



# CMS Bulletin



Bulletin of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

31 January 1992

No. 1

*Welcome to the first issue of a new series of bulletins intended to keep readers abreast of the latest developments concerning the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Although this issue has been designated "No. 1", it is really the continuation of a series of information sheets produced by the Secretariat, the publication of which was discontinued in 1988.*

*The Secretariat intends to produce a bulletin every three to four months, or more frequently as the need arises – in English, French and Spanish. Their purpose is to provide information of a factual nature to a fairly narrow audience of readers interested in CMS activities. All of the work, apart from the translations, will be done in-house using the resources available to the Secretariat, thus keeping production costs to a minimum. This issue will concentrate on developments since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Geneva in September 1991.*

*Comments and suggestions on material for inclusion in future issues of the **CMS Bulletin** are welcome. In particular, the Secretariat would appreciate receiving news of specific initiatives being taken by CMS Parties, non-Party States, and nongovernmental organizations to conserve the migratory species listed in the CMS Appendices.*

Produced by the Secretariat of the Convention.  
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## Secretariat News

The former Co-ordinator, Judith Johnson, returned to Australia in early October; her successor has yet to be appointed. The Secretariat's administrative assistant, Edith Neufang, has taken up a new posting with UNEP in Paris as of the beginning of January, and the process of recruiting her replacement has begun. The Secretariat staff presently comprises Douglas Hykle (Officer-in-Charge) and Marilyn Wagner (secretary, half-time).

The months following the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties have been anything but quiet. A summary of outcomes and a schedule of projected activities arising from the meeting have been distributed. The resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties in Geneva will be circulated as soon as they are available from UNEP headquarters. Proceedings of the meeting are also being prepared by UNEP, and should be available later this year. The Secretariat has also been busy setting up a working group for the draft Asian Waterfowl Agreement, organizing the election of a new Chairman of the Scientific Council, and preparing papers and making arrangements for the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee. A budget and work plan for 1992 have been drawn up, reflecting an improved financial situation for the Convention.

Some long-awaited computer equipment finally arrived in November, and it has already been put to good use. A number of databases have been set up to organize, among other things, membership and mailing lists, the list of Range States of species in the Appendices, and Agreements concluded or under development. A first draft of a brochure on the Convention has been prepared, and a questionnaire dealing with

developing country participation in the Convention is awaiting translation. Two new translators have been engaged, thus enhancing the Secretariat's ability to serve the Parties in all three working languages of the Convention.

In the coming months, the Secretariat plans to produce a CMS Directory containing information relevant to the Convention, which will be updated on a regular basis. Other work that is scheduled to begin during the course of 1992 includes: establishment of a database of Party reports, preparation of review reports on selected species, setting up a consultancy on developing country participation, and continuation of work on specific Agreements.

As announced during the meeting of the Parties in Geneva, the host Government has proposed that the Secretariat be relocated to a new building, currently under construction, on the periphery of Bonn. The move is scheduled to take place early this spring, after a number of outstanding details have been resolved.

## Recent meetings

### Bern Convention Standing Committee meeting

In December, the Secretariat attended the eleventh meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). Among other things, the meeting considered the possible extension of Bern Convention membership to African States, many of which are also Parties to CMS. The issue is relevant to the Bonn Convention since many of the species occurring in North Africa that would benefit from conservation measures are migratory. Therefore, the provisions of CMS make it an appropriate legal instrument for addressing the conservation needs of many of the species in question. While recognizing the role to be played by other relevant conservation treaties, the Bern Convention Standing Committee decided that applications for accession to that Convention from countries of North Africa ranging from

Egypt to Morocco, as well as Mauritania and Cape Verde, would be examined favourably.

A second issue of relevance to CMS was potential financial support from the Bern Convention for an intergovernmental meeting to discuss a draft agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. (The text of this draft Agreement was presented to CMS Parties in Geneva as document UNEP/CMS/Conf.3 Inf.2.) It has been proposed that this meeting be held in conjunction with another meeting of experts from Mediterranean States, scheduled for Athens during the second quarter of 1992, organized by the UNEP Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. The Standing Committee decided to include funds in the Bern Convention budget to support the participation of experts from a number of key Range States in the proposed meeting on small cetaceans. The Chairman of the CMS Standing Committee offered to investigate the possibility of CMS covering some of the meeting expenses as well, when the Standing Committee meets in February. In the mean time, the CMS Secretariat will continue to liaise with the other Convention Secretariats concerning logistical arrangements for the meeting.

