



**BE OUR
CHAMPION!**

Too Loud! *Reducing the Clamour in the Oceans*

Understanding the Challenge

Hearing is the predominant sense for all whales, dolphins and porpoises. They use sound in their daily life not only as a communication tool but also to find food and their way in the ocean. Background noise can be collectively raised by commercial shipping, seismic exploration, sonar technologies and industrial activities, and also single noise sources, such as pile-driving activities, detonations or low- and mid-frequency active sonar. Such noise can cause disturbance, and, at high exposure levels, physical injury and even death. All this ocean noise alters the biologically significant communications of these animals and creates behavioural changes that cause them to move away from their crucial habitats, and to modify their surfacing and diving patterns. Therefore, increasing the amount of noise in the marine environment can have major and even fatal impacts on cetaceans.

Moving from Decision to Action

Parties to CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS have recognized underwater noise as one of the major threats to cetaceans. Resolutions address the use of best practice noise mitigation and the development of quieter technologies, with particular focus on offshore construction for renewable energy production and seismic exploration. Governments also agreed on the need for Environmental Impact Assessments that take full account of the effects of noise on cetaceans and other biota. In order to provide Parties with the information necessary for the implementation of these decisions, CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS have a Joint Underwater Noise Working Group which involves key experts as well as industry representatives who work together to provide state of the art solutions.

Championing the Solution!

Addressing the issue of underwater noise effectively requires consolidated efforts at all levels. Sustainable financial support is needed to ensure the operation of the Working Group whose principal tasks include developing and updating guidelines detailing available mitigation measures, alternative technologies and required standards. It is recommended that workshops on the requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments relating to the effect of noise on marine mammals be held regularly, under the guidance of the Group, as this is a rapidly evolving, dynamic field. The Joint Underwater Noise Working Group is also to design, and help implement as appropriate, pilot projects to test and improve the existing noise guidelines and mitigation measures for their application in the field.



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.