



CMS Bulletin

7/8 2012

Editorial

By Bert Lenten,
CMS Officer in Charge

At Rio+20 world leaders announced their agreement to work together for a prosperous, secure and sustainable future in the outcome document, *The Future We Want*. In view of the severe pressure that biodiversity and ecosystems are under, governments agreed to upgrade the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), a development from which CMS as a Convention administered by UNEP might benefit in future. In our day-to-day work, we at CMS are contributing to the bigger picture as discussed and agreed in Rio. In this edition of the Bulletin you can read more



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about the activities being undertaken to conserve some of species for which CMS is responsible such as sharks, the Argali Sheep and cetaceans. As these species face a number of threats, more needs to be done to conserve them.

Since COP10 progress has been made in strengthening existing partnerships and to explore possibilities for cooperation. For example, we are working closely with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on a joint publication on dryland biodiversity and sustainable land management. We collaborate with CITES and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to ensure that our efforts to address threats to migratory species are aligned. Our Partners are extremely important to us because they contribute to the implementation of CMS.

The Future We Want contains a clear message for CMS: we want to work towards securing a favourable conservation status for migratory species. This can only be achieved if we combine our efforts and do our utmost, even during the global financial crisis, to tackle or mitigate threats to migratory species.

Let's work on the future we want! ■



Bert Lenten



Conservation News

■ Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

The 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) will take place from 22-24 October 2012 in Brighton, United Kingdom. Besides reviewing

population in the western Baltic, Inner Danish Waters and Kattegat may also be declining. This region is subject to intense human activities, and achieving a favourable conservation status requires tailored measures. Accordingly, a draft Conservation Plan, which has been developed through a review process based on work done by consultants of Aarhus

University, will be considered for adoption at MOP7. It will complement the existing action plans for harbour porpoises in the Baltic and North Seas.

Parties will also set priorities for the implementation of the Agreement in the area of its 2008 westward extension. These include research necessary in order to improve the understanding of the conservation status of species such as bottlenose dolphins, common dolphins, harbour porpoises and beaked whales, and focusing on understanding the impacts of threats such as ship strikes and bycatch.

A topic receiving less publicity in recent years concerns the impacts of chemical pollution on small cetaceans. Despite long-standing efforts to decrease pollution, many substances are still present

at critical levels in the tissue of marine mammals, and new types of substances continue to enter the marine environment. Research into the effects therefore remains a priority and recommendations regarding most urgent areas for study will be made.

All draft resolutions to be considered by the MOP are already available **online**. ■



Harbour Porpoise © Preben Toft

the progress made in the current triennium, the MOP will give guidance on the implementation of the Agreement in the coming years.

The critically endangered harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) population in the Baltic Sea has been the focus of international recovery efforts since 2002. Recent data indicate that the adjacent



Conservation News

■ Third Meeting of Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU

The 3rd Meeting of Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region will take place on 8 September 2012 in Noumea, New Caledonia, back to back with the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Given the limited resources in the region, making the most of synergies with other processes is a priority. The CMS Pacific Officer has therefore been working towards getting migratory species, including cetaceans, incorporated into the revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) being developed in the region. Meeting participants will be asked to support these efforts nationally. Similarly, the meeting will consider the



Humpback Whales © Leigh Ogden

Cetaceans in the Pacific Islands Region face a variety of threats, and many populations have not yet recovered from historical overexploitation during the whaling era. Therefore, tailored conservation measures are necessary, taking into account the specific situation in the region and recent scientific data. Among other things, the Meeting is set to adopt the draft SPREP Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2013-2017 also for the MOU. The Plan addresses a wide range of issues, such as threat reduction, research actions, educational activities and capacity-building needs in the region.

outcomes of CMS COP10 and determine how these should be taken account of when setting the MOU's priorities and determining the way forward. Especially important in this regard is CMS's work on ecological networks, as well as seeking ways to co-ordinate the technical work of CMS and the MOU. The Technical Advisory Group of the MOU, which is being led by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), will report on progress made since the last meeting and seek guidance for their further work.

