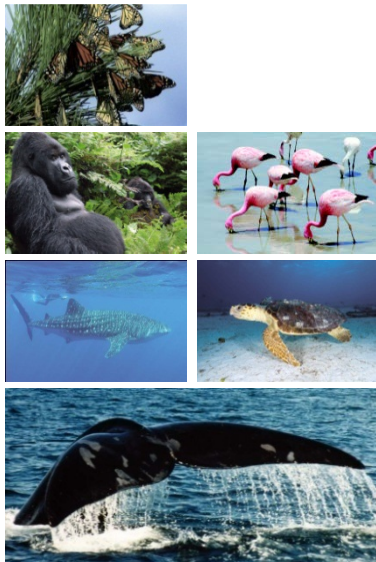




Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals



Bradnee Chambers
CMS Executive Secretary



CMS and Daughter agreements

- 7 agreements created from the CMS
- Others include ASCOBANS, ACOBAMS, AEWA, EUROBATS, ACAP and Gorilla Agreement, Wadden Sea Seal Agreement
- As well 19 MOUS and 2 global MOUs one on Sharks and another on Raptors



How does CMS Work?

- Coverage All Migratory Wild Animals
 - Whales to Butterflies
 - Habitat and species
- Two Appendices
 - Appendix 2 requires a management plan for the species along the whole range
 - Appendix 1 obligations for No Takings (some exceptions)
 - Reservations can be made on species
 - Listings can be according to population or whole species
 - Provisions for concluding new instruments under CMS



Migratory Species Most threatened

- 50 per cent of migratory and potentially migratory species are threatened, compared with just 27 per cent of non-migratory ones.
- Waterbirds at the global level, 40 per cent of known populations are declining.
- Nearly half of the 95 migratory species of sharks are at high risk. Some shark species such as the hammerheads, porbeagles and oceanic whitetips have declined by over 90 per cent since the 1950s.
- Whales, with the exception of a few species, have been on the decline for years.
- There are seven species of giant sea turtle, and five of them are listed on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species as either "endangered" or "critically endangered"
- In recent years we have seen serious spikes of wildlife crime driven by development and linked to organized crime and terrorism.



CMS Importance to Global Biodiversity

- CMS works on key global biodiversity issues
 - Beauty and Phenomena of the World's Great Migrations
 - SDGs and Aichi Targets
 - Renewable Energy
 - Illegal Wildlife Crime
 - Ecotourism
 - CMS provides passports for the wildlife's world travelers
 - Barriers to Migration



CMS Potential

- Key Species convention could never reach agreement on language like it in today's multilateral world
- Represents keystone, iconic speciesfor some species it's the only global treaty for conservation
- Strong obligations
- Practical and on-the-ground complimentary to biodiversity cluster of MEAs
- Flexibility



Action Plans

- MOUs soft law but an effective regime for international management
- To be even more nimble, CMS Parties can decide to adopt species action plans. We have a number of these, the Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Action Plan (involves US, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Australia, Fiji and French Polynesia).



Cooperate with other initiatives

- At CMS we also interact with a number of entities with similar aims. Some examples from this region include:
 - WHIMSI, The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative. Started in 2003, not a treaty, but a forum, includes states and NGOs. Covering a wide variety of migratory species.
 - The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
 - Similar to a regional agreement of CMS. We work with them, for eg on the Pacific Loggerhead turtle Action Plan (in Chile, Peru and Ecuador)

