



CMS Bulletin

COP10
Outcomes

01-2012

Editorial

By Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting CMS Executive Secretary

The Secretariat would like to wish all the readers of this bulletin a happy and prosperous 2012. Only recently the 10th Conference of the Parties took place in Bergen, Norway. In the run up to COP10 and its associated meetings, the Secretariat was extremely busy with the logistical and substantial preparation. Not only was the Secretariat heavily involved, but also the Government of Norway went the extra mile to make COP10 a success. Feedback from many Parties and partner organizations has shown that all our efforts to make this COP a success paid off. In addition to the Host Government and the Secretariat, participating delegates contributed substantially to the success.

An excellent atmosphere prevailed during the various discussions. Despite sometimes very contentious issues such as the listing of the Saker Falcon on Appendix I, the Future Shape and Budget for 2012-2014, consensus was reached on all these items. Important decisions are reflected in the 29 Resolutions adopted during the Conference.

Many of us used the Christmas break to refuel energy to start implementing the COP decisions taken. It is often forgotten that after the hard days of toil during the Conference, the real work

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starts as soon as the COP is over. We are currently reviewing the decisions taken and working on the development of a costed work plan to assess realistic options with limited resources. We were able to raise additional funds at the Donors meeting, organized for the first time during COP10. The Secretariat highly appreciates the pledges made.



Packed conference hall during morning plenary for CMS © IISD

Following my resignation for personal reasons from the post of Executive Secretary as announced in November, I took up my new post of Deputy Director at the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi on 9th January. However, I will stay involved in the overall management of the Secretariat as Acting Executive Secretary till my successor is appointed. Deputy Executive Secretary Bert Lenten continues to assist me and is thus responsible for the day-to-day management of the Secretariat as Officer-in-Charge.

Looking at the tasks ahead of us we can assume that 2012 will be again a busy year. The Secretariat is ready to take up this challenge to implement its mandate renewed at COP10. In view of limited resources, any additional support would be most welcome.

Finally we would like to remind all Parties and Partners that the Secretariat is not solely responsible for implementing the Resolutions but Parties and partners are also called upon to look into these Resolutions again. You will see that COP requested Parties or partner organizations occasionally to assume certain tasks. We should jointly strive to fully implement these decisions to be able to report on the progress made to COP11 in 2014. We look forward to collaborating with you in the New Year. I hope you will enjoy reading this special COP edition of the Bulletin. ■

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema



Guest Article



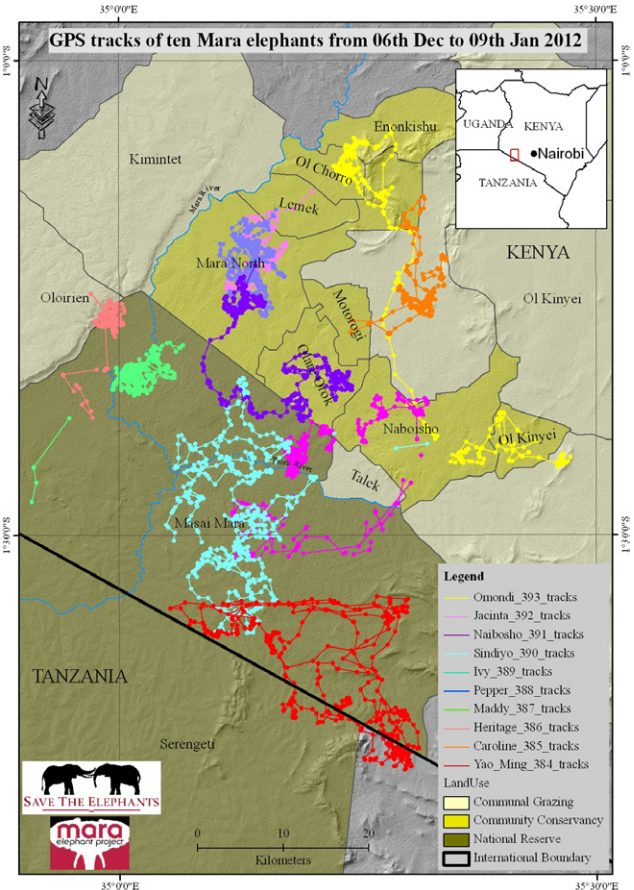
■ Saving Migrating Elephants - The Mara Elephant Project

by Dr Lucy King, www.savetheelephants.org

The Maasai Mara, an extension of the vast Serengeti ecosystem, is one of Kenya's most important wildlife areas and a tourism asset. The Maasai people own the land with elephants occurring throughout the reserve and adjoining community conservation areas. Surprisingly little is known about elephant movements between and within the greater Mara/Serengeti landscape but human population growth and development have seen a rise in human-elephant conflict (HEC) and illegal killing, resulting in a need for management orientated research and community based conservation.

