

Special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2015
Observer status with the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies since 2017

CIDCE at CMS COP 12 in Manila

CIDCE participated at this year's largest wildlife summit held in Manila, Philippines from 23-28 October 2017. Referred to as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Conference of the Parties (COP) 12th meeting, countries in attendance united and endorsed actions on the conservation of a wide range of migratory species, many of which are near extinct.

Foremost output of the conference was a Manila Declaration which conveyed the message that "the future of migratory wildlife is integrated to our own future and that people have the responsibility to act." The theme of the conference was "Their Future is our Future: Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People."

Among the decisions of CMS COP 12 are: (1) Commitment of countries to step up their efforts to conserve the planet's migratory wildlife; and (2) Cooperation of countries to reduce the negative impacts of marine debris, noise pollution, renewable energy and climate change on migratory species.

CMS COP 12 in Manila has been the largest ever meeting in the 38-year history of the Convention also known as the "Bonn Convention." It defines migratory species as "one that cyclically and predictably crosses one or more jurisdictional boundaries." Covered by the CMS are mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, insect, whales, dolphins, bats, gorillas, antelopes, albatrosses, raptors, waterbirds, sharks, sturgeons, marine turtles, etc.

At the conference, all fish proposals were endorsed which means that 3 species of sharks and 3 species of ray will receive greater protection with the whale shark on Appendix I and the angel shark being listed in Appendices I and II.

Appendix I consists of migratory species that have been assessed as facing high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future. Signatory states are encouraged to protect these animals, conserve or restore the habitats where they live and thrive, remove obstacles to migration and control other factors that might endanger them.

Appendix II, on the other hand, covers migratory species that have unfavorable conservation status and require international agreements for their conservation and management.

All avian species proposals were approved for addition to the CMS appendices. On Appendix I are the steppe eagle; four species of Asian vulture, five sub-Saharan vulture species, the Lappet-faced vulture and the Christmas frigate bird.

For the first time, the giraffe will receive protection under the international treaty with a listing on CMS Appendix II. Although populations in many southern African countries are thriving, they are in overall decline across Africa with less than 90,000 animals

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remaining in the world. The leopard and the lion, on the other hand, will also be listed on Appendix II, paving the way for a joint initiative on protecting Africa's great carnivores. The African Carnivores Initiative will become a focal point for the implementation of resolutions and decisions on lions, leopards, cheetahs and wild dogs under CMS or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The chimpanzee is now listed on both CMS appendices. The near-extinct Gobi Bear is included on Appendix I. The Caspian seal is included on both CMS appendices too. It is the only marine mammal found in the world's largest inland sea.

In total, 12 mammals were afforded greater protection under CMS, 16 birds and 6 species of fish.

(CIDCE was represented at CMS COP 12 in Manila by CIDCE national focal point for the Philippines, Ambassador Amado Tolentino.)