

Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Biodiversity Liaison Group

Eight global conventions and treaties focus on biodiversity: CBD, CMS, CITES, Ramsar, WHC, ITPGRFA, IPPC and the IWC are members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions (BLG), a global partnership for biodiversity, the aims of which are to enhance cooperation among the Secretariats of its members, in particular regarding the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

All eight Conventions have evolved a range of methods (be they site, species and/or ecosystem-based) and operations such as work programmes, certification and licensing, regional agreements, site listings and financial instruments. While each Convention is independent and answerable to its own Parties, the issues addressed overlap, and these links provide a basis for co-operation for both monitoring and implementation.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992 (413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9)

The objectives of CBD are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from commercial and other utilization of genetic resources.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 1975 (International Environment House, Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland)

CITES aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the species' survival. Through its three appendices, the Convention accords protection to more than 30,000 plant and animal species.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) 1979 (UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany)

CMS aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. Parties to CMS provide strict protection for the most endangered migratory species, by concluding

regional multilateral agreements for the conservation and management of specific species or categories of species, and by undertaking cooperative research and conservation activities.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 (Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland)

The Ramsar Convention provides the framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use.

The World Heritage Convention (WHC) 1972 (7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France)

The primary mission of WHC is to identify and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage, by drawing up a list of sites the value of which should be preserved for all humanity and to ensure these sites protection through co-operation.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) 2001 (Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1, 00100 Rome, Italy)

The Treaty was approved by the Food and Agriculture Conference in November 2001. It is vital in ensuring the continued availability of the plant genetic resources that countries will need to feed their people by conserving the genetic diversity that is essential for food and agriculture.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 1952 (Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1, 00100 Rome, Italy)

Based at the FAO in Rome, the IPPC seeks to protect farmers' crops from pest and disease outbreaks, protect the environment from biodiversity loss and protect ecosystems from the loss of viability and function caused by pest invasions.

The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (IWC) 1946 (The Red House, Station Road, Impington, Cambridge, CB24 9NP, UK)

The International Whaling Commission was set up under the Convention for the purpose of providing for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thereby making the orderly development of the whaling industry possible.

Key facts:

- CBD has 196 Parties, WHC 193, CITES 183, Ramsar 168 ITPGRFA 144, the IPPC 183 and the IWC 87 (as at 1 Feb 2018)
- CMS joined the "Century Club" at the end of 2006. Membership now exceeds 120 (as at 1 August 2015).
- CBD, CITES and CMS are administered by UNEP.
- Information about the BLG and reports of its meetings are on the CBD website <http://www.cbd.int/blg>



Partnership Agreements (1/2)



AMMPA www.ammipa.org

The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums is an association representing marine life parks, aquariums, zoos, research facilities and professional organizations dedicated to the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to their conservation in the wild through public education, scientific study and wildlife presentations.

BLI www.birdlife.org

BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organizations which strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife Partners operate in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide and collaborate on work programmes in every continent.

CIC www.cic-wildlife.org

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (or Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier in French) is a politically independent advisory body internationally active on a non-profit basis. With its scientific capacity, the CIC assists governments and environmental organizations in maintaining natural resources by sustainable use.

GBIF www.gbif.org

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility is a global network of data providers, which builds biodiversity information infrastructure and promotes the growth of biodiversity information



content on the Internet by working with partner initiatives and coordinating activities worldwide. It provides free and open access to biodiversity data. The Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark hosts GBIF.

GNF www.globalnature.org

The NGO, the Global Nature Fund was founded in early 1998 to foster the protection of water, nature and the environment as well as wildlife and biodiversity. GNF's work includes initiating and carrying out nature protection projects to preserve species, their habitats and where appropriate their migration routes. GNF also supports international conventions on species conservation.

ICF www.savingcranes.org

The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes and the wetland and grassland ecosystems on which they depend. ICF is dedicated to providing experience, knowledge, and inspiration to involve people in resolving threats to these ecosystems. It has been one of CMS's main partners in the MOU concerning conservation measures for Siberian Crane since the MOU was concluded in 1993. ICF's headquarters are located in Baraboo, Wisconsin in the USA.

IFAW www.ifaw.org

The International Fund for Animal Welfare is one of the largest animal welfare and conservation charities in the world. The work of IFAW's global team of campaigners, legal and political experts and scientists is concentrated in three areas: reducing commercial exploitation of wild animals; protecting wildlife habitats; and providing emergency relief to animals in distress.

IUCN www.iucn.org

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN or UICN in French) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network. Founded in 1948, IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IWC www.iwcoffice.org

The International Whaling Commission was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which was signed in Washington DC on 2 December 1946. The purpose of the Convention is to provide for the conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.

Partnership Agreements (2/2)



LIVING CONSERVATION

NOAA www.noaa.gov

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is an US federal agency set up under the Department of Commerce. NOAA's purpose is to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them, and to support economic vitality. NOAA dates back to 1807, when the USA's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. Since then, NOAA has evolved to become one of the leading scientific and environmental authorities internationally.

SCF www.saharacconservation.org

The Sahara Conservation Fund is an international non-governmental organization established in 2004 to conserve the wildlife of the Sahara and bordering Sahelian grasslands. SCF's vision is of a well conserved and managed Sahara, in which ecological processes function naturally, with plants and animals existing in healthy numbers across their historical range; a Sahara that benefits all its inhabitants and users and where support for its conservation comes from all stakeholders. SCF forges partnerships between people, governments, the world zoo and scientific communities, international conventions, NGOs and donor agencies.

