



CMS Bulletin

12-2012
1 - 2013

Editorial

*By Bert Lenten,
CMS Officer in Charge*

A COP year is always very work intensive, in particular for the Secretariat. The following year should be more relaxed but that has proved not to be the case. In 2012, many meetings of CMS instruments took place such as the Sixth Meeting of the Signatory States to IOSEA, the First Meeting of the Sharks MOU, the First Meeting of the Raptors MOU, the Meeting on the Central Asian Flyway and the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS. In addition, CMS organized the first Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, the CMS Family Manual Working Group Workshop and the 40th Meeting of the Standing Committee to mention just a few. It has been quite a challenge for such a small Secretariat to deal with all the logistics and substantial preparations in time.

The Year of the Bat, a very successful species campaign, has come to an end. You will find information regarding the current production of a comprehensive publication on bats in this Bulletin. In 2013 we will start preparing the next species campaign for 2014. Later this year we will inform you about it more in detail.

In January 2012 Ms. Elizabeth Mrema left Bonn to take up her new

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position as Deputy Director of the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) in Nairobi. However, she stayed on as Acting Executive Secretary and kept a watchful eye on the CMS Secretariat albeit from a distance. Meanwhile the recruitment process for her replacement has been finalized and Dr. Bradnee Chambers, currently Chief of Policy of UNEP's Division on Environmental Law and Conventions, has been appointed and will join the Secretariat as Executive Secretary on 1st March 2013.

There are indications that 2013 will also be a busy year. Following up on the outcomes not only of COP10, but also of the above-mentioned meetings will require a great deal of input from the Secretariat. Since joint efforts are needed to safeguard migratory species as an integral part of the planet's biodiversity, the development of the Strategic Plan for Migratory

Species will be a priority. The Secretariat and members of the ad hoc Working Group will promote this new Plan with the aim of securing wide support from Parties and partners. The new Strategic Plan 2015-2023 will serve as a basis for strengthening cooperation among all stakeholders.

Besides setting the course for strategic steps, we are focusing on conservation action on the ground, implemented by partner NGOs. A few examples can be found in this Bulletin.

We highly appreciate all the support received from Contracting Parties and partner organizations in 2012 to accomplish our work. Of course we hope that we can continue to rely on you. Finally I extend my very best wishes for a Happy New Year on behalf of the CMS Team! ■



Bert Lenten



Conservation News

■ First Meeting of Signatories to the CMS Raptors MOU Decides on Conservation Strategies



Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus),
© Sergey Dereliev (UNEP/AEWA),
www.dereliev-photography.com

At the First Meeting of the Signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) held 9-11 December 2012, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, more than 90 representatives discussed urgent conservation actions to step up international efforts for threatened raptor species.

Delegates from 22 countries and the EU reviewed the implementation of the overarching Action Plan and agreed on priorities to address threats under the Raptors MOU. They agreed on the establishment of the Coordination Unit to be based in Abu Dhabi under the auspices of CMS and on a Technical Advisory Group being set up in early 2013. Furthermore, they endorsed the CMS Resolution 10.11 adopted at the 10th Conference of the Parties on power lines and migratory birds.

International support for the CMS Raptors MOU is increasing. During the meeting Somalia and Niger signed the agreement bringing the total number of Signatories to 42. In conjunction with the Coordination Unit, Signatories will address threats to endangered raptor species by developing national and regional conservation strategies. Tailored Action Plans are also being planned for individual species by involving countries along the avian migration routes. The Sooty Falcon will benefit from an international Action Plan along its entire flyway.

In all 76 migratory species of birds of prey and owls, that occur in 130 countries in Africa and Eurasia, are covered by the Raptors MOU. All birds of prey are exposed to a range of threats but migratory raptors are particularly at risk due to the often long and arduous annual journeys they make from their breeding grounds to wintering areas, and back again. ■



Conservation News

■ Central Asian Flyway States Decide to Seek Extension of Geographical Area of AEWA



Great White Pelican (Pelecanus onocrotalus),
© Sergey Dereliev (UNEP/AEWA),
www.dereliev-photography.com

Range States of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) region decided to seek extension of the geographical area of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) to include the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds. The meeting on the way forward for the legal and institutional framework for the CAF took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 12 December 2012.