The Mara Elephant Project (MEP), established in July 2011 and funded by the generosity of The Globe Foundation and The Heritage Group, starts a three year programme with the vision of securing a future for elephants in the greater Mara Ecosystem. With expertise in elephant tracking technology, Save the Elephants has partnered with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Mara North Conservancy and Richard's Camp to develop a long-term, Elephant Tracking Project and Quick Response Unit with the following aims:

1. To define elephant movement patterns and corridors.
2. To understand the cross border movements of elephants into the adjoining Serengeti plains in Tanzania, providing a basis for improved wildlife management collaboration between Kenya and Tanzania.
3. To alleviate HEC by providing elephant movement data to KWS and other key stakeholders.
4. To improve security of individual elephants through daily monitoring.



Mara STE elephant tracking map © Save the Elephants

Save the Elephants has developed elephant tracking technology in Kenya since the mid 1990's and their specialised, innovative custom tools for use within ESRI software cleans and verifies GPS data, producing a standard analysis and reporting framework. A key output of this unique tracking capability is the functionality to display elephant movements on Google Earth in near real time. This spectacular visual tool allows wardens, rangers, and community scouts to use the information to monitor hourly elephant movements as well as engaging children in elephant conservation.

In December 2011, five female and five male elephants were collared with the latest satellite tracking collars manufactured by the South African com-



Guest Article

pany, African Wildlife Tracking. Elephants selected for collaring were suspected of being crop raiders, transboundary migrators or at risk from carrying particularly large tusks. Maps produced by Save the Elephants show coloured circles representing the hourly position of each of ten collared elephants as they migrate between the national reserve, community conservancies and the Serengeti in Tanzania. Using this remote monitoring tool, the elephants are assessed every day for any unusual behaviour. Should an elephant stop moving or display erratic behaviour, Save the Elephants liaises immediately

with the MEP Quick Response Unit to send out a patrol team that checks the status of the elephant. This speed of response is already helping anti-poaching efforts and better community relations.

This multi-faceted project combining innovative tracking technology with well equipped, skilled personnel on the ground will improve protection and enhance understanding of elephant behaviour in the greater Mara/Serengeti ecosystem. It will hopefully inspire other transboundary research projects to adopt similar collaborative approaches in the future. ■



Collaring Heritage © Lucy King, Save the Elephants



Heritage with collaring © Lucy King, Save the Elephants



COP10 Outcomes

■ Networking for Migratory Species: The Way Forward

At the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) held in Bergen in November 27 important resolutions were adopted to improve the conservation status of endangered migratory species and to agree on a new strategic plan for the period 2015-2023. Other issues included the overview of the process regarding the Future Shape of CMS, partnerships and synergies, the budget, wildlife diseases.

The motto “Networking for migratory species” was the overarching leitmotif of the Conference. Together with UNEP Grid Arendal, CMS launched its flagship publication on ecological networks as a conservation instrument, in which various case studies advertise the convincing approach.

Maintaining ecological networks helps address a number of threats to migratory species and strengthens their resilience in the light of climate change. It is also a solution towards reducing human animal conflicts. This was the core recommendation of the prominent elephant researcher Dr Lucy King.

The winner of the third Thesis Award Dr King impressed delegates by presenting her natural solution to deter crop raiding elephants. Media across the world publicized the success her simple and yet innovative pilot project in Kenya, which is already being emulated in Tanzania and Uganda.

The Conference agreed on improving conservation majors for birds, marine species and Central Asian mammals to name just a few. Conflicts between birds and powerlines, a new Action Plan for migratory landbirds, poisoning and bird flyway conservation were discussed. Conservation of cetaceans has been enhanced to tackle issues such as marine



Networking for Migratory Species Bergen, 20–25 November 2011

debris, entanglement and bycatch as well as noise pollution in particular. On the closing day, Ms. Heidi Sørensen, State Secretary of Norwegian Ministry of the Environment announced that Norway repealed its reservations on all species of whales and sharks.