### Symposium on Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation in South and West Asia

In December, the Secretariat attended a symposium convened by the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, the National Council for the Conservation of Wildlife (Pakistan) and the Asian Wetland Bureau. The meeting, held in Karachi, Pakistan, attracted 160 participants from 20 countries. The major output of the meeting was a comprehensive Action Programme in support of a declaration that calls for a halt to the "degradation and loss of wetlands in South and West Asia, their functions and values". Among other things, the meeting recommended that progress on implementing the Action Programme (which is currently being put in its final form) be reviewed at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, and that governments of South and West Asia that are not yet Parties to the Convention become members.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to explain the possibilities that exist under CMS for the conservation of migratory species of Asian waterfowl. Moreover, experts participating in a workshop on the conservation of the Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), proposed that an Agreement be developed under the Bonn Convention for the conservation of this species, which is seriously endangered in the western part of its range. The venue was also used to hold the first meeting of the Scientific Council's working group on the proposed Asian Waterfowl Agreement (further details are provided below).

## CMS Parties

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that South Africa and Argentina have joined the Convention (entry into force: 1 December 1991 and 1 January 1992, respectively), bringing to 39 the number of Parties to the Convention.

## Standing Committee

The Standing Committee now has the following membership (alternate members are shown in parentheses):

Africa: **Niger** (Burkina Faso)  
 America and the Caribbean: **Panama** (Chile)  
 Asia: **India** (Saudi Arabia)  
 Europe: **United Kingdom** (Finland)  
 Oceania: **Australia**  
 Depositary: **Germany**

The Committee is chaired by the United Kingdom, and Australia is Vice-Chairman. It is scheduled to hold its next meeting in Bonn on 5-6 February 1992. Invitations to the meeting and a provisional agenda were circulated on 23 December 1991. A summary of the outcomes of the meeting will appear in the next issue of the **CMS Bulletin**.

## Scientific Council

### Appointments

The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties made two new appointments to the Scientific Council, with the following fields of expertise: **Dr. Pierre Pfeffer** (Sahelo-Saharan mammals) and **Dr. Roberto Schlatter** (neotropical fauna). In addition, **Dr. Mike Moser** (waterfowl) and **Dr. William Perrin** (small cetaceans) were re-appointed.

There have been four recent Party appointments to the Council:

Egypt: **Dr. A. A. Fouda**, replacing Dr. Mohammed Amer, who has taken up a new post with the Veterinary Affairs Service;

France: **Mme. Martine Bigan**;

Niger: **M. Salifou Mahamadou**; and

Spain: **Sr. Cosme Morillo Fernandez**.

This brings to 32 the number of members of the Scientific Council, and leaves 11 Parties which have yet to appoint an expert: Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Denmark, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay and Zaire.

### Election news

At the third meeting of the Scientific Council (Geneva, September 1991), Dr. Michael Ford announced his intention to resign as Chairman. Several nominations for his successor were received from Scientific Councillors, of which two potential candidates – Dr. Pierre Devillers and Dr. Wim Wolff – indicated their willingness to stand for election. In December, Councillors were asked to indicate their preference by a postal vote, which was concluded in mid-January.

Having tabulated all of the ballots received as of 17 January 1992, the Secretariat is pleased to announce that Dr. Wim Wolff has been chosen by his peers to serve as Chairman of the Scientific Council. The Secretariat greatly appreciates the interest shown by Councillors in the election. It also wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Ford,

the outgoing Chairman, for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Council. Dr. Ford will continue to serve as the United Kingdom appointee to the Council.

### Asian Waterfowl Working Group

As recommended by the Scientific Council, a working group was established to consider a draft Agreement on the conservation of Asian waterfowl. The group met for the first time in Karachi, Pakistan, on 17 December 1991, in conjunction with a symposium on wetland and waterfowl conservation.

After considering the text of the draft Agreement prepared by the Secretariat, the group concluded that: (i) there are considerable advantages in taking a multilateral, as opposed to a bilateral, approach to agreements for waterfowl conservation in Asia; (ii) a single Agreement, with two separate regional Action Plans covering the East Asia-Australasia flyway and the Central-West Asia flyway is appropriate; and (iii) the provisional list of families to which the Agreement would apply should be reviewed once data from the Asian Waterfowl Census are available. The group noted further that it would be important for a CMS Party from each subregion to take the lead in developing the Agreement. It was agreed that the working group should meet again, perhaps in conjunction with another meeting in Asia scheduled for the latter part of 1992.