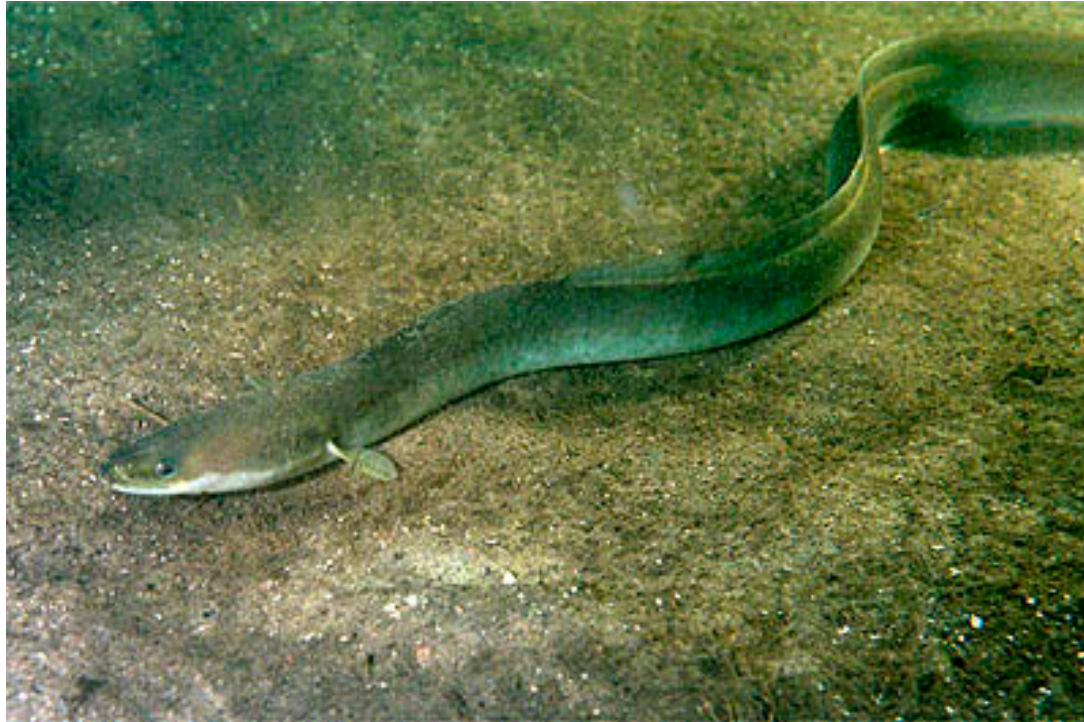


The European Eel

- There are two main areas of importance for the eels – the Sargasso Sea where they breed and the continental shelf of Europe.
- They have a very interesting, complex and little understood migration pattern.
- After spawning in the Sargasso Sea, eels take 1-3 years to reach the European continent.
- They distribute themselves from Norway down to the southern coast of the Mediterranean
- Some become freshwater residents, others remain saline water residents. Still others migrate between the two.



EUROPEAN EEL



The European Eel

- Once the adults migrate back to the S. Sea to spawn, they undertake daily vertical migrations, spending the day at depth, and nights in shallower warmer water.
- The Oceanic migration phase of the species is not well understood, yet is fundamental to the survival of the species.
- more research on their migratory patterns is required.



Threats

- One of the reasons the eel numbers are declining so much is that they face a multitude of threats.
- From physical barriers to migration, such as dams, and flood controls, over-fishing, climate change affecting ocean currents in the Sargasso Sea, predation by sharks and whales, and even invasive alien species (parasitic worm originally found in the Japanese eels).
- Causes of decline not fully understood, but appears that broad suite of problems affect all life stages.



Threats

- Fisheries - over exploitation – is part, but not primary problem?
- Exports from Europe were banned in 2010 but domestic use still allowed, as well as fishing in the non-EU waters, such as North Africa.
- Suffer from IUU fishing - under-reporting, poaching and illegal trade occur throughout the range.



Threats

- ***Barriers to Migration***
- Flood control barriers are a major threat, these barriers can inhibit both upstream and downstream migration.
- Hydropower turbines and associated water management systems can cause high rates of mortality or injury to Silvers.
- Presence of such barriers greatly reduce the available habitat, by making upstream areas off-limit.
- There are 24,000 hydro power plants in Europe, and rising. Netherlands alone has 4,600 water pumping stations, which inhibit migration of adults back to the sea.



Threats

- *Invasive Alien Species*
- The parasitic nematode, which lives in Japanese eels, was imported to Europe along with its hosts, in the 1980s.
- The worm doesn't affect the Japanese eel, but has serious impacts on the European one.



Threats

- ***Climate Change***
- Climate change affects ocean currents in the Sargasso Sea. This impacts the migration of the larval eels
- Sea temperature has increased, affecting productivity in the S. Sea, and so recruitment to Europe.