WAZA www.waza.org

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums is the "umbrella" organization for the world zoo and aquarium community. Its members include leading zoos and aquariums, and regional and national Associations of Zoos and Aquariums, as well as zoo veterinarians or zoo educators, from all around the world. WAZA represents its members in other international bodies such as IUCN or Conferences of the Parties to Conventions, such as CITES, CBD or CMS.



WCS www.wcs.org

The Wildlife Conservation Society is a US-based NGO that endeavours to save wildlife and wild lands through careful use of science, conservation action, education and the integration of urban wildlife parks. It runs a large international conservation programme and is based at the Bronx Zoo in New York.

WDC <http://uk.whales.org/>

Whale and Dolphin Conservation is a charity dedicated to the conservation and welfare of all whales, dolphins and porpoises. Established in 1987, WDCS is staffed by over 70 people, along with many volunteers, located in its offices in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Germany, the UK and the US. It was a partner in the Year of the Dolphin campaigns in 2007 and 2008.

Wetlands International www.wetlands.org

Wetlands International is an independent, not-for-profit, global organization, supported by government and NGO membership from around the world. It works to sustain and restore wetlands and their resources for people and biodiversity. The work of Wetlands International ranges from research and community-based field projects to advocacy and engagement with governments, corporate and international policy fora and conventions. Wetlands International works through partnerships and is supported by contributions from an extensive specialist expert network and tens of thousands of volunteers.

WHMSI www.fws.gov/international/whmsi/whmsi_Eng.htm

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative seeks to contribute significantly to the conservation of the migratory species of the Western Hemisphere by strengthening communication and cooperation among nations, international conventions and civil society, and by expanding constituencies and political support. The initiative includes all migratory species, covering taxa as diverse as birds, marine turtles, marine and terrestrial mammals, fish and invertebrates.

ZSL www.zsl.org

The Zoological Society of London is a charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. ZSL scientists in the laboratory and the field, animal management teams at Regent's Park and Whipsnade Zoos and veterinarians contribute wide-ranging skills and experience to both practical conservation and to the scientific research that underpins this work.

Ambassadors and Patrons



HSH Prince Albert



Kuki Gallmann



Peter Schei



Stanley Johnson



Ian Redmond

His Serene Highness Albert Alexandre Louis Pierre Grimaldi, the Sovereign Prince of Monaco, has been the Head of State of the Mediterranean Principality since April 2005. He has carried on the family tradition with his interest in conservation, and in the marine environment in particular. He agreed to serve as Patron of the Year of the Dolphin 2007-2008 campaign organized by UNEP/CMS, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and the travel firm TUI. Monaco hosts the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.

Kuki Gallmann was the first CMS Ambassador to be appointed. She moved with her husband to Kenya in 1973 to take up farming at Ole Ari Nyiro overlooking the Great Rift Valley. Kuki's husband was killed in a road accident shortly before the birth of their daughter, Sveva. At the age of seventeen, her son Emanuele died after being bitten by a Puff Adder. Following these tragedies, Kuki learnt about land management and conservation strategies, and immersed herself and her daughter in traditional African culture. The Gallmann Memorial Foundation for development and conservation was established to commemorate her husband and son. Kuki was named as the first CMS Ambassador in April 2006.

By the age of nineteen Peter Schei was an enthusiastic bird-watcher. After studying at Oslo University, he joined the Ministry of the Environment, where he became International Negotiations Director at the Directorate for Nature Management. In the diplomatic world Peter Schei is considered one of the 'founding

fathers' of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He served as chairman of the CBD Scientific Body and worked with the IUCN on the Commission on Parks and Protected Areas, the Species Survival Commission and the Commission on Ecosystem Management. Peter Schei has also advised the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on biodiversity. He is chairman of BirdLife International and Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway.

Writer and conservationist Stanley Johnson was appointed Ambassador in 2007. He has worked at the European Commission's Environment Directorate as head of pollution control and was also environmental adviser to DG Energy. He served one term as a Member of the European Parliament. Ten of Stanley Johnson's books on environmental policy have been published along with nine novels. He is a regular contributor to UK newspapers, recently writing of his experiences in the Sahara Desert reporting on the fate of antelopes. He also coauthored the book "Survival: Saving Endangered Migratory Species".

Born in Malaysia and brought up in Yorkshire, Ian Redmond OBE is a tropical field biologist known best for his work with great apes and elephants. He is chair of the Ape Alliance, an association of 70 organizations, and is the chief consultant to GRASP, the UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Project and served as Ambassador to the CMS Year of the Gorilla campaign in 2010, during which time he toured seven of the ten Range States and conducted a lecture tour in the USA. He was appointed CMS Ambassador in May 2010.



"The Year of the Dolphin gives me the opportunity to renew my firm commitment towards protecting marine biodiversity. With this strong initiative we can make a difference to save these fascinating marine mammals from the brink of extinction."