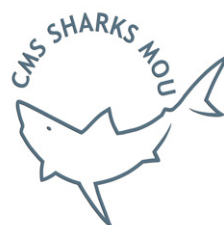
Click **here** to access the Meeting documents ■



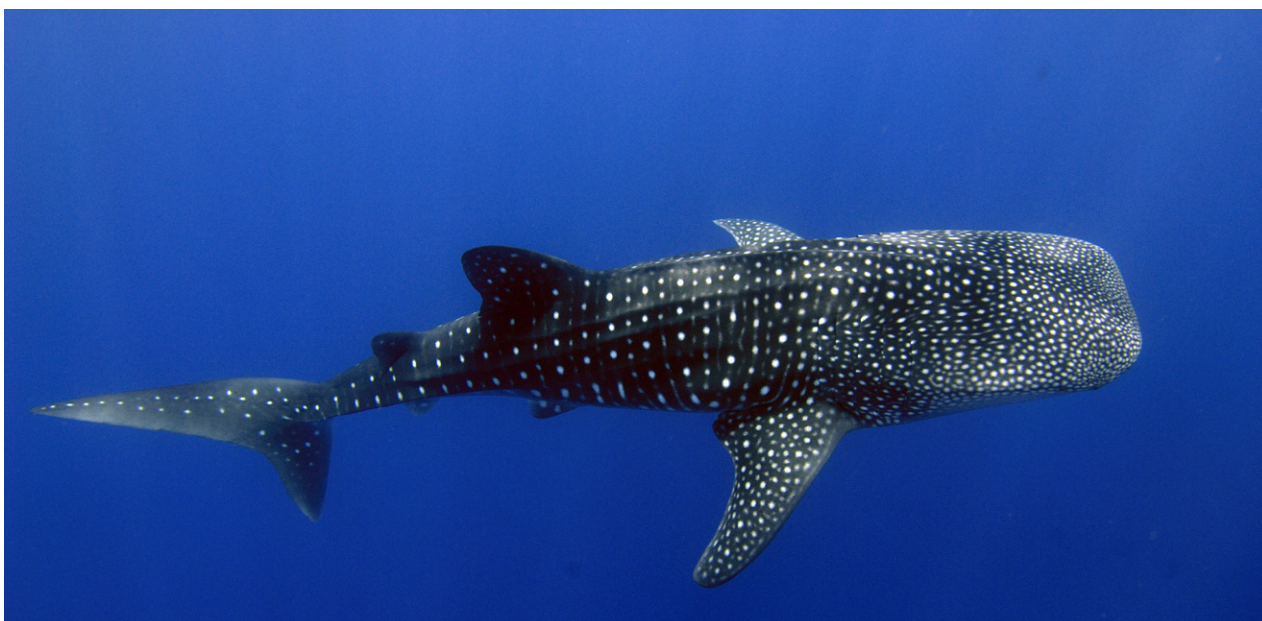
Conservation News

■ Shark Conservation Takes a Step forward at First Meeting of the Signatories of the Sharks MoU

Representatives from all regions of the globe will gather in Bonn from 24-27 September for the first Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks. An estimated 120 delegates from around 20 Signatories and 30 more Range States are expected to participate. Funds for the meeting come from the ENRTP (Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme) Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA) between European



tion of critical habitats and migratory corridors and critical life stages of sharks; increasing public awareness of threats to sharks and their habitats as well as enhancing public participation in conservation activities; and enhancing national, regional and international cooperation.



Whale Shark © Commonwealth of Australia

Commission - DG Environment and UNEP" and the NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA. Participants will review a draft Conservation Plan, which has been under discussion by interested Parties. Five objectives of the Conservation Plan draw on: improving understanding of migratory shark populations; ensuring the sustainable use of sharks; ensuring the protec-

Further voluntary contributions which were received from the governments of Australia and Monaco will support the implementation of the Conservation Plan after its adoption.

In addition to adopting the Conservation Plan, the First Meeting of the Signatories is expected to set up an Advisory Committee; and to decide on arrangements for a permanent Secretariat.



