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CMS ACCOMPLISHMENTS NORTH AMERICA REGION

Summary:

This report highlights major activities undertaken in North America since COP10 (2012-2014). These activities support raising awareness of CMS (Resolutions 10.7 and 10.21), mobilizing resources for CMS, promoting partnerships (Resolution 10.21), and enhancing the relationship between CMS, the CMS Family, and MEAs with the UNEP Regional Office North America (RONA), as called by the Future Shape document (Resolution 10.9, activities 2, 8 and 14).

Previous reports have been submitted to the Standing Committee for 2012 and 2013 and are available as documents UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.40 and UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.41. This report follows a format similar to previous reports, addressing the Washington Officer's priority activities as follows, including 2014 updates:

- Executive Summary
- I. Mobilizing Resources for CMS
- II. Building political support for CMS
- III. Raising awareness and understanding about CMS
- IV. Providing general support to the CMS Secretariat

REPORT ON WASHINGTON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The CMS post in Washington, DC was created to raise awareness and visibility of CMS in North America and to help build political support for the Convention while also mobilizing resources for implementation of CMS and its instruments globally. This post is a full-time, P2 level post with costs and time shared equally (50:50) with UNEP's Regional Office for North America (RONA), where the post is hosted. This unique arrangement provides ample opportunities for networking and serves to enhance regional collaboration and synergies between CMS and UNEP, and with other MEAs active in the region.

2. Washington, D.C. is a well-known epicenter for international conservation. The city both hosts and attracts international institutions, foundations, and non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations from all over the world. The CMS Washington Officer frequently attends special events, seminars and Congressional briefings on migratory species or biodiversity representing CMS and providing CMS with access to important international audiences (e.g. Global Environment Facility, World Bank, US Government agencies, Embassies, international NGOs, and other UN family organizations). A network of over 400 new contacts has been established in less than three years which helps to promote CMS. Despite celebrating its 35th Anniversary, CMS is not a very well-known Convention in Washington government agencies. Even those organizations that have heard about CMS don't really understand what the benefits of CMS are or how it operates within the complexity of its many sub-agreements.

3. In addition to raising awareness about CMS, and developing cooperation with relevant stakeholders (as called for in CMS Resolutions 10.7 on Outreach and Communications and 10.21 on Synergies and Partnerships, respectively), the Washington Officer also helps to facilitate the relationship between CMS, the CMS Family, other MEAs and the UNEP Regional Office in North America as called for in CMS Resolution 10.9 on Future Shape (Activities 2, 4, 8 and 14). By working jointly for CMS and for UNEP, the Officer has direct access to staff and associated networks across both entities, including the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF/STAP) which is also housed at RONA. Cost savings are realized by sharing travel and staff administration costs between both offices. The Officer is often able to represent both CMS and UNEP interests at meetings and has supported several UNEP projects that dovetail nicely with CMS mission as well. These include: the Spain-UNEP LifeWeb Marine Mammal Corridors Project in the Eastern Pacific and Wider Caribbean, the Canadian Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)/Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative, UNEPs Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign and Working Group, and activities related to Marine Debris impacts on Cetaceans (e.g. participation in the International Whaling Commission Experts Workshops), and other general ocean outreach activities (e.g. World Oceans Day events and coordination of the *Two Minutes on Oceans with Jim Toomey* video series).

4. In her regional representational capacity, she has provided CMS Executive leadership with critical analysis of political interests and sensitivities in the region on relevant topics (ocean conservation, wildlife crime, Arctic, marine debris, biodiversity, migratory species issues) and has represented CMS at high level intergovernmental meetings and identified

opportunities to provide inputs to strategic planning or policy documents, including inputs to the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s new Biodiversity Strategy, the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Americas Flyways Framework, the ACAP Treaty, IWC Marine Debris Workshop Recommendations, Resolutions at UNEA and informal inputs to the U.S. Executive Task Force on Wildlife Crime. In addition to strategic policy inputs, the Washington Officer has also supported the CMS Communications team with production of promotional materials, identifying topics for op-eds, offering content for CMS website, reviewing drafts and placing CMS news feeds and guest articles into UNEP and RONA webpages. CMS Bulletins are circulated to North American audiences (including RONA's civil society listserve 1000+) and support was provided from UNEP RONA in promoting Year of the Bat, and World Migratory Bird Day. Last, general support is regularly provided to the Secretariat including inputs to CMS strategic planning and programming documents and StC and COP11 meeting documents including draft resolutions (e.g. marine debris, wildlife crime and synergies documents).