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco

Year of the Turtle Campaign 2006



The Indian Ocean – South-East Asia (IOSEA) ‘Year of the Turtle – 2006’ aimed to unite nations and communities to celebrate marine turtles and to support their conservation. While increasing public awareness and understanding of the threats faced by marine turtles, the campaign also highlighted the work of dedicated organisations that strove to conserve these ancient creatures and the habitats on which they depend.

Coordinated by the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU Secretariat in Bangkok, the Year of the Turtle (YoT) was organized around a number of core themes: celebrating marine turtles, taking measures to ensure their long-term survival, conserving marine turtle habitats, reducing accidental capture in fishing operations, and encouraging applied research. These objectives were meant to guide the campaign activities at national and local levels throughout the year.

A wide range of exciting events and activities was organised, among them: training workshops for the fishing industry in Viet Nam, turtle beach clean-up days in Pakistan, publication of new research findings in Thailand, and the launch of limited edition postage stamps in Kenya.

With a theme of “Cooperating to Conserve Marine Turtles – our Ocean’s Ambassadors”, the campaign was designed to be a milestone in the conservation of marine turtles and their hab-

itats of this vast region. The YoT campaign began officially on 1st March 2006, and ran to the end of 2006.

The ‘IOSEA Year of the Turtle – 2006’ campaign was open to any individual, organization, government agency and non-governmental organization that wished to be involved. The IOSEA Secretariat encouraged broad involvement and welcomed active participation from all.

The IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU Secretariat and a YoT Steering Committee provided overall direction and leadership for the campaign, but the YoT activities in each country were decided upon and organised at national and local levels. Each Signatory to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU had a Focal Point who was able to assist and coordinate campaign activities in their country.

Six of the seven species of marine turtle are categorised as endangered or critically endangered, and face ever greater challenges to adapt to the rapid changes in their environment, perhaps the greatest changes in the 100 million years that they have populated the world’s oceans. Disturbance at nesting beaches through tourists and coastal development, rising sea temperatures, extreme weather, by-catch, direct hunting and pollution are all taking their toll on marine turtles. That is why a special effort was made to highlight their plight during the Year of the Turtle.



The main partners in the Year of the Turtle 2006 campaign were:

- Australia: Department of Environment and Heritage (now known as the Department of Environment and Water Resources); Agency for International Development.
- United Kingdom – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. (Defra)
- United States of America – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Department of State.

Year of the Dolphin Campaign 2007 – 8



Wild dolphins are intrinsically tied to our cultural history and awareness. Living in the world's oceans and rivers, they are a living treasure of our blue planet. However, their survival is becoming increasingly difficult. Wild dolphins need clean and quiet oceans, protected areas and people who care.

The UN Convention on Migratory Species, and its private sector partner, TUI, the German travel company, formed a partnership to launch the initiative. Together with its specialized agreements on dolphin conservation ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, UNESCO (the UN's cultural organization), and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), CMS declared 2007 to be the Year of the Dolphin. Such was the campaign's success that it was continued into 2008.

A crucial factor in achieving advances in dolphin conservation is education to create awareness of dolphin species, to inform decision makers and to involve local communities. Therefore, the Year of the Dolphin was part of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. The campaign was also a tangible contribution towards meeting targets to reduce the loss of wildlife by 2010, which all Governments have agreed through the UN.

The main activities under the campaign are: the distribution of information materials such as posters, postcards and an educational manual entitled "All About Dolphins"; public awareness

raising events conducted by NGOs, passionate individuals and government agencies all over the world as well as conservation initiatives. TUI created a collection of dolphin-related merchandise and part of the proceeds were donated to dolphin conservation projects. Over 40 official supporters were recruited, including major conservation bodies and a large number of dedicated NGOs and individuals. Various museums, hotels, nature parks and academic institutions were also actively involved. Numerous websites were launched and posters, books, booklets and postcards were published to promote the campaign. Support in cash and in kind was received from governments, including Monaco, Italy, Germany, Spain, Australia, the Maldives and Kenya, which was a particular "hot spot" for educational and other activities. The NGO NatureNet Europe established a special "Dolphin Fund", which financed public awareness initiatives, e.g. a fishing gear exchange in Kenya.

The Patron of the Year of the Dolphin was H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco. He said:

"The Year of the Dolphin gives me the opportunity to renew my firm commitment towards protecting marine biodiversity. With this strong initiative we can make a difference to save these fascinating marine mammals from the brink of extinction."

A dedicated website was established for the campaign. It contained details of conservation and public awareness projects; information about dolphins, their lifecycle, habits and the threats they face. It also featured some outstanding conservation projects.

Key facts:

- In addition to the two legally binding Agreements, ASCOBANS (North, Baltic and Irish Seas and North-East Atlantic) and ACCOBAMS (Mediterranean and Black Seas), CMS also has two Memoranda of Understanding for cetaceans – one for the Pacific Island Region and another concerning the conservation of the Manatee and small cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia.



Year of the Gorilla Campaign 2009



The **UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**, the **UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)** and the **World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)** joined forces to declare 2009 the Year of the Gorilla (YoG). The YoG was not only a global outreach and educational campaign, it also gave support to conservation action on the ground by fundraising for a selection of projects.

