



# CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Report

ANNEX 4

Original: English

13<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020

## OPENING AND CLOSING STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES/ DÉCLARATIONS D'OUVERTURE ET DE CLÔTURE ET DISCOURS/ DISCURSOS DE APERTURA Y DE CLAUSURA DE LA REUNIÓN

### *Note:*

*This annex only contains the opening and closing statements that were submitted to the Secretariat electronically. The statements are presented in their original language./*

*Cette annexe ne contient que les déclarations d'ouverture et de clôture qui ont été soumises au Secrétariat par voie électronique. Les déclarations sont présentées dans leur langue originale/*

*En el presente anexo figuran únicamente las declaraciones de apertura y de clausura que se presentaron a la Secretaría en forma electrónica. Las declaraciones se presentan en su idioma original.*

### **OPENING STATEMENT, MS. AMY FRAENKEL – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ DÉCLARATION LIMINAIRE, MME AMY FRAENKEL – SECRÉTAIRE EXÉCUTIVE/ DISCURSO DE APERTURA, SRA.AMY FRAENKEL – SECRETARIA EJECUTIVA**

#### **I. Words of thanks /Mots de remerciement/Palabras de agradecimiento**

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to **Prime Minister Modi**, for supporting nature and the Convention on Migratory Species by inaugurating CMS COP13.

I would also like to give my most sincere and personal thanks to the leaders that grace our presence here today:

- His Excellency, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi
- Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Vijay Rupani
- Honorable Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Mr. Prakash Javadekar
- Honorable Minister of State Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Mr. Babul Supriyo
- Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat, Mr. Anil Mukim
- Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Mr. Chandra Kishore Mishra
- Honorable Ministers
- Heads of Delegation
- UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Joyce Msuya

Ladies and Gentleman

Thank you to all of the many officials from the Government of India and the State of Gujarat, who have worked so hard with us to make COP13 become a reality, and for your generosity and warm hospitality

Finally, let me welcome all of the national ministers, the state ministers from across India, all of the representatives of the UN, our sister conventions, and of course all of the delegates from Parties, non-Parties, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Welcome to the biggest CMS COP ever.

## **II. Personal thoughts / Reflexions personnelles / Pensamientos personales**

I arrived at CMS last May as Acting Executive Secretary, with this COP on the horizon and many CMS meetings on the calendar – on gorillas, on giraffes, on turtles, on sharks, and on many avian issues, amongst others. On about the third day, I smiled as I realized, I am in exactly the right place.

I grew up with the values of a naturalist – hiking not to conquer the peaks but to stop frequently along the way to watch a bird, admire a mushroom, and rejoice in the beauty of the forest.

I am honored and energized to serve as Executive Secretary of CMS. I feel like I have come home, to work on the issues that are closest to me. And I want to thank the entire CMS Family secretariat, all of our Parties and partners, for making me feel so welcome, so at home.

It was not easy to step into this role in this way, after the tragedy that befell Bradnee Chambers. It was his vision to hold this meeting in India, and I hope we will all do him justice and deliver an incredibly successful COP13.

## **III. Message to COP13 / Message à la COP13 / Mensaje a la COP13**

CMS just celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. It is therefore fitting that we start this year with CMS COP13, at this very important moment in time for biodiversity and for the planet.

*First, the UN Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services released in May 2019 painted a very stark picture about the state of biodiversity and species loss, including that we are at risk of losing 1 million species, including migratory species, to extinction.*

We need to go even deeper, and better understand what is happening to migratory species, the threats, and the solutions, in order to focus and prioritize our action.

The Secretariat's initial report on the status of migratory species, prepared for this meeting, has some very interesting findings, including that over 70% of species listed on Appendix I are declining, and that overexploitation of species including direct use, along with habitat loss, are the top threats to our species. Because this work is so important to the work of CMS, *we have called for core funding to prepare a CMS Flagship report on the status of migratory species.*

**Second, COP13 is kicking off the “super year” for nature.**

COP13 is the first of a series of international biodiversity meetings in 2020 which will culminate in the UN Biodiversity Conference where a new biodiversity strategy for the next decade -- the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – will be adopted.

COP13 provides an important opportunity to impact this new framework, building on the Stakeholder Forum and High-Level Segment that were held over the past two days. *It is crucial that the priorities for CMS are reflected in this new strategy.*

**Third, CMS has a unique role to play, and we clearly need to step up our actions.** CMS is the only multilateral treaty dedicated to addressing the needs of migratory species and their habitats. At the heart of CMS is international cooperation to address those needs, whether at the bilateral, regional or global scales. *The COP will consider new species listings and concerted actions, and many resolutions and proposals dealing with species and emerging threats.*

In addition, with a million species at risk, we may need to consider whether 10 or even 20 or more listing proposals every three years is keeping pace – and how else we can raise our ambition and bring greater actions to bear on what is happening to migratory species.

**Fourth**, migratory species are integral to the ecosystems in which they are found, and their value can be shown in terms of ecosystems services, such as pollination, seed dispersal and a source of revenue and jobs through tourism, but they are much more than that. Migratory species touch people's hearts, they are deeply embedded in many cultures, reflected on national flags, stamps, coins, names of sports teams, and spiritual practices. *We can do much more to raise awareness about migratory species and nature.*

**Finally**, we need to work together now more than ever before. CMS is just one legal instrument, and in order to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, **climate change**, **desertification** and **other environmental problems**, we need to identify common issues and priorities, such as ensuring that the SDGs, which envisioned the possibility of economic and social development along with a healthy environment going hand in hand.

**To paraphrase Rachel Carson**, the biologist most known for her book, *Silent Spring*, "Our war against nature is inevitably a war against our future. We are challenged as never before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves."

We have a very busy week ahead of us, and I hope you are all energized and ready to work hard, given the stakes. With the full engagement of all of you, and with the leadership of India as the next COP president, I am optimistic about what we can do together.

**Thank you.**

**OPENING PLENARY SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP/  
DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DE LA PLÉNIÈRE PAR LE DIRECTEUR EXECUTIF ADJOINT DU  
PNUE/  
DISCURSO DE APERTURA DEL PLENARIO POR EL DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO ADJUNTO DEL  
PNUMA**

I would like to start by thanking the Government of India for hosting this conference in the beautiful city of Gandhinagar. I know that India will bring leadership to the South Asia region and to the whole world as the CMS COP President for the next three years.

India already plays a leading role in addressing the global loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, and your success will be critical for our success as a planet.

When I was young, I often visited my grandparents' home at the foothills of mountain Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. I would wake each day to the *Kunguru*<sup>1</sup>. Their song told us when it was time to get up and when the sun was about to go down. It was the soundtrack to our family's mornings and evenings.

As I grew older, roads replaced dirt tracks and the forests were cleared to make way for new homes. The birds soon disappeared, and we had to buy my grandmother an alarm clock to replace their morning calls.

I often think back to the birds at my grandparents' house when I contemplate the number of species we have already lost. The rate of extinction today is on average 1,000 times greater than at any point in recorded history.

Scientist and writer Rachel Carson had it right; we know exactly what extinction sounds like. Extinction sounds like silence, like the loss of birdsong from my grandparents' home.

And I know we are all concerned about the loss of nature, and the silence that accompanies it. We need to look no further than the devastating wildfires that have recently burned through Australia, the Arctic and the Amazon to realise that this threat is only rising. The world at one degree of warming above the pre-industrial era is already alarming.

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<sup>1</sup> A Raven of the family of Corvidae

To make matters worse, we have altered almost every single part of the Earth, including our oceans, in our relentless quest for infinite growth on a finite planet. Dams, roads, deforestation and agriculture have destroyed and fragmented habitats around the world. Species extinction, the rapid loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, and global warming are the consequences.

And yet, despite this bleak outlook, I am hopeful.

I believe we still have an opportunity to reverse course if we all come together to take collective action.

To do this we need to make 2020 a Super Year for Nature. This must be the year we agree to halt and reverse ecological devastation by pulling together and developing and implementing an ambitious post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.

That is why I am delighted that we are kicking off this critical year with this conference in India. This COP is an opportunity to accelerate efforts to conserve migratory species and their habitats, and to protect the connectivity of these habitats so that species can move between them, allowing biodiversity to flourish.

This concept of ecological connectivity provides us with a means by which multiple countries can agree on shared conservation goals beyond national plans and priorities and offers a strong foundation for international cooperation. We must take advantage of these unique opportunities for internationally coordinated conservation measures and nature-based solutions. Applying the lens of ecological connectivity to this and indeed all environmental challenges means that we are also contributing to global efforts to address climate change mitigation, resilience, adaptation and land degradation neutrality to name a few.

This is why the CMS is so important. We are losing species at such an alarming rate. One million out of nearly 8 million species face the threat of extinction. They include the insects that pollinate our crops, and the sharks that maintain the fragile balance of our coral reefs - all vital building blocks of a natural world that serve as humanity's life-support system. If we destroy the ecosystems and habitats that species need to thrive, then we destroy our own support system, putting many of the SDGs beyond reach.

This meeting comes at a crucial moment. The UN's Nature Summit takes place later this year. It will be an opportunity for countries to accelerate political momentum as we craft the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which seeks to halt the unravelling of the natural world. This COP will play a major role in shaping this framework and, in doing so, shape the fate of our future and planet.

The stakes are high. The targets we set and the level of political will that we mobilise will determine whether or not we can halt the planetary/nature/climate crisis and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – the very highest ideals humanity has set. And importantly, this is the year when we overcome the silos because the biodiversity agenda is a climate agenda, and a climate agenda is a biodiversity agenda. Species loss exemplifies these inter-linkages. In addressing the root causes of habitat loss for example, we move ever closer to making progress on nationally determined targets on climate. And as we watch our planet burn, we know that climate change changes the migration times and patterns of countless species around the world, putting them in graver threat.

We are so proud to count on the Convention on Migratory Species among the 15 global environmental conventions that dock at UNEP. Because CMS focuses on migratory species that cross national and international boundaries it has immense power to foster the regional and global collaboration that is so essential to stopping the nature crisis that we face today.

UNEP is also committed to continue its critical support to the conservation of iconic species such as the African Elephant and the Gorilla, through UNEP Initiatives like the African Elephant Fund and the Great Apes Survival Partnership.

And we are deeply grateful for the leadership displayed by the Government of India be it in the conservation of migratory birds, the conservation of critically endangered species including the Asiatic Lion, the snow leopard and the Gangetic dolphin. And finally, for driving the kinds of transboundary cooperation that is so vital to protecting all migratory species on this planet.

As the UN Secretary General told the General Assembly last month: “Living in harmony with nature is more important than ever.” “Everything is interlinked,”<sup>2</sup> he said.

The current discord between humanity and the rest of the natural world means we are in the process of tearing apart nature’s web. Let this year be the year we start to repair the damage we have done, and to put back the pieces so that the natural world and our place in it can flourish once again.

