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Keep Track of Species Movements

A Global Atlas of Animal Migration

Understanding the Challenge

Effective conservation of migratory species depends on having knowledge of their movements and in particular on the identification of the sites upon which they depend and the connectivity between them. With new emerging technologies for tracking species migration, the magnitude of data collected is massive. This wealth of knowledge is however uneven among groups of species and is scattered, making a comprehensive analysis a challenge. Not being able to capitalize on the available knowledge, governments and businesses alike sometimes fail to take into consideration species' needs in any spatial planning and development which then results in avoidable and unnecessary loss for biodiversity.

Moving from Decisions to Actions

In 2014, Parties to CMS called for the production of a Global Atlas of Migratory Animal Movements that entails the compilation, analysis and mapping of data of wild species' migrations. The information is planned to be displayed in an online system, interactive and easy to update. The production of the Atlas would be executed in modules, starting with groups of species for which data are readily available for immediate analyses. Much progress is being made for some groups of species and regions; for instance for birds in the African-Eurasian flyway and for large mammals in Central Asia, although there are still significant gaps.

Championing the Solution!

Sustainable resources are needed to ensure the development and maintenance of this important tool. The understanding of species' migrations would help identify certain drivers of population declines and mitigate them with conservation actions. Knowing species' critical sites and migration routes would also help avoid future conflicts with large-scale land use changes and interventions, such as extractions, energy infrastructure and deployment of renewable energy technologies. Species' spatial and temporal patterns would also, for instance, help reveal the role of migratory animals in the spread of diseases including in the light of climate change. 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 economic development and wildlife conservation.



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.