At the Bukhara Deer meeting, successful conservation efforts undertaken in the region were reviewed along with the Central Eurasian Arid Land Mammals Concerted Action to promote the conservation of CMS listed mammals in drylands. The Second Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement reviewed the Action Plans of participating countries.

Among the new species listings, the Saker Falcon and the Giant Manta Ray are the most spectacular species. Their listing on Appendix I grants them overall protection.

At the Donors Meeting, CMS received overwhelming financial support from Parties and non-Parties, in particular the United Arab Emirates, but also from other partners, despite times of financial austerity. This positive signal preceded the negotiation of the budget, which allows for a slight increase.

More Parties signed the Memoranda of Understanding on the conservation of dugongs, migratory sharks and birds of prey. The CMS Secretariat appreciates this mark of confidence and will promote the implementation of conservation instruments in future. ■



COP10 Outcomes

■ Outcome of Future Shape Process Helps Develop a New CMS Strategic Plan

The adoption of the Resolution on Future Structure and Strategies of CMS and the CMS Family points to the next steps in the development of the Convention. The Resolution lists a set of activities according to priorities assigned by the Parties, and which were categorized into short-term and medium- to long-term activities. The joint working group on budget/future shape selected 16 themed activities based on three options outlined in the report on the future shape process being (i) key reforms; (ii) improving conservation within the existing structure; and (iii) improving conservation via alterations to the existing structure.

Activities that have been ranked as "high" priority have been considered for the short term, meaning they are set to be implemented by COP11. Medium- (by COP 12) and long-term (by COP 13) activities will be considered when developing the Strategic Plan 2015-2023. The Strategic Plan will also consider the option of merging agreements based on geography and/or ecology or species grouping if appropriate.

There was general consensus to assign high priority for the next triennium to plan and develop coordinated Strategic Plans for the CMS Family. Other prioritized activities pertain to the alignment with international environmental governance reforms (IEG) and undertaking a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess where to allocate resources.

Assessing resources and opportunities to maximize expertise within the Scientific Council and strengthening MoU coordination and servicing are among the priorities.

The 5 per cent budget increase accorded at COP10 takes into consideration the inflation rate and allows for partial implementation of the Future Shape outcome.

While only a few of the short-term activities identified by the working group have been included in the core budget, participants considered an innovative approach for sponsoring other high priority items, by establishing a secondary non-core budget for voluntary contributions.

The Secretariat would like to encourage all Parties to look at the non-core budget and to provide additional voluntary contributions to implement these activities.

Meanwhile the first steps have been taken to establish the Strategic Plan Working Group. This Working Group – benefiting from external support and the Secretariat - will start its work in due course by assessing progress made by Parties, partners and the Secretariat in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011. This assessment coupled with the lessons learned will be used during the development of the new Strategic Plan 2015-2023. It is envisaged that the Working Group will meet in the margins of the 40th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee towards the end of 2012 in Bonn, Germany. ■

For more information please see relevant Resolutions:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_05_strategic_plan_e.pdf

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_09_future_shape_e.pdf



COP10 Outcomes

■ New CMS Report Spotlights Migratory Animals Connecting a Living Planet



The loss of biodiversity, and the extinction of migratory animals in particular, could be reduced if more countries worked together towards preserving and restoring ecological networks to sustain the species.

This is a key message of the report entitled *Living Planet, Connected Planet: Preventing the End of the World's Wildlife Migrations through Ecological Networks*.

It was launched at a side event of the recent CMS Conference of the Parties by the CMS Secretariat and UNEP Grid Arendal.

Habitat degradation and fragmentation exacerbated by poaching, climate change and desertification, deforestation, urbanization, infrastructure and agricultural use are the primary threats to all migratory species and their migrations. They reduce available habitats as part of wider ecological networks.

Forest elephants © Peter Prokosch



In order to survive, migratory animals depend entirely upon unrestricted travel through well-functioning ecosystems along their migration routes. The loss of a single critical migration corridor for a migratory species may jeopardize the entire population, as their ability to migrate, refuel or reproduce may be lost. In response to this, all habitats across a species' range need to be protected.

The report gives an overview of the global pressure on biodiversity. Case studies depict threats to animals and the pathways of their migration and point out opportunities to build ecological networks.

