

ACAP – the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels



Secretariat: Christine Bogle, ACAP Secretariat, 119 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000 Australia
Tel: +61 (0) 3 6165 6674 web: www.acap.aq
christine.bogle@acap.aq

Depositary: Australia

Species: Albatrosses: *Diomedea exulans*, *Diomedea dabbenena*, *Diomedea antipodensis*, *Diomedea amsterdamensis*, *Diomedea epomophora*, *Diomedea sanfordi*, *Phoebastria irrorata*, *Phoebastria albatrus*, *Phoebastria immutabilis*, *Phoebastria nigripes*, *Thalassarche cauta*, *Thalassarche steadi*, *Thalassarche salvini*, *Thalassarche eremita*, *Thalassarche bulleri*, *Thalassarche chrysostoma*, *Thalassarche melanophris*, *Thalassarche impavida*, *Thalassarche carteri*, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*, *Phoebetria fusca*, *Phoebetria palpebrata*.

Petrels: *Macronectes giganteus*, *Macronectes halli*, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, *Procellaria conspicillata*, *Procellaria parkinsoni*, *Procellaria westlandica*, *Procellaria cinerea*.

Range States: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Uruguay (as at 1 January 2009).

Key Dates: Negotiations were concluded on 1 February 2001 at Cape Town. The Agreement was opened for signature on 19 June 2001 and entered into force on 1 February 2004. The First Meeting of Parties was held in Hobart, Australia in November 2004, the Second was held in Christchurch, New Zealand in November 2006, the Third in Bergen, Norway in April-May 2009, the Fourth in Lima, Peru in April 2012, the Fifth in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain in May 2015 and the Sixth in Skukuza, South Africa in May 2018.

Threats: By-catch in long line and trawl fisheries, habitat degradation, marine pollution, loss of prey due to overfishing.

Actions: The ACAP Action Plan sets out measures for direct species conservation, habitat restoration and the management of human activities impacting on albatross populations. By-catch in fisheries is to be reduced or eliminated through appropriate management. Marine pollution and discharges from vessels are to be minimized and public awareness raising activities are to be undertaken.

Key facts:

- Albatrosses are highly efficient in the air, using dynamic soaring and slope soaring to cover great distances with little exertion.
- Of the 21 species of albatrosses recognised by the IUCN, 19 are threatened with extinction.
- The diet of albatrosses is dominated by cephalopods, fish and crustaceans.



ACCOBAMS – the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area



Secretariat:

Executive Secretary: Florence Descroix-Comanducci
Jardin de l'UNESCO, Les Terrasses de Fontvieille,
MC 98000, Monaco
Tel: +377-98-98-20-78/80-10 web: www.accobams.org
Fax: +377-98-98-42-08 email: fcdescroix@accobams.org

Depositary: Monaco

Species: Regularly occurring in the Mediterranean: Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), Long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), Killer whale (*Orcinus orca* – Gibraltar Strait population), Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Bottle-nose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*). Regularly occurring in the Black Sea: *Delphinus delphis ponticus*, *Phocoena phocoena relicta*, *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*.

Riparian States: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.



Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine (as at 1 February 2018).

Key Dates: ACCOBAMS was opened for signature on 24 November 1996 and entered into force on 1 June 2001. Five Meetings of the Parties have taken place – in Monaco in 2002, Palma de Mallorca, Spain in 2004, Dubrovnik, Croatia in 2007, Monaco again in 2010, Tangier, Morocco in 2013 and Monaco again in 2016.

Threats: Interactions with shipping (collisions) and fisheries (by-catch and prey depletion), habitat loss and degradation, direct killing, noise and chemical pollution.

Actions: The ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan specifies the actions that Parties shall take in the following areas: adoption and enforcement of national legislation; assessment and management of human cetacean interactions habitat protection; research and monitoring; capacity building; collection and dissemination of information; training and education; and responses to emergency situations.

MOP4 in 2010 passed a resolution extending the area covered by the Agreement to include waters off the West coast of Portugal and Northern Spain. The amendment has to be ratified by two thirds of the Parties before it enters into force.

Partners:

Alnitak Marine Environment Research and Education Centre; American Society of International Law – International Environmental Law Group; BICREF – The Biological Conservation Research Foundation; Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation; Bottlenose Dolphin Research Institute; Brema Laboratory; Conservación, Información e Investigación en Cetáceos (CIRCE); Conservation Biology Research Group (University of Malta); Dipartimento di Biologia dell'Università di Genova; Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes; écoOcéan Institut; European Cetacean Society; Groupe de Recherche sur les Cétacés; International Fund for Animal Welfare; Israel Marine Mammal Research & Assistance Center; Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Applicata al Mare (ICRAM); IUCN; Morigenos – Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Society; National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”; Nature Trust; Oceana; Ocean Care; Oceanic Museum of Monaco; Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute; Souffleurs d'Ecume; Spanish Cetacean Society; Swiss Cetacean Society; Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife; Tethys Research Institute; Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV); University of Valencia; Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society; WWF Mediterranean Programme

ASCOBANS – the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas



 **ASCOBANS**

Secretariat:

Executive Secretary: Amy Fraenkel
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn,
Germany
Tel: + 49 228 815 2416 web: www.ascobans.org
Fax: + 49 228 815 2440 ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org

The ASCOBANS Secretariat merged with the CMS Secretariat on 1 January 2007 for an interim period of three years. This arrangement was extended by a further three years in 2010.

Depositary: Secretary General of the United Nations, New York.

Species: The Agreement covers all toothed whales (*Odontoceti*) except the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*). Examples commonly found in the Agreement area include: Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), Bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*), the Northern bottle-nosed dolphin (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) and members of the beaked whale family (*Ziphiidae*).

Range States: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Parties: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Key Dates: Final Act signed 13 September 1991. Entry into force under its original name, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas – 29 March 1994. Entry into force of extension of Agreement Area into the North East Atlantic and Irish Sea – 3 February 2008.

Threats: By-catch, acoustic disturbance, competition with fisheries, collisions with shipping and marine pollution.

Actions: The ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan obliges Parties to engage in habitat conservation and management, surveys and research, pollution mitigation and public information. To achieve its aim, ASCOBANS cooperates with Range States that have not (yet) acceded to the Agreement, relevant intergovernmental organizations dealing with the marine environment and fisheries, and a number of non-governmental organizations.

The key priorities for ASCOBANS at present are reducing by-catch by encouraging the use of alternative fishing gear; increasing knowledge of population size and distribution for improved management; awareness-raising among the general public and fishers; and encouraging people to engage in conservation efforts.



Key facts:

- On 3 February 2008, the extension of the Agreement Area into the Bay of Biscay, the Irish Sea and the Atlantic came into effect.
- The Jastarnia Plan aims to improve the conservation status of Harbour Porpoises in the Baltic Sea.
- A Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea was adopted by Parties in September 2009.

ASCOBANS – the Jastarnia Plan



Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) is found in shelf waters throughout the temperate North Atlantic and North Pacific and in some adjacent seas (the Black Sea and Baltic Sea). While still a relatively abundant species, its numbers have fallen in parts of its range, most notably in the Baltic. The reasons include commercial hunting (no longer conducted), occasional severe winters and habitat degradation (pollution, noise and prey depletion). Worst is by-catch, which has not only contributed to the decline but is also impeding the species' recovery. Especially set nets are responsible for a high rate of by-catch.

In the **Recovery Plan** for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (the Jastarnia Plan), ASCOBANS Parties have set a medium term goal of restoring the population of harbour porpoises to at least 80 per cent of the Baltic Sea's carrying capacity. Studies done by Berggren (2002) show that if this target is to be reached, the number of harbour porpoises accidentally caught in nets would have to fall to one or two per year within the surveyed waters compared with the lowest current estimate of seven. The Jastarnia Plan sets out key objectives, which are:

- To implement management measures of a precautionary nature to reduce the number of bycaught porpoises in the Baltic towards zero;
- To improve knowledge in key subject areas as quickly as possible;



- To develop more refined (quantitative) recovery targets as new information on population status, by-catch and other threats becomes available.

The **Jastarnia Plan** is the result of a collaborative effort organised under the auspices of ASCOBANS and is the culmination of a series of scientific initiatives and meetings over several years. At their MOP2 in Bonn in 1997 the Parties adopted a resolution on the incidental take of small cetaceans which called upon Parties to develop by 2000 a recovery plan for the Baltic harbour porpoise, one element of which should be the identification of human activities posing a threat to the recovery of the species. The original Plan was welcomed at MOP4 in 2003. Parties adopted a revised and updated version at MOP6 (2009).

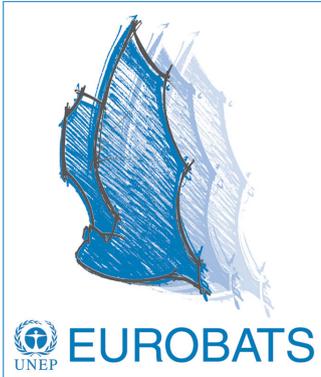
The **Jastarnia Plan (2009)** contains 16 concrete recommendations, focusing on by-catch reduction, research and monitoring, marine protected areas, public awareness and cooperation with other bodies, especially the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).

Since 2005, a **working group of experts** from both the environmental and fisheries sectors has been meeting annually to forward the implementation of the Jastarnia Plan.

Meetings of the Jastarnia Group

- Bonn, Germany, 3-4 March 2005
- Stralsund, Germany, 7-8 February 2006
- Copenhagen, Denmark, 19-21 February 2007
- Kolmården, Sweden 25-27 February 2008
- Turku, Finland, 23-25 February 2009
- Hel, Poland, 23-25 February 2010
- Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-16 February 2011
- Bonn, Germany, 31 January-2 February 2012
- Gothenburg, Sweden, 16-18 April 2013
- Bonn, Germany, 1-3 April 2014
- Stralsund, Germany 10-12 March 2015
- Hel, Poland, 12-14 April 2016
- Wilhelmshaven, Germany, 20-22 June 2017
- Copenhagen, Denmark, 12-14 March 2018

The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)



Secretariat:

Executive Secretary: Andreas Streit
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn,
Germany
Tel: + 49 228 815 2420 web: www.eurobats.org
Fax: + 49 228 815 2445 eurobats@eurobats.org

Depositary: The United Kingdom

Species: *Pteropodidae: Rousettus aegyptiacus; Emballonuridae: Taphozous nudiventris; Rhinolophidae: Rhinolophus blasii, R. euryale, R. ferrumequinum, R. hipposideros, R. mehelyi; Vespertilionidae: Barbastella barbastellus, B. leucomelas, Eptesicus bottae, E. nilssonii, E. serotinus, Hypsugo savii, Myotis alcaethoe, M. aurascens, M. bechsteinii, M. blythii, M. brandtii, M. capaccinii, M. dasycneme, M. daubentonii, M. emarginatus, M. hajastanicus, M. myotis, M. mystacinus, M. nattereri, M. nipalensis, M. cf. punicus, M. schaubi, Nyctalus lasiopterus, N. leisleri, N. noctula, Otonycteris hemprichii, Pipistrellus kuhlii, P. nathusii, P. pipistrellus, P. pygmaeus, Plecotus auritus, Pl. austriacus, Pl. kolombatovici, Pl. macrotus, Pl. sardus, Vespertilio murinus, Miniopterus schreibersii; Molossidae: Tadarida teniotis.*

Range States: All of continental Europe, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Malta and Cyprus, North Africa and the Middle East (sixty-three Range States and territories plus the European Union).

Parties: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Key Dates: The Final Act was signed 4 December 1991 and the Agreement entered into force on 16 January 1994.

Threats: Loss of habitat due to agriculture and forestry; loss of food supplies due to insecticides; direct persecution due to human prejudice.

Actions: EUROBATS has developed a wide-ranging Conservation and Management Plan, which is the key instrument for the Agreement's implementation. It addresses issues such as legal requirements, population surveys and monitoring, roosts, foraging habitats, the use of pesticides and the promotion of public and professional awareness.

The International Bat Night is held simultaneously in several countries all over the world at the end of August of each year. It aims to provide facts to the public about the life of bats, to highlight reasons why bats are endangered species and to present possible conservation strategies. The public, media, scientific institutions, NGOs and governmental authorities have all responded enthusiastically to the event.

Among EUROBATS' implementation priorities are the development of guidelines for the effective conservation and management of key habitats (e.g. forests, important over- and underground roosts, migration routes); monitoring of population trends, threats and migratory patterns and the improvement of cross-boundary co-operation and research in all areas relevant for bat conservation.



