

UNEP-CMS Marine Mammal Partnership

Conservation Project for the West African Manatee

International partners are joining forces to develop a comprehensive Conservation Strategy for the West African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) throughout its range. Based on a synthesis of national and regional reports on manatee status and threats, the strategy will offer recommendations for action highlighting the potential roles of various stakeholders. Partners in this effort are the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the Abidjan Convention and CMS with the support of the Government of Monaco

Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the South Pacific

Working closely with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), CMS is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the conservation and management of marine mammals in the South Pacific. The SPREP Secretariat is expected to act as coordinator of MoU implementation.

Implementing ACCOBAMS

The CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) is collaborating closely with the Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP (UNEP/MAP) to strengthen synergies between their work programmes and avoid duplication of effort. UNEP/MAP has designated its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas as a sub-regional co-ordinating unit for the implementation of ACCOBAMS. A similar agreement has been established for the Black Sea Area with the Black Sea Commission.

The ACCOBAMS Training Kit

Several international partners are cooperating to develop a training toolkit on Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area. Aimed primarily at scientists involved in cetacean conservation and implementation of ACCOBAMS, the kit contains theoretical and practical volumes, a legal volume, a selection of slides and a CD-ROM on species identification. Partners are the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, ACCOBAMS, CMS, the Black Sea Commission and Mediterranean Action Plan.



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Dugong Conservation

Dugong: Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and Territories, published by the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), gives a global overview of the status and management of the dugong throughout its range, and provides information to help the 37 range countries and territories develop conservation plans.

Towards a Western Indian Ocean Dugong Conservation Strategy is a synopsis of dugong status and distribution in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. It identifies emergency strategies and actions to protect this remnant population, considered on the verge of extinction. The report is based on UNEP and WWF-funded rapid national assessments of dugong status in the region.

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Invitation

8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

UNEP-CMS Side Event on

UNEP and CMS Conserving Marine Mammals

13.00 - 15.00 on Tuesday 22 November 2005
Venue: to be confirmed



Speakers:

Rob Hepworth, CMS: Welcome; CMS and Marine Mammals
Marco Barbieri, CMS: UNEP-CMS Marine Mammal Research
Ellik Adler/Hanneke van Lavieren, UNEP: UNEP Regional Seas & Marine Mammals
Eric Falt, UNEP/Rob Hepworth, CMS: Launch of Small Cetaceans Report

Regional Presentations

Marie Christine Van Klaveren: ACCOBAMS
Lahcen El Kabiri, CMS: Mediterranean Monk Seal
Bill Perrin, CMS Appointed Scientific Councillor: SE Asian issues
Dixon Waruinge/Ulrika Gunnartz, UNEP: East and West African issues
Koen Van Waerebeek, CEPEC, IUCN/CSG: West African and South American issues
Nicola Hodgins, WDCS: South Asian issues
Lui Bell, SPREP: Pacific Islands issues



Marine Mammals: A UNEP Commitment

Marine mammals are crucial to the health of the Earth's coastal and open-ocean ecosystems. UNEP is committed to their conservation and management at both global and regional levels, working through partnerships with its Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and with the biodiversity-related Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES, Ramsar, World Heritage, and particularly the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Marine Mammal Action Plan: Global to Regional Action

Growing public concern in the early 1980s led UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to draw up a Global Plan of Action for Marine Mammals (MMA). The central goal of the plan is to bring governments together to agree and harmonize their policies for marine mammal conservation.

Under the auspices of UNEP, the MMA has worked to build technical and institutional capacity in marine mammal conservation and management in several Regional Seas programmes, particularly those of Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Africa, West and Central Africa, the Black Sea and South-East Asia. Several Regional Seas have incorporated marine mammal conservation into their action plans and protocols: such plans exist for monk seals and cetaceans in the Mediterranean; marine mammals in the South-East Pacific; and West Indian manatees in the Caribbean.

Launch of

Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats

The *Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats* is the result of ongoing collaboration between UNEP and CMS. Compiled by marine biologist Prof. Dr Boris Culik, the review summarizes the available knowledge on the distribution, behavior and migration of toothed whales, and the threats to which they are exposed. It is aimed at experts in the field of marine biology, students and conservationists as well as other interested public.

The launch will be held Tuesday, 22 November 2005 at 13.00 hours

