



# CMS Bulletin

2-3 2013

## Editorial

### Sketching out the Future Shape of CMS

*By Dr. Bradnee Chambers,  
CMS Executive Secretary*

Between 1972 and 2013 there were hundreds of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that were negotiated, signed and ratified. It was an intense period for the development of international environmental law, but then again, there was a lot of catching up to do because this was not part of the original mandate of the UN. It was however necessitated by the urgency of the deteriorating state of the environment and the need for international cooperation.

CMS was signed in 1979 in the wake of Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. So it is a relatively early MEA and yet today it remains fairly small with only 118 Parties compared to the global giants such as UNFCCC and CBD which have near universal membership despite having been around for a much shorter period. In this context CMS faces some of the challenges associated with earlier agreements that have been addressed as “lessons learned” in newer MEAs, but at the same time it also faces many of the challenges that all MEAs must deal

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with today. Meeting that challenge will require the will and initiative of member states, and if the desire exists, the Secretariat stands ready and willing to assist.

The CMS Future Shape process is an excellent starting point for addressing some of the most pressing issues that CMS has to address in the years to come. COP Resolution 10.9 implementing this process pinpoints key actions that now need now to be implemented by the Parties. In the years ahead the outcome of this process and CMS's new strategic plan will guide the management of the Secretariat. Here are some of the main priorities that the Parties to CMS may need to focus on.

### *Promoting Implementation*

We are now entering the Post Rio +20 period and the reality is that MEAs collectively make up the majority of the global framework of environmental policy. With so much effort gone into negotiating these MEAs, the time has come to think how we are actually going to implement them. MEAs themselves are not implementing bodies but only promote implementation. They rely on Parties to take measures directly at the national level, but as we know all too well, many countries lack capacity and resources and require assistance and support. Operational UN agencies and other international bodies play an important role in providing badly needed capacity and resource, but one problem that MEAs face in common is that rarely are MEA decisions major priorities for these UN agencies or at least so it seems from these agencies' agendas. This is particularly a problem for smaller, lesser known MEAs such as CMS. I believe that we need collectively to know how to implement MEAs better and to ensure implementing bodies are ready and willing to assist. For example, UNEP is in a better position to do this now following Rio +20 with its new mandate from the "Future

We Want" which asks it to offer capacity building and technology transfer directly to countries and provide upon request assistance to countries to implement their environmental policies. Specifically CMS Resolution 10.1 para 27 requests the Executive Director of UNEP to incorporate aspects of CMS's programme of work into that of UNEP. Other agencies are also important, working with UN Country Teams (UNCT) and ensuring that migratory species are a part of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). For CMS this means working much more closely with UNEP and UNDP and encouraging them to develop specific programmes for MEA implementation and have designated officers such as focal points in the regions who can act more directly on implementation of MEA policies with countries.

For the CMS Family the role of civil society should not be underestimated. Generally speaking there is a lack of appreciation of the strong role that civil society plays in implementing environmental policy. For CMS it is only working through trusts, community groups, large global associations and NGOs that it can fully achieve its objectives. These bodies can supplement the work of governments, which never have the resources to do everything. It is these bodies that have the global reach and capacity which are linked to the grass roots level and it is to them that CMS has to reach out. What CMS has to do is move from its current ad hoc approach and harness this reach and capacity and develop it more strategically to engage and work effectively with stakeholders.

In the same spirit of working through others to achieve its objectives, CMS must also reach out to other IGOs. As CMS is small and lacks both a financial mechanism and the critical mass required to promote implementation adequately, so it needs to take advantage of better known and better financed initiatives. There has been an



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intensification of work on biodiversity and the last five years have seen international biodiversity policy open up in many ways and there is now plenty of scope for CMS to fit under this and take advantage of the initiatives that are moving to implement the Aichi Targets, National Biodiversity Actions Plans (NBSAPs) and even the Sustainable Development Goals.

### *Synergies*

Most of the Parties to the CMS have been major political backers of synergies between MEAs and many have led this front diplomatically at the Rio+20 Summit. The development of the Future Shape of CMS has also seen a great deal of effort expended on scoping out how the Convention can use synergies to become more effective and efficient and to drive forward its objectives. For CMS, there is the dual task of both realizing and building synergies within its own family as well with other MEAs. CMS has 19 MOUs and 7 Agreements. Several of the Agreements have their own independent secretariats and most have separate scientific bodies, and separate Meetings of the Parties. Most of the species, if not all, are covered both in the CMS Appendices and in one or more of the specialized instruments. There are opportunities for redirecting the funding that is spent on this fragmented organization and putting it towards promoting implementation of the Convention. In this regard, there is a need for greater rationalization, prioritization and focus of the secretariat functions.