Threats

- **Predation**
- Some evidence of predation on adult eels by oceanic sharks and also by cetaceans while migrating back to the S. Sea. Probably not more than in the past, but with increase in other threats, this can also be significant, taking out the adults just before they breed.



ROLE OF CMS



What can CMS do?

- Many of these threats are faced by other CMS listed species, and are issues which CMS has successfully tackled for these species.



What can CMS Do?

- We've done a lot of work on barriers to migration in the terrestrial context, developed a set of guidelines to help countries mitigate the effects of such barriers, and design infrastructure in a wildlife friendly way.
 - Eg. Just had a workshop in Mongolia last month, on the subject of linear infrastructure and its effects on Central Asian mammals such as the Saiga Antelope, the Argali sheep and the Bactrian camel.



What can CMS Do?

- Invasive Alien species and climate change are recognised as serious threats to a number of migratory species, and so are the subject of a number of CMS resolutions and workshops.
- Sustainable use of commercially exploited fish stocks is something CMS is now addressing through its Sharks MOU.



What can be done for Eels

- Europe has already made efforts to protect the eels.
- The EU adopted legislation protecting the European Eel back in 2007.
- The same year it was listed on CITES Appendix II, coming into effect in 2009
- This wasn't enough, and in 2010 the EU banned all imports and exports from the EU
- Ironically this put more pressure on the American eel to fill the gap left in the global market.
- The EU legislation requested member states to develop Eel Management Plans to enhance the sustainable management of the species.
- There are now 81 such plans across Europe, but more than half of the countries are failing to meet their targets for adult eels escaping back to the sea to breed.



What can CMS do for EELs?

- Strengthen the Science-Policy Interface
- Concerted Action plan for E Eels
- Capacity building for developing countries
- International Reporting for the whole population
- Developing legislation in N. African states
- Guidelines for infrastructure development EIA
- Working Groups on keys problems
- Facilitative governance for cooperation



What needs to be done next

- For a species with such a wide range, including transboundary water courses, coordinated international management is very challenging, even within the bounds of the EU. Then there are a number of Range states outside of Europe with no management system at all.
- North African populations are poorly understood in comparison to other Range States, and the development of monitoring and management programmes in line with other Range States would be very useful.



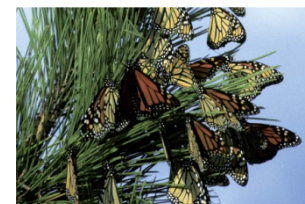
What needs to be done next

- Range States need to recognise the importance of the Sargasso Sea as its breeding areas, and so a vital link in preserving the species back in Europe and North Africa
- Range States that are neighbours, either with contiguous coastline and/or transboundary river basins, should discuss cooperative management and conservation actions. At present there is little coordination between countries. Developing these would be very beneficial to the species



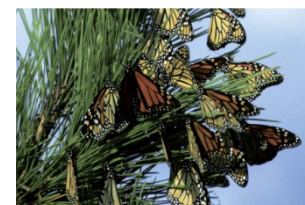
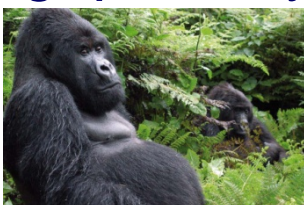
What needs to be done next

- Development of collaborations aimed at reducing barriers to migration in transboundary waterways could hugely benefit the management of both upstream and downstream migrations.
- We need a knowledge sharing workshop to bring together RS, with and without Eel Management Plans, to discuss cooperative coordinated conservation and management activities and agree future collaboration.



Concluding Remarks

- I look forward to continuing our work, with the European and North African Parties to CMS, with the Sargasso Sea Commission, and other stakeholders, and with IUCN and others interested in furthering the conservation of the European Eel.
- The American eel faces many similar threats to the European eel. Sadly the protection measures put in place to help conserve the European eel have actually had a negative effect on the American species, as they have been further exploited to fill the gap left by the EU export ban.



Concluding Remarks

- I hope that you can seriously look at how the CMS could become a governance model for international managing the American Eel
- We have the experience, and an existing international framework, and the institutional flexibility that is ready go and maybe of interest to countries like US and Canada.



Thank you!

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