

# 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):

- > 1) Under the Waddensea Flyway Initiative two projects for capacity building for the conservation and monitoring of birds along the flyway in the Western African Seaboard were implemented.
2. The Haringvliet dam is a migration barrier between the North Sea and the river Rhine. The migration route has officially been restored again with the 'Kierbesluit' on 15 November 2018. It's specifically meant to support migratory species like Eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*), salmon (*Salmo salar*) sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) and flounder (*Platichthys flesus*).
- 3) Ongoing conservation and research actions for the Yarari marine mammal and shark sanctuary (designated in september 2015) in the Caribbean Netherlands.
- 4) Ongoing increase and management of the National Nature Network in the Netherlands, which has also contributed to the establishment of migratory species like breeding Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).
- 5) Ongoing innovations and mitigation measures aimed at minimising the threats that are associated with windparks (like collision risk and underwater noise).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Yarari sanctuary for sea mammals and sharks](#)

[Room for fish near the Haringvliet sluices](#) - Elimination of migration barrier between the North Sea and the river Rhine

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

> The Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands lags behind in the implementation of the Convention if compared to the (European) Netherlands. More emphasis is needed to apply all targets in the Dutch Caribbean. Not only in the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) but also in the constituent countries within the Dutch Kingdom (Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten).

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

- > 1) Continuation of the construction of the National Nature Network (including marine Natura 2000 sites) which is due to be completed in 2027.
- 2) Implementation of Natura 2000 management plans, which will benefit migratory species. This includes the management plan for the World Heritage Site the Wadden sea an important hot spot for migratory birds.
- 3) Development and implementation of a new Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands for the period 2020- 2024.

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of Contracting Party

> Netherlands

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

> 1 November 1983

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

> No territories excluded.

### **Report compiler**

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Name and title of designated Focal Point

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### **Representative on the Scientific Council**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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](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\\_Netherlands.xlsx](#) - Appendix I species of Netherlands and Dutch Caribbean

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\\_Netherlands.xlsx](#) - Appendix II species The Netherlands and the Dutch Caribbean

## 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

> Nature areas, wild animals (among which the CMS Appendix I species) and plants in the Netherlands are protected by the Nature Conservation Act, which took effect on 1 January 2017 (This Act replaces 3 other laws: the Nature Conservancy Act 1998, the Flora and Fauna Act and the Forestry Act.).

**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).

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.

> Many (ongoing) initiatives ranging from World Migratory Bird Day to information programs on national radio and TV.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Vroege Vogels \(radio and TV\)](#) - Weekly radio program on nature (mainly Dutch nature, including migratory species) which exists since 1978. It is supported with a regular TV-program since 2007.

[BioNews](#) - BioNews is a newsletter produced by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) which focuses on science and conservation in the Dutch Caribbean. BioNews provides regular updates on science and nature projects as well as overviews of on-going research and monitoring efforts, long term projects, recent reports and publications, among others on migratory species.

[Euro Birdwatch 2018](#) - Report on the results of Euro Birdwatch 2018

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.

> Specific evidence on how successful the awareness actions on migratory species have been is difficult to give. Based on the current status and positive trend in biodiversity awareness in the Netherlands and the ongoing initiatives however, it can be concluded that awareness is relatively high and still increasing.

Government increasingly delegates the responsibility for awareness raising to NGOs, private parties and businesses and provides financial support to organise awareness raising.

Dutch NGOs are very successful in organising activities to increase public awareness and involve citizens in their

activities. Thousands of volunteers are active in nature and landscape management. The number of volunteers submitting species counts to the website [waarneming.nl](#) (but also to [trektellen.nl](#), specifically meant for migratory birds) has more than doubled in 10 years to 17,720 in 2017 and is still increasing. The number of garden bird counting participants has grown in 10 years from approx. 10,000 to more than 65,000 in 2018.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Trektellen.nl](#) - Website specifically meant to record observations on migratory bird species (citizen science)

## 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:

> Yes, for nature and natural capital in general, which includes migratory species.

