

2019 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: 17 August 2019

Reporting period: from April 2017 to August 2019

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions and are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, when required.

COP Resolution 9.4 called upon the Secretariats and Parties of CMS Agreements to collaborate in the implementation and harmonization of online reporting implementation. The CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Decision 12.4 requested the Secretariat, taking account of advice from the informal advisory group, to develop a proposal to be submitted for the approval of the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee (StC48) for a revision of the format for the national reports to be submitted to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently. The new format was adopted by StC48 in October 2018 and made available as an offline version downloadable from the CMS website in December 2018. The revised format aims inter alia at collecting data and information relevant to eight indicators adopted by COP12 for the purpose of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by StC48. In addition, as requested by StC48, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat. This includes customized species lists by Party. Please note that the lists include taxa at the species level originating from the disaggregation of taxa listed on Appendix II at a level higher than species. Please review the information and update or amend it, when necessary.

The Secretariat was also requested to develop and produce a guidance document to accompany any revised National Report Format. Please note that guidance has been provided for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact Ms. María José Ortiz, Programme Management Officer, at maria-jose.ortiz@cms.int

High-level summary of key messages

In your country, in the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

Guidance: This section invites you to summarise briefly the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only. Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into some very brief and simple "high level" messages for decision-makers and for wider audiences. Although keeping it brief, please try also to be specific where you can, e.g. "New wildlife legislation enacted in 2018 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds" is more informative than "stronger laws"; "50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles" is more informative than "lack of funding".

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

> The main issues are linked with:

- (i) streamlining of implementation measures with other national and international legal instruments, which facilitates the implementation of many cross-cutting themes and issues across the marine environment;
- (ii) implementation of selected management and action plans for habitats and species, which included scientific research surveys on selected migratory species; the declaration of up to 35% of Maltese waters as marine protected areas, some of which were declared for critical areas for marine migratory species, and the improved systems to promote rehabilitation and release of injured migratory species;
- (iii) the adoption and implementation of a national monitoring programme;
- (iv) communication and environmental awareness processes; and
- (v) the participation processes for the implementation of measures on protected areas and species addressing various aspects of the Convention through various Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, including the Environment & Resources Authority (ERA), the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC), the University of Malta (UOM) and various environmental NGOs.

The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention? (List up to five items):

> There is the need for the increase in regional cooperation and funding; with the support from Regional Seas

Convention in the Mediterranean (like SPA/BD Protocol under the Barcelona Convention), ACCOBAMS and EuroBats, to carry out regionwide assessments of such migratory species. There is also the need in increasing of environmental awareness, particularly in relation to selected migratory species and related prejudice (e.g. bats, sharks); need for additional research and resources (both human and financial) and adoption of standards for monitoring.

The main priorities for future implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

> Monitoring, data gathering and analysis, with the assistance of artificial intelligence, additional regional collaborative research, cooperation and implementation of policies on migratory species, particularly marine migratory species, which also occur in high seas and on which limited data is available at Mediterranean level - the main gaps relate to migratory megafauna as well as other cartilaginous fish, which are often rare and occasional at national level. Moreover, it is essential that area-based conservation measures are revised and updated regularly by conducting studies on the conservation status of species (including migratory species) to monitor their abundance and distribution within the area. Such assessments may need regional collaboration within the Mediterranean basin.

I. Administrative Information

Name of Contracting Party

> Malta

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country (DDMMYY)

> 01062001

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>

Report compiler

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II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

Please confirm the status of your country's participation in the following Agreements/MOUs, and indicate any updates or corrections required:

Please select only one option

- Yes, the lists are correct and up to date
 No, updates or corrections are required, as follows:

Updates or corrections:

>

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

Please select only one per line

	Party/Signatory	Range State, but not a Party/Signatory	Not applicable (= not a Range State)
Western African Aquatic Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slender-billed Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

Please confirm that the Excel file linked to below correctly identifies the Appendix I species for which the country is a Range State.

Please download the Appendix I species occurrence list for your country here.

Guidance: Article I(1)(h) of the Convention defines when a country is a Range State for a species, by reference also to the definition of “range” in Article I(1)(f). The latter refers to all the areas that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route. In adopting the current format for national reports, the Standing Committee was aware that there are occasional cases where it may be difficult to determine what is a “normal” migration route, and for example to distinguish this from aberrant or vagrant occurrences. This issue has been identified for possible examination in the future by the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council. In the meantime, if in doubt, please make the interpretation that you think will best serve the wider aims of the Convention. A note on the application of the Convention to Overseas Territories/Autonomous Regions of Parties can be found at https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/instrument/territories_reservations%202015.pdf.

References throughout this report format to “species” should be taken to include subspecies where an Appendix to the Convention so provides, or where the context otherwise requires.

Please select only one option

- Yes the file is correct and up to date (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments you may wish in respect of individual species)
- No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix I Malta_mt.xlsx](#) - SectionIII_AppendixI_Malta

Please confirm that the Excel file linked to below correctly identifies the Appendix II species for which the country is a Range State.

Please download the Appendix II species occurrence list for your country here.

Guidance: See the guidance note in question III.1 concerning the interpretation of “Range State”.

Please select only one option

- Yes the file is correct and up to date (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments you may wish in respect of individual species)
- No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Malta_mt.xlsx](#) - SectionIII_AppendixII_Malta

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

Is the taking of Appendix I species prohibited by national or territorial legislation in accordance with CMS Article III(5)?

Please select only one option

- Yes for all Appendix I species
 Yes for some species
 Yes for part of the country, or a particular territory or territories
 No

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

- > • Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S. L. 549.44)
<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11550&l=1>
- Marine Mammals Protection Regulations (S. L. 549.35)
<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11538&l=1>
- Reptiles (Protection) Regulations (S. L. 549.02)
<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11479&l=1>
- Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S. L. 549.44)
<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11548&l=1>
- Marine Policy Framework Regulations (S. L. 549.62)
<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11632&l=1>
- Water Policy Framework Regulations (S. L. 549.100)
<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=12384&l=1>
- Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations (S. L. 549.38)
<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11541&l=1>
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46)
<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11556&l=1>
- Fishery Regulations (S.L. 425.01)
<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=10737>

Exceptions: Where the taking of Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section IV exceptions_mt.xlsx](#) - SectionIV_exceptions_mt

If yes, please indicate in the Excel file linked to below which species, which reasons among those in CMS Article III(5) (a)-(d) justify the exception, any temporal or spatial limitations applying to the exception, and the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” that make the exception necessary.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Guidance: According to Article III(5) of the Convention, exceptions to a legal prohibition against taking of Appendix I species can only be made for one (or more) of the reasons specified in sub-paragraphs (a)-(d) of that Article. For any species you list in this table, therefore, you must identify (in the second column of the table in the Excel file) at least one of the reasons that justify the exception relating to that species. In any case where you identify reason (d) as applying, please explain (in the third column) the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” involved. According to Article III(5), exceptions granted for any of the four reasons must also be “precise as to content and limited in space and time”. Please therefore state what the specific mandatory space and time limitations are, in each case, using the third column; and indicate the date on which each exception was notified to the Secretariat in accordance with Article III(7).

Please indicate in the Excel file linked to below the species for which taking is prohibited.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>

Exceptions: Where the taking of Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate in the Excel file linked to below which species, which reasons among those in CMS Article III(5) (a)-(d) justify the exception, any temporal or spatial limitations applying to the exception, and the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” that make the exception necessary.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Guidance: According to Article III(5) of the Convention, exceptions to a legal prohibition against taking of Appendix I species can only be made for one (or more) of the reasons specified in sub-paragraphs (a)-(d) of that Article. For any species you list in this table, therefore, you must identify (in the second column of the table in the Excel file) at least one of the reasons that justify the exception relating to that species. In any case where you identify reason (d) as applying, please explain (in the third column) the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” involved. According to Article III(5), exceptions granted for any of the four reasons must also be “precise as to content and limited in space and time”. Please therefore state what the specific mandatory space and time limitations are, in each case, using the third column; and indicate the date on which each exception was notified to the Secretariat in accordance with Article III(7).