A declaration was issued requesting AEWA Parties to consider extending the geographic area of the treaty. In this document, Central Asian countries were also called upon to accede to AEWA and to implement the existing Action Plan. The alternative under consideration would have meant the CAF Waterbird Action Plan being set up as an independent framework outside CMS.



Conservationists expect better protection for the birds as the current arrangement will benefit from the greater international cooperation and coordination under AEWA. In its 17 years' existence, AEWA has become well established and has acquired considerable experience in tackling pressing threats to waterbirds.

CMS, AEWA and their governing bodies will work together to enable the AEWA Parties to take an informed decision on the extension of the Agreement area to include the CAF region. In light of the outcome of the CMS Future Shape process, the CMS Secretariat preferred the extension of the existing AEWA agreement area to developing a totally new one.

It is hoped that the implementation of the decision will promote the conservation of the waterbirds and their habitats in the Central Asian Flyway region. ■



CAF meeting, Abu Dhabi © Sergey Dereliev (UNEP/AEWA), www.dereliev-photography.com



Conservation News

■ ACAP's Engagement Strategy with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

By Warren Papworth, ACAP Secretariat

The bycatch of albatrosses and petrels in pelagic long line fishing operations is a significant threat to the survival of many populations of these species. The foraging range of most breeding albatrosses overlaps with the pelagic long line fisheries for tuna and swordfish. Consequently, the adoption of best-practice measures to conserve seabirds in these long line fisheries is a high priority for ACAP. This has provided the impetus for the development of ACAP's strategy for effective engagement and coordination with the organizations responsible for the management of these fisheries.

There are five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tRFMOs) responsible for the management of longline tuna fisheries on the high seas. These include the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and

the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). ACAP's Advisory Committee has designated an RFMO Co-ordinator for each of the tRFMOs. As the name suggests, the RFMO Coordinator is responsible for coordinating ACAP's work in the tRFMO's and this typically involves the development of meeting papers, the preparation of briefing documents and the ongoing liaison with relevant stakeholders within each tRFMO. As each tRFMO may have three or more meetings each year, this represents a considerable body of work for each RFMO Coordinator.

ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy has delivered some significant achievements. Over the past two years, four tRFMOs have adopted seabird conservation measures that incorporate ACAP's best practice advice for pelagic long line fisheries. This implies that a combination of weighted branch-lines, night-setting of baiting hooks, and the use of tori lines (bird scaring streamers), is the most effective means of avoiding seabird bycatch.



Adoption of revised seabird conservation measure at 9th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in 2012

© Warren Papworth / ACAP

Although this represents substantial progress, the effective implementation of these measures is required to achieve a substantial reduction in, or elimination of, seabird bycatch. The collection of relevant data will be the key to achieving this, and this will be the focus of ACAP's RFMO Engagement Strategy in coming years.

For more information, please refer to:

AC4 Doc 56 rev 1

AC5 Doc 29



Conservation News

■ CMS Sharks MOU referred to in UN General Assembly Resolution

By adopting a Resolution on sustainable fisheries on 11 December 2012 in New York, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has noted the importance of a healthy marine environment in achieving goals for sustainable development.

Specifically, during its 51st and 52nd meetings of the 67th Session, the UNGA noted in its Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries (UNGA Resolution 67/79) with satisfaction the adoption of the Conservation Plan for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU) under CMS at the first Meeting of the Signatories. Further, the Resolution invites Range States to consider signing and cooperating as partners, as referred to in the Memorandum of Understanding, and to consider associating themselves with the latter.

The Resolution as a whole addresses the sustainable use of straddling and highly migratory

fish stocks and recognizes the potential contribution of fisheries to sustainable development. It also welcomes the outcome document, "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). It reflects the call made for the adoption, by 2014, of strategies to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in enhancing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries.

