



CMS

2022 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: 26 April 2023

Reporting period: from February 2020 to April 2023

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 13.14 requested the Secretariat to develop a proposal to be submitted for the approval of the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (StC52) for a revision of the format for the national reports to be submitted to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently. The new format was adopted by StC52 in October 2021 and made available as an offline version downloadable from the CMS website also in October 2021. The 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 StC52. In addition, as requested by StC52, 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 several guidance documents 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). As requested by different COP13 Decisions, additional guidance is also provided in separate documents on how to report on the implementation of actions to address the impact of climate change and infrastructure development on migratory species, actions to address connectivity in the conservation of migratory species, and actions concerning flyways.

For any question, please contact Mr. Aydin Bahramlouian, Public Information Officer, aydin.bahramlouian@un.org

NOTICE: Before clicking on the hyperlinks in this questionnaire, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

Note: These reporting processes of other relevant intergovernmental frameworks are examples of information resources to be used when filling out this national report, which may assist in identification and strengthening of synergies among these processes. This list is **not** exhaustive. There are many other sources of information that may also be of relevance for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems.

High-level summary of key messages

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

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise 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 “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2018 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds” rather than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles” rather than just “lack of funding”.

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

>>> The UK is a range state for a number of migratory species, both within the metropolitan UK itself but also the UK Overseas Territories. Improving our understanding of the state of migratory species, their movement, and the threats facing them is crucial to assist evidence-based decisions taken to conserve them at local and global scales. For these reasons the UK has provided financial assistance over the past three years for various CMS Work Program activities, including The State of the World’s Migratory Species Report, and a review on the impact of climate change on migratory species. Additionally, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has hosted four internships during this reporting period to support various CMS Decisions.

In 2021, the Environment Act was passed into UK law. It includes a new legally binding target on species abundance for 2030. Through the Act, we will clean up the country’s air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources. It will halt the decline in species by 2030 and require new developments to improve or create habitats for nature. These changes will be driven by new legally binding environmental targets, and enforced by a new, independent Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) which will hold government and public bodies to account on their environmental obligations. The UK Government’s National Planning Policy Framework embeds sustainable development in planning policy in England and sets out how the planning system contributes to this. In 2018, the National Planning Policy Framework was amended to strengthen both the protection for irreplaceable habitats and to make clear that developments should provide biodiversity net gain, promoting the conversion, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats. The framework states plans should recognise the wider value of ecosystem services in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>).

The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature and reduce environmental pollution.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan>

The new Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 has introduced strengthened provisions for the protection of wildlife and migratory species including the protection of breeding sites and resting sites and the provision for designation of Areas of Special protection to protect species during critical times in their life cycle.

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

>>> The limited capacity and resources available to our Overseas Territories in implementing the convention.

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

>>>

I. Administrative Information

Name of Contracting Party

>>> United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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

>>> 01.10.1985

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> Anguilla, British Antarctic Territory

Report compiler

Name and title

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Full name of institution

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Designated CMS National Focal Point

Name and title of designated Focal Point

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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:

>>> Table below updated to reflect current participation in Agreements/MOUs

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

Please select only one per line

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

There are cases where it may be difficult to determine what a “normal” migration route is, and for example to distinguish this from aberrant or vagrant occurrences. As per **Decision 13.140**, the Scientific Council has been requested to develop a practical guidance and interpretations of the terms ‘Range State’ and ‘vagrant’. In the meantime, if in doubt, please make the interpretation that you think will best serve the wider aims of the Convention. Feel free to consult the Secretariat in this regard.

A note on the application of the Convention to Overseas Territories/Autonomous Regions of Parties is found **here**. References 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 list is correct (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments regarding individual species)
- No, amendments are needed, and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (in the file, please select all the species that apply, including the source of information supporting the change, and upload the amended file using the attachment button):

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix I United Kingdom updated.xlsx](#) - Appendix I updates

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: Please consider the guidance tip in question III.1 concerning the interpretation of “Range State”.