5. Overall, awareness about CMS, and ACAP has grown in Washington, with stakeholders desiring to learn more about ways to work together with CMS as evidenced by increased requests for information and briefings (from NGOs, USG and donors). **The U.S. continues to increase its support for CMS financially, politically and in-kind. Since 2011, the USA has contributed over 1 million USD in support of CMS activities, either to CMS entities directly, or to partners.**

6. This report summary on North American activities and accomplishments complements reports which were previously submitted to the StC in 2012 and 2013. These reports are included in COP11 documentation as documents UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.40 and UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.41 respectively. The format follows previous report formats:

Report Outline

- I. Mobilizing Resources for CMS
- II. Building political support for CMS
- III. Raising awareness and understanding about CMS
- IV. Providing general support to the CMS Secretariat

I. Mobilizing Resources for CMS

7. Since the Washington Officer post has been in place, evidence suggests that regional interest in and support for CMS activities has grown. This is reflected by increasing political and financial support for several important CMS MoUs and species. For example, despite a challenging fiscal scenario for international and environmental programs in the U.S and the fact that the U.S. is not a Party to CMS, significant resources are contributed from the U.S. to support the implementation of CMS's mission and to support species conservation activities of CMS partner organizations around the world. For example:

- **\$545,500** USD was allocated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Department of State combined, in voluntary support to the Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Agreement (IOSEA) from 2011-2014; (\$527,500 USD 2011-2014 from NOAA and \$18,000 from USFWS in 2012).

- **\$375,000 in combined contributions** allocated by the U.S. State Department since 2011 to support activities under the CMS Shark MoU. The most recent contribution of **\$100,000 USD** in July 2014 was 25% above 2013 level.
- **\$75,000 USD** was awarded by WHMSI Marine Grants fund to support three grantees working on CMS marine species (sharks and dolphins) conservation in the Western Hemisphere (2013). As a member of WHMSI steering committee, the Washington Officer regularly represents CMS at WHMSI meetings in Washington to ensure CMS interests are reflected and that activities are well aligned with CMS's mission.
- **\$20,000 USD** was leveraged from the Organization of American States (OAS) and USFWS (Co-chairs of the WHMSI Secretariat) to co-host an experts workshop in Jamaica in support of both the CMS Global Flyways Programme of Work (Resolution 10.10) in the Americas and the WHMSI Workplan for Flyways in the Americas. This Washington Officer helped coordinate this workshop which was also attended by the CMS Deputy Executive Secretary (March 2014).
- **USFWS Multilateral Species Grants Funds:** Since 1989, Wildlife Without Borders grant program has provided over **2,700 grants totaling more than \$100 million USD** in support of wildlife conservation globally. Focusing on species, ecosystems, and emerging and cross cutting issues worldwide, the *Wildlife Without Borders - Global Program* seeks to ensure international cooperation to conserve habitats and endangered species worldwide. Working closely with CMS Fundraising Officer, the Washington Officer issued regular "CMS Notifications" to parties about USFWS grant opportunities and deadlines (e.g. Marine Turtle fund, CEACF, African Elephant and Great Ape Funds). Several dozen expressions of interest were fielded and at least ten letters of support provided by CMS. Successful applications have included:
 - **\$24,200 USD** to Kenya University to support hammerhead shark conservation in Northern Kenya, awarded by the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund (CEACF).
 - **\$24,000 USD** was awarded by CEACF to the International Crane Foundation to support implementation of the Siberian Crane MoU in Lake Poyang, China (2013).
 - **\$18,000 USD** awarded to IOSEA from USFWS Marine Turtle Grant (2013).
 - **Note:** USFWS noted interest in future assistance to a Madagascar proposal on marine turtles which will be resubmitted in October's grant applications.

8. In addition to funding from U.S. Government agencies, numerous private foundations and financial institutions in the U.S. also provide support to species and biodiversity conservation worldwide. The Washington Officer conducted a review of U.S. private foundations and prospective donors and prepared a fundraising prospectus for the Secretariat's consideration (March 2013). Informal explorations of interest were conducted with the following donors:

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation:** Presented CMS overview to four NFWF Directors regarding marine, terrestrial, avian and grasslands portfolio (2012).