Conservation News

■ Romania Takes Action to Avoid the Construction of Wind Turbines in Prime Great Bustard Habitat

Until recently there had been plans for the construction of a wind farm within and around a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Natura 2000 site in the Salonta region, Bihor County, Romania, which provides important wintering habitat for the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*). The CMS Secretariat raised concern about the possible negative impact of the wind farm and offered technical assistance to help maintain the Salonta ecosystem. The Secretariat has now received confirmation from the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests that the Government is committed to relocate the wind farm to an alternative location thereby limiting conflict with Great Bustards, Saker Falcons (*Falco cherrug*), White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and Eastern Imperial Eagles (*Aquila heliaca*).

The Great Bustard is the heaviest flying animal alive today. The European population is estimated to be between 35,600–38,500 individuals, but there has been a rapid decline in much of Central and Eastern

Europe. Therefore, the Great Bustard, listed as “Vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List, is protected through a CMS Memorandum of Understanding, which Romania signed in 2000 and which entered into force June



The Great Bustard (Otis tarda)
© János Oláh / Bird Quest

2001. At the 2nd Meeting of Signatories (November 2008, Ukraine) it was acknowledged that population trends were improving in Germany, Austria and Hungary. However, there was a concern that the population trend might be negative in Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The wind farm was planned to be constructed in the Salonta region, north-west Romania. The area, as part of the Great Hungarian Plain, mainly consists of grasslands and cereal cultures and is known as an important breeding and wintering habitat for numerous bird species. Since Great Bustards are particularly sensitive to infrastructures, such as wind turbines, buffer zones are advised. The Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association, a Romanian NGO, recommended sufficiently large buffer zones between the wind turbines and recent Great Bustard sightings and proposed that the whole wind farm be sited further towards the east.

The conflict with infrastructure is likely to be high on the agenda of the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Great Bustard MoU, which is tentatively scheduled for spring 2013.

Related link:

http://www.cms.int/species/otis_tarda/meetings/GB_2/Great_Bustard_2nd_SS_Meeting_Report.htm



Salonta region, Bihor County, Romania
© Mihai Călin / Natura 2000 Viewer



Conservation News

■ Transboundary Conservation of Argali Gains Further Momentum

The threatened Argali mountain sheep (*Ovis ammon*) would greatly benefit from improved transboundary conservation under CMS. This is the conclusion of a study assessing the gaps and needs of Argali conservation as well as the options for promoting such cooperation under CMS. The report elaborates ways to progress Argali conservation and discusses the potential benefits and challenges of developing a new instrument for the conservation of Argali and its habitat under the aegis of CMS.

The study was initiated following a range of activities aimed at improving regional cooperation for the sustainable management of Argali populations in Central Asia. Following the listing of the species on CMS Appendix II at the 10th CMS Conference of the Parties (COP10), several range states of the species have expressed their interest in developing transboundary conservation of Argali under CMS.

A new draft information and communication platform to facilitate networking among stakeholders will promote regional information exchange. It helps collect and share data from countries as well as to discuss relevant activities. The platform is open for comments and contributions. Decisions on the future structure and strategies of CMS, adopted at COP10 highlight the need to develop synergies and partnerships. With Resolution 10.16, CMS Parties agreed on a set of criteria which need to be considered when making any proposal for a new instrument under CMS. Consequently, the CMS Secretariat commissioned the present study to review existing initiatives and conservation activities for argali in Central Asia.

According to the study the combination of a non-binding MoU and Action Plan appears to be the most suited and promising option for pursuing the conservation of the Argali across its range. Stimulating joint monitoring activities and responses to common threats and opportunities to generate knowledge exchange among countries as well as new impetus for existing and planned conservation activities from part of this. This could catalyze



Argali © Richard Reading

resources and knowledge, both scientific and local, for the benefit of the species across its range and has the potential to bridge the divide between conservation and sustainable use.

Costs related to communication and coordination tasks are estimated to be approximately US\$10,000 to 15,000 per annum. Being the largest of the world's wild sheep and due to its huge horns, the Argali is an important species for trophy hunting, which could generate significant financial resources that could be used to conserve the species and



Conservation News

improve local livelihoods. Thus allocating part of the revenues from hunting permits for this purpose would be one option to ensure sustainable financing of a CMS instrument on Argali. CMS worked in close collaboration with the German Society for International Cooperation – (GIZ) GmbH, and obtained funding from the German government through the Regional Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia.