Policy documents like the Natural Capital Agenda and the letter to parliament on Green Growth assume that nature and the economy need each other. Dutch government policy is to reduce the impact on biodiversity while at the same time stimulating a more efficient sustainable use of natural capital, for example through public-private collaboration to scale up natural capital approaches, the development of a national natural capital account and use of the Atlas of Natural Capital. The Atlas of Natural Capital provides information to support and encourage sustainable use of our natural capital.

The Dutch government is also in dialogue with business sectors

in the Netherlands to sign up to international corporate social responsibility covenants. These covenants aim to reduce potential risks to human rights, labour rights and environmental protection in international supply chains.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Atlas Natural Capital](#)

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:

> These values are an integral part of national reporting on the Convention of Biological Diversity as well as reporting on the Bird and Habitat Directives.

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

> - SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland (SOVON Bird Research Netherlands) coordinates both professional and volunteer experts (over 8000) and analyses the monitoring of breeding birds and migratory birds.

The Raptor Workinggroup Netherlands (Werkgroep Roofvogels Nederland) registers illegally killed raptors.

- ARK Nature is an organization that has pioneered rewilding since its founding in 1989. It's among others involved in the reintroduction of migratory fish in riverine systems and presently has a researchproject on the sturgeon.

- Naturalis (Museum of Natural History) has a database on strandings of cetaceans.

- Nature Information Foundation (Stichting Natuurinformatie) holds a database for sightings of all species in the wild. All sightings are validated by experts.

- The Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds (Vogelbescherming Nederland) runs and supports several programs and projects on migratory birds, both nationally and internationally.

- Dutch Butterfly Conservation (Vlinderstichting) coordinates the monitoring and analyses of butterflies (with the help of many volunteers in the field) among which migratory species.

- Dutch Backfin Foundation (Stichting Rugvin) coordinates and assists in monitoring of cetaceans, monthly from the Stena Line ferry and yearly in the Oosterscheld estuary.

- North Sea Foundation and WWF are active in different projects regarding the conservation of migratory species.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature Information Foundation](#) - Database for ad hoc sightings of species in the wild, validates by experts.

[Naturalis Cetacean Strandings](#) - Naturalis holds the database for the cetacean strandings in the Netherlands

[Raptor workinggroup Netherlands](#) - The Raptor workinggroup registers illegally killed raptors

[ARK Nature](#) - ARK nature is among others involved in the reintroduction of migratory fish species

Dutch Butterfly Conservation - Dutch Butterfly Conservation (Vlinderstichting) coordinates the monitoring of butterflies (with the help of many volunteers) among which migratory species.

SOVON (Bird Research Netherlands) - For more than forty years, Sovon has been active in developing and expanding a monitoring network to account for all the wild bird species in the Netherlands. The dataset is based on the observations of more than 8,000 volunteers and trained field biologists.

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

> The Green Deals programma is one of the main initiatives to involve the private sector in biodiversity conservation. This mainly concerns biodiversity in general, which also benefits migratory species.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Green Deals - A Green Deal is a mutual agreement or covenant under private law between a coalition of companies, civil society organizations and local and regional government. The deal defines the innovative initiative and the actions involved as clearly as possible (in quantitative aims or output, if possible) and it defines the input by the participants involved as clearly as possible.

## 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:

>

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

>

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](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:

> A process has been initiated to review the Harbor Porpoise Conservation Plan of 2011. Stakeholders are also involved in this review.

The Wind Energy at Sea Ecological Programme (WOZEP) has been developed to investigate and minimize the effects of (the construction of) wind turbines on migratory species, such as birds, marine mammals and bats. Formerly established committees exist like the National Ramsar Committee (NRC), with representatives of the national government, conservation NGO's and research. The NRC meets 2-3 times annually to discuss issues which concern the Ramsar Convention e.g. the conservation of wetlands of international importance. In the Netherlands this mainly concerns the conservation of migratory waterbirds which addresses the implementation of CMS and its African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

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:

> Several focal points work at the same ministry or are themselves focal point for several conventions. Besides that they are supported in national reporting by the same experts from Wageningen University and Research. This stimulates a coordinated and synergistic approach.

