



**BE OUR
CHAMPION!**

The AEWA African Initiative *Support for a Haven for Migratory Waterbirds*

Understanding the Challenge

The African continent, with its unique wetland ecosystems such as the Okavango Delta or the Banc d'Arguin, is of crucial importance for the survival of millions and millions of migratory waterbirds which depend on African breeding, wintering and feeding grounds. Black-tailed Godwits, Black Storks, Purple Herons and many others breed in Europe while wintering in sub-Saharan Africa, thereby connecting countries across continents as well as people who share these wetland resources. Africa's immense natural wealth is, however, under extreme pressure resulting from environmental and human drivers. At the same time, African member countries are lagging behind with the implementation of their obligations, due to a substantial lack of expertise, capacity and resources. Particular and targeted conservation efforts are absolutely critical to halt the decline of waterbirds and their habitats, while also improving the livelihoods of local communities.

Moving from Decision to Action

Acknowledging the urgent need for increased human and financial resources as well as a targeted strategy to respond to this critical situation, AEWA Parties decided in 2008 to put in place a dedicated support mechanism – the AEWA African Initiative – which was launched one year later. Subsequently, a strong coordination team was established to drive the African Initiative. Among the subsequent achievements are the development of a Plan of Action for Africa, adopted in 2012; a significant increase in AEWA membership; more than a dozen training, promotion and action-planning workshops as well as several small grant-funded conservation projects in Africa.

Championing the Solution!

Funds are urgently required to maintain the African Initiative and build on the successful foundations that have been laid. Sustaining the coordination of this scheme is of highest priority in order to provide guidance and support, as well as much needed training to the African Parties, strengthen synergies and cooperation with partner organizations, and build fundraising capacity for the African Initiative. Financial support is also needed to be able to provide small grants for conservation projects on the ground, an approach which has proven very successful in the region.

More information can be found at: www.unep-aewa.org/africaninitiative



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.