



CMS Bulletin

Issue no. 9, June 1999



20 YEARS

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The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was born twenty years ago in Bonn, then the capital city of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its origin lies in a Recommendation of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972). CMS has benefitted from its attachment to the UN system: the United Nations Environment Programme, itself also a direct result of the Stockholm conference, provides a secretariat as well as the administrative framework and a truly global perspective.

Germany has also played a key role in the inception and development of CMS. From the beginning it took the lead by providing the Secretariat premises, hosting several meetings and donating human resources and scientific expertise. Germany has also made several voluntary financial contributions which have made it possible to undertake research and conservation activities in various parts of the world.

The recent past has seen a significant expansion of the objectives and geographical scope of CMS. With an original representation mostly centred on Europe, during the course of these two decades it has gradually expanded to cover most of Africa and important portions of Asia and Latin America. Bird species, the quintessence of animal migration, still remain an important focus of attention. But conservation activities centred on other animal groups are progressively gaining momentum. This issue of the CMS Bulletin, for example, contains information on the many activities carried out in relation to sea turtles and antelopes of the Sahelo-Saharan region.

NEW PARTIES

Membership to CMS continues to grow: 60 countries will be Parties to the Convention as of 1 July 1999. This is welcome news, particularly in view of the forthcoming Conference of the Parties (COP6), and is a consolidation of CMS expansion in Africa and Eastern Europe, which opens the door to further cooperation. The new Parties are:

Slovenia - This small country, formerly integrated in Yugoslavia, is situated between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, in the Mediterranean basin. It has a remarkable diversity of landscapes and a wealth of natural areas in a good state of preservation. Consequently, its fauna is rich and varied, with significant waterbird and bat populations.

Kenya - Together with Tanzania, Kenya is possibly one of the best known countries in the world for its large populations of wild animals, many of which are migratory. It also has many well preserved natural areas, which many species use during the breeding season as well as in the off-season and as stop-overs.

United Republic of Tanzania - News reached Bonn of Tanzania's accession to the Convention shortly after Kenya's. With a similar fauna and conservation priorities, these two bordering countries are now in an ideal position to co-operate and to undertake joint initiatives.

Latvia - On the Baltic coast, this small country hosts important bogs and other well preserved waterfowl habitat, and is thus a major stop-over for migrating geese and waders. Its bat populations are also significant and the subject of conservation initiatives.

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LOOKING BACK

The final text of the Convention was agreed upon after almost two weeks of discussion and intense negotiations. Fifty countries took part in the meeting, which was held in the city of Bonn (at the Stadthalle, Bad Godesberg), from 11 to 23 June 1979. After agreement was finally reached, the Convention was open to signature. Twenty-two delegations signed the text on that occasion, whereas some others did so at a later stage. We have reproduced some of the statements that were made there, because they are full of meaning and symbolism. Together, they represent an important part of the history of the Convention:

"It is recommended that Governments give attention to the need to enact international conventions and treaties to protect species inhabiting international waters or those which migrate from one country to another: (a) A broadly-based convention should be considered which would provide a framework by which criteria for game regulations could be agreed upon and the over-exploitation of resources curtailed by signatory countries"

Recommendation 32, Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972)

"The degree of conservation of the diversity of species is also an indicator of how far the damage to nature has advanced"

Josef Ertl, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Germany

"Conventions and national legislations are only a first step; they must be implemented"

Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director, UNEP

"A more immediate value will be as a signal that governments continue to recognize the significance of living resources and will devote time and effort to ensure their continuity."

David A. Munro, Director General, IUCN

"Keeping faith with [Recommendation no. 32], which expresses the spirit of the Stockholm Conference, clearly requires that no region and no taxa be specifically excluded from eligibility under this Convention"

Letter addressed to the Conference by over 300 NGOs

"The African States believe that wildlife as a whole and more especially migratory species of fauna, are the common heritage of humanity and that wherever they live they should throughout their lives be managed in the common interest and by the common consent of all peoples"

Joint declaration by the representatives of the African States

"There is a real need in many parts of the world for a framework for promoting co-operation for the conservation of migratory species. (...) In the effort to conserve these migratory species, in our own interest and in that of succeeding generations, there seems to be no alternative to international co-operation"

Declaration by the Delegation of Jamaica

"The result which we have achieved is a compromise, in fact the reconciliation of diverse views of the different delegations"

Declaration by the Delegation of the Netherlands

"We must praise this achievement and consider it as an historic landmark, the importance of which will be appreciated more in future than it is now"

Declaration by the Delegation of Greece

ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED IN GERMANY TO CELEBRATE CMS' 20th ANNIVERSARY

School poster competition	March to Sept. 1999	Bonn schools
CMS Information stand in Art Museum foyer	3 to 6 June 1999	Kunsthalle, Bonn
Exhibition on CMS and migratory species	3 June to 11 July 1999	Museum Koenig, Bonn
Reception for diplomatic community	23 June 1999	Redoute, Bonn
International Workshop on Migratory Animals	23 to 26 June 1999	Museum Koenig, Bonn
International Conference on Migratory Birds	6 to 7 July 1999	Rheinstetten, Karlsruhe
TV broadcast on CMS and migratory species	August 1999	ARD / ZDF
Exhibition on Migratory Species	1 to 23 October 1999	Town Hall, Bonn
UN Day, focus on migratory species	24 October 1999	Market Square, Bonn

NOTE: The Secretariat is aware that a number of activities are being planned in many other countries to celebrate this event and would like to hear about all of them. National focal points and organisers of such activities are invited to contact and inform the Secretariat accordingly.