CMS also can work to build stronger synergies with other conventions. Many MEAs cover different environmental issues, but all overlap in how they function as legal instruments and in the tools they require to work efficiently. Information and Communications Technology (ICT), procurement, legal services, travel, administration, public

relations and outreach have not been explored as much as they could. In ICT, CMS can develop common platforms with the other smaller conventions to share data, host information and service its systems. Reporting is one area that is already under exploration. Having a common on-line reporting system such as the one that AEWA now has successfully developed can benefit other conventions and if expanded and developed with strong analytical systems and interoperable data could mean reports could be produced as required for each convention. The information could also be used much more readily for comparison with other data sets and for scientific assessments such as IPBES. Working more closely around common biodiversity issues such as species protection, threats and drivers of biodiversity loss is also an important area that can be developed much further. I do believe, however, that the most important opportunity for synergies is implementation of the Convention at the national level. To a large degree many MEAs have not been fully put into operation nationally and there exists a tremendous amount of scope to link MEAs together and strengthen implementation through the development of common national policies, common capacity building initiatives and common implementation strategies.

### *Need for Greater International Cooperation*

Increasing international cooperation for the conservation of migratory species will require increasing the number of Parties to the CMS. Almost every country on Earth has migratory species or is a range state where these species visit. Some countries of course have healthy populations and well laid plans to ensure the protection and sustainable use of migratory species. But for the most part there are many migratory species that remain threatened and endangered. For example, in the



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case of waterbirds at the global level, 40 per cent of known populations are declining. Nearly half of the 95 migratory species of sharks are at high risk. Some shark species such as the hammerheads, porbeagles and oceanic whitetips have declined by over 90 per cent since the 1950s. Whales, with the exception of a few species, have been on the decline for years. There are seven species of giant sea turtle, and five of them are listed on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species as either “endangered” or “critically endangered”. In recent months we have seen serious spikes of wildlife crime driven by development and linked to organized crime and terrorism. The numbers are telling, and indicate clearly that migratory species are more vulnerable, 50 per cent of migratory and potentially migratory species are threatened, compared with just 27 per cent of non-migratory ones.

CMS has the problem of the regional versus global approach which might impede its expansion. Many of the species that are listed on CMS Appendices are transboundary or regional but do not occur globally. This very fact has led to some countries not wishing to join CMS or preferring only to join regional or species-specific instruments under the CMS Family. While this is of course one route, many of the migratory species are common and shared because of the facts that they move between countries, that there is a need to ensure their migratory routes are not impinged and that their habitat in the states across which they range is kept intact. The basic principles of the CMS Treaty are general enough to apply for all migratory species. As they acquire shared experiences and gain assistance from their participation in CMS, Parties in their implementation of the Convention can then focus on the details of each species. The scope of CMS is such that there is plenty of space for countries to work together without developing separate instruments. This can

be in the form of specific work plans, strategies or other forms of joint action under CMS. The development of separate agreements will inevitably lead to an unmanageable proliferation that can detract from the objectives and principles that the founders of CMS originally intended.

Several key migratory species still remain outside the protection and international cooperation of CMS. Most of these species are found in the Americas, the Caribbean and Asia, regions where many countries have still not signed CMS. An imperative is to expand the membership to be more inclusive of the countries and the migratory species in these regions. It is also an imperative that those countries that have signed MOUs under the CMS, of which there are over 30, also join CMS itself as the overarching framework agreement.

### **Funding**

Increased funding is a badly needed to achieve the objectives of the Convention. As with other environmental issues, the importance of migratory species is also crucial to maintaining key economic sectors such as tourism and local livelihoods and for the long-term functioning of biodiversity. Even in times of economic downturns these are the foundations of economies that cannot be ignored and must be maintained for long-term stability. The costs of restoration far outweigh the cost of sustainable management. The reality, nevertheless, is that all of European countries are facing austerity and these are the largest funders of CMS. During these times, the Secretariat must maintain high levels of efficiency and seek additional and alternative funding from other sources. Looking for private sector support and expanding to new regions will therefore be of key importance if CMS is going to increase its funding base. Improving the accountability for the resources that CMS manages and demonstrating the value and impact that activities have must



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be improved. This means enhancing the dialogue and understanding with countries, increasing the coherence of budget documentation and presentation and moving towards stronger results-based management.