At the same time the Resolution reflects commitments made at Rio+20, including the need to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; eliminate harmful fishing subsidies; and enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments.

In addition, the Resolution aims to ensure that decisions taken by regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) are based on the best available scientific information. The document calls for the urgent adoption and implementation of measures to fulfill the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. The CMS Sharks MOU was brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the United States and the European Union delegations, both already Signatories to the CMS Sharks MOU. It is the first time that the CMS Sharks MOU has been referred to in a UNGA Resolution.



Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) © Commonwealth of Australia



Conservation News

■ Major Boost for Transboundary Conservation of Argali

In December 2012, Range States of the Argali Mountain Sheep (*Ovis ammon*) met in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to discuss a draft international Action Plan for the conservation of the species. It was another important step towards strengthening collaboration and communication among scientists, hunting companies and wildlife managers from Central Asia to improve the transboundary management of Argali. The cooperation among Argali Range States has constantly gained momentum since the listing of the species on Appendix II of CMS in 2011.

legislation to improve the sustainable management of Argali and other migratory ungulates. The meeting agreed on a roadmap towards finalizing the Action Plan and assigned responsibilities for future cooperation.

With this meeting, CMS reinforced its leading role in guiding and developing transboundary conservation of migratory species. It was also a good example of the fruitful and efficient cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, which was also represented at the meeting. Participants included representatives from international organizations such as CITES, TRAFFIC, International Council for



Argali herd © Askar Davletbakov

The draft Action Plan centres around activities related to research, monitoring and data management, protection of Argali habitat and migration routes, sustainable use, policy and governance as well as regional cooperation. Scientists and government officials agreed on joint monitoring of Argali populations, actions to identify and protect migration routes and key habitat. Ways of creating incentives for conservation by involving local communities and the benefits sharing from sustainable use of Argali were another focus of discussions. Highlights included learning from Pakistan and their very successful community-led Markhor trophy hunting programme in Torghar, as well as from Kyrgyzstan and their new hunting

Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and Flora and Fauna International as well as from scientific institutions, protected area management, hunting companies and NGOs from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The CMS Secretariat organized the meeting in cooperation with the Hunting Department of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Kyrgyz Government and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), which also funded the workshop and provides significant support for the development of regional cooperation for Argali and other wildlife in Central Asia.



Conservation News

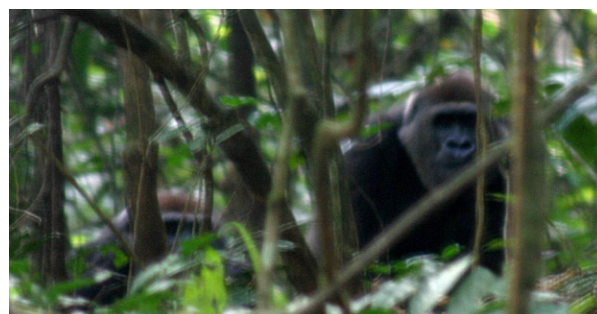
■ Progress on Conserving the Critically Endangered Cross River Gorilla in Cameroon and Nigeria

Funding from the Norwegian government announced at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties has provided critical support for planning and community participation in Cross River Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) conservation. This support has facilitated education and gorilla monitoring activities and fostered partnerships between local communities and government. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is implementing the project.

Following an initial workshop held in February 2012 to plan activities with all stakeholders involved in the conservation of the rarest great ape sub-species, participants agreed on priority actions over the next five years to improve the conservation outlook of the Cross River Gorilla. New objectives have been formulated, which are now being translated into actions.

First steps were taken to strengthen the capacity of community institutions to manage key Cross River Gorilla habitat in partnership with forest conservation authorities. Cameroon's Wildlife Law has been updated with emphasis on endangered species. The Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife is contributing to raising the awareness of community members on the sustainable use of natural resources in the forest with a view to expanding the existing "Gorilla Guardian" programme.