ON THE ROAD TO COP6

Some useful information

(from the first Information Sheet distributed by the Secretariat)

About the venue:

The meetings will take place in the Lord Charles Hotel, in Somerset West, some 40 km east of Cape Town. The hotel is situated at the foot of the Helderberg Mountains, overlooking the picturesque False Bay, next to the wine producing region. The venue has excellent facilities and high quality services.

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Postal Address: PO Box 5151,
Somerset West,
7130, Cape Town, South Africa
E-mail: info@the-lord-charles.co.za

All the main events will take place in the hotel itself, so there will be little need for external transportation. The Government of South Africa has agreed to make arrangements so that delegates will be met at the airport and driven to the hotel.

November in Cape Town is at the beginning of the summer season, so pleasant weather can be expected. It is also the time when Southern Right Whales and other marine life occur off the coast. A selection of post-conference package tours will be on offer for participants.

About documents:

All documents necessary for the meetings will be sent by post to registered delegates as they become available from July 1999 onwards. They will also be made available on the CMS site on the Internet, from where it will be possible to download and print them. Participants are thus requested to visit the website regularly, to keep track of the changes.

Additionally, delegates can be kept informed via e-mail. Those wishing to take advantage of this service are requested to notify their e-mail address to the Secretariat (cms@unep.de).

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS / EVENTS 4 - 16 November 1999 (subject to change)

Thursday, 4	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Scientific Council
Friday, 5	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Scientific Council
Saturday, 6	9:00 - 11:00	CMS Scientific Council (as necessary)
	11:00 - 12:30	Regional Coordination meetings
	17:30 - 18:45	CMS - AEWA Opening Ceremony
	19:00 - 20:30	Reception
Sunday, 7	9:30 - 17:30	AEWA Meeting of Parties
Monday, 8	9:30 - 17:30	AEWA Meeting of Parties
Tuesday, 9	9:30 - 11:00	AEWA Meeting of Parties (as necessary)
	14:00 - 17:00	CMS Standing Committee
Wed'day, 10	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Conference of the Parties
Thursday, 11	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Conference of the Parties
Friday, 12	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Conference of the Parties
Saturday, 13	— no sessions —	Symposium on Animal Migration
Sunday, 14	— no sessions —	Thematic workshops (tentative)
Monday, 15	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Conference of the Parties
Tuesday, 16	9:30 - 17:30	CMS Conference of the Parties

Provisional Agenda for CMS COP6

- 1 Opening of the meeting
- 2 Welcoming addresses
- 3 Adoption of rules of procedure
- 4 Election of officers
- 5 Adoption of agenda and work programme
- 6 Establishment of Credentials Committee and sessional committees
- 7 Admission of observers
- 8 Opening statements
- 9 Reports:
 - (a) Secretariat
 - (b) Standing Committee
 - (c) Scientific Council
 - (d) Depositary
- 10 Review of implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Overview of Party reports
 - (b) Measures to improve conservation status of Appendix I species
 - (c) Review of Article IV Agreements concluded or under development
 - (d) Guidelines on the harmonization of future Agreements
- 11 Report of the Credentials Committee
- 12 Consideration of proposals for amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention
- 13 Strategy for the future development of the Convention
- 14 Financial and administrative arrangements:
 - (a) Extension of CMS Trust Fund
 - (b) Adoption of the budget
- 15 Institutional arrangements:
 - (a) Agreement Secretariats
 - (b) Standing Committee
 - (c) Scientific Council
- 16 Reports of sessional committees
- 17 Date and venue of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
- 18 Other business
- 19 Adoption of report of the meeting
- 20 Closure of the meeting

CMS 19th STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

The CMS Standing Committee held its 19th meeting in Bonn on 28 and 29 January 1999. This was the body's last meeting before November 1999, so many of the discussions were geared towards COP6. The Committee reviewed, on a regional basis, the various initiatives undertaken since its previous meeting and also the progress of those that are currently underway, such as those on Andean flamingos, Houbara Bustard and albatrosses of the southern hemisphere. Much of the discussion, though, was centred on administrative and organisational matters. An unexpectedly large number of observers contributed positively to the fruitful discussions.

The Standing Committee deliberated on a substantial review of the Strategy for the Future Development of the Convention, a goal-oriented, five-year strategic plan which is being prepared by the Secretariat and Standing Committee to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. The Committee also discussed budgetary and administrative matters, and agreed on a number of questions related to the preparations for COP6, including the Provisional Agenda for the meeting (see page 3). The Standing Committee's next meeting will take place in Cape Town, on 9 November 1999.