### **Public Awareness**

Public awareness is perhaps the greatest challenge for CMS. First, CMS has lacked resources so its website is outdated and requires a major overhaul. This is a number one priority to be accomplished by the end of the year with versions in the three official languages used by CMS (English, French and Spanish). If we are to reach new Parties, Arabic, Chinese and Russian would be important if resources permit. Raising the required funds and ensuring the public side of the website is backed up with data bases and an interoperable system that can share information with other MEAs and data systems will be crucial steps for CMS.

For CMS to grow it also has to reach new audiences outside its traditional stakeholder base. CMS has incredible opportunities to reach out to new audiences and the public in general through the many iconic species that it protects. It needs to put stories and people around these species in order to show their cultural, economic and environmental importance. CMS must better use its species and it must reach out to new diplomatic

and political circles in order to promote the linkages to other global issues promoted by the UN, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the green economy. This means stepping up our efforts and being much more outward looking, using social media and mass media much more efficiently.

### **Not an Exhaustive List**

These are just a few ideas ... a sketch to be more precise, certainly not an exhaustive list ... of how CMS could be further strengthened. They are, of course, subject to how Parties see the future of CMS. There is the opportunity for this Convention to become a much more effective means for protecting and sustainably using migratory species. It has come a long way in the last few decades but its full potential is yet to be realized. I am looking forward to working with the Parties and the Secretariat to see what the Future Shape of CMS can be and taking these ideas from the sketching pad and transforming them into actions. ■



*Dr. Bradnee Chambers*



## Conservation News

### ■ The Signatory States of the Dugong MOU Review Progress in Dugong Conservation

The Second Signatory State Meeting for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MOU) held on 19 and 20 February in Manila, Philippines, welcomed progress in dugong conservation.

In total, 26 countries attended the two-day meeting, including 17 Signatory States. Four new Signatories – Bangladesh, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan – decided to engage in dugong conservation by joining the MOU bringing the total number to 25.

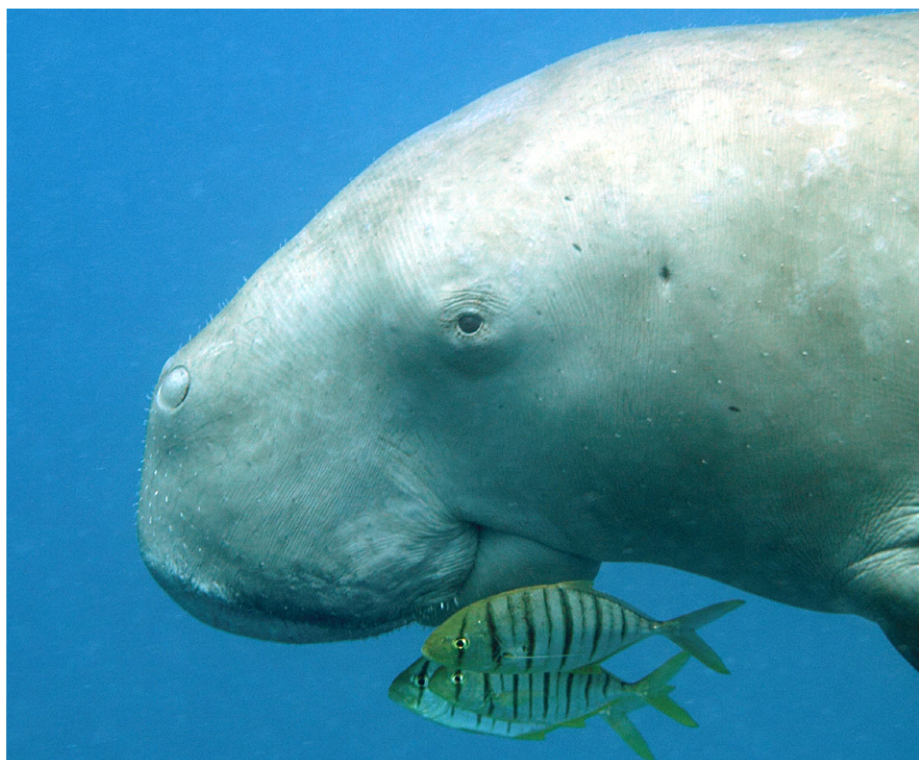
Man-made threats pose the greatest risk to the gentle sea cow, as dugongs are more generally known. Illegal poaching, unsustainable hunting by local communities, severe injuries from ships and vanishing seagrass beds are accelerating a critical loss of habitat and threatening populations. The use of gillnets has led to the incidental entanglement in fishing gear, which is also a major threat. As fisheries become increasingly commercialized, bycatch will become even more frequent and serious. The second largest threat is unsustainable direct consumption.

