

CMS Workshop on the Atlas on Animal Migration

Vasto, Italy

A journey tracing animal migration begins in Vasto

Experts from around the world working at the intersection of technology and wildlife conservation are gathering in Vasto, Italy, from 8 to 11 October 2026, to develop a comprehensive atlas of animal migration and movement. Convened under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), a United Nations environmental treaty, they will use advances in science, technology and knowledge to foster research and collaboration in support of endangered species.

Across the sky, continents and the ocean, over mountains and deserts, along rivers and coastlines, migratory wild animals travel along invisible routes. With endurance and physical efforts unparalleled in the animal world, they connect sites, habitats, countries, continents and people. They are strong evidence of the Earth functioning as a single ecosystem without borders.

In recent years, rapid technological advances and the urgent need for reliable science to address the nature crisis have driven major efforts to understand animal migration patterns.

Migration maps offer an excellent source of information on these complex movement patterns, and support the identification and implementation of conservation measures. A modular [Atlas of Animal Migration](#) has been developed under the auspices of CMS. This ambitious project gives policymakers, infrastructure planners and developers, students, and anyone interested in animal migration an overview of current knowledge about animal movements worldwide and across regions, covering several animal groups. The online tool makes data from many technologies and studies available to everyone, covering hundreds of species researched over decades—and sometimes centuries.

Migratory wild animals support healthy ecosystems and human well-being. Their movements pollinate plants, disperse seeds, control pests and disease-carrying insects, and redistribute nutrients. By sustaining carbon-storing forests, grasslands and oceans, they also help address climate change. These services strengthen food security through fisheries, agriculture, pollination and natural pest control; protect health by reducing disease risk; and support jobs and income from tourism, recreation and fishing, especially in rural and coastal communities.

Migratory animals routinely cross borders and depend on habitat networks spanning several countries throughout their life cycles. As human population growth, habitat loss and fragmentation, overexploitation, infrastructure development, pollution and climate change deepen the nature crisis, effective conservation of these species and their habitats require coordinated international policies.

Information for the Media – 5 October 2026

This rests heavily on the best and strongest scientific evidence. For decisions involving migratory species, clear information is needed on the main routes, how they are used, and where concentrations occur – in time and space.

This first-of-its-kind workshop will bring CMS together with experts from research, conservation and development institutions worldwide to share findings and methods for restoring nature. Innovative techniques and approaches will drive the creation of a much-needed comprehensive Atlas of animal migration and movement.

The three-day programme will conclude with a public session exploring remarkable animal migrations, how new technologies are revealing their mysteries, and how migratory species are adapting to global warming.

The special venue was made possible through support from Bio Cantina Sociale di Orsogna, which produces organic and biodynamic wine using sustainable farming practices informed by environmental research and monitoring; the Municipality of Vasto; and the Cogecstre Cooperative of Penne, Italy.

This session will be followed by a concerto by the Coro dell'Accademia from Pescara, to celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#).

For all interested, it will be possible to follow the public session (Sunday, October 11, 14:30-18:00 hrs CET, on the CMS YouTube channel, at:

www.youtube.com/@BonnConvention

Relevant resources:

- [The workshop agenda](#)

For more information and interview with experts please contact press@cms.int