AEWA



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The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) continues to gather momentum and is now heading towards its first Meeting of the Parties (MOP1). After two consecutive trips to Western and Southern African countries, the AEWA Secretary, Mr. Bert Lenten, managed to secure several of the necessary ratifications. At the time of writing (June) the Agreement is only one ratification short of coming into force. Most of the 12 countries visited showed great interest in joining the AEWA and several have already started their accession procedures. Besides, several significant countries have announced that they will ratify the Agreement in the next few months. Therefore, the AEWA Interim Secretariat feels confident that its MOP1 will take place 7 - 9 November 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa, as foreseen.

Preparations for that meeting are also well underway, and many of the meeting documents will be ready for distribution to registered participants well in advance. These include the Conservation Guidelines, proposals for amendment of the Action Plan, a review of the Conservation Status for several species and a report on the Implementation Plan 1997-1999. In relation to this latter activity, the AEWA Interim Secretariat, in collaboration with the British Trust for Ornithology and the UK Government, has circulated a comprehensive questionnaire on the status of introduced waterbirds and their effects on native species in the Agreement area. A large number of responses have been received, which will help prepare the necessary action to ensure the conservation of native waterbirds.

The AEWA Interim Secretariat has also been active in the production of information and promotional material. This includes a French version of its website, the edition of a special stamp devoted to the Agreement (in collaboration with the Dutch Post Office) and the production of a set of postcards and a set of posters featuring some of the most representative species. In addition, the next issue (no. 5) of the AEWA Newsletter will be distributed shortly. A copy can be obtained from the AEWA Interim Secretariat.

EUROBATS



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The 4th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe took place 19-21 April 1999 in Stockholm, Sweden, with a record 27 delegations from Parties and Non-Party Range States participating. 12 of the Non-Party Range States expressed their intention to accede to Eurobats in the near future.

The plenary discussions and working group meetings were focussed on the ambitious transboundary programmes and action plans which the 2nd Meeting of Parties had decided upon in July 1998. Among those were two action plans for Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* and Pond Bat *Myotis dasycneme*, both highly endangered in many countries, the latter action plan being a joint venture with the Bern Convention. For these two species, as well as Schreiber's Bat *Miniopterus schreibersii*, a special project in 11 Central and Eastern European countries was also presented.

The further scientific work programme concentrated on transboundary programmes for habitat protection, and in particular for underground and forest habitats of bats.

(continued in the next page)

EUROBATS*(continued)*

These programmes aim among other aspects to identify sites of European importance and to co-ordinate data collection throughout the Agreement area as a first step and to develop recommendations for habitat protection and sympathetic forest practices as a follow-up.

Other items in the dense agenda of the meeting were the evaluation and compilation of existing data on migration routes of bats with a view to developing comprehensive maps for each species, actions to be taken regarding the implementation of the bat conservation and management plans, as well as the refinement of tasks to be carried out before the forthcoming 3rd Meeting of Parties in Bristol, United Kingdom (July 2000). To achieve these goals, a total of seven intersessional working groups with experts from all over Europe were established.

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The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas held the 6th Meeting of its Advisory Committee 12-14 April 1999 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Delegates from 11 Parties and Range States attended the meeting. For the first time these included representatives from France, Latvia and the Russian Federation.

Discussions continued on how to reduce the incidental entanglement of small cetaceans in fishing gear. The so-called by-catch is considered the most important threat to dolphins and porpoises in the Baltic and North Seas. Special emphasis was put on the situation of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise stock, which has suffered a dramatic decline in recent decades. Denmark presented its newly developed *Action Plan for Reducing Incidental By-catches of Harbour Porpoises*, the first co-ordinated contribution from a Party implementing the ASCOBANS Resolution on this matter adopted by the 2nd Meeting of Parties in 1997. A steering group was formed to initiate and organise a *Workshop on the Review of By-catch Mitigation Measures with Special Reference to the ASCOBANS Area*. The workshop will bring together cetacean biologists, fishery biologists, experts on fishing techniques as well as fishermen's organisations to develop and evaluate practicable by-catch mitigation measures.

Regarding the adverse effects of marine pollution on small cetaceans, the Advisory Committee recommended continuing the positive co-operation with other international organisations, e.g. the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).

The third major item on the agenda of the Committee was the effect of human disturbance on cetaceans and potential mitigation measures. The Committee assessed the acoustic disturbance by seismic surveys and high-speed ferries as well as the potentially adverse effects of whale-watching and other recreational activities.

Finally, the ASCOBANS Secretariat has published a new web page, available under www.ascobans.org, providing information on cetacean species in the Baltic and North Seas, on potential threats to these, and on the structure of ASCOBANS.

ACCOBAMS**ACCOBAMS Interim Secretariat**

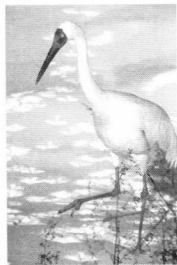
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The Interim Secretariat of the Monaco Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area distributed in February the first issue of the ACCOBAMS Bulletin. This high quality, bi-lingual publication (in French and English) explains the essentials of the Agreement in plain language: its background, aims, meetings, conservation activities and partner organisations. It also includes a list of the species covered by ACCOBAMS and a useful list of bibliographical references. The Agreement, which was concluded in November 1996 following a series of intergovernmental negotiations guided by the CMS Secretariat, has yet to attain the minimum number of ratifications needed to enter into force.