## Agreement Update

Progress has been made on a number of Agreements concluded or being developed under the Convention's auspices:

### *Wadden Sea Seals Agreement*

The Agreement for the Conservation of Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) in the Wadden Sea – concluded a year ago by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands – entered into force on 1 October 1991. Among other things, the agreement provides for the development of a conservation and management plan for the common seal,

co-ordinated research and monitoring, prohibition of taking of seals (with few exceptions), and habitat protection.

### *European Bats Agreement*

The Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe was opened for signature on 4 December 1991, a few days later than had been anticipated when the Final Act was signed in Geneva last September. The Secretariat has been advised that Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands and the United Kingdom have signed the Agreement with reservation pending ratification. A number of other Range States are expected to sign soon. The Agreement will enter into force 90 days after five Range States have become Parties to it. The adoption of the Final Act received extensive coverage in the October 1991 edition of *Bat News*, published by the Bat Conservation Trust, and the signing of the Agreement itself in December received about five minutes air time on the BBC World Service.

### *Baltic and North Sea Small Cetacean Agreement*

In September, the Final Act of the meeting to conclude an Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas was signed by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community. The Agreement provides for habitat conservation and management measures, co-ordinated surveys and research, domestic legislative measures and public information. The United Kingdom has offered the services of the Sea Mammal Research Unit in Cambridge as Secretariat of the Agreement for an initial three-year period. The Agreement itself will be open for signature by 31 March 1992, the precise opening date to be announced by the Depositary (the Secretary-General of the United Nations). Thereafter, the Agreement will enter into force 90 days after six Range States have expressed their intent to be bound by it.

Sweden has informed the Secretariat that the French, German and Russian language versions of the Agreement have been prepared, and are now being verified in the respective capitals. It is expected that the necessary verification will have been completed by the end of January. The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (Treaty

Section) has advised that it will be in a position to have the Agreement ready for signature no later than two weeks after receipt of the four authentic language versions.

#### *Draft Western Palearctic Waterfowl Agreement*

The European Economic Community has informed the Secretariat that the draft Agreement will be discussed internally by an expert committee, before a text is adopted by the EC Commission and formally presented to the Council of Ministers for the purpose of obtaining a mandate to negotiate with other Range States. These internal procedures are expected to be concluded by mid-1992.

#### *Draft White Stork Agreement*

The European Economic Community has informed the Secretariat that it intends to hold a negotiating session by about September 1992 to finalize the text of the draft Agreement for the Conservation of the White Stork (*Ciconia c. ciconia*). A revised draft of the Agreement, incorporating some changes needed to harmonize the text with that of the Bats Agreement, will be circulated to Range States before the meeting.

#### *Draft Agreement on the Conservation of Mediterranean and Black Sea Small Cetaceans*

A draft Agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and contiguous waters was considered by a meeting in February 1991 of the Secretariats of the Barcelona, Bern, and Bonn Conventions, IUCN and Greenpeace International. Alternative texts of a potential Agreement under the Bonn or Bern Conventions, perhaps to be implemented through an action plan within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, were reviewed.

The Parties to the Bonn and Bern Conventions have now had an opportunity to consider the draft text in their respective meetings of the Conference of the Parties and Standing Committee. In September 1991, the Conference of the Parties to CMS adopted a resolution urging Party and non-Party Range States of small cetaceans listed in Appendix II, particularly those of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, to give

priority to concluding Agreements for their conservation under the Bonn Convention. The Bern Convention Standing Committee concluded in December that the Bonn Convention was the appropriate legal instrument for the Agreement under consideration, and it was left to the Convention Secretariats to carry the work forward.

As indicated above, arrangements are being made to hold an intergovernmental meeting in Athens during the second quarter of 1992 to discuss the draft Agreement. The meeting is to be co-sponsored by the Council of Europe, UNEP/CMS, and the UNEP Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan.

#### *Other potential Agreements*

Specialists attending the Karachi wetland and waterfowl symposium (see above) expressed interest in developing an Agreement under the Bonn Convention for the conservation of the Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*). The species has the longest migration route of all cranes, ranging from breeding areas in the Arctic region of Asia to wintering grounds in southern Asia. The western and central flocks of the species have been reduced to the brink of extinction due to hunting and loss of wetlands, particularly in southern Asia. There are thought to be fewer than 12 birds remaining in each flock. The eastern flock, numbering fewer than 3,000 birds, depends on the survival of several major, yet vulnerable wetlands in China. Further details of the proposal will be provided to the Scientific Council in a future mailing.