Renowned experts, in particular Professor Helene Marsh from James Cook University (Australia) and Dr. John Reynolds from Mote Marine Laboratory (United States of America) gave presentations highlighting these challenges. Helene Marsh stressed the fact that dugongs are highly affected by human impacts. Especially in countries where the

Human Development Index is rather low, dugongs are hunted as an important source of protein.

In order to counteract these threats, John Reynolds called for conservation activities even in the absence of scientific evidence if disaster loomed. Declines in small populations might only be detected when it was too late. Therefore it was crucial to take action according to the precautionary principle.

The Second Signatory State Meeting noted ten new Signatories since the first meeting in 2010, as well as a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project proposed for seven countries. The GEF Project will address a range of key threats to dugongs and their critical seagrass habitats by involving local communities and government agencies. ■



*The Dugong (Dugong dugon) is one of four remaining members of the Sirenian family, along with three species of manatee. © Mandy Etipson*



## Conservation News

### ■ Project of the Month: Small Grants Programme Supports Conservation of the Blue Swallow in Zimbabwe

Thanks to CMS funding, a new project to investigate the status and distribution of blue swallows in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe has just started. It is being implemented by BirdLife Zimbabwe in collaboration with the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in an area where between 20 and 25 per cent of the global population is supposed to live. During a competitive round of the CMS Small Grant Programme in 2012, this project was selected for funding.

The Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*), which migrates across the African continent, is threatened by destruction and degradation of its grassland and wetland habitats on both its breeding and non-breeding grounds. Habitat loss has led to a rapid decline of its already small population. Unless immediate conservation action is taken across its entire distribution range, it will decrease further. The total population is estimated at around 4,000 pairs.

The Blue Swallow is included in CMS Appendices I and II and classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. The Blue Swallow occurs in the Eastern Highlands, a mountain range that extends 260 km from north to south. It is a unique landscape area where rainfall can be as high as 3,000 mm per year. Many endemic plants and animals are present in this area and depend on these grasslands. The major threat to the species is habitat loss due to the extension of agriculture, mainly potato farming, and plantations of deciduous fruit and other trees. Uncontrolled fires are also a problem.

The current project undertakes surveys of the Blue Swallow in the region and trains rangers to monitor the species, including through a protocol for protected areas. It is expected that new popu-



*Blue Swallow (Hirundo atrocaerulea)*  
© Fadzai Matsvimbo

lations of Blue Swallow will be found. The project also evaluates the extent of invasive plant species that are occupying the key habitats.

Children from local schools are being engaged as part of a bird awareness programme that is run by BirdLife Zimbabwe. Local communities are being assisted on the issue of how to combine agriculture and nature conservation, a model that will be replicated with other communities in the Eastern Highlands. The model will use the Blue Swallow as a flagship species to involve local people in the conservation of the natural resources of the area.

During the 2012 round of the Small Grant Programme, 12 projects were selected for funding. In the coming months each of these projects will be featured on the CMS website in a new "Project of the Month" series that will show the activities that are taking place within each project and the conservation impact on the species concerned. CMS's efforts to improve the status of the species by working with the local communities in the framework of the Small Grants Programme are funded by UNEP during the period 2012-2014. ■



# Species Campaigns

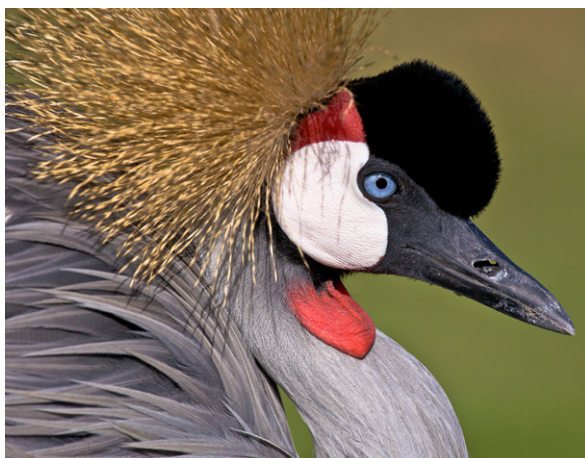
## ■ World Migratory Bird Day 2013 - Networking for Migratory Birds



World Migratory Bird Day

With its theme “*Networking for migratory birds*”, World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2013 aims to emphasize both ecological networks, as well as networks between organizations and individuals and their mutual importance for the long-term conservation of migratory birds. WMBD is a joint initiative of both the CMS and AEWA Secretariats.