Other developments in relation to ACCOBAMS include the continuation of the active promotion of the Agreement in relevant fora and the support to the initiative to set up a sanctuary for the conservation of cetaceans in an area of the Ligurian Sea, shared by France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco. That initiative, which would provide a new basis for the conservation of marine mammals in this highly representative region, is progressing well.

UPDATE ON OTHER CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Siberian Crane



The Third Meeting of Range States of the endangered Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) took place in Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 8-13 December 1998. The meeting was convened at the invitation of the Iranian Department of Environment, and was held under the aegis of CMS, with the collaboration of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). About 40 delegates from all ten of the Range States concerned attended.

The meeting reviewed the considerable progress that had been made to implement the Conservation Plan agreed at the previous meeting, held in India in November 1996. It was apparent that this detailed plan had served as a useful tool for guiding and assessing the activities that were undertaken in 1997 and 1998 to promote the conservation of Siberian cranes, and for setting new objectives for a further two years. Much of this discussion was conducted in small working groups which made an invaluable contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting agreed a number of amendments to the original *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane*, concluded under the auspices of CMS in 1993. Among other things, the MoU now provides for the formal participation of China, a key country in the conservation of the Eastern population of the species. At the end of the meeting, representatives of seven of the Range States present (Azerbaijan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) formally signed the MoU, on behalf of their agencies. A representative of the Government of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding in Beijing in April 1999. Signatures on behalf of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation (a party to the original MoU), are still awaited.

The meeting also reviewed a first draft of a comprehensive project proposal, prepared by ICF and CMS, which aims to promote the conservation of Siberian cranes and other migratory waterbirds throughout their range. After incorporating further inputs of the Range States and receiving the necessary official endorsements, the proposal will be submitted, through the UNEP/GEF Co-ordination Unit, to the Global Environment Facility with a view to securing funding for future actions.

Sahelo - Saharan Antelopes



Following the Djerba workshop on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes that took place in February 1998 with the participation of all fourteen Range States, the most significant progress can be summarized as follows: the draft Action Plan has been reviewed extensively and revised accordingly. Tunisia has made significant progress by receiving 14 Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) and two Sand Gazelles (*Gazella leptoceros*) of captive origin from various European zoos: Paris zoo in France, Bratislava zoo in Slovakia, Berlin Tierpark in Germany and Plankendael in Belgium. In Tunisia, most of the oryx (9) were sent to Sidi Toui National Park, 4 to Ain Dekouk Nature Reserve, and one to Bou Hedma National Park, where facilities had been prepared to receive them. The two Sand Gazelles will be part of a breeding programme for later reintroduction into Djebil National Park. Additionally, Senegal received eight *Oryx dammah* from Israel, to be ultimately released in the Ferlo area.

A three-year project proposal to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is being drafted. Considering its well advanced program, Tunisia will act as a pilot Range State in this project, aimed at helping reintroduction and conservation actions to be taken further. At the same time, a series of preliminary actions recommended in the Action Plan will be undertaken in the other Range States.

Photo credits:

p. 6, *Grus leucogeranus*: © Saitre/Bios; p. 6, *Gazella cuvieri*: © M. Gunther/Bios; p. 7, *Diomedea chlororhynchos*: © Seitre/Bios; p. 8, *Dermochelys coriacea*: © J. Fretey

STATE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Some of the projects endorsed at the last CMS Scientific Council meeting (Wageningen, June 1998) have begun or are ready to start, reaffirming CMS' commitment to action in the field to safeguard endangered migratory animals. Two recently concluded projects were producing such positive results that the Scientific Council recommended a second phase.

Wetlands International will coordinate further research into the continental population of **Ruddy-headed Goose**. Dr. J. Madsen, a geese expert, will travel to Tierra del Fuego to assist. Previous work indicates populations concentrate in northern Tierra del Fuego and in southern mainland Chile. The wintering grounds restricted to a small area of the Pampas make conservation work easier, but illustrate just how endangered the geese are.

A second project has surveyed **small cetaceans** in Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Dr. K. van Waerebeek collaborated with Senegal's *Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noir* (IFAN) and the *Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar-Thiaroye* (CRODT) and the Gambian Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM); activities in Guinea-Bissau were interrupted in 1998 by the war. 24 cetacean species were recorded, including Senegal's first records of Minke and Sei Whale, The Gambia's first Clymene Dolphin and Pilot Whale and the first Fraser's Dolphin for (mainland) West Africa. The cetacean collection housed at the IFAN-UCAD and IFAN-Musée de la Mer was restored. Indications are that the Atlantic Hump-backed Dolphin has become rare in the region. Its range is considerably smaller than previously assumed.

The NGO 'Conservation and Research of West African Aquatic Mammals' (COREWAM) was founded in Senegal to conduct scientific research, promote conservation and environmental education for aquatic mammals. Interested parties from other countries are encouraged to join. The second phase of the project will focus on the status of the Atlantic Hump-backed Dolphin

The Norwegian Ornithological Society's awareness campaign for the **Lesser White-fronted Goose**, led by Dr. I. Oien, is progressing steadily. Comprehensive efforts are being made to save this goose from extinction. One urgent need is to raise awareness among management authorities and hunters in the countries with staging sites or wintering populations (Russia, Kazakstan, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria). Information material on the ecology, occurrence and identification of the species is being distributed to villagers, hunters and local government offices.