Where the taking of all Appendix I species is not prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies

Please select only one option

- Legislation being considered
- Legislation in draft
- Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in (specify year)

>

- Other

>

Please indicate in the Excel file linked to below the species for which taking is prohibited.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>

Where the taking of all Appendix I species is not prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

Please select only one option

- Legislation being considered
- Legislation in draft
- Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in (specify year)

>

- Other

>

Where the taking of all Appendix I species is not prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Please select only one option

- Yes

No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

Please select only one option

Legislation being considered

Legislation in draft

Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in (specify year)

>

Other

>

Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in intentionally taking Appendix I species?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Don't know

Please provide more information on the circumstances of the take, including any future plans in respect of such take.

>

V. Awareness

(SPMS Target 1: People are aware of the multiple values of migratory species and their habitats and migration systems, and the steps they can take to conserve them and ensure the sustainability of any use.)

During the reporting period, please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII on SPMS Target 15 may also be relevant).

(Select all that apply).

- Campaigns on specific topics
- Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
- Press and media publicity, including social media
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites
- Other (please specify)

>

- No actions taken

Impact of actions

Please indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions 11.8 (Rev. COP12) (Communication, Information and Outreach Plan) and 11.9 (World Migratory Bird Day) which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

> Malta promotes various research aimed at migratory species, with the Environment & Resources Authority (ERA) and the University of Malta (UOM) working different aspects linked on migratory species. ERA also has a service agreement with the UOM in relation to research on protected habitats and species, and also sponsors events and publications publishing data on migratory species. Courses at UOM also address the CMS, migratory and other protected species. Moreover, Malta also implemented the LIFE BaĦAR, LIFE MIGRATE and LIFE MaltaSeaBirds projects, which were led by ERA (for the first two projects) and Bird Life Malta (BLM) (on the latter), which led to scientific surveys of selected marine habitats; cetaceans and turtles; and seabirds; and related communications and outreach processes.

ERA also has a contract with Nature Trust Malta (NTM), a national environmental NGO, which addresses assists in relation to the rehabilitation and reintroduction of protected species, including bats, marine reptiles and mammals, particularly turtles and cetaceans. NTM also assists ERA in the implementation of the stranding protocols for cetaceans and turtles, with ERA also covering awareness and veterinary costs. Rehabilitated animals are released back into the environment. In relation to wild birds, (BLM) coordinates actions relevant to injured protected birds, in collaboration with Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU) and the Police.

Regular awareness raising activities targeting the public are carried out by ERA and other various entities. These activities were aimed at informing all members of society about the various aspects of local legislation concerning conservation and sustainable use of species together with information regarding conservation measures adopted to safeguard such species. Information was delivered through the publication of various press releases and press articles, the participation in educational programs, the dissemination of web-information including guidance documents and the participation in informational courses.

ERA has also undertaken diverse information/education initiatives, such as articles in local newspapers and information panels. ERA's website, also provides information on species, habitats, nature protection policies, legislation, protected areas and biodiversity permitting. An example of such is available through the 'BioSnippets' initiative, which are available at <http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/BioSnippet.aspx>. ERA also publishes regular State of the Environment Reports and updates on the key environment indicators used therein. Furthermore, monthly Biodiversity Tours to Protected Areas are carried out, whereby ERA officials provide free guided tours to selected areas. These tours are organised on a monthly basis from October to April. In parallel, ERA participates in the popular Sunday TV show 'Malta u lil Hinn Minnha', during which ERA provides weekly guided visits to a protected area, with information snippets on Maltese heritage. Posters on protected species, including marine reptiles, migratory birds and marine mammals, were also distributed to interested parties, as well as a series of bookmarks and coasters depicting important Maltese species. In addition, information campaigns are also undertaken by various environmental NGOs, research entities, relevant government departments, ministries and authorities, and information panels and publications are also included in protected areas, including those aimed for migratory species, like Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance) and Natura 2000 sites established under the UN Ramsar Convention and the EU Habitats Directive, respectively.

Bat nights were also organised by ERA The first event took place in 2010 as a part of a biodiversity information campaign. The event consisted of a bat trivia exhibition, an informative presentation on bats as well as a bat hearing exercise. This was followed up by a similar event in 2015. In 2018, three bat nights were initially organised, however in view of popular demand, a fourth event had to be organised. The event,

although quite similar to those organised in the previous years, included also a bat seeing activity. The 2018 bat nights were held at two significant Maltese landmark sites; at the National Museum of Natural History and Għar Dalam caves. The bat nights generated a great interest from locals and foreigners alike, who were taken for guided bat-observation and bat-hearing (with a bat detector) sessions with a local bat expert. Information on each of the bat species in Malta and their respective conservation status and threats was also provided. This was also especially successful in creating awareness for these animals, which are often given a bad reputation. Overall, the bat nights organised for the summer 2018 generated a great interest and very positive feedback from the public, so much that all events were fully booked within 2 weeks.

From May to October 2018, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit also participated in the informational project 'Aġġornat' organised by Saint Hubert Hunters (KSU). This project was an initiative of KSU, co-financed by the Conservation of Wild Birds Fund. The project consisted of a series of six talks organised in four different localities around Malta and Gozo. During these talks, representatives from the Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU), Police from the Administrative Law Enforcement Unit (ALE), the Environment Resources Authority (ERA) and from the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) together with ornithologists covered subjects concerning conservation of wild birds, the future of hunting and trapping, man and birds, local traditions related to birds, the use of firearms and their safety, bird identification, the importance of Natura 2000 sites, ethics of the countryside user and history of hunting and live-capturing (trapping) in Malta.

Furthermore, Wild Birds Regulation Unit continued to deliver specialised training sessions to enforcement officers from the Malta Police Force and the Armed Forces of Malta. These training sessions are organised ahead of each hunting / live-capturing season in order to provide training on basic ornithology, wildlife crime detection techniques, inspection procedures, applicable regulations and prosecution processes. Through this initiative, around 60 enforcement officers are provided with specialised training on average twice a year.

Overall, how successful have these awareness actions been in achieving their objectives?

Tick one box

Please select only one option

- 1. Very little impact
- 2. Small impact
- 3. Good impact
- 4. Large positive impact
- Not known

Please identify the main form(s) of evidence that has/have been used to make this assessment.

> Special Barometer 481 Report, available at the following link:

Link: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/ResultDoc/download/DocumentKy/86290>

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

(SPMS Target 2: Multiple values of migratory species and their habitats have been integrated into international, national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, including on livelihoods, and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.)

Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any national or local strategies and/or planning processes in your country relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> Malta's National Environment Policy (NEP), considers migratory species, as essential elements of national heritage, and key contributors to the national identity. Malta's NEP is available at:

<https://msdec.gov.mt/en/decc/documents/environment/national%20environment%20policy.pdf>.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) also addresses migratory and other important species. Malta's NBSAP and related information are available at:

<https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/NBSAP.aspx>.

Do the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' referred to in SPMS Target 2 currently feature in any other national reporting processes in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> Reference is made to the reports on the status of habitats and species as available in the following links:

- Habitats and Species other than birds: <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/>

- Birds: <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art12/>

Describe the main involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

> BICREF (Biological Conservation Research Foundation) - The principal activities of this foundation is the undertaking of scientific research to acquire additional data on local fauna, which could aid effective conservation. This also includes work in relation to bats, cetaceans and turtles.

BirdLife Malta - The mission of this NGO is for the protection of wild birds and their habitats. Activities carried out by the organisation include the managing on behalf of the ERA of protected wetlands, namely Is-Salini, I-Għadira and is-Simar, the latter two being Ramsar Sites. This NGO also coordinates bird ringing activities and issues linked with injured birds and the carrying out of research on protected birds, including the running of conservation projects and monitoring projects, particularly in relation to seabirds, as well as the carrying out information campaigns. Birdlife Malta is also represented on the Malta Ornithology Committee.

Green House Malta - This NGO has established a citizen science biodiversity monitoring programme, MABIMO (Malta Biodiversity Monitoring) together with a Belgian non-profit organisation, BINCO (Biodiversity Inventory for Conservation). The aim of this programme is to both collect new biodiversity data and collate old data to build a stronger conservation argument whilst keeping ERA and the public informed of the changes in the status of the target species being studied. Currently there are two ongoing long-term monitoring citizen science projects, run by Green House under MABIMO, one of which addresses migratory species, namely bats. In all cases, Green House works with local and foreign experts for the identification and/or verification of the data.

