

# Convention on Migratory Species United Nations Environment Programme

2010



# What is the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention)?

- An International Treaty administered by the UN Environment Programme which conserves migratory species of wild animals
- As of 1 January 2010, 113 countries are Party to CMS
- Focuses strongly on research and monitoring of migratory species
- The two main legal tools are species listings and regional agreements
- Operates increasingly through partnerships
- Secretariat in Bonn, Germany

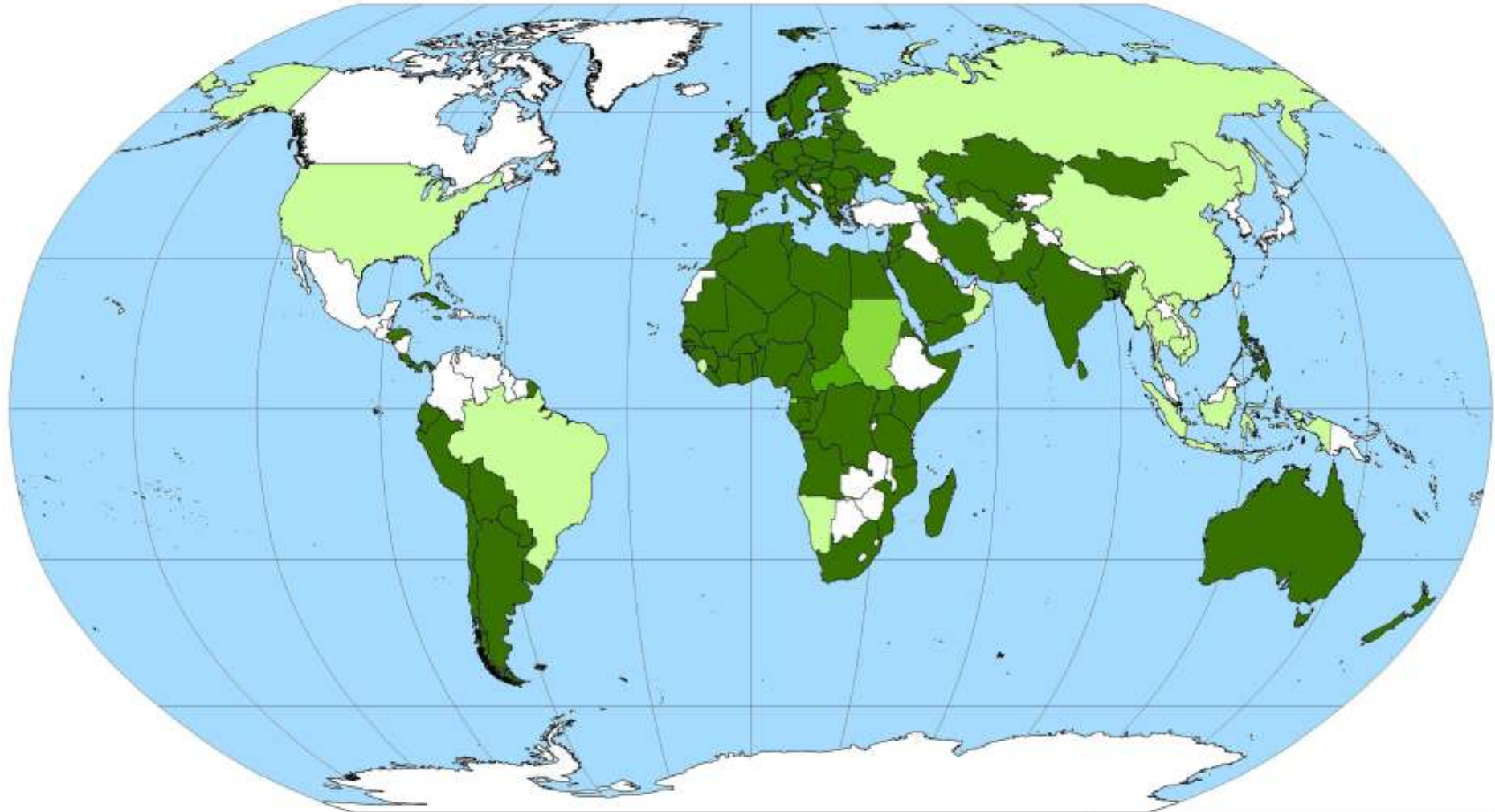
# Rationale of the Bonn Convention

Migratory Species are

- part of
  - ✓ the common natural heritage
  - ✓ world's genetic resources
- indicators for
  - ✓ linkages of & interdependences between ecosystems on a large geographical scope
  - ✓ ecological changes, e.g. climate, pollution, loss of biodiversity etc.
- interrelating with resident species (plants/animals)
- vulnerable (migration over political boundaries)
- owned by all Ranges States
  - ➔ in need of concerted/coordinated conservation measures, including research, monitoring & sustainable use

# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Map of 112 Parties (as of 1 August 2009)