Key facts:

- There are about 1,100 different species of bat in the world, representing nearly 25% of all mammal species.
- The 19th annual International Bat Night was celebrated 29-30 August 2015 and the event has now become a regular feature of the conservation calendar.
- The EUROBATS Secretariat jointly with CMS organized the Year of the Bat campaign 2011-12. The focus in 2011 was on Europe and the campaign went global in 2012.

The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)



Secretariat:

Executive Secretary: Jacques Trouvilliez
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn,
Germany
Tel: + 49 228 815 2414 web: www.unep-aewa.org
Fax: +49 228 815 2450 aewa@unep.de

Depositary: The Netherlands

Species: The Agreement covers 254 species and 554 populations of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many species of divers, grebes, gannets, pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets, bitterns, storks, crakes, flufftails, coots, moorhens, plovers, pratincoles, the black-winged stilt, the pied avocet, oystercatchers, rails, lapwings, snipes, godwits, curlews, redshanks, greenshanks, sandpipers, knots, ibises, spoonbills, flamingos, ducks, swans, geese, cranes, waders, gulls, terns and even the southern African penguin. For a complete list see the AEWA website or the separate sheets in this series.

Range States: The whole of Europe and Africa; the Middle East, parts of West Central Asia; parts of Arctic and North-Eastern Canada and Greenland.

Parties: as at 1 March 2019: **Eurasia (42)** – Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Mol-

dova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan; **Africa (37)** – Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Key Dates: The Final Act was signed by 53 States and the EU on 16 June 1995. AEWA entered into force on 1st November 1999. The First Meeting of the Parties took place in Cape Town in 1999, the Second in Bonn 2002, the Third in Dakar, Senegal in 2005 and the Fourth in Antananarivo, Madagascar in 2008. The Fifth took place in La Rochelle, France in 2012. and the Sixth in November 2015 in Bonn. The Seventh is scheduled to take place in South Africa in December 2018.

Threats: Among the threats are habitat destruction and degradation, depletion of food supplies (through overfishing for example), unsustainable levels of taking and climate change.

Actions: The comprehensive AEWA Action Plan details such key issues as: species and habitat conservation; management of human activities; research and monitoring; education and information; and implementation. An important element of the strategy is the development of international action plans for individual species. Following MOP4, 15 such plans had been approved.

Priorities are avoiding any extinctions among the 554 populations covered by the Agreement, reducing the risk of extinction and ensuring that 75 per cent of the populations have a positive trend (i.e. being stable or growing).



Key facts:

- AEWA is the largest Agreement concluded under CMS with 119 Range States (plus the European Union).
- AEWA was a leading partner in a major US \$ 12 million conservation project being supported by a US \$ 6 million grant from GEF (Wings over Wetlands – www.wingoverwetlands.org).
- AEWA is the main coordinator of the annual World Migratory Bird Day – see www.worldmigratorybirdday.org
- 255 waterbird species and 554 populations are covered by AEWA

AEWA – Species List (1/5)

Annex II to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) contains 255 species of bird which are dependent on wetland habitats, including ducks, geese, swans, divers, cranes, flamingos and even the African Penguin. These five sheets list all the AEWA species, classified by genus and with the common English name together with the Latin scientific name.



White-tailed Tropicbird © kansasphoto

ANATIDAE

Dendrocygna viduata » White-faced Whistling Duck
Dendrocygna bicolor » Fulvous Whistling Duck
Thalassornis leuconotus » White-backed Duck
Oxyura maccoa » Maccoa Duck
Oxyura leucocephala » White-headed Duck
Cygnus olor » Mute Swan
Cygnus cygnus » Whooper Swan
Cygnus columbianus » Bewick's Swan
Branta bernicla » Brent Goose
Branta leucopsis » Barnacle Goose
Branta ruficollis » Red-breasted Goose
Anser anser » Greylag Goose
Anser fabalis » Bean Goose
Anser brachyrhynchus » Pink-footed Goose
Anser albifrons » Greater White-fronted Goose
Anser erythropus » Lesser White-fronted Goose
Clangula hyemalis » Long-tailed Duck
Somateria spectabilis » King Eider
Somateria mollissima » Common Eider
Polysticta stelleri » Steller's Eider
Melanitta fusca » Velvet Scoter
Melanitta nigra » Black Scoter
Bucephala clangula » Common Goldeneye
Mergellus albellus » Smew



Mergus merganser » Goosander
Mergus serrator » Red-breasted Merganser
Alopochen aegyptiaca » Egyptian Goose
Tadorna tadorna » Common Shelduck
Tadorna ferruginea » Ruddy Shelduck
Tadorna cana » South African Shelduck
Plectropterus gambensis » Spur-winged Goose
Sarkidiornis melanotos » Comb Duck
Nettapus auritus » African Pygmy Goose
Marmaronetta angustirostris » Marbled Teal
Netta rufina » Red-crested Pochard
Netta erythrophthalma » Southern Pochard
Aythya ferina » Common Pochard
Aythya nyroca » Ferruginous Duck
Aythya fuligula » Tufted Duck
Aythya marila » Greater Scaup
Spatula querquedula » Garganey
Spatula hottentota » Hottentot Teal
Spatula clypeata » Northern Shoveler
Mareca strepera » Gadwall
Mareca penelope » Eurasian Wigeon
Anas undulata » Yellow-billed Duck
Anas platyrhynchos » Common Mallard
Anas capensis » Cape Teal
Anas erythrorhyncha » Red-billed Duck
Anas acuta » Northern Pintail
Anas crecca » Common Teal

PODICIPEDIDAE

Tachybaptus ruficollis » Little Grebe
Podiceps grisegena » Red-necked Grebe
Podiceps cristatus » Great Crested Grebe
Podiceps auritus » Horned Grebe
Podiceps nigricollis » Black-necked Grebe

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Phoenicopterus roseus » Greater Flamingo
Phoeniconaias minor » Lesser Flamingo

PHAETHONTIDAE

Phaethon aetheras » Red-billed Tropicbird
Phaethon rubricauda » Red-tailed Tropicbird
Phaethon lepturus » White-tailed Tropicbird

AEWA – Species List (2/5)



Eurasian Spoonbill © Ferran pestana

RALLIDAE

- Sarothrura elegans* » Buff-spotted Flufftail
- Sarothrura boehmi* » Streaky-breasted Flufftail
- Sarothrura ayresi* » White-winged Flufftail
- Rallus aquaticus* » Water Rail
- Rallus caerulescens* » African Rail
- Crex egregia* » African Crake
- Crex crex* » Corncrake
- Porzana porzana* » Spotted Crake
- Zapornia flavirostra* » Black Crake
- Zapornia parva* » Little Crake
- Zapornia pusilla* » Baillon's Crake
- Amaurornis marginalis* » Striped Crake
- Porphyrio alleni* » Allen's Gallinule
- Gallinula chloropus* » Moorhen
- Gallinula angulata* » Lesser Moorhen
- Fulica cristata* » Red-knobbed Coot
- Fulica atra* » Common Coot

GRUIDAE

- Balearica regulorum* » Grey Crowned-crane
- Balearica pavonina* » Black Crowned-crane
- Leucogeranus leucogeranus* » Siberian Crane
- Buggeranus carunculatus* » Wattled Crane
- Anthropoides paradiseus* » Blue Crane
- Anthropoides virgo* » Demoiselle Crane
- Grus grus* » Common Crane

GAVIIDAE

- Gavia stellata* » Red-throated Diver
- Gavia arctica* » Black-throated Diver
- Gavia immer* » Great Northern Diver
- Gavia adamsii* » White-billed Diver

SPHENISCIDAE

- Spheniscus demersus* » African Penguin

CICONIIDAE

- Leptoptilos crumenifer* » Marabou Stork
- Mycteria ibis* » Yellow-billed Stork
- Anastomus lamelligerus* » African Openbill
- Ciconia nigra* » Black Stork
- Ciconia abdimii* » Abdim's Stork
- Ciconia microscelis* » African Woollyneck
- Ciconia ciconia* » White Stork

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

- Platalea alba* » African Spoonbill
- Platalea leucorodia* » Eurasian Spoonbill
- Threskiornis aethiopicus* » Sacred Ibis
- Geronticus eremita* » Northern Bald Ibis
- Plegadis falcinellus* » Glossy Ibis



AEWA – Species List (3/5)



Eurasian Oystercatcher © Sergey Grabdurakhmanov

ARDEIDAE

Botaurus stellaris » Great Bittern
Ixobrychus minutus » Little Bittern
Ixobrychus sturmii » Dwarf Bittern
Nycticorax nycticorax » Black-crowned Night Heron
Ardeola ralloides » Squacco Heron
Ardeola idae » Madagascar Pond-Heron
Ardeola rufiventris » Rufous-bellied Heron
Bubulcus ibis » Cattle Egret
Ardea cinerea » Grey Heron
Ardea melanocephala » Black-headed Heron
Ardea purpurea » Purple Heron
Ardea alba » Great White Egret
Ardea brachyrhyncha » Yellow-billed Egret
Egretta ardesiaca » Black Heron
Egretta vinaceigula » Slaty Egret
Egretta garzetta » Little Egret
Egretta gularis » Western Reef Egret

BALAENICIPITIDAE

Balaeniceps rex » Shoebill

PELECANIDAE

Pelecanus crispus » Dalmatian Pelican
Pelecanus rufescens » Pink-backed Pelican
Pelecanus onocrotalus » Great White Pelican

FREGATIDAE

Fregata ariel » Lesser Frigatebird
Fregata minor » Great Frigatebird

SULIDAE

Morus bassanus » Northern Gannet
Morus capensis » Cape Gannet
Sula dactylatra » Masked Booby

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Microcarbo coronatus » Crowned Cormorant
Microcarbo pygmaeus » Pygmy Cormorant
Phalacrocorax aristotelis » European Shag
Phalacrocorax carbo » Great Cormorant
Phalacrocorax capensis » Cape Cormorant
Phalacrocorax nigrogularis » Socotra Cormorant
Phalacrocorax neglectus » Bank Cormorant

BURHINIDAE

Burhinus senegalensis » Senegal Thick-knee

PLUVIANIDAE

Pluvianus aegyptius » Egyptian Plover

HAEMATOPODIDAE

Haematopus moquini » African Black Oystercatcher
Haematopus ostralegus » Eurasian Oystercatcher

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Recurvirostra avosetta » Pied Avocet
Himantopus himantopus » Black-winged Stilt



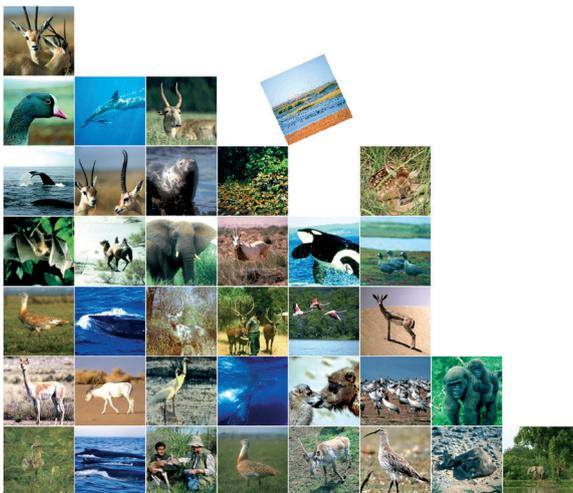
AEWA – Species List (4/5)



Greater Sand Plover © Stuart Amer

CHARADRIIDAE

- Pluvialis squatarola* » Grey Plover
- Pluvialis apricaria* » Eurasian Golden Plover
- Pluvialis fulva* » Pacific Golden Plover
- Eudromias morinellus* » Eurasian Dotterel
- Charadrius hiaticula* » Common Ringed Plover
- Charadrius dubius* » Little Ringed Plover
- Charadrius pecuarius* » Kittlitz's Plover
- Charadrius tricollaris* » Three-banded Plover
- Charadrius forbesi* » Forbes's Plover
- Charadrius marginatus* » White-fronted Plover
- Charadrius alexandrinus* » Kentish Plover
- Charadrius pallidus* » Chestnut-banded Plover
- Charadrius mongolus* » Mongolian Plover
- Charadrius leschenaultii* » Greater Sand Plover
- Charadrius asiaticus* » Caspian Plover
- Vanellus vanellus* » Northern Lapwing
- Vanellus spinosus* » Spur-winged Lapwing
- Vanellus albiceps* » White-headed Lapwing
- Vanellus lugubris* » Senegal Lapwing
- Vanellus melanopterus* » Black-winged Lapwing
- Vanellus coronatus* » Crowned Lapwing
- Vanellus senegallus* » Wattled Lapwing
- Vanellus superciliosus* » Brown-chested Lapwing
- Vanellus gregarius* » Sociable Lapwing
- Vanellus leucurus* » White-tailed Lapwing