We invite everyone to join us to celebrate, protect and raise awareness for migratory birds this year on 11 - 12 May. On the second weekend each May, people around the world take action and organize public events to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day such as bird watching trips, public discussions, exhibitions, presentations, bird rallies, bird festivals and other educational and public events.



Once abundant, the Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) has been uplisted to Endangered on the IUCN Red List due to its very rapid decline.

© John Birch, [www.johnbirchphotography.com](http://www.johnbirchphotography.com)

The central sub-regional event marking the 2013 World Migratory Bird Day celebration will be organized by Kenya Wildlife Service and expected to take place at Lake Elementeita, Kenya on 11 May 2013. On the same day, a benefit concert of the choir of the Bologna Opera Circle will be held in Bonn,

Germany, to raise funds for the endangered Grey Crowned Crane, an iconic African species known for its beauty and grace. The concert is being jointly organized by Fernando Spina, Chair of the CMS Scientific Council, and the CMS Secretariat.

The Campaign has grown every year since its inception in 2006. Each year’s theme is unique to the issues threatening migratory birds. In 2012, the most successful campaign yet, over 250 events registered at [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org).

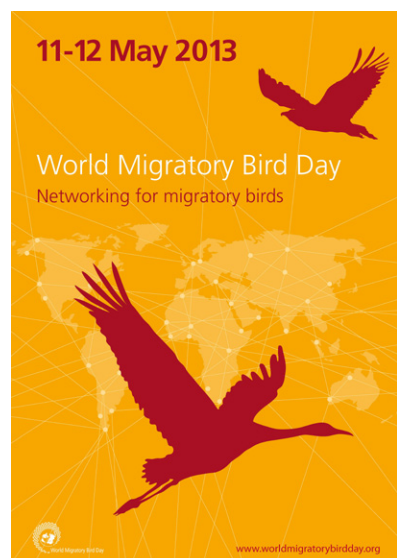
The WMBD Website and Poster will be launched in March. On the Website, you will be able to read more about this year’s theme “*Networking for migratory birds*”, view events in your area on the Google event map, order posters, and register your events.

For information updates about this year’s World Migratory Bird Day and to view the WMBD Trailer on our information page, 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)

or contact us at:

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







# Ambassadors' Brief

## ■ CMS Ambassador Stanley Johnson Presents UNEP 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book

With his “UNEP 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book” Stanley Johnson surprises us with a unique perspective of the history and evolution of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and of the Convention on Migratory Species in particular. It is not a biography of UNEP, but mirrors the author’s personal experience of many events recorded. Source material such as interviews with current and former UNEP staff lends a note of authenticity.

This unique narrative follows the award winning illustrated large format book “Survival: Saving Endangered Migratory Species (co-authored with CMS Editor Robert Vagg) <http://amzn.to/WjZADO> and “Where the Wild Things Were: Travels of a Conservationist” <http://amzn.to/KvPdme>

Once again, Stanley has proven to be a passionate conservationist and advocate of the Convention. Stanley introduces milestones in the history of UNEP, which was founded at the first United Nations Environment Conference, held in Stockholm in June 1972, followed by the establishment of the UNEP Governing Council in 1973. He provides a detailed overview of the development and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Regional Seas Programme with which CMS published the *Review of Small Cetaceans* in 2005. We learn about the emerging issue of climate change and the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

One of UNEP’s main concerns is the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of natural resources. The negotiation and adoption of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals or ‘Bonn Convention’ in 1979 commits to achieving this goal. Stanley sheds a light on the role of the founding fathers in the genesis of the Convention. Since then, CMS has generated a great number of subsidiary agree-



