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**BE OUR
CHAMPION!**

Grey Crowned-crane
*Leading the way for
sustainable development
in Africa*

Understanding the Challenge

With its grey cloak and crown of golden feathers, the Grey Crowned-crane is a true royal that graces its realm in African wetlands and grasslands. Its beauty and charisma are the reasons the Crane has embellished Uganda's national coat of arms for nearly 100 years. This statuesque and regal creature, symbol of joy, longevity and wealth, faces manifold threats throughout its kingdom. The degradation of the Crane's habitats is of major concern and is most often caused by agricultural encroachment, afforestation, mining and changes in hydrology. A large number of Cranes are captured from the wild and sold as ornaments for private gardens or hotels, having their wings clipped, or broken, so that they cannot fly away. Electrocutation and poisoning pose further threats. It is estimated that the species' global population has declined by 65-80% in the last 45 years. This sharp decline, together with its causes, are showing no signs of abating.

Moving from Decision to Action

The Grey Crowned-crane is globally threatened, recognized as "Endangered" by the IUCN and listed under AEWA as a priority species requiring urgent and dedicated conservation measures. Accordingly, a Single Species Action Plan for the species was developed through rigorous consultations with all stakeholders and approved by Parties to AEWA in 2015. Appropriate organizational and management arrangements are vital to the successful and coordinated implementation of the Action Plan. To this end, an International Working Group consisting of government representatives from all Range States and experts from the international conservation community has been set up to guide the implementation and further development of the Plan.

Championing the Solution!

Achieving an improved status for the Grey Crowned-crane requires reduced mortality of birds; higher breeding success and mitigated fragmentation and degradation of their habitats, all of which have been set as objectives of the Action Plan. Ensuring the sustainable use of sites important to cranes is of vital importance and can be achieved through improved enforcement of legislation on agriculture development. The plan provides for alternative livelihoods in order to regulate the extent of agricultural practices. Community-based habitat conservation programmes are to be developed to allow cranes to co-exist in agricultural land and other areas used by humans. Sustainable funding is essential to provide adequate assistance to governments and organizations joining forces in the context of the Working Group to carry out these actions. It is only through a multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted approach that the future of Grey Crowned-cranes can be secured, while, in turn, spearheading sustainable development in Africa.

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



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.