To counteract the decline in migratory species, the report lists recommendations to secure ecological networks for various species. Functional diverse landscapes need to be maintained as resting and breeding sites for migrants. Transboundary cooperation coordinated through CMS conservation instruments provides opportunities to reduce threats to migratory species by protecting ecological networks throughout the range of the species.

By having adopted the theme "Networking for Migratory Species" for the recent Conference, CMS placed a particular focus on the importance of ecological networks as an efficient instrument to protect a wide range of migratory animals. ■

Report

http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/living-planet_gridarendal.pdf

For more information please see

Resolution 10.3

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_03_eco_networks_e.pdf

Press release

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media/press/21nov/CMS_Press_release_Nov_21_Ecological_Networks_FINAL.pdf



COP10 Outcomes

■ UNEP/CMS Thesis Award Presented to Biologist to Scare off Elephants from Farms

At a special ceremony, this environmental prize was conferred to the British biologist Dr Lucy King for having developed a natural deterrent against elephants in Kenya. Elephants in particular suffer from their migration routes being cut off by electric fences. The news of this innovative approach towards solving a major conflict between elephants and farmers sent positive waves through the media worldwide.

In order to keep migratory elephants away from crops, Dr King invented the beehive fence to scare off the world's biggest terrestrial mammal. Researchers found out earlier that elephants run away once they hear the sound of bees. African honey bees that might come in swarms of about one hundred thousand, can sting elephants in sensitive places such as their trunks, around their eyes or behind their ears.

In addition to keeping elephants from entering crops, beehive fences can provide farmers with additional income. In the pilot project conducted over two years in Kenya, elephants were stopped by a wire around a fence to which beehives were attached. Once they touched the wire, the bee-

hives started shaking releasing a cloud of bees ready to attack. The project is now being replicated in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda and the CMS Secretariat is receiving more inquiries.

After the winner made her presentation in plenary, Mr. Axel Kleinschumacher, the representative of Lufthansa being the sponsor of the Award, handed a symbolic air ticket over to her.

The Thesis Award is also being supported by the Museum Koenig in Bonn.

Dr King works for "Save the Elephants", an organization based in Kenya, which aims to find ways of animals and humans living compatibly together. She pointed out the importance of ecological networks as a key strategy to tackle a number of issues: "If we enable migratory corridors to stay open, it reduces conflicts with humans, crop raiding in the case of elephants or predators eating livestock. It is often because natural routes between feeding and breeding areas have been blocked. Keeping migration corridors open solves so many issues we are now battling to content with." ■

For more information please visit the COP10 Media Room:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media_showroom_king_extended.htm

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media_showroom_kleinschumacher.htm

Press Release:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media/press/press22_11_11/unep_cms_press_release_thesis_award_2011_e.pdf

Report UNEP/CMS Thesis Award 2011

http://www.cms.int/thesis_award/thesis_award_2011_report.pdf

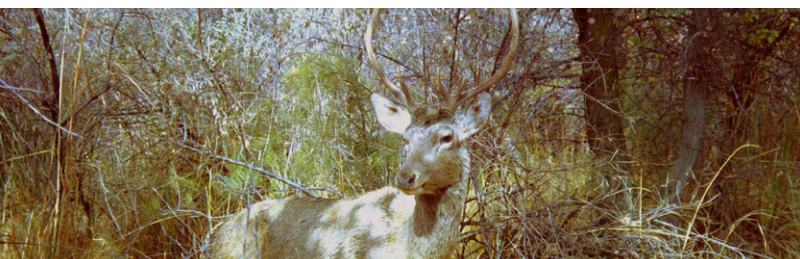


Lucy King receiving the Award from the representative of Lufthansa © IISD



COP10 Outcomes

■ CMS Enhances Protection of Bukhara Deer and other Endangered Species in Central Asia



Zerav Male Bukhara Deer © WWF Russia

At the first Meeting of the signatories to the Bukhara Deer MoU held on the opening day of CMS COP10, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agreed to enhance their efforts to protect this endangered deer species in Central Asia. Participants discussed the current status of the species and agreed on priority activities for the coming years. Bukhara Deer populations, which had previously disappeared from many of the region's riparian forests due to uncontrolled hunting and habitat loss due to logging and unsustainable agricultural practices, have since been restored as a result of conservation measures under the CMS agreement.