I wish you all the very best in your deliberations over the coming days and your collective efforts to protect, conserve and secure the future of migratory species on our planet.

Thank you.

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, ACTING AS TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE COP.**

**DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DU PRÉSIDENT DU COMITÉ PERMANENT, AGISSANT EN TANT QUE PRÉSIDENT TEMPORAIRE DE LA COP/**

**DISCURSO DE APERTURA POR EL PRESIDENTE DEL COMITÉ PERMANENTE, COMO PRESIDENTE PROVISIONAL DE LA COP**

Dear ministers, ambassadors, executive secretary of the CMS, representatives of other biodiversity MEAs, representatives of the Parties, ladies and gentlemen, friends of CMS

A very warm welcome to this 13th Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Migratory Species. Let me at the outset forward a special thank you to our Indian host for providing us so generously with this fantastic venue and the excellent logistics of this meeting. Could not have been better.

Migratory species belong to all people as they know no borders on their migration, they are indeed our common species. They form an important part of our social and cultural background, they are important for local communities and for livelihood, and many other functions. These species are truly international and parties must therefore manage them together, without we are not going to conserve them. As such they are low hanging fruits for both collaboration between countries and for outreach activities. One important message from this CoP will be exactly that, we must step up our international collaboration in pursuit of complying with CMS requirements. Party to party assistance is one good example on how to go about this.

I am sure that you by now know that India is a country with a megadiverse fauna and flora, and it is also a very populous country. Consequently India is a good example of the many challenges in preserving the natural heritage. I know that India is doing its utmost to meet those challenges. CMS is also well placed, as it stands in the intersection between conservation and giving advice on sustainable use of biodiversity to the benefit of both man and the value of our common environment.

What is CMS? I mean what is it about and what is CMS and its family of different initiatives actually adding as benefits to the challenge of conserving biodiversity? I want us to keep this in mind as we negotiate the best way forward in conserving diversity. Considering the present threat to biodiversity and the threat of the ongoing climate change, it is clear that the challenges are so grave that Governments simply need to rethink and change policies, but so does CMS as one of several biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-01-22/secretary-generals-remarks-the-general-assembly-his-priorities-for-2020-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-version>

The world of biodiversity MEAs is many faceted. One common feature is that few of these are really capable of effectively delivering a sustainable future alone, in other words we need to broaden the horizon and initiate much more cross-sectoral collaboration. Maybe CMS has been a bit slow here, but there are clear signs now that we are on the right track. Another example of a commendable effort is our previous host, the Philippines. They graciously initiated the novelty of a CoP Presidency, focusing on a programme of initiatives in their own region. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Philippines for this, and especially for the efforts in promoting conservation of tidal wetlands in Asia and also for the efforts in raising awareness of CMS and nature conservation in the region. Truly an example to follow.

Last year we received the massive report from the nature panel IPBES on the global state of biodiversity and the climate panel IPCC report on the ongoing global climate change. Two reports that represents undisputable facts from the top experts. It is grim reading. Strong words from the UN General Assembly also tells us that ecosystems are at the brink of dramatic change. The human urge to conquer the world and to exploit its natural resources has indeed succeeded. Still I see hope for future generations and the future of the planet as there is growing recognition of what to do, as we have set ambitious targets such as the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and will set more later this year. It is of course up to us all if we are to succeed.

The term 'connectivity' is the buzz word for our Conference and will be high on the CMS agenda in this big year for diversity as it concretizes the needs if we are to maintain migratory species and their migration routes. Without proper habitats and how these connect our migratory species cannot survive. Still the term connectivity is not only about national conservation areas, but also about different types of key biodiversity areas, IBAs, but importantly also for our own national NBSAPs, it is about national cross-sectoral legislation, it is about outreach and involvement of the public and NGOs, to mention some of the topics relevant to connectivity.

As you all know the former ES of CMS Bradnee Chambers unexpectedly passed away last year. It was a sad day for us all, and a huge loss to CMS. Under these very special circumstances the Secretariat can be congratulated for their success in preparing for this CoP. I also take this opportunity to welcome our new ES Amy Fraenkel. She is well suited for this position and I am confident that she will prove to be a good choice.

Let me end with once again welcome you all to this conference, encouraging you to listen with an open mind to each other, take the opportunity to pick up on good examples, visit exhibits and side-events, and then let us together pursue a new agenda that will make a difference for migratory species.

Thank you

**MESSAGE OF THE PHILIPPINES DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF COP/**  
**MESSAGE DES PHILIPPINES AU COURS DE LA CÉRÉMONIE D'OUVERTURE DE LA COP/**  
**MENSAJE DE LAS FILIPINAS DURANTE LA CEREMONIA DE APERTURA DE LA COP**

by Ambassador Ramon Bagatsing, Jr.

His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India; Ministers of Environment; the Executive Secretary of the CMS Secretariat, the Chair of Standing Committee; Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; Good Morning.

Allow me to thank the Government of India for hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in the amazingly beautiful city of Gandhinagar!

In October 2017, my country, the Republic of the Philippines, hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS COP -- the first Asian country to have the honor. COP12 was a big step higher in the Philippines'

engagement with the CMS, having been privileged to assume the role of the COP presidency. Please allow me to briefly recall the highlights of the Philippines' COP presidency, and its pleasant consequences.

As COP President, the Philippines vigorously promoted the CMS in the South East Asian region. Membership of the Philippines in the Association of South East Asian Nations and other regional partnerships facilitated complementation of regional frameworks and activities with the CMS Program of Work. This included the integration of CMS resolutions which are relevant to the key programs of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, such as Promoting Marine Protected Area Networks in the ASEAN Region and the designation of and support to the management of ASEAN Heritage Parks that include sites relevant to migratory species.

The Philippines also pursued CMS objectives under the Coral Triangle Initiative framework. The CTI is a regional cooperation of six-member countries -- Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste -- with shared jurisdiction over the planet's most diverse marine eco-region.

CMS resolutions pertinent to the conservation of marine turtles, sharks, rays and marine mammals were given impetus in the implementation of the CTI Regional Conservation Action Plan. I am delighted to share that connectivity conservation is already gaining ground in the ASEAN region with the envisioned establishment of a Marine Turtle Protected Area Network across Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

We are continuing to do this at the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, where internationally important sites for waterbirds across the flyway are designated as Flyway Network Sites. The Philippines -- manages 15 internationally important sites for waterbirds under the country's Protected Areas System.

At the international arena, we advocated side by side with the CMS Secretariat the connectivity principle as the primary contribution of the Convention to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. We did this at the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the Ramsar Convention. The Philippines also sponsored the resolution adopted at Ramsar COP13 that calls for the setting up of a Global Coastal Forum aimed at the wise use of intertidal wetlands directed to conserve 64 migratory species.

My country's hosting of CMS COP 12 in 2017 gave us momentum for improving national governance for the enhanced conservation of migratory species. In 2018, a new law, the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, legislated 94 protected areas, including Key Biodiversity Areas important to migratory species.

We also took bold domestic measures to mobilize resources in restoring habitats important to migratory species, including the six-month closure of global tourism-magnet Boracay Island to give way to its massive environmental rehabilitation, and the multi-year rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the most important migratory bird site in our country.

These were some of the results that the Philippines has achieved in the inter-sessional period between our COP12 presidency and this year's COP13. We have strongly supported the promotion of coherence and complementarity of measures with the strategic program for migratory species under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and regional frameworks in South East Asia.

From COP12 in Manila, here we are today at COP13 in India.

The Philippines is turning over the COP presidency with high hopes for the next triennium of realizing the fundamental requirements for migratory species conservation -- connectivity of landscapes, ecosystems, habitats, and evolutionary processes, and connecting humanity to cooperate for the cause of migratory species.

The Philippines as Party to the CMS remains steadfast to its commitments as we continue to champion migratory species conservation, especially in the Southeast Asian region. Our support goes to the Government of India as it carries forward the torch of the COP Presidency for the years ahead.

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR BRADNEE CHAMBERS /**  
**SE SOUVENIR DE LA VIE ET DE L'HÉRITAGE DU DR BRADNEE CHAMBERS /**  
**RECORDANDO LA VIDA Y EL LEGADO DEL DR BRADNEE CHAMBERS**

**JULY 19, 1966 – JANUARY 23, 2019**  
**JOHN E SCANLON AO**

Thank you, President Cuna, Distinguished delegates, Friends and colleagues,

It is a great honour to join you here today and I extend my deepest thanks to the Government of India for so graciously allocating time in this Opening Session to remember the life and legacy of our dear friend and colleague Bradnee Chambers.

Bradnee passed just over a year ago, and while it still feels quite raw for many of us, today is not about mourning his loss but about celebrating his extraordinary life, all of his personal and professional achievements, and what he meant to each one of us.

As far as I could tell, Bradnee had no vices, but he was totally addicted to international environmental law and governance, conventions, their interlinkages and the synergies between them, as well as to sustainable development, first as an academic and later as a practitioner; and he is one of the few people who successfully made the transition from academia to practice.

After earning his master's degree and doctorate in law, Bradnee went on to develop an enviable reputation at the UN University in Tokyo. He was a prolific writer, especially on international environmental law and governance; and his pioneering work opened the door for a deep analysis of the interlinkages within and between conventions, and to sustainable development.

Bradnee's extraordinary academic work over his 12 years at the UNU caught the attention of UNEP, which, in 2008, recruited him to Nairobi as the Chief of its Law and Governance Branch. This is when I first met Bradnee. He did not come across as an academic to me. He had the beard but no cardigan, in fact a rather swish suit, and he was a fit, ice hockey playing, wilderness loving, Canadian from a small town but a big family, so full of energy, enthusiasm and ideas. We hit it off straight away; he was a great fun to work with.

Bradnee was a natural fit for the Secretariat team we created in 2008 to support the implementation of the UNEP Governing Council's decision on International Environmental Governance. The team engaged in many robust, yet enjoyable, discussions and we convened Member States in Belgrade and Rome. After that, I left Nairobi to join CITES in Geneva and Bradnee 'took hold of the reins'. He led the team and the process to a successful conclusion in Helsinki, and then all the way through to Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Many of the recommendations from Helsinki were adopted at Rio+20, including to establish the UN Environment Assembly. These governance reforms stand as part of Bradnee's legacy.

While at UNEP, working with Marcos Silva of CITES, Bradnee initiated the InforMEA initiative, a knowledge management tool to bring together conventions and programmes, thereby linking his love of academia with his passion for policy. This 'idea' has now blossomed into a fully funded project that today brings together over 20 convention secretariats, with UNEP and many other global programmes, and it has reached learners from over 190 countries. It would not have happened without Bradnee.