SCOLOPACIDAE

- Numenius phaeopus* » Whimbrel
- Numenius tenuirostris* » Slender-billed Curlew
- Numenius arquata* » Eurasian Curlew
- Limosa lapponica* » Bar-tailed Godwit
- Limosa limosa* » Black-tailed Godwit
- Arenaria interpres* » Ruddy Turnstone
- Calidris tenuirostris* » Great Knot
- Calidris canutus* » Red Knot
- Calidris pugnax* » Ruff
- Calidris falcinellus* » Broad-billed Sandpiper
- Calidris ferruginea* » Curlew Sandpiper
- Calidris temminckii* » Temminck's Stint
- Calidris alba* » Sanderling
- Calidris alpina* » Dunlin
- Calidris maritima* » Purple Sandpiper
- Calidris minuta* » Little Stint
- Scolopax rusticola* » Eurasian Woodcock
- Gallinago stenura* » Pintail Snipe
- Gallinago media* » Great Snipe
- Gallinago gallinago* » Common Snipe
- Lymnocyptes minimus* » Jack Snipe
- Phalaropus lobatus* » Red-necked Phalarope
- Phalaropus fulicarius* » Grey Phalarope
- Xenus cinerea* » Terek Sandpiper
- Actitis hypoleucos* » Common Sandpiper
- Tringa ochropus* » Green Sandpiper
- Tringa erythropus* » Spotted Redshank
- Tringa nebularia* » Common Greenshank
- Tringa totanus* » Common Redshank
- Tringa glareola* » Wood Sandpiper
- Tringa stagnatilis* » Marsh Sandpiper

DROMADIDAE

- Dromas ardeola* » Crab Plover

GLAREOLIDAE

- Glareola pratincola* » Collared Pratincole
- Glareola nordmanni* » Black-winged Pratincole
- Glareola ocularis* » Madagascar Pratincole
- Glareola nuchalis* » Rock Pratincole
- Glareola cinerea* » Grey Pratincole

AEWA – Species List (5/5)



Little Auk © Alastair Rae

LARIDAE

Anous stolidus » Brown Noddy
Anous tenuirostris » Lesser Noddy
Rynchops flavirostris » African Skimmer
Hydrocoloeus minutus » Little Gull
Xema sabini » Sabine's Gull
Rissa tridactyla » Black-legged Kittiwake
Larus genei » Slender-billed Gull
Larus ridibundus » Common Black-headed Gull
Larus hartlaubii » Hartlaub's Gull
Larus cirrocephalus » Grey-headed Gull
Larus ichthyaetus » Pallas's Gull
Larus melanocephalus » Mediterranean Gull
Larus hemprichii » Sooty Gull
Larus leucopthalmus » White-eyed Gull
Larus audouinii » Audouin's Gull
Larus canus » Mew Gull
Larus dominicanus » Kelp Gull
Larus fuscus » Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus argentatus » European Herring Gull
Larus armenicus » Armenian Gull
Larus michahellis » Yellow-legged Gull
Larus cachinnans » Caspian Gull
Larus glaucooides » Iceland Gull
Larus hyperboreus » Glaucous Gull
Larus marinus » Great Black-backed Gull
Onychoprion fuscatus » Sooty Tern

Onychoprion anaethetus » Bridled Tern
Sternula albifrons » Little Tern
Sternula saundersi » Saunders' Tern
Sternula balaenarum » Damara Tern
Gelochelidon nilotica » Gull-billed Tern
Hydroprogne caspia » Caspian Tern
Chlidonias hybrida » Whiskered Tern
Chlidonias leucopterus » White-winged Tern
Chlidonias niger » Black Tern
Sterna dougallii » Roseate Tern
Sterna hirundo » Common Tern
Sterna repressa » White-cheeked Tern
Sterna paradisaea » Arctic Tern
Sterna vittata » Antarctic Tern
Thalasseus bengalensis » Lesser Crested Tern
Thalasseus sandvicensis » Sandwich Tern
Thalasseus maximus » Royal Tern
Thalasseus bergii » Great Crested Tern

STERCORARIIDAE

Stercorarius longicaudus » Long-tailed Skua
Catharacta skua » Great Skua

ALCIDAE

Fratercula arctica » Atlantic Puffin
Cephus grylle » Black Guillemot
Alca torda » Razorbill
Alle alle » Little Auk
Uria lomvia » Thick-billed Murre
Uria aalge » Common Murre



AEWA – Wings Over Wetlands

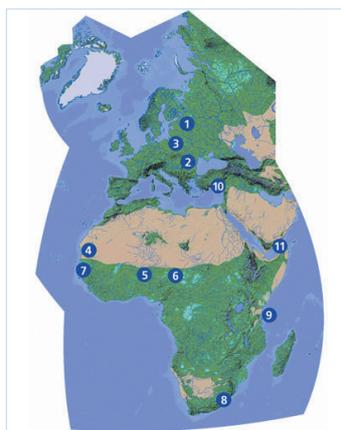


The **Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) UNEP/GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project**, launched in November 2006, was the region's largest ever wetland and waterbird conservation initiative. This US\$12 million project aimed to conserve the critical areas needed by migratory waterbirds across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago. The project's unique flyway-scale conservation approach has enhanced conservation efforts by improving the conditions and management of waterbirds and key wetland sites. A web-based portal was developed which provides an improved source of reliable information on migration paths of waterbirds.

Migratory waterbirds and the wetlands they use for their seasonal migrations are vital components of biodiversity and have huge recreational and economic benefits. Their ecology is poorly understood, and habitats and species are under increasing threat worldwide. WOW concentrated on Africa—Eurasia by identifying sites that are crucial for the annual life cycle of waterbirds—breeding, staging and wintering areas. These efforts will help assess the problems these species encounter on their annual journeys.

International organizations involved in the study and conservation of waterbirds joined forces in WOW—Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

WOW was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Programme, the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and donors across the African-Eurasian flyways. The project helped foster international collaboration along the entire flyways, build capacity for monitoring and conservation, and demonstrated effective management of wetlands and waterbirds



through 11 field projects in 12 countries shown in the map above: 1 Estonia, 2 Lithuania, 3 Hungary, 4 Mauritania, 5 Nigeria, 6 Niger, 7 Senegal and the Gambia (a cross-border project), 8 South Africa, 9 United Republic of Tanzania, 10 Turkey and 11 Yemen.

An important product arising from the project is the “**Critical Site Network Tool**”. Information on the network of critical sites will be made available through a central portal as a tool for use by practitioners to underpin planning and management of flyway conservation and catalyse site level activity.

The **WOW Flyway Training Programme** with its Flyway Training Kit was designed to help build this capacity, by providing high-quality, targeted, practical and adaptable modular training materials to support training and capacity-building for waterbird and wetlands management across the AEWA region. While instruction materials are available, additional funding is needed to implement training in the African–Eurasian region.

Along their flyways migrating birds recognize no borders. Conserving the birds and their habitats can only be achieved through improved collaboration among national governments, local and international conservation organizations and local communities. The WOW initiative is facilitating the exchange of expertise between a broad range of partners towards this common goal.

More information on the project can be found on the dedicated WOW website: www.wingsoverwetlands.org



Key Quotation:

“Without the wintering areas for the White Stork in Africa or the breeding areas in Siberia for the geese wintering in the Wadden Sea, all protection efforts in Europe are useless. Acknowledging the need for wide ranging international flyway cooperation I welcome the international support of this project including an important German contribution of €1 million”.

Sigmar Gabriel, German Environment Minister (2005-9)

Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea



Secretariat:

Secretary: Bernard Baerends
Common Wadden Sea Secretariat,
Virchowstrasse 1, 26382 Wilhelmshaven, Germany
Tel : +49 4421 91080 web: www.waddensea-secretariat.org
fax: +49 4421 9108 30 info@waddensea-secretariat.org

Depositary: Germany

Species: Common (or Harbour) Seal (*Phoca vitulina vitulina*)

Range States and Parties: Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands

Key Dates: Signed by all three Parties on 16 October 1990, the Agreement entered into force on 1 October 1991

Threats: Disease – there were severe outbreaks in 1988 and 2002 of phocine distemper, the first of which claimed the lives of 18,000 seals in Northern Europe alone with the second claiming over 20,000 in the North Sea (51 per cent of the estimated population); disturbance through human activities and marine pollution are among the other main concerns.

Actions: The Agreement has adopted a Work Plan which covers the Wadden Sea stock of the Common seal (*Phoca vitulina vitulina*) and is also extended to cover the two breeding stocks of the Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) in the Wadden Sea, the latter not covered by the Wadden Sea Seal Agreement. The overall aim is to restore and maintain viable stocks and a natural reproduction capacity, including improved survival rates among juvenile Common and Grey seals.

The Plan specifies the actions in the following areas: conservation and management measures regarding habitats, pollution and wardening, research and monitoring, taking and exemptions of taking, and public information.

World Heritage Site: in 2009 the German and Dutch parts of the Wadden Sea (representing 66 per cent of the total area) were declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (the Danish sector was added later). The complex mosaic of habitats includes tidal channels, sandbanks, sea grass meadows, mudflats. Marshes, mussel beds, dunes and estuaries. As well as providing habitat for marine mammals such as the Harbour and Grey Seal and Harbour Porpoises, the Wadden Sea provides breeding and wintering grounds for millions of birds.

Key facts:

The trilateral conservation area covered by the Agreement includes:

- in the Netherlands, the areas under Key Planning Decision Wadden Sea.
- in Germany, the Wadden Sea national parks and the protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act seaward of the main dike and the brackish water limit including the Dollard.
- in Denmark, the Wildlife and Nature Reserve Wadden Sea.



Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats

ACCORD CMS GORILLA



CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Depositary: CMS Secretariat

Species: All species and sub-species of the genus Gorilla. At the time of the Agreement's negotiation, the following sub-species were recognized: *Gorilla beringei beringei* (the mountain gorilla); *Gorilla beringei graueri* (the eastern lowland gorilla); *Gorilla gorilla gorilla* (the western lowland gorilla); and *Gorilla gorilla diehli* (the Cross River gorilla).

Range States: Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.

Parties: Central African Republic, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda (as at October 2014).

Key Dates: The text of the Agreement negotiated in Paris was finalized on 26 October 2007 at a meeting attended by nine of the ten Range States. It entered into force on 1 June 2008 after ratification by three Range States. The First Meeting of the Parties took place in November 2008 in Rome just before the CMS

Conference. CMS declared 2009 to be "The Year of the Gorilla" during which an International Symposium was held at Frankfurt Zoo - see the separate sheet on YOG. The Second MOP took place in November 2011 in Norway immediately after the CMS COP10. The Technical Committee met for the first time in March 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Threats: Commercial bushmeat hunting and for the exotic pet trade, disease such as the deadly Ebola virus, habitat loss and fragmentation, civil unrest and war.

Actions: The Agreement aims to conserve and restore the highly threatened Gorilla populations in Central and West Africa through an Action Plan covering education, research and forest protection. The Gorilla Agreement is underpinned by cooperation between the CMS Secretariat and the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership (GRASP), over 30 governments, UN agencies and numerous voluntary bodies. Action Plans have been elaborated by the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (IRSNB) for each of the four sub-species, focusing on the conservation work necessary in each of the Range States and identifying priority actions.

Further information is available from the IRSNB website dedicated to gorillas: www.naturalsciences.be/projects/gorilla



Key facts:

- Gorillas eat some 200 types of leaves, tubers, flowers, fruit, fungus and some insects. Favourite foods include bamboo, thistles and wild celery.
- Recent reports suggest that the Ebola virus is one likely cause of the recent disappearance of at least half the gorillas estimated formerly to live in west-central Africa.
- Between gorillas, chimps and humans, it is now clear that humans and chimpanzees are the most similar of the three for the majority of their genomes.

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*)



Slender-billed Curlew © C H Gomersall/RSPB

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Range States: Albania+, Algeria, Armenia*, Austria, Azerbaijan*, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria+, Croatia+, Cyprus+, Egypt+, European Union, France*, Georgia+, Greece+, Hungary+, Iran (Islamic Republic of)+, Iraq, Israel*, Italy+, Jordan, Kazakhstan+, Kuwait*, Lebanon*, Libya*, Malta, Montenegro*, Morocco+, North Macedonia*, Oman+, Republic of Moldova*, Romania+, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia*, Serbia*, Slovenia*, Spain+, Syrian Arab Republic*, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine+, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan+ and Yemen+ (* = unconfirmed or irregular passage States; + = MOU Signatories) as at 1 January 2007.