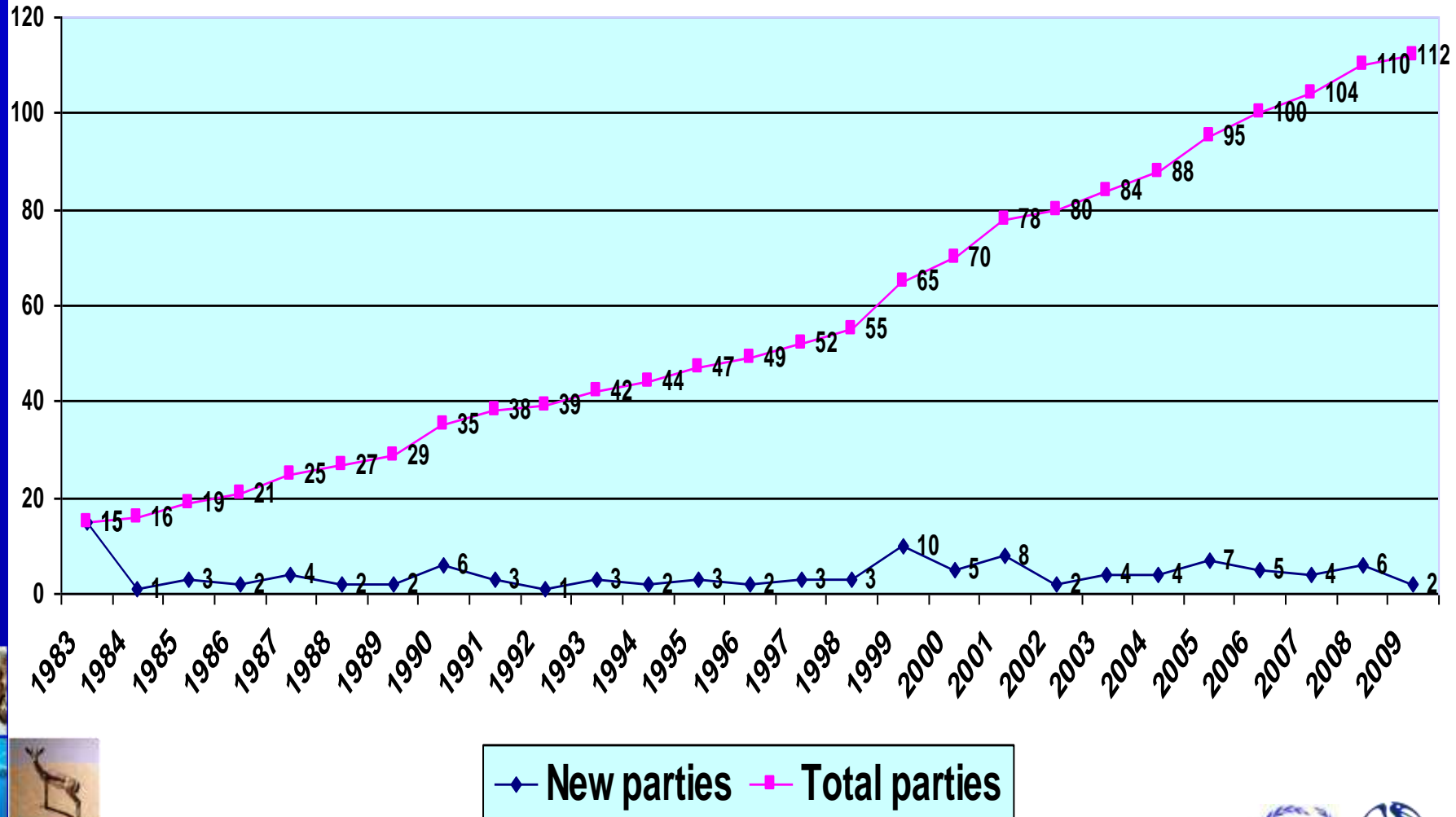


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2000 0 2000 KM

- CMS Party
- CMS Signatory
- Agreement Party
- MoU Signatory
- Non-Party

# Growth of CMS



# CMS Concerted Actions

## CMS COP (Conference of the Parties) mechanism to:

- Review status
- Make recommendations to improve conservation status

## Modus operandi:

+/- Creation of legal & institutional frameworks (Agreements, MOU)

- “Concerted action listing” (COP Resolution)
- Assistance to Parties:
  - ✓ Generate range wide action plans to coordinate Range State actions
  - ✓ Small grants programme access

## Examples

- Marine Mammals
  - ✓ Eastern Atlantic populations of the Monk Seal: Action Plan
- Terrestrial Mammals
  - ✓ Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes (6 spp.): Action Plan
- Birds
  - ✓ Siberian Crane: GEF Project and MoU



# A Need for Concerted International Action

The Convention on Migratory Species provides a framework for countries to work together for a common goal:

*The conservation of migratory species  
throughout their entire range*

CMS-tools:

- Concerted actions for endangered species
- Co-operative agreements for species having an unfavourable conservation status
- Concerted / co-ordinated Research and Monitoring

# What is a Migratory Species under CMS?

- Entire population of species or geographically distinct part of species
- Combination of biological and political criteria for definition of “migratory”
- “Significant proportion” must “cyclically and predictably” or “periodically” cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries



# CMS Species Coverage

## 6 Primary Species Groups:



**Migratory Birds**



**Terrestrial Mammals**



**Marine Mammals**



**Marine Turtles**



**Fish**



**Insects**

# APPENDIX I

## Threatened Migratory Species in Need of Direct Conservation Action

### Parties:

- **Conserve and restore important habitats**
- **Address adverse effects of obstacles to migration**
- **Address other factors endangering the species including controlling alien invasive species**
- **Prohibit taking except for science, breeding & traditional subsistence users or extraordinary circumstances**
- **Follow COP resolutions and recommendations on further measures**



## APPENDIX II

# International Instruments for Species Conservation via (Sub-)Regional Agreements

- **Agreements / Action Plans (legally-binding)**
- **Memoranda of Understanding / Action Plans**



# Benefits of CMS Instruments

- Full geographic coverage (minimised gaps)
- Enhanced co-ordination (governmental, NGO) aim to reduce duplication of effort
- Cost effective (multiple action plans, multiple species under common administrative framework)
- Adaptable (according to taxa and regional needs; range from formal to non-binding)
- Financial support (bilateral, multilateral)

