

## **Western Europe's Report to the 32nd Standing Committee on CMS-related activities in Western Europe**

The UK, as representative for Western Europe, approached CMS parties in the region for information on their implementation of CMS to help compile this report.

### **Research**

Climate change: The UK has let a contract to develop standardised international protocols for monitoring the effects of climate change on migratory species; and to identify migratory species which can act as indicators of climate-change effects. The CMS Secretariat is serving on the steering committee for the contract. The consultants are expected to report in the Summer of 2008. The findings may underpin a resolution for consideration at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties. More information on this project can be obtained from Mark Baxter at the UK's environment ministry: [Mark.baxter@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.baxter@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Sea-bird bycatch: The UK Government is part-funding a study being taken forward by the International Convention on the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna – ICCAT - to assess the impact of ICCAT's fisheries on seabirds. This has potential consequences for migratory seabirds, such as albatrosses and petrels, which are threatened by incidental by-catch. The project is expected to end in December 2008. Other partners involved in supporting this project are: the US Government, an Australian Government research body (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation - CSIRO) and Birdlife International. More information on the project can be obtained from Mark Baxter at the above address.

Avian Influenza: The UK hosted an international workshop in June this year to look at the practical lessons learned from dealing with outbreaks of avian influenza. A report on the workshop can be found on the CMS website. It is also attached to Standing Committee paper StC32/18/Rev1.

Waterbirds: Germany provided 1 million Euro to support the "Wings over wetlands" project. The project is sponsored by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (which has contributed 1million Euro), the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat) and several other donors. The project will help foster international collaboration along the entire flyways, build capacity for monitoring and conservation, and demonstrate best practice in the conservation and wise use of wetlands in 12 selected countries across the African-Eurasian region.

### **Support for CMS**

The UK Government has contributed £10K to the costs of developing the on-line reporting system, which was the subject of paper StC31/8/Rev1 and aims to take forward Conference Resolution 8.24.

### **Species Activities**

Gorillas: The French Government hosted a meeting in October to explore the possibility of developing a new CMS agreement for gorillas. The meeting agreed a legally-binding agreement working closely with GRASP – the Great Apes Survival Project.

Cetaceans and the Monk seal: The Spanish Government hosted a meeting in October to explore the possibility of developing new CMS agreements for cetaceans and manatees off the west coast of Africa and for the eastern Atlantic populations of the Monk Seal. Two new Memoranda of Understanding were agreed and the one for the Monk seal was signed at the meeting and has come into force.

Raptors: The UK Government working in partnership with the United Arab Emirates Government and other partners hosted an inter-governmental meeting in October to explore the possibility of developing a new international agreement to conserve migratory birds of prey in Africa, Europe and Asia. Forty three countries, the European Community, and 11 non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations, including Birdlife International and Wetlands International were represented. The meeting agreed a memorandum of understanding and associated action plan. Issues associated with funding the agreement will be the subject of a concluding meeting in the United Arab Emirates next year.

Sharks: The UK is providing funds for an inter-governmental meeting in the Seychelles in December to consider developing a CMS agreement for migratory sharks.

Dolphins: Germany hosted an international symposium (29 October-1November) organized for the year of the dolphin with a special focus on marine Protected areas and small cetaceans).

### **Daughter Agreements**

**ACCOBAMS**: The third meeting of parties took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia in October 2007.

**Eurobats**: The Bat Conservation Trust held a conference in the UK (31 August-2 September 2007) where issues such as bats as indicator species; and the impact of climate change on bats were considered.

### **Next Year**

Both the CBD and CMS CoPs are due to take place in Europe, as is the IUCN Congress (Bonn in May, Rome in November and Barcelona in October respectively).