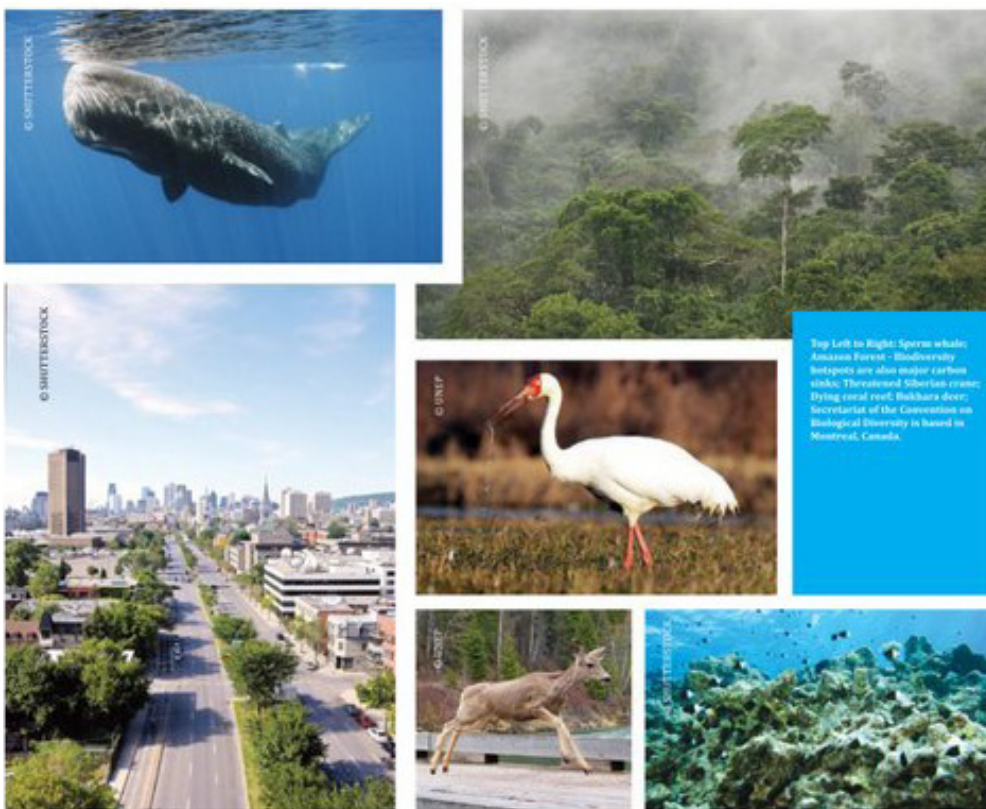
Stanley on the Antarctic Peninsula, February 2007  
© Stanley Johnson

ments and memoranda of understanding, starting with the Wadden Sea Seal Agreement and, most recently, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

Furthermore, Stanley gives a thorough overview on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (or Rio 92). At the Conference, Agenda 21 and the Rio Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change and Desertification were



# Ambassadors' Brief



Top Left to Right: Sperm whale; Amazon Forest - Biodiversity hotspots are also major carbon sinks; Threatened Siberian crane; Dying coral reef; Bukhara deer; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is based in Montreal, Canada.

Top L-R: Sperm Whale © Shutterstock; Amazon Forest – Biodiversity hotspots are also major carbon sinks © Shutterstock; Threatened Siberian Crane © UNEP; Dying coral reef © Shutterstock; Bukhara Deer © UNEP; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is based in Montreal, Canada © Shutterstock

adopted marking significant milestones. Ten years later Stanley participated in the “World Summit on Sustainable Development” in Johannesburg, South Africa, where delegates, inter alia, reviewed progress made in implementing the decisions of the Rio Conference in 1992.

Lastly, the author provides us with an insight into the International Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (or Rio +20). It was the third conference on sustainable development aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community. The main outcome of the conference was the adoption of the document: “The Future We Want,” a political commitment to sustainable development and a sustainable future. The conference also recommended that UNEP’s Governing Council should be enlarged to include all the nations of the United Nations. This principle of ‘universal UNEP membership’ was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2012. The new ‘universal’ UNEP Governing Council met for the first time in Nairobi in February 2013. The ‘UNEP 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book’ is no less than a great informational resource for anybody interested in UNEP and the CMS, or more generally in the evolution of international environmental policy over the last four decades. It offers a variety of

stunning pictures and photos as well as quotations of current and former UNEP staff. Extracts of political speeches, historic quotations and extremely revealing memoirs make this book a unique and exciting contemporary document. *Link to the full publication:*

[http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub\\_details\\_search.asp?ID=6285](http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub_details_search.asp?ID=6285) ■



# CMS Participation in Other Events

## ■ Good News for CMS Species at CITES COP 16

At a side event on international cooperation in shark conservation, countries and NGOs called for stronger protection for sharks in line with CMS Appendices and the CMS Sharks MOU. The CMS Secretariat organized the event at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to promote the only global instrument on the conservation of migratory sharks, the CMS Sharks MOU.