Please select only one option

- Yes, the list is correct (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments regarding 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 United Kingdom updated.xlsx](#) - Appendix II updates

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

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/6/contents/enacted>

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (in England and Wales)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1985/171/contents>

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (England and Wales)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23#:~:text=An%20Act%20to%20make%20provision,enable%20the%20making%20of%20Assembly>

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/5/contents>

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003 fully protects the following CMS-listed species within Bermuda's EEZ: Bermuda petrel, green turtle, hawksbill turtle, leatherback turtle, Kemp's Ridley turtle, loggerhead turtle, European eel, Manta Ray, whale shark, humpback whale and sperm whale. The Bermuda Fisheries Act 1972 now fully protects all species of shark, except *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, *Mustelus canis insularis*, *Hexanchus griseus*, in Bermuda's EEZ.

<https://www.gov.bm/bermudas-protected-species>

Falkland Islands:

All Appendix 1 species are protected under the FI Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999. This prohibits the taking of all Appendix 1 species. <https://legislation.gov.fk/view/html/inforce/2023-03-13/fiord-1999-10>

Gibraltar:

Relevant instrument is the Nature Protection Act 1991

<https://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/legislations/nature-protection-act-1991-977>

Pitcairn:

Pitcairn Endangered Species Protection Ordinance (Revised 2004)

<http://www.pitcairn.pn/Laws/Endangered%20Species%20Protection%20Ordinance.pdf>

Pitcairn Marine Protected Area Ordinance 2016 (revised 2017)

<http://www.pitcairn.pn/Laws/Revised%20Laws%20of%20Pitcairn,%20Henderson,%20Ducie%20and%20Oeno%20Islands,%202017%20Rev.%20Ed.%20-%20Volume%202.pdf>

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands:

Wildlife and Protected Area Ordinance 2011

Marine Protected Area Order 2013

Specially Protected Areas Order 2022

<https://laws.gov.gs/ordinances/>

St Helena:

All four cetacean species (sperm whale, *Physeter microcephalus*, humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*, northern right whale *Eubalaena glacialis* and sei whale *Eubalaena australis*) in St. Helena's waters are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Environmental-Protection-Ordinance.pdf>

Cyprus SBAs:

The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (26/2007)

https://sbaadministration.org/home/legislation/01_02_09_05_ORDINANCES/01_02_09_05_48_ORD_2007/20070101_Ord-26_G1474_u.pdf

The Game and Wild Birds Ordinance (21/2008)

https://www.sbaadministration.org/home/legislation/01_02_09_05_ORDINANCES/01_02_09_05_49_ORD_2008/20080101_Ord-21_G1521_u.pdf

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

All vertebrates are protected in the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2012, excluding those caught in the normal course of fishing or on the game list. Protection of fish species is controlled by the Fishing Ordinance,

1977.

<https://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?documentid=57484>

Game animal list:

<https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=102182&p=0#:~:text=capture%20and%20killing%20of%20the,Eurasian%20woodcock%20or%20common%20snipe.>

Fishing ordinance:

<https://guernseylegalresources.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?documentid=80655>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021

<https://www.jerseylaw.je/laws/current/Pages/02.950.aspx>

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate individual cases and provide details of the circumstances in the Excel file linked 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 TIP:

Parties are requested to provide specific information on cases wherein an exception has been granted during the reporting period. This would not include information on what exceptions might be theoretically possible or exceptions that occurred before the reporting period. 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 the table, 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”. Therefore, please 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 consider consulting reports submitted to CITES that may be relevant when answering this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section IV exceptions UKOTs.xlsx](#) - Exceptions for TCI and BVI

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

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>>

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 update existing legislation or 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 provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

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 update existing legislation or 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 provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

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 update existing legislation or 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 provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Unknown

Please provide information on the circumstances of the taking(s), including where possible any future plans in respect of such taking(s)

>>>

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.)

Please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country during the reporting period 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)

GUIDANCE TIP:

Awareness raising that demonstrates work towards achieving Target 1 may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolutions **11.8 (Rev.COP12)** (Communication, information and outreach plan), **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions **13.6** (Insect Decline), **12.6** (Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **12.21** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), **11.16 (Rev.COP13)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), **11.31** (Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences within and beyond Borders), **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog) and Decision **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species).

- 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.

>>> Campaigns on specific topics:

Metropolitan UK:

The British Association for Shooting & Conservation, following a request by Defra, implemented a moratorium on the shooting of Greenland white-fronted goose in Northern England with the participation of hunters in the region. This was following the success of the Dyfi Greenland white-fronted goose moratorium which had been in place since 1972, and the later All Wales moratorium prior to the removal of Greenland white-fronted goose from the list of huntable species in 2020.