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:

> The National Nature Vision places the emphasis on social involvement. The government strives for a nature "that intertwines society and that is supported by the commitment of citizens, companies and private organizations". According to the government's vision, this involvement will not only benefit the socially valued nature, but also biodiversity and the associated national and international goals.

Biodiversity indicators that are used for international reports and policy evaluations, for instance are co-created with monitoring data (including migratory species) collected by volunteers. Specialized private data management organizations coordinate this monitoring, the data of which is collected by more than 15,000 volunteers (website NEM).

To this end, the central government is working with the provinces on a social implementation agenda. The agenda consists of initiatives from different types of activities of companies, citizens and organizations that contribute to the ambitions of the nature vision. The government supports these initiatives by, for example, making knowledge and experience available, removing barriers, unlocking networks and making pilots possible. The Ministry of LNV, for example, supports the manifesto 'The power of the green volunteer' together with the provinces. The manifesto is an initiative of the green volunteer organizations SoortenNL, IVN Natuureducatie, LandscapesNL and BoerenNatuur. With the signing of the Manifesto, a process starts in which an impulse is given to the existing infrastructure for green volunteers and where it is further strengthened, expanded and modernized.

## 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.

>

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

> While there have been positive developments, such as greener taxation and tax incentives for sustainable livestock housing systems (which may benefit species habitat), important incentives harmful to biodiversity, such as the low rate of VAT on milk, meat and kerosene, have not been phased out or reformed.

The Netherlands puts a high priority on greening the EU common policies on agriculture and fisheries to eliminate, phase out

or reform incentives that are harmful to biodiversity and introduce positive incentives.

## 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

> Measures are being taken to make consumption and production in relevant sectors like agriculture, forestry and fisheries more

sustainable. The aim of the Natural Capital Agenda is sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry by 2020. Under the policy for a circular economy, the transition agenda on biomass and food was launched in 2018. This agenda includes promoting more sustainable and healthy consumption patterns, especially for food products.

Market-wide agreements are needed at a European level to stimulate sustainable trade and to create a level playing field between Member States.

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

> Governments, businesses and stakeholders at all levels are taking steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption.

The market shares of a number of biotic natural resources imported into the Netherlands with a sustainability label have

increased substantially in recent decades.

Organic farming is considered a promising strategy for making agricultural and horticultural production more sustainable. In

2017, just 3.1% of all Dutch farmland was under organic farming. In comparison with other European countries, the organic

farming sector in our country is small, but it is growing. Between 2011 and 2018, the area under organic farming increased by

19% from 47,000 to 58,000 ha. This growth mainly took place in the area of grassland (23%) and open field horticulture (61%). In 2017 the organic farming area was 3% larger than in the previous year.

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.

>

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	Mainly birds of prey (App. II)	3
Legal hunting	Mallard, Wigeon, Mute Swan and several geese species (App. II)	3
Other harvesting and take	European Eel (App. II)	3
Illegal trade	songbirds	3
Deliberate poisoning	mainly birds of prey	3

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://>

#### 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	European Eel (App. II) and the Harbour Porpoise (App II)	3 & 2

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Catch ban European Eel](#) - Bycatch of European Eel in fish traps must be released.

#### 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	herons, owls, sandpipers, snipes, lapwings (App. II)	2
Wind turbines	birds of prey, herons, plovers, gulls, terns, ducks and bats ( <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> , <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> , <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> , <i>Vespertilio murinus</i> ) (App. II)	2
Other collisions		

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Vulnerable species for energy infrastructure in the Netherlands (in Dutch: Kwetsbare soorten voor energie-infrastructuur in Nederland) - Overview of the effects of renewable energy infrastructure and power lines on the vulnerable species of birds, bats, marine mammals and fish, and possible solutions for a nature-inclusive energy transition.

