

OceanCare Partnership speech

OceanCare is an international NGO based in Switzerland. We focus our energy on building relationships and finding solutions for marine conservation, and so we are honoured to sign this Partnership Agreement with the CMS Secretariat.

OceanCare does have a history with the convention. We have been a Partner Organisation to ACCOBAMS for quite some time and I serve as the Co-Chair of the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group. We also committed significant effort towards the civil society resolution, the polar bear and Cuvier's whale listings at the last CMS CoP, and towards the Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans and noise resolutions at the COPs before that.

As this relationship is now formally commencing we offer three areas of our expertise the CMS Family.

Mitigating and reducing anthropogenic ocean noise has been a decade's long issue for OceanCare, and we look forward to continuing our support for the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities* and the management of ocean noise that will flow from these.

Marine plastic pollution is our second focus to offer. We believe that mitigating the impact of marine debris, plastics and microplastics necessitates the global community to develop national and international legal frameworks and regulations. CMS has an important role to play in these frameworks.

For many years bushmeat has been considered an issue for local management, but a significant driver for increasing aquatic bushmeat demand is the loss of local fisheries resources to distant water industrialised fishing. We believe CMS has a crucial role to play in this third issue focus by moving discussions forward with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management.

Obviously, there is more to OceanCare's work than has been presented here, and be assured we will enthusiastically engage in discussions across the CMS suit of issues when they overlap with our competencies.

OceanCare takes our Partnerships seriously. The value of such relationships should be mutually beneficial and we will be keen to formally report progress to the CMS Parties in the months and years to come.

We thank you for the welcome and we look forward to a long and productive relationship.