Key Dates: The MOU entered into effect on 10 September 1994 when the first Range States signed it.

Actions: The Action Plan for the Conservation of the Slender-billed Curlew, was prepared by BirdLife International (Council of Europe, 1996), approved by the European Commission and endorsed by the Fifth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties. It is the main tool for conservation activities for this extremely uncommon bird. Conservation priorities include: effective legal protection for the Slender-billed Curlew and species of similar appearance with which it is readily confused;

passagesites; the appropriate protection and management of its habitat, and awareness-raising amongst politicians, decision-makers and hunters.

In 1996, the CMS Secretariat distributed a status report on this species. A Slender-billed Curlew Working Group has been created under the auspices of CMS to facilitate cooperation and collaboration among scientific experts and decision-makers. The group met in February 2009 to determine a work plan, which included the first comprehensive survey of the bird's non-breeding range. The Working Group reports to the CMS Scientific Council. BirdLife International coordinates the Group's work and CMS has provided funds to support it.

The CMS Secretariat has also encouraged support projects in several Range States, and maintains close contact with various organizations, scientific institutions and national authorities already involved, including the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (C.I.C.) and the foundation, Euronatur.

Surveys to locate breeding, stopover and wintering sites of the species have been carried out with financial support, from CMS, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, the European Union's "LIFE Programme" and other sources. Several expeditions have been made to western Siberia, Iran and Morocco. However, neither nesting sites nor wintering places were discovered.

looking its breeding grounds and key wintering and



Key facts:

- Conservation activities have already been undertaken or are under way in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- The population status of the Slender-billed Curlew is "critically endangered" with very few reported sightings in recent years.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Middle-European Populations of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)



Great Bustard © B Block, Landesumweltamt Brandenburg

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat

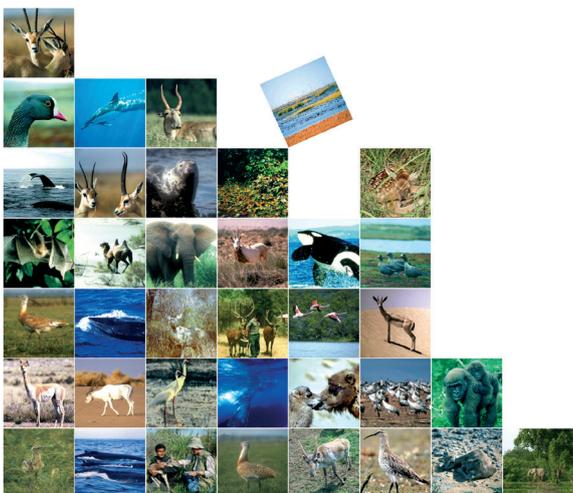
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel: +49 228 815 2401

web: www.cms.int

Background: The Great Bustard Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covers the residual Middle-European populations of the species which numbers approximately 2,000 individuals. Globally, only 47,000 great bustards remain in the wild. Modern agricultural practice has caused a rapid decline in much of Central and Eastern Europe. Without the active conservation and land management measures outlined in the MOU Action Plan, the species may disappear from many of the Range States. The remaining European population is heavily fragmented and individual populations are often extremely small, numbering less than a few hundred breeding birds. The species favours extensive agricultural areas with pastures and fallow land, which makes the species particularly vulnerable especially during breeding when the nests must be protected. Conservation measures need to focus on active habitat management and on maintaining large areas of non-intensive farming systems.

Range States: Albania*, Austria*, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria*, Croatia*, Czech Republic*, European Union, Germany*, Greece*, Hungary*, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia*, Poland, Republic of Moldova*, Romania*, the Russian Federation, Serbia*, Slovakia*, Slovenia, Ukraine* (* signatories at 1 May 2019).



Key Dates: The MOU entered into effect on 1 June 2001 after signature by the fifth Range State.

Actions: The MOU has an Action Plan listing activities appropriate for each Range State, addressing habitat protection, hunting and disturbance, cross-border conservation, monitoring, research and public awareness raising. It calls for cooperation to promote the conservation of the species and its strict protection as well as the maintenance and restoration of its habitat.

The MOU provides a framework for governments, scientists, conservation bodies and others to monitor and coordinate conservation efforts. Activities under the MOU are described in the Secretariat's Overview Report provided at periodic Meetings of Signatories, the first of which took place in Germany in 2004. Country level information is found in each national work programme and in the individual national reports.

In the last few years, grants from the European Union's LIFE programme have considerably contributed to Great Bustard protection efforts in Central Europe. Programmes are in place to protect breeding sites, provide winter feeding areas and minimize collisions with power lines. In several EU States, agri-environmental schemes financed by the European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund encourage farmers to maintain or adopt appropriate measures.

Together with the Austrian Government, CMS has worked with BirdLife International to provide an MOU coordinator. Since 2009, the Hungarian Government has been assisting the CMS Secretariat to build upon the firm foundation built with Austrian support. Among other things, the coordinators offer technical implementation advice to Range States. The Second Meeting of Signatories took place in 2008 in the Ukraine, the third was held in April 2013 in Hungary and the fourth in Germany in 2018.

Key facts:

- Listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN and on both CMS Appendices.
- Several remnant Great Bustard populations can be found outside of the Agreement area in grasslands and steppes in, inter alia, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia.
- The Great Bustard is the heaviest bird capable of flight, the males weighing up to 16 kg.

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (*Cervus elaphus yarkandensis*)



Bukhara Deer © Olga Pereladova / WWF Russia

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Background: The Bukhara Deer Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in collaboration with the Central Asia Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The species faces the threat of extinction as a result of a number of human activities. Political conflicts, artificial regulation of the water regime, habitat destruction and illegal hunting are the main reasons for the deer's alarming decline in numbers. Now only a few hundred animals remain, scattered in a few small populations in limited areas. Historically the species' area of distribution included the river valleys of Amudaria and Syrdaria and their river catchments in Central Asia.

Range States: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The MOU has also been signed by three participating organizations – CMS, WWF and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).

Key Dates: The MOU became effective on 16 May 2002.

Actions: The MOU provides a framework for governments, scientists and other groups to monitor and coordinate ongoing conservation efforts. The Action Plan is the main tool for conservation activities under the MOU. It provides for the restoration of the range and number of the Bukhara Deer in suitable habitats, the development of a transboundary network of protected areas, legal protection measures and enhanced international cooperation.

The WWF Central Asia Programme is carrying out a scheme to support all natural populations of the deer and three projects to reintroduce it in the historic habitats of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Work has also begun to restore habitats in Tigrovaja Balka, Tajikistan, with funding from the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund. Those efforts came about due to the Cervid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and Minnesota Zoo in particular.

Econet Central Asia project, a joint effort by the United Nations Environmental Programme, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and WWF aims to set up a network of protected areas. More work and funding are however still needed to develop a transboundary network of protected areas in riparian forests and to repair environmental degradation along several rivers in Central Asia.

Nonetheless, the coordinated efforts of governments and non-governmental groups to save the deer have already started to bear fruit. The populations in all range countries have stabilized, and have even begun to increase again.

Key facts:

- The global population of this rare deer is now estimated at about 950 animals up from 350-450 just a few years ago.
- The Minnesota Zoo project in the Tigrovaja Balka involves digging new water channels to restore irrigation disrupted by the building of dams and dikes which have prevented the natural periodic floods upon which the habitat depends to retain its distinctive character.



Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)



African Elephant © Douglas Hykle

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat

Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel : +49 228 815 2401

web: www.cms.int

Background: As the world's largest terrestrial mammal, the elephant has acted as a symbol of Africa. In recent years, West African populations of the species have become extremely vulnerable. An estimated 90 per cent of their range has been destroyed. This loss of habitat and illegal killing raise concerns about the future of the species. The elephants are also an important factor in savannah and forest ecosystems. Elephant habitats include both humid forest and the arid Sahel. As humans move into these areas, elephants have less space and the number of human-elephant conflicts increases. Roads and railways also split the elephant range into isolated fragments. Two-thirds of these populations have fewer than 100 elephants, a problem since the larger the group, the better the chances of long-term survival.

Signatories: All 13 Range States - Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo - have signed the MOU.

Key Dates: The MOU entered into effect on 23 November 2005, in close cooperation with the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC). The first meeting of the Signatories was held in Accra, Ghana in March 2009. The second was held in Niamey, Niger in June 2011

in conjunction with a meeting of the CITES MKE (Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme.

Actions: Concerns about the West African elephant led a number of governments and non-governmental organizations to begin sub-regional elephant conservation efforts.

The AfESG, the technical adviser to the MOU, started its work in the 1970s. The World Wide Fund for Nature and AfESG developed the Strategy for the Conservation of West African Elephants in 1999. Around the same time, CMS set out to develop a legal structure that governments and others could use to coordinate conservation efforts. The strategy forms the action-oriented basis of the MOU.

The strategy to conserve elephants and their habitats in West Africa has three main components: to learn more about the status of elephants; to maintain and increase numbers; and to improve habitats. To do this, governments and organizations need to understand and control the ivory trade, reduce the rate of habitat loss, curtail illegal killing, improve data collection and enhance cooperation and other activities.

Governments are involved in many activities to protect elephant habitat and populations. The MOU aims to facilitate further collaboration in West Africa, where many viable elephant populations span national boundaries. In March 2009, all 13 signatory States attended the MOU's first signatories meeting in Ghana and agreed on a three-year work programme for 2009-11 as well as identifying transboundary sites where they intend to carry out joint projects.



Key facts:

- Efforts are underway to provide important elephant conservation corridors between Burkina Faso and Ghana.
- A feasibility study has been launched to manage a migratory corridor between the Gourma elephant reserve in Mali and the Sahel Burkina area in Burkina Faso.
- In 2006, an action plan was developed for the Ziama-Wenegisi elephant conservation corridor between Guinea and Liberia.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and Their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia



Secretariat:

Coordinator: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: +(49) 228 815 2491 web: www.ioseaturtles.org
Fax: +(49) 228 815 2449 iosea@un.org

Background: Marine turtles face threats from unsustainable exploitation, destruction of nesting and feeding habitats and as bycatch in fishing operations. Some key nesting beaches are threatened by development. Endangered across the world, marine turtles are considered flagship species for activities aimed at protecting habitats important to other forms of marine life.

The conservation and management of marine turtles globally and within the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian region is a challenge for sustainable development objectives. Many communities still eat marine turtle meat and eggs and use the shells for traditional crafts. At the same time, marine turtles have both intrinsic and ecological value as components of marine ecosystems.

Species: six of the world's seven species are covered by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*).

Range States: The MOU potentially applies to 44 Range States and the waters of the Indian Ocean and SE Asia and ad-

acent seas, extending east to the Torres Strait. For implementation purposes, there are four sub-regions: SE Asia & Australia, N. Indian Ocean, NW Indian Ocean, and W. Indian Ocean. Thirty-five countries have signed the MOU: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Viet Nam and Yemen.

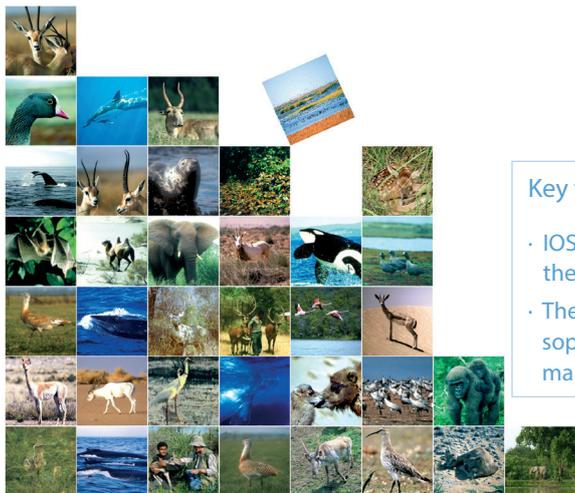
Key Dates: The MOU became effective on 1 September 2001. The Signatory States held their 1st meeting in Bangkok in 2003 and their 7th in Bonn, Germany in 2014. The Secretariat was established in April 2003.