The work of the Wildlife & Countryside Link Coalition, alongside government and its agencies, highlight the importance and value of British wildlife (including migratory species), as well as the need for improved wildlife protection and more robust approaches to combat wildlife crime <https://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife-crime.asp>.

There are several codes of conduct throughout the UK setting out guidelines for interactions with marine mammals.

Defra developed the first national Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code to provide overarching guidance on how to act responsibly around marine wildlife when visiting the coast. This was published in May 2023.

In 2022 Defra launched the 'Give Seals Space' campaign with the Seal Research Trust to raise awareness on how to help protect seals from disturbance.

Various non-governmental campaigns have also been published such as the current 'Rude to Intrude' campaign led by WDC, aimed at reducing marine mammal disturbance <https://www.wcl.org.uk/we-all-need-our-personal-space-so-do-whales-and-dolphins-its-rudetointrude.asp> and a longer video that highlights how to recognise and report disturbance of whales and dolphins. More information at:

<https://uk.whales.org/our-4-goals/create-healthy-seas/watch-out-for-dolphins-when-you-are-on-the-water/>

Several codes of conduct for observing basking sharks are available (e.g. <https://www.sharktrust.org/basking-shark-project> which target boat handlers and others and are designed to reduce the risk of killing, injury or harassment. Greater awareness of basking sharks amongst the public has been achieved through the

production of posters and educational booklets and through educational material distributed to fishers by Cefas to help distinguish different types of rays.

The UK Turtle Code provides advice to sea users on how to deal with marine turtle encounters and is advocated by the UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCB) and NGO partners:
<https://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/wildlife/turtlecode.pdf>.

The Scottish Government has been leading on the development of the UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy, which aims to ensure that appropriate management is in place to respond to new and emerging pressures affecting cetaceans in UK waters and help to maintain their favourable conservation status. One proposed action of the strategy is to establish approaches to manage wildlife tourism. UK dolphin and porpoise conservation strategy: consultation - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

In 2022, the UK Government and Devolved Administrations published the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative. This sets out how we will work collaboratively with the fishing industry and other stakeholders to minimise and, where possible, eliminate the bycatch of sensitive marine species.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-wildlife-bycatch-mitigation-initiative/marine-wildlife-bycatch-mitigation-initiative>

Operation turtle dove Streptopelia turtur partnership (<http://www.operationturtledove.org/>) highlights the plight of this trans-Saharan migrant to land managers and other stakeholders. The turtle dove is UK's fastest declining breeding bird and the work highlights agricultural intensification and hunting as two of the key drivers of decline on its western flyway, alongside loss of suitable habitat and disease.

In a project to understand the origins of Eurasian woodcock wintering in the UK and raise awareness of their migration, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) has placed satellite tags on over 80 woodcocks and highlighted their migration routes through the public-facing website <https://www.woodcockwatch.com>. This included Phynodderie from the Isle of Man, supported by the Manx Game Preservation Society. In addition, the GWCT has produced a Woodcock Factsheet available for download from its website at

<https://www.gwct.org.uk/media/552832/Woodcock-fact-sheet.pdf>, and provided guidance on ensuring that the shooting of Eurasian woodcock in the UK is sustainable at <https://www.gwct.org.uk/policy/position-statements/shooting-woodcock/>.

To protect the UK's 42 seabird island Special Protection Areas (SPAs), NatureScot, Natural England, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales are contributing funding for the RSPB's Biosecurity for Life programme which seeks to address the need for biosecurity measures through the removal of introduced predatory mammals. The programme concludes in July 2023. A key component of Biosecurity for LIFE is education and awareness raising for the public on biosecurity best practice. RSPB are coordinating the development of the AfterLIFE plan to continue implementation of biosecurity measures to support the UK's seabird islands. AfterLIFE funding has been confirmed for Scotland, Wales and England, and planning for a handover from the project continues in preparation for the new projects, which will start in May 2023.

