



Sustaining Initiatives for the Conservation of Wildlife and its Habitats Worldwide

Understanding the Challenge

The loss of wildlife is startling and has reached unprecedented levels. According to latest studies, populations of mammals, birds and fish fell by 58 per cent in the last 45 years and indications are that a further significant decline in wildlife will occur by 2020. Animals face the dangers of overexploitation. Illegal taking, unsustainable harvesting and incidental capture take a heavy toll on thousands of species. Habitat loss and degradation are the most common threats to animals in decline. Habitat fragmentation is a particularly serious threat to wide-ranging species that need very extensive home ranges. Taking urgent actions to halt these losses and reverse the negative trends is imperative.

Despite the urgency of species protection and the universal calls for action, conservation accomplishments still lag far behind those that are needed. Maintaining healthy wildlife populations, recovering endangered species, and restoring impaired ecosystems all require significant funding. Unfortunately, the needs of wildlife conservation efforts far outstrip the financial resources currently available to government agencies. This plight of wildlife has become even more acute in the light of the current economic downturn, as many natural resource agencies have suffered budget cuts that are affecting their abilities to meet critical wildlife conservation functions.

Moving from Decisions to Actions

One of the constraining factors is funding - particularly smaller-scale support for specific on-the-ground initiatives. In many parts of the world, small amounts of money can have a significant and immediate conservation impact.

To this end, in 1994, CMS established a Small Grants Programme as a tool to boost the efforts of its stakeholders and enhance the impact of conservation. The CMS Small Grants Programme has served as a catalyst for action to solve some of the most complex challenges to migratory species survival, funding projects in more than 30 countries since its inception. It has played an important role in strengthening the implementation of the Convention through supporting conservation initiatives in the field, while stimulating dialogue at the local and regional levels and assisting the development of the capacity of communities with limited access to alternative funding sources.

Championing the Solution!

Healthy natural ecosystems are the lifeline for billions of people. Through targeted funding and technical support, the CMS Small Grants Programme empowers local communities, NGOs and governments to protect their natural and shared assets. Sustainable financial support for the Programme is instrumental to ensure the maintenance of this cost-effective mechanism targeting conservation action where it is most needed. Funding under the Programme is tailored for actions selected following annual requests for applications in support of the conservation of migratory species.

The initiative contributes to the attainment of various Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and thus provides an opportunity for stakeholders from the private and public sector to take action through a strong partnership for the mutual benefit of development and wildlife conservation.

More information can be found at: www.cms.int/en/activities/small-grants/about



MIGRATORY SPECIES CHAMPION PROGRAMME

WE FLY, WE RUN, WE SWIM. HELP US KEEP MOVING

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and its associated agreements, altogether known as CMS Family, are concerned with the protection of migratory wildlife on a global or regional scale. Such work is largely subject to the voluntary financial income that the Secretariats can generate, which is by its nature neither regular nor predictable.

The *Migratory Species Champion Programme* aims to promote initiatives developed under the CMS Family and encourage their sustainable support. The Programme has been designed to raise commitments to provide medium- and long-term resources for conservation actions so as to guarantee their timely planning and implementation.

Who can be a Champion?

Champions can be Governments, companies, organizations and individuals willing to make a financial commitment of at least three years for one or more specific CMS Family initiatives. Contributions could be made annually or as one-off payments. In-kind donations also qualify provided that they comply with requirements of this programme.

Becoming a *Champion* is more than being a donor. It is rather being an advocate for migratory species delivering support for their conservation beyond funding. *Champions* become part of the solution to big problems that concern them.

What can a Champion support?

The programme offers a portfolio of initiatives. Each initiative comprises a set of activities contributing to the implementation of a large programme targeting a species, a group of species or a cross-cutting issue.

Why becoming a Champion?

The Programme and its results are promoted on the dedicated page: www.migratoryspecies.org/champion

Furthermore, *Champions* are acknowledged with certificates that testify their support to one or more initiatives.

Different categories of *Champions* are defined to recognize different levels of contributions. The scheme of categories is as follows:

Champion for annual contributions from €20,000 up to €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

Champion Plus for annual contributions of more than €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

Champion Extraordinaire for continuous support.

Engaging and awarding *Champions* are rolling processes undertaken by each Secretariat.

Ad hoc donors' events are organized in the margins of the CMS Family decision-making bodies to acknowledge existing *Champions*. The certificate and the associated publicity provide *Champions* with the opportunity to promote both nationally and internationally their commitment and support for the conservation of migratory species.