Actions: The IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan contains 24 programmes and 100+ specific activities. It focuses on conserving and replenishing diminished populations, reducing threats, conserving critical habitat, exchanging data, increasing public awareness and participation, promoting regional cooperation, and seeking resources for implementation. Many agreements and laws aim to protect marine turtles from excessive exploitation. The success of these initiatives depends on effective implementation by a wide range of actors, i.e. governmental (at all levels), non-governmental and intergovernmental.

CMS funds some projects falling under the MOU including one to establish a database for marine turtle migration mapping to work out an integrated and collaborative conservation programme. IOSEA has pioneered on-line reporting for its Signatory States.

At their 7th meeting, the Signatories accepted the first ten sites into the newly established Network of Sites of Importance to Marine Turtles in the IOSEA region. The overarching goal of the network is to promote the long-term conservation of sites of regional and global importance to marine turtles and their habitats. The network serves as a mechanism for sites to be managed more cooperatively and synergistically, both from an ecological and administrative point of view.

Signatories are also closely cooperating with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to reduce fisheries bycatch of marine turtles, and CITES to investigate and address illegal trade in marine turtles.



Key facts:

- IOSEA successfully coordinated region-wide activities to celebrate the Year of the Turtle in 2006, with events taking place in 20 countries.
- The IOSEA webpage contains a wealth of information on turtles as well as a sophisticated and ground-breaking on-line reporting system and interactive mapping system.

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa



Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Species: Marine turtles are thought to be numerous along much of the Atlantic coast of Africa, extending some 14,000 km from Morocco to South Africa, including nesting sites, feeding areas and migration corridors of importance for six species, namely the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the Atlantic ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), the Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

Range States: Angola*, Benin*, Cabo Verde*, Cameroon*, Congo*, Cote D'Ivoire*, Democratic Republic of Congo*, Equatorial Guinea*, Gabon*, Gambia*, Ghana*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau*, Liberia*, Mauritania*, Morocco*, Namibia*, Nigeria*, Portugal (Azores, Madeira), Sao Tome and Principe*, Senegal*, Sierra Leone*, South Africa, Spain, Togo*, United Kingdom (signatories as of 1 January 2007 are marked with an asterisk *).

Key Dates: The first signatures were secured on 29 May 1999. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into effect on 1 July 1999. The conservation plan was agreed in May 2002 (see "Nairobi Declaration" below).

Actions: The Conservation Plan concentrates on establishing a database on turtle ecology (distribution, migration etc) and on threats (direct exploitation, by-catch rate, impact of coastal management, pollution). The aim of the project is to create a network to monitor nesting and feeding sites collaborating with local communities, fishermen, travel operators and coastal developers.

The "Nairobi Declaration" (May 2002) highlights the problem of by-catch in industrial fishing operations and the importance of involving local communities in the development and implementation of conservation activities. It seeks to maximize the advantages of cooperation between related conventions and NGOs, and the integration of marine turtle conservation measures within the emerging African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa.

On the more practical level of marine turtle conservation efforts, CMS has funded a project, which started in 2001 and was successfully concluded in 2003, aimed at uncovering the migratory patterns of the Green Turtle population nesting at Poilão, Guinea-Bissau.



Key facts:

- CMS funded the production of French language public awareness raising posters in conjunction with the Caribbean NGO, WIDECASST.
- Under the terms of a Memorandum of Cooperation between CMS and Senegal, an office was opened to coordinate the MOU's implementation of conservation and sustainable development activities.
- CMS has also funded a conservation manual and a project tracking turtle migration off Guinea-Bissau.

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.)



Saiga Antelope males © Pavel Sorokhin

Secretariat:

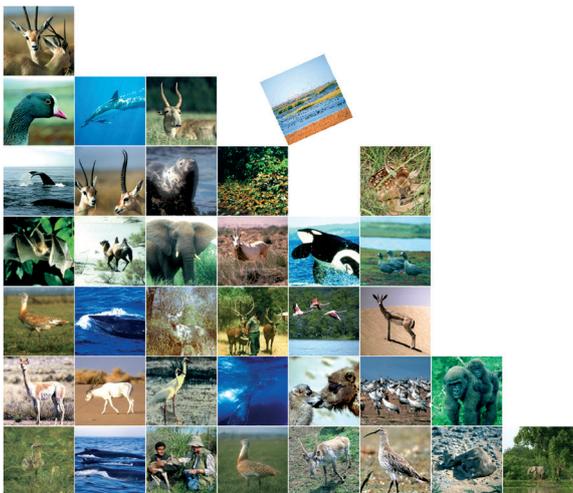
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Background: Saiga Antelopes once numbered in the millions, creating an unforgettable spectacle as they raced across the steppes and deserts of Eurasia. In recent decades, poaching and habitat loss have led to a population drop of more than 90 per cent, one of the most dramatic recent declines of any mammal.

There are five populations of Saiga Antelopes in the Range States: the Ural, Ustiurt, Betpak-Dala and north-west Precaspian and in Mongolia.

Signatories: The area covered by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) comprises five Range States, namely Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, all of which have signed. CIC, IUCN, WWF International, Fauna and Flora International, the Frankfurt Zoological Society the Wildlife Conservation Society, Saiga Conservation Alliance. And the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan have all signed as cooperating organizations.

Key Dates: The MOU entered into effect on 24 September 2006 under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).



Actions: Saiga Antelopes are legally protected throughout their range and in China. Yet disease, uncontrolled hunting and illegal trade remains the largest threat to the antelope. The Saigas' rapid decline started after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which had enforced strict control over Saiga hunting. Poverty drove local people to unsustainably hunt Saigas for their horns, meat and skins. The horns remain an extremely valuable, sought-after ingredient in traditional Asian medicine. Following May 2015's mass die-off incident in Betpak-dal, Kazakhstan, which claimed at least 150,000 animals, it is estimated that only approximately 30,000 Saigas remain in this population. Global total population size is likely to barely exceed 100,000. At its peak, there was a population of nearly two million.

The MOU includes a detailed Action Plan with three main objectives. The first aim is to restore populations to ecologically and biologically appropriate levels throughout the species' range. The second calls for restoring the range and habitats of Saiga Antelopes to optimal levels. The third goal is to enhance transboundary and international cooperation to conserve and eventually sustainably use Saigas.

The long-term commitment of the Range States to saiga conservation is starting to bear fruit. The majority of populations have stabilized, albeit at a very low level, and are even starting to increase. The Ustiurt population however continues to decline sharply. Anti-poaching enforcement needs to be further strengthened and local communities must be integrated into conservation programmes. Providing alternative livelihoods to Saiga hunting, finding substitutes for Saiga horns in traditional Asian medicine and protecting Saiga populations will be especially critical for long-term success.

Key facts:

- To coordinate communication, the newsletter Saiga News was launched in 2005. Published in English and Range State languages, it can be accessed through the Saiga Conservation Alliance's website at www.saiga-conservation.com
- One of the largest initiatives for a new protected area is the Alтын-Dala Conservation Programme in Kazakhstan. The project aims to create an integrated network of protected habitat focusing on critical sites such as calving areas.

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)



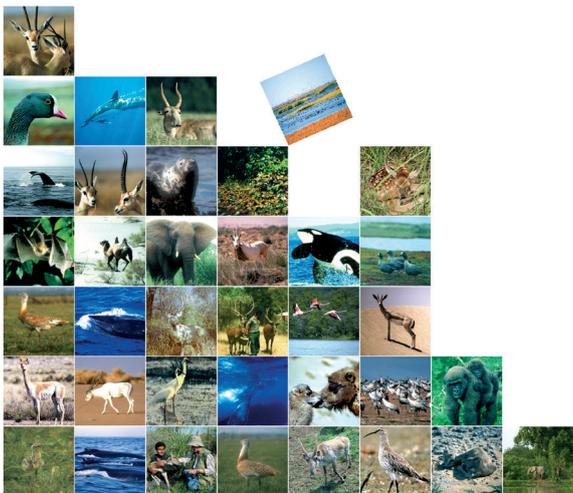
Aquatic Warbler © BirdLife Belarus

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Background: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aims to safeguard this small waterbird which is estimated to have declined sharply at a rate equivalent to 40 per cent in the last ten years. The Aquatic Warbler is a regular but rare autumn migrant travelling up to 12,000 km from Eastern Europe to sub-Saharan Africa. Over half of the world population of this species breeds and spends part of the year in the marshes and fens of Belarus. Its dependence on specialised and vulnerable habitat means it has become globally threatened, as its habitats have suffered from constant decline. This decline is mainly due to human induced changes in the hydrological regime in key sites (both drainage and flooding), changes in land use and habitat fragmentation caused by infrastructure building. The effects of pollution pose a further threat. In 1992 population estimates indicated that there were 12,000-20,000 singing males.

Signatories: The MOU covers 22 Range States in Europe and Africa, 15 of which have signed (annotated with *): Belarus*, Belgium*, Bulgaria*, France*, Germany*, Hungary*, Latvia*, Lithuania*, Luxembourg*, Mali*, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland*, Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal*, Slovakia, Spain*, Ukraine* and United Kingdom*. CMS and BirdLife International have also signed the MOU as collaborating organizations.



Key Dates: The MOU was concluded in Minsk, Belarus, under CMS auspices and became effective on 30 April 2003.

Actions: A detailed Action Plan is annexed to the MOU. It summarizes the distribution, biology and conservation status of the Aquatic Warbler, and describes precise actions to be taken by relevant countries. The main objective of the Action Plan is to maintain the Aquatic Warbler throughout its range and, in the medium to long term, promote the expansion of the breeding population to other suitable areas. Actions to be taken by the Signatory States can be summarised in four different categories: legislative measures to ensure the species conservation, species and habitat protection, monitoring and research and the establishment of a public awareness strategy.

BirdLife International has arranged for the hiring of an MOU coordinator located in Belarus and funded for three years by the Michael Otto Foundation in Germany. The coordinator will develop, initiate and coordinate national and international projects under the Action Plan to conserve the Aquatic Warbler and its habitats.

In January of 2007, a BirdLife International Team discovered a key site within the Aquatic Warbler's wintering grounds in West Africa, which were completely unknown until then. According to first estimates, the Djoudj National Park in North-West Senegal and its surroundings are believed to hold up to a third of the world population. Belarus plans to restore 720,000 hectares of drained peatlands, and thus regain a crucial habitat for the species.

Key facts:

- CMS helped to fund a research expedition by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and BirdLife International to Senegal.
- The expedition solved one of ornithology's remaining mysteries by discovering the Aquatic Warbler's wintering sites.
- Between 5,000 and 10,000 birds were found at one site in the Djoudj National Park in North-West Senegal.

Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes Concerted Action



Scimitar-horned Oryx©OlivierBorn

Background: Six antelope species native to the Sahelo-Saharan region are listed in Appendix I of the Convention. These antelopes show a distinct physiological, morphological and behavioural ability to adapt to arid environments. Therefore, they are important species for maintaining biodiversity, particularly vegetative and predator communities, in the Sahelo-Saharan region. Hunted by man and other animals for food, they have historically played a major role in the culture and livelihood of local peoples of the region. But due to excessive hunting and poaching activities and severe habitat degradation over the past few decades Sahelo-Saharan antelopes have been in rapid decline and some of those species are extinct in the wild or in danger of extinction.

Species: Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*), Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), Dama Gazelle (*Nanger dama* – formerly listed as *Gazella dama*), Slender-horned Gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*), Cuvier's Gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) and Dorcas Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*).

Range States: Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia attended the Djerba meeting in 1998 (see below).

Key Dates: In 1994 the Conference of the Parties adopted a resolution recommending the implementation of an Action Plan for the conservation of these six ungulate species. In 1998, the Action Plan for the species and their habitats drawn up by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science (IRSNB) was adopted at a meeting held in Djerba, Tunisia.

Actions: The Action Plan for the conservation and restoration of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes and their habitats comprises the three following main objectives:

1. to restore range and numbers (conserve or restore potential habitats in areas of former occurrence, consolidate or reinforce populations, reintroduce populations),
2. to reduce mortality (increase public awareness, census populations, conserve relict habitats, enact and enforce legislative measures, involve local communities),
3. to enhance international cooperation (improve exchange of information and technical expertise and raise funds for conservation actions)

The *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial* (the French World Environment Fund) financed some regional project work including conservation measures and research in seven countries (Chad, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia), with a special focus on two pilot projects in Niger and Tunisia.

Following the success of the pilot project, the European Commission has approved a full-scale, transboundary initiative between Chad and Niger focusing on the development of a new protected area around le Termit massif. This will help to conserve the only remaining wild population of the addax and will involve the participation of the nomads who use the area. The Commission has committed €1.9 million to the project.

