



MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION



between

**The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory
Species of Wild Animals**

and

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has a global mandate to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations, to its Member States as well as other non-member States;

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan (2006-2011) of the UNEP/CMS of the United Nations Environment Programme promotes global co-operation for the protection and development of migratory species worldwide;

WHEREAS, the Contracting Parties to the UNEP/CMS work to develop plans, programmes and measures for the sustainable development of the habitat of migratory species (as defined by CMS);

WHEREAS, the UNEP/CMS secretariat provides information, advice, training and guidance to the Parties and other Governments and entities regarding the protection and development of the habitats of species listed in Appendix I and II;

WHEREAS, WHMSI is a partnership among all of the nations of the hemisphere, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and relevant treaties, working to conserve shared migratory species;

WHEREAS, the mission of WHMSI is to contribute significantly to the conservation of the migratory species of the Western Hemisphere by generating capacity building activities, by strengthening cooperation and communication among nations, international initiatives and civil society, and by expanding constituencies, awareness and political support;

WHEREAS, WHMSI's members meet at plenary sessions that take place approximately biennially, and its work is guided by an interim steering committee;

PRESENTLY, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mission of both UNEP/CMS and WHMSI, the Secretariat of CMS and the Chair of the Interim Steering Committee of WHMSI, in the interest of the mutual advantages in the cost-effective attainment of the objectives of the Convention and WHMSI, wishing to avoid duplication of effort in areas of common interest and to formalize and strengthen their cooperation in the spirit of an efficient and effective partnership, mutually agree as follows:

I. OBJECTIVE

UNEP/CMS and WHMSI agree to cooperate with a view to enabling the Parties to the Convention and WHMSI partners to identify and strengthen conservation of those sites of international importance, which are relevant to both entities in particular with regards to Capacity Building.

II. STATEMENT OF WORK

The activities to be undertaken as part of this MoC will be based on the respective work programmes of each entity as approved by their members and will be discussed and developed by UNEP/CMS and WHMSI and may, amongst others, include:

- a. Collaborate in the conservation of migratory species in the Western Hemisphere;
- b. Recognize that the ability to implement conservation efforts is limited by the institutional and financial capacities of the two initiatives;
- c. Exchange information through their websites and other tools on a regular basis on specific aspects of the work of the UNEP/CMS and WHMSI which are of mutual interest and benefit;
- d. Inform their partners at regional and national levels of their cooperative activities;
- e. Sharing of information, databases, reports and other materials to enable early detection of threats to areas and species protected under the Provisions of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat and to facilitate the necessary studies and analyses to identify measures for the mitigation of such threats, issues and needs;
- f. Coordination and/or joint development of programmes and projects for strengthening conservation of specific sites or species, which are recognized by the two entities, and for identifying and mobilizing human and financial resources and the knowledge to implement such programmes and projects;
- g. Efforts by each entity, in the course of its own promotional activities, to promote recruitment of additional Parties to UNEP/CMS and the WHMSI partnership; and
- h. Informing of, in the spirit of partnership, and inviting each other's participation, and concurrence as appropriate, in meetings, including studies and review, field visits to sites, design, organization and conduct of training, education and information dissemination activities, and other activities to promote awareness of the relationship between the two entities.

III IMPLEMENTATION

Nothing in this MoC shall constitute a legal or financial obligation of either entity. Any financial or legal commitments that arise from measures taken to implement this MoC will be made on a case-by-case basis and agreed to by both entities.

This MoC shall enter into force upon signature by the two entities. It may be reviewed at any time agreed upon by the parties in the development of the work programme and may be amended at any time by mutual agreement.

Either party may terminate this MoC by giving notice in writing to the other not less than six months in advance.

On behalf of CMS:

On behalf of WHMSI:



Robert Hepworth
Executive Secretary

Herb Raffaele
Chair

Date: 16/6/08

Date: _____