- **Packard Foundation:** Introduced marine programme officer to ACAP Executive Secretary regarding seabird conservation strategies in the Pacific and provided CMS inputs to Packards new fund portfolio for high seas/biodiversity conservation, in conjunction with Aquatic Team.
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** Regular in person check-ins (lunches, coffee) with marine and biodiversity officers, UNEP/GEF Task Managers, as well as informal inputs to GEF 6 Strategy about CMS role in illegal wildlife crime, marine mammals and marine debris. Attend GEF brownbag/info events, promote biodiversity goals.
- **Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF):** Attended GEF hosted CEPF “brownbags” to network with grant managers and inform about CMS activities and legal instruments (e.g. in new West African critical hotspot). CEPF provides grants to civil society to help protect biodiversity hotspots, funded by the French Development Agency, the World Bank, Conservation International, European Union, Japan, the GEF and others.
- **Walton Family Foundation:** Explored marine species conservation grant opportunities in Eastern Pacific but portfolio emphasis is on fisheries management.
- **Global 360 Fisheries:** Provided information about CMS activities in West Africa (including Sharks MoU) to a consulting firm proposal submitted to USAID for “Ghana: Sustainable Fisheries Management Project.” Pending.

II. Building Political Support for CMS in North America

9. Although the U.S. is not a party to CMS, it has contributed significantly to the implementation of several MoUs to which it is signatory, including: the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle MoU (IOSEA), the MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MoU), and most recently, the MoU on the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region (PIC MoU). The U.S. continues to consider the ACAP Treaty among its priority treaties for Ratification. Other priority issues include addressing marine threats (e.g. marine litter, by-catch, overfishing, and underwater noise), wildlife crime, building ecological networks, and identifying strategies for adaptation to climate change.

10. Targeting outreach efforts to build the political support from U.S. leadership across Government Agencies and Congressional Offices is paramount to securing future funding appropriations to priority CMS topics. The Washington Officer has strategically oriented activities for political support building as follows:

Organized CMS Executive Leadership Meetings with High Level U.S. Government Representatives and other Regional Stakeholders:

- Organized two successful missions to DC for **CMS Deputy Executive Secretary** (then Officer in Charge) which included meetings with USG representatives from USAID, USFWS, State Department, NOAA, U.S. Forest Service, international institutions such as the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, and the World Bank, as well as influential NGOs such as IUCN, Pew Environment Group, National Geographic Society, The Humane Society-US, International Fund for Animal Welfare,

International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), Wildlife Conservation Society, African Wildlife Foundation and over 25 other groups who gathered for a CMS Roundtable Briefing hosted by UNEP RONA (February 2012 and November 2012).

- Successful Mission to DC organized for **ACAP Executive Secretary** which included a NOAA Hosted “BrownBag” lunchtime presentation on ACAP, meetings with the U.S. State Department, NOAA, DOI/USFWS, a Congressional staff member from a Representative’s office, and a well-attended roundtable briefing on ACAP and the USA for NGO stakeholders which was hosted by UNEP RONA (February 2014).
- Successful Mission to DC organized for **CMS Executive Secretary** to meet with U.S. Government Representatives from U.S. State Department, NOAA, USFWS and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the World Bank, and various NGOs including Pew Environment Group, IFAW, Sargasso Sea Alliance, and another UNEP hosted stakeholder briefing featuring CMS COP11 activities and the CMS Strategic Plan (May 2014).

Promoting U.S. Engagement in CMS Agreements and MoUs

- **Pacific Islands Cetacean MoU:** The U.S. sent a delegation to attend the Pacific Island Cetaceans MoU Meeting of Signatories in New Caledonia resulting in signature of the MoU in November 2012. The Washington Officer promoted exchanges between U.S. Government representatives (e.g. NOAA), the CMS Marine Mammals Officer and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). She also hosted meetings with SPREP Director General in Washington and continues to pursue funding opportunities from NOAA or USA grants.gov for PIC.
- **Sharks MoU:** The U.S. has been a leading proponent of shark conservation as demonstrated by its engagement with the Shark Conservation Plan Drafting Committee and its active role as Chair of the Administrative Rules Committee. CMS Washington Representative meets quarterly with the NOAA Focal Point and also regularly with the U.S. State Department and other shark NGOs in Washington.
- **Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Agreement (IOSEA):** The U.S. remains very engaged in and committed to supporting the IOSEA following the strong leadership of IOSEA Coordinator, as reflected by active meeting participation and ongoing voluntary contributions to IOSEA (**\$545,500 total over 3 yrs**). (\$527,500 USD 2011-2014 from USA/NOAA and \$18,000 from USFWS (2012).
- **Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP):** ACAP remains on the U.S. Government’s list of Priority Treaties for Ratification with growing interest from Congress, in part due to the Washington Officer’s efforts to recruit civil society champions for ACAP and host briefings with Congress, State Department representatives and NGO stakeholders through the D.C. Marine Community.
- **U.S. Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking:** The U.S. established a Presidential Task Force and associated Advisory Council to develop a National Strategy for strengthening US leadership on addressing wildlife trafficking (July 2013). The U.S. announced a ban on commercial trade of elephant ivory (Feb 1 2014).

