



**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

MR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS

on the occasion of

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 11-12 MAY 2013

RAISING AWARENESS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS

We are very pleased to join this year's global celebrations of World Migratory Bird Day together with our colleagues around the world. As the theme *Raising Awareness for Migratory Birds* suggests, migratory birds connect the ecosystems of our world.

As they fly from place to place, these birds join communities across the globe. As they move, they help maintain ecosystem services that are vital to us human beings.

Migratory birds are of major importance for people's food security and livelihoods. Throughout their travels birds contribute to pollination. Many human communities also rely on the regular influx of migratory animals as a basis for subsistence, or for economically important hunting, fishing, tourism and recreation. The conservation and sustainable management of migratory species populations is therefore a key contribution to the broader goals of sustainable development.

Migratory birds also serve as bridges between human cultures. The arrival and departure of species have inspired art and literature that link our societies.

Yet the irony is, in our increasingly interconnected world, migratory species are in decline and are under pressure from a number of sources.

The habitats upon which they rely on are increasingly being degraded and fragmented. Crucial resting, feeding and breeding grounds along on their cyclical journeys are under threat from land use change, invasive alien species, pollution and a host of other human created impacts including climate change. The good news is that around the world, countries, communities and organizations are building the networks that will help protect the migratory birds of the world.



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets support these endeavours. While many of the targets are relevant for combatting the pressures on migratory species, some are of particular relevance:

- Target 5: Halt the fragmentation and loss of the habitats upon which migratory birds depend
- Target 11: Support the creation of more protected areas and ensure that these areas, on land and in the sea, are not only well managed but are integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes
- Target 12: Prevent extinctions of known threatened species and improve the conservation status of others, many of which are migratory birds. It is encouraging to see that in creating its own strategic plan, the Convention on Migratory Species is taking the Aichi Targets into account, thus ensuring even greater coherence and coordination in our activities.

The Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity helps promote the mobilization of partners. Networks of non-governmental and international organizations, and others, are emerging to conserve important habitats for migratory birds and to ensure that these key sites are identified and safeguarded.

The Convention is delighted to be part of a broader biodiversity community that is developing the networks of cooperation and collaboration that will help us to build a future of life in harmony with nature.