On this occasion, Germany, USA and Ecuador outlined their progress towards protecting sharks, and meeting their international obligations concerning CMS Appendix I species listed under the CMS Sharks MOU. CMS supported the move for better protection with advice about the sharks listing proposals, which resulted in listings of the Porbeagle and the Manta Ray.

The Porbeagle is protected under the CMS Sharks Memorandum of Understanding. Ecuador and Brazil outlined the scientific basis for their proposal to list the Manta Ray on Appendix I of CITES, which corresponds to its current listing on both Appendices of CMS. Three species of hammerhead sharks, and the Oceanic Whitetip shark, were listed on CITES Appendix II.

The US Government strongly encouraged countries to join the CMS MOU, and interested organizations to become cooperating partners. Bryan Arroyo, Head of the US delegation to the CITES Meeting said: "Regional measures alone can't ensure that the international trade in commercially-exploited marine species is globally sustainable. Listing these species under CITES will promote well-regulated trade that ensures long-term survival of fishery resources."

The West and Central African Range states had been united in their support of the up-listing of



L-R: CMS Side Event on CMS Sharks MOU: Rebecca Regnery (Humane Society International), Sonja Fordham (Sharks Advocates), Melanie Virtue (CMS), Gerhard Adams (German Ministry for the Environment)

© Christiane Röttger, CMS Secretariat

the West African Manatee from Appendix II to Appendix I, which was already agreed by consensus in Committee. A passionate intervention by the delegate from Sierra Leone urged for unanimous vote in favour of the listing proposal: "The African manatee lives quietly and it swims only very slowly around its declining habitat. It has swum slowly here in our hearts to ask for your help. Please vote in favour of proposal 13 and help us to help this animal". The West African Manatee is listed on CMS Appendix II and covered by the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia.

CMS and CITES also took the opportunity to bring together Saiga range states and representatives from China and the Chinese Traditional Medicine Association consumer states to find solutions to



# CMS Participation in Other Events



*L-R: Dais during the side event on CMS: CITES/CMS cooperation using the CMS Saiga MOU with Tom De Meulenaer, CITES Secretariat; Lu Xiaoping, China; Anton Mezhnev, Russian Federation; Christiane Röttger, CMS Secretariat; and Melanie Virtue, CMS Secretariat © IISD Reporting Services*

the continuing problems with poaching of Saiga for their horn and how to raise awareness on the sustainable use of the Saiga antelope.

In addition, the CMS Secretariat also promoted the implementation of the Aichi targets in a joint event with CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar.

The results of the CITES conference have given a strong signal to the world. The majority of countries have voted to stop overexploitation and poaching of some the world's most endangered species. ■

## ■ CMS Attends First Meeting of Newly Established IPBES

The first Plenary Meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-1) took place in Bonn, Germany, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013. CMS together with other biodiversity-related conventions emphasized the need for a close relationship with the Platform.

The members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group expressed their hope that early activities under IPBES will help countries to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. By catalyzing the further development of biodiversity and ecosystem models and analyzing this information, the Platform could contribute to assist countries and the international community in identifying the policies and actions needed to achieve the Aichi Targets.

The conventions would benefit from a close relationship with the Platform by exercising their role in setting the policy agenda and promoting its implementation. CMS Focal Points and Scientific Councillors will liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for migratory species conservation are being addressed by IPBES. In this context, assessments and capacity building relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species of wild animals are required.

In a joint statement on the occasion of the closing ceremony, the six biodiversity-related conventions announced their collaboration with the IPBES Secretariat and Panel to provide inputs to the inter-sessional process in line with the procedures established at the Plenary. According to a Resolution passed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, CMS should also facilitate inputs to IPBES-2 arising from CMS Standing Committee in November.



## CMS Participation in Other Events

UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP will establish an institutional link with IPBES through collaborative partnership arrangements, while UNEP will support the IPBES Secretariat on policy and programmatic matters. The Plenary invited UNEP to provide administrative arrangements for the IPBES Secretariat.

With this meeting IPBES has laid a foundation to become a central authority for knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Platform might bridge the science and policy gap to cope with the related challenges.

