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**BE OUR
CHAMPION!**

**Last Call for the
Sahelo-Saharan
Megafauna!**

Understanding the Challenge

From the magnificent curved horns of the Scimitar Oryx, to the Addax and Dorcas Gazelle which are well adapted to their harsh habitat and can survive for most of their lives without water, the Sahelo-Saharan antelopes and gazelles are some of the most unique, and also the most threatened animals in Africa. Their rapid decline has been caused by natural and human-induced challenges such as overhunting and habitat degradation, as well as competition with domestic livestock. The Addax is rapidly heading towards extinction in the wild, with the Dama Gazelle close behind. This dire situation calls for immediate action!

Moving from Decision to Action

In order to restore and maintain gazelle and antelope populations in the Sahara and the Sahel, six antelope and gazelle species were included in Appendix I of the Convention, which requires strict protection by prohibiting the taking of such species. For targeted conservation, an Action Plan was adopted in 1998 by 14 Range States under the auspices of CMS. This tailored instrument provides a framework for governments, NGOs, scientists, local people and the wider international community to collaborate in the conservation of these animals. In the framework of this Action Plan, a number of Range State meetings and projects took place. Relevant national action plans are regularly updated and most importantly, conservation measures are being implemented on the ground; in 2007 for example, the Oryx and Addax were reintroduced in Tunisia. A large conservation area has been established in Eastern Niger to secure the last stronghold of the Addax species in the Termit and Tin Toumma regions. In 2016, Oryx, once extinct in the wild, was reintroduced into the wild in Chad, where they are now living free and reproducing. Recently, two new species were added to the programme: the Barbary Sheep, and the Red-fronted Gazelle. Currently, all species in the Action Plan are undergoing a long-awaited status review.

Championing the Solution!

With the ultimate goal of halting the decline of this spectacular group of herbivores across their entire range, the Action Plan provides a concrete road map for all stakeholders. Key activities of the Action Plan include improving understanding of Sahelo-Saharan Antelope populations through research and monitoring; management of species including control and surveillance; increasing public awareness of threats to these species, and creation of incentives for communities to conserve Sahelo-Saharan mega fauna. Only with concerted international efforts, which require sustainable funding, this dire situation can be averted and reversed to bring the Sahelo-Saharan megafauna back from the brink of extinction.

More information can be found at: www.cms.int/en/legalinstrument/sahelo-saharan-megafauna



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.