Wales:

The Angel Shark Project:Wales (ASP:W) was launched in 2018 and seeks to safeguard the angelshark, *Squatina squatina*, one of the world's rarest sharks, through the participation of fishermen, heritage and citizen-science. The project is a collaboration between the Zoological Society of London and Natural Resources Wales, funded by Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery Fund. Following widespread global decline over the past 100 years, it is hoped that action in Welsh waters for the critically endangered angelsharks can better understand and safeguard the species. This multidisciplinary project is focused around a series of broad outcomes that include communicating the status and importance of angelshark and their conservation; community, citizen science and data collection by fishermen; production of an information leaflet and best-practice handling guide to improve caught angelshark survival; and the production of the Wales Angel Shark Action Plan. In March 2023 and building on the success of ASP:W the project secured Heritage Lottery Nature Networks Fund 2 funding for a further 3 years under the umbrella Project SIARC (Sharks Inspiring Action and Research with Communities) with a focus on continuing the work on angelsharks as well as five other elasmobranch species of conservation importance; tope (*Galeorhinus galeus*), spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), stingray (*Dasyatis Pastinaca*), Blue Skate (*Dipturus batis*) and Flapper Skate (*Dipturus intermedius*). The project is jointly led by Zoological Society of London and Natural Resources Wales, and 13 collaborator organisations.

A consortium of organisations have jointly published regional good practice guidance to promote sustainable marine recreation.

Scotland:

The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (SMWWC) <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-coasts-and-seas/scottish-marine-wildlife-watching-code> (2006), revised in 2017 aims to minimise disturbance to marine wildlife, including cetaceans, seals, basking sharks, birds, otters and turtles.

The Scottish Entanglement Alliance <http://www.scottishentanglement.org>, funded through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), aims to engage with the Scottish inshore fishing industry to better understand the incidence of marine animal entanglements and develop mitigation strategies. The project has produced materials for marine users to raise awareness of entanglement and a best practice guide for fishermen.

Northern Ireland:

Northern Ireland have published guidance for coastal users which aims to educate users on how to behave

responsibly at the coast and around wildlife.

Isle of Man:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has marked World Migratory Bird Day with media releases relating to waterbirds and to the work of the Calf of Man Bird Observatory.

The government has issued an Isle of Man Coastal Code and use of the Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus* Code. It has supported WiSe accreditation courses for boat operators to help minimise disturbance (<https://www.wisescheme.org/>).

The Fishing for Litter Scheme was relaunched, with bags provided to fishing boats for litter collection, buckets for the collection of net mending waste and a bin collection for the waste. Fishermen engaged with schools on the interesting items of waste that they have found on the seabed, to link up onshore waste and marine litter. Benthic trawled areas are now largely free of such waste and the bin collection has been closed off as no longer necessary.

Bermuda:

General turtle alert signs and public awareness campaigns have been used to make boat operators aware that they should move slowly in turtle habitats. The Bermuda Turtle Project has released a number of news articles, held public lectures and published a scientific article (Meylan et al 2022 Marine Biology) documenting the changes in the green turtle's population around Bermuda.

Whale watching guidelines to ensure boats do not disturb migrating humpback whales were developed by the Bermuda Government. They were featured in a campaign of newspaper ads, social media articles and newsletters in 2019, 2021, 2022.

<https://environment.bm/whale-watching-guidelines?rq=whale%20>

British Virgin Islands:

The British Virgin Islands has annual Marine Awareness for Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles. As the yachting capital of the world, boaters are encouraged to report whale sightings during the migration season.

Educational lectures on Sea Turtles are given at the schools. Copies of the Marine Awareness Guide are provided to all charter companies and schools in hard copy and it is available online for the general public to access. <https://issuu.com/alookingglass/docs/bvmarineawareness>

Cyprus SBAs:

Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus* awareness campaigns (and clarification to various stakeholders on what is prohibited by legislation) as well as enforcement actions are conducted. Education and awareness raising is conducted for the ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca* and red-footed falcon *Falco vespertinus*.

St. Helena:

During marine awareness week there are information displays, marine related activities, radio quizzes, game night and marine facts in local newspapers. The 'St Helena Whale Shark app' is a citizen science initiative aimed at improving data collection on Bone Sharks and other marine megafauna around St Helena's waters.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The countryside respect campaign is a biannual campaign run by Government of Jersey with the support from the Jersey National Park and other members from the Jersey Access Providers (JASP) group. The campaign aims to ensure people enjoy Jersey's unique countryside whilst being respectful to the plants and animals which also call it home. In January and February 2023, the campaign targeted the disturbance of wild birds across Jersey. Through this campaign, the public were reminded to respect, protect and enjoy Jersey's countryside by remembering to "enjoy this place, but give the birds their space." The message was promoted via digital leaflets, posters and social media posts.