While efforts in the past few years to protect the Bukhara Deer have been successful and population numbers quadrupled from 350 to 1,620, the degradation of riparian forest ecosystems still represents a major threat to the species' long-term survival. Climate change, overgrazing and land degradation, natural disasters, and unsustainable agricultural systems among other factors are threatening the Bukhara Deer but also other species such as wild camels, Asiatic Wild Ass, antelopes, gazelles, wild sheep, goats and yaks as well as Snow Leopards.

Infrastructure projects linked to the exploitation of oil, gas and mineral reserves divide important habitats and create barriers to migratory animals whose populations are split into smaller groups, ex-

posing them to a higher risk of extinction.

Such habitat fragmentation has far-reaching consequences not only for biodiversity, but also for the social and economic structures of local communities. To tackle these threats, CMS has developed the draft Eurasian Aridland Mammals Action Plan to improve the protection of large migratory mammals such as the Bukhara Deer, the Bactrian Camel or the Asiatic Wild Ass. The Plan includes training for wildlife agencies and park rangers and establishing economic incentives to support local communities in responsibly managing natural resources.

Protecting the lowland riparian forests along the river basins of the Amudaria and Syrdaria, being the largest and most important water arteries in Central Asia and critical habitat for the Bukhara Deer is part of the plan. It also covers the major Pamir and Tian Shan mountain ranges, home to the wild argali mountain sheep, now listed on CMS Appendix II, the Markhor Sheep, and the highly endangered Snow Leopard.

The CMS Action Plan provides a first strategy for increased transboundary collaboration among Governments, nature conservation agencies, NGOs and local communities to enhance research, information exchange and conservation action for migratory species in Central Asia. Following initial discussion at the CMS Scientific Council Meeting in November 2011 in Bergen, the Action Plan will now be revised and further developed in close consultation with the range states and other concerned stakeholders. This will also include an assessment of major conservation gaps and needs as well as the identification of priorities for effective conservation action under CMS. ■

For more information please read the press release:
http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media/press/press23_11_11/cms_bukhara_deer_pr_23nov_e.pdf



COP10 Outcomes

■ CMS COP10 Agrees New Steps for Migratory Birds

By Nicola Crockford, RSPB

CMS COP10 adopted two significant resolutions – 10.27 on improving the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory landbirds and 10.26 on minimizing the risk of poisoning to migratory birds – that, for the first time, present an intergovernmental framework for helping tackle these major conservation problems.

Among several decisions taken by COP10 that should help the world's migratory birds, these two resolutions break new ground and will hopefully lead to agreement, in the next three years, on action needed. Resolution 10.27 will result in the development of an action plan to conserve migratory land birds moving within the African-Eurasian region and Resolution 10.26 will lead to the development of guidelines, global in scope, on minimizing the poisoning of migratory birds.

For migratory landbirds the urgency exists due to rapid declines in the numbers of many species, especially Eurasian breeding birds such as turtle doves *Streptopelia turtur* and nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* that migrate to Africa south of the Sahara. As they are dispersed in their distribution and migrate across a broad front, site-based approaches to conservation that may be suitable for waterbirds and birds of prey, do not cater for their needs. For the trans-Saharan migrants, it seems that the problem may be land use changes in Africa. A united effort from all countries en route is important. To this end a CMS Working Group is being established, with funding from Switzerland, to develop an African Eurasian migratory landbird action plan.

Decades ago the declines of raptors such as the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) alerted the world to the dangers of toxic pesticides. Birds and other wildlife in most countries of the world still die from many forms of poisoning including feeding on poison baits and ingesting lead from ammunition. This resolution recognises the scale of the problem for the first time and calls for a CMS Working Group to draw up global guidelines to help minimize the poisoning risk to birds. Funds for this process are being sought.

COP10 clearly demonstrated the huge and unique potential of CMS to unite governments, civil society and other stakeholders in advancing the conservation of migratory birds. ■

For more information please see relevant Resolutions:
http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_26_poisoning_e.pdf

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_27_landbirds_e.pdf



Threatened Migrant Land Birds in the Eurasian-African Flyway (Mediterranean),
© British Birdwatching Fair



COP10 Outcomes

■ Protecting Migratory Birds from Collision and Electrocution

Hundreds of thousands of birds die annually from electrocution and tens of millions of birds from collisions with power lines in the African-Eurasian region alone. Therefore, experts are calling for more cooperation among governments, energy companies and NGOs to improve bird conservation all over the world.

