue to benefit from targeted conservation measures; an all-clear cannot yet be given. ■





# Conservation News

## ■ AEWA Spearheads Action to Address Illegal Trapping of Protected Migratory Birds in Egypt and Libya



© NABU/Holger Schulz

Egypt, Libya, Germany, Switzerland and other partners have agreed to develop a Plan of Action to assess and further address illegal hunting and bird netting practices along the Mediterranean coast. The objective is to ensure that the practice of bird trapping in Egypt and

Libya is both sustainable and legal, and to undertake efforts to better understand current trends in hunting and trapping.

The agreement came at a meeting held on 29 November 2013, in Bonn, Germany, organized and facilitated by the AEWA Secretariat. In addition to government officials including Germany as the sponsor, CMS, NGOs and key experts attended the meeting.

Predominantly song birds such as shrikes, warblers, nightingales, chiffchaffs and blackcaps, and even the occasional falcon, are falling foul of the nets. Despite the presence of regulatory frameworks in the region, the challenge lies in their proper enforcement.

The Plan of Action aims to enforce existing regulations, to increase knowledge on the scale, impact as well as social-economic and legal aspects of bird trapping. Capacity building of governments in the region, NGOs and communities to address bird trapping are important pillars of the Plan as well increasing awareness and promoting bird conservation in both countries and on a global scale. ■



Mist nets along the Mediterranean coast line, Egypt  
© Holger Schulz





# Conservation News

## ■ Project of the Month – February Marking and Monitoring System for Danube Sturgeons

Many sturgeon species are threatened and their populations are dramatically declining. Overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation as well as disruption of migration routes are the most severe threats to sturgeons.

In five decades, catches of Danube sturgeons have more than halved in Bulgaria and even fell to less than one percent of their previous quota in Romania. All six species of Danube sturgeons are listed on CMS Appendix II.



*Beluga sturgeon (Huso huso) © Phyllis Rachler WWF*



*Preparing for a monitoring mission of Danube sturgeons  
© Stoyan Mihov*



## Conservation News



*Sampling the river bed searching for freshly hatched Danube sturgeons*  
© Stoyan Mihov

The Danube is the only river system in Europe where decreasing sturgeon stocks can be protected. The CMS Small Grants Programme is funding a project to restore and conserve the oldest existing families of teleost fishes in the lower part of the Danube River Basin. Monitoring of sturgeons is essential. However; comprehensive

information on Danube sturgeon populations and their spawning and overwintering sites is hardly available due to very patchy monitoring.

Comprehensive marking and monitoring systems of restocked sturgeons are needed to close the knowledge gaps. WWF Danube-Carpathian Program (DCP) in Bulgaria in cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water and the Executive Fisheries Agency at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food are implementing the project.

The project will contribute to the implementation of the Bulgarian National Action Plan on Sturgeons. WWF DCP Bulgaria is already implementing field research of sturgeon habitats and identifying sturgeon spawning grounds along the Bulgarian Danube. Restocking the Danube sturgeons with sturgeons of Danube origin will strengthen the population. In addition, the Lower Danube Range States: Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia are implementing trilateral management plans.

In future, 50,000 young restocked sturgeons will be tagged and released. This will not only help strengthen the very low populations in the wild, but will also ensure the quality of future restocking programmes, because inbreeding can be prevented.

Proper and coordinated marking will enable efficient monitoring and advance knowledge on population data, habitat use and migration routes. Furthermore, the marking system will serve as a basis for effective conservation measures at national level, as well as concerted multi-lateral measures of all Lower Danube Range States. ■





## Conservation News

### ■ Project of the Month – December (2013) Linking Sooty Falcon Conservationists

The project "South meets North, a partnership linking Sooty Falcon conservationists" aims to collect and exchange data on the species in its wintering grounds in Madagascar and breeding grounds in Oman. The objective of the proposal submitted by The Peregrine Fund, is to build a partnership between experts in both countries and develop a strategy for continued cooperative work.

The Sooty Falcon breeds in the Middle East and north-eastern Africa and winters mainly in Madagascar. Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt are important breeding areas. The breeding season starts in late July, and in November the migration period begins. According to Omani estimates, the country holds 15 per cent of the global breeding population. Preliminary analyses suggest that this population declined about 15 per cent between 1978 and 2007.



