

The 13th COP of the Convention on Migratory Species

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Source: *PIB, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*

The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an **environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme**, is going to be hosted by India during 17th to 22nd February 2020 at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.

Key highlights

- **The theme of CMS COP13 in India is**, “Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home”.
- The CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by ‘Kolam’, a traditional art form from southern India.
- In the logo of CMS COP-13, Kolam art form is used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur falcon, humpback whale, and marine turtles.
- **The mascot for CMS COP13, “Gibi – The Great Indian Bustard”** is a **critically endangered species** that has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

India and Convention on Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals (CMS)

- As the host, **India shall be designated the President for the next three years**.
- The Government of **India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals (CMS) since 1983**.

- The Government of India has been taking necessary actions to protect and conserve migratory marine species.
- Seven species that include Dugong, Whale Shark, Marine Turtle (two species), have been identified for the preparation of the Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.
- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory waterbird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- India is home to several migratory species of wildlife including snow leopard, Amur falcons, bar-headed Geese, black-necked cranes, marine turtles, dugongs, humpback whales, etc. and has signed non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

About CMS convention

- As an environmental treaty of the United Nations, CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.
- 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 in the media as well as in the corporate sector.

- **Appendix I of CMS: Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention.** CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. Besides establishing **obligations for each State joining the Convention**, CMS promotes concerted action among the Range States of many of these species.
- **Appendix II of CMS: Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention.** For this reason, the Convention **encourages the Range States to conclude global or regional agreements.**
- **In this respect, CMS acts as a framework Convention.** The agreements may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding, and can be adapted to the requirements of particular regions.
- The development of models tailored according to the conservation needs throughout the migratory range is a unique capacity to CMS.