The Washington Officer continues to closely track developments and share with Secretariat, in dual capacity for CMS and for UNEP.

- **USAID Biodiversity Policy:** CMS provided inputs to the draft policy document in 2013. Final policy includes reference to species biodiversity conservation activities of interest to CMS, specially related to wildlife crime and illegal trade. Washington Officer is monitoring to identify possible future funding to support CMS activities in West Africa.
- **CMS Climate Change Workshop (Resolution 10.19):** Washington Officer identified a U.S. expert from USFWS to participate in the workshop in Costa Rica (summer 2014) and offer integration opportunities with ongoing related efforts on adaptation.
- **Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) and Americas Flyways Framework.** Working closely with CMS Deputy Executive Secretary, the Washington Officer serves as liaison for CMS and WHMSI attending meetings and assisted with preparations for the March 2014 Workshop on Americas Flyways in Jamaica which supported synergies with CMS Global Programme of Work on Flyways (Resolution 10.10). This collaboration on Flyways has helped strengthen CMS relationship with Canada through the engagement of the Canadian Wildlife Service and Environment Canada representatives on WHMSI and related Flyways work.

III. Raising Awareness and Understanding of CMS in North America

11. In addition to building financial and political support for CMS, the Washington Officer increases visibility of CMS in the region and provides significant support to the CMS Secretariat for communications and outreach as well as partnership development and engagement as follows:

Outreach to North American Civil Society and Stakeholders & Partnership Engagement

12. While outreach activities in North America are too many to list here, a representative sample of major organizations with which the Washington Officer has ongoing interactions are listed below:

- **Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA):** (Joint Congressional Briefing on Ecological Networks on Capitol Hill)
- **Audubon Society** (Migratory Birds/Americas Flyways Initiatives)
- **Center for Biological Diversity:** (ACAP related)
- **Embassy Events** in Washington (Biodiversity, Marine, Climate)
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** (“Brown Bag” Luncheons, events)
- **Global Island Partnership (GLISPA):** met with to discuss CMS marine species activities and SIDS
- **International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF):** (Attended Bi-annual Gala, and invite-only Congressional Luncheons on wildlife/biodiversity topics, explored collaborations on illegal wildlife trade topic for GEF proposal)
- **IUCN US** (ACAP coalition, IUCN RedList, 50th Anniversary Event, Critical Sites)

- **International Whaling Commission (IWC):** (marine debris and cetacean impacts)
- **National Geographic Society (NGS):** (Critter Cam Videos, Outreach/Media, Redlist Species)
- **NOAA** (Letter of Agreement renewal, sharks, marine turtles, ocean noise, marine debris, bycatch, ACAP)
- **Pew Environment Group:** (sharks, marine debris, bycatch, fisheries generally)
- **Sargasso Sea Alliance:** (interest in listing European eel to CMS Appendix)
- **World Animal Protection** (formerly WSPA): (Sea turtles/Cayman Islands, marine mammal welfare, marine debris, attended ScC)
- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS):** (Various-Congressional Briefing on Ecological Networks, wildlife crime, networks etc.)
- **World Bank:** (Global Partnership on Oceans, Snow Leopards/Bishkek Summit follow up, SDG's, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Biodiversity)
- **World Wildlife Fund:** (Multinational Species Coalition and Wildlife Crime)

Representational Role and Liaison for CMS around North America

13. As part of her regular duties, the CMS Washington Officer pursues bilateral engagement opportunities with regional stakeholders including NGOs and other international entities by attending various information events, networking engagements and setting up one-one meetings. Some particularly significant meetings, events or workshops over the last three years include:

- **World Ocean Day Event:** co-organized and co-hosted Roundtable event on UN Family activities on oceans with UNEP, UNDP, and FAO (June 2014).
- **UNGA SIDS Preparatory Meeting in New York:** organized UNEP side event on Global Adaptation Network for SIDS, shared *Two Minutes on Oceans* video on adaptation and presented before SIDS Ambassadors, with references to CMS marine species MoUs as well (February 2014).
- **International Whaling Commission:** Experts workshop on addressing impacts of marine debris on marine mammals (Woods Hole, MA, USA May 2013 and HI, USA August 2014).
- **Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA)** Event with SIDS Ambassadors hosted by French Embassy--networked with Pacific Regional representatives and shared information on PIC MoU, Sharks MoU, and IOSEA (March 2014).
- **Sustainable Development Goals**—represented CMS at CBD/UNESCO/GEF hosted experts meeting on designing the Biodiversity Goal & Targets (December 2013).
- **North American Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB):** "*Bridging the Gap: Connecting People, Nature, & Climate*" Presented CMS overview on ecological networks. Oakland, California (July 2012).
- **CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 16) Meeting:** Represented CMS in two experts panels: "Marine Litter" & "Ocean Noise" (Montreal, May 2012).

- **International Marine Mammal Protected Areas Conference (ICMMPA)** for UNEP RONA but also promoted CMS outreach goals as well (Martinique, November 2011).

Produced Outreach Materials & Supported CMS Communications

- Produced three CMS Factsheets for North America (ACAP, CMS-USA Benefits, CMS Cetaceans Overview)
- Provided language for CMS website updates
- Shared topic ideas and inputs to CMS Op-Eds
- Briefed Secretariat on important news in North America
- Circulated CMS Bulletins, Op-Eds and Web Releases to North American list serve
- Supported CMS efforts to raise the profile of COP11 with outreach to North American VIPs and Celebrities
- Assisted with placement of CMS Op-Ed for International Day of Biodiversity on ‘Guest Editorial’ Section of UNEP homepage

Promoting Synergy between CMS and other UNEP & other MEAs (Resolution 10.21)

14. In addition to promoting migratory species conservation activities to donors, stakeholders and government agencies in North America, the Washington Officer frequently connects CMS with UNEP’s Programme of Work and identifies opportunities for including and promoting CMS in high level outreach activities or with other UN agencies and MEAs. (Connecting UNEP Portfolio to CMS). For example:

- **Spain-UNEP LifeWeb Marine Mammal Project:** Presented Overview of CMS mandate to LA/C Government Officials attending the LifeWeb Marine Spatial Planning Workshop and Training in Panama (May 2013).
- **UNEP RONA Ocean Video Series** “*Two Minutes on Oceans with Jim Toomey*”, feature important ocean issues also of relevance to CMS Aquatic Team topics (e.g. marine debris, climate change, adaptation to sea level rise, ocean values, nutrient runoff).
- **UNEP Programme of Work (2014-2015):** Represented RONA at UNEP-DRC Hosted Retreat in Nairobi for POW Focal Points and had the opportunity to also explore CMS interests at UNEP headquarters (May 2013). Identified potential synergies between CMS and UNEP PoW and offered suggestions for linkages (Ecosystems Management).
- **UNEP Transboundary Institutional Mechanisms Project (TIMs):** Proposed opportunities for CMS engagement in the CAFF/Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative for the Americas.

- **UNEA Resolutions on Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Marine Debris:** identified opportunities to include CMS references in both and worked with colleagues to support successful interventions by CMS Executive Secretary.
- **UNEP Illegal Wildlife Trade Working Group:** Represent both RONA and CMS in monthly calls to provide synergy between respective UNEP offices and activities.
- **UNEP “Wild and Precious Campaign:”** Introduced CMS Terrestrial team lead to possible collaboration with UNEP on Airport Exhibitions in West Africa (January 2014).
- **GEF/UNEP Proposals:** Successfully explored opportunities to include CMS into UNEP GEF proposals to address wildlife crime and demand-side reduction strategies. –participated in meetings with Kenyan & Tanzanian Park Officials hosted by UNEP and ICCF in Washington.
- **UNEP GPA:** Connected CMS Marine Debris activities with UNEP GPA & Regional Seas Conventions as well as SPREP, CPPS, CBD, FAO, etc.