In Cameroon, conservation education started in the "Gorilla Guardian" communities with the hiring of a conservation education officer to raise more awareness about the importance of the Cross River Gorilla and other protected wildlife species. CMS funding supported the cost of this position. Film shows, publications, lectures and discussions were instrumental in educating people in the "Gorilla Guardian" villages. The education officer paid a first visit to four communities and three primary schools



Cross River Gorillas are very wary of humans, and this picture is one of very few ever taken of this species (Picture by J. Sunderland Groves)

in new areas to extend education activities. More than 50 per cent of the inhabitants in five villages participated in the discussion and film shows.

In Nigeria, WCS organized field trips for school clubs to the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mbe Mountains. Film shows successfully transmitted conservation messages and fuelled discussions on conservation issues.

Creating alternative livelihoods is essential for a successful conservation strategy. Therefore, WCS engaged in training and support for ex-hunters. Bee-keeping, which has already proved to be a natural solution to elephant crop raids in Kenya, has inspired Cross River Gorilla conservationists. In Nigeria, 21 hunters in 15 communities were selected for training in bee-keeping. After beehives were colonized successfully, the future beekeepers received training for harvesting. A total of 52 top-bar bee-hives have been constructed by local carpenters using the Kenyan design, and the construction of the same number is planned for 2013.

Regional cooperation was enhanced by transboundary patrols between Okwangwo in Nigeria and Takamanda in Cameroon. CMS supports joint patrols as part of the transboundary programme. These and other efforts will be continued in 2013 and CMS will report on the development of the initiative.



Conservation News

■ Limiting the Threat of Illegal Hunting to the Lesser White-fronted Goose in Kazakhstan



Lesser White-fronted Goose (Anser erythropus)
© Ingar Jostein Øien

A species under threat, the Lesser White-fronted Goose is a long distance Palearctic migrant, currently breeding discontinuously in the sub-arctic zone from the Scandinavian Peninsula, Finland, Karelia and the Russian Kola Peninsula to eastern Siberia and wintering in wetland areas in south-eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and the Middle East as well as in eastern China. The Lesser White-fronted Goose is a small species, whose numbers have dropped dramatically since the 1950s with an estimated decline of around 30-40 per cent of the global population in the last ten years alone. The sharp decrease in numbers is mainly attributed to illegal hunting and habitat loss. The ongoing threat might drive the species to extinction.

International cooperation is needed to halt the decline of the Lesser White-fronted Goose. Twenty-two Range States along the migration routes of the Western Palearctic Lesser White-fronted Goose sub-populations have established an inter-governmental Working Group under the framework of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

and the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic population).

In Kazakhstan, the Committee for Forestry and Hunting and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) started implementing a National Action Plan in 2012 to halt the decline of the birds. The project with financial support from Norway aims to achieve the following objectives: educational activities and training of local hunting communities in order to allow for a more active role in conservation. Alternative livelihoods are being identified to stop illegal hunting. ACBK staff and further game wardens have been trained to monitor populations and hunting pressure at key sites during spring and autumn migration.

The current National Action Plan 2012-2014 identifies the main threats for the Lesser White-fronted Geese in Kazakhstan. Up to 2,500 geese are hunted in Kazakhstan every year. Unstable hydro regimes at stop-over sites threaten populations. In addition, poisoning as a result of lead shot and other human disturbance including certain agricultural practices and fishing are contributing to the decimation of the population.

Two workshops held in September 2012 aimed to establish a partnership among government bodies and hunters to introduce effective measures to reduce the mortality rate of the geese. As a result, the existing rules for hunting in Kazakhstan will need to be modified.

Before the beginning of the hunting season for geese in Kazakhstan, a booklet on the conservation status of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, measures to safeguard it and species identification was distributed in Kazakhstan. At the same time, an AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose poster in the Kazakh language was distributed among hunters of Kostanay and North Kazakhstan regions.



Conservation News

Creating and maintaining favourable conditions at the geese's key stopover sites are crucial to the conservation strategy. In 2012, measures were taken to reduce disturbance and in particular hunting at two of the most important stopover sites in Kostanay region, Taldykol Lake and Koybagar Lake.