#### Other mortality

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Predation	meadowbirds (App. II)	1
Disease		3
Accidental/indirect poisoning		3
Unexplained stranding events		3

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Farmland birds and predation (in Dutch: Boerenlandvogels en predatie) - An update of present knowledge

#### Alien and/or invasive species

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

#### Disturbance and disruption

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	breeding birds (App. II)	2
Light pollution		2
Underwater noise	marine mammals (mainly App. II)	2

#### Habitat destruction/degradation

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	many species (a.o. urbanisation, but also transformation from forests to heath)	2
Habitat degradation	many species (mainly due to nitrogen load)	1
Mineral exploration/extraction		3
Unsustainable land/resource use	many species (mainly due to unsustainable agriculture practices)	1
Urbanization	many species	1

Marine debris (including plastics)		3
Other pollution		3
Too much/too little water	many species	2
Fire		3
Physical barriers	migratory fish species	1

### Climate change

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

### Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

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

### Other (please specify)

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

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).

- > - 2016: start of Wind Energy at Sea Ecological Programme (WOZEP); research programme to investigate and minimize effects of wind at sea on marine mammals, birds and bats
- April 2018: Early warning system windturbine park in Eemshaven Groningen
- May 2017: Silent piling innovation protects marine wildlife.
- November 2018: Kierbesluit in operation with the aim to promote the international fish migration and to improve the biodiversity.
- November 2018: Vision of the Ministry of LNV, towards a circular (more sustainable) agriculture.
- May 2019: the Dutch Council of State decided that the Programmatic Approach Nitrogen (PAS) may not be used anymore as a basis for permission for activities (activities that lead to emission of nitrogen which leads to habitat degradation).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Offshore Windparks](#) - Information on offshore windenergy

[Stilstandsvoorziening windturbines Eemshaven \(April 2018\)](#) - Early warning system windturbines protects thousands of

migratory birds and bats in Eemshaven, Groningen province.

Vision towards a circular agriculture in the Netherlands (November 2018). - Agriculture, nature and food: valuable and connected - The Netherlands as a leader in circular agriculture

Kierbesluit' in operation (November 2018) - The aim of the 'Kierbesluit' is to promote the international fish migration and to improve the biodiversity. By opening the door of the Haringvliet sluices regularly, migrating fish like salmon and sea trout can swim inside to spawn.

Silent piling innovation protects marine wildlife (May 2017) - Silent piling innovation protects marine wildlife

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

> The considered impacts of climate change, like the long drought period of summer 2018, may turn out to be one of those trends that have a significant negative trend on nature.

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:

>

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.

>

## 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)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[North Sea Cetacean Special \(2018\)](#) - Journal of the Dutch Mammal Society

#### Aquatic mammals

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
		North Sea Cetacean Special (Dutch Mammal Society, 2018)	increasing (past years, decades)	Humpback whale (App. I <i>Magaptera novaeangliae</i> )
		North Sea Cetacean Special (Dutch Mammal Society, 2018)	increasing (past years, decades)	Sperm Whale (App. I <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> )
		North Sea Cetacean Special (Dutch Mammal Society, 2018)	increasing (past years, decades)	Harbour porpoise (App. II <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> )

#### Bats

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
		Dutch Mammal Society	formerly extinct (recorded again in May 2017)	Barbastella barbastellus (App. II)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Western Barbastelle back in the Netherlands \(May 2017\)](#) - Western Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) back in the

Birds

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	The species has been breeding in the Netherlands in 2017 (4 young), 2018 (0) and 2019 (6).	SOVON	new breeding bird in 2017, 2018, 2019.	Circus macrourus (App. II)
	yearly breeding succes since 2016	SOVON	new annual breeding bird since 2016	Pandion haliaetus (App. II)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Voor het eerst visarend geringd in Nederland - First ringed Osprey in the Netherlands.

Another successful breeding pair of the Pallid Harrier - Pallid Harrier breeding in the Netherlands in three cosecutive years (2017-2019)

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](http://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:

> - The legal obligations of the EU Birdsdirective and Habitatsdirective and the management of EU Natura 2000 sites, specifically designated for migratory (water)birds, bats, fish and other migratory species can be considered a concerted action between (EU) range states, and has generally benefited the conservation status of the species concerned (the conservation status will be reported by the end of 2019 and is not available yet).

- De Groen Blauwe Rijn Alliantie (GBRA - Green Blue Rhine Alliance) has been nominated by the RegioStars Public Choice Award of the European Commission. Dutch and German organisations cooperate in the GBRA in the field of water and nature. among others by realising cross-border corridors for migratory fish and otters.