Some gorilla populations are the object of concerted conservation and restoration efforts. However, gorillas as a whole remain endangered and continue to face severe threats. According to the IUCN Red List (2008), all taxa are considered 'endangered' or 'critically endangered'. The Mountain Gorilla is listed on Appendix I of the Convention. Together with the other great apes, gorillas are most severely threatened by: habitat loss and fragmentation; hunting and the bushmeat trade; diseases and epidemics; mining; and the effects of armed conflicts.

CMS concluded a legally binding agreement for gorilla conservation with the range states Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda and the other members of the GRASP partnership. This agreement entered into force in June 2008 and is continuously being developed.

The **major objective of YoG** was to facilitate the implementation of this agreement. There were many facets to YoG: strategic, practical approaches to gorilla conservation were made accessible to many people; capacities of governmental and other conservation bodies were enhanced through the provision of equipment; management of gorilla habitat was improved; programmes were put in place to raise funds, create awareness among people of ecosystem services and the intrinsic value of flora and fauna; alternative income opportunities to poaching such as ecotourism, and supporting rangers and conservationists in their activities were promoted.

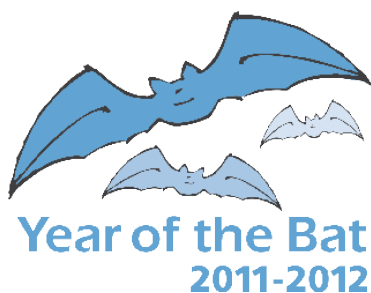
The campaign was globally supported by members of WAZA and GRASP as well as by numerous enthusiastic individuals. YoG Patron Dr Jane Goodall DBE lent her voice to the campaign and YoG Ambassadors Ian Redmond OBE and Guy Williams (for Australia) were highly active in promoting the campaign and its goals.

Under the title "Gentle Giants in need" 160 government officials, experts, corporate representatives and conservationists from 20 countries attended a major event in Frankfurt, 9-10 June 2009 to mark the Year of the Gorilla. In the "Frankfurt Declaration" they highlighted major threats to gorillas and their habitats, as well as the strategies available for the conservation of the second closest relative to humankind.



YoG Ambassador Ian Redmond said: "Fascinating though gorillas are because of their similarities to humans, we also need to focus on their key ecological role. They are important seed dispersers for a variety of plant species, making them crucial to the long-term health and integrity of their forest homes. They symbolize the fate of the Congo Basin forests, which in turn the planet and us humans depend on for climate stability. Save the gorillas and you save the world!"

Year of the Bat Campaign 2011-2012



The UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) joined together in 2011 to celebrate the Year of the Bat. The two-year long awareness-raising campaign aimed to draw attention to the world's only flying mammal by encouraging bat conservation, education and research in local communities, regionally and on a global scale.

Key Year of the Bat objectives included 1) changing public perceptions, 2) raising awareness about bats' essential role in eco-systems and their contributions to biodiversity, 3) increasing understanding about the threats faced by bats, 4) encouraging involvement in bat conservation and education, 5) supporting initiatives related to conservation, education and research and 6) promoting international cooperation on bat conservation.

The Honorary Year of the Bat Ambassadors were Dr. Merlin Tuttle (USA), Dr. Rodrigo Medellín (Mexico) and Dr. Paul Racey (UK). Dr. Tuttle, the founder of Bat Conservation International, has brought bats into the public eye through his award-winning photographs and television specials, broadcast in more than 100 countries. Dr. Medellín, the founder of the Program for the Conservation of Mexican Bats, is a Senior Professor at the Institute of Ecology, University of Mexico. Dr. Racey, founding chairman of the UK's Bat Conservation Trust, is Regius Professor of Natural History (Emeritus) at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Year of the Bat regional initiatives included a vampire bats/rabies educational outreach campaign in South America, an eco-bat box initiative in Europe and story-telling sessions at schools in Australia.



Year of the Bat partners included the IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group (BSG), Bat Conservation International, the Lubeck Bat Conservancy, Bat Conservation Trust and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). These and regional partners in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia Pacific and Africa all activated grassroots support for the campaign.

Highlights of winter 2011 were the New Year's launch at the Malaysian National Zoo Negara, a "Bat Camp" at the Bat Sanctuary of Samal Island (Philippines), the French Ministry of Sustainable Development's "La forêt racontée par..." a spectacle with film, theatre and other performances at Paris's National Museum of Natural History, the campaign launch in Alcanena, Portugal, inaugurated by the Environment Minister, and "Encontro Brasileiro para o Estudo de Quirópteros", a cross-border workshop on bat conservation and research in Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil held in Maringá, Brazil.

Educational outreach was implemented through a collaborative distance learning adventure, spearheaded by the United States Forest Service. The BatsLIVE website included teaching resources available in English and Spanish, electronic field trips, webcasts and a bat web cam. All teaching aids and information on bat conservation were made available free of charge to students, teachers and land managers.

Key facts:

Year of the Bat Ambassador Merlin Tuttle said: "Education regarding the essential roles of bats in maintaining healthy ecosystems and human economies has never been more important. Bats are found nearly everywhere and more than 1,200 species account for nearly a quarter of all mammals. Nevertheless, in recent decades their populations have declined alarmingly. Many are now endangered, though they provide invaluable services that we cannot afford to lose."