# Binding Agreements



## Memoranda of Understanding / Action Plans

Andean Flamingos  
2008

Slender-billed Curlew  
1995

Marine Turtles  
Atlantic Coast of Africa  
1999

Marine Turtles  
Ind. Ocean / S-E Asia  
2000

Great Bustard  
2000

Bukhara Deer  
2002

West African  
Cetaceans  
2007

Aquatic Warbler  
2003

Western African  
Elephant  
2005

South Pacific  
Island Cetaceans  
2006

Saiga Antelope  
2006

Pacific Island Marine  
Turtles

Dugong  
2007

Ruddy H Goose  
2007

African-Eurasian  
Raptors  
2008

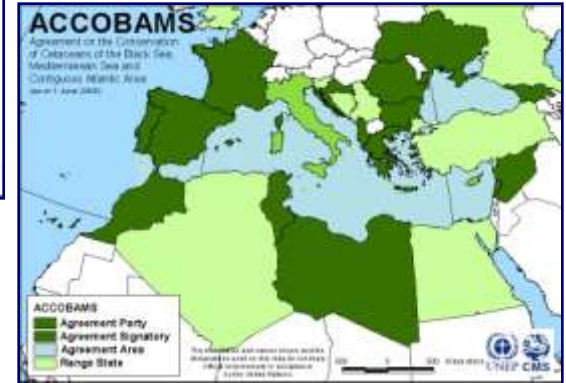
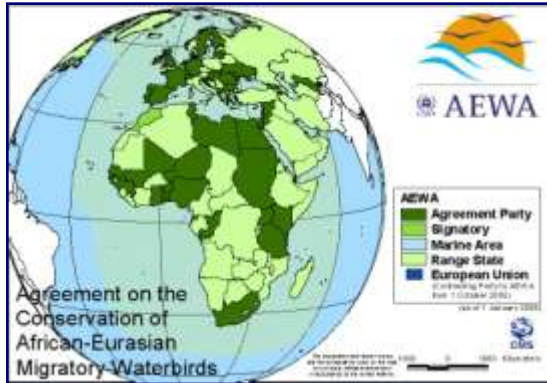
Siberian Crane  
1993