*Chicks to be fitted with satellite transmitters*  
© Lily Arison Rene de Roland



*Bird with transmitter* © Lily Arison Rene de Roland

The species, whose conservation status was downgraded by IUCN to "Near Threatened" in 2008, is listed in Category I (Globally Threatened and Near Threatened species) of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU). An International Single Species Action Plan for the Sooty Falcon is being developed under the Raptors MOU.

The Office for Conservation of the Environment (OCE) in Oman is conducting two annual surveys comprising satellite tracking, behavioural studies as well as analysis of pollutants, DNA and diet to complement data on this falcon species. Its ecology is poorly known, particularly in Madagascar. People tend to confuse it with other kestrel species; while many do not know that it is migratory, and those who do, lack knowledge on the timing and purpose of the migration.

By collecting information during the breeding and non-breeding period, the partnership study aims to link researchers in both areas. This will help developing an action plan with a clear picture of the birds' year-round ecological needs.

Malagasy and Omani biologists carried out field work in Fahal Island (Oman) in autumn 2013. The spectacular



## Conservation News

limestone Fahal Island holds a high concentration of nesting Sooty Falcons. Researchers fitted five small backpack solar satellite tags weighing 9.5 grams to young Sooty Falcons reared on Fahal Island.

During nest visits, all nestling were weighed, ringed and a blood sample was taken for pollutant and DNA analyses. Nearly 100 individual Sooty Falcons occupying an estimated 40 nests were encountered on Fahal Island.

Five young Sooty Falcons were radio tagged during the field work in Oman. In total, 40 bird species were recorded during visits to the Al Ansab wetland and to the Muscat Municipal Rubbish Dump at Al Multaqua, comprising four birds of prey, 14 terrestrial birds and 22 waterbird species.

The research team handled nestlings on the breeding grounds and learned how best to fit transmitters. Thus, the partnership between Oman's OCE and The Peregrine Fund's Madagascar Project was successfully initiated.



*Researchers taking blood samples © Lily Arison Rene de Roland*

The second phase of the project will occur soon in Madagascar, during the winter period for Sooty Falcons, when biologists from the OCE will come to Madagascar to participate in field work on the falcons. ■





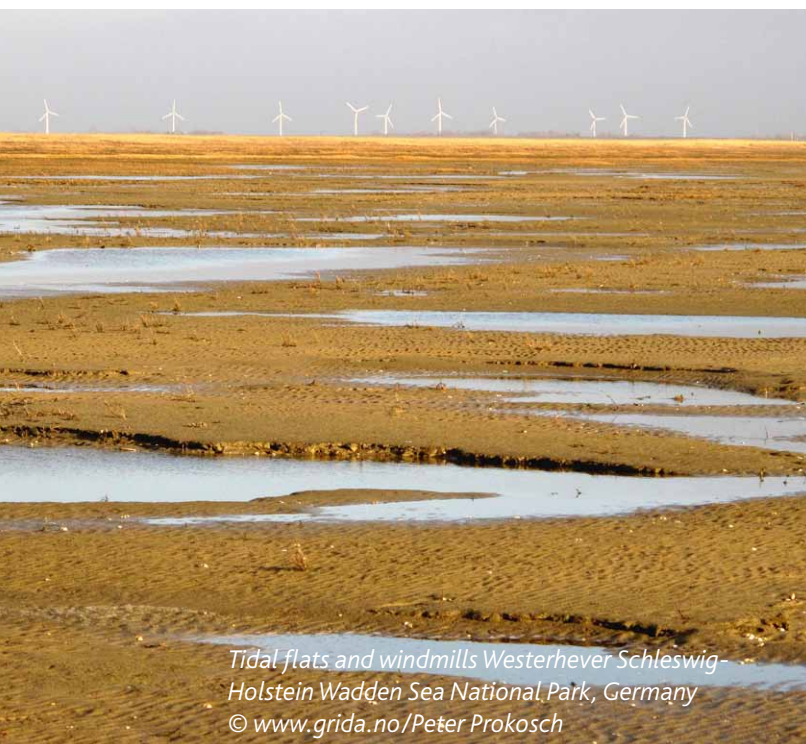
# Conservation Policy

## ■ The CMS Family, BirdLife International and IRENA Join Forces to Promote Renewable Energies that are Sensitive to Migratory Wildlife

The production of energy from renewable sources has the potential to make a significant contribution to mitigating climate change. While renewable energy solutions may also alleviate pressure on natural resources to some extent, they do have environmental impacts. Significant data have been gathered, for instance on the impact of wind farms on certain species of birds and bats, and various solutions have been devised which can ensure avoidance and mitigation for adverse impacts. Nevertheless, some of this information is scattered and difficult to access. Furthermore, there is insufficient knowledge on the deployment of most of the other renewable energy technologies and their potential impacts on migratory animals.



*Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus) juvenile, Bulgaria*  
© Sergey Dereliev (UNEP/AEWA),  
[www.dereliev-photography.com](http://www.dereliev-photography.com)



*Tidal flats and windmills Westerhever Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park, Germany*  
© [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)/Peter Prokosch

The CMS and AEWA Secretariats on behalf of the entire CMS Family, the International Renewable Energy Agency and BirdLife International have joined forces, together with Bureau Waardenburg bv (in collaboration with Boere Conservation Consultancy, Brett Lane & Associates and ESSGroup) to carry out a thorough review of the deployment of renewable energy technology and their possible impacts, negative and positive, on migratory species. The study will produce a comprehensive set of guidelines and mitigation measures for the deployment of such energy technologies in a way that avoids conflict with migratory species, including examples of best practice.



# Conservation Policy



*Solar panels © Fernando Tomás/Flickr*

Both review and guidelines will be examined at each stage by the IRENA, BirdLife and the Secretariats and scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of the CMS Family. The final products will be then submitted to the decision-making bodies of the treaties for adoption. The first major decision-making body, which is expected to endorse both review and guidelines, will be the 11<sup>th</sup>

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS to be held in November 2014.

This project is expected to make an impact on the ground. With such an influential partner as IRENA, it could succeed in reconciling the sustainable development of renewable energy with conservation priorities for migratory species. ■





# Conservation Policy

## ■ CMS Participates in African Elephants Summit — Urgent Action Agreed

As the African elephant (CMS Appendix II) is facing a major poaching crisis, CMS is seeking to make sure that strategies are in place and implemented to ensure the survival of the largest terrestrial mammal living on the planet.

At the African Elephant Summit held 2-4 December in Gaborone, Botswana, CMS met representatives of Range States and experts to discuss conservation requirements and transboundary corridor management.

Urgent measures were adopted by 30 governments present at the Summit, which was convened by the Government of Botswana and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In addition to the measures targeting wildlife trafficking, it is important to

improve population management in Range States. This can be achieved by enhancing law enforcement inside and outside of protected area systems and involving local communities. Building their capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and wilderness is a priority.

In 2012 alone approximately 22,000 elephants were illegally killed in Africa according to CITES. Among West African Elephants, which are covered by a CMS MOU only a few fragmented populations remain with fewer than 10,000 individuals. There are still many causes for concern. Poverty and poor governance in elephant Range States, coupled with growing demand for illegal ivory in many countries make elephants a more coveted target than ever. This even applies in arid West Africa where the elephant's ivory is more brittle and of poorer quality than that of forest elephants in Central Africa, which are currently declining at the fastest rate. ■



Forest elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) in the Dzanga Sangha Reserve, Central African Republic  
© [www.grida.no/PeterProkosch](http://www.grida.no/PeterProkosch)



## Conservation Policy

### ■ CMS Standing Committee Focuses on Future Structure, Synergies and Implementation

Increased competition for funding with other MEAs, accession to the Convention, the need for synergies, policy coherence and higher efficiency were the key topics/terms at the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee held from 27 to 28 November in Bonn.



*Alfred Oteng Yeboah, Standing Committee Chair and Bradnee Chambers, CMS Executive Secretary  
© Francisco Rilla / CMS*

The agenda touched on the future shape and progress in implementing Resolution 10.9. This included the reform of the Scientific Council; reviewing the viability of MOUs and Agreements; and looking at opportunities to merge common services and areas in the CMS Family. A UNEP-supported analysis has been completed in January giving the green light to streamlining functions related to information and communication within CMS and AEWA.

Priority activities focus on developing an international Action Plan for the conservation of the Argali sheep as part of the Central Asian Initiative. A new phase in conserving Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes will start, which includes a Management Plan for the Nature Reserve of Termit Tin Toumma.

In addition to reporting on its core work, CMS introduced the “Champion Programme” to seek better funding opportunities for CMS work. New initiatives in communication, in particular selected features of the new CMS Family website and database were well received. The CMS Family Manual for National Focal Points was considered as a helpful tool to implement the Convention.