World Migratory Bird Day



The idea of celebrating migratory birds on a specially designated day is not new. Over fifteen years ago in the USA 'International Migratory Bird Day' was held as the brainchild of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. To mark its own tenth Anniversary, the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) launched 'Migratory Waterbird Days' (MWD) in partnership with its parties in Africa, Europe and Western Asia in 2005.

Building on the success of the MWD – an initiative very well received in the AEWA region - AEWA together with its parent Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), organized the first 'World Migratory Bird Day' in 2006 and since then annually every second weekend in May with the aim of achieving global coverage. Public events are arranged by national governments and agencies and NGOs as part of World Migratory Bird Day. These include bird festivals, bird watching excursions and education programmes where participants can appreciate the beauty of migrating birds and learn about their important ecological role.

Kuki Gallmann, the famous writer and conservationist and CMS's "Goodwill Ambassadors", hosted the launching event of World Migratory Bird Day on the weekend of 8-9 April 2006 at her famous wildlife reserve 'Ole Ari Nyiro' in Laikipia, Kenya. Located on the edge of Kenya's Rift Valley, the inaugural event known as "WINGS" was an exhibition of art inspired by the phenomenon of bird migration and was attended by a number of international personalities from the worlds of art, business and conservation.

The phenomenon of bird migration has long been a source of wonder. Birds have great religious, symbolic and mythical significance — in Greek Mythology the bird of Athena represented the renewal of life. In the Old Testament, the dove returning to Noah's Ark carrying an olive branch in its beak heralded the end of the Great Flood and has remained a symbol of hope and peace. For the Pharaohs of Egypt the falcon was the embodiment of royalty and in Native American culture birds are associated with the ideas of unity, liberty, community, safe return, love and life. The distinctive "V" shaped formations of migrating birds mark the hanging seasons; the return of swallows heralds the advent of spring after the winter, while the stork is associated with the birth of a child.

Many bird species have to migrate to survive – to find the right conditions to raise their young, to find food or to avoid the extremes of cold in winter and heat in summer. The journeys the birds take can be long and arduous and the birds face many threats to their survival. However, only a small number of the threats are natural — most are directly or indirectly caused by human activities. Direct hunting is one danger; loss of habitat as a result of pollution, desertification or change of land-use for agriculture, forestry or urbanization is another. High-voltage power lines and wind turbines also take their toll.

Flying over such distances means the birds cross national frontiers and different countries have different laws and means of dealing with conservation and environmental policies. Bodies such as AEWA and CMS serve to bring together governments, agencies and NGOs to work collaboratively towards achieving shared political aims. Initiatives such as WMBD with its global outreach aim to raise awareness of migratory birds in the international community — as just one example of our common natural heritage.



Key facts:

- The World Migratory Bird Day website can be found at www.worldmigratorybirdday.org
- World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated for the tenth time on 9-10 May 2015, with the theme "Energy - make it bird-friendly!". Over 200 events in 46 countries were registered.
- World Migratory Bird Day can also be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/worldmigratorybirdday.
- In 2018 for the first time, WMBD was jointly organized with the NGO, Environment for the Americas, and two days were designated for celebrating the event - the second Saturdays of May and October.

Publications

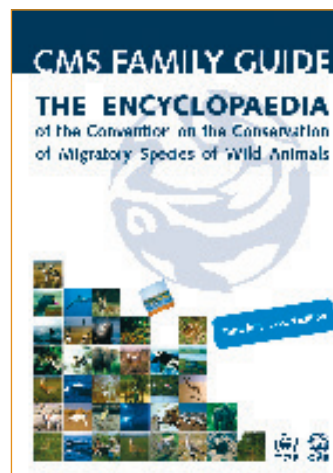


Raising public awareness of the threats faced by migratory species, the pressing need to preserve our shared natural heritage and publicizing the work and success of the Convention are among Secretariat's most important responsibilities.

The principal means of accomplishing this task is the production of information material on migratory species and the actions needed or undertaken to secure their survival. The increasing popularity of the worldwide web means that now electronic media are also extensively used to disseminate the Convention's message.

The Secretariat produces a wide variety of printed material, some aimed at a general readership and other more technical documents, more likely to be of interest to conservation practitioners or policy makers. CMS produces a "Technical Series" which is explained in greater detail on a separate sheet in this Guide.

Pictured above is the special commemorative poster published to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention's conclusion. For the 25th anniversary a brochure was produced in three languages (English, French and Spanish), explaining the history of the Convention and its achievements until then. The Secretariat has also produced a general background leaflet describing the aims and objectives of the Convention.



In response to growing challenges, CMS has produced brochures and leaflets on Avian Influenza, explaining the truth behind the spread of the disease and the minimal part played by wild birds as vectors; Climate Change and Migratory Species, highlighting the multi-faceted nature of the threats posed by this growing phenomenon on habitats, behaviour, food supplies and reproductive success; a collection of case studies examining the impacts of eco-tourism on wildlife, entitled "Wildlife Watching and Tourism"; and a booklet about bird migration – "A Bird's Eye View on Flyways".

CMS Ambassador Stanley Johnson and CMS's consultant editor Robert Vagg collaborated over the writing of a book, "Survival: Saving Endangered Migratory Animals". The book was published by Stacey International. A German version, "Wanderer der Wildnis; eine Reise zu den letzten Nomaden der Tierwelt" (Migrants of the Wilderness: a Journey to the last Nomads of the Animal World) was published by Frederking & Thaler.