Monk Seal  
2007

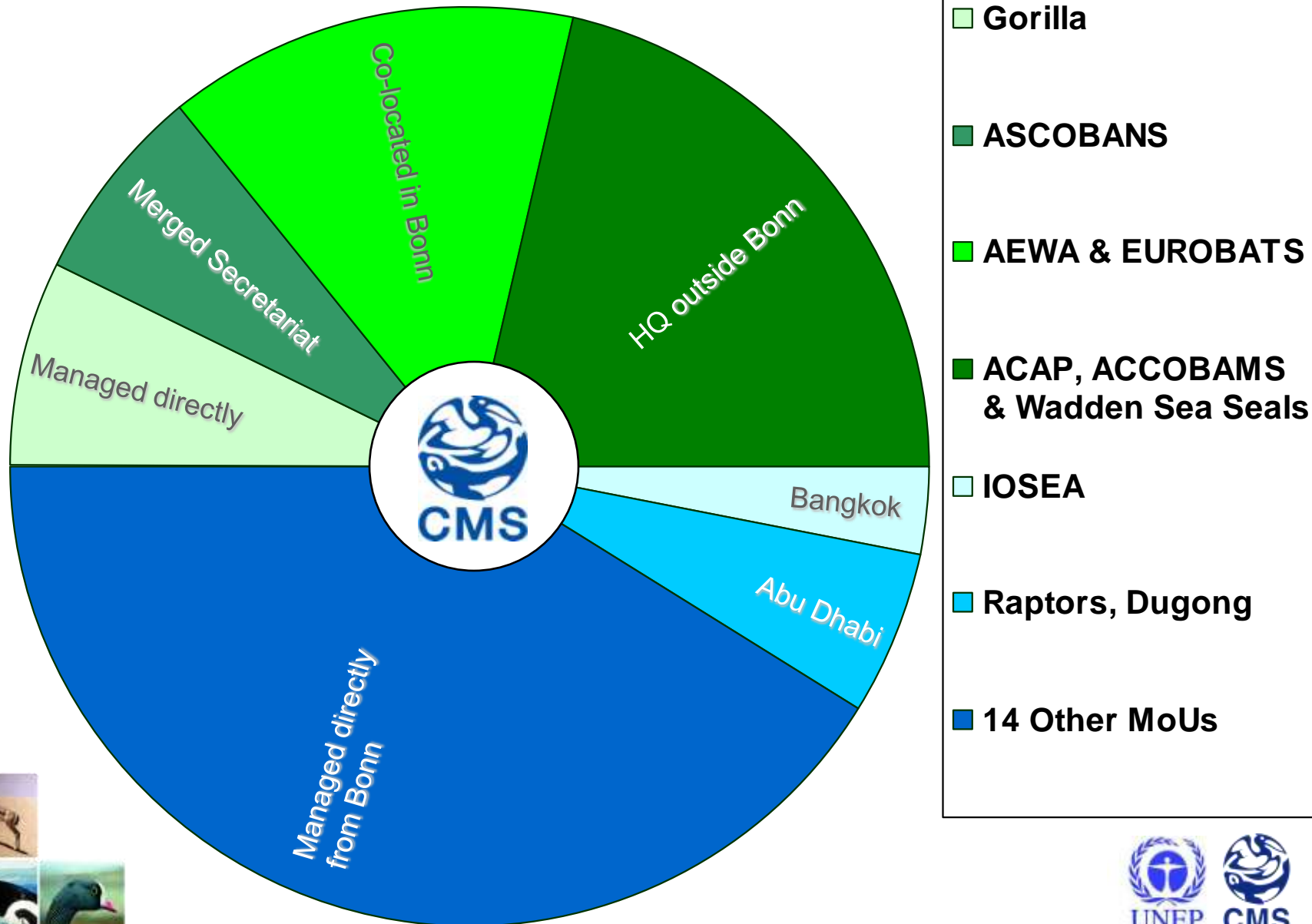
Sharks

Concluded / In Force
  In Preparation

# A Regional View Of The CMS Family



# An organizational structure of CMS' s Instruments



# Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels



**Secretariat in Tasmania**

**25 Range States**

**13 Signatories**

- ✓ By-catch mitigation, support for FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries
- ✓ Conservation and restoration of important habitats
- ✓ Research and exchange of information
- ✓ Public awareness campaigns



# Agreement on Baltic and North Sea Small Cetaceans (ASCOBANS)



**18 Range States  
10 Signatories**



- ✓ Surveys / research
- ✓ By-catch mitigation
- ✓ Acoustic disturbance
- ✓ Marine pollution
- ✓ Protected areas

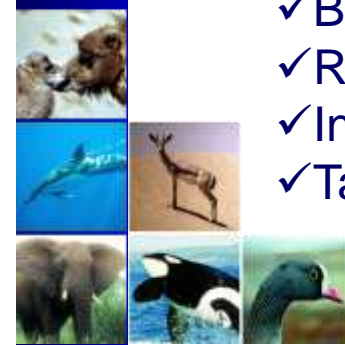


# Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)



**29 Range  
States  
22  
Signatories**

- ✓Habitat protection
- ✓By-catch mitigation
- ✓Research, monitoring and development of databases
- ✓Information, capacity-building and public awareness campaigns
- ✓Task Force for special mortality events



# African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement

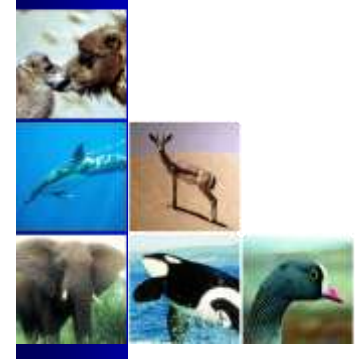


**119 Range States**

**63 Signatories**



- ✓ Species Action Plans, e.g. D-b Brent Goose
- ✓ Habitat conservation (e.g. site rehabilitation)
- ✓ Research and monitoring (e.g. report on conservation status of AEWA species)
- ✓ Education and information (e.g. WoW toolkit, World Migratory Bird Day)



# Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)



- ✓ Migration studies
- ✓ Population surveys / monitoring
- ✓ Guidelines on roost protection
- ✓ ID of critical foraging habitats
- ✓ Public education / awareness
- ✓ Remedial timber treatment

**49 Range States**  
**32 Signatories**

# Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats (Gorilla Agreement)