CMS is concentrating on improving the management capabilities of government institutions, first in Niger and later in Chad, to ensure the preservation and restoration of Saharan megafauna.

The Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), a new NGO dedicated to the conservation of Saharan natural heritage, is a CMS partner, fully committed to assist in the implementation of the Action Plan.



Key facts:

- Due to over-hunting and degradation of habitat, Sahelo-Saharan antelopes have been in rapid decline for many decades. Unsustainable hunting with modern firearms and motorized vehicles devastated populations during the mid-1900s.
- Scimitar-horned Oryx are considered extinct in the wild. The last confirmed sighting was in Niger in 1988.

CMS Agreements and MOUs

Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*)



Siberian Crane © Irina Gavrilova / Oka Crane Breeding Center

Secretariat:

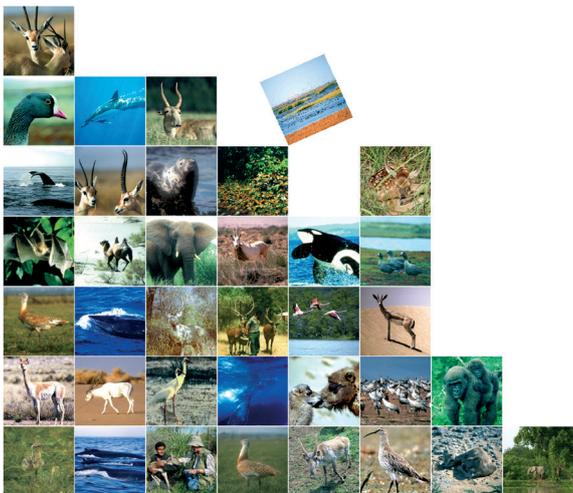
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 8152401 web: www.cms.int

Species: The Siberian Crane is one of the three rarest crane species and probably the most endangered in the wild.

Range States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. All have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Rare sightings of vagrants have been reported in Japan and Korea.

Key Dates: The MOU was concluded on 1 July 1993 and revised on 1 January 1999. A number of meetings of the signatories have taken place: Moscow (1995), Bharatpur, India (1996), Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran (1998), Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA (2001), Moscow (2004), Almaty, Kazakhstan (2007) and Bonn, Germany (2010).

Threats: The most immediate threat to the Siberian Crane is hunting along the migration routes of the Western/Central population. Although shooting Siberian Cranes is prohibited in most of the Range States, illegal hunting persists. Habitat deterioration in their staging and wintering areas is the other contributing factor in the species' decline, especially along the Eastern flyway.



Actions: The Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Siberian Cranes include several programmes and specific activities required to restore the populations. The aims of the three plans are to reduce mortality; to monitor and do research; to protect and manage important Crane habitats; and enhance cooperation in and among the Range States and other concerned agencies. The plans for the Western/Central population also strive to increase numbers and genetic diversity.

Gathering important new information about critical sites, captive breeding and recovery efforts have coordinated under the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes and Other Waterbirds launched in May 2007 in Kazakhstan.

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) is a CMS partner organization for which the Convention co-funds the post of the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator. The coordinator oversees the publication of the Siberian Crane Flyway News in Russian and English. Additionally, the coordinator offers technical advice to Range States and works on programmes to raise awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public. The coordinator is also responsible for managing the collection and dissemination of data and helps organize meetings.

Key facts:

- In 1998 the MOU was extended to cover the larger Eastern flock. This flock with 98% of the wild population breeds in Eastern Siberia and winters at Poyang Lake, China.
- The MOU has been signed by five co-operating organizations: the Convention on Migratory Species, International Crane Foundation, Wild Bird Society of Japan, Wetlands International, and the Cracid and Crane Breeding and Conservation Centre.
- A US\$10 million project under the Global Environment Fund is being implemented in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan using the Siberian Crane as a flagship species. The project started in April 2003 and finished in December 2009 (see separate sheet on the project).

Siberian Crane Wetland Project

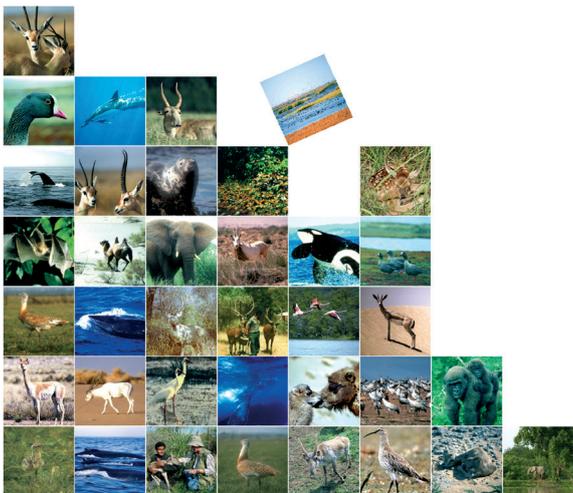


Siberian Cranes with Whooper Swans © ICF

This project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) formed one step in the long-term programme to secure the survival of the Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*). The project, "Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia" was commonly known as the Siberian Crane Wetland Project. The four Range States were the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, with the International Crane Foundation (ICF) coordinating.

Sites – China: Poyang Lake Basin (Jiangxi); Nature Reserves at Zhalong (Heilongjiang); Xianghai and Momoge (Jilin); and Keerqin (Inner Mongolia); **Iran:** Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran and Sorkhe Rud Damgahs (Mazandaran); Bujagh/Sefid Rud Delta (Gilan); **Kazakhstan** (all in Kostanay): Naurzum Lake System (including Sarykopa Lake System and Lake Kulagol); Kulykol Lake; Zharsor and Urkash Lakes; Tyuntyugur and Zhanshura Lake; **Russia:** Kytalyk Republic Resource Reserve and Middle Aldan Site Complex (Yakutia); Kunovat River Basin Wetlands (Yamal Nenetsky); Konda and Alymka Rivers Basin (Khanty-Mansisk); Tyumen and Kurgan Transboundary Area (Tyumen).

Many of these sites are nationally protected and some are Ramsar Sites. They are crucial habitat for the Siberian Crane and host other globally threatened birds, e.g. Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Oriental White Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*).



The Siberian Crane is critically endangered with 3,000-3,500 individuals in the wild, the vast majority in the eastern population. The western population, which numbered 9-14 throughout the late 1990s, declined to just one individual in the winter of 2008/9. The last pair of the central population has not been recorded at the Russian breeding grounds since 2002, but unconfirmed sightings of 10-20 birds have been reported near the breeding grounds and staging areas.

The Siberian Crane is protected throughout its range, but it depends on a limited number of specialized and vulnerable wetland habitats. Reclamation of wetlands for agriculture, urban and industrial development, oil and gas fields, and diversion of water resources are significant threats.

The project was implemented at site, national and regional levels. The involvement of local communities is important with public awareness raising, environmental education and sustainable livelihood options being undertaken alongside site management plans and improvements in legal protection.

The project concentrated on strengthening national legislation, policy planning and enforcement, cooperation and training. Internationally the project's main aim was to build capacity to coordinate flyway networks. This benefited other initiatives, e.g. the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. A database and GIS have been designed. The project has a website: www.scwp.info.

Project outcomes include:

- 5 new Ramsar Sites and one World Heritage Site
- 4 new protected areas
- 3 protected areas expanded by a combined total of over 1 million ha
- 3 protected areas upgraded
- Management plans completed for most sites
- Stakeholder committees established for most sites
- Community co-management pilot projects at selected sites
- Water management plans linked to river basin plans at 4 sites in NE China and Naurzum in Kazakhstan. Releases of water to restore wetlands at 3 sites.
- Immediate threats mitigated including removal of an oil well in West Siberia and re-routing of powerlines in Yakutia
- Ecological research provided information to support environmental impact assessment of development proposals at Poyang Lake
- Waterbird monitoring programmes established, including surveys of Siberian Crane breeding grounds, sites along the migration route in Russia, China and Kazakhstan, and wintering areas in Iran and Poyang Lake Basin
- Crane celebrations at more than 120 sites in 9 countries
- Strengthening of international cooperation for flyway conservation

The project ended in December 2009, with selected activities continuing through the CMS MOU and through continuing national and regional support.

Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region



Humpback Whale © WDCS

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: + 49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int
www.pacificcetaceans.org

Background: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covers all populations of cetaceans (whales and dolphins) in the Pacific Islands Region (area between the Tropic of Cancer and 60° South latitude and between 130° East longitude and 120° West longitude) and has twenty-two Range States and territories, many of which are Small Island Developing States. Despite restrictions on commercial hunting imposed by the International Whaling Commission, populations have not recovered to pre-whaling levels, and many species are listed in the highest risk categories of the IUCN Red Data List.

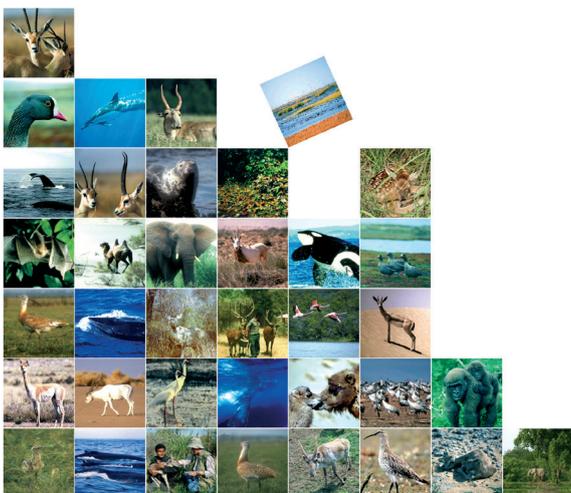
Signatories: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom (for the Pitcairn Islands) and Vanuatu (as at 30 September 2010). The MOU has also been signed by the following participating organizations: CMS Secretariat, Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Secretariat, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, WWF International, Whales Alive and the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium.

Key Dates: The MOU came into effect on 15 September 2006. The First Meeting of Signatories took place in Apia, Samoa in March 2007 and the second in July 2009 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Actions: CMS and SPREP have worked closely together over the elaboration of the MOU, and a high level of cooperation has proved possible, linking the CMS MOU process with the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan developed by SPREP.

Cetacean migration routes pass through the coastal waters of countries as well as the high seas. The MOU provides a framework for governments, scientists and others to monitor and coordinate conservation efforts. Many programmes are already underway and support implementation of the MOU. Countries are standardizing the way they report and collect data from stranded cetaceans. Studies have been undertaken to look at the interactions between cetaceans and commercial fishing. Educational programmes help connect local communities to conservation efforts, including raising awareness of the threats to marine and bird life from by ocean pollution.

Through the MOU, the Pacific Islands Region seeks to foster co-operation, build capacity and ensure coordinated region-wide conservation for cetaceans and their habitats, as well as to safeguard the cultural values cetaceans have for the people of the Pacific Islands.



Key facts:

- Several governments have reacted to the “plastic plague” by banning importation of plastic bags and strengthening solid waste control plans.
- Many of the Signatories to the MoU have small land areas but huge Exclusive Economic Zones, covering millions of square kilometres of sea.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile for the Conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*)



Ruddy-headed goose © Alejandro Balbiano

Depositary:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Range States: Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile.

Key Dates: Representatives of both Range States signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 21 November 2006 and it entered into force on the same day.

Threats: The Ruddy-headed Goose tends to congregate with other goose species which farmers consider to be pests and so the Ruddy-headed goose has been persecuted in the past, especially in the wintering grounds in the South of Buenos Aires province.

Predation by the South American grey fox (*Pseudalopex griseus*), illegal hunting and habitat degradation are also factors which have contributed to the species' dramatic decline.

Two populations of the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*), which is the smallest austral goose inhabiting South America, have been identified. The sedentary population is confined to the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas while the mainland one migrates between its breeding grounds in southern Patagonia of Chile and Argentina and its wintering quarters in southern Buenos Aires province, Argentina. It is the

latter, which is in serious danger of extinction with an estimated population size at around 900-1,000 individuals. Due to its critical status, this population is listed in the Convention's Appendices I and II. Currently its effective conservation depends on concerted actions between the two signatory states.

Actions: The two Range States have agreed to develop an Action Plan in consultation with the CMS Scientific Council of the parent Convention in respect of the migratory, continental population of the species. This population winters in Buenos Aires province and spends the summer in the far south of Patagonia and on Tierra del Fuego. The two countries are identifying the factors and processes which have had a detrimental effect on the conservation status of the species.