Related links:

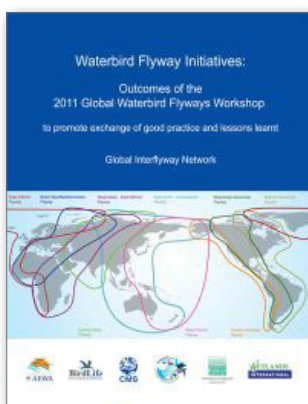
<http://argalinetnetwork.wordpress.com>

Development of transboundary conservation in past CMS Bulletins:

http://www.cms.int/publications/Bulletin/2012_03_04_e.pdf

http://www.cms.int/publications/Bulletin/2012_05_06_e.pdf ■

■ Publication on Global Interflyway Network Launched at Ramsar COP



A new publication on migratory birds' migration routes was launched at the Ramsar COP 11, which took place in Bucharest from 6-13 July 2012. BirdLife International, the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership

(EAAFP), the Ramsar Convention, Wetlands International and CMS joined hands to present the publication entitled "Global Interflyway Network".

It summarizes the outcomes of an international workshop on Global Waterbird Flyways convened by the EAAFP Secretariat in Seosan City, Korea in 2011. The objective was to review good practice in international initiatives to conserve migratory waterbirds and other migratory species and to bring together different flyway initiatives to share knowledge on best practices in developing and implementing flyway-scale waterbird conservation. This facilitates a more global view of flyway efforts undertaken. Despite of the growing number of flyway initiatives, there has been little exchange of information and experience. The report identifies strong potential synergies in the approaches, challenges and opportunities to implement conservation initiatives across all flyways. An open and inclusive network on flyway-scale initiatives entitled "Global Interflyway Network" (GIN) will be set up since there is great value in building on the existing mechanisms.

In order to start up this network, new electronic information-sharing and dialogue mechanisms will be established. The capacity of the GIN Partnership should be made available to support and provide input to the work of multilateral environmental agreements addressing flyway issues including amongst others CMS, AEWA and the Ramsar Convention. Other relevant flyway initiatives that were not represented at the October 2011 workshop are encouraged to participate in the GIN.

Click here to download the report:

http://www.eaaflyway.net/documents/resources/globalflyway2011/eaafp-tech-01_GIN-report-sml.pdf ■



Conservation News

■ The Deadly Effects of Border Fences: New Evidence from Central Asia

In the Little Pamir region, 16 carcasses of Marco Polo sheep (*Ovis ammon polii*) were recently found within less than three kilometres distance from the fence along the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The number of carcasses in a small area seems to provide further evidence of the deadly impact of border fences on wildlife. Especially for argali, that are fleeing from predators or hunters, the strong barbed wire fences pose an almost impenetrable barrier and cause serious injuries with potentially lethal consequences when the animals hit them at great speed. Usually infrastructure projects are being implemented regardless of the needs of migratory wildlife, bisecting arbitrarily their ecosystems and natural habitat not only along the geopolitical boundaries in the Pamir region, but globally. As fencing poses a global problem for migrating wildlife, it becomes increasingly visible in Central



Marco Polo sheep carcass at Tajik-Afghan border

© Aziz Ali

Asia. In Mongolia, the number of planned and constructed large infrastructure projects such as including railways, mining sites, pipelines, border fences and roads has rapidly increased over the past years. Several studies highlight the disastrous barrier effects of fences built along railways and other infrastructure connecting Mongolian mines and abroad. However, practical recommendations and cost-effective mitigation measures to ensure wildlife friendly fence design are rarely implemented.

Argali, Mongolian gazelles, Saiga antelopes and Khulans either shy away from crossing fences or die of starvation when become entangled in wire. While most of the harmful fences are a relict from Soviet times, new fences continue to be built along the borders between China and Kyrgyzstan, and between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This will increase pressure on the already critically endangered Ustiurd Saiga population migrating across the Kazakh-Uzbek border. Equally, the argali populations moving between China and Kyrgyzstan will be negatively affected. Both species seem already to be intolerant to human disturbance, in particular as a result of heavy poaching.