Also advancing is the **Syrian Serin** status report, focused in Jordan. In the south-west, the breeding habitat is found in the Dana Nature Reserve, managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. The project, co-ordinated by Museum Koenig in Bonn, includes

reforesting 10 ha with indigenous trees. This, together with advisory and training activities in the reserve, are the first steps towards enhanced awareness and a model for the conservation of rare birds in the Middle East.

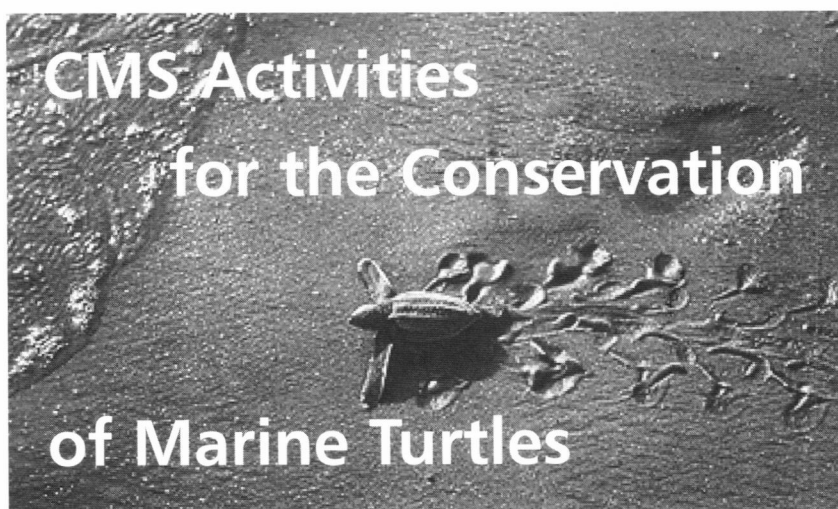
Fishing lines cause high mortality rates in **albatrosses** and other seabirds: the birds eat the bait, become entangled and drown. Few studies exist on the subject in South America. The Uruguayan Natural Resources authority, with CMS support, is coordinating work conducted by the National University of Uruguay. They are measuring mortality rates of pelagic birds at sea and devising ways of reducing or eliminating the by-catch. Regular trips aboard fishing boats collect dead birds, and observations are conducted to evaluate measures to reduce the amount of hooking.

Other projects which are in an advanced stage, with the work to be started soon, are the winter census of Andean flamingos, and the building of an observatory to study and increase awareness about the Huemul, an endangered deer from the extreme south of Argentina and Chile. Dr. L.M. González will coordinate the preparation of a draft recovery plan for the Atlantic populations of the Mediterranean Monk seal, one of Europe's most endangered mammals. BirdLife International will update action plans for the Lesser Kestrel and the Corncrake. Dolphin surveys are being prepared for the populations shared between Australia and Indonesia in a project coordinated by Environment Australia with the Indonesian Central Research Institute for Fisheries. Finally surveys to investigate the status of marine mammals in the Gulf of Tonkin are being organized by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group.

All these projects are a clear indication of the increased CMS activities in the field, working through local partners and directed to ensure the conservation of endangered migratory animals.



Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*)



The Convention's contribution to small-scale project work on marine turtles is progressing, albeit slowly. Work by the Cambridge-based WCMC on a Global Information System (GIS) database and mapping facility for Indian Ocean nesting beaches has started; after some delay due to technical problems, the work is expected to be finished well before the COP6. A proposal for a tagging programme and by-catch survey in Sri Lanka has now been received and is under review. A project proposal for a genetic study to help elucidate migration in the Indo-Pacific is still outstanding. The Secretariat has continued to distribute widely to French-speaking countries the marine turtle identification posters produced in collaboration with WIDECAS, a Caribbean-based NGO.

The Secretariat has continued to make steady progress in its efforts to promote the conservation of marine turtles in different parts of the world. As reported below, a successful meeting was held recently in Côte d'Ivoire to bring together officials and turtle experts from countries all along the Atlantic coast of Africa. This ambitious undertaking - the first attempt to discuss marine turtle conservation issues over such a broad region of Africa - resulted in the adoption of an inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding which will lay a solid foundation for future conservation initiatives.

to explore the potential involvement of CMS in a sea turtle symposium to be held in Malaysia in July 1999 (see calendar), with participation, among others, of officials and experts of countries making up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). CMS interest in the gathering stems from its *raison d'être* - namely to stimulate international cooperation in conservation efforts, where appropriate in collaboration with other concerned bodies. It is hoped that this mainly scientific meeting may sow the seed for a more formal gathering of representatives of nations of the Asia-Pacific region to discuss common conservation strategies, an idea currently being considered by one of the regional CMS member States.