Two reports were presented at a side event held during the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, including an overview of current research and corrective measures undertaken by

electricity power grids on birds. One solution is to install bird-friendly perches or markers to minimize bird collisions, or, what is costly but much more effective in the long-term, is to place power grids underground where possible. These measures can be applied globally.

Power lines constitute one of the major causes of bird mortality through electrocution and fatal collisions. For some large, slow reproducing bird species that migrate across this region, the death toll could possibly lead to significant population declines or regional extinction.

At a time when the number of power lines is expected to increase, these guidelines could serve as a first step to address the serious problem of bird mortality caused by power lines and better plan the locations of future power grids and minimize the risk of bird collision and electrocutions in critical locations.

"When planning new power lines in France, we try to avoid areas frequented by birds. In addition, we make existing power lines safer to avoid electrocution. Even today, hundreds of thousands of collisions occur each year", explained Dr Jacques Trouvilliez, Project Manager Biodiversity and Overseas at the French Ministry of Ecology.

"Challenges in mitigating bird electrocution" was the topic of the side event organized by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research/CEDREN together with AEWA's cooperation partner in Germany, RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice GmbH, and NABU (Bird-Life Germany). Ms Heidi Sørensen, State Secretary for the Ministry of the Environment of Norway, took the opportunity to point out the case of the Eurasian eagle owl and highlighted efforts by the



Blue Crane (Anthropoides paradisea) collision victim found under a transmission line in South Africa, © EWT-WEP

countries and electricity power companies in the African-Eurasian region to avoid bird mortality from collisions with and electrocution by power lines.

The *Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region* include concrete recommendations showing governments, electricity power companies and conservation organizations how they can avoid and reduce the impact of



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Norwegian Government to reduce the threat from electrocution to this species.

The draft guidelines will be presented to the 5th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP5) in La Rochelle, France in May 2012 for approval together with a respective resolution requesting the Parties to be active in disseminating the guidelines and approaching companies dealing with power line networks to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made. The next steps will be publishing the review and the guidelines on the AEWA website and having the guidelines printed. Both the review and the guidelines will be available in English and French. The AEWA network will be informed about the availability of the guidelines through the regular AEWA E-Newsletter. ■

For more information please see:

Resolution 10.11 http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_11_powerlines.pdf

Press release:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media/press/press24_11_11/pdf/en_unep_pr_birds_and_powerlines_reports_final.pdf

■ Giant Manta Ray Listed on both CMS Appendices

The listing of the Giant Manta Ray on both CMS Appendices will oblige countries to enforce strict protection of the large shark-like species and their habitats. The highly migratory species occurs in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate waters around the world.

This species is globally threatened as a result of increased hunting for its gill rakers, bycatch pollu-



Giant Manta Ray © Mila Zinkova

tion of the coastal environment as well as other direct and indirect threats. Global catch of devil rays including mantas reported to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization more than tripled from 900 tonnes in 2000 to 3,300 in 2007.

The Giant Manta Ray reaches up to 6.5 m wide and weighs up to 1,400 kilogrammes. Like other sharks and rays, it is very slow to reproduce with only one pup per litter, which makes it highly vulnerable to any kind of exploitation or fishery. In Ecuador, which issued the listing proposal, the decline in catches of other commercial species accidentally promoted the capture of the Giant Manta Ray.

The listing emphasizes the need both for better fisheries management and relief from hunting pressure. It also sends a strong signal to the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Migratory Sharks. This global treaty covers the seven threatened species listed under the global CMS treaty: Great White Shark, Whale Shark, Basking Shark, Shortfin Mako, Longfin Mako, Spiny Dogfish (Northern hemisphere), and Porbeagle sharks.

The twenty-five signatories and cooperating range states will decide at their next meeting whether the Giant Manta Ray will be covered by the Shark MoU. ■



COP10 Outcomes

■ Saker Falcon Listed on Appendix I

As early as the 12th century, falconry was known at imperial courts. Frederick II of the Staufer dynasty was passionate about falcons. Falconry was established as the art of hunting with trained birds of prey over the centuries, which has been recognized by UNESCO as global cultural heritage in 2010.

The increasing demand for falcons has led to a massive decline of the species of up to 60 per cent in the last 20 years. However, falconry also promotes the conservation of raptors and their prey through preservation of natural habitats and captive breeding. Recently falconers have played an increasingly important role in conserving wild raptors and reintroducing species that had totally vanished.

