



**Time to give  
lead the bullet!**

### **Understanding the Challenge**

Lead is a toxic heavy metal for which there is no safe exposure level for both humans and wildlife. Because of its toxicity, lead has been removed from various paints, water pipes and some forms of gasoline to protect human health and our environment. Yet lead is still widely used in hunting and fishing activities poisoning millions of animals each year and contaminating land and waterways. Animals at every level of the food chain face varying degrees of exposure – ranging from frogs, mice and squirrels to ducks, swans and deer to eagles and bears - and people. Lead in hunting ammunition is responsible for large-scale mortality in birds. Several migratory waterbird species are known to suffer from lead poisoning following the ingestion of lead fishing weights.

### **Moving from Decisions to Actions**

Following a request from CMS Parties, an expert Working Group was set up in 2011 to recommend suitable responses to prevent and minimize bird poisoning from use of lead for hunting and fishing in addition to other substances such as agricultural pesticides, poison baits and veterinary pharmaceuticals. The Preventing Poisoning Working Group produced related guidelines which were adopted by Parties in 2014 and urged the phasing-out of lead ammunition across all habitats and lead fishing weights in freshwater habitats by the end of 2017. Despite this decision, which was the result of broad consultations among hunting, wildlife management and conservation stakeholders, the transition to non-toxic ammunition has been slow. However, thanks to the leading initiative of AEWA, several countries have enacted a ban on the use of lead shot in wetlands since the mid-1990s.

### **Championing the Solution!**

Dialogue and cooperation among the hunting and conservation communities, governments and related businesses need to be promoted to ensure the use of non-toxic alternatives. To this end, a global Lead Task Force is required to facilitate concerted efforts with key partners including relevant industries to minimize poisoning of migratory birds from anthropogenic environmental sources of lead, namely hunting ammunition, fishing weights as well as leaded paint, discarded lead and that emanating from industrial mining and smelting processes. Sustainable funding is necessary to support efforts of the Lead Task Force which contribute to reaching a Pollution-Free Planet!

More information can be found at: [www.cms.int/preventing-poisoning\\_wg](http://www.cms.int/preventing-poisoning_wg)



# 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](http://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.