



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



WDCS: A Major Partner for CMS and ASCOBANS in Marine Mammal Conservation

CMS signed a partnership agreement with WDCS during the CMS COP8 in Nairobi, 2005, making WDCS a non-governmental partner to a global Convention. Through this exciting and progressive partnership, CMS and WDCS have agreed to work together to progress cetacean conservation around the world, building a network of regional agreements to provide increasingly strong protection for cetaceans. To this end, CMS and WDCS have developed a joint work programme for 2006 - 2008.

WDCS is able to facilitate CMS's vital work to develop international agreements to protect cetaceans regionally by assisting CMS and the countries involved by providing scientific expertise to address the conservation needs of cetaceans regionally.

There are now already three CMS regional agreements focussed on cetaceans; ASCOBANS for the conservation of small cetaceans in the North and Baltic seas, ACCOBAMS for the conservation of whales in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and the Pacific agreement; and a fourth is currently being negotiated for the West African region.

CMS appreciates WDCS' support as a founding partner of the UNEP's Year of the Dolphin 2007. As a result of its success, it has been extended into 2008. As a Partner, WDCS created the Dolphin Diploma award to help children find out more about these amazing animals and the threats they face. Thousands have accepted the challenge and taken part in conservation activities to help dolphins across the globe. WDCS is also the author of the Dolphin Manual, which is available in eight languages and boosted the educational campaign in various regions of the world. This year WDCS will continue to contribute expertise in the Year of the Dolphin initiative.

WDCS' contribution as a CMS partner continues to be highly significant and productive. CMS Executive Secretary Robert Hepworth stated: "WDCS, with its global yet grassroots-level approach, is an ideal partner for CMS in its endeavour to link intergovernmental agreements and action in the field. WDCS has proven to be a valuable partner in raising awareness and enhancing the education of the public on dolphins. CMS also works with WDCS to implement decisions made at intergovernmental level on the ground. The Convention is looking forward to working with WDCS towards a safer environment for dolphins, whales and porpoises."

www.yod2007.org - CMS celebrates the Year of the Dolphin 2007
La CMS célèbre l'Année du dauphin 2007
CMS celebra el año internacional del delfín 2007

