



CONNECTIVITY AND THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

AN INTRODUCTION

Photo: Greater Flamingos © Sergey Dereliev, www.dereliev-photography.com

CONNECTIVITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT: IPBES GLOBAL ASSESSMENT ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019) found that while the numeric components of Aichi Target 11 were on a path to being achieved, other important aspects of the target, including the connectivity and ecological representativeness of protected areas, have made little or no progress.

Among its findings:

- protected areas coverage of species distribution remains insufficient. For example, just 9 per cent of migratory bird species are adequately covered by protected areas across all stages of their annual cycle;
- if protected area growth during 2004-2014 had strategically targeted unrepresented threatened vertebrates, it would have been feasible to protect over 30 times more threatened species for the same cost;
- the conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats are worsening;
- protected area management strategies would be more effective if they took greater consideration of connectivity, among other factors.

The assessment noted that connectivity should play a greater role in a new strategic framework for biodiversity.

Introduction

Connectivity is the key word of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) the only global legal instrument devoted to the conservation of migratory animals. While connectivity is important for a wide variety of ecological functions, it is essential for migratory species.

The CMS and its Family of Agreements have been providing the primary specialized intergovernmental framework for cooperative efforts on issues of connectivity in relation to the conservation of migratory species. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 calls for taking a *migration system approach* in conservation strategies.

The 48th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (Bonn, October 2018) endorsed the establishment of a Working Group (WG) dedicated to guide the development of the CMS Family contributions to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The WG recognized that *the conservation needs of migratory species can be best represented in the future global biodiversity framework through the concept of connectivity.*



Photo: African Elephants © Jim Zuckerman

CONNECTIVITY

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Migratory animals move across space and time. Across the globe they run, they fly, they swim, connecting countries and continents through their migration routes. They map out areas that they depend on for their survival. Migration can only be accomplished when animals are able to access the different sites and habitats that they are adapted to rely upon along their pathways.

Connectivity is essential for healthy ecosystems and resilience

- Land restoration is a key tool for improving connectivity in the landscape;
- Ecological connectivity safeguards functioning and provision of ecosystem services;
- Connectivity supports genetic diversity, which in turn increases species' and ecosystems' adaptability to changing conditions.

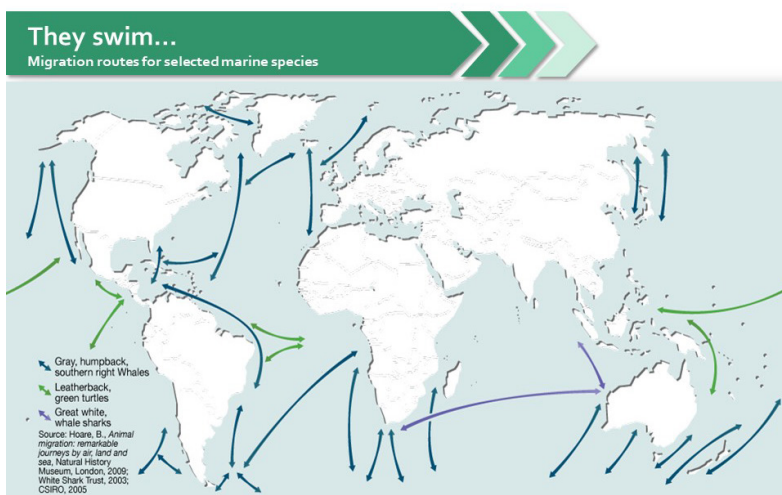
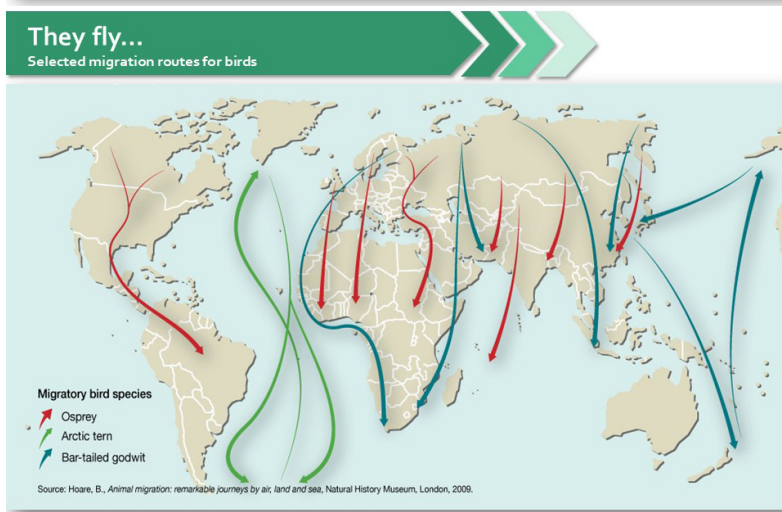
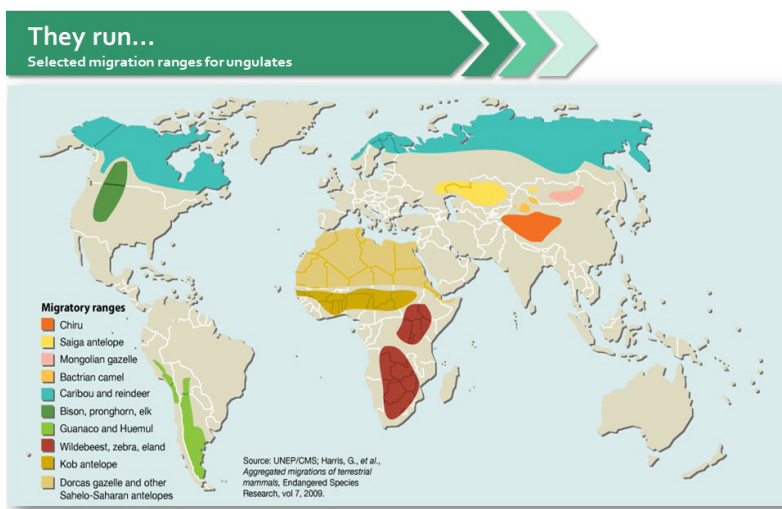
KEY MESSAGES

> Connectivity should be well reflected in the post-2020 global framework;

> Strategies for the development and expansion of protected areas and other area-based conservation initiatives need to integrate connectivity, ecological representativeness and dynamism;

> Connectivity provides a means by which multiple countries can agree on shared goals beyond national plans and priorities, and provide a basis for cooperation across boundaries;

> Mainstreaming connectivity into economic growth and development is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



About CMS

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals worldwide through negotiation and implementation of agreements and species action plans. It has 128 Parties (as of 1 June 2019).

CMS engages all relevant stakeholders in addressing threats to migratory species in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management.

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