These successes led to Bradnee being recruited as Executive Secretary of the CMS in 2013, a dream job for him with its own internal synergies' challenges and its interlinkages to the wider community of conventions, programmes and initiatives. For Bradnee it was all about connectivity – connecting the CMS across countries, conventions, programmes and to sustainable development, and wow did he do it well.

Bradnee was a huge supporter of IPBES, of InforMEA, and of the Biodiversity Liaison Group. Together with CMS's sister convention, CITES, he initiated joint meetings of the CITES and CMS Secretariats, garnered support for the most comprehensive, pragmatic and successful joint work plan ever, from 2015-2020, as well as for the joint African Carnivores Initiative. He also secured funding from Germany for the first ever CMS/CITES Programme Officer, which enabled us to move ahead with these initiatives.

Bradnee was incredibly creative, and CoP11 in Quito was amazing, and CoP12 in Manila outstanding, a CoP that put CMS on the map in a way it never had been before. And he managed to do that while being tirelessly dedicated to his partner, and the love of his life, Elisa, who was terminally ill. Bradnee did everything in his power to save her, but she tragically died just weeks before CoP12. I don't think anyone of us will forget the extraordinary strength of character he showed by not only joining the CoP but leading the Secretariat so effectively at a time when he was feeling totally broken inside.

There was something very special about Bradnee. He was fun, clever and passionate; big hearted and generous. It was almost impossible to buy him a coffee, a drink, or a meal; he would always beat you to it!

Bradnee was ambitious, but not for himself, or his next grade, but for the issues he believed in and for doing good things. He respected authority but had no time for being pompous or getting carried away with himself; he treated everyone the same, listened to everyone's ideas, no matter their age or their rank, and truly cared for their personal wellbeing.

Bradnee knew his stuff, including the vast web of UN rules and regulations, which is no mean feat, and he was able to draw people together around topics of mutual interest, even if their views differed on how to deal with them.

Bradnee wanted CoP13 to be a great CoP, the best ever, and he continued to work right up until the last few days of his life, even while he was in the Intensive Care Unit, wearing a breathing mask, and finding it hard to see.

One could say a lot more, but put simply, Bradnee was just a wonderful human being. He lived a full and adventurous life, one defined by drive, conviction and commitment, and his deep love for his family.

With his passing, we have lost one of the best.

Bradnee, you left us too soon mate, but not before you left an indelible mark on each of the organisations you served and the people you met; you will be missed my friend, but not forgotten and your wonderful legacy endures.

Distinguished guests, friends and colleagues, you could do Bradnee no greater honour than to build upon his legacy by making this CoP, CoP13 here in the green City of Gandhinagar, the most successful CoP ever, and to get this super year for biodiversity off to a flying start. That's what Bradnee was working for right up to his last days; and nothing could make our dear friend, who I am sure is smiling down upon us today, any happier than that.

## Statements / Déclarations/ Declaraciones

### **COP PRESIDENCY / PRÉSIDENCE DE LA COP / PRESIDENCIA DE LA COP - PHILIPPINES**

The COP Presidency report emphasizes on the regional activities undertaken in South East Asia where the Philippines, as member of several regional co-operations and partnerships on biodiversity conservation have better opportunities to promote the work of the Convention. The country remains to be the lone CMS member state in the region. In addition to the achievement. In addition to the achievements I earlier outlined in my message, I wish to add the following highlights of the COP presidency activities contained in CMS COP13 Doc. 11.2:

1. Following the conclusion of the CMS COP 12, the Philippines reported to the Governing Board Meeting of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity or the ACB on the significant results of the Conference held for the first time in the South East Asia. As a result, an ACB project is underway on Effectively Managing an *Ecological Network of Marine Protected Area in the ASEAN Region* and is now supporting ASEAN member countries in the management of ASEAN Heritage Parks which are relevant to migratory species.
2. On *transfrontier conservation areas* for migratory species, the Philippines is continuing to strengthen our bilateral cooperation with Malaysia for the management of the Turtle Island Heritage Protected Area, a transboundary protected area recognized to be the largest rookery of green turtles in Southeast-Asia and the first transboundary marine protected in the world for green turtles. The Turtle Islands within the Philippine territory is designated as a *Marine Turtle Network Site* under the IOSEA MOU;
3. In furtherance of the Whale shark concerted action plan adopted during the CMS COP12, 5 major Whale shark aggregations in the Philippines are being monitored. Connectivity was established with Malaysia and Indonesia using satellite telemetry and photographic identification. In 2019, the Philippines became the second world's largest known population of whale sharks as investigated through photo-ID, with 1,750 individuals. We have prepared a draft conference paper at this COP seeking extension of the timeframe of the concerted action on whale shark to continue on the remaining action points for the species.
4. Our experience on regional cooperation under the, ASEAN, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the East Asia Australasia Flyway that promoted the management of ecological networks through establishment of Marine Protected Area Networks based on the ecology of marine turtles, the designation of Flyway Network Sites, including national Marine Protected Area Networks, presents clear approaches for connectivity conservation at the regional, and national scale. We shall continue to pursue these regional initiatives to increase the manifestation of the Convention in our Region.
5. Lastly, the Philippines, shall continue to support the connectivity principle in subsequent discussions under the CBD and in facilitating coherence and complementarity of migratory species conservation in shaping the work programs of Multilateral Environmental Agreement to which we are a Party.
6. The Philippines is grateful to have taken, more than ever, a substantial role in advancing the cause of the CMS as COP President. Rest assured that we shall pursue the work we have initiated under the COP12 presidency, especially championing migratory species conservation in South East Asian Region.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

**OPENING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES/  
DECLARATION D'OUVERTURE AU NOM DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE ET DE SES ÉTATS  
MEMBRES/  
DISCURSO DE APERTURA POR PARTE DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA Y SUS ESTADOS  
MIEMBROS**

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Chair, Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to address this meeting on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The European Union and its Member States express their deepest appreciation to the Indian Government for hosting this Conference of Parties in this “Super year” for biodiversity.

The nature and spirit of India, and its hospitality, is deeply inspiring us. We appreciate that the conference is organised in a venue dedicated to Mahatma Ghandi, who has, by his example, shown us that this world can achieve sustainability and prosperity if we as society and individuals commit to transformative change.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of this Conference.

We would furthermore like to congratulate Ms. Amy Frankel for her appointment to the post of Executive Secretary of CMS. We are confident that her energy and commitment to the conservation of migratory species will bring this important issue high on the political agenda.

Mr. Chair,

We would like to reiterate the findings of IPBES Global Assessment that clearly shows human actions threaten more species with global extinction now than ever before.

We are looking at an existential threat, with around 1 million species facing extinction, many of them being migratory. Decisions taken by this COP should address the urgency of the situation, inter alia by addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss.

CMS priorities and conservation of migratory species are an important piece in the new global biodiversity mosaic and we would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Secretariat in bringing CMS priorities higher in the global biodiversity agenda.

Post-2020 global biodiversity framework must set out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society’s relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled. To do so 2030 is a crucial milestone and the actions that we implement in the upcoming decade will shape our future.

We welcome ongoing work of the CMS on stimulating cooperation and active and long-lasting engagement in protecting migratory species as well as in conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems to support the natural movements of animals, necessary for their survival and well-being.

Only through the synergistic actions and by effectively streamlining efforts of all international agreements and fora, gathered under the joint global framework we can achieve the ever so needed change.

The involvement of all stakeholders is of the utmost importance and we are happy to engage in further deliberations in addressing the important role NGO partners have in implementing the Convention and support the further work in strengthening civil society participation within CMS processes.

Mr Chair,

As pollution is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, addressing light pollution as a detrimental factor for many migratory species represents an important step in global conservation efforts for terrestrial, aquatic and avian species.

We would also like to further contribute to CMS priorities by recognizing the issue of insect decline. Insects comprise more than two-thirds of the total biodiversity of our planet, and our current data shows that many insect taxa, in many parts of the world, are declining rapidly.

This has devastating consequences for entire ecosystems, insectivorous migratory species as well as for global and local food security.

We additionally welcome stepping up our efforts in conservation of global biodiversity by adding new species under the umbrella of the CMS Convention's annexes.

Mr Chair,

Let me assure you, that the European Union and its Members States stand ready and committed to working hard to make this Conference a great success.

Thank you.

**OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE AFRICA REGION/  
DECLARATION D'OUVERTURE POUR LA REGION AFRIQUE  
DISCURSO DE APERTURA POR LA REGIÓN DE ÁFRICA**

Thank you Chair

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Africa Group let me take this opportunity to thank the government of India for hosting the CMS COP 13 the wonderful venue and the hospitality.

We also thank the secretariat under the leadership of Ms Amy Fraenkel for the hard work and dedication in ensuring success in the preparations for this COP. We also express sincere gratitude to those who made it possible for participants from developing countries to attend this COP.

Africa notes the responsibility to conserve the declining and threatened migratory species and is committed to step up efforts to ensure the implementation of the Convention. The threats to biodiversity in general and migratory species in particular that are raised in global assessments of IPBES, the Global Biodiversity Outlook and other global assessments are an indication that we are in a state of emergency and need to act and think differently. Biodiversity is lost at an unprecedented rate with IPBES predictions indicating a risk to lose a million species should we not embark on a transformative change. We are fast approaching a tipping point and to save biodiversity in general, migratory species and humankind in particular we need urgent action in all our respective responsibilities. Climate change impacts are very evident and affecting biodiversity, species and people. Desertification, land degradation, drought impacts and increasing human health risks are very evident, and are affecting biodiversity, species and people. We heard yesterday that wetlands are being lost faster than forests and they are the primary source of water we desperately need for our lives. In the Trondheim conference that was held recently in Norway the biodiversity experts indicated very clearly that the house we are in is on fire and requires urgent action.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the sustainable goals are providing guidance and require action, the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is under construction to provide further guidance. The strategic plans for migratory species including those in other biodiversity conventions are available to guide our actions. We are sending a very clear message to the crafting

of the Post 2020 Global biodiversity framework of the importance of ecological connectivity beyond protected areas and these were a key element of the discussions during the High Level Segment discussions yesterday. Our political principals yesterday indicated the importance of implementation of the plans we have in order to save migratory species.

For urgent action, transformative change and moving away from business as usual we require more political buy in, more resources and inclusion of the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species into national priorities. We have plans that require adequate resources to implement. A commitment from political principals whilst they are still among us is urgently required either in the form of a declaration on how they are going to transmit the urgency of the situation to action; what message and guidance they are sending to Parties in the budget and additional resource mobilization discussions to ensure that by the end of this COP we at least have a solution on how we deal with the emergency situation we are in.

Mr Chairman as Africa we strongly believe in the innovative ways of raising budgets and resources for the CMS but do not think the suggestion of introducing the minimum payment is one of them for reasons we'll elaborate in the budget discussions. We need to be innovative in our thinking, take responsibility, move away from business as usual, be accountable; provide resources within our capabilities; do more; walk the talk.