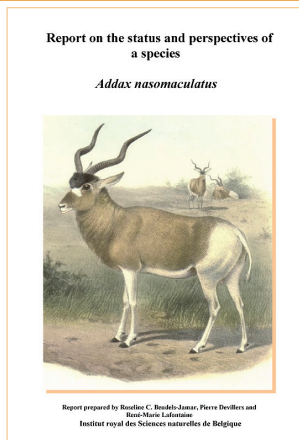
The Secretariat also commissions publications, sometimes in conjunction with other UN or environmental bodies. One such example is the "Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats" by Boris M. Culik, produced in collaboration with UNEP and the Regional Seas Programme.

The proceedings of all the sessions of the Conference of the Parties have also been printed, detailing the discussions which took place and the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the delegates.

How to obtain copies:

- Copies of all CMS publications can be ordered through the Secretariat - Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113, Bonn, Germany or secretariat@cms.int or +49 228 815 2401.
- Details of all of CMS's publications can be found in the publications section of the CMS website www.cms.int
- Some CMS publications can be downloaded from the site.

Technical Series



The CMS Technical Series is a set of publications of a scientific nature, published from time to time, normally arising from seminars, workshops and meetings of the signatory states of CMS Memoranda of Understanding. They represent a record of the information exchanged and collated as well as of any decisions taken, and can serve as a rich source of information on the latest status of scientific research on various conservation issues relating to endangered migratory species (e.g. population estimates, assessment of threats and proposals for mitigation measures).

Publications produced in the Technical Series so far are:

1. Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane
2. CMS Symposium on Migratory Species
3. Proceedings of the Seminar on the Conservation and Restoration of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes
4. Conservation Measures for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes. Action Plan and Status Reports.
5. Conservation measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa
6. Biogeography and Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa
7. Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane – 2nd Edition
8. Proceedings of the second regional seminar on the conservation and restoration of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes
9. Report of the second working group on the biology and conservation of small cetaceans and dugongs of SE Asia
10. Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane – 3rd Edition



11. Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes – Status and Perspectives
12. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)
13. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)
14. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Corncrake (*Crex crex*)
15. Review of Migratory Chondrichthyan Fishes
16. Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane – 4th Edition
17. Gorilla – Status and Perspectives
18. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*)
19. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresii*)
20. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Madagascar Pond Heron (*Ardeola idae*)
21. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Chinese Crested Tern (*Sterna bernsteini*)
22. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)
23. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*)
24. Odontocetes – Toothed Whales
25. Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane – 5th Edition
26. Conserving Cetaceans and Manatees in the Western African Region
27. Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management
28. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*
29. Electrocutation Guidelines
30. Review of the Conflict between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids in the African-Eurasian Region
31. Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* Global Action Plan (SakerGAP)
32. Report of the Third South-East Asian Marine Mammal Symposium (SEAMAM III)
33. Cetaceans of the Red Sea
34. Road Map for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*) 2017-2027
35. Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP)
38. Review of Methods Used to Reduce Risks of Cetacean By-catch and Entanglements

Key facts:

- The CMS Technical Series is a collection of CMS publications published from time to time, often as a synopsis or record of a seminar, workshop or similar such meeting.
- Editions 12-14 and 18 -20 have been published jointly with AEWA.
- Copies of the Publications are available from the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany or secretariat@cms.int

CMS Thesis Award



The **UNEP/CMS Thesis Award** on Migratory Species Conservation was launched by the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary in 2004. The award is sponsored by Lufthansa (previously co-sponsored by National Geographic Deutschland) and a prize of €10,000 is offered every three years at the Conference of Parties to CMS. The award was bestowed for the first time at the 8th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP8) in November 2005, in association with Museum Alexander Koenig and the Global Register of Migratory Species. The Secretariat of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species advertises this award to promote scientific research and conservation of migratory species, as defined by the Convention.

The **winner** should be willing to make his/her original data widely accessible through the CMS Information System and the GROMS database (except sensitive data). The Secretariat and the Museum Koenig will eventually provide support to generate appropriate data repositories and related metadata, as well as on-line and/or hardcopy publication of the winner's thesis.

For the **third competition** in 2011, 60 candidates from 25 countries submitted abstracts of their theses on subjects covering all continents. The main criteria for the jury of experts in selecting a winner were the importance of the species for the Bonn Convention as well as new data and insights into the biology of migratory species that can help to better conserve them during their migration.



The **first winner** of the UNEP/CMS Thesis Award, chosen by the jury in July 2005, was Zeb Hogan, a scientist from the United States. Carlos Rodriguez from Spain and Rodrigo Hucke-Gaete from Chile were nominated second and third laureates. Dr Hogan was later appointed by the Conference of the Parties to the CMS Scientific Council as the expert on fish species.

With his **thesis** on the critically endangered Mekong Giant Catfish (Pangasiidae) Zeb Hogan made a significant contribution to improve its conservation status under the Convention. The extraordinarily long migratory journey of the species up the Mekong River was a key discovery.

The **second winner** was Dr Samantha Petersen of South Africa for her work entitled 'Understanding and Mitigating Vulnerable By-catch in southern African Trawl and Longline Fisheries'. By-catch is a major concern to CMS as it affects a number of migratory species including albatrosses and petrels, marine turtles, sharks and cetaceans.