ACCORD CMS GORILLA



CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT

10 Range States  
6 Signatories

- ✓ Action Plan covering education, research and forest protection
- ✓ Partnerships with GRASP, IRSNB governments, UN agencies and other organizations
- ✓ Covers all 4 sub-species

# Wadden Sea Seal Agreement



## 3 Range and Signatory States

- ✓ Conservation and management measures on habitats, pollution and wardening
- ✓ Research, monitoring and public awareness raising
- ✓ UNESCO World Heritage Site



# Why do we need CMS?

## → **Migratory Species are:**

- *Common biological resources (shared by all Range States)*
- *Vulnerable (subject to different threats in different States)*

→ Most Range States accept their responsibility to conserve and sustainable use wildlife resources

→ Conservation of migratory species requires coordinated measures through cooperation across the migratory range

→ CMS works to achieve CBD/WSSD targets on reducing biodiversity losses by 2010

→ 2010 Targets link us to Millennium Development Goals and agreed international objectives for sustainable development and the elimination of poverty

# Linkages between Migratory Species, Ecosystems and Sustainable Development

Migratory species:

- contribute to ecosystem:
  - ✓ Structure and function (e.g., biomass, perturbation, pollination/seed dispersal)
  - ✓ Provisioning services (e.g., food sources)
  - ✓ Regulating services (e.g., predation, pollination)
  - ✓ Cultural services (e.g., spiritual, recreational, educational, symbolic)
- multi-scale contributions
- socio-economic benefits → sustainable livelihoods
  - ✓ hunting (waterfowl), fishing (caviar trade), eco-tourism, (whale watching), etc.

# CMS and the 2010 Biodiversity targets

- CMS is one of the very few global multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that deals explicitly with the conservation of animal species and their habitats
- It is one of the 6 Biodiversity-related Conventions
- CMS addresses the key components of biodiversity and the three discoveries of CBD

# CMS and the 2010 Biodiversity targets

- CMS is well suited to respond to the “global biodiversity challenge” represented by the 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss due to:
  - Its structure - a framework convention with global coverage, hence reaching out to governments world-wide
  - Binding and non-binding instruments offering a flexible approach to engage member states in specific species and habitat conservation
  - Development of indicators based on migratory species that can help assess progress in achieving the 2010 target
  - By conserving just one migratory species many different habitats and co-species benefit also, since these animals cover a vast surface area of diverse living spaces

**How does the  
Convention on  
Migratory Species  
contribute to  
reducing the loss  
of Biodiversity ?**



# Reducing Threats to Migratory Species Globally

## Barriers to migration

- Dams
- Power lines
- Fences
- Wind farms



## By-catch mitigation

- Cetaceans
- Marine turtles
- Albatross and Petrels



## Habitat loss

- Conservation
- Restoration



## Threatening processes

- Desertification
- Climate change
- Alien invasive species
- Illegal hunting
- Pollution



# Capacity Building and Outreach

- Workshops
- Build Capacity and Strengthen Membership
- Website Enhancement
- Brochures and Toolkits
- Publications
- Thematic Campaigns

# CMS Annual Awareness-raising Campaigns

- Year of the Turtle 2006
- Year of the Dolphin 2007/8
- Year of the Gorilla 2009



- 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

# Co-operation with other Global Biodiversity-related Conventions



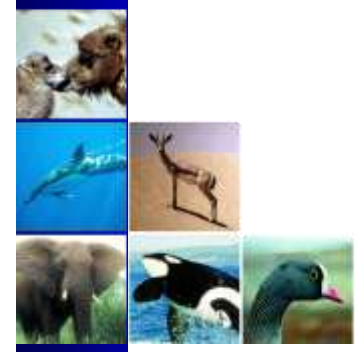
**Biodiversity  
Liaison  
Group**

+

**FAO, IUCN,  
UNCTAD,  
UNDP,  
UNESCO,  
UNEP,  
UNITAR,  
UNEP/WCMC  
and WWF**

=

**Heads of  
Agencies  
Task Force  
on the 2010  
Biodiversity  
Target**



# Through partnerships with selected NGO and IGO Partners





**Thank  
you!**