- The Atlantic Sturgeons from a breeding centre in France have been reintroduced in the Dutch rivers since 2012.

- From November 20-24th, 2017 a group of international shark experts gathered at Captain Don's Habitat on Bonaire to discuss measures for the international protection of sharks. Countries ranging from the Philippines to Saudi Arabia, from the United States to Australia and from Costa Rica to Chile have sent experts to Bonaire for an advisory meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Reintroduction of the Atlantic Sturgeon](#) - The Atlantic Sturgeon has been reintroduced in the Dutch rivers since 2012.

[Green Blue Rhine Alliance](#) - The Green Blue Rhine Alliance is a cooperation between the Netherlands and Germany aimed at the conservation of the river Rhine and its species, like migratory fish (sturgeon, salmon, lamprey etc.).

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:

- > - The Wadden Sea is of crucial importance for migratory (birds species) in the African-Eurasian Flyway. Since 1978, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark have cooperated to protect the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity in the so-called Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.
- The Netherlands - Society for the protection of birds cooperates with birdlife partners in countries along the African-Eurasian Flyway, as well as with birdlife partners in other flyways, like the Caribbean.
- Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire cooperates with international partners, like within the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)
- The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) works closely with partner organisations inside and outside of the Dutch Caribbean.
- The Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality signed Memoranda of Understanding with France and the USA for the EEZ of the Caribbean Netherlands and the Yarari sanctuary for the protection of sea mammals and sharks.
- From November 20-24th, 2017 a group of international shark experts gathered at Captain Don's Habitat on Bonaire to discuss measures for the international protection of sharks. Countries ranging from the Philippines to Saudi Arabia, from the United States to Australia and from Costa Rica to Chile have sent experts to Bonaire for an advisory meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

International meeting on protection of sharks - From November 20-24th, 2017 a group of international shark experts gathered at Captain Don's Habitat on Bonaire to discuss measures for the international protection of sharks. Countries ranging from the Philippines to Saudi Arabia, from the United States to Australia and from Costa Rica to Chile have sent experts to Bonaire for an advisory meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

International Cooperation DCNA - The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) works closely with partner organisations inside and outside of the Dutch Caribbean.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire cooperates with several international partners, like within the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)

International cooperation of the Netherlands - Society for the protection of birds - The Netherlands - Society for the protection of birds cooperates with birdlife partners in countries along the African-Eurasian Flyway, as well as with birdlife partners in other flyways, like the Caribbean.

Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation - Pallid Harrier breeding in the Netherlands in three consecutive years (2017-2019)

### 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?

> - These habitats have been identified under the Birds and Habitats Directives. Natura 2000 sites have been designated and management plans implemented for the species concerned, among which many migratory species.

- Main gaps and priorities are situated in the Dutch Caribbean where there is still a substantial knowledge gap in the inventory and monitoring of species and the assessment of relevant critical habitats. Projects are implemented to catch-up like citizen science in the Yarari shark and sea mammal sanctuary.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Yarari marine mammal & shark sanctuary](#)

[Citizen Science in the Yarari shark and sea mammal sanctuary \(2019\)](#) - Visitors to the Yarari Reserve for sharks and marine mammals can now register their observations

[State of Nature Caribbean Netherlands 2017 \(in Dutch\)](#) - First assessment of the state of nature in the Caribbean Netherlands (2017)

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:

> - EU member states are obliged to report about the conservation status of Birds and Habitats Directive species for which Natura 2000 sites have been designated. The National reports will be submitted in 2019.

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:

>

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

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

> The Bird and Habitat Directives require an assessment of the conservation status of the (migratory) species concerned. Species monitoring is part of the management plan of protected areas, like Natura 2000 sites.

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:

> In 2017 agri-environment measures were taken on 83,000 ha outside the national ecological network. This will benefit many migratory waterbird species which rely on Farmland for breeding, feeding and wintering.

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.

> - The national ecological network (NEN) is the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation in the Netherlands.

The NEN is a network of natural and semi-natural habitat and agricultural land

earmarked for conversion to nature. Under the Nature Pact agreement, the provinces will strengthen the NEN by creating

at least 80,000 ha of new nature between 2011 and 2027.