Monitoring surveys were conducted in spring and in autumn in northern Kazakhstan and in a number of adjacent areas of the Aktobe region. Data on numbers, distribution, habitat use, stopover sites and the impact of hunting were collected.

Hunting remains the major threat to these waterbirds. The monitoring team reported frequent infringements of hunting regulations. Shooting geese in wetlands was the most frequent incident of breaching hunting rules. The members of National Working Group will analyze the data on the impact of hunting on this waterbird species and other geese and consider them when drafting priority actions for 2013. ■



Hunting is a major threat to the Lesser White-fronted Goose © Toni Eskelin



Conservation News

■ New CMS Technical Series Publication on Migratory Bird Flyways

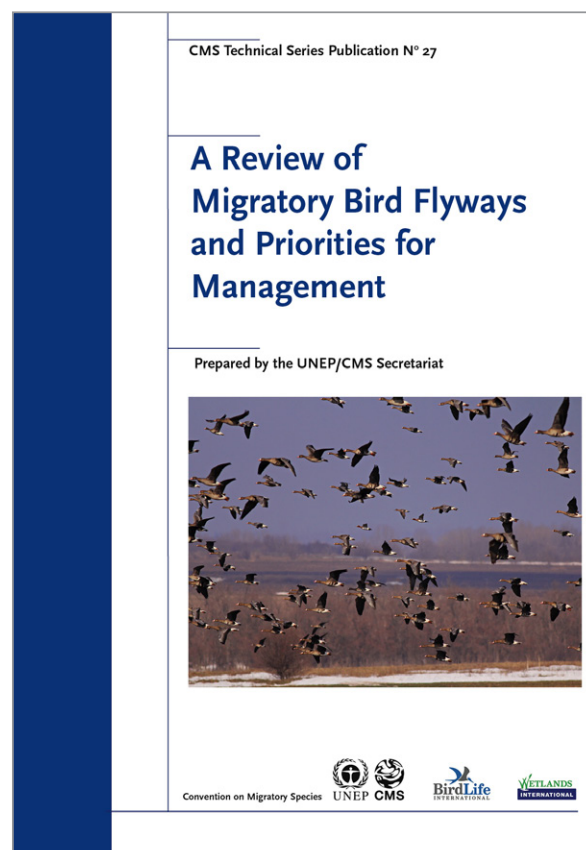
With the Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management the CMS Secretariat will publish a comprehensive edition on migratory bird conservation in its Technical Series.

A flyway is a geographical region on which migratory birds depend for breeding, moulting, staging, non-breeding and other purpose during its annual cycle. For some species these flyways are distinct 'pathways' linking a network of key sites whereas for other species, flyways are more dispersed.

This publication has been designed as an important tool for conservation and aims to demonstrate the need for international cooperation at a global level. It might serve as a key reference to all those dedicated to the study and conservation of migratory birds. It gives an overview on the strength and weaknesses of more than 30 different international flyway-based instruments for conserving migratory birds.

In accordance with Resolution 9.2., a working group on global bird flyways was established under the supervision of the CMS Scientific Council as a think tank on flyways. It reviews scientific and technical issues for conserving migratory birds and their habitats and relevant international instruments and initiatives. These might serve as the basis for future CMS policy on flyways and contributing to the work on the future shape of CMS.

During 2008-2011, the Flyway Working Group had three main objectives dealt with in three independent reviews. The first was the revision of management instruments for migratory bird flyways globally (Review 1). The second was to review the scientific knowledge of migratory bird flyways and conservation priorities and identify major gaps (Review 2). The third comprised new policy options



for flyway conservation and management to feed into the Future Shape Process of CMS (Review 3). The three documents, which are now published in this issue of the Technical Series, were endorsed by the Scientific Council and the Tenth Conference of the Parties.

The Flyway Working Group offers a new strategic mechanism for CMS to maintain a global overview of flyway related conservation priorities. It will give expert advice on the Convention's priority flyway activities in future. The Review follows Resolution 10.10 as to guide on global flyway conservation and options for policy arrangements to promote cooperation between flyways instruments, initiatives and partnerships within and outside the United Nations.