Nature Trust (Malta) - This NGO addresses local natural heritage and coordinates various projects linked with the management of a number of protected areas, which include the areas of Pembroke and Wied Għollieqa; two marshlands at Il-Ballut l/o Marsaxlokk and Il-Magħluq tal-Baħar; and the Park of Xrobb I-Għaġin, which is also a rescue centre for protected species. NTM also address the rescue of stranded migratory and other protected species, including bats, cetaceans and turtles, and handle nature walks and clean-ups, educational campaigns, courses and publications.

Hunting organizations are actively involved in habitat conservation and dissemination of information. Malta's main hunting Federation, the Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi u Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (FKNK), also addresses the management of the hunting area of Il-Miżieb/Dahar il-Bajda area and administer the Tyto alba reintroduction project at Il-Buskett Natura 2000 site. The FKNK, is also represented on the Malta Ornithology Committee. The Kaċċaturi San Ubertyu (KSU) also participates in dissemination of environment and management of protected areas, and manage, on behalf of ERA, the coastal wetland area of I-Għadira s-Safra, a Natura 2000 site.

Describe the main involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in

your country.

> Throughout the years the private sector, particularly banks in Malta and the private industry, have been a source of financing for direct and indirect conservation efforts in the country.

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

(SPMS Target 3: National, regional and international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems have improved significantly, making relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive.)

Have any governance arrangements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, improved during the reporting period?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No, but there is scope to do so
 No, because existing arrangements already satisfy all the points in Target 3

Please provide a short summary:

> The Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549) is the main tool regulating such matters. This includes subsidiary legislation and subsidiary plans.

Subsidiary Legislation: The Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44) address the conservation, protection and management of habitats and species, and includes mechanisms addressing strict protection, monitoring, research, awareness, strategic directions and systems aimed at implementing such aim. In the context of birds, the aforementioned Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.L.549.42) establish general parameters regulating hunting and taking of birds, lays down general prohibitions, lists avian species subject to protection, areas where hunting is not allowed and other restrictions. To consolidate further the progress of legal reforms, these Regulations were also amended during this reporting period.

Subsidiary Plans: A policy document on the capture, killing and exploitation of wild fauna in the Maltese Islands has been drafted. This document addresses species of fauna (excluding birds) that are, or are likely to be, threatened by deliberate and/or incidental capture and killing, as well as animal species whose exploitation should be managed, with a particular focus on those species included in the national regulation, which also transpose the CMS. This policy document ultimately responds to mandates of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and aims to devise strategic recommendations and action plans for each species or group of species addressed, which include migratory species (excluding birds) addressed in the CMS. The document is currently being finalised with a view to later adoption.

In relation to birds, the development of national strategy for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild birds has been initiated. In fact, enforcement against IKB both during autumn and spring migration seasons has been strengthened. The objectives of enforcement deployment were: to ensure continuous deployment presence in the countryside to deter any potential abuse from occurring in the first place, to ensure that no illegal targeting of protected species occurs, and that any detected incidents of abuse are dealt with swiftly and effectively, and to ensure that the general prohibitions and parameters related to the open season are enforced. In addition, aware of the fact that some Maltese hunters opt to travel on hunting trips abroad and the increasing trend of people interested in keeping different bird species for aviculture, the WBRU maintained a very active role in disseminating information about the procedure concerning the importation of live or dead birds amongst hunters and individuals involved in aviculture. In order to disseminate information, WBRU used its office's front desk as an information hub whereby interested parties are taken through the whole procedure by experienced enforcement personnel. WBRU also made use of its social media including the Unit's Facebook page and website which were routinely updated with the latest information. In order to better reach the hunting community, WBRU collaborated with hunting organizations in the dissemination of information through their social media. In parallel with implementing an information campaign, in order to enforce compliance, during the reporting period, the Unit also carried out inspections at points of entry, namely Customs and Cargo Sections of the Malta International Airport (MIA) and the Sea Passenger Terminal. Recognizing the fact that illicit trade and taxidermy of illegally acquired protected birds has in the past been a substantial driver behind illegal targeting of protected birds, the law enforcement authorities continued to dedicate substantial effort towards preventing, detecting and curtailing any potential abuse. This has led to various inspections and the prosecution of a number of individuals.

It is noted that Malta also implements the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and the Action Plans adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol of the UN Barcelona Convention within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), i.e.:

- Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans
- Action Plan for the management of the Monk Seal
- Action Plan for the conservation of bird species registered in annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol
- Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles
- Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species
- Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation
- Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea.

These Action Plans are relevant to CMS and migratory species. Updates on the implementation on these Action Plans during this reporting period are provided in Malta's national reports on the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and SAP-BIO, as submitted to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) in Tunis in 2019.

To what extent have these improvements helped to achieve Target 3 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (see text above)? Tick one box.

Please select only one option

- 1. Minimal contribution
- 2. Partial contribution
- 3. Good contribution
- 4. Major contribution
- Not known

Please describe briefly how this assessment was made

> Assessment of the implementation of the SAP-BIO and the Action Plans under the framework of MAP.

Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different sectors or groups been established at national or other territorial level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

Guidance: There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism. These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc. The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments (https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/Internet_english_09012014.pdf) may be helpful in giving further context for this.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide a short summary:

> The Malta Ornithology Committee is established by virtue of regulation 10 of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations for the purpose of advising the Minister on a range of matters concerning conservation of wild birds, including, inter alia, regarding parameters of any bird hunting seasons, authorisation of derogations and monitoring of their implementation, policies related to conservation of wild birds, scientific studies and similar matters. The precise functions of the Committee are described in detail in regulation 10(6) of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations. The Ornithology Committee is composed of eleven members appointed by the Minister for a period of one year. The Committee consists of a Chairman, Secretary (currently from WBRU), two representatives of hunting organisations (FKNK), two representatives in the bird conservation sector (BLM), three independent experts appointed by the government (which includes a representative of ERA), an expert on the conservation of birds and an expert on hunting and trapping. All members, except the secretary, the expert on the conservation of wild birds and the expert on hunting and trapping have one vote each. The Chairman has a casting vote.

Furthermore, a Fisheries Board, composed of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, thirteen members and a secretary have been set up. This Board, led by DFA, and which also includes ERA, aims to advise the relevant Minister on matters related to the development, administration and conservation of the fisheries of Malta, such as making proposals for the introduction of measures to safeguard the conservation of fish stocks. Additional Boards are set up in relation to the management of protected areas, as per Regulations under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549). In this respect, Management Agreements are also set up with relevant site managers by Environment & Resources Authority (ERA) and the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC), in line with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44).

Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 23-25 of CMS COP Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) (Synergies and partnerships)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide a short summary:

> The majority of the nature convention actions are implemented locally by the same Authority (ERA); this ensures close collaboration at national level between the focal points of the Convention of Migratory Species and the focal points of other relevant conventions. This system moreover, allows for the development of coherent and synergistic approach across the different conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Has your country or any jurisdictional subdivision within your country adopted legislation, policies or action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please identify the legislation, policies or action plans concerned:

> Refer to the following links:

[https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Legislation%20under%20Environment%20Protection%20Act%20\(CAP%20549\).aspx](https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Legislation%20under%20Environment%20Protection%20Act%20(CAP%20549).aspx)

<https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/National-Policies.aspx>

VIII. Incentives

(SPMS Target 4: Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to migratory species, and/or their habitats are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats are developed and applied, consistent with engagements under the CMS and other relevant international and regional obligations and commitments.)

Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No, but there is scope to do so
- No, because no such incentives have existed

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>

Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No, but there is scope to do so
- No, because there is no scope to do so

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

> In order to facilitate and incentivise third party management of protected areas, with the involvement of locals and civil society, ERA has allocated funding to environmental NGOs in relation to the conservation and management of protected species, habitats and areas. Management Agreements and related agreements, in relation to the provisions of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44), have been allocated to various bodies, including Ambient Malta and NGOs (like BLM, NTM, KSU, the Gaia Foundation and Din l-Art Helwa), with funding in the region of €1.5M. Research is also supported by ERA, through a service agreement with the University of Malta. The Environment Fund has also been set under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549) in 2016. The Environment Fund is to be used to finance projects, programmes and schemes related to, and costs intended to, achieve and manage the aims and objectives of the Act itself, studies, as well as works which may be needed for that purpose or to remedy any harm caused to the environment, as the Minister responsible for the environment in consultation with ERA may prescribe. In 2017, the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights also launched the Conservation of Wild Birds Fund, a new funding scheme that offers financial support in the form of grants to registered non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which are active within the domain of conservation of wild birds. Financial support under this Fund was available for projects that directly contribute to the conservation of wild birds, in accordance with the priorities of this funding scheme such as activities that help to contribute towards initiatives related to sustainable hunting, species reintroduction programmes, species and habitats conservation, training for personnel involved in the sector, scientific research, innovation, awareness raising and educational initiatives. The fund provides up to 80% of eligible project value, which was capped at a maximum of €20,000 per project. Later in February 2018, the Parliamentary Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights awarded a total of €106,188 in grants to five NGOs for projects that promote conservation of wild birds. The Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FKNK), Saint Hubert Hunters (KSU), BirdLife Malta, Nature Trust Malta and Fridericus Rex falconry club benefited from these grants for projects ranging from educational campaigns on the conservation of avian species to installation of nesting sites for locally breeding birds, pest management, awareness raising initiatives on hunting safety and handling birds of prey to the re-introduction of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba alba*).

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

(SPMS Target 5: Governments, key sectors and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption, keeping the impacts of use of natural resources, including habitats, on migratory species well within safe ecological limits to promote the favourable conservation status of migratory species and maintain the quality, integrity, resilience, and ecological connectivity of their habitats and migration routes.)

During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are contributing to the achievement of the results defined in SPMS Target 5?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 In development / planned
 No

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented

>

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved.

>

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented

> The issue of sustainable production and consumption in relation to biodiversity is addressed by Malta's NBSAP 2012-2020, whereas National Target 3 calls for "Positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are increasingly promoted. Malta cooperates in efforts to address environmentally harmful subsidies."

ERA and MESDC are currently developing the National Strategy for the Environment (NSE) and the new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the period 2021-2030. MESDC is currently working on Malta's Sustainable Development Strategy, which should also address sustainable production and consumption (SDG12).

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved.

> The NBSAP Review, which will assess the implementation status of the various measures and milestones and related issues, is ongoing and will be available in 2020, which process will lead to the new NBSAP for the 2021-2030 period.

The National Strategy for the Environment (NSE) will replace the current National Environmental Policy (NEP), whose review has been concluded by the MESDC. The NSE will address up to 2050, and will be reviewed periodically throughout the years, in line with findings, such as those arising from the State of Environment Reports (SOERs).

What is preventing progress?

>

X. Threats and Pressures Affecting Migratory Species; Including Obstacles to Migration

(SPMS Targets 6+7: Fisheries and hunting have no significant direct or indirect adverse impacts on migratory species, their habitats or their migration routes, and impacts of fisheries and hunting are within safe ecological limits; Multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation of migratory species or to the functioning, integrity, ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.)

Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?

Guidance: This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on CMS-listed migratory species at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

Please note that, consistent with the terms of the Convention, “in your country” may in certain circumstances include areas outside national jurisdictional limits where the activities of any vessels flagged to your country are involved.

Direct killing and taking

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Illegal hunting	Birds (Appendices I & II)	2
Legal hunting		
Other harvesting and take	Birds (Appendix II)	2
Illegal trade	Birds (Appendices I & II)	2
Deliberate poisoning		

Bycatch

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Bycatch	Cetaceans, Turtles, Fish (Appendices I & II)	2

Collisions and electrocution

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Electrocution		
Wind turbines		
Other collisions		

Other mortality

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low

Predation	Bats (Appendices I & II)	2
Disease		
Accidental/indirect poisoning		
Unexplained stranding events		

Alien and/or invasive species

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Alien and/or invasive species	Bats (Appendices I & II)	2

Disturbance and disruption

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	Cetaceans, Bats (Appendices I & II)	2
Light pollution	Bats, Birds (Appendices I & II)	3
Underwater noise	Cetceans (Appendices I & II)	2

Habitat destruction/degradation

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	Birds (Appendices I & II)	2
Habitat degradation	Birds (Appendices I & II)	2
Mineral exploration/extraction		
Unsustainable land/resource use		
Urbanization		
Marine debris (including plastics)	Cetaceans, Turtles (Appendices I & II)	2
Other pollution		
Too much/too little water		
Fire		
Physical barriers		

Climate change

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Climate change		

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Lack of knowledge		
Inadequate legislation		
Inadequate enforcement of legislation		
Inadequate transboundary management	Birds (Appendices I & II)	2

Other (please specify)

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
	Interaction between species and other activities - Cetaceans (Appendices I & II)	3
	Habitat modification in view of marine/coastal development - Cetaceans (Appendices I & II)	3
	Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas - Bats (Appendices I & II)	2

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering any of the pressures identified above? (Identify the pressures concerned).

> Most significant advance made since the previous report in countering the pressure listed above are the following:

- Strengthening of legislation, particularly on the ones listed in Section IV;
 - Improvement in enforcement on field;
 - Increased public awareness and outreach activities, as indicated in Section V;
 - Increase in availability of financial incentives, as indicated in Section VIII;
 - Improves systems to promote rehabilitation and release of injured migratory species;
 - Improvement in the effectiveness of judiciary processes, particularly those concerning bird-related crime;
- and
- Designation of new protected areas, particularly in relation to marine turtles, seabirds and cetaceans.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning the pressures identified above? (Identify the pressures concerned).

> In relation to the illegal targeting of protected birds the authorities recovered around 215 wild birds throughout 2017 belonging to numerous species that were provided with the appropriate veterinary care and rehabilitation. Of these, 83 protected birds were confirmed to have suffered gunshot wounds as a result of illegal targeting. Most of these birds were retrieved during the period of the autumn hunting season. In 2018, the Authorities recovered around 320 wild birds belonging to 86 species that were provided with the appropriate veterinary care and in a number of cases also successful rehabilitation and release back into the wild. Of these, 132 protected birds (41.25%) were confirmed to have sustained gunshot wounds as a result of illegal targeting. A procedure coordinated by the Wild Birds Regulation Unit was put in place in conjunction with the Police, BLM and a government-appointed veterinarian to provide appropriate veterinary care and,

where possible, coordinate rehabilitation of such birds.

Have you adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) ("Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor ... to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species")?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

> Amendments were issued for the following Regulations under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549), namely the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42) and the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44). Links to the English consolidated versions of these Regulations are included in Section IV.

Please add any further comments on the implementation of specific provisions in relevant CMS COP Resolutions, including for example:

Resolution 12.22 on by-catch.

Resolution 12.14 on underwater noise.

Resolution 12.20 on marine debris.

Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) on oil pollution

Resolution 11.22 (Rev. COP12) on live captures of cetaceans (and Decision 12.48).

Resolutions 7.5 (Rev. COP12) and 11.27 (Rev. COP12) on renewable energy.

Resolutions 7.4 and 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds.

Resolution 11.15 (Rev. COP12) on poisoning of migratory birds.

Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (and Decision 12.26).

Resolution 11.31 on wildlife crime.

Resolution 12.21 on climate change (and Decision 12.72).

Resolution 11.28 on invasive alien species.

Resolution 12.6 on wildlife disease.

Resolution 12.25 on conservation of intertidal and coastal habitats.

Resolution 10.2 on conservation emergencies

Resolution 7.2 (Rev. COP12) on impact assessment.