The **third winner** was Dr Lucy E. King for her thesis on "The interaction between the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and the African honeybee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) and its potential application as an elephant deterrent", who was awarded her prize at the 10th Conference of the Parties to CMS in Bergen, Norway in November 2011. Ms. Franziska Tanneberger with her thesis on the Aquatic Warbler, Mr. J. Grant C. Hopcraft's findings on herbivores in the Serengeti and Ms Christiane Trierweiler's research on the Montagu Harrier were recognized as laureates.

Key facts:

- The sponsors of the first two awards were National Geographic Germany and Lufthansa.
- The jury consists of a panel representing different geographic areas and taxonomic expertise.
- The UNEP/CMS Thesis Award recognizes and supports exemplary work in the field of migratory species.

Small Grants Programme



Bukhara Deer fawn © WWF Russia

Main Achievements – The Small Grants Programme (SGP) plays a significant role in promoting CMS initiatives for a number of taxa, mainly in developing countries. It has been the Convention's main tool in supporting Concerted Actions of Annex I species like the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, marine turtles of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia and along the Atlantic Coast of Africa, small cetaceans in South East Asia and in tropical West Africa, the Siberian Crane, the Ruddy-headed Goose and Andean flamingos.

The SGP has proved successful at leveraging further funding from other donors and acting as 'seed corn' money leading to more ambitious conservation initiatives. The SGP has also helped raise CMS's profile and establish the Convention's reputation as a practical international conservation instrument in the countries and regions benefiting from the funding.

The Scientific Council is entrusted with the task of identifying suitable projects and establishing a priority list of actions. Individual members of the Council are then assigned to monitor each project. At its thirteenth meeting, 19 proposals were endorsed and recommended for funding by the Council. Four of the projects

covered marine mammals, three terrestrial mammals, nine birds, two fish and one marine turtle. The geographic spread was four projects in Europe, four in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in Africa, one in Oceania and the Pacific and four in Asia, while two crossed continental boundaries.

Funding – Up until 2005 all the projects were financed through authorized withdrawals against the CMS Trust Fund's accumulated surplus. Since COP8 and for the foreseeable future however, the SGP will have to rely almost exclusively on voluntary contributions from the Parties or other donors - either donated generally or earmarked for specific projects. The maximum grant available under the SGP is usually 50 per cent of the total project costs. The Secretariat maintains and publishes a list of all projects approved by the Council still awaiting financial support.

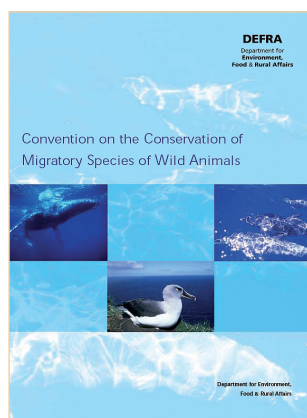
Origins – The Parties at COP5 (Geneva, 1997) resolved to draw on funds from the UN Trust Fund reserve in order to finance projects considered worthy of support by the Scientific Council. US\$ 142,000 was allocated for each year of the 1998-2000 triennium for conservation projects.

Key facts:

- The Programme started in 1997 at COP5.
- It has supported over 50 research and conservation projects.
- Over US\$ 1.4 million has been distributed (typical awards range between US\$ 20,000-US\$ 30,000).
- Past recipients have included NGOs, foundations, research institutions and universities.



National Reporting



UK National Report 2002 (COP7)

National Reports are the official documents by which countries report to the decision-making bodies of CMS on the measures they have undertaken to implement the agreed priorities. National Reports provide an official record of national implementation of each instrument over time and collectively they paint the picture of how the Convention is being implemented overall.

One of the main mandates of the Conference of the Parties (COP) is the review of the implementation of the Convention. Of particular importance are the review and assessment of the conservation status of migratory species and of progress made towards their conservation as well as the evaluation of progress made under specific Agreements. Based on the information received, reviewed and assessed, the COP is mandated to make Recommendations to the Parties for improving the conservation status of migratory species listed in Appendices I and II.

To this end, the Secretariat is requested to obtain, from any appropriate source, reports and other information, which will further the objectives and reinforce the implementation of the Convention. It should then also arrange for the appropriate dissemination of this information. The National Reporting process is a collective, collaborative and participatory exercise. This multi-agency, -sectoral and -stakeholder process should ideally involve all relevant governmental, scientific and academic insti-

tutions, non-governmental and other organizations and stakeholders at different

As part of this information gathering function, under the Convention and Agreements, Parties are requested to inform the COP, through the Secretariat, at least six months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference, on measures they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention. The National Reporting process is a key instrument to enable the COP to assess the overall status of the Convention, as it can assist with the consideration of lessons learned, formulate appropriate requests and guidance to subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat, and, most importantly, identify priorities for action.

The Online Reporting System (ORS) used by CMS was developed in 2010-2011 by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration and under the guidance of the CMS and AEWA Secretariats. ORS is a versatile web-based platform and includes a delegation function, allowing the person responsible for the reporting process in a country to assign sections or even individual questions to different contributors. Broadening the user community of the ORS can facilitate harmonization of report formats and reporting processes, where feasible, and is likely to lead to cost sharing arrangements between participating MEA Secretariats, which will help reduce the costs associated with long-term maintenance and further development of the system.