In advance of an international Seminar on the Conservation of Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Houbara Bustard, scheduled for 9-13 May, in Saratov, Russia, the Secretariat will be contacting key Range States of the houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) with a view to determining what actions could be taken under the Convention to promote the conservation of this species. Although it was announced during the November 1990 International Council for Bird Preservation World Conference that an Agreement on the houbara bustard was being developed, little is known about progress made so far. The development of an innovative Agreement for this species could yield significant benefits not only for houbara bustard conservation, but also for conservation initiatives generally in the Range States concerned.

## Depositary

The Depositary (Germany) has informed the Secretariat that the text of the Convention was transmitted in September 1991 to its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, for transmission to the Secretary-General. At the time of writing, however, the Depositary could not confirm whether the documents had been forwarded to the United Nations for purposes of registration, as required by Article XX, paragraph 4, of the Convention. An update will be given in the next **CMS Bulletin**.

In October 1991, the Secretariat provided the Depositary with a copy of the revised appendices (including amendments adopted in 1985, 1988 and 1991) in order facilitate production of the official texts. In November, to ensure that all Parties were made aware of the amendments before their entry into force (12 December 1991), the Secretariat circulated the revised appendices it had prepared in English, French and Spanish, to all Parties and Scientific Councillors.

Also in October 1991, the Secretariat provided the Depositary with copies of the French and Spanish texts of the Convention, including all of the corrections adopted by the Conference of the Parties. As the production of the official corrected texts still has not commenced, the Secretariat has offered to provide the Depositary with both revised texts on a computer diskette in order to expedite the process. The Secretariat has been assured arrangements will be made to have the French and Spanish texts verified without delay.

## Reservations

The Depositary has informed the Secretariat that Norway has entered a reservation, in accordance with Article XI, paragraph 6, of the Convention, with respect to the inclusion in Appendix II of *Orcinus orca* and *Monodon monoceros*. Norway will provide a complete assessment of the latter species, *Monodon monoceros*, for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Norway indicated that it accepts the inclusion of *Hyperoodon ampullatus* in Appendix II without reservation.

No other Party entered reservations with respect to the amendments adopted in Geneva.

## Upcoming meetings of interest to CMS

**25-29 February: 1992 Sea Turtle Symposium.** Jekyll Island, Georgia. *Contact: Dr. James Richardson, 1992 Sea Turtle Symposium, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, ATHENS, Georgia, USA 30602. FAX: (1 404) 542 6040.*

**2-13 March: Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.** Kyoto, Japan. *Contact: CITES Secretariat, C.P. 78, 1000 LAUSANNE, Switzerland. FAX: (41 21) 20 00 84.*

**4-6 March: Greenland white-fronted goose workshop.** Wexford, Ireland. Convened by the Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service. *Contact: International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, SLIMBRIDGE, Gloucester GL2 7BX, United Kingdom. FAX: (44 453) 890 697.*

**9-13 May: International Seminar on the Conservation of Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Houbara Bustard.** Saratov, Russia. *Contact: Dr. V.E. Flint, All-Union Research Institute of Nature Conservation and Reserves, Znamenskoye Sadki 113628 PO VILAR, MOSCOW, Russia. FAX: (7 095) 423 2322.*

**May/June (tentative): Intergovernmental meeting to discuss a draft agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.** Athens, Greece. *Contact: UNEP/CMS Secretariat.*

**1-12 June: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Contact: UNCED Secretariat, P.O. Box 80, CH-1231, CONCHES, Switzerland. FAX: (41 22) 788 3557.*

**June-July: International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (9-22 June), 44th Annual Commission Meeting (29 June - 3 July), and associated meetings (20-28 June).** Glasgow, United Kingdom. *Contact: Secretary, International Whaling Commission, The Red House, 135 Station Road, Histon, CAMBRIDGE CB4 4NP, U.K. FAX: (44 223) 232 876.*

**September (tentative): Final negotiating session for the White Stork Agreement.** *Contact: Commission of the European Communities, DG XI, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049, BRUSSELS, Belgium. FAX: (32 2) 236 8825.*