Species Campaigns

■ Ending the Year of the Bat on a High Note

With the end of the Year of the Bat campaign, CMS is entering the era of digital publishing. So far, the Convention Secretariat has reached out to its global audience relying on printed information material to address at most thousands of people. For the first time, a publication with interactive content will be produced that is exclusively distributed through the worldwide web. It has the advantage of benefiting from this billion-fold network that allows distribution to even the most remote places in real time.

The publication is a comprehensive education tool on bats and will feature the six official UN languages granting wider access to new target groups than previous publications. Structured in

global regions, the publication tells the audience about threats to these animals, the way bats contribute to ecosystem services and what is being done to

reverse negative population trends. Some regional species are introduced to give examples of the diversity of this animal group. There will be a bat quiz to test the reader's knowledge on bats and an interactive exercise to build a bat box.

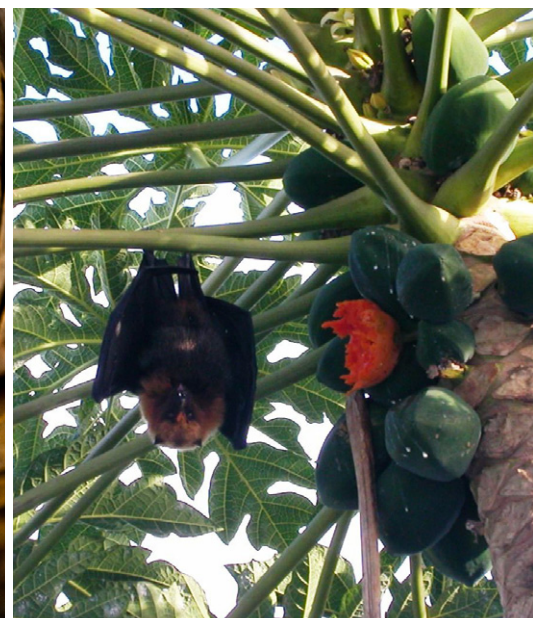
This publication is designed to correct false beliefs, generate a greater interest in bats and encourage further research contributing to global bat education. It is expected to become available by the end of March 2013. ■



Pteropus giganteus roosting; Nepal, Kaski © Narayan Koyu



Lasiurus blossevillei sleeping inside the leaves of a palm caranday (*Trithrinax campestris*) © Ale Lucas



Feeding on Papaya, Mauritius © Birgit Rudolph



News from the Secretariat

■ Swaziland Joins CMS

The Kingdom of Swaziland acceded as the 118th Party to the Convention on 1st January 2013. It is hoped that the accession will have a significant impact on conservation activities in the Southern African region. At the same time Swaziland joined the Agreement on African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) bringing its membership to 69.

Swaziland is a key point on the crossroad of main inland migration routes: over 500 species of birds fly over or breed every year in Swaziland. In the Mbuluzi Game Reserve alone, famous for its avian fauna, 400 bird species can be found breeding and feeding either all year round or passing through on migration. Due to the diversity of its terrain, as many as 107 species of mammals have been identified.

Endangered birds in Swaziland such as the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Red-footed Falcon (*Falco amurensis*), Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*) and Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*) are listed on CMS Appendix I. As many as 59 species are included in Appendix II. Among the 107 mammals of the country, charismatic animals such as the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) can be found, both listed on Appendix II. ■

■ Capacity-Building Workshop: Enhancing Integration of Objectives into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

A capacity-building workshop for thirteen Anglo-phone African countries was held from 26 to 28 November 2012 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The workshop brought together 46 national focal points of CBD, CMS and CITES to discuss how to integrate the objectives of biodiversity-related conventions



Regional Workshop for Africa on Integration of CMS and Cites Objectives into NBSAPs, Harare, Zimbabwe © Francisco Rilla

into the updating of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

UNEP in collaboration with the Secretariats of CBD and CMS, organized and conducted the workshop. Financial support was provided by various donors, such as the Ministry of Environment of Sweden, the Government of Japan through the Japan Fund for Biodiversity, and the Government of Germany. Further support in facilitating the arrangements in the host country was provided by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Zimbabwe.