Thank you Mr Chairman

**BRAZIL ´S STATEMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM 11.3:- PARTY STATEMENTS/**  
**DECLARATION DU BRÉSIL POUR LE POINT 11.3:- DECLARATION DES PARTIES/**  
**DECLARACIÓN DE BRASIL PARA EL PUNTO 11.3:- DECLARACIONES DE LAS PARTES**

"We thank the government and the people of India for receiving us here in the state of Gujarat, that has such a rich history and an exuberant wildlife.

We also thank the CMS secretariat for their work in the preparation of the meeting and congratulate Mrs. Amy Fraenkel for her appointment as Executive Secretary

Brazil is very glad that the "Biodiversity Super Year" is starting with the CMS COP. Migratory species best represent the joint challenges that we face and the cooperation that is needed. We have to unite strong national commitments with positive and effective bilateral, regional and multilateral action. We should be ambitious in our conservation targets, at the same time that we improve people´s lives and guarantee continuous and robust resources for implementation.

With regard to the proposals that are going to be discussed during this Conference, we ask the Parties to support the inclusion of the oceanic white-tip shark in Appendix I and the Smooth Hammerhead Shark in Appendix II. Brazil will support the other proposals that have been presented."

**CMS Agreements / Accords de la CMS / Acuerdos de la CMS**

**ACAP STATEMENT / DÉCLARATION D'ACAP / DECLARACIÓN DE ACAP**

Firstly, I would like to thank the CMS Secretariat for inviting the ACAP Secretariat to participate in this Conference of the Parties. I have been in the position of ACAP Executive Secretary since December 2018 and this is my first attendance at a CMS meeting. I look forward to getting to know fellow participants.

As part of the CMS family, ACAP wants to take this opportunity to reaffirm its relationship with the Convention and our wish to collaborate with others in confronting the conservation crisis faced by albatrosses and petrels.

Incidental mortality in fisheries continues to be the most serious threat facing these threatened seabirds and international cooperation is required to confront this. Despite all the research and

attention devoted to the development of best practice bycatch mitigation measures, these have not been used sufficiently extensively to stop the decline in the numbers of many albatross and petrel species.

ACAP has an ongoing policy of interaction with RFMOs and has now concluded memoranda of understanding with the majority of them. We contribute our expertise on bycatch mitigation to the RFMOs as they work to develop and update their conservation and management measures. We also seek to work in collaboration with organisations focusing on other taxa.

As a result of years of such collaboration, many RFMOs and national authorities have put in place at least some measures to reduce seabird bycatch. The challenge now is to ensure compliance. ACAP has presented an observer statement to this meeting (ref: ). In this we state: "Arguably the single most important action to reduce bycatch is to increase compliance in the proper use of existing seabird bycatch regulations".

The good news is that with the implementation of mitigation measures, there have been demonstrated reductions in seabird bycatch, sometimes dramatically so. And without the perceived detrimental consequences arising.

This means that the conservation crisis for albatrosses and petrels can be successfully addressed.

ACAP Best Practice Advice and Mitigation Factsheets are a useful tool for fishers seeking to implement mitigation measures. Many of these have recently been updated and translated into several languages, and are available on our ACAP website.

The updating, translating and production of these products has been greatly assisted by a financial contribution from the FAO Common Oceans project.

Finally, we are updating our Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide, which will be available soon.

ACAP also continues to review current population trends of ACAP species, priorities for land-based conservation actions at their breeding sites, and key gaps in tracking and monitoring data.

I want to close with a mention of World Albatross Day 2020. This will be celebrated for the first time on 19 June 2020 and each country can undertake whatever activities it chooses to commemorate these wonderful birds.

**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS) TO CMS COP13/**

**DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES CETACES DE LA MER NOIRE, LA MER MEDITERRANEE ET LA ZONE ATLANTIQUE ADJACENTE (ACCOBAMS) A LA COP13 DE LA CMS/**

**DECLARACION DE LA SECRETARIA DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACION DE LOS CETACEOS DEL MAR NEGRO, EL MAR MEDITERRANEO Y LA ZONA ATLANTICA CONTIGUA (ACCOBAMS) A LA COP13 DE LA CMS**

*(Referring to UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.4.2)*

Mr/Mrs Chair, Dear Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Dear CMS Colleagues,

The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat would like to thank the CMS Secretariat for the opportunity given to present this statement.

Year 2020 is critical for the renewal of international commitments related to biodiversity protection and CMS COP13 is one of the major steps that will pave the way for the adoption of the post-2020

Global Biodiversity Framework in December. To this end, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat contributed to the consultation process conducted by CMS, in preparation of the development of this framework.

A major recent achievement for ACCOBAMS is the successful implementation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative. This unprecedented and unique collaborative project aimed to establish an integrated and coordinated cetacean monitoring system based on objective, robust and comparable data. The overall goal is to improve the conservation status of these species and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area. The data collected during the project is available to download on the ACCOBAMS website for multiple research and conservation purposes.

The survey results are also serving the IUCN Red list assessment and reassessment process for 8 species of cetaceans of the Mediterranean and the 3 species resident of the Black Sea. This will lead to updated IUCN status by the end of 2020 which support conservation actions.

For the management of underwater noise, ACCOBAMS supports the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group, and a new resolution on anthropogenic noise was adopted by ACCOBAMS Parties at MOP7 in November last year. This Resolution invites implementation of CMS Resolution 12.14 on Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species.

Regarding interactions with fisheries, and in line with CMS Resolution 12.22 on Bycatch, collaboration between ACCOBAMS and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean has been strengthened, in particular through joint projects and activities aimed at monitoring and mitigating incidental catches of endangered species following a multitaxon approach.

To conclude, the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS very much welcomes the quality of the collaboration with the CMS Family, in particular with ASCOBANS, and is looking forward to continuing to develop together joint actions that will in fine achieve a favorable conservation status for cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas!

## **AEWA STATEMENT / DÉCLARATION DE L'AEWA/ DECLARACIÓN DE AEWA**

Déclaration de Jacques Trouvilliez, Secrétaire exécutif de l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA)

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, chers participants à la COP13 de la CMS, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le gouvernement de l'Inde pour son accueil chaleureux. Permettez-moi aussi de féliciter ma collègue Amy pour sa nomination à la tête du Secrétariat de la CMS. C'est un grand plaisir de travailler avec vous Amy au sein de la famille CMS.

L'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA) fêtera en juin de cette année ses 25 ans. Les collaborations avec la CMS se sont développées au fil des années et je vous prie de vous référer au document d'information 4.3 pour des exemples concrets comme les plans d'action pour les espèces menacées ou encore la campagne de sensibilisation intitulée Journée mondiale des oiseaux migrateurs.

L'AEWA souhaite contribuer à la mise en œuvre du cadre mondial post-2020 pour la conservation de la biodiversité en collaboration étroite avec la CMS ainsi qu'avec les autres accords multilatéraux et le PNUE.

Nos efforts se concentrent en particulier sur la promotion et le développement du concept de connectivité écologique, à la racine même de la conservation et de l'utilisation durable des espèces migratrices. La dimension "voies de migration" implique une collaboration internationale et les Parties à l'AEWA ont à cœur de proposer des outils de mise en œuvre concrets et souvent innovants pour atteindre nos objectifs.

Nous soutenons ainsi pleinement les efforts de la CMS pour inclure la connectivité et les voies de migration dans le cadre mondial post-2020 pour la biodiversité qui sera débattu lors de la COP15 de la CBD. Les expériences passées et notamment celles de l'AEWA, mais aussi l'analyse des résultats des objectifs d'Aichi adoptés lors de la COP10 de la CBD, démontrent que la création d'un réseau d'habitats favorables connectés entre eux par des corridors écologiques est une nécessité pour assurer le succès de notre combat commun pour la conservation de la biodiversité.

Pour faire face aux nombreux défis que nous devons relever pour conserver les populations d'oiseaux d'eau et leurs habitats au sein de la voie de migration d'Afrique-Eurasie, les parties contractantes à l'AEWA, au nombre de 80 désormais, ont adopté un plan stratégique ambitieux. Ce plan, qui court jusque 2029, vise à maintenir les populations d'oiseaux d'eau comme une composante vitale des écosystèmes et comme fournisseurs d'une multitude de services écosystémiques notamment aux communautés locales.

Ce plan stratégique est complété par un Plan d'Action pour l'Afrique car ce continent fait face à de nombreux défis et nécessite une mobilisation sans précédent et constante non seulement des Etats mais aussi de la société civile.

Le cadre de nos actions est clairement fixé et les modalités de mise en œuvre déterminées mais le manque de moyens pèse lourdement sur cette mise en œuvre. Nous espérons que cette super année 2020 mette enfin la conservation de la biodiversité au sommet des agendas politiques.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, chers participants, soyez assurés de la pleine collaboration de l'AEWA au sein de la famille de la CMS. Que cette COP13 soit un grand succès et que la mise en œuvre des résolutions que vous allez adopter contribuent, au cours de la prochaine décennie, à la reconquête de la biodiversité pour laquelle nous travaillons tous.

**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC, IRISH AND NORTH SEAS (ASCOBANS) TO CMS COP13/**

**DECLARATION DU SECRETARIAT DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES PETITS CETACES DE LA MER BALTIQUE, DE L'ATLANTIQUE DU NORD-EST, DE LA MER D'IRLANDE ET DE LA MER DU NORD (ASCOBANS) A LA COP13 DE LA CMS/**

**DECLARACIÓN DE LA SECRETARÍA DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS PEQUEÑOS CETÁCEOS DEL MAR BÁLTICO, ATLÁNTICO NORORIENTAL, MAR DE IRLANDA Y MAR DEL NORTE (ASCOBANS) A LA COP13 DE LA CMS**

*(Referring to UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.4.4)*

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My name is Jenny Renell and since January of last year I've been serving as ASCOBANS Coordinator. It is my great pleasure to be at this conference with all of you.

ASCOBANS was established in 1992 and has had a joint Secretariat with CMS since 2007. This means for example that the Executive Secretary of CMS also serves as the Executive Secretary of ASCOBANS. I would like to congratulate Amy Fraenkel for her appointment to this position after already filling it in an acting capacity since May last year. Welcome, officially, to the CMS Family, Amy!

Information document 4.4 reports on recent ASCOBANS activities. Some of the main accomplishments include the development of the Species Action Plan for the North East Atlantic Common Dolphin; joint workshops with ACCOBAMS dealing with marine debris and strandings, as well as cetacean necropsy practices; and the ASCOBANS anniversary publication titled 'European Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises', now available in bookshops.

The mandates that CMS and ASCOBANS have for the conservation of cetaceans bring clear opportunities for close collaboration and synergies. As member of the CMS Aquatic Species Team my role is at the nexus of all this. We also work closely with ACCOBAMS on many issues.