IV. Providing General Programmatic Support to CMS Secretariat

15. The Washington Officer also provides technical support to CMS programmatic activities as needed with a special emphasis on wildlife crime, migratory bird flyways and marine topics (e.g. sharks, cetaceans, marine debris, underwater noise, high seas engagement and ecological networks). In addition, support is provided on CMS strategic planning efforts (e.g. Strategic Planning Retreat June 2013) and regular input offered to various CMS documents (Partnerships & Synergies Document, Wildlife Crime Resolution draft, Marine Tender Notice & Assessment, Migratory Species Champions Programme etc.) Washington Officer has also helped to set positive stage for ratification by Jamaica and Canada with network building relationships. Specifically, programmatic and technical inputs have been provided to the following topics:

- **Marine Debris:** Efforts to advance implementation of CMS Resolution on Marine Debris (10.4):
 - Conducted a review of a GEF/STAP/CBD technical report on “Impacts of Marine Debris on Marine Biodiversity” (CBD Technical Series.67)
 - Participated in two experts panels: “Marine Litter” & “Ocean Noise” at CBD/SBSTTA 16 Meeting (Montreal, May 2012)
 - Represented CMS at International Whaling Commission and made contacts with international bodies through engagement at IWC and NOAA hosted Workshops on Marine Debris (May 2013) and (August 2014)
 - Assisted CMS Marine Mammal Officer with preparation of 2014 tender notice for Marine Debris Assessment reports, provided information documents and reviewed final report drafts
- **Wildlife Crime:** Assisted CMS Terrestrial Unit with monitoring updates on wildlife crime and trafficking topics both within UNEP and in USA. Assisted with preparation of CMS Resolution on Wildlife Crime.

- **High Seas/Marine Biodiversity:** Promoted CMS engagement opportunities with Global Ocean Commission activities on High Seas along with liaison role to World Bank/ Global Partnership on Oceans (GPO).
- **ACAP:** Support to ACAP including US stakeholder engagement, coalition building, briefings and preparations for ACAP Executive Secretary Mission to Washington.
- **Snow Leopards:** Met with World Bank representatives to support outreach on snow leopards initiative post Bishkek Summit, also liaised with World Wildlife Fund to explore collaboration opportunities (e.g., Freedom to Roam).
- **Flyways Initiatives:** Provided technical and coordination support for CMS/WHMSI partnership in the Western Hemisphere.

Recommendations: Looking Forward

16. Recognizing the significant advances already made in elevating awareness of and promoting support for CMS from North America, it is recommended that CMS continue its engagement in Washington building on the successes in the last three years. CMS is also encouraged to consider pursuit of some of the following opportunities that the Washington Officer has identified, collaborative linkages and ongoing developments:

- **Deliver on recommendations in CMS Draft Resolution on Marine Debris Management** by formalizing working arrangements with IWC and other international bodies including UNEP, FAO, IMO through creation of an inter-agency working group under the Global Marine Litter Partnership.
- Consider participation in the **UNEP / CAFF Arctic Flyways for the Americas** workplan development and implementation process as per the Joint Work Plan between CMS and CAFF (Resolution 10.10). The Washington Officer has secured \$40,000 USD over four years from UNEP to lead a project on building transboundary institutional management options for conserving Arctic Migratory Birds working with CAFF members from the Canadian Wildlife Service and USFWS. Currently, CMS is supporting the development of an Arctic Species Trend Index for CAFF. Second, the CMS/WHMSI Americas Flyways Framework efforts would integrate well with the AMBI project goals.
- Continue to support implementation of the **Americas Flyways Framework** as part of the CMS Global Programme of Work for Flyways and help provide institutional support to WHMSI to execute the intended workplan.
- Pursue funding opportunities cultivated with **U.S. NOAA on Pacific Island Cetacean MoU activities in support of** the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Plan, and in partnership with SPREP and CMS fundraising officer.
- **Finalize CMS registration in the USA Grants.gov Database** which requires formal verification of the Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code by the U.S. System for Award Management (SAM) database. This code is critical in order to apply for future US government agency grants (e.g. USAID, State Department,

NOAA, EPA, USDA, USFS). Securing this will open the door to numerous other potential funding possibilities for CMS or CMS partners.

- Pursue collaborative funding opportunities within the **Illegal Wildlife Trade sector**, working more closely with UNEP, CITES, UNDP, and key NGO players like WWF, WCS, AWF, Wild Aid and ICCF, as well as institutions like the World Bank and the GEF. Specifically, CMS should tap into funding resources becoming available through the US and the GEF to support activities addressing wildlife crime.