Sound advance planning, involving scientists, the national environmental authorities and, more importantly, border police and security agencies, are crucial. Solutions need to be found and applied, for both existing and planned fences. Mitigating negative effects to make fences safer for wildlife requires systematic monitoring and timely information exchange. A great deal of experience is already available in other regions and needs to be applied to Central Asia. CMS has identified barriers to migration as a key priority for migratory species conservation and is about to initiate a practical guideline highlighting Central Asian cases and potential solutions to provide guidance and exchange experience to reduce the deadly impact of fences and other barriers to migration. ■



Species Campaigns



■ Launch of the International Bat Night

The European Bat Night originally held only in Europe on the last weekend of August, which used to be an annual event celebrated since 1997, has gone international. Nature Conservation Agencies, NGOs and volunteers organize bat walks and lectures, children's games and contests, exhibitions and many other activities for the general public. Celebrations in and beyond Europe aim to bring us closer to these misunderstood mammals and their fascinating world by disproving superstitions and raising awareness of the need for bat conservation.

With the extension of the EUROBATS Agreement area beyond European borders and the global success of the "Year of the Bat" campaign, Bat Night events have started to emerge on other continents as well. Consequently what was previously known as "European Bat Night" has now become "International Bat Night" (IBN).

Event organizers are invited to not only share their announcements and event reports on the EUROBATS website, but also order the newly available "International Bat Night" poster in A2 and A3 formats from the EUROBATS Secretariat. Organizers are further encouraged to conduct events throughout the whole year and visit the EUROBATS and the Year of the Bat websites for event activities.



Some examples of these celebrations organized in Israel, France and the Czech Republic are worth being highlighted. On 23rd August Israel Bat Night was held simultaneously in five nature parks throughout the country. Activities started at sunset. Lectures were held and bat specialists offered guided observation tours of bat foraging activities.

In France, the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle has organized the screening of the film "Au rythme des chauves-souris" (In the rhythm of bats) at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. After that, a 40-minute guided tour with a bat expert allowed participants to observe bats taking flight in person. The activity offered in the context of the international bat night took place on 25th August 2012 and was fully booked a couple of days in advance.

Competitions and games for children, a lecture on the life of bats and their conservation and monitoring bats using ultrasound detectors are the IBN activities planned for 31st August in Castle Hartenberg (Sokolov district), Czech Republic.

These were some of the launch events for an international campaign which is becoming increasingly well-known and being celebrated all over the world.

Related links:

http://www.eurobats.org/news_events/european_bat_night.htm

<http://yearofthebat.org/events/search/>



Ambassadors' Brief

■ CMS Ambassador Stanley Johnson Published New Book

CMS Ambassador Stanley Johnson has made us happy with his new book entitled: *Where the Wild Things Were - Travels of a Conservationist*. He takes us on incredible journeys to a face-to-face encounter with endangered migratory animals covered under CMS. In this volume of collected travel and environmental journalism, Stanley journeys from Exmoor in England to Easter Island, from Anatolia to Antarctica to marvel at nature and wildlife. He is charged at by mountain gorillas, encounters marine turtles, tigers, elephants and the elusive blue whale. The travelogues were published by newspapers and magazines over the last eight years.

Stanley is a pioneer in conservation who argues the case for endangered migratory animals. As long ago as 1972, as a delegate at the first UN environment conference in Stockholm, he called for an international whaling agreement to impede unilaterally-set quotas set by whaling nations. By demanding legal protection for endangered species such as gorillas, Stanley turned out to be a pioneer of the CMS Gorilla Agreement. While anticipating a CMS instrument on sharks, Stanley called for CMS decisions on sharks to be legally binding and enforceable in practice. When describing threats to sharks as one of the most urgent wildlife issues, he demonstrated both foresight and wisdom as a conservationist with a thorough understanding of the network of life.

Being a globetrotter himself, he considers the potential of ecotourism for conservation. At the same time, he scrutinizes his own passion for wildlife watching when considering the growing business of ecotourism and its possible impact for the Earth's last paradises.

Despite the title of this book, Stanley remains an optimistic activist and tireless CMS Ambassador. On his journeys, he meets like-minded people such as



the British primatologist Jane Goodall and other less famous heroes who are nevertheless dedicated to nature and species conservation.