Several topics of shared importance – such as underwater noise, bycatch, marine pollution, ecosystem approach to addressing pressures on small cetaceans, and the Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic – will also be discussed at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS, to be held in September of this year in Brussels, Belgium.

ASCOBANS looks forward to continuing this joint work with CMS and the wider CMS Family, to conserve small cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas. Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY ANDREAS STREIT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS (EUROBATS)/**  
**DECLARATION D'ANDREAS STREIT, SECRETAIRE EXECUTIF DE L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES POPULATIONS DE CHAUVES-SOURIS D'EUROPE (EUROBATS)/**  
**DECLARACIÓN DE ANDREAS STREIT, SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO DEL ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS POBLACIONES DE MURCIÉLAGOS EN EUROPA (EUROBATS)**

Your excellencies, dear participants of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CMS,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address you with this short statement, as much as I regret not being able to be with you for this very important conference. As it already was emphasised by previous speakers, this CoP13 marks the opening of a key year for biodiversity, which itself is facing an unprecedented level of threats, requiring urgent action to be taken.

I am happy to report that since CoP12 Serbia has become a Party to EUROBATS and that the deposit of the instrument of accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina is imminent, bringing the total number of Parties to 38. The Non-Party Range States present at CoP13 are kindly encouraged to intensify their efforts to accede in the near future.

I also wish to use this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the Principality of Monaco for having very generously hosted the very successful 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties to EUROBATS. The continuing weakness of the EURO currency has resulted in a difficult financial situation for the Secretariat in 2019 and I would like to express utmost gratitude to the governments of Croatia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Germany and Switzerland for making partly substantial additional contributions, thus enabling the Agreement to continue its successful work.

And before I conclude, I wish to once again extend my heartfelt congratulations to my dear colleague Amy Fraenkel for her appointment as the new Executive Secretary of CMS. Since her arrival in Bonn in 2019 we have had an excellent cooperation across the entire CMS family as we like to call it and I very much look forward to continuing this together with Amy.

Your Excellencies, dear participants, to all of you I wish fruitful deliberations and successful outcomes of CoP 13 combined with my personal hope that this CoP will help to lead to enhanced conservation efforts for bats all over the world and also in this wonderful country India! All migratory species of wild animals badly need your support.

Thank you very much indeed for your kind attention.

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF GORILLAS AND THEIR HABITATS**  
**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE**  
**CONSERVATION OF GORILLAS AND THEIR HABITATS (GORILLA AGREEMENT)/**  
**ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES GORILLES ET DE LEURS HABITATS**  
**RAPPORT SUR L'ETAT D'AVANCEMENT DE LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE L'ACCORD SUR LA**  
**CONSERVATION DES GORILLES ET DE LEURS HABITATS (ACCORD GORILLA)/**  
**ACUERDO SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS GORILAS Y SUS HÁBITATS**  
**INFORME SOBRE LOS PROGRESOS REALIZADOS EN LA APLICACIÓN DEL ACUERDO**  
**SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS GORILAS Y SUS HÁBITATS (ACUERDO SOBRE LOS**  
**GORILAS)**

Government of Uganda, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement,

Distinguished Delegates,

As the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the CMS Gorilla Agreement, I would like to report on the progress regarding the implementation of the Agreement.

The progress report has been submitted to the meeting as information document COP13/Inf.4.6 and is available on the meeting website.

The Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats, known as the Gorilla Agreement, was concluded in 2007 under the auspices of CMS. This is the only legally binding instrument for the conservation of the Gorilla in the world. The Agreement promotes coordinated conservation efforts across the Gorilla Range States to maintain gorillas in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such status. Seven out of 10 Gorilla Range States are already Parties to the Agreement.

Since CMS COP12 in 2017, the Gorilla Agreement has continued facing severe financial challenges. All of its Parties are developing countries, and the Agreement has received little support from other CMS Parties. These financial challenges have led to the reduction of activities under the Agreement.

With the generous contributions from the Government of Luxembourg, however, the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement was held from 18 to 20 June 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda.

One of the most important decisions of the Meeting was to enhance cooperation between the Gorilla Agreement and the Great Apes Survival Partnership, GRASP, in order to foster synergies and avoid duplication of effort. This means that Parties are now encouraged to nominate one focal point for both the Gorilla Agreement and GRASP. Also, Parties decided to request scientific advice from the GRASP Scientific Commission instead of convening the Technical Committee of the Gorilla Agreement. It is expected that joint activities including outreach and fundraising will be conducted together with GRASP. In addition, as a way to strengthen cooperation and lower meeting costs, the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement is planned to be held in conjunction with the Third GRASP Council meeting.

The Third Meeting of the Parties also reviewed the financial status and institutional arrangements of the Agreement and concluded that the CMS Secretariat should continue serving as the Interim Secretariat of the Gorilla Agreement.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement to clear arrears, as already expressed at MOP3.

Despite our determination, the current status of the fund does not allow the Agreement to allocate necessary funds for the staff time provided by the CMS Secretariat.

Therefore, on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, I would like to invite the Conference of the Parties to CMS to approve the continuation of the CMS Secretariat as the Interim Secretariat to the Gorilla

Agreement, and to request the Executive Secretary to allocate necessary staff time as an in-kind contribution to the Agreement.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to invite CMS Parties, non-Party Range States, donor governments, other organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the Gorilla Agreement, either financially or in-kind, to assist the Gorilla Agreement Parties in implementing the provisions of the Agreement.

I thank you.

### **IGOs and NGOs / OIG et ONG / OIGs y ONGs**

#### **STATEMENT OF SACEP AT CMS COP 13, GANDHINAGAR, INDIA/ DECLARATION DE LA SACEP A LA COP 13 DE LA CMS, GANDHINAGAR, INDE DECLARACIÓN DE SACEP EN LA COP 13 DE LA CMS, GANDHINAGAR, INDIA**

Mr. Chair; Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

First of all, please allow me to congratulate and thank the Government and people of India for hosting this very important CoP and for the warm hospitality extended to us. I also thank to CMS Secretariat for its excellent arrangements made for this very important conference.

SACEP is an intergovernmental organization established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia region including India to promote and support protection of environment in South Asia.

Since long time, Protection of biodiversity including migratory species has been one of the SACEP priority areas of activity, focusing on policy developing and improving the capacity of its member countries in implementing their policies on biodiversity.

One of the major initiatives of SACEP on this area is the adoption of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region. It was adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Inter-ministerial meeting of South Asian Seas Programme of SACEP in Dhaka, Bangladesh on November last year, with the objective to provide a framework for cooperation and collaboration amongst the five maritime countries of South Asia and other stakeholders, for the application of ecosystem based approaches in managing coastal and marine resources, that will ensure the conservation of biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services for the well-being and poverty reduction of the people of South Asia.

The Strategy follows an ecosystem based approach and is composed of six regional targets, developed based on six main goals for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems in the South Asian Seas region.

Noting that overexploitation and degradation of habitat are the most serious threats to migratory animals with climate change expected to exacerbate these effects, the first Goal of the Strategy ensures the provision of ecosystem services of the coastal and marine habitats for the well-being of coastal communities in the South Asian Seas region. Accordingly, the strategy requires member countries to take specific measures to ensure that by 2030, at least 10 % of coastal habitats have been restored to pre-degraded status.

Prevention of Species Extinction constitute the second goal of the Strategy, which requires member countries to ensure protection of all endangered species including turtles, marine mammals, sharks, migratory shorebirds and seabirds by 2030. This Goal requires member countries to conduct surveys of critically endangered and endangered species, their distribution and threats to identify conservation measures needed and to develop comprehensive recovery or management plans for priority species and Implement main conservation measures identified in the management/recovery plans.

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation, the Strategy asks member countries to establish a mechanism for enhanced regional collaboration in shared natural marine and coastal biodiversity management.

Mr. Chair;

One of the major threats to marine environment in general and the marine species in particular is plastic pollution. Plastic pollution has emerged as the second most dire threat to the global environment, after climate change. Plastic waste is a source of chemical toxicity to humans and animals. It has negative impacts on marine ecosystems, fisheries habitats and biodiversity. Therefore, urgent measures are needed to confront the threat of plastics. In this connection, I am glad to inform you that SACEP in collaboration with the World Bank has initiated the implementation of a USD 40 million project for a five years period on Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia to catalyze actions that reduce the flow of plastic pollution into South Asian Seas. The project targets a long-term goal of eliminating leakage of plastics into the marine environment across the South Asia Region, which can only be achieved beyond the life of the project. The project seeks to catalyze transitions across the region toward a circular economy. I am hopeful that with the implementation of this project, the threats to marine species including migratory species reduced and endangered species are safer.

SACEP as a regional institution is ready to work with CMS and other biodiversity conventions on enhancing regional cooperation to protect biodiversity including migratory species. Ecological connectivity requires enhanced collaboration at the national, regional and international levels. Therefore, I would like to request all parties to recognize the importance of regional collaboration in both Gandhinagar declaration on priorities for conservation of migratory species and the draft of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS/  
DÉCLARATION DE LA SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE DE LA CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES  
HUMIDES/  
DECLARACIÓN DE LA SECRETARIA GENERAL DE LA CONVENCION SOBRE LOS  
HUMEDALES**

**MS. MARTHA ROJAS URREGO**

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of India for hosting this COP13 of the Convention on Migratory Species.

On behalf of the Convention on Wetlands, I welcome the attention given by the COP to the post 2020-biodiversity framework and for highlighting the need for cooperation and ensuring the contribution of the biodiversity-related conventions for its development and implementation.

Migratory species whether birds, fish, marine turtles and mammals depend on a vast and interconnected network of freshwater, marine, and coastal wetlands, as an important habitat to stopover, feed and breed.

Thus, the Convention on Wetlands has been collaborating closely with the Convention on Migratory Species. Contracting Parties have established more than 2300 Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites that provide the largest network of protected areas. These are critical for migratory species. Further, Parties have established 19 regional initiatives, some of them covering flyways, such as the East Asian Australasian Flyway, or waterways, such as the Amazon regional initiative, on which countries work across boundaries to manage shared ecosystems for nature and people.

Yes, despite the importance of wetlands for biodiversity and the ecosystems services that they provide, they are disappearing three times faster than forests. 87% have been lost in the past 300 years and 35% since 1970.

Wetland restoration, use and conservation thus must be at the heart of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The 171 Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands are committed and fully engaged in ensuring that the work of the Convention meaningfully contributes to the development and implementation of this common framework.

The Strategic Plan (2014/ 2024) of the Convention is fully aligned to the Aichi Targets and the mid/term review of the Plan will ensure that it aligns with the new post 2020 framework.

The Convention is also co-custodian with UNEP of the indicator of the Sustainable Development Goal on the extent of water-related ecosystems, drawing on the inventories and reporting of Contracting Parties, that should also be an important ecosystem measure for the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

We welcome this opportunity and look forward to further joining efforts among Conventions and beyond, to realize the common ambition to reversing the unprecedented biodiversity loss.