Additional threats to raptors are hunting, habitat loss, electrocution and poisoning due to agrochemicals.

Considering the Red List status of the Saker Falcon as Vulnerable and after long debates of a specific working group that was established during COP10, it was eventually listed on Appendix I excluding the population in Mongolia, where 5,000 artificial nests are being built to provide nesting sites for up to 500 pairs of Sakers by 2015.

The listing followed the recommendation of COP9 to include the Saker falcon on CMS Appendix I unless the conservation status had significantly improved. Due to a severe lack of field data, large gaps remain concerning the conservation status of the species. New field research is therefore needed to help acquire this knowledge.

Through Resolution 10.28 Parties decided to initiate an immediate concerted action and to establish a task force under the auspices of Coordinating Unit of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia. It aims to bring together interested parties

to develop a coordinated Global Action Plan, including a management and monitoring system, to conserve the Saker Falcon. The Task Force will meet in the first quarter of 2012 to identify priority actions and to begin implementation immediately.



Saker Falcon © Tony Hisgett

It also recommends to report to COP11, and to consider delisting the Saker Falcon from Appendix I at that time. CMS will work with a range of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to support the Saker Falcon Task Force, in particular CITES, which lists the falcon species on its Appendix II. ■

For more information please see Resolution 10.28:
http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_28_saker_e.pdf



COP10 Outcomes

■ CMS COP10 Adopts Ambitious Resolution to Conserve Migratory Species Hit by Climate Change

“Climate change adaptation is essential not just for human beings, but also for species that migrate between different habitats”. With this statement, the Norwegian Minister of the Environment, Erik Solheim got to the heart of the burning issue of climate change.

Climate change is likely to become one of the primary drivers of biodiversity loss in the 21st century with a growing impact on animal migration. Sea level rise, acid oceans, reduced wetland habitats for feeding and breeding, droughts, floods as well as windfarm technology to counteract climate change pose severe threats to migratory animals.

Helping migratory animals to adapt to rising temperatures and strengthening the resilience of their habitats against the impact of climate change might be the greatest challenge in the endeavour to save them. By adopting the Resolution 10.19, delegates therefore approved national and international strategies to help migratory animals to adapt to climate change.

Parties to the Convention will undertake adaptation measures and ensure that climate change mitigation action such as renewable energy will not cause unnecessary harm. To this end, CMS has urged

governments to develop effective policy responses by including species conservation in national and international climate change strategies and to further develop guidelines to assist migratory animals to adapt to climate change.

In addition to promoting research to identify the species most vulnerable to climate change such as the polar bear, negative effects of climate change will be monitored. In the long term, landscape planning will be a key instrument to address habitat degradation resulting from land use changes, infrastructure and agricultural development.

Again, the roadmap to conservation leads to creating and connecting habitats for migratory species. Efforts to combat climate change evolve directly into the overarching theme of the Conference towards developing ecological networks and corridors.

For more information, please see Resolution 10.19
http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_19_climatechange_e.pdf

Press release:
http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/media/press/press25_11_11/cms_climate_change_press_release.pdf



Ténéré desert in Niger with dry Acacia tree © John Newby Sahara Conservation Fund



COP10 Outcomes

■ CMS COP10 Strengthens Cetacean Conservation Worldwide

Following intense negotiations, a number of resolutions were adopted that call for better protection of marine species, in particular whales and dolphins. Besides decisions concerning overarching topics such as ecological networks or climate change, four resolutions focus specifically on marine species.

Marine debris leading to ingestion, entanglement and habitat degradation affects marine mammals, seabirds, sharks and marine turtles. Governments voiced concern on marine debris, in particular plastics, and called for improved waste management. To address this threat, they agreed to develop and implement their own national plans of action to address this problem and share relevant information in their national reports.

By highlighting the impact of gillnet fisheries on species covered by the Convention, this particular cause of bycatch and techniques towards minimizing it received international attention. Governments called for bycatch risk assessments for migratory species in their territorial waters. Adopting best practice measures also considering threats to other species was seen as crucial in order to address this threat to marine species.

Under a global programme of work for cetaceans, the CMS Secretariat and the Scientific Council will collaborate with other bodies such as CMS Agreements to jointly address predominant threats in each region. Globally, entanglement and bycatch as well as climate change were weighted as the highest priorities for CMS-listed whale and dolphin species, followed by ship strikes, pollution, marine noise, as well as habitat and feeding ground degradation.