Online reporting also helps to monitor progress in achieving the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which have been endorsed by CMS Parties.

Online reporting will be designed in a way to enable exchanges of data amongst the MEA family, Parties and the wider public, while at the same time enabling contributors to retain ownership and credit for their work. Online reporting will respond to the need for more systematic reporting of information relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



Online Reporting allows:

- Improved information quality, consistency and transparency.
- Improved efficiency of information management and use for the Secretariats, Parties and the wider public.
- Reduced cost of information systems development for Secretariats (shared costs) and reporting costs for Parties.
- Improved linkages and sharing of information with international MEAs, environmental monitoring agencies, major data custodians, and regional treaties and the wider public.
- Reduced the burden on national governments.

United Nations in Bonn



UN General Secretary Annan and Chancellor Merkel © UNV

Although CMS was the first global UN institution to be established in Bonn (the Secretariat was first set up here in 1984), it is now just one of a number of UN bodies with offices in or near the UN Campus in Bonn's landmark tower "Langer Eugen".

UNV (United Nations Volunteers) – The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme promotes volunteerism as a development concept, building on a culture of unpaid assistance and by mobilizing skilled, dedicated people—onsite and on-line—to devote their time and knowledge in the pursuit of development.

UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) – UNFCCC was adopted in 1992 to help nations of the world to tackle the challenge. It aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a sustainable level. It also provides institutions to enable implementation to be monitored. UNFCCC entered into force in March 1994 and has nearly universal membership. The Secretariat is based at a newly renovated building in the UN Campus 100 metres from "Langer Eugen".

UNCCD (United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification) – the Secretariat of UNCCD has been located in Bonn since 1999. The Convention was adopted 1994 in Paris and entered into force in 1996. Since then, UNCCD has been working to ensure the promotion of sustainable development in arid ecosystems.



UNESCO-UNEVOC (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training) – The Centre serves UNESCO member states world-wide to help them develop and upgrade their systems of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and education for the world of work. The Centre was established in Bonn in September 2000.

UN/ISDR-PPEW (United Nations Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning) – PPEW is part of the UN Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). It is the newest addition to the UN organizations in Bonn, having started operations in mid 2004.

UNU-EHS (United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security) – The United Nations University (UNU), with its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1973. UNU-EHS is one of 15 research and training centres and programmes world-wide. The official opening was celebrated on 15 June 2004 in Bonn.

WHO (World Health Organization – European Centre for Environment and Health) – WHO-ECEH aims to provide reliable information and advice, and support the member states with evidence-based policies to safeguard and promote people's health and urban environmental quality, focusing on air pollution, noise and housing conditions.

RUNIC (Regional United Nations Information Centre) – RUNIC in Brussels and its German Liaison Office in Bonn serve as a contact point for the United Nations in Western Europe and Germany. They focus public attention on major United Nations operations, including in such areas as peacekeeping, development co-operation, human rights, humanitarian relief assistance, environment and sustainable development.

City of Bonn



Bonn Market Square, UN Day © CMS

There is a strong bond between CMS and the City whose name the Convention bears. The City of Bonn was not only the venue for the negotiations leading to the conclusion of the Convention but has also hosted the CMS Secretariat since its inception in 1984. Bonn was the capital of the German Federal Republic and the seat of government from 1949 until 1999. When Berlin reclaimed the role of capital following reunification, Bonn was designated "Federal City" (*Bundesstadt*) in recognition of the fact that many national ministries and agencies are still based there, and Bonn is the principal seat of UN institutions in Germany. The Convention's twentieth anniversary was marked by a reception in "La Redoute", a Baroque mansion in the district of Bad Godesberg, near the venue where the Convention was negotiated. The Convention's thirtieth anniversary was marked by a function in the City's landmark "Old Town Hall" in the Market Square. Every October, on the Saturday closest to UN Day, all the UN organizations present in Bonn set up information stands in the Market Square to distribute leaflets and explain to the public the many tasks and functions of the UN.

Bonn International School

CMS has worked closely with the Bonn International School (BIS) over a number of years. The school's international character reflects that of the UN, making it a natural partner for CMS. Secretariat staff members visited the school to explain their work and

how they try to conserve endangered species as part of World Environment Day in 2006, and the school and the Secretariat worked closely together on the production of a children's poster in the form of a double-sided wall chart. The BIS is situated close to the Rhine, just a hundred metres away from the former premises of CMS, Haus Carstanjen. The school was founded in 1997 when two American schools and the British School merged. The BIS has 400 students from over 60 countries aged between 3-19 and sixty staff of 16 nationalities and is one of 140 schools worldwide offering the international baccalaureate.

Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum

Situated a mile to the south of the city centre, the Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum (das Zoologische Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig) is a museum of natural history which opened in 1934. The museum is affiliated to the University of Bonn and owes its name to Alexander Koenig (1858-1940), the German naturalist and zoologist, whose collection of specimens forms the basis of the Museum's display. CMS and the Museum Koenig have worked together on projects such as the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) and on the CMS Thesis Award sponsored by Lufthansa. The Museum's other claim to fame is that it hosted the conference which negotiated the Federal Republic of Germany's Basic Law (constitution) in 1948.

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