The MOU will serve as a means of facilitating the exchange of scientific, technical and legal information and will foster co-operation between the experts and international organizations working to implement the Action Plan.

The Parties have agreed to prepare an annual report on progress in implementing the Action Plan to be submitted to the Secretariat of CMS and to the Argentine-Chilean Environmental Commission.

Annual meetings will also be held, with each country acting as host alternately.

Key Facts:

- This MOU is the first CMS Agreement concluded which is exclusively South American.
- The MOU was concluded as part of the Special Protocol on the Conservation of Wild Fauna and Flora, signed by Argentina and Chile in 2002.



Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Eastern Atlantic Populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*)



Monk Seal © M A Cedenilla / CBD Habitat

Secretariat:

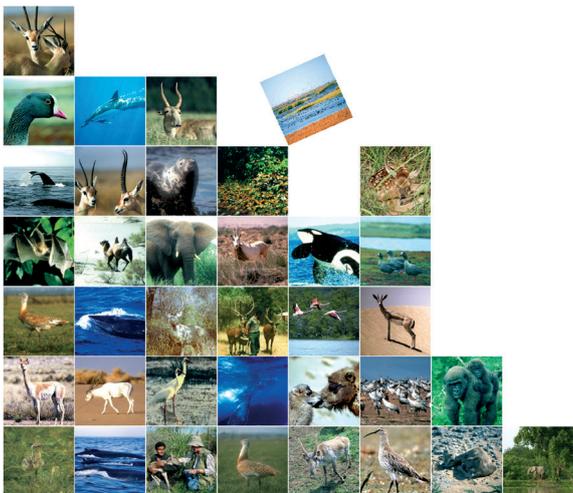
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Background: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covers the Eastern Atlantic populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal. As one of the most threatened species of migratory marine mammal, the Monk Seal is listed on both appendices of CMS. It is estimated that only 500 specimens remain in the wild. The species has disappeared from most of its historic range and only two breeding groups remain in the Eastern Atlantic — one on Madeira and the other on the Cabo Blanco peninsula. IUCN has classified the species as “critically endangered”.

Signatories: The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Portugal and the Kingdom of Spain.

Key Dates: The MOU was signed on 18 October 2007 by all four Range States in Adeje, Tenerife, Spain.

Threats: The main threats to the seals are entanglement and mortality in fishing gear, overfishing and direct persecution from humans as well as natural factors like toxic phytoplankton and the deterioration of breeding sites (such as collapsing caves roofs). The isolation of the small remaining populations — experts believe that the two colonies do not interbreed — means that the species’ survival is precariously balanced.



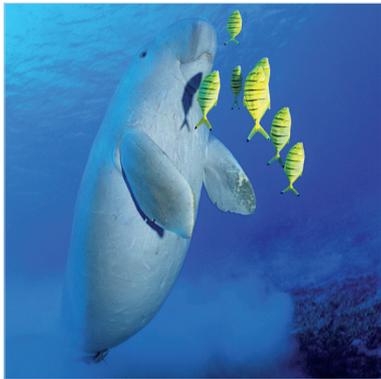
Actions: Since 1986 the different populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal have been the centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP and the marine mammal activities of CMS itself. The Barcelona Convention and CMS will continue to liaise and coordinate their activities.

The Action Plan lays down the procedures to implement coordinated actions among the signatories, providing a means to combine programmes initiated by different national, local and private organizations. The immediate priority is to arrest the decline of the population and then move to promote the species’ recovery. One major feature of the Plan is the proposal to create a network of Special Areas of Conservation for the Monk Seal (SACMS) to help restore populations.

Key Facts:

- The three species of Monk Seal are the Mediterranean, the Hawaiian and the Caribbean. The Mediterranean Monk Seal is critically endangered, the Hawaiian is endangered and the Caribbean was declared extinct in 1996.
- Once found throughout the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the North West coast of Africa, the Azores, the Canaries, Madeira and Cabo Verde, the Mediterranean Monk Seal is now restricted to a few pockets along the African coast, the Canaries and Madeira and in the Eastern Mediterranean around Greece and Western Turkey.
- In 2009 a pup was born on an open beach – the first time such an event had been recorded since the 15th Century.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) and Their Habitats throughout Their Range



Dugong © Dr Armin Trutnau / Still Pictures

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

P.O. Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

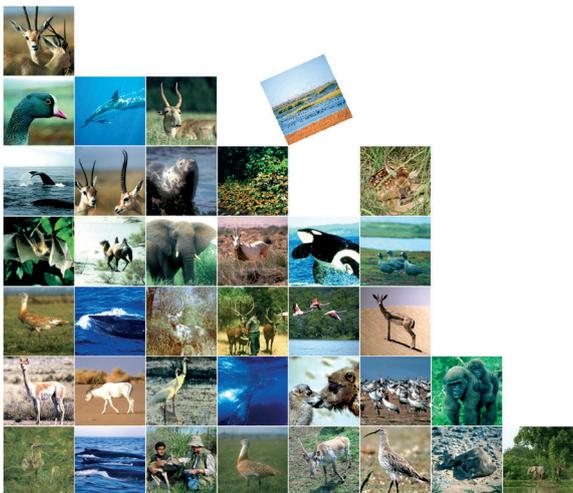
Tel: +971 2 6934437 /541 web: www.cms.int

Fax: +971 2 446 4793/3339 CmsOffice.ae@cms.int

Background: The Dugong is one of two remaining members of the Sirenian family, along with three species of manatee. Unlike the manatees which also frequent fresh water, the Dugong is confined to marine habitats, but like the manatees it is strictly herbivorous.

Dugongs are particularly vulnerable to man-made influences, and due to their life-cycle (they are late and slow breeders), their extensive range and their distribution along rapidly changing coastal habitats. The seagrass pastures where they graze are threatened by eutrophication caused by agricultural and industrial run-off. Dugongs are also hunted for their meat and blubber and they are frequently struck by motorised vessels leading to injury or death.

The scattered nature of the different Dugong populations means that the species is threatened with local extinction in many parts of its range. Overall, the IUCN classifies the species as “vulnerable”.



Signatories: Australia, Eritrea, France, Madagascar, Myanmar, United Arab Emirates, and United Republic of Tanzania. (all 31.10.2007) India (28.05.2008), Comoros, Kenya, the Philippines (19.08.2008); Solomon Islands (09.09.2010) Papua New Guinea, (10.09.2010); Bahrain, Yemen (03.10.2010), Palau, Seychelles, Vanuatu (04.10.2010); Mozambique (18.04.2011), Thailand (30.06.2011), Sri Lanka (31.01.2012); Bangladesh, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan (all 19.02.2013); Saudi Arabia (03.03.2013); Timor Leste (10.09.2018)

Key Dates: The MOU was signed in Abu Dhabi on 31 October 2007 which is also the date on which it came into effect. The initiative to develop the instrument was initially led by the Governments of Australia and Thailand, in close cooperation with the CMS Secretariat. The draft MOU was developed at two intergovernmental meetings held in Bangkok in August 2005 and May 2006. CMS and the United Arab Emirates jointly organised the signatory meeting in Abu Dhabi in 2007. The meeting was preceded by two workshops which assessed the species' status and progress made in its protection throughout its range. All meetings were attended by representatives of countries across the species' range which extends from the coast of East Africa to the Western Pacific Ocean.

Actions: The Agreement is designed to facilitate national level and transboundary actions to conserve Dugong populations and their habitats. The Conservation and Management Plan lists nine objectives and contains examples of specific activities to protect the species.

Protecting the vulnerable coastal habitats which support the sea grass pasture on which the Dugongs feed will be an important element of concerted actions. Dugongs are normally found in wide, shallow, protected areas such as bays, mangrove channels and the lee sides of large inshore islands.

Key Facts:

- The Dugong's closest relative, Steller's sea cow, was hunted to extinction in the 18th century.
- Australia hosts the largest populations of Dugong, but they are also found in smaller numbers across the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.

Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia



Globicephala Pilot whale © Heidrun Frisch

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Depositary: UNEP/CMS Secretariat

Species: the West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) and all populations of small cetaceans including the endemic Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*). About thirty species are thought to occur in this little-studied region.

Range States and Signatories: There are 29 Range States, 17 of which had signed the MOU: Angola*, Benin*, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde*, Cameroon, Chad*, Congo*, Cote d'Ivoire*, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea*, Gabon*, Gambia, Ghana*, Guinea*, Guinea-Bissau*, Liberia*, Mali*, Mauritania*, Morocco, Namibia, Niger*, Nigeria, Portugal (Madeira and Azores)*, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain (Canary Islands), Togo* (the signatories are annotated with *).

Parties: Signed on 3 October 2008 by 15 States: Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo; by

Portugal on 5 December 2008, and by Guinea on 8 December 2008. Wetlands International Africa, Wildlife Trust, the Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, CMS Secretariat, Whale and Dolphin Conservation and WWF have signed as cooperating organizations.

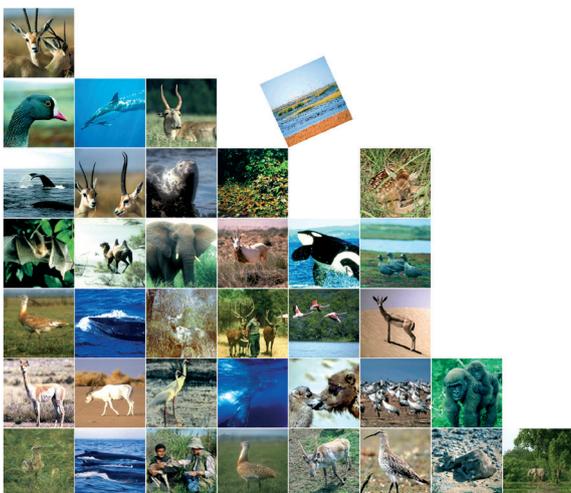
Key Dates: In May 2000 a workshop on "Conservation and Management of small cetaceans of the coast of Africa" was held in Conakry, Guinea. In October 2007, a negotiation meeting was held in Tenerife. The negotiation of the MOU was concluded in Lomé, Togo in October 2008.

Threats: Threats include habitat degradation, by-catch, direct hunting, over-fishing and pollution.

Actions: Two Action Plans, one for small cetaceans and one for the West African Manatee form part of the MOU.

The Action Plan for small cetaceans contains eight thematic sections: National, Regional and International Collaboration and Cooperation; Legislation and Policy; Ecosystem/Habitat Protection; Threat Reduction; Research and Monitoring; Capacity Building; Education and Awareness; and Tourism Based on Small Cetaceans.

The Action Plan for the African manatee, the least intensively studied of the Sirenians, aims to improve legislation for manatee protection, improve applied research, reduce pressures and promote a wide appreciation of the animals and their ecological and cultural value through communication and education.



Key Facts:

- The West African Manatee is a large aquatic mammal found in coastal and inland wetlands between Mauritania and Angola and as far inland as Mali, Niger and Chad.
- Small cetaceans are defined as all species of toothed whales (Odontoceti) with the exception of the Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*).
- Over one third of the world's known species of small cetaceans are found in the African Eastern Atlantic Basin and Macaronesia.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia



Ospreys (*Pandion heliaetus*) with a huge nest © Shah Jahan/Wikipedia

Secretariat:

Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU
Convention on Migratory Species Office - Abu Dhabi
United Nations Environment Programme
c/o Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
P.O. Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Tel : +971 2 6934437 /541 web: www.cms.int/raptors
Fax: +971 2 4997252 CmsOffice.ae@cms.int

Depositary:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat

Species: Migratory populations of Falconiformes (falcons, kestrels, eagles, hawks and vultures) and Strigiformes species (owls) occurring in Africa and Eurasia

Range States: The whole of Europe and Africa, plus central and southern Asia, including India, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China – a total of 131 States and territories.

Signatories: Signed initially on 22 October 2008 by 28 States, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has seen its membership grow to 59 countries: Angola, Armenia, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Kenya,



Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Yemen. CMS, BirdLife International and the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey have also signed the MOU as collaborating partners.

Key Dates: The first meeting to elaborate an option for international cooperation on African-Eurasian raptors under the Convention on Migratory Species was held in Loch Lomond, Scotland, United Kingdom in October 2007. The second meeting took place in October 2008 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, where the negotiation of the MOU was successfully concluded. The First Signatory State Meeting took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE in December 2012 and the second was held in Trondheim, Norway in October 2015.

Threats: A variety of human-induced threats are causing problems such as habitat loss and degradation, illegal shooting and poisoning, poaching, collisions with aerial structures and electrocution by power lines. Climate change will add to these problems.

