



Press Release

India made impressive presence in the 10th Conference of Parties of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Held at Bergen, Norway during November 20-25,2011: Nominated as Member of the Standing Committee of CMS

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. As the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes, CMS complements and co-operates with a number of other international organizations, NGOs and partners. Since the Convention's entry into force, its membership has grown steadily to include 116 (as on 1st July 2011) Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

As a signatory to the convention, India participated in the recently held 10th Conference of Parties (COP) at Bergen in Norway from 20-25 November 2011. The CoP was preceded by the 17th meeting of the Scientific Council of the CMS held at Bergen, Norway on 17-18 November 2011. The Indian delegation to CMS COP 10 comprised Mr. A K Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Government of India and Mr. Pankaj Chandan, WWF-India while the delegation for the Scientific Council comprised Ms Prakiti Srivastava, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife) and Dr K.Sivakumar, Scientist D, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

The Indian delegation could successfully represent the issues related to Bird Flyways, Conservation of Bustards, Elephants, Dugongs, Tibetan Argali and Turtles in the region before the COP. The issues related to bird poisoning and conservation of Raptors were also discussed and conservation related resolutions on these species were also supported by the Indian delegation. The Indian delegation also participated in drafting of resolutions in some sessions of CMS COP 10.

India has been nominated as a member of the Standing Committee of CMS with the support from various countries in the Asia region,

During the COP, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, WWF-India, Wetlands International and BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) jointly organized a side event on Black-necked Crane urging the range states for regional cooperation for conservation of this unique species found in the Himalayan high altitude wetlands.



Ministry of Environment and Forests
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Black-necked Crane, the state bird of the India's state of Jammu & Kashmir, breeds in the Tibetan Plateau, from Ladakh in north India and south-western and western Tibet to the central and eastern parts of Qinghai province of China. Major non-breeding populations are found in China and Bhutan, with a few birds wintering in the north-eastern part of India. It is generally found at an altitude of 3000-5000 m above mean sea level in high altitude open wetlands and meadows.

Black-necked Crane is threatened by human encroachment, feral dogs, tremendous grazing pressure around wetlands, increasing tourism and unplanned developmental activities. It has been listed in Appendix I of CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species). It has also been listed as 'Vulnerable' in IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. The species has been placed in the Schedule-I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. China has offered the bird the highest class of protection, by listing it as endangered, in class 'A'.

The side event started with a welcome address by Mr. A K Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests (WL). He mentioned various initiatives taken by the Government of India in partnership with WWF-India for conservation of the species in India and emphasized that there is an urgent need for a regional initiative and collaborative action between Bhutan, China and India for conservation of this majestic species and its unique habitat, the Himalayan High Altitude Wetlands. Mr. Pankaj Chandan, Programme Manager, WWF-India made a presentation on the regional issues and challenges for the conservation of Black-necked Crane. Dr. Taej Mundkur, Programme Manager, Flyways, from Wetlands International made a presentation on importance of flyways partnerships and conservation of Black-necked Crane and other migratory birds, while highlighting the importance of regional cooperation in the Central Asian Flyway for the conservation of migratory birds. Ms. Claire Mirande, Director Conservation Networking, International Crane Foundation (ICF) made a presentation on the conservation initiatives taken by ICF, while highlighting potential future threats to the species. The presentations were followed by discussion.

This side event was attended by the delegates of various countries. A poster on Black-necked Crane highlighting the needs for Regional Corporation was released by Mr. Bert Lenten, Dy. Executive Secretary CMS and the poster was presented to the CMS Secretariat. Mr. Bert Lenten assured all possible help from the CMS Secretariat for enhancing regional initiatives for the conservation of this majestic species. Mr. Pankaj Chandan proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of India.

India figured very prominently at the CMS COP 10. As member of the Standing Committee, India is now in a position to take lead in various conservation issues related to the conservation of migratory species in the region.