*IISD Summary Report:*

<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb3106e.pdf>

### ■ CMS Participates in Prince Mahidol Award Conference on Animal Health

This year's Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. The topic was "A World United Against Infectious Diseases: Cross Sectoral Solutions".

As part of the Conference events a meeting of the CMS/FAO Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, CMS participated in a MEA coordination meeting with representatives of CBD, CITES and the Ramsar Convention.

The main aim of PMAC was to highlight how infectious diseases threaten the well-being of the world. Such diseases have raised awareness of the global interdependence of human and animal health. The Conference also stressed the opportunity we have to counter these threats more successfully in the future through a more strategic approach to global health preparedness. ■



## News from the Secretariat

### ■ Dr. Bradnee Chambers Joins CMS as New Executive Secretary

The CMS Secretariat warmly welcomes Dr. Bradnee Chambers who has entered on duty as the new Executive Secretary of Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). He succeeds Mrs. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema who took up her new post at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in January 2012. Prior to his appointment, Bradnee headed the Law and Governance Branch of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi.

Dr. Chambers has worked in various capacities in UNEP including as Senior Legal Officer and Head of Policy and Synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The last few years he led the UNEP Secretariat in the Nairobi-Helsinki Ministerial Consultative Process on International Governance and at the Rio+10 Summit which led to the upgrading and strengthening of UNEP in the outcome document "The Future We Want".

He has co-chaired, with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (IKM) — a collaborative platform that brings together 40 global and regional agreements from 14 secretariats hosted by 4 different UN organizations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The CMS and AEWA Secretariats actively participate in the Initiative which develops harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. A main focus of CMS is the Online Reporting System for MEAs, which has been developed by UNEP-WCMC and successfully used by AEWA in 2012.

Dr. Chamber's relevant experience in examining the efficacy of Multilateral Environmental Agree-



*Dr. Bradnee Chambers © Bradnee Chambers*

ments (MEAs) will be a most valuable asset for the CMS Secretariat. He has published widely on the topic and in his publication "Interlinkages and the Effectiveness of MEAs" (2008) he developed a framework for measuring the effectiveness of MEAs, and showed how the effectiveness of MEAs can be improved through greater synergies and interlinkages between them.

Dr. Chambers contributed to various key UNEP publications such as the "Human Rights and the Environment OHCHR-UNEP Joint Report (2012)" and "Measuring Progress: Environmental Goals & Gaps" (2012) which were both launched at the Rio+20 Summit. He was also a convening lead author in the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and Global Environmental Outlook 4 (GEO4), and a lead author in the Near Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits assessment.

During his academic career he was a Senior Legal Research Fellow at the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and a visiting professor at



## News from the Secretariat

the University of Tokyo and Chuo University. From 1996-2008, Dr. Chambers worked for the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) in Tokyo, where he served in various capacities including as the Institute's Legal Advisor, Senior Researcher and Head of its Sustainable Development Governance Programme.

From 1994-1995, he worked at the Transnational Corporation Division of UNCTAD (Geneva), developing transparency rules governing investment

in developing countries in Asia. He participated in numerous diplomatic, academic and international conferences, including Conferences of the Parties and Subsidiary Body Meetings for UNFCCC and CBD, WTO ministerial meetings, the Commission on Sustainable Development and as a representative in the UN Environment Management Group.

The Convention will greatly benefit from the comprehensive professional and academic experience that Dr. Chambers brings. ■



# News from the Secretariat

## ■ CMS Family Meetings

Date	Event	Venue
15-17 April	EUROBATS: 18 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting	Sofia, Bulgaria
16-18 April	ASCOBANS 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group	Gothenburg, Sweden
29-30 April	ACAP: Population and Conservation Status Working Group	La Rochelle, France
1-3 May	ACAP: Seabird Bycatch Working Group	La Rochelle, France
6-10 May	ACAP: 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC7)	La Rochelle, France
11-12 May	World Migratory Bird Day 2013 – “Networking for migratory birds”	global
27-28 May	CMS Combatting Poisoning Working Group	Tunis, Tunisia
27-29 August	ASCOBANS: 20 <sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting	Warsaw, Poland
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Global Action Planning Workshop for Saker Falcon (Saker GAP)	tbd
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	International Single Species Action Planning Workshop (Egyptian Vulture)	tbd
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	tbd
25-26 November	CMS Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting (prior to the StC41)	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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