New MoU for the conservation of African Sea Turtles

The CMS Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire, organized an *International Conference on the Conservation of Sea Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa*, in Abidjan, from 25 to 29 May 1999. The meeting reviewed the conservation status of sea turtles in the region, and adopted a

CMS has also taken a lead role in proposing the organization of a pan-Mediterranean sea turtle conference in the year 2000 (see below). In early June, the Secretariat brought together in Dalyan, Turkey, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the creation of an organizing committee for the event. It was proposed that an Executive be created comprising representatives of the CMS Secretariat, the Tunis-based Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and the Bern Convention Secretariat, which would work in close collaboration with a number of special committees, in which a number of Mediterranean NGOs would play a key role.



Mr. Abdel Kadar Bangoura, Guinea, signing the new African Turtle MoU on behalf of his Ministry

At the time of writing, final discussions were also under way

Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting the conservation of marine turtles in the Range States concerned. The meeting also produced a first working draft of a Conservation Plan outlining measures to be undertaken in the short- and medium-term. The gathering was co-sponsored by CMS, the Government of France and the French Committee for IUCN. It assembled representatives and specialists from 17 Range States, extending from Mauritania to Namibia, as well as other interested participants.

The main goal of the conference was to explore possible areas of regional co-operation. Seven Range States signed the Memorandum of Understanding, and others are expected to do so at a side event to be organized in conjunction with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November. The meeting proposed that a training workshop for technicians be held in the first half of 2000, and that an intergovernmental meeting be organized to finalize the Conservation Plan and to review implementation to date. The French Government is considering financing a feasibility study to examine the potential of developing one or more regional projects for submission to appropriate funding agencies.

A strong appeal was made to support the continuation of successful projects in Sao Tome and Principe and in Cameroon, both of which are threatened with closure due to lack of funds. This would be a major set-back for turtle conservation efforts, as the two projects concerned are among the most advanced in the region.

The working draft of the CMS technical report "Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa", circulated for comment in 1998, will be completely revised in the coming months on the basis of information furnished by participants at the meeting and in a detailed questionnaire circulated in advance.

The proceedings of the conference will be published, together with the revised technical report, before the end of the year, and will be available from the CMS Secretariat.

Pan-Mediterranean Sea Turtle Conference Organizational meeting

Preparatory consultations were held in Dalyan, Turkey, from 4-5 June 1999 on a proposed pan-Mediterranean sea turtle conference. The meeting was convened by the CMS Secretariat, and was organized in collaboration with the MEDCOAST Secretariat, to take advantage of the presence in Dalyan of participants attending a separate, but related meeting on the potential creation of a Mediterranean sea turtle conservation network.

CMS presented the proposal for a pan-Mediterranean sea turtle conference to a meeting of experts held in October 1998 under the auspices of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).

The idea has been warmly received by various government representatives and by NGOs. The proposal is to organize a meeting of about five days' duration around October/November 2000, allowing for presentation of scientific papers and national reports, as well as providing for thematic workshops and training sessions in specialized areas.

Such a meeting can only be organized effectively as a unique collaborative venture involving the secretariats of the three conventions most concerned (Bonn, Bern and Barcelona-RAC/SPA), as well as major NGOs and experts working within the region. The conference is meant to complement the highly successful meeting held in North America every year. It has been suggested the conference not be a one-off event; rather it should be organized on a biennial basis and held in a different venue each time so as to afford interested countries an opportunity to host the gathering.

The Secretariat will be liaising with counterparts in the other conventions to discuss the next steps for securing a suitable venue.



From left to right: Mr. Douglas Hykle, CMS Deputy Executive Secretary greeting, from the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Kouame Amame, Director of Nature Protection; Mr. Joseph Gbeutibouo, Chief of the Office of the Minister; and Mr. Victor Tie Bi Tra, Director of Programming and Studies. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has initiated the internal ratification procedure for CMS.

NEW SPECIES PROPOSALS

On the occasion of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, both the Convention text and the Appendices are open for amendment. This means, in the case of the CMS Appendices, that any Party can make a proposal for the listing of additional species in CMS Appendices I and II. The deadline for such amendments, which have to be submitted according to the rules set out in the Convention text, is 13 June 1999.

At the time of writing, some Parties have contacted the Secretariat and have announced that they were working on the submission of new proposals. The majority of those species proposals are related to the marine and other aquatic environments, and many are centred on tropical or subtropical latitudes. Most proposals to list new species in the CMS Appendices refer to Appendix II, although this may still be subject to variation in some cases.

The proposal to include the Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* was announced to the Scientific Council in Wageningen (June 1998). Additionally, one Party has expressed its intention to submit a proposal to list several species of small cetaceans occurring in the Pacific Ocean. In the Indian Ocean region, the Indian Ocean Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus*, formerly considered to be a subspecies of the Bottlenose Dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* is expected to be proposed for listing in CMS Appendix II.

Panama has submitted a draft proposal to list another aquatic mammal, the Manatee *Trichechus manatus*, while two European countries are currently working on the submission of proposals to list a number of Sturgeon species which should be subject to a common action plan to provide for their conservation and sustainable use.

Among the seabirds, the current listing of southern hemisphere albatrosses may be extended to include some of their closer relatives, which could benefit from the proposed conservation action aimed at reducing mortality caused by by-catch. In particular, the proposal would consist of the listing in CMS Appendix II of two species of Giant Petrels *Macronectes* and five species of Petrels *Procellaria*. Other bird species proposals that are currently being worked on are the Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* and several grassland passerines in South America, all to be listed in Appendix I.