Finally, the Standing Committee accepted the offer of Ecuador to host COP 11. The next Meeting of the Standing Committee will be held 2-3 November 2014 back to back with COP 11. ■





# Species Campaigns



## ■ Join World Migratory Bird Day 2014 – Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism

This year, the World Migratory Bird Day campaign has adopted the theme **"Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism"** to highlight the links between migratory birds, local communities and the global wild-life watching industry. The global celebrations will be held 10-11 May 2014.

More than one billion people cross international borders to travel each year, of which three million specifically pursue bird-related tourism. Eco-tourism is one of the fastest growing travel sectors in the world, and activities such as bird watching and bird photography can contribute to sustainable tourism as well as bird conservation.

The 2014 World Migratory Bird Day campaign will work closely with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to promote the **"Destination Flyways"** project that will build bird-related tourism

at important sites for migratory birds along migration routes, also known as "flyways". The projects will promote sustainable tourism to benefit local communities as well as conserve important sites along flyways that migratory birds need to survive.

World Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated through local events around the world such as bird watching, festivals, exhibitions, presentations, bird counts and other education and public events.

A benefit concert will be held again to mark World Migratory Bird Day in Bonn, Germany on 10 May 2014. Building on last year's success, the "Corale San Rocco" choir of Bologna has generously offered to perform again in Bonn, in support of the campaign. This year they will also be joined by the Choir of the Deutsche Welle, the German foreign broadcasting service. The two choirs will perform together for the first time to raise donations for migratory bird conservation.

The UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariats jointly organize the campaign and invite you to join the global celebration of the ninth annual World Migratory Bird Day.

World Migratory Bird Day is supported by a growing number of partners including the United Nations Environment Programme, BirdLife International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Secretariat, Wetlands International and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).

*To learn more about World Migratory Bird Day and how to participate this year, please visit us at:*

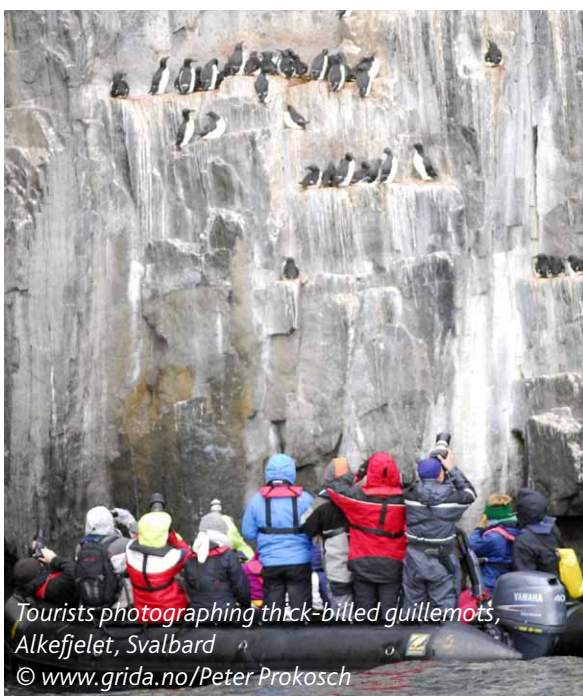
- [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)
- [www.facebook.com/worldmigratorybirdday](https://www.facebook.com/worldmigratorybirdday)
- [www.twitter.com/wmbd](https://www.twitter.com/wmbd)

*For more information about the Destination Flyways project, please visit:*

<http://biodiv.unwto.org/content/flyways>

*or contact us at:*

[contact@worldmigratorybirdday.org](mailto:contact@worldmigratorybirdday.org)



Tourists photographing thick-billed guillemots, Alkefjelet, Svalbard  
© www.grida.no/Peter Prokosch



# Capacity Building

## ■ CMS and AEWa Launch Online Manual for National Focal Points

The UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWa Secretariats have released the Manual for the National Focal Points (NFPs) for CMS and its Instruments. The Manual was developed in response to CMS COP Resolution 10.6 on Capacity Building Activities.

The capacity building tool has been designed to help NFPs of CMS and its instruments to make a more effective contribution towards implementing all the instruments of the CMS Family. A special training module prepares NFPs to successfully participate in decision-making at CMS-related meetings. The Manual provides background information, and explanations of the responsibilities for NFPs and procedures for negotiation as well as national implementation and national reporting.