Actions: The general aim is to ensure that all populations of African-Eurasian migratory birds of prey (including owls) are maintained at, or returned to, a favourable conservation status within the meaning of Article 1(c) of the Convention. The Action Plan aims to halt and reverse the population declines of globally threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) and Near Threatened birds of prey and alleviate threats to them so that they are no longer Globally Threatened or Near Threatened. It will aim to halt and reverse the population declines of other birds of prey with an unfavourable conservation status within Africa and Eurasia and alleviate threats in order to return their conservation status to favourable. Finally, it aims to anticipate, reduce and avoid potential and new threats to all bird of prey species, especially to prevent any populations undergoing long-term decline.

Key Facts:

- The initiative to conclude this MOU followed on from decisions by the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls (Budapest 2003) and the Conference of the Parties to Convention on Migratory Species (Nairobi 2005) calling for action to tackle the threats faced by these birds
- The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the UAE, funds and hosts the Coordinating Unit of the MOU, within CMS Office - Abu Dhabi. This Office also administers the CMS Dugong MOUs.

RAPTORS – Species List



FALCONIFORMES Pandionidae

© Sameh Odeh

Pandion haliaetus » Osprey

Accipitridae

Chelictinia riocourii » Scissor-tailed Kite
Pernis apivorus » European Honey-buzzard
Pernis ptilorhynchus » Oriental Honey-buzzard
Aviceda cuculoides » African Cuckoo-hawk
Aviceda jerdoni » Jerdon's Baza
Aviceda leuphotes » Black Baza
Gypaetus barbatus » Bearded Vulture
Neophron percnopterus » Egyptian Vulture
Circaetus gallicus » Short-toed Snake-eagle
Circaetus pectoralis » Black-chested Snake-eagle
Circaetus beaudouini » Beaudouin's Snake-eagle
Circaetus cinereus » Brown Snake-eagle
Sarcogyps calvus » Red-headed Vulture
Trigonoceps occipitalis » White-headed Vulture
Necrosyrtes monachus » Egyptian Vulture
Gyps himalayensis » Himalayan Griffon
Gyps bengalensis » White-rumped Vulture
Gyps africanus » White-backed Vulture
Gyps indicus » Indian Vulture
Gyps tenuirostris » Slender-billed Vulture
Gyps coprotheres » Cape Vulture
Gyps rueppelli » Rüppell's Vulture
Gyps fulvus » Griffon Vulture
Aegyptius monachus » Cinereous Vulture
Torgos tracheliotos » Lappet-faced Vulture
Nisaetus nipalensis » Mountain Hawk-eagle
Clanga pomarina » Lesser Spotted Eagle
Clanga clanga » Greater Spotted Eagle
Aquila rapax » Tawny Eagle
Aquila nipalensis » Steppe Eagle
Aquila adalberti » Spanish Imperial Eagle
Aquila heliaca » Eastern Imperial Eagle
Aquila chrysaetos » Golden Eagle
Hieraetus wahlbergi » Wahlberg's Eagle
Hieraetus pennatus » Booted Eagle
Hieraetus ayresii » Ayres's Hawk-eagle



Circus aeruginosus » Western Marsh-harrier
Circus spilonotus » Eastern Marsh-harrier
Circus maurus » Black Harrier
Circus cyaneus » Hen Harrier
Circus macrourus » Pallid Harrier
Circus melanoleucos » Pied Harrier
Circus pygargus » Montagu's Harrier
Accipiter badius » Shikra
Accipiter brevipes » Levant Sparrowhawk
Accipiter soloensis » Chinese Sparrowhawk
Accipiter gularis » Japanese Sparrowhawk
Accipiter virgatus » Besra
Accipiter ovampensis » Ovambo Sparrowhawk
Accipiter nisus » Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Accipiter gentilis » Northern Goshawk
Milvus milvus » Red Kite
Haliaeetus leucoryphus » Pallas's Fish-eagle
Haliaeetus albicilla » White-tailed Sea-eagle
Haliaeetus pelagicus » Steller's Sea-eagle
Milvus milvus » Red Kite
Milvus migrans » Black Kite
Butastur rufipennis » Grasshopper Buzzard
Butastur indicus » Grey-faced Buzzard
Buteo lagopus » Rough-legged Buzzard
Buteo auguralis » Red-necked Buzzard
Buteo buteo » Eurasian Buzzard
Buteo japonicus » Japanese Buzzard
Buteo trizonatus » Forest Buzzard
Buteo rufinus » Long-legged Buzzard
Buteo hemilasius » Upland Buzzard

Falconidae

Falco naumanni » Lesser Kestrel
Falco tinnunculus » Common Kestrel
Falco alopex » Fox Kestrel
Falco vespertinus » Red-footed Falcon
Falco amurensis » Amur Falcon
Falco eleonora » Eleonora's Falcon
Falco concolor » Sooty Falcon
Falco columbarius » Merlin
Falco subbuteo » Eurasian Hobby
Falco cuvierii » African Hobby
Falco severus » Oriental Hobby
Falco biarmicus » Lanner Falcon
Falco cherrug » Saker Falcon
Falco rusticolus » Gyrfalcon
Falco peregrinus » Peregrine Falcon

STRIGIFORMES

Strigidae

Ninox scutulata » Brown Boobook
Surnia ulula » Northern Hawk-owl
Aegolius funereus » Boreal Owl
Otus scops » Eurasian Scops-owl
Otus brucei » Pallid Scops-owl
Otus sunia » Oriental Scops-owl
Strix uralensis » Ural Owl
Strix nebulosa » Great Grey Owl
Asio otus » Northern Long-eared Owl
Asio flammeus » Short-eared Owl
Asio capensis » Marsh Owl
Bubo scandiacus » Snowy Owl

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and Their Habitats



Flamingo habitat at Lago Titicaca (Bolivia) © Francisco Rilla

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

Depositary:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat

Species: *Phoenicoparrus andinus* and *Phoenicoparrus jamesi*

Range States: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Signatories: 4 December 2008: Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Key Dates: The MOU entered into effect on 4 December 2008 when three of the Range States signed at a ceremony held during the CMS COP9. The first meeting of the Signatories took place in Cuzco, Peru in April 2016.

Threats: According to IUCN, the global conservation status of *Phoenicoparrus andinus* is "Vulnerable" and that of *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* is "Near Threatened". Both are listed on Appendix I of the Convention. Drastic reduction and fragmentation of their habitats have led to the delicate state of conservation of these species. Agriculture, mining and unregulated tourism have been the main reasons for the drop in the populations of these birds.

Actions: The Signatories, supported by the CMS Secretariat, will prepare an Action Plan to protect the species and their habitats. This Plan is intended to guide the conservation actions undertaken by the signatories. It will include measures to promote co-ordination of the requisite actions; international cooperation; improving the knowledge and understanding of these species; management; research; awareness-raising; and the exchange of information among the Signatory States.

The flamingos' habitat is found in the Central Dry Puna of the Andes – an ecosystem noted for high plateaus and cliffs and considered absolutely unique in the world. Its altitude ranges between 2,300 and 4,800 metres above sea level (with the exception of Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina at only 66 metres above sea level). It is populated by biota well adapted to high elevations and climatic extremes. The High Andean wetlands are mostly saline in nature. They are home to several endemic and migratory, as well as nomadic, bird species and other wildlife dependent on these wetlands – including llamas, alpacas, vicuñas and guanacos and birds such as the condor, the Andean Goose and the Puna Teal.

The Andean Puna is dry and cold and has a limited capacity to support agriculture and classical cattle ranching, and therefore it can only sustain relatively low numbers of people.



Key Facts:

- High Andean flamingos undertake migrations between the wetlands of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru to forage, and depend on the conservation of these habitats.
- These wetlands are fragile and highly vulnerable to human activities.
- This is one of four exclusively South American instruments concluded under CMS, the others being the MOUs on Grasslands Birds, the Huemul and the Ruddy-headed Goose

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks



Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) © Jürgen Freund

Secretariat:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel : +49 228 815 2401 web: www.cms.int

CMS will provide Secretariat services until such time as the Meeting of the Signatories makes permanent arrangements.

Background: CMS Recommendation 8.16, and Resolutions 8.5 and 9.2 called for the development of a global migratory shark agreement under CMS.

The exploratory meeting, held in the Seychelles in 2007, considered that an international instrument developed under CMS would add value to current global shark conservation and management efforts. The meeting focused on the key elements of a shark conservation agreement: geographic scope, fundamental principles, species covered, conservation and management measures, cooperation with other bodies, and institutional structure and funding. The second meeting in Rome reached consensus that the instrument should be a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The third meeting in Manila agreed the text of the MOU and in its technical session made progress towards drafting the associated Conservation Plan to be finally adopted at the First Meeting of the Signatories.

Signatories: Eleven countries signed on 12 February 2010 and membership has since grown to 49: Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte

d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vanuatu and Yemen.

Species covered: Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*); Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*); Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*); Shortfin Mako Shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*); Longfin Mako Shark (*Isurus paucus*); Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and Northern hemisphere populations of the Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*). All seven of these species are also included on the Appendices of CMS. The list of species can be modified by consensus decision at each Meeting of the Signatories. For the purpose of the MOU, sharks include all species in the class Chondrichthyes, which cover sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras.

Key Dates: Entry into force ("commencement") 1 March 2010
1st Negotiation meeting, Mahé, Seychelles, 11-13 December 2007
2nd Negotiation meeting, Rome, Italy, 6-8 December 2008
3rd Negotiation meeting, Manila, Philippines, 8-12 February 2010 (including a Technical Meeting 8-9 February). The First Meeting of Signatories took place in Bonn in 2012 and the Second took place in San José, Costa Rica in 2016. The third took place in December 2018 in Monaco.

Actions: The meetings in Manila at which the MOU was concluded were unable to complete the draft of the Conservation Plan and it was agreed that under the leadership of the USA negotiations would continue in the expectation that a near final draft could be presented for adoption at the first Meeting of the Signatories. The draft Plan covers subjects including: research, monitoring and information exchange; reduction of direct and incidental causes of mortality; improving science-based management of ecological factors; increasing public awareness; enhancing national, regional and international cooperation; promotion of the Plan and the MOU.



Key facts:

- The earliest sharks date from over 400 million years ago and therefore were on Earth before the dinosaurs
- There are over 400 species of shark, which range in size from just 17 cm (the Dwarf Lantern Shark) to the world's largest fish, the Whale Shark, which measures up to 12 metres long.
- Several shark species are "apex predators" meaning that they are at the top of the food chain, where they have a crucial role in maintaining the health of ecosystems.

MOU between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile concerning the Conservation of the South Andean Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*)



Huemuls © Hernán Pastore

Depositary:

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel : +49 228 815 2401

web: www.cms.int

Background: Once common over much of south-western South America, Huemul (or the South Andean Deer) has seen its range much reduced, partly as a result of human activities and partly through competition from invasive alien species, such as the larger Red Deer. Predation by cougars, the Huemul's only natural enemy, remains a major cause of mortality. In 2005 population estimates for Argentina were under 1,000 individuals.

The Huemul's favoured habitats are rocky cliffs and scrublands, often on the edge of the glacial belt. They are herbivores and their diet features plants of the *Gunnera* genus and leaves of the Lenga Beech.

Signatories: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile under the two countries' bilateral protocol on the conservation of wild fauna and flora of 2002 and the Environment Treaty of 1991. The CMS Secretariat serves as depositary.

Key Dates: The MOU was signed and entered into force on 4 December 2010.

Actions: The purpose of the MOU is to formalize and to support actions being made by both countries, at both the national and bi-national levels, aimed at conservation and management of the Huemul, one of two species of deer that live exclusively in the native forest region of Andean-Patagonian Argentina and Chile.

In Argentina, the National Congress declared the Huemul a Natural Monument, the highest category of legal protection that can be given to a species and in Chile it is considered endangered. The IUCN also listed the species as endangered in 1996 because of the decline in numbers and the contraction of its range.

The Huemul is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and on Appendix I of CMS, because it regularly crosses the Argentine-Chilean border. These listings have led to the implementation of bi-national efforts to conserve the species, including a series of meetings which started in 1992.

Article III of the MOU requires the Parties to develop an Action Plan within one year of the instrument coming into force. The Parties will prepare annual reports on activities and hold annual meetings.

Key facts:

- Along with the Condor, the Huemul is the national animal of Chile and it is recognized as a "natural monument" in Argentina.
- The Huemul's close relative, the Taruca (*Hippocamelus antisensis*), is found in Peru and Bolivia.