A TRIBUTE TO CYRILLE DE KLEMM

Sad news has reached the Secretariat that Mr. Cyrille de Klemm died in Paris on 1 April 1999. One of the most prominent experts in environmental law, Mr. de Klemm was linked to CMS since its inception. He was involved in the original drafting of the Convention text and also in its later development. His are the *Guidelines for the Harmonization of Future Agreements*, an essential document in the legal framework of CMS.

Mr. de Klemm was a committed conservationist, and an advanced one as well. He was among the first to formulate the principle of sustainable use of natural resources, which through him found its way in many a legal text. His lengthy career was mostly tied to the IUCN - The World Conservation Union, but he also worked in cooperation with other international conventions, notably the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. In addition, Mr. de Klemm was renowned for his work as an interpreter at international conferences.

Besides an extensive list of works and publications, Mr. de Klemm has left all those who knew him a memory of dedicated work, talent and passion. He will remain an example for all those who knew him.

INFORMATION MATERIAL & PUBLICATIONS

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat has continued to produce new information material in the last few months. At the same time, it has worked on the consolidation of some of the earlier products.

Among the new materials is a newly designed brochure, aimed at providing general information and an overview of the Convention to the general public. With attractive colours and a wealth of new pictures, the CMS brochure has been very well received by CMS focal points, government representatives and NGOs alike. It has also proved to be a useful tool for the purpose of introducing CMS to those who do not know much about it. The brochure has been produced in English, French, Spanish and German and is available from the Secretariat.

Also new is the publication of the first title in the CMS Technical Series, *Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane*. It includes the text of the revised Memorandum of Understanding and annotated Conservation Plan, the summary report of the Range States Meeting in Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran (December 1998), the progress reports submitted to that meeting and some reference material, including an extensive bibliography on the species, compiled by the International Crane Foundation.

The CMS website has been consolidated as a useful source for professionals, NGOs and interested public to obtain information, both general and specific, about CMS. Suffice to say, for example, that in only four weeks people from a minimum 37 countries visited the website, mostly during working hours and from their places of work. The easy access to the website and the facilities provided there are also reflected in the increased number of requests for documents and general questions about the Convention, about migration and about nature conservation. The CMS website will continue to play an important rôle, as many of the preparatory documents for COP6 will be posted there too (in all three languages).

NEWS FROM THE UN / UNEP

WCMC a Centre for World Biodiversity Information and Assessment

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Government of the United Kingdom have identified a need for an integrated Centre which can bring together and evaluate information on biodiversity and biological resources worldwide, and enhance capacities to handle such information at global, regional and national levels, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries and international conventions. In a meeting held on the margins of the 7th Session of the UN's Commission on Sustainable Development in New York, they recognized that the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), located at Cambridge in the United Kingdom and currently sponsored by UNEP, IUCN and the World Wide Fund for Nature, is already a world centre of biodiversity information and ideally suited as the nucleus of the global facility identified as essential.

Among other important tasks, they intend to encourage the Centre to negotiate agreements with relevant international conventions, including the Biodiversity Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), CMS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention.

UNEP and IUCN, with the agreement of the Board of the present WCMC and the encouragement of the Government of the U.K., aim to launch the new Centre towards the middle of the year 2000.

NEWS FROM BONN

The UN family in Bonn has been enlarged with the arrival of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which recently moved from Geneva to Bonn. This confirms Bonn's determination to establish itself as a UN-city and it also completes the occupation of Haus Carstanjen, which now hosts 6 UN organizations. We welcome our colleagues in UNCCD and hope to be able to establish ways for closer cooperation in the future. The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Bonn has developed a very extensive website in German, providing daily news, press releases and complete information on the UN system and UN activities worldwide. The site, which also offers information on all the UN agencies based in Germany, is available at www.uno.de.

LINKS WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS

Cooperation continues with a number of other conventions and international organisations, and it is producing some good results:

- in the framework of the common work of the five biodiversity-related conventions, the joint website has been consolidated and is now also available in Spanish; a common logo, featured on the home page of all the conventions individual websites, advertises this initiative
- the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has recently agreed to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CMS Secretariat aimed at improving communication and consultation between the Secretariats of CMS and IWC
- another MoU is intended between CMS and the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention (WHC), under UNESCO, to establish means of fluent communication as well
- cooperation also continues with the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and with the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)

SHORT NOTES

Imperial Eagles conference

BirdLife International reports on the fourth international conference of the European Working Group on the Protection of Imperial Eagles, which was held in Budapest, Hungary, in November 1998. It shed light on the population size, which is larger than previously known, mainly as a result of better coverage of the Russian breeding grounds. This Appendix I species is still subject to serious threats, including habitat alteration, deterioration of food resources and injuries from electric powerlines. The conference results will be incorporated into the Imperial Eagle Action Plan that is under preparation by the working group.