He joined the CMS team in Niamey, Niger, one of the poorest countries, to witness efforts by conservationists and local people to prevent the world's last remaining population of the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes from sliding into extinction. During the Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg in 2011, he emphasized that CMS stands ready to assist the global efforts to save tigers in the wild. Stanley takes us to Tasmania, seat of the ACAP Secretariat, in quest of the majestic albatross.

The book offers an enlightening and highly pleasant encounter with a passionate man who has spent his life defending wild places and wild animals, making the world a better place. It makes most enjoyable, witty, fascinating and exciting reading.

Stanley Johnson has written more than a dozen books on environmental subjects. Among them *Survival - Saving Endangered Migratory Species*, co-authored with CMS's consultant editor Robert Vagg, which was a runner-up in the 2011 Benjamin Franklin Awards.

Quick Amazon link to Stanley's new book:
"Where the Wild Things Were: Travels of a Conservationist"



Ambassadors' Brief

■ Citizen Crane – UK Welcomes Back a Once-Common Bird

By Stanley Johnson, first published in The Guardian

Before it disappeared the majestic great crane was so common villages were named after it. Now thanks to the WWT, it's back



The great cranes are fed with grain from a scoop, modelled on the head and neck of a crane, in the absence of a mother. © WWT

On Monday, I spent the day visiting the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's 800-acre reserve at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. Conservationist and artist Sir Peter Scott made his home here at this extraordinary site more than 60 years ago. His ambition was not only to secure a vitally important feeding ground for wildfowl and waterbirds on the Severn Estuary, but to build an organization (the WWT) whose conservation work might be internationally recognized.

Scott sadly did not live to see one of WWT's most ambitious recent conservation efforts, the Great Crane Project (GCP). In the Middle Ages, cranes were common in Britain. Bishops feasted on them and towns and villages (eg Cranleigh, Cranbrook,

Cranfield) were named after them. But draining of wetlands and hunting led to the disappearance of the crane as a breeding bird about 400 years ago. The objective of the GCP is to bring back a viable population of Eurasian cranes to the Somerset Levels. In practical terms, as Debbie Pain, WWT's director of conservation, told me, this means reaching between 70-100 birds.

The GCP is a brilliant example of national and international collaboration. Funds have crucially been provided by Viridor Credits environmental company. Besides WWT, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Pensthorpe Conservation



The objective of the Great Crane Project at WWT Slimbridge is to raise between 70-100 birds in the next few years. © WWT

Trust have brought their knowledge and resources to the project. The eggs have come from a thriving population of cranes – upwards of 450 breeding pairs – in the Schorfheide-Chorin biosphere reserve, near Berlin.

In conservation terms, the achievements so far are remarkable. In 2010 and 2011 a total of 48 fertile eggs were collected from Germany, 44 of which hatched at Slimbridge. After hatching, the birds spend their first twelve weeks in a large specially constructed enclosure, with a high net roof.

To read the full article, please access this link
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2012/jul/27/return-great-crane-uk?INTCMP=SRCH>



News from the Secretariat

■ Online Reporting System for MEAs

The Online Reporting System (ORS) for MEAs was presented at a side event in the margins of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention in Bucharest, Romania. The side event was organized by the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC in close cooperation with CMS and AEWA in the framework of a UNEP Knowledge Management Project funded by the Government of Norway.

The ORS is designed as a flexible tool for the creation of online national reports and is especially customized to the needs of MEAs and their online national reporting processes. The tool was successfully used for the first time for reporting to the 5th Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in May 2012. A number of other MEAs, including CMS, which will use it for COP11 in 2014, CITES and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and others are considering to use it for their respective reporting needs.

The new system provides a concrete example and proposal for streamlining of national reporting under the various MEAs and ultimately harmonizes their reporting processes. It includes numerous possibilities to build and customize individual questionnaires including many different question types, dependencies, flexible re-ordering of questions and sophisticated looping questions as well as filtering options. On the respondent level, the system allows for delegation of sections or even individual questions by national respondents, meaning that an MEA Focal Point can assign a section or a specific question of a given national report to those national experts most suitable to answer the selected part of the report.

As it requires no programming on the side of the MEA Secretariat, the ORS allows MEA Secretariats to design and update quickly and easily their national reporting templates and enables them to run their respective reporting processes independently in contrast to most existing reporting systems. It is expected that other MEAs will also use the system for their national reporting to increase effectiveness.