For more information please access the following link:

http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2012/12_dec/nw_071212_harare_nbsaps.html

Or email Francisco Rilla: frilla@cms.int ■



News from the Secretariat

■ Promoting CMS in Washington

From 26 to 30 November 2012, Mr. Bert Lenten, Officer in Charge of CMS, visited Washington, DC to conduct talks with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The purpose of the visit was to raise awareness of CMS and the legal instruments concluded under its auspices, and to seek additional support for their implementation. Another objective was to explore interest of the United States in acceding to CMS and ACAP.

Mr. Lenten and Ms. Monika Thiele, CMS Focal Point for North America based at the UNEP Regional Office for North America (RONA) in Washington DC participated in 14 meetings with Government agencies and NGOs. At two NGO roundtable briefings, CMS took the opportunity to showcase marine species activities as well as avian and terrestrial topics. CMS offers unique opportunities for non-party countries to formally engage and financially support the Convention's activities via its sub-agreements and MOUs. In this context, the United States has given strong evidence of its commitment by recently signing on to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU, as well as making a US\$ 100,000 contribution to the Sharks MOU to which it is a signatory. At invitation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Lenten will be returning to Washington in late January to participate in the WHMSI Steering Committee meeting. ■

■ The CMS Secretariat Welcomes Johannes Stahl

Bonn, 14 January

2013 - Dr Johannes Stahl joined the CMS Secretariat today on a temporary contract to replace Dr Aline Kuehl who is currently on extended leave of absence. As the new Associate Scientific and Technical Officer, Johannes will



Johannes Stahl © J. Stahl

support the work of the Science Unit and assist with the organization of meetings of the Scientific Council as well as other events. More specifically, he will work on the development of the Small Grants Programme and cross-cutting issues such as climate change and ecological networks.

Prior to joining the CMS Secretariat, Johannes was a Junior Professional Officer for forest biodiversity in the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). His work focused on the bushmeat crisis and sustainable wildlife management, and on biodiversity-related aspects of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

Johannes holds a Ph.D. in agriculture from Humboldt University in Berlin, and an M.A. in social anthropology from the University of Freiburg. He also was a postdoctoral fellow in environmental science, policy and management at the University of California at Berkeley. A German national, he has lived for extended periods of time in Albania, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada and the United States. ■



News from the Secretariat



■ CMS Family Meetings

Date	Event	Venue
19-20 February	2 nd Meeting of Signatory States to the Dugong MoU (MOS2)	Manila, Philippines
12 February	5 th Meeting of the Committee for Captive Breeding, Reintroduction and Supplementation of Lesser White-fronted Geese in Fennoscandia (RECAP 5)	Bonn, Germany
21 March	EUROBATS: 8 th Standing Committee Meeting	London, UK
8-12 April	3 rd Meeting of Signatory States to the Middle-European Great Bustard MoU	Hungary
15-17 April	EUROBATS: 18 th Advisory Committee Meeting	Sofia, Bulgaria
16-18 April	ASCOBANS 9 th meeting of the Jastarnia Group	Gothenburg, Sweden
29-30 April	ACAP: Population and Conservation Status Working Group	La Rochelle, France
1-3 May	ACAP: Seabird Bycatch Working Group	La Rochelle, France
6-10 May	ACAP: 7 th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC7)	La Rochelle, France
Aug/Sept	ASCOBANS: 20 th Advisory Committee Meeting	Warsaw, Poland
18-20 September	AEWA: 9 th Standing Committee Meeting	Trondheim, Norway
9-10 October	CMS 18 th Scientific Council Meeting	Gaeta, Italy
Oct/Nov	CMS Strategic Plan Working Group meeting (prior to the StC41)	Bonn, Germany
Oct/Nov	CMS: 41 st Standing Committee Meeting	Bonn, Germany
4-8 November	9 th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas	Suva, Fiji



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