> • Resolution 5.11 - Ship Strikes on Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea: To date, Malta has not had any cetacean deaths reporting due to ship strikes. Notwithstanding this, as mentioned in the section on 'Emergency Plans', a code of practice for the stranding of cetacean species has been adopted which sets out the procedures to be followed during such events. Malta is also party to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and has taken note of the Guidance document for minimizing the risk of ship strikes with cetaceans and of the publication: "Mapping of potential risk of ship strike with fin whales in the Western Mediterranean Sea". General summarized shipping traffic data can be accessed from Malta's initial assessment reports compiled for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (available at <https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MSFD-InitialAssessment-UnderwaterNoise.pdf>) with regards to data on the Automatic Identification System (AIS). ERA is also in constant contact with the Transport Malta (TM), the competent authority on shipping companies and any such strikes would be notified to ERA.

• Resolution 5.14 - Removal of the bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea: The following legal instruments are implemented in Malta: the Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations, 2004 (Link: <http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=11541&l=1>), together with Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 (on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein) and the Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 (laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 which implement CITES).

• Resolution 5.15 - Addressing the impacts of anthropogenic noise: Malta has also ratified a number of regional and/or international multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) addressing noise as a pressure on the marine biota. In addition, Malta has also developed a monitoring programme which also covers underwater noise; for further information refer to: <http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD-Monitoring-Programme.aspx> and http://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MonitoringFactsheet_D11_UnderwaterNoise.pdf.

• Resolution 7.5 - Wind Turbines and Bat Populations: Malta has no wind turbines or applications for wind turbine installations at the moment. If an application is submitted, this would be assessed according to national legislation, namely the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. Reference would also be made to the Eurobats Publication Series No. 3 - "Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects". Consideration of impacts on wildlife for any potential development of renewable energy facilities is also included in the consultation document on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Malta. It is noted that whilst no wind farm has been installed in Malta, there are a limited number of microturbines; such guidance document hence includes considerations of related impacts to bats and their minimization.

- Resolution 7.9 - Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats: Bat considerations are taken into account during the planning, construction and operation of roads and other infrastructure projects as part of development planning procedures in line with the provisions of the Development Planning Act (Cap. 552) and Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549).
- Resolution 7.10 - Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation: In the past years, the Competent Authority issued permits to NGOs in purpose of rescuing and rehabilitation of grounded and injured bats. Competent Authority will promote use of standardised record protocol in future when permit application received.
- Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) - Illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (and Decision 12.26 and Resolution 11.31 - Fighting wildlife crime and offences within and beyond borders: Malta actively participates in workshops and activities organized by the Bern Convention and CMS on IKB and wildlife crime (Resolutions 11.16 and 11.31). Malta has also contributed to the development of the scoreboard which was adopted in 2017 by both the Bern Convention and CMS to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds as a self-assessment framework for national use, through Recommendation No. 196 (2017) of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, and UNEP/CMS Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP 12): The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds where the Scoreboard is contained in Annex 1. Later in 2018, Malta submitted its first report using the scoreboard as a monitoring tool that effectively tracks the implementation of the efforts against IKB at the national level.

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

(SPMS Target 8: The conservation status of all migratory species, especially threatened species, has considerably improved throughout their range.)

What (if any) major changes in the conservation status of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices (for example national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country in the current reporting period?

If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file (using the attachment button below) detailing a longer list of species.

Guidance: “Conservation status” of migratory species is defined in Article I(1)(b) of the Convention as “the sum of the influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance”; and four conditions for conservation status to be taken as “favourable” are set out in Article I(1)(c).

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” in the current reporting period. Information is therefore expected here only where particularly notable shifts in status have occurred, such as those that might be represented by a re-categorisation of national Red List threat status for a given species (or subspecies, where relevant).

Please note also that you are only being asked about the situation in your country. Information about global trends, and global Red List reclassifications etc, will be communicated to the CMS via other channels outside the national reporting process.

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Aquatic mammals

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Bats

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	This change in status was done mainly due to use of different method to assess the conservation status of this species, in line with guidelines adopted at EU level.	Habitats Directive Article 17 Malta Report 2013-2018	From Favourable (in 2012) to Unknown (in 2018)	Nyctalus noctula (Appendix II)
	This species was reported as occasional in the recent reporting cycle.	Habitats Directive Article 17 Malta Report 2013-2018	From Unfavorable - Inadequate (in 2012) to Occasional (in 2018)	Tadarida teniotis (Appendix II)

Birds

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Please Refer to attached document			

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXI_Birds.pdf](#) - CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXI_Birds

Reptiles

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Fish

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

Insects

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

(SPMS Target 9: International and regional action and cooperation between States for the conservation and effective management of migratory species fully reflects a migration systems approach, in which all States sharing responsibility for the species concerned engage in such actions in a concerted way.)

In the current reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species (following the advice in COP Resolution 12.8)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

>

In the current reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please specify which countries have been approached:

- Azerbaijan
 Bahamas
 Bahrain
 Barbados
 Belize
 Bhutan
 Botswana
 Brunei Darussalam
 Cambodia
 Canada
 Central African Republic
 China
 Colombia
 Comoros
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 Dominica
 El Salvador
 Grenada
 Guatemala
 Guyana
 Haiti
 Iceland
 Indonesia
 Jamaica
 Japan
 Kiribati
 Kuwait
 Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Andorra
 Lebanon
 Lesotho
 Malawi
 Malaysia
 Maldives
 Marshall Islands
 Mexico
 Micronesia
 Myanmar
 Namibia
 Nauru
 Nepal
 Nicaragua
 Niue
 Oman

- Papua New Guinea
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- San Marino
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- United States of America
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City State
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Zambia

In the current reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of concerted actions under CMS (as detailed in COP Resolution 12.28) to address the needs of relevant migratory species? (See the species list in Annex 3 to Resolution 12.28 www.cms.int/en/document/concerted-actions-1)

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

> Malta participates and implements Action Plans set up by the SPA-BD protocol, which address issues related to cetaceans, pinnipeds, birds, marine turtles and cartilaginous fishes in the Mediterranean. For further information, please refer to Section XVI.

Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (all relevant States engaging in cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach), including for example (but not limited to) measures to implement Resolution 12.11 (and Decision 12.34) on flyways and Resolution 12.17 (and Decision 12.54) on South Atlantic whales?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

> Please refer to other sections in the report.

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

(SPMS Target 10: All critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures so as to maintain their quality, integrity, resilience and functioning in accordance with the implementation of Aichi Target 11, supported where necessary by environmentally sensitive land-use planning and landscape management on a wider scale.)

Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified (for example by an inventory) in your country?

Guidance: The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species, and in this context it is left to report compilers to work to any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement. The Scientific Council Sessional Committee is likely to give this issue further consideration at a future date. In the meantime some helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the “Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species” presented to COP11 (<https://www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-review-aspects-ecological-networks-relating-migratory-species>) and the “Critical Site Network Tool” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention (<http://wow.wetlands.org/informationflyway/criticalsiteneetworktool/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

Please select only one option

- Yes, fully
- Partially - to a large extent
- Partially - to a small or moderate extent
- No

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites as required to achieve SPMS target 10?

> The main gaps relate to migratory megafauna, which are often rare and occasional at national level. Moreover, it is essential that area-based conservation measures are revised and updated regularly by conducting studies on the conservation status of species (including migratory species) to monitor their abundance and distribution within the area. Such assessments may need regional collaboration within the Mediterranean basin.

Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the country’s protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / for some areas
- In development
- No

Please provide a short summary:

> Management plans have been established in 2016 for assessing the conservation status of species (including migratory species) within certain Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and its surrounding waters.

Link: <https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx>

Moreover, the EU funded LIFE MIGRATE project (2012-16) aimed at enabling studies to be undertaken on the status of the populations of the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin in the Maltese waters. On the basis of this project, in April 2016 three proposed sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were declared under the EU Habitats Directive. Through the project a number of recommendations on the conservation measures were issued; in particular, the After-LIFE Conservation Plan 2016-2020, also ensures protection of the species within the identified areas (pSCI) and any other areas, as necessary.

Link: <http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/category/after-life-conservation-plan/>.