The island-wide Eco-active programme launched in 2006 has continued to grow from a simple public awareness campaign into a suite of tailored programmes and outreach work across government, schools, businesses and the community. It raises environmental awareness and disseminates information to promote environmentally conscious decision making. It has several ongoing campaigns and projects running in conjunction with Jersey's Biodiversity Partnership:

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/Ecoactive/pages/home.aspx>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2021, the Bailiwick Bat Survey launched which utilizes citizen science to monitor bat populations in Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, and Herm. The survey has been very successful in spreading awareness as well as data collection. Regular media interest throughout the survey is an opportunity to engage with the public on the important role bats play in our environment and the threats they are under, as well as highlight their migration patterns and the Channel Islands being a key stepping stone between UK and Europe.

Resolution 11.9 (Rev.COP13) - In 2020, new signs were placed around sensitive sites for overwintering birds to raise awareness of the risks of disturbance. This was accompanied by a media release which is repeated each year, as birds are migrating through the islands.

The Dolphin Project raises awareness of marine mammals within the Bailiwick and encourages the public to report sightings of dolphins, particularly with photos of fins to identify individuals within the population. In 2022, a masters student working with the project encouraged members of the public to report sightings and asked for volunteers to survey with the project at set locations on land and on boat survey trips.

Resolution 12.20 - The Clean Earth Trust (CET) run the Beach Clean Project and in 2022 released their first annual Marine Litter Report. This is the first report using quantitative data on marine litter on Guernsey. Data was collected from publicly attended beach cleans and the CET ran a campaign around the release of the report to increase public awareness of the issue, particularly in reference to risks to wildlife.

Since 2019, the Pollinator Project have been running campaigns to promote pesticide reduction, including a pesticide amnesty and a pesticide audit on the island. They have highlighted the risk to wildlife, including risks higher up the food chain. The States of Guernsey have provided funding to the organisation for a communication plan. They have participated in research on pollinators and encouraged awareness and reporting through their apps. Guernsey Water also ran a campaign to reduce glyphosate use. The amateur use of glyphosate based pesticides was banned on 1st January 2023 meaning that only licensed operators can use such products.

Falkland Islands:

During the reporting period, the Falkland Islands celebrated World Albatross Day in June 2020 and 2021. This involved a series of talks, and events with the schools, as well as activities for the public to partake in.

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands:

In 2021 two commemorative stamp issues were released to raise awareness of conservation efforts relating to cetacean species in the Territory. These were (1) 'Ecosystems in Recovery – Whales' which featured information about scientific research investigating recovery of whales from historic exploitation (2) 'The Blue Belt Programme' which promoted efforts for marine conservation through the UK Blue Belt programme in the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area.

Teaching programmes in schools or colleges:

Metropolitan UK:

The importance of CMS is highlighted in annual biodiversity awareness campaigns and school education programmes.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust undertakes education programmes on migration directly with school groups that visit WWT wetland centres and indirectly through the provision of online materials – see

<https://learningzone.wwt.org.uk/resources/>

Some of the UK NGOs e.g. regional Wildlife Trusts and ORCA engage with schools, running workshops and sessions which highlight the threats and pressures faced by our migratory species e.g.

<https://www.orcaweb.org.uk/get-involved/orca-in-schools/whale-education-month>. The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme hosted public facing online and in person events where examinations of cetaceans were conducted to establish cause of death, highlighting the key pressures in UK waters.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

La Société created its education team in September 2020 thanks to funding from the Guernsey Community Foundation. The focus is the delivery of an Environmental Education programme through the school curriculum which is linked to the States of Guernsey's Strategy for Nature.

Isle of Man:

The Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch Education and Outreach Officer regularly delivers sessions for local schools and youth groups on the species found in Manx waters, and general cetacean facts and interesting behaviours, as well as more specific areas such as threats and conservation issues like plastic pollution. Manx BirdLife has an adult education programme (class and field based) providing identification skills and deeper understanding of spring migration bird species. Under an agreement with the Departments of Environment, Food and Agriculture, and Education, Culture and Children, the Manx Wildlife Trust has an education officer who works with the schools, at all ages, as well as with adults.

Metropolitan UK and Isle of Mann:

A natural history GCSE is under development.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island school visits raise awareness by bringing children to watch nesting green turtles *Chelonia mydas* or emerging hatchlings during the breeding season. The island hosts environmentally sound turtle tours weekly during the nesting season to raise awareness. Migration tracks that form part of an interactive web-GIS Marine Spatial Planning tool have been established as part of the research work to inform MPA designation.