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS TO CMS COP 13 – READ BY THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)/**

**DÉCLARATION COMMUNE DU GROUPE DE LIAISON DES CONVENTIONS RELATIVES À LA BIODIVERSITÉ À LA COP 13 DE LA CMS - LUE PAR LA CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPÈCES DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACÉES D'EXTINCTION (CITES)/**

**DECLARACIÓN CONJUNTA DEL GRUPO DE ENLACE DE LOS CONVENIOS RELACIONADOS CON LA DIVERSIDAD BIOLÓGICA A LA COP 13 DE LA CMS - LEÍDA POR LA CONVENCION SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES (CITES)**

Thank you Chair.

Distinguished delegates:

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions: the Heads of Secretariat of CBD, CITES, CMS, the Convention on Wetlands, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Whaling Commission, and the World Heritage Convention.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Note to interpreters: the eight global conventions represented in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions are: Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA, International Treaty), International Whaling Commission

The Liaison Group serves as a platform for the convention secretariats to exchange information to enhance national implementation of each convention, while promoting complementarity and synergy in their implementation.

We would like to emphasize the important contribution of CMS Secretariat in this regard and to thank the CMS COP for providing it this mandate.

We welcome the attention being given by this COP to cooperation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, including in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

We commend CMS and its Parties for their selection of the COP theme<sup>4</sup> which aligns well with its continuing contributions to the preparation of the new framework throughout its ongoing process.

The IPBES Global Assessment and other recent assessment reports highlight the stark deterioration of the world's biodiversity and health of ecosystems. They stress the need for transformative change to restore and protect nature.

They are also clear that business as usual is no longer an option and yet it is not too late to achieve such change. Cooperation across our conventions will play an essential role in this.

The links and complementarity between our conventions are many.

The contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats by World Heritage Sites, Wetlands of International Importance and protected areas established in implementation of the CBD, provides one such example.

Acting under the authority of our respective governing bodies, our Secretariats, have sought practical ways to enhance links for the implementation of the conventions.

The joint programme of work between CITES and CMS Secretariats, cooperating on species and issues of common concern, contributes to the achievement of complementary objectives of both conventions.

Cooperation between the Secretariats of the International Whaling Commission and CMS in developing an Online Whale Watching Handbook has addressed a request by the Parties to both treaties.

The long-term collaboration between the Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and CMS promotes concrete mechanisms for synergies, for example through the Ramsar Regional Initiative for High Andean Wetlands and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on High Andean Flamingos.

These are just a few examples.

Our conventions, individually and collectively, have an essential role in tackling the drivers of biodiversity loss at all levels.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework provides a unique opportunity to serve as a unifying framework that builds on the strengths of each convention and reflect their priorities and contributions.

It can contribute to achieving the objectives of each of the conventions, including the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats.

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<sup>4</sup> "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home"

It can also promote synergies with other global frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to which each of our conventions makes an important contribution.

In this regard, we recognize the importance of priorities for the new framework that have been identified by CMS:

- Attention to addressing ecological connectivity and to endangered and threatened species;
- The importance of international cooperation in its implementation;
- Commitment to further enhance cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the related conventions; and
- The importance of integrating objectives of each of the conventions in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans for its implementation.

We shall therefore continue to work together to support preparation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that can harness such mechanisms and foster strong collective ownership and support for its coherent and effective implementation after its adoption by CBD COP 15.

Thank you, Mr. Chair

**INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC) - STATEMENT TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS/**

**COMMISSION BAILENIERE INTERNATIONALE (CBI) - DECLARATION A LA 13<sup>E</sup> REUNION DE LA CONFERENCE DES PARTIES A LA CONVENTION SUR LA CONSERVATION DES ESPECES MIGRATRICES APPARTENANT A LA FAUNE SAUVAGE/**

**COMISIÓN BALLENERA INTERNACIONAL (CBI) - DECLARACIÓN ANTE LA 13<sup>A</sup> REUNIÓN DE LA CONFERENCIA DE LAS PARTES DE LA CONVENCION SOBRE LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS ESPECIES MIGRATORIAS DE ANIMALES SILVESTRES**

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is pleased to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) hosted by the Government of India. In this statement we are pleased to provide information on our activities of relevance to CMS and its stakeholders. More detail can be found on the Commission website ([www.iwc.int](http://www.iwc.int)). We would like to thank the Government of India and the CMS Secretariat for the excellent facilities for COP13.

**Overview**

The IWC is one of the world's oldest marine stewardship organisation, established in 1946. The Convention provides a clear mandate for the conservation of whale stocks and management of whaling. The Commission has grown from 15 signatory nations to 88 IWC members, with differing views regarding commercial whaling. All agree, however, on the importance of healthy cetacean populations and the value of the best scientific advice. At the last Commission meeting in September 2018, a landmark agreement was reached on long-term science and management of aboriginal subsistence whaling, an important source of nutrition and culture for indigenous communities in the IWC family.

The IWC Commission's next biennial meeting, which includes the Conservation Committee, is 25 September – 2 October 2020 in Portoroz, Slovenia. The next annual IWC Scientific Committee meeting will be held 12-24 May 2020 in Cambridge, UK.

As the IWC approaches its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we face new and considerably more complex challenges in meeting our mandate. Threats to cetaceans now come primarily from sources other than whaling. Bycatch is the single greatest cause of direct cetacean mortality, as evidenced in a recent extinction (baiji) and another on the brink of extinction (vaquita). Ship strikes, climate change, underwater noise and whale watching are also growing threats to cetaceans. The IWC has stepped up to these

challenges through globally recognized science and capacity building programmes to address this range of threats.

### **Co-operation with other organisations**

This ever-broader range of threats calls for necessary collaboration with a number of partner organisations to ensure healthy cetacean populations. The IWC is particularly pleased to be collaborating with CMS and its daughter agreements ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS on the frontlines of these efforts, including bycatch, whale watching, ship strikes and the role of cetaceans in the ecosystem. Highlights of this collaboration are in the following areas:

- *Whale Watching Handbook*: CMS has provided funding for translation of the Whale Watching Handbook. This highly successful on-line tool provides tailored information to support the whale watching industry, regulators and the public to ensure responsible, sustainable and educational whale watching.
- *ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS*: IWC is fortunate to work with these organisations in their regional efforts to address issues such as bycatch, strandings, marine debris and ship strikes. ACCOBAMS and IWC joined with IUCN in April 2019 to host a workshop exploring how Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) might be overlaid with shipping information to help pinpoint ship strike “hotspots”.
- *Small Cetaceans*: The IWC’s Small Cetaceans group has collaborated with CMS’s Aquatic group on actions to be taken to address threats to Atlantic humpback dolphins (*Sousa teuszii*) and similar species with regard to bycatch and direct consumption of small cetaceans.
- *Arabian Sea Humpback Whales*: The IWC has been working closely with CMS with regards to the CMS Concerted Action for the endangered Arabian Sea population of Humpback Whales. The IWC has made a number of conservation recommendations with respect to this population including consideration of the development of an IWC Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
- *Role of cetaceans in the ecosystem*: CMS and IWC are co-hosting a workshop in May 2020 on the Ecosystem Function of cetaceans. The outcomes of this workshop will be delivered to the IWC Scientific Committee meeting the following week.

The IWC recently joined the Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and hosted the most recent meeting at our offices in the Red House in Cambridge [<https://iwc.int/iwc-hosts-international-biodiversity-group>]. Our partnership with this group, which was facilitated by CMS, provides additional opportunities to reach those IGOs with mandates that are directly relevant to the emerging threats to cetaceans, such as tracking illegal trade, ensuring migratory corridors and maintaining marine natural heritage sites. The BLG also provides an opportunity to engage more effectively in the process of developing the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

Through these and many other programmes of work, there is much synergy between the CMS, its daughter agreements, and the IWC. The IWC looks forward to continued dialogue and collaboration with our partners at CMS on our issues of mutual interest.

We invite all our CMS COP 13 colleagues to the IWC side-event planned for Wednesday evening 19 February at 18:15-19:00. This informal event will provide updates on the exciting expanded work programme of the IWC, now focused on today’s primary threats to cetaceans.

### **IUCN STATEMENT AT OPENING CMS COP13, 17 FEB 2020/**

### **DECLARATION DE L’UICN A L’OUVERTURE DE LA COP13 DE LA CMS, 17 FEVRIER 2020/**

### **DECLARACIÓN DE LA UICN EN LA INAUGURACIÓN DE LA COP13 DE LA CMS, 17 FEB 2020**

Thank you Chair

IUCN would like to thank the Government and People of India for generously hosting COP13 in this wonderful state of Gujarat. IUCN congratulates Ms. Amy Fraenkel on her new appointment as the CMS Executive Secretary.

IUCN has collaborated with CMS for many years, and regards CMS as a key international partner. CMS's many agreements are important instruments to address the threats to migratory species and maintain the ecological integrity and connectivity of their habitats. We look forward to even closer collaboration in the future.

The IPBES Global Biodiversity Assessment has made it very clear that the planet is in jeopardy. In 2020, there is a short moment where the world can choose to respond to this nature emergency through the development and adoption of a new Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

IUCN welcomes the structure of the Zero draft Framework, particularly the inclusion of the 5 high level goals including a Goal on species. IUCN has proposed alternative wording for this goal to ensure that it drives action to halt species declines by 2030. IUCN also proposes a new target to support emergency action for species.

These 5 goals have 20 action targets for 2030. IUCN argues that these action Targets must "add up" to achieve the 5 high level Goals, and the Goals must "add up" to achieve the Mission. Every target must deliver the action necessary to attain the goals.

To help the world achieve such an ambitious high-level Species Goal, IUCN is developing a Global Species Action Plan. Working with many partners including CMS, CITES, Ramsar Convention and others, we aim to bring together in one document all the work that needs to be done, together with all the tools and guidelines available to support this challenging task. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

IUCN stresses that the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework must be a framework for all - for the Rio-Conventions, biodiversity related-conventions, all governments and all stakeholders. IUCN stands ready to collaborate with CMS Parties, other governments, and all stakeholders to support species conservation action and ecological connectivity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Finally, we hope to see you all at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseilles, France in June this year to further discuss the development and implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Thank you.

## **OPENING STATEMENT OCEANCARE / DÉCLARATION LIMINAIRE D'OCEANCARE / DISCURSO DE APERTURA POR OCEANCARE**

Distinguished Chair and Delegates, dear CMS Family,

It is exciting and a privilege to be attending this CMS COP13. We wish to take this opportunity and thank the Government of India for hosting this important meeting in Gandhinagar within the State of Gujarat, where Mahatma Gandhi was born. A person who has taught the world so much about the power of the individual as well as the cooperation between people. And what can be achieved by a brave and unwavering pursuit of the change we need to see.