Additional measures have been proposed in relation to marine mammals. These are available at the following links:

<http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD-Programme-of-Measures.aspx>

http://era.org.mt/en/Documents/PoMs_D1_4_Marine%20reptiles_and_mammals.pdf

The relevant conservation measures are expected to be developed and implemented by ERA and the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development, and Climate Change (MESDC) through stakeholder consultations and also involve all relevant governmental bodies. Such Programmes of Measures shall take into consideration the results identified through LIFE MIGRATE and the related LIFE projects. Other frameworks shall also be considered in parallel so as to create synergies and have a more holistic and efficient approach. This shall also ensure that the management of the designated sites would be in line with the requirements of the CMS, the EU Nature Directives, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other related EU legislation and multilateral environment agreements, including regional seas conventions, such as the Barcelona Convention.

Please provide a short summary:

>

Has your country adopted any new legislation or other domestic measures in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4) (a) (“Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor ... to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction”)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

> Regulations under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549), namely the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42) and the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44). Links to the English consolidated versions of these Regulations are included in Section IV.

In respect of protected areas in your country that are important for migratory species, have any assessments of management effectiveness been undertaken in the reporting period?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 Partly / for some areas
 In development
 No

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXIII.pdf](#) - CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXIII

Please provide a reference and/or summarise what is covered:

>

Beyond Protected Areas, are other effective area-based conservation measures implemented in your country in ways which benefit migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please describe:

> The Marine Policy Framework Regulations (SL 549.62) and the Water Policy Framework Regulations (SL 549.100) address environmental status beyond protected areas, and address all relevant water bodies declared by Malta, which go beyond protected areas established under the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549). Relevant assessments, programmes of measures and monitoring programmes are implemented, with regular intervals to assess gaps and management effectiveness. For further information, refer to the following links:

<https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD.aspx>

<https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Water-Framework-Directive.aspx>

Please add any particular information about key steps taken to implement specific provisions in relevant CMS COP Resolutions, including for example:

Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks.

Resolution 12.13 on Important Marine Mammal Areas.

Resolution 12.24 on Marine Protected Area networks in the ASEAN region.

Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats.

> • Resolution 5.1 - ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014 - 2025): Malta has participated in the development of the Strategy and looks forward to its implementation. Malta is implementing most of the issues in the Strategy through the implementation of national law and multilateral agreements, as well as by undertaking a number of projects aimed at assessing the conservation status of selected species and identifying Marine Protected Areas for cetaceans and their habitats. (Earlier sections of this National Report provide additional detail on these issues.)

- Research on Cetaceans: Specific marine scientific surveys were undertaken in relation to two LIFE projects, LIFE Migrate and LIFE Malta Seabirds which were both finalised in April-June 2016. (See section 18 for further details.) Another project, LIFE BaĦĦAR for Natura 2000, is currently ongoing since October 2013, and is focused on three ecologically important marine habitats (reefs, sea caves and sandbanks). This project is being coordinated by ERA, in collaboration with MESDC, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Department of Biology of the University of Malta and Fundación Oceana. As part of this project two research expeditions were carried out within Malta's Fisheries Management Zone; opportunistic sightings of cetaceans and turtles during these expeditions were recorded (with data limited to the date, coordinates and species

observed during said sighting).

- □ Monitoring of Activities: Through the implementation of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44), the Marine Policy Framework Regulations (SL 549.62) and the Water Policy Framework Regulations (SL 549.100), Malta has compiled an initial assessment of the status of the marine waters which comprised of an analysis of the current environmental status, an analysis of the predominant pressures and impacts and an economic and social analysis of the use of marine waters. The initial assessment describes and assesses the status of Maltese marine waters based on existing data. Malta has subsequently developed a monitoring programme to assess progress towards the achievement of good environmental status. In this regard, eleven monitoring factsheets have been developed such as those on energy (including underwater noise), contaminants in seafood and marine litter. This monitoring programme has also taken into consideration, to the extent possible, the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP), which is the regional monitoring programme developed as part of the Barcelona Convention's Ecosystems Approach (EcAp) process. However, it should be noted that at the time of developing Malta's monitoring programme, the IMAP was still being discussed. Malta is currently updating its national monitoring programme as part of the EU funded project EMFF 8.3.1. streamlining IMAP requirements in the process. In addition, Malta has been actively involved in the Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMON) meetings as part of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) under the Barcelona Convention with a view to work towards regional coherence of the monitoring framework in the Mediterranean. For further information, refer to: <https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD-Monitoring-Programme.aspx>. The monitoring programme is also being implemented through national and EU funds, e.g. refer to the ongoing EMFF Marine Monitoring Project: <https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/EMFF-MEM-About.aspx>.

- □ Implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) under SAP-BIO and the Barcelona Convention: Malta is still implementing its NAPs under the SAP-BIO and the SPA/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, some of which concern migratory species such as sharks, birds, marine turtles and cetaceans. Updates on the implementation on these Action Plans during this reporting period are provided in Malta's national reports on the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and SAP-BIO, as submitted to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) in Tunis in 2019. See also Section XVI of this report.)

- Resolution 5.9 - Comprehensive cetacean population estimates and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area (ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative- ASI): Malta will facilitate the process of obtaining permits for vessels and aircraft operating under its jurisdiction in accordance with relevant provisions of UNCLOS. Latest data is included in the LIFE MIGRATE project website (<http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/>).

- Resolution 5.12 - Work towards a Conservation Plan for Fin Whales in the Mediterranean Sea: Malta is following up on the systematic marine monitoring programmes through the MSFD programme. Sightings of fin whales so far were recorded.

- Resolution 5.13 - Conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean: Malta has never had any mass strandings (≥ 2) of Cuvier's beaked whales. In total two strandings were recorded, which were separated by some 6-8 years. An initial assessment on anthropogenic noise (<https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MSFD-InitialAssessment-UnderwaterNoise.pdf>) was carried out in Malta. Good Environmental Status and targets for this descriptor was also set up (available at: https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/GES_Targets-Descriptor11.pdf).

- Resolution 7.8 - Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes: Appropriate Assessments and Environmental Assessments in terms of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (SL 549.46) take into consideration important areas known for bats; mitigation measures are proposed should these be required.

- Resolution 7.13 - Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2015-2018): Various aforesaid policy documents address species of fauna that are, or are likely to be, threatened by deliberate and/or incidental capture and killing, as well as animal species whose exploitation should be managed is drafted and should be published. This document contains proposed strategy for the conservation and maintenance of bat populations in the Maltese Islands, and will be a key policy tool for strengthening inter alia national implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats. Additionally, Management plans for protected areas where bat's roosting/foraging sites are present, contain provisions for their conservation. Maintenance of bats population size, range and habitats is included in management plans for sites containing certain bat species.

- Resolution 12.7 - The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species: Following the termination of the LIFE BaHAR for N2K project in 2018, an additional eight Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were designated in addition to its existing ones. The three new inshore areas are extensions to the area covered by existing coastal MPAs, two of the offshore areas are new, whereas the other three are extensions of the existing MPAs, previously declared in 2016. These further enhanced the ecological network of MPAs, today covering a total of 35.5% of Maltese waters, which MPAs restrict human activities for conservation purposes to protect natural resources, such as migratory species (including sea birds, cetaceans and turtles).

- Resolution 12.13 - Important Marine Mammal Areas: Malta is currently discussing matters related to Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs). The waters around the Maltese Islands are thought to contain habitat of importance to endangered Mediterranean migratory species and it is also believed that this area forms part of a larger known area of Cetacean Critical Habitat, identified by the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS).

- Resolution 12.25 - Promoting conservation of critical intertidal and other coastal habitats for migratory

species: This resolution recalls the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways (Resolution 11.14), which calls for establishment of a global coastal wetland restoration and management initiative promoted through the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention. In fact, measures in the Management plans for the Ramsar wetlands in Malta (l-Għadira and Is-Simar) have been strengthened. These measures also address migratory birds, including through integration of these requirements into land-use policies, designation of protected transboundary habitat corridors and ecological networks.

XIV. Ecosystem Services

(SPMS Target 11: Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.)

Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species (contributing to the achievement of SPMS Target 11) been undertaken in your country since the adoption of the SPMS in 2014?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 Partly / in progress
 No

Please provide a short summary (including source references where applicable):

>

Please provide a short summary (including source references where applicable):

> So far, Malta has carried out a preliminary identification of key ecosystems and ecosystem services for Malta as part of Malta's Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. On the basis of this exercise, work has commenced to implement the measures relating to MAES in Malta's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020. This work involves: prioritising ecosystems and ecosystem services for mapping and assessment; determining the level of detail best applicable to Malta; identifying available data/data sources that can be used in this regard; Identifying data gaps that will need to be addressed; as well as identifying stakeholders/experts to be consulted in the process, in particular for selection of the indicators to be used.

The ecosystem classification in the first MAES Report has been adapted to the Maltese scenario by making it more detailed and linking it to Art. 17 habitats that are typically found in the identified ecosystems at national level, so as to ensure as much as possible a synergistic approach with the Habitats Directive and other reporting obligations. In parallel, Malta invested in capacity building for mapping through intense GIS training. Following a period of trial mapping, which focussed on determining the appropriate mapping resolution and scale for use in policy and the mapping effort required, as well as discussions with national experts, the amended ecosystem typology was adopted. Furthermore, the official mapping of ecosystems commenced in fourth quarter of 2017.

Subsequently, discussions with stakeholders on available data, including the developed ecosystem map, will be carried out to come up will relevant indicators for ecosystem services to be included in the national assessment. Such indicators for ecosystem services could also include information on migratory species.

Additional information is available at the following link:

https://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes/maes_countries/malta

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

(SPMS Target 12: The genetic diversity of wild populations of migratory species is safeguarded, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion.)

Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please select the relevant strategies (select all that apply):

- Captive breeding
- Captive breeding and release
- Gene typing research
- Reproductive material archives/repositories
- Other

> The Department of Biology of the University of Malta is currently applying DNA studies to local, regional and global levels, where detailed genetics studies of species such as sharks, bluefin tuna and groupers. This includes the University of Malta Research Fund on LifeScience-BioCon Innovate 2019-2020 for Wildlife Molecular Genetics studies on Maltese biodiversity.

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

(SPMS Target 13: Priorities for effective conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems have been included in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with reference where relevant to CMS agreements and action plans and their implementation bodies.)

Are priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems explicitly addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

a. Please provide a link to or attachment of the strategy/action plan

> https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MaltaNBSAP_2012-2020.pdf

b. Please identify the elements in the plan/strategy that are particularly relevant to migratory species, and highlight any specific references to the CMS/CMS instruments

> The NBSAP includes a number of measures addressing activities which may endanger migratory species.

Such include:

- Measure SH5: (A strict protection regime is in place, in line with the requirements of the EC Nature Directives, and incorporates measures to address the illegal and the incidental capture and killing of protected species, including those which are migratory);

- Measure BR5: (The regulation of the capture and killing of protected species is built on sustainability principles and is in line with the provisions of national law and the EC Nature Directives. This would be ensured via a better regulation initiative and conservation status assessments);

- Measure EF4: (Environmental illegalities such as, but not limited to, the illegal capture and illegal killing of species, would be addressed through strengthened enforcement and corrective action);

- Measure BR4: (Exploitation of wildlife for trade would be based on sustainable practices in line with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulations and would be supported by continued provision of information on biodiversity trade and protection regulations by the CITES Management Authority to importers, exporters and other stakeholders. Where required, the provision of information would be enhanced through the development and dissemination of guidance/awareness material, which would contribute towards adequate implementation of national legislation on wildlife trade);

-Measure BI1: (A national information and early warning system (e.g. species black list, existing border controls and permitting procedures) would be in place to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species via priority pathways. Accidental introductions would also be addressed by way of contingency planning thereby avoiding/minimising any socio-economic and environmental aspects);

- Measure BI2: (A systematic and coherent national strategy on invasive non-native species would be in place and would be based on the CBD's three stage hierarchical approach, which includes prevention, early detection of the species, and rapid action by eradication, containment and control (where feasible). This strategy would be supported by other policy guidance on the removal of invasive species);

-Measure BI3: (Endemic species and areas of conservation value at risk by invasive species would be identified, and prioritised for targeted, well-planned, ecologically and financially feasible remedial action, with the goal of reinstating self-sustaining native communities and healthy ecosystems);

-Measure BI4: (Key stakeholder groups, such as traders (pet shops, breeders and nurseries), as well as land and sea users would co-operate to prevent the unwanted release/escape and spread of non-native and invasive species into the environment. To assist this, national codes of best practices would be established in consultation with key stakeholders and adopted for those sectors that can aid the introduction and spread of invasive species. The drawing up of such codes would build on the European Codes of Conduct as adopted under the Bern Convention);

c. Please add comments on the implementation of the strategy or action plan concerned.

> Malta's efforts in protecting migratory species are ongoing. Malta is currently finalising its 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which provides an update of the implementation of Malta's NBSAP. For further information on the latest available status of implementation of the NBSAP measures listed above, please refer to Malta's 5th National Report to CBD: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mt/mt-nr-05-en.pdf>. It should be noted that Malta also implements the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and the Action Plans adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), i.e.:

- Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans
- Action Plan for the management of the Monk Seal
- Action Plan for the conservation of bird species registered in annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol
- Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles
- Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

- Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species
- Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation
- Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea
- Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea.

Updates on the implementation on these Action Plans during this reporting period are provided in Malta's national reports on the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and SAP-BIO, as submitted to the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) in Tunis in 2019.

XVII. Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities

(SPMS Target 14: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and their customary sustainable use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, thereby contributing to the favourable conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.)

Have actions been taken in your country to foster consideration for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No
- Not applicable

Have actions been taken in your country to foster effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No
- Not applicable

If 'yes' or 'partly/in some areas' to either of the preceding two questions, please select which actions have been taken:

(select all that apply)

- Research & documentation
- Engagement initiatives
- Formal recognition of rights
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms
- Management strategies & programmes that integrate traditional and indigenous interests
- Other

>

Please add comments on the implementation of the actions concerned.

>

How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country to achieving Target 14 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (see text above)?

Please select one option:

Please select only one option

- 1. Little or no progress
- 2. Some progress but more work is needed
- 3. Positive advances have been made
- 4. Target substantially achieved (traditional knowledge is fully respected and there is effective participation from communities)

Please add comments on the progress made (where applicable).

>

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

(SPMS Target 15: The science base, information, training, awareness, understanding and technologies relating to migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, their value, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of their loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and effectively applied.)

In the current reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species? (see text above, and the answers given in Section V concerning SPMS Target 1 on awareness)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- Other (please specify):

>

- No steps have been taken

Please describe the contribution these steps have made towards achieving the results defined in Target 15:

Education campaigns in schools

> During the lifetime of LIFE+ MIGRATE project, there was a number of project promotion events. These events included delivery of information on cetacean and marine turtle species and were held on local beaches and at other venues such as schools and external conferences. In addition, during this LIFE project, 25 training workshops were produced, whereby participants were briefed on the identification of cetacean and marine turtle species. Some of these participants were appointed as volunteers and took part in the boat-based observation surveys of the same project. Furthermore, many awareness raising activities were carried out during the LIFE Bahar project. Malta is especially aware of the importance of educating children and students on environmental and migratory species issues. In fact, a considerable number of educational talks addressing biodiversity have been delivered to various social groups, schools, hotel employees and to the public in conjunction with local councils. NGOs have also assisted in this regard.

Public awareness campaigns

> ERA has undertaken diverse information/education initiatives, such as articles in local newspapers and information panels. ERA's website, also provides information on species, habitats, nature protection policies, legislation, protected areas and biodiversity permitting. An example of such is available through the 'BioSnippets' initiative, which are available at <https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/BioSnippet.aspx>. ERA also publishes regular State of the Environment Reports and updates on the key environment indicators used therein.

