



## PRESS RELEASE

### Extension of Year of the Dolphin in 2008 marked by UNEP supported documentary “Dolphins & Whales 3D”

Bonn, 13 September – A spectacular documentary DOLPHINS & WHALES 3D: Tribes of the Ocean will signal the extension of Year of the Dolphin into 2008. It will make its debut on IMAX 3D screens in the US in February 2008 before expanding into Europe. It will be released in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This part of the 3D trilogy will highlight the need to protect these endangered marine mammal species.

Buoyed by the enthusiastic reception of Year of the Dolphin 2007, the founding Partners CMS, its two whale and dolphin agreements ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and the German-based global travel enterprise TUI AG, today announced their decision to extend the initiative into 2008 to ensure that many more new activities to conserve dolphins and their marine environment will take place around the world.

Committed people across the world support the campaign by raising awareness on dolphins and their fragile habitats as natural heritage of the blue planet. Professional swimmers, sailors and other Ambassadors of the Year of the Dolphin will pass the message that these intelligent marine mammals need to be protected. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its partners highly appreciate the committed support given so far and look forward to continuing this responsible work to protect endangered dolphin species all over the world.

Commenting on today's announcement, Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary of CMS said: “YoD is gathering momentum and we have officially endorsed a variety of activities in 30 countries since the campaign began in January 2007. We are still receiving new offers to support the campaign and publicise it around the world, most recently through a special event in Panama on 27 August targeted at Latin America. The Partners decided we should carry on the campaign into 2008 to give more individuals, organisations and countries the chance to participate in the Year of the Dolphin”.

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