- From November 20-24th, 2017 a group of international shark experts gathered at Captain Don's Habitat on Bonaire to discuss measures for the international protection of sharks. Countries ranging from the Philippines to Saudi Arabia, from the United States to Australia and from Costa Rica to Chile have sent experts to Bonaire for an advisory meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

-

## 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):

> - Studies on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for the Caribbean Netherlands and Aruba.  
- The Dutch ministries of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality and Infrastructure & Water Management have asked

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and Wageningen University and Research (WUR) to develop a national natural capital

account based on the UN SEEA EEA framework. A first full account will be ready in 2019.

- One of the actions of the Natural Capital Agenda is the development of the digital Atlas of Natural Capital (ANK) in the Netherlands. The Atlas provides information and tools to help map our natural capital, use it sustainably and find appropriate solutions, especially for the long term. The Atlas contains information about natural capital, ecosystem services and related concepts, and inspirational examples. The maps include information that can be used when taking decisions that affect the human environment at site level.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Atlas Natural Capital](#) - The Atlas of Natural Capital (ANK) aids in providing tools for policy and society, and will help to find appropriate solutions, especially on the long-term.

[TEEB Aruba](#) - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Aruba.

[The value of nature in the Caribbean Netherlands](#) - By assigning economic values to the main ecosystem services of the Caribbean

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

>

## 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

>

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[http://](#)

Reintroduction Atlantic Sturgeon - 2014/2015 reintroduction of Atlantic Sturgeons (*Acipenser sturio*) in the river Rhine since 2012. Specimen originate from a breeding centre in France.

## 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

> The relevant conventions, directives and agreements have been implemented in national policy and legislation, including the policy documents Natural Capital Agenda (NCA, 2013) and the national nature vision The Natural Way Forward – Government Vision 2014 (NV), and since the decentralisation of nature policy in the provincial Nature Visions (PVs) and in the Nature Pact (NP, 2013), the agreement between the Dutch government and the provinces on the implementation of Dutch nature policy.; The Netherlands has a shark and ray recovery action plan 2015–2021 under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.; The 2016 Marine Mammal Action Plan prepared by Aruba Marine Mammal; The new NBSAP for the Caribbean Netherlands is currently under construction. In 2019 the Harvor Porpoise conservation plan of 2011 will be updated.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Nature Vision](#) - Nature policy Netherlands untill 2025

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

> In the NBSAP's the following objectives are related to migratory species:

- protect and improve the conservation status of species; (NV, NP, PVs);
- improve environmental conditions in pursuit of the goals set by the Birds and Habitats Directives (NV, NP, PVs);
- improve spatial conditions by creating a robust national ecological network and measures to remove obstacles for migratory fish (NV, NP, PVs).

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

> Much has been achieved with the Caribbean Netherlands Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017, but none of the actions can be regarded achieved yet. Follow-up actions will be integrated in the follow-up action plan. NBSAP's for the Caribbean islands of Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten, constituent countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, do not exist.

## **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).

> The Netherlands has no indigenous peoples or local communities within its borders. It can, however, substantially affect indigenous and local communities beyond its borders through international cooperation, foreign policy and policies on sustainable trade. Specific policy on indigenous peoples however dates back to 1993 and has not been reviewed since. The Netherlands ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO Convention 169) in 1998 and voted in favour of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007, but

no specific policies have been developed to support its implementation. The Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIV) was an NGO that supported the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide since 1969, but is no longer active. Other Dutch NGOs, such as Both ENDS, take action for people elsewhere in the

world.

## **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**

> Among others:

Nature Education in the Dutch Caribbean.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Natura education Dutch Caribbean](#) - Nature education initiatives on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten

#### **Public awareness campaigns**

> The annual Dutch Caribbean Shark Week in 2018 took place from 9-17 June on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten and in the Netherlands. An abundance of well-attended activities highlighted the importance of sharks for our oceans, and the threats they face.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Annual Dutch Caribbean Shark Week](#) - The annual Dutch Caribbean Shark Week in 2019 took place from 9-17 June on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten and in the Netherlands. An abundance of well-attended activities highlighted the importance of sharks for our oceans, and the threats they face.