Increased use of the ORS would not only provide greater synergies amongst MEAs in the area of reporting by providing a common platform, but would lead to other opportunities including cost sharing for maintenance and further development of the system as well as a potentially more harmonious "reporting experience" for Parties and a simpler handling of the reporting process for MEA Secretariats. ■



Example of ORS species data base



News from the Secretariat

■ CMS Participates in North American Congress for Conservation Biology

Monika Thiele, CMS Focal Point for North America, attended the 2012 biennial conference for the Society for Conservation Biology North America Chapter (15-18 July, 2012) held in Oakland, California, USA. The North American Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB) is recognized as the most important meeting for conservation professionals and students working in North America. It provides a forum for presenting and discussing new research and developments in conservation science and practice, and addressing today's conservation challenges.

This year's theme: "Bridging the Gap: Connecting People, Nature, & Climate" tied neatly with CMS mission and recently adopted Resolution 10.3 on Ecological Networks. Ms. Thiele made a presentation entitled: "Ecological Networks and Animal Migration: Building Bridges for Transboundary Wild-

life Conservation" which was prepared in collaboration with CMS Associate Scientific & Technical Officer, Dr. Aline Kuehl. The presentation used CMS case studies to illustrate the important role of critical site identification tools and ecological networks in conserving endangered migratory species. The presentation was well attended and followed by many inquiries from participants wanting to learn more about CMS activities and how to apply their research toward CMS goals.



In addition, Ms. Thiele had the opportunity to meet with well-known researchers such as Dr. Zeb Hogan, COP Appointed Councillor for Fish, COP10 keynote speaker Dr. David Wilcove, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs at Princeton University, NGOs and US Agency partners, and prospective donors in the Bay area. ■



News from the Secretariat

■ CMS Family Meetings



Date	Event	Venue
27-30 Aug	AEWA: 11 th Technical Committee Meeting	Accra, Ghana
31 Aug- 2 Sep	Landbirds Working Group Meeting	Accra, Ghana
Late August	Signing ceremony: KSA to sign the Dugong MoU	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
8 Sept	3 rd Meeting of Signatories to the Pacific Islands MoU	Noumea, New Caledonia
20-21 Sept	CMS Briefing Session- Vietnam	Hanoi, Vietnam
24-27 Sept	1 st Meeting of Signatory States to the Sharks MoU	Bonn, Germany
9-12 Oct	AEWA Single Species Action Planning Workshop for Conservation of the Shoebill (<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>)	Entebbe, Uganda
22-24 Oct	ASCOBANS: 7 th Meeting of Parties	Brighton, UK
1-2 Nov	CMS Family Manual Workshop	Bonn, Germany
5-6 Nov	CMS Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting (prior to StC 40)	Bonn, Germany
6 Nov	CMS Finance and Budget Sub-Committee Meeting (prior to StC 40)	Bonn, Germany
7-8 Nov	CMS 40 th Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany
9-11 Nov	AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group Meeting	Lake Kerkini, Greece
13-15 Nov	ACCOBAMS: Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Monaco
4-5 Dec	2 nd Meeting of Signatory States to the Dugong MoU	Manila, Philippines
4-6 Dec (tent)	IOSEA Capacity Building and Priority Setting Workshop	Port Elizabeth, South Africa
9-11 Dec	1 st Meeting of Signatory States to the CMS Raptors MoU	Abu Dhabi, UAE
11-12 Dec	Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau	Monaco
12-13 Dec	Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Negotiation Meeting	Abu Dhabi, UAE
End March 2013	EUROBATS: 8 th Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany
April (tent) 2013	3 rd Meeting of Signatory States to the Middle-European Great Bustard MoU	Hungary
22-24 April 2013	EUROBATS: 18 th Advisory Committee Meeting	Sofia, Bulgaria
2 nd half of 2013	ASCOBANS: 20 th Advisory Committee Meeting	Gothenburg, Sweden
2 nd half of 2013	AEWA: 9 th Standing Committee Meeting	tbd
Oct/Nov 2013	CMS: 41 st Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany

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
Design: Karina Waedt