Action to protect the White-headed Duck

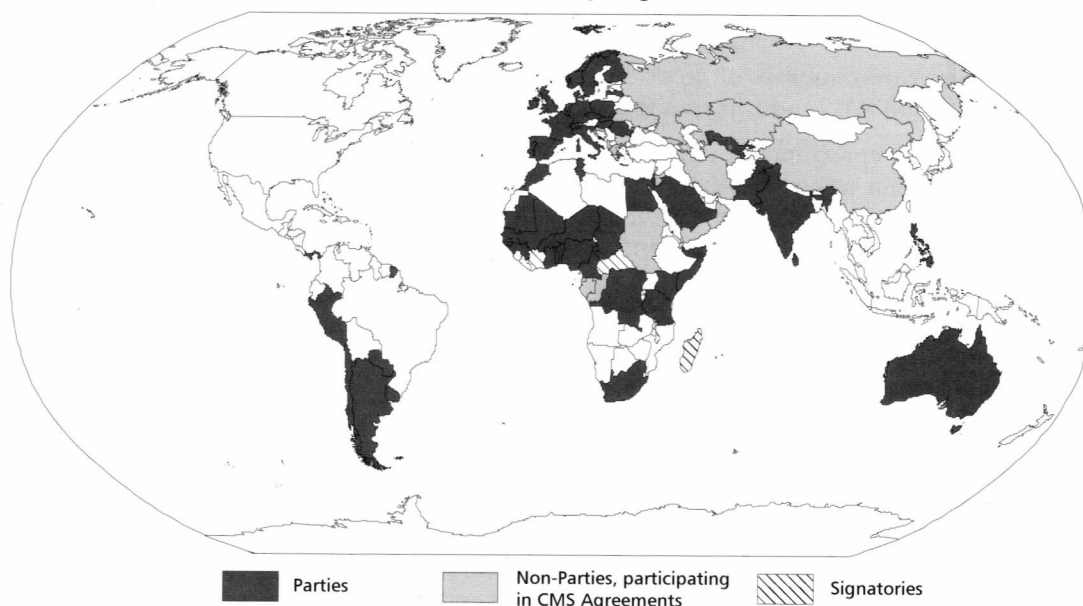
The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions of the United Kingdom has initiated a programme of action in order to protect the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). Following the recommendations of the White-headed Duck Task Force, there will be a trial to establish whether it is feasible to reduce the numbers of the introduced Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). This North American species escaped from captivity in the 1950s and has now established a feral population in the U.K. from which it has spread into some neighbouring countries.

The greatest threat to the endangered White-headed Duck comes from hybridisation and competition with the Ruddy Duck, which is an aggressive species and which mates with the White-headed Ducks, producing fertile young. Initially, there were only a few hundred Ruddy Ducks and all stayed within Britain, but the current population numbers around 4000, including some migratory birds, scattered over several countries. The Western European population of White-headed Duck, located in Spain, numbered as few as 22 birds in the 1970s. Action by the Spanish authorities and NGOs through the protection of sites and the banning of hunting has helped to increase the total number of birds to over 1100 in 1998.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATES	TITLE	VENUE	ORGANISED BY
23.06.99	CMS: 20th Anniversary of signature of the Convention in Bonn	Bonn, Germany	UNEP/CMS City of Bonn
21 - 25.6.99	Convention on Biological Diversity 4th Meeting of SBSTTA	Montreal, Canada	CBD Secretariat
28.6.99	2nd International Wildlife Management Congress	Gödöllő, Hungary	The Wildlife Society
28 - 30.6.99	Convention on Biological Diversity Intersessional Meeting on the Operation of the Convention	Montreal, Canada	CBD Secretariat
15 - 17.7.99	ASEAN Symposium and Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology & Conservation	Sabah, Malaysia	University Malaysia
23 - 27.8.99	8th European Bat Research Symposium	Cracow, Poland	Polish Academy of Science / European Bat Research Org.
10 - 13.10.99	BirdLife: Global International Partners	K.Lumpur, Malaysia	BirdLife International
14 - 17.10.99	26th International BirdLife World Conference	K.Lumpur, Malaysia	BirdLife International
24 - 5.11.99	UNFCCC: COP 5 & Subsidiary Bodies Meeting	Bonn, Germany	UNFCCC
4 - 16.11.99	CMS: Conference of the Parties (COP 6) Scientific Council & Standing Committee Symposium on Animal Migration	Cape Town, South Africa	CMS Secretariat
7 - 9.11.99	AEWA: MOP 1	Cape Town, South Africa	AEWA Interim Secretariat
15 - 26.11.99	UNCCD: COP 3 & meetings of subsidiary bodies	Recife, Brazil	UNCCD
22 - 26.11.99	2nd IWMC Symposium	Chengdu, China	IWMC
31.1. - 4.2.2000	Convention on Biological Diversity 5th Meeting of SBSTTA	Montreal, Canada	CBD Secretariat
10 - 20.4.2000	CITES COP 11	Nairobi, Kenya	CITES Secretariat
15 - 26.5.2000	Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 5	Nairobi, Kenya	CBD Secretariat
24 - 26.7.2000	ASCOBANS MOP 3	Bristol, UK	ASCOBANS
27 - 28.7.2000	EUROBATS MOP 3	Bristol, UK	EUROBATS
4 - 11.10.2000	IUCN World Congress	Amman, Jordan	IUCN

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
 Map of CMS Parties, Signatories and other participating States (as of 01.07.99)



The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UNEP