After being discussed at COP9 three years ago, underwater noise pollution was once again on the agenda. The main focus was on the ever increas-



Spotted Dolphins © W. J. Strietmann

ing sources of underwater noise, such as those from offshore wind farms and associated shipping. Countries need to keep the emission of underwater noise to the lowest necessary level in order to prevent adverse effects on cetaceans and other migratory species. The issue should also be integrated in the management plans of relevant marine protected areas.

Combined efforts undertaken by CMS Parties are needed to mitigate the increasing negative impact on marine species. Norway decided to repeal the reservations of all species of whales and sharks on CMS Appendix II and the Great White Shark on CMS Appendix I. This includes the White-beaked Dolphin, Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, Orca, Narwhal, Pygmy Right Whale, Antarctic Minke Whale, Bryde's Whale, Fin Whale, Sei Whale, Sperm Whale and Basking Shark. ■

For more information please see relevant Resolutions:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_04_marinedebris_e.pdf

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_14_bycatch_e.pdf

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_15_cetaceans_e.pdf

http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_24_underwater_noise_e.pdf



Species Campaigns

■ World Migratory Bird Day 2012 - Celebrating Migratory Birds and People

With its theme *Migratory birds and people – together through time*, the 2012 World Migratory Bird Day celebrates the historic relationship between migratory birds and humans. CMS will play an active role in coordinating the joint campaign with the AEWA Secretariat this year.

We invite everyone to join us to celebrate, protect and raise awareness for migratory birds this year on **May 12th-13th**. On the second weekend each May, people around the world take action and organize public events to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day such as bird watching trips, public discussions, exhibitions, presentations, bird rallies, bird festivals and other educational and public events. The Campaign has grown every year since its inception in 2006. Each year's theme is unique to the issues threatening migratory birds. In 2011 over 200 events registered at www.worldmigratorybirdday.org, the most successful campaign yet.

The WMBD Website and Poster will be launched in February. On the Website, you will be able to read more about this year's theme *Migratory birds and people – together through time*, view events in your area on the google event map, order posters, and register your events. ■



World Migratory Bird Day

For information updates about this year's 2012 World Migratory Bird Day and to view the WMBD Trailer on our information page, please visit us at:

www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

www.facebook.com/worldmigratorybirdday

www.twitter.com/wmbd

or contact us at:

contact@worldmigratorybirdday.org.



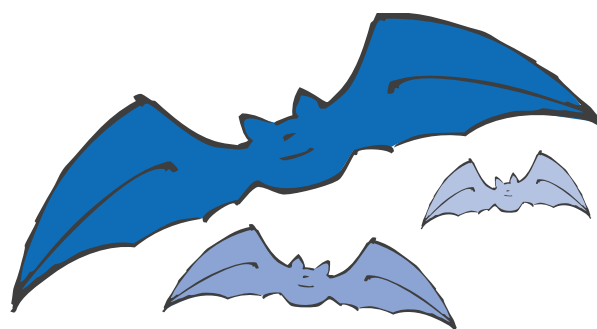
Species Campaigns

■ Year of the Bat 2012

CMS has taken over the lead of the Year of the Bat in 2012. The main objective is to extend the scope of the campaign beyond Europe by relying on the Secretariat's global network.

The Year of the Bat has joined hands with its partners to promote an outreach programme aimed at educators and land managers. This education programme, which is entitled "BatsLIVE!", has now been made available online. BatsLIVE! invites you to register to learn more about the essential role of bats in maintaining healthy ecosystems and human economies. Visitors can choose among a huge variety of resources including videos and recommendations on how to plant a bat garden or build a bat house.

The well-established European Bat Night, which is taking place in August, was launched already 15 years ago. The Year of the Bat campaign will take it as an opportunity to expand the event globally inviting interested individuals, organizations and schools to join the Bat Night in other regions of the world.



Year of the Bat 2011-2012

As an additional promotional tool, the Year of the Bat Poster in English, French, Spanish and German will be launched in February. ■

Please visit our website to read more what the Year has to offer:

www.yearofthebat.org

Imprint

UNEP/CMS Secretariat
Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
53113 Bonn, Germany
T. +49 228 815-2401/2
F. +49 228 815-2449
secretariat@cms.int
www.cms.int

Responsible editor: Veronika Lenarz