



### **The Power of Many**

*The second day of the international conference was all about working together for protection of migratory birds and waterbirds.*

**Pune, India, November 20<sup>th</sup>:** The second day of the International Conference on Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds organised by BNHS witnessed a knowledge packed session by none other than the CEO of BirdLife International, Ms Patricia Zurita. Migratory birds undertake incredible long-distance journeys around the world annually and their behaviour to return to the same place year after year is something we are still understanding. The route used by these birds between their breeding grounds and their overwintering quarters are known as flyways, which generally span over continents often passing over mountains, oceans and deserts, sometimes under worst weather conditions. Patricia spoke about the role and importance of society in conservation and said, “The migratory birds travel between countries and continents; we cannot do it alone, we have to come together for conservation, and, international collaboration is the key to conserve migratory birds.”

The highlight of the day was the range country meeting jointly organised by MoEF&CC and BNHS which was inaugurated by Minister of State, MoEF&CC, Shri Babul Supriyo. The meeting was arranged to seek support from range countries for trans-boundary collaboration of conservation of migratory birds. The meeting was attended by representatives of range countries, Chief Wildlife Wardens of States and Union territories, and representatives from Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and BirdLife International. Director General of Forests and Special Secretary MoEF&CC, Government of India, Shri Siddhanta Das highlighted India’s National Action Plan for CAF, launched in 2018, and delivered the opening remarks on the national vision on Central Asian Flyway on this occasion. BNHS was instrumental in providing technical support for preparation of CAF National Action Plan. Shri N Vasudevan, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Cell, Mumbai & Executive Director, Mangrove and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation of Maharashtra graced the occasion with his presence. Shri Supriyo in his inaugural speech said, “It is important for us and for India to ensure that the birds arriving from far off lands stay in India with the right environment”

--Divyashree Rai

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