Capacity building

> In April 2016 a new entity, the Environment & Resources Authority, has been set up to act as a regulator on environmental matters as specified in the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549). Such Authority experience a massive recruitment programme to enable the implementation of such portfolio and had its staff more than duplicate in less than 3 years. Moreover, internship programmes with the University of Malta and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), as well as EU research institutes, enabled further experience sharing and recruitment possibilities. This is coupled with training on specific nature and biodiversity issues during the reporting period of its personnel.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

> - The HARMONY project: The HARMONY project is funded under the framework of Interreg V-A Italia-Malta Operational Programme (2014-2020) and seeks to test monitoring methodologies and indicators in order to develop management tools to help reduce the risk of introduction of Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) into Maltese and Italian waters. This preventative approach serves as the best form of mitigation method against potential impacts that NIS may have on native ecosystems. HARMONY will also provide for the monitoring of NIS that have already established resident populations in Maltese and Italian ecosystems, as well as the waters between the two States. The project will streamline and harmonise ongoing monitoring efforts conducted in Sicily and in Malta related to Descriptor 2 (Non-Indigenous Species (NIS)) and Descriptor 5 (Seafloor Integrity) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

- QUIETMED 1 and 2 projects - MSFD indicator 11: A joint programme on underwater noise (D11) for the implementation of the Second Cycle of the MSFD in the Mediterranean Sea. QUIETMED has received funding from the DG Environment, European Commission. QUIETMED Project aims to get better coordination among member states that share marine regions and sub-regions to increase the protection level and the

conservation status of the marine spaces of the Mediterranean Sea against the damages caused by underwater noise resulted from anthropogenic activities. QUIETMED project aims to improve the level of coherence and the comparability as regards Descriptor 11 (underwater noise) by enhancing cooperation among Mediterranean Sea Basin countries within the implementation of the second cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

- Citizen Science: The UOM, ERA and NGOs implement various aspects linked with citizen science. The UOM coordinates process linked with invasive alien species and jellyfish, in collaboration with various entities, including ERA. In 2017 a local environmental conservation NGO, Green House, established a citizen science biodiversity monitoring programme, MABIMO (Malta Biodiversity Monitoring) together with a Belgian non-profit organisation, BINCO (Biodiversity Inventory for Conservation). The aim of this programme is to both collect new biodiversity data and collate old data to build a stronger conservation argument whilst keeping ERA and the public informed in the changes in the status of the target species being studied. Currently there are two ongoing long-term monitoring citizen science projects, one of which addresses migratory species, namely bats. In both projects Green House recruits, trains and supports citizen scientists to collect data by various means (e.g. through echo-locators and mist-netting for bats). In all cases, Green House works with local and foreign experts for the identification and/or verification of the data.

- Development of Apps and Web-based Applications: ERA is developing an app addressing customer care processes, whereby complaints and requests for information can be centralised through web-based applications accessible by mobiles, tablets and computers. Similarly, an app addressing permitting issues is being issued; this current e-forms enabling electronic nature permitting processes, which have already been developed (see <https://eraportal.org.mt/EraPortal/ERAeforms/account/login>), will also be integrated into this. In addition to the a Flora and Fauna app was developed in 2017 by the MESDC in collaboration with ERA and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), which also address marine species.

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

> In 2017, the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) launched the EMFF Project on Marine Environmental Monitoring on Marine Environmental Monitoring. The project, which is partially funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for 2014-2020, initiated the implementation of sustained environmental monitoring in marine waters with the aim of assessing the state of Malta's marine waters on a continuous basis and address current knowledge gaps. In this regard, a database is currently being developed, which streamlines all relevant information (including information on migratory species).

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

> In order to facilitate research works required by the ERA to reach its objectives, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a validity extending between 2017 and 2020 (with possible renewal clauses), was issued with the UoM. In this memorandum, the UoM was entrusted to conduct research on environmental matters, which matters would also be related to migratory species, and apply it to scientific and technical knowledge.

Other

>

What assistance (if any) does your country require in order to build sufficient capacity to implement its obligations under the CMS and relevant Resolutions of the COP?

(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance
- Education/training/mentoring
- Other skills development
- Provision of equipment or materials
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation
- Mobilizing volunteer effort (e.g. citizen science)
- Other

>

XIX. Resource Mobilization

(SPMS Target 16: The mobilization of adequate resources from all sources to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species effectively has increased substantially.)

During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

- Yes, made available for activities within the country
 Yes, made available for activities in one or more other countries
 No

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXIX.pdf](#) - CMS_NR_Malta_Final_SecXIX

To which particular targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

(SPMS, including targets: www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4)

> From the targets in the list "The mobilization of adequate resources from all sources to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species effectively has increased substantially" (<https://www.cms.int/en/page/t16-spwg-cv>), Malta has made contribution to the following:

- Target B - The delivery framework
- Target D - Capacity development
- Target E - Resourcing for biodiversity (including human, technical and financial resources)
- Target G - Reporting on and review of progress at national level and by governing bodies such as the CMS COP

Please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

Please select only one option

- Increased
 The same
 Decreased
 Not known

During the reporting period, has your country received financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please select the source(s) concerned (select all that apply):

- Multilateral investment bank
 The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
 Other intergovernmental programme
 Private sector
 Non-governmental organization(s)
 Individual country governments/government agencies (please specify)

>

- Other

> Besides national funding, and co-financement of some actions by the private industry, considerable EU funding has been used in relation to nature and biodiversity issues pertinent to migratory species and their habitats.

To which particular targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

(SPMS, including targets: www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4)

> • Target 1: People are aware of the multiple values of migratory species and their habitats and migration systems, and the steps they can take to conserve them and ensure the sustainability of any use.

• Target 7: Multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation of migratory species or to the functioning, integrity, ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.

• Target 8: The conservation status of all migratory species, especially threatened species, has considerably improved throughout their range.

• Target 10: All critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures so as to maintain their quality, integrity, resilience and functioning in accordance with

the implementation of Aichi Target 11, supported where necessary by environmentally sensitive land-use planning and landscape management on a wider scale.

- Target 11: Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 13: Priorities for effective conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems have been included in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with reference where relevant to CMS agreements and action plans and their implementation bodies.
- Target 15: The science base, information, training, awareness, understanding and technologies relating to migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, their value, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of their loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and effectively applied.

Which migratory species have benefited as a result of this support?

> The main species were/are turtles, seabirds and cetaceans and their habitats.

Please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring future support in your country? (Name up to three specific types of activity).

> 1) MONITORING, DATA GATHERING & ANALYSIS

Future support is required for accurate scientific monitoring. In particular, better implementation of CMS priorities could be achieved by:

- maintaining the current drive and strengthening the data and information on migratory species and species whose ecology is not understood;
- consolidating methodologies for the assessment of status, possibly also involving artificial intelligence systems;
- gathering of data for the quantification of pressures and threats, where possible;
- exploring innovative technologies for monitoring purposes, including the use of drones and software to enable rapid habitats mapping, the spotting of major habitat changes and monitoring of area coverage;
- ensuring consistent participation by stakeholders, particularly in relation to pressures data and through citizen science;
- development of standard/common indicators which can be employed at regional levels, with the collaboration of Regional Seas Conventions;
- development of thresholds for the achievement of a favourable conservation status - this particularly applies to habitats and species which are poorly understood at this stage;
- maintenance and updating of databases, including the monitoring data and other relevant data from stakeholders.

2) RESEARCH

- undertaking the necessary research, to ensure holistic monitoring programmes for both terrestrial and marine ecosystems;
- Improvement of scientific understanding on the links between levels of pressures and ecological responses, to enable appropriate policy responses.

3) IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

- Implementation of various conservation and restoration measures for marine and terrestrial ecosystems, those include, inter alia, the extension & restoration of habitat types (where applicable), the control of invasive alien species, the creation of ideal habitat and potential breeding grounds for wintering and migratory waterfowl and heron species, the protection of existing and prospected roosting sites for the bat species.

4) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

A more coordinated approach is required between Mediterranean Contracting Parties in relation to the research, surveillance and monitoring of selected species, particularly migratory fauna (e.g. sharks, rays, other migratory fish, seabirds, turtles, pinnipeds, cetaceans and selected invertebrates), but also non-migratory species showing dramatic decline throughout the region (e.g. the noble pen shell).

Please add any further comments you may wish on the implementation of specific provisions in COP Resolution 10.25 (Rev. COP12) on Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility.

> Malta is already implementing such measures, since CMS and CBD Focal Points are the same and the procedures are streamlined and integrated with the NBSAP. Moreover, as indicated in this report, various habitats and species-based projects have been and are being carried out.