The online Manual, available in English, French and Spanish, was produced with the support of the Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy

(ENRTP) Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the European Commission and UNEP, under the project Effective Implementation of CMS, AEWa and Other CMS Family Instruments across Various Regions and Languages through Capacity Building over the Period 2012-2014. The Manual will also be available shortly in printed form to accommodate easy offline use.

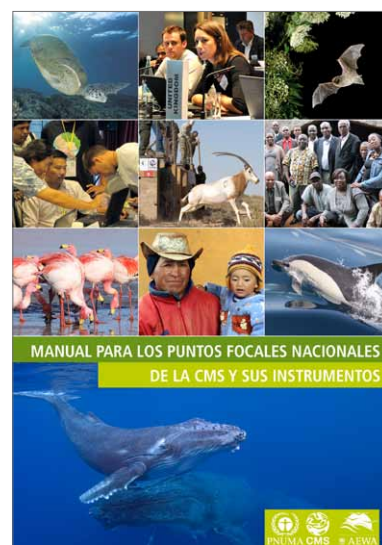
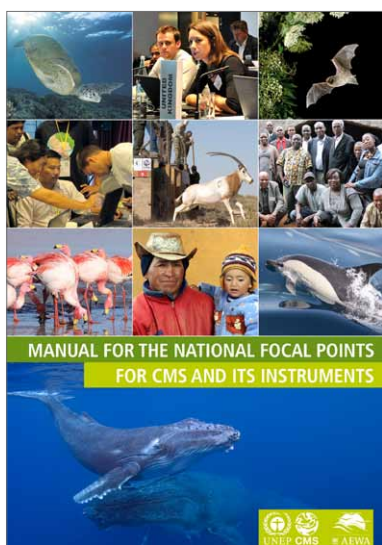
To date, a training session accompanying the Manual for the Africa region has been held in Cape Town, South Africa, to improve the capacity of NFPs of CMS and its Instruments.

In the run-up to COP 11, further complementary training workshops will take place in other regions, such as Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Please contact Capacity-Building Officer Francisco Rilla for hardcopies: [frilla@cms.int](mailto:frilla@cms.int)*

*For more information on capacity building activities of the CMS Family, please access the following link:*

**[http://www.cms.int/about/capacity\\_building/index.htm](http://www.cms.int/about/capacity_building/index.htm)**







# News from the Secretariat

## ■ CMS Family Meetings

Date	Event	Venue
1 <sup>st</sup> Half of 2014	Sharks MOU Advisory Committee Meeting	
11-12 March	CMS/WHMSI Meeting on Flyways of the Americas	Montego Bay, Jamaica
13-14 March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CMS Flyways Working Group	Montego Bay, Jamaica
1-3 April	ASCOBANS: 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group	Bonn, Germany
7-10 April	EUROBATS: Joint 9 <sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting (StC9) and 19 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting (AC19)	Heraclion, Crete
9-11 April	Workshop "Towards a CMS Programme of Work on Climate Change"	Costa Rica
15-16 April	Joint WDC-CMS Workshop on Cetacean Social Complexity and Culture	London, UK
23-25 April	AEWA Single Species Action Planning Workshop for the Long-tailed Duck	Roosta, Estonia
10 May	Benefit Concert to Mark World Migratory Bird Day (Bologna Opera Choir and Deutsche Welle Choir)	Bonn, Germany
10-11 May	World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)	
1-3 July	18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council	Bonn, Germany
11-13 Aug	CMS Pre-COP11 Workshop and Training for the NFP Manual in Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago de Chile, Chile
September	"Barriers to Migration" Workshop	tbc
15-17 Sept	EUROBATS 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties (MOP7)	Brussels, Belgium
29 Sept-1 Oct	ASCOBANS 21 <sup>st</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting	Gothenburg, Sweden
Sept/Oct	CMS Pre-COP11 Workshop and Training for the NFP Manual in the Pacific Region	Samoa (tbc)
October (tbc)	CMS Pre-COP11 Workshop for African Countries	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
October	AEWA 12 <sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting	Israel
2-3 November	CMS 42 <sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee Meeting	Quito, Ecuador
3 November	CMS Regional Coordination Meetings	Quito, Ecuador
4-9 November	CMS 11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties	Quito, Ecuador
9 November	CMS 43 <sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee Meeting	Quito, Ecuador



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