OceanCare is proud of working in close collaboration and within an official partnership with the CMS Family, as well as the many people out there working in the field, within their communities furthering a better co-existence between people and wild animals, between people and nature.

We are facing an alarming rate of species loss as per the recent comprehensive assessment by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the pressure on habitats is ever-increasing, interrupting important pathways and migratory routes, the climate crisis and its impacts on wildlife and people is devastating. A brutal reality leaving us often helpless, frustrated, angry and in some ways paralyzed, almost impossible to believe that we – as a collective species of homo sapiens – are capable to turn the tide, and speed up efforts to bring back the balance. CONNECTIVITY, as theme of this COP, as a concept reflecting upon new governance

approaches, and re-connecting with wild animals and nature, couldn't have been selected more timely. But will it be enough?

Dear Delegates, the Convention on Migratory Species is a rare jewel in the world of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Emerging topics have been addressed before they became mainstream, Concerted Actions and binding Resolutions and Decisions have been passed to progress conservation and turn the described trend that is reality today.

But at the heart of real change is that such decisions, actions and measures are implemented and become an integral part of enforced management actions at national level. By adopting the Review Mechanism and launching the national legislation implementation procedure, you are equipped with the tools for more effective conservation action. However, we are well aware that progress made cannot be categorized as satisfactory compared to its original purpose

Yes, the challenges facing the future of wild animals are significant, but combining true and meaningful action from within this room and giving local communities a stronger voice can accelerate change. CMS is the Convention that shall provide species specific guidance towards the CBD's post 2020 process. It is the Convention that has so much experience to offer which should be explored once, hopefully, the new High Seas Treaty governing biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction is in place. The High Seas, the area which is not just about space, but the heart of this convention by just referring to the migratory routes and connection between coastal habitats.

An example for the beauty of guidance the scientific community offers towards governance processes, is the impressive work undertaken under the IMMAS – Important Marine Mammal Areas – Scheme. There are many other examples where specific action, for instance by addressing underwater noise or the global drivers that result in local issues such as Aquatic WildMeat can protect marine wildlife.

These are a few examples how CMS has the potential of taking the lead in global and measurable species conservation efforts. Reading the information scientists and conservationists from the field provide, for instance about culture and social complexity in wild animal species and resulting conservation implications is testimony to a Convention that can just be this jewel in turning the tide, once applying such concepts in the field.

On behalf of OceanCare, as well as our colleagues from Wild Migration, Margi and Geoff Prideaux, who have contributed so much in the past two decades to wildlife conservation and the CMS programmes, but can't be with us this time because they lost their home and so much more to the wildfires on Kangaroo Island and face an existential crisis, we have huge hope that this COP marks a new form of CONNECTIVITY with nature. A CONNECTIVITY which is based on working in partnership. A partnership which makes use of the synergies civil society offers to the CMS Family and makes it integral part of a new governance approach.

Where can we launch this necessary process, if not in the region where Mahatma Gandhi was born - the person who taught us the concept of Satyagraha.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE BORN FREE FOUNDATION AS A CMS PARTNER ORGANISATION./**  
**DECLARATION DE LA FONDATION BORN FREE EN TANT QU'ORGANISATION**  
**PARTENAIRE DE LA CMS./**  
**DECLARACIÓN DE THE BORN FREE FOUNDATION COMO ORGANIZACIÓN**  
**COLABORADORA DE LA CMS**

Mr Chairman.

We thank the Government of India for graciously hosting this Conference of the Parties, and the Secretariat for all its hard work in preparing for the meeting.

Born Free is proud to have become a CMS partner Organisation in 2018. We very much embrace the values and progressive ambitions of this convention, and look forward to engaging on the issues of key interest to us during this important Conference of the Parties, in particular those focussed on terrestrial mammals and many of the cross-cutting issues the COP will be considering.

In particular, we welcome the engagement with the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and encourage the CMS family to promote ecological connectivity and other key values and workstreams of this Convention through that process, to ensure the adoption of a robust and effective framework at the CBD COP later this year.

We have posted our Conservation Report as information document 31. This report contains information on our conservation programmes, many of which have direct relevance for CMS species and issues. We encourage interested delegates to review the document.

Thank you

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

Thank you very much to the Government of India, the State of Gujarat, and the Secretariat, for the tremendous organization of this meeting. I am speaking on behalf of those of us from WCS here from outside India, as well as on behalf of our many amazing colleagues with WCS-India (where we have a highly active program on terrestrial and marine conservation and efforts to combat wildlife trafficking).

WCS takes a science-based approach to the protection of wildlife and wild places, including many of the migratory species on the CMS Appendices. We work with our government partners to engage with the conservation of CMS-listed species and their habitats—on the ground and in the water, including through scientific research, population management, transboundary cooperation, spatial planning, & combatting wildlife trafficking, across several continents and in the ocean.

WCS has a long history of partnership with CMS, which includes the signing of a formal Cooperation Agreement in 2007 and as a Cooperating Partner to the CMS Sharks MOU in 2016.

We have shared our policy briefing for this meeting by email, and have copies available at our booth as well (see <https://www.wcs.org/our-work/solutions/international-policy>). Our views are based on the best available scientific and technical information from our field and country programs around the world. We encourage your support for proposals to amend the Appendices, including the Asian elephant, jaguar, and others. We also strongly support a strong statement from the CMS Parties on the post-2020 GBF, to be agreed at the CBD CoP this October.

Indeed, we urge all of you to step up your efforts on conservation wildlife and wild places—particularly to conserve migratory species of wild animals. International cooperation on these issues is not optional—it's mandatory if we are to succeed in our efforts to combat the biodiversity crisis.

Decisions made by you, the Parties, over the course of the meeting will have profound implications for the future of species conservation and sustainable development. As I said in the Stakeholder Dialogue on Saturday, as we sit here in Gandhinagar, I am reminded of the quote by Mahatma Gandhi, “*The future depends on what we do in the present*”.

We look forward to meeting with Parties and others during CoP13, and to advancing the conservation of migratory species—to ensure a future for wildlife and wild places in India and across the globe. Thank you very much.

### **Any other business / Autres questions/**

### **OCEANIA REGIONAL CLOSING STATEMENT / DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE DE LA RÉGION OCEANIE / DISCURSO DE CLAUSURA POR LA REGIÓN DE OCEANÍA**

On behalf of the Oceania region, we would like to thank India for hosting of this meeting. The venue was spectacular and the preparation and organisation impeccable. A real highlight was the small taste of the diverse culture of India that we saw at the champions night and opening function. We are looking forward to seeing more of this amazing country.

Oceania would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Secretariat, the Chair of Plenary and the Chair of the COW for keeping our discussions running and the effective functioning of this COP.

Unfortunately Oceania was missing two of our Parties at this meeting due to concerns over international travel at this time.

For Oceania there were many successes at this meeting:

- The successful listing of the endangered Antipodean albatross was a notable success, and one that we are pleased to share with our Chilean counterparts across the other side of the Pacific Ocean
- We were pleased to see the Appendix I listing for the critically endangered Oceanic white-tip, as well as those listings for other species in dire need of our help such as the Asian elephant, the Great Indian Bustard and the Jaguar.
- We are pleased about the new COP appointed counsellor positions covering key species and threats relevant to the Oceania region – most notably invasive species and fish. We are looking forward to assisting to get this work up and running in the near future.
- We made progress to further strengthen governance and institutional processes within CMS, for example, furthering work to assess implications of trade on Appendix 1 listed species and strengthening consultation with range states in developing listing proposals.

This meeting has also highlighted that some of the institutional processes need further strengthening, for example:

- There are inconsistencies in the interpretation of key terms in the Convention that can lead to inconsistent implementation and can affect the credibility of the Convention in the wider international arena.
- Agreed processes and guidelines are not always adhered to, for example, the criteria for listing of species on CMS appendices; and there is a lack of critical consultation when developing listing proposals.
- The Scientific Council recommendations are not always taken up. In these instances, it is important that there is a clear record as to why these recommendations were not accepted. This will assist the Scientific Council in future when undertaking deliberations.

It was also surprising to see only 63 Parties were eligible to vote at this meeting – less than half of the Parties to the Convention.

We note the budget constraints that will continue to face the secretariat over the coming intersessional period. As always, efficiency and effective prioritization will be critical. We implore

Parties to pay their contributions by the required deadlines. Failure to do this compromises our ability meet the objective of the Convention.

Today, we want to focus on the successes and achievements of this meeting and thank all Parties and observers for the robust discussions and cooperation that we have seen in the last few days. We look forward to working with you all over intersessional period, as well as reaching out to others, to continue our collaborative efforts to conserve our taonga as we would say in NZ – that is our most treasured species of animals that need our help.

I'd like to leave you with a Maori proverb – “Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri a muri ake nei” - For us and our children after us.

### **AFRICAN REGION CLOSING STATEMENT / DÉCLARATION DE CLÔTURE DE LA RÉGION AFRIQUE / DECLARACIÓN DE LA REGIÓN DE ÁFRICA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Africa would like to express its gratitude to the Government of India for providing the CMS COP 13 with excellent conference facilities that allowed us to work effectively and undertake all the side meeting, discussion and consultation required with ease. We also would like to thank India for the tremendous hospitality extended to us which also made CMS COP 13 an enjoyable experience.

Africa appreciates the cooperation and active participation shown by parties to the CMS, non-parties and the other implementing partners during COP 13. We wish this cooperation and collaboration would carry on all the way to implementation on the ground. Africa is saddened by the loss of migratory species that are amongst the species predicted to be extinct at an unprecedented rate should no urgent and concerted action be taken. We were of the hope that these predictions by the IPBES assessments and other global assessments and messages of state of emergency raised by experts would raise more awareness and trigger a transformative change and radical movement from business as usual.

However, there is an appetite to step up conservation activities, raise ambition in setting targets and approving the work programme in this COP but less commitment to provide resources to strengthen the Secretariat and enhance implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by this COP.

Mr. President, Africa sees this as setting the Convention for a failure to achieve its objectives. Africa therefore commits to ensuring urgent settlement of arrears of annual contribution should the system of payment be made more flexible and simplified to accommodate our technological challenges in the region. This will assist in providing some resources to assist the dire financial situation the Secretariat is faced with. Africa further requests that those that are in a position to do so to assist within their capabilities to provide voluntary contributions either in cash or in-kind such as seconding some staff to the secretariat to strengthen their efforts to implement the work programme for the triennium.

Mr. President, Africa recognizes the importance of listing species in appendices and encourages urgent and concerted action to be taken to save such species from direct and indirect drivers that lead them to be threatened and eventually extinct, as listing without actions has very little or no impact at all. Africa would like to encourage all Parties to step up efforts in strengthen the implementation of the convention to avoid negative impacts on the integrity and credibility of the Convention.

The Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species is the best tool to achieve ecological connectivity which is of paramount importance to ensure the survival of migratory species and therefore Africa fully supports this concept for inclusion in the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework. This is to protect, restore and link important geographical areas that together support migratory species during the different phases of their natural lifecycles, such as breeding and feeding.

Mr President, these were our few observations and appreciation and we would like to wish everybody a safe trip back home or to other engagements especially those attending the CBD meetings in Rome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES CLOSING STATEMENT/  
DECLARATION DE CLOTURE DE LA REGION EUROPE ET SES ÉTATS MEMBRES/  
DISCURSO DE CLAUSURA DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA Y SUS ESTADOS MIEMBROS**

Thank you Mr Chair,

It is now almost a week since we arrived in Gandhinagar full of energy to steer our joint work in the context of the CMS. As the COP draws to a close, although we may be tired from long days, we can look back with satisfaction to a very productive and constructive seven days.

The EU and its Member States are very pleased with the progress that we have made together during this COP. We all know that biodiversity is facing a huge challenge at global, national and local levels, that the trends are not good..... but we are part of the solution. Through the resolutions adopted this week, we have shown leadership and made commitments to address many of the pressures and the drivers that impact on our migratory species, such as light pollution, poisoning, bycatch and plastic waste.

Similarly, while we do not celebrate the need to list species on the appendices of the CMS (because listing a species is an acknowledgment of the dire state of the species), listing is also a key step to improve its protection. We must therefore be satisfied that we have taken the step of affording protection to quite a number of threatened migratory species through their new listing in the appendices of the CMS during this COP. We hope that we will one day be in a position to find that our efforts have led to their recovery.

We would also note a reoccurring theme at this COP, namely the importance of communication with, and involvement of, all stakeholders and local communities in the implementation process. This is not a new issue, but the urgency of the biodiversity crisis and our unprecedented will to work together call for highlighted attention. The greatest successes in the field are achieved together, by listening, establishing co-creation and striving for win-wins. Only with this will implementation in the field be possible.

Of course, there were compromises to be struck this week, but CMS is now a mature convention where parties can overcome their differences and find solutions that enable us all to contribute to the protection of our migratory species. We now must take these resolutions back home and work to ensure that they are implemented at the national level.

We are pleased to see that the National Legislation Programme is taking shape and look forward to its further development over this coming intersessional period, in line with the decisions of this COP. Good national legislation is a keystone to ensuring that the listing of species will lead to real chances for their future.

We also look forward to the continued work on the review of the conservation status of migratory species, and the finalisation of the atlas on migration, both important tools to monitor our progress and help us determine where we need to do more - or better - to ensure the future of migratory species. Certainly there is plenty of work for all parties, individually and collectively.

As Amy Frankel takes over the reins of the CMS secretariat, we acknowledge the huge task also ahead of her and her team, particularly in this key year for biodiversity. We believe that the adopted budget provides the resources for them to take this work forward, however they can only do their job

correctly if all parties make their budgetary contributions promptly. We therefore call upon those countries with arrears to regularise their situation. We also call on those parties in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions towards the programme budget.

The EU and its Member States would like to wholeheartedly thank the government of India and the state of Gujarat for their warm welcome during this COP. We have been enchanted by the cultural events during the receptions, and inspired by the visit to the Statue of Unity. We also would like to thank the Secretariat and the Chairs of the Committees and working groups for all the work done before and during the COP to ensure that all of the proceedings have gone smoothly despite the large number of issues on the agenda.

Finally, we would like to thank all our colleagues, the delegates and the representatives of the NGOs and other institutions that participated in this Conference of the Parties, and all those persons that have helped in the preparation and during the COP from our home places. We much appreciate the open minds, the constructive discussions and the sense of common responsibility that have prevailed throughout this COP.

As many of you will be continuing on to the meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on the post-2020 process to be held this coming week in Rome, we call on you to carry forward the spirit of this COP to ensure an ambitious post-2020 GBF that will secure the future of migratory species.

Thank you.

**CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION**

**DECLARATION DE CLOTURE DE LA REGION AMERIQUE DU SUD, AMERIQUE CENTRALE ET CARAIBES**

**DECLARACIÓN DE CLAUSURA AMÉRICA DEL SUR, AMÉRICA CENTRAL Y EL CARIBE**

¡Muchas gracias señor presidente!!

Costa Rica en nombre de América Central, Sur y el Caribe aquí presentes, quiere agradecer al Gobierno de la India por la gran hospitalidad al ser la sede la COP 13 de la CMS, a todos nuestros hermanos delegados de las Partes, al equipo Técnico de interpretaciones, votaciones, seguridad, personal de aseo, alimentación y mantenimiento, y a todo Gandhinagar.

Igualmente felicitar a la señora Amy Fraenkel, por su nuevo cargo en la Secretaria Ejecutiva, al señor Presidente, por su extraordinario manejo de la agenda, los tiempos y los debates, en la revisión de los documentos y propuestas de enmienda. A nuestros colegas, observadores, ONG's, sector privado y medios, por su acompañamiento permanente.

Con gran satisfacción y el deber cumplido con los objetivos y la misión de la CMS, la región logró por consenso incluir en Apéndice I y II de la CMS, nuestro emblemático jaguar para las Américas y el mundo. Igualmente los tiburones, los elefantes, la florican de bengala, el albatros, entre otros.

Las especies migratorias agradecen nuestras grandes decisiones como sus representantes en el mundo y lo hicimos desde acá Gandhinagar, India el momento era este, no podíamos esperar. Se llevaron a cabo importantes debates al igual que trascendentales decisiones en el marco de la CMS. Queremos destacar lo significativo del trabajo conjunto con otras convenciones como la CITES, CBD, RAMSAR, entre otros, en favor de las especies migratorias, su conectividad en corredores marinos y terrestres, que permitan garantizar la salud de los ecosistemas, la biodiversidad y los grandes servicios ecosistémicos, para presentes y las futuras generaciones.

Señores y señoras nos vamos con la satisfacción de haber logrado una COP de CMS histórica para el mundo...

Muchas gracias señor presidente.

## **Speech to Closing Session of COP / Discours de clôture de la session de la COP / Discorso para la Sesión de clausura de la of COP**

### **MS. AMY FRAENKEL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ SECRÉTAIRE EXÉCUTIVE / SECRETARIA EJECUTIVA**

#### **Opening**

So here we are on the closing day of COP13. It has been an amazing week of stakeholder and high-level discussions, side events, exhibitions, technical working groups, bilateral meetings, recognition of champions, designation of new ambassadors, signing of agreements, and many new and renewed connections. You could feel the buzz of activity at every corner.

I feel like we are just getting started, and don't want to leave this amazing gathering with all of you who are so dedicated to the conservation of migratory species. I haven't had a chance to talk with each of you yet! But we have indeed reached the very last part of our long week.

We all came to Gandhinagar with high hopes and I have to say that this COP has exceeded all expectations.

**First**, CMS COP13 set some new records:

A total of 2,550 people were issued with badges including 263 delegates representing 82 Parties; 11 delegates from 5 non-Party countries; 118 exhibitors; 117 members of the press and media; 127 representatives of national NGOs; 70 representatives of international NGOs; 50 representatives of UN agencies; 866 local staff; and 611 representatives of Indian State Governments.

**We also joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century**, with top-notch equipment in the plenary hall, flat screens, and a first-ever CMS app., with more than 700 active users, nearly 7,500 interactions and over 200 photos uploaded by participants.

**In fact, CMS COP13 was a COP of many firsts.**

It was the first CMS COP to be addressed by a Head of Government.

It was the first COP to be addressed by an astronaut.

It was the first COP where the catering was entirely vegetarian.

It was the first COP with electronic voting.

We held the first-ever Stakeholder Dialogue.

And for the first time, we have women as COP-appointed Scientific Councillors.

#### **Key Achievements**

**Much has been achieved in this packed week.**

10 species have been added to the Appendices, including GIBI, our mascot for COP13 and 14 species are covered by new or extended Concerted Actions,

A resolution calling for a **Review of the Conservation Status of Migratory Species** has been adopted.

And the COP agreed on actions addressing specific threats to migratory species, such as linear infrastructure, and to explore new areas of inquiry, such as plastic pollution in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

The COP broke new ground by adopting resolutions on insect decline and light pollution for the first time.

#### **Thank You**

Meetings such as this do not just happen by themselves. They are months in the planning. They take a great deal of work and organization, and also require the dedication and strong guidance of individuals willing to help ensure that the running of the meeting is a success.

So, my thanks go out to the Akankwasah Barirega, of Uganda, for his skillful guiding of the Committee of the Whole. I would also like to thank the other members of the Bureau, and the working group chairs for their incredible help in moving through the many items taken up at this COP. Report writers. Interpreters.

My deepest thanks go of course to the Indian Government. We have been hard at work together now for many months to plan this COP. This was a most incredible venue, and the beautiful branding and attention to details, and the fantastic services all helped make this meeting a success. I never felt we were alone, and want to single out a few individuals in particular.

First, to Inspector General of Forests, Soumitra Dasgupta and his team.

Next to Shirvistava and the entire Gujarat Forest Department  
 Minister of State Babul Supriyo  
 Minister Prakesh Javadekar  
 Chief Minister Vijay Rupani  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Of course my greatest thanks go to the CMS team....

And I would like to thank all of the many others that helped make this meeting a success... technicians, the cleaning crews, the caterers, the drivers, and all the local staff and volunteers...

### **Next Steps**

Upon the closing of this meeting, India will take on a leadership role as the CMS COP Presidency.

With the commitments made in the Prime Minister's address, we can be confident that India will provide leadership to advance the importance of the Convention's work over the next three years.

The Prime Minister highlighted a number of specific initiatives, including leadership for the Central Asian Flyway, the conservation of marine turtles, reduction of pollution from micro-plastic and single-use plastic, transboundary protected areas, and sustainable infrastructure development.

Through the Presidency's representational role, India will be able to promote the importance of CMS at other high-level forums such as the climate COP, the United Nations biodiversity summit in New York, and the UN Biodiversity Conference which will adopt the post 2020 GBF in October.

### **Concluding Remarks**

It was Bradnee's idea to come to India for COP – I think what we have all witnessed this week would have made him very proud.

CMS COP has given the 'super year' the best possible start. And it has strengthened and positioned CMS to deliver on its unique role of addressing the conservation of migratory species and their habitats.

Now we have to turn words into action and there is much to do to reverse the alarming trends of species loss.

We need to raise awareness of the importance of migratory species. We need to secure political commitments to support our collective work. And above all we still need to secure the resources necessary for us to fulfill our mandate, so we can match the fine words with corresponding actions.

I look forward to continuing working with all of you in the coming intersessional period to deliver on what has been agreed here at COP13,  
and to seeing you all at COP14 in 2023.