#### **Capacity building**

> Among others:

Private data-collecting organisations (PGOs) carry out the monitoring of migratory species with thousands of volunteers, who are trained by the PGOs.

The Netherlands - society for the protection of birds cooperates with international Birdlife partners along the African-Eurasean Flyway (and other flyways) in the protection of migratory species (e.g. on the job training).

#### **Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives**

> The Netherlands has a long history in environmental research and biodiversity monitoring. We present some important platforms for sharing knowledge and information below (no new but ongoing initiatives).

The Knowledge Network for Restoration and Management of Nature in the Netherlands (OBN) is an independent and innovative platform in which management, policy and science work together on nature restoration and conservation management. OBN develops and disseminates knowledge on the restoration and management of nature and is an important partner for everyone involved in forest, nature and landscape management. This knowledge is made publicly available on a website. <https://www.natuurkennis.nl/>

The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), in cooperation with scientific institutes and NGOs, periodically reports on the status and trends in nature, biodiversity and other environmental issues in the Netherlands. This is a statutory requirement under the Nature Conservation Act. Dutch nature policy is significantly influenced by the content of these reports

and the information is widely available. The Dutch language website includes hundreds of indicators on nature and the environment ([www.clo.nl](http://www.clo.nl)).

The Atlas of Natural Capital (ANK) is an initiative which supports the development of information tools for policy and society to treat our natural capital sustainably and to find appropriate solutions, especially for the long term. It provides information about natural capital and ecosystem services, related concepts and

inspirational examples. Maps contain information that can be used when taking decisions that affect the human environment at site level. <http://www.atlasnatuurlijkkapitaal.nl/home>

The Critical Site Network Tool 2.0 was developed under the framework of the Climate Resilient Site Network in the African-Eurasian Flyway project. This project is supported by the International Climate Initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The original version of the Critical Site Network Tool was developed under the Wings over Wetlands project by BirdLife International, Wetlands International (Wageningen, The Netherlands) an UNEP-WCMC to support the implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Critical Site Network Tool 2.0](#) - The Critical Site Network Tool 2.0 has been developed by multiple (also non-Dutch) partners to support the implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

[Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database](#) - Central repository for biodiversity related research and monitoring data from the Dutch Caribbean.

[Atlas of Natural Capital](#) - The Atlas of Natural Capital (ANK) supports the development of information tools for policy and society to treat our natural capital sustainably and to find appropriate solutions, especially for the long term.

[Environmental Data Compendium](#) - Environmental Data Compendium

[OBN Knowledge Network](#) - In the OBN Knowledge Network, researchers, conservation site managers, universities, consultancies, NGO's and governmental bodies, such as provinces and water boards, closely cooperate to restore ecosystems and nature reserves.

### **Capacity assessments/gap analyses**

> Among others:

The State of Nature Caribbean Netherlands 2017 (in Dutch) describes the gaps in knowledge, capacity and resources.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[State of Nature Caribbean Netherlands 2018](#)

### **Agreements at policy level on research priorities**

> Wageningen University & Research supports the government in the implementation of laws and regulations that are needed for safe food and healthy animals, and to guarantee a sustainable environment. This is set out in an agreement called the 'WOT statute'.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Statutory Research Tasks](#) - Wageningen University & Research supports the government in the implementation of laws and regulations that are needed for safe food and healthy animals, and to guarantee a sustainable environment. This is set out in an agreement called the 'WOT statute'.

### **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

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](http://www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4))

> It actually contributed to all 16 targets, though more emphasis is needed to eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to migratory species, and/or their habitats (Target 4). Besides that there is more emphasis needed to apply all targets in the Dutch Caribbean. Not only in the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) but also in the constituent countries within the Dutch Kingdom (Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten).

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

>

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](http://www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4))

>

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

>

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).

> - Finalise the National Ecological Network (NEN) including mitigating or removal of barriers for migratory fish species

- Implementation of Natura 2000 management plans, which will benefit migratory species.
- Development and implementation of a new Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands.

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.

>