Bermuda:

Tours of Nonsuch Island for school children and adults are held which includes seeing a Bermuda Petrel, Cahow *Pterodroma cahow* chick in the nesting season.

Gibraltar:

There are environmental education and awareness programmes implemented for all migratory species (migratory raptors, passerines, marine reptiles and cetaceans) organised by the Department of the Environment for schools (see: www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi), local NGOs such as the Nautilus Project (see: <https://thenautilusproject.co/>) and the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS). Details of the programmes carried out in schools are regularly posted in social media feeds including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Turks & Caicos Islands:

The Wonderful Water course and environmental education materials were developed by UKOTCF, the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI) Department of Education, and TCI teachers. It is used in state schools and targets children 9+ (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wonderful-water>).

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

The South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) developed a range of new and exciting educational materials about South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands for inclusion in the 2021 Hanson Box – an initiative by the Don Hanson Charitable Foundation which donates a box full of fun learning material, activities and lesson plans

completely free of charge to 8000 schools in the UK and UK Overseas Territories.

Falkland Islands:

Throughout the reporting period, Falkland Islands schools have been able to learn about migratory species and their conservation firsthand from those involved in their conservation and research. This involved special events in the schools with assemblies held by researchers and conservationists to talk about the species and the students carrying out follow up work.

Pitcairn:

There have been two scientific expeditions to the islands, which included BRUVS and towed cameras, to monitor the health of the ecosystem. Operation Fafai'a (2021) was a local expedition, also involving the children from the Pitcairn school, and Expedition Red Fish (2023) involved scientists from CEFAS and the University of Edinburgh, as well as members of the community. Following Red Fish, there was a public presentation to the whole community of the preliminary findings.

Cyprus SBAs:

The Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre delivers specialized education programmes on marine turtles and migratory birds. The Centre hosts more than 10,000 school children every year.

Press and media publicity, including social media:

Metropolitan UK:

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) uses social media to promote work on migratory species. Social media accounts focusing on seabird surveys (@JNCC_UKseabirds on Twitter, and the VSAS - Volunteer Seabirds at Sea group on Facebook) have strengthened the connection between JNCC and the public, and improved its ability to demonstrate expertise to a key target audience. The VSAS Facebook group currently has 184 members, whilst the JNCC UK Seabirds Twitter has 2,338 followers. Articles and news items on migratory species are often included in JNCC's Nature News - a quarterly publication on the JNCC website - as well as the JNCC Bulletin - a monthly newsletter on the JNCC website - both of which are promoted on social media and sent to key stakeholders including Ministers. Furthermore, migratory species often feature in communications on JNCC's main Facebook (2000 followers), Twitter (10k followers) and LinkedIn (13k followers) accounts.

The latest edition (Winter 2022/23) of Nature News: <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/nature-news-winter-2022-23/>

The January/February 2023 edition of the JNCC Bulletin: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/c285dfc2-5201-48a7-9a7e-870e117a75ef>

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust's promotes migratory species through its main Twitter account (53.4k followers), Facebook page (20k followers) and Instagram (19.5k followers). Migratory species are a regular feature of WWT's communications, featuring as 'hero' species or flagships to capture the public's imagination and raise awareness of connected environmental issues. Each autumn the return of waterbirds from their breeding grounds is celebrated at the Trust's ten wetland sites, with walks and talks, bird festivals and communications with the media and through social media channels. The return of the first Berwick's Swan to Slimbridge regularly makes national news. Outside of autumn, the tagging and marking of shorebirds such as spoon-billed sandpipers in Asia and black-tailed godwits in north west Europe provides further opportunities to tell engaging stories about migratory species. WWT's magazine is sent to around 200,000 members.

Scotland:

Scotland's biodiversity indicators for waterbirds and seabirds raise the profile of migratory species and have a good media pick up. <https://www.nature.scot/information-hub/indicators-trends/scotlands-indicators>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

There is a programme of messages and news stories being run and distributed continually throughout the year via news releases, social media and published articles @eco active jersey and #WildAboutJersey

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man continues to raise awareness on beach-nesting terns and waders through press releases, signage, education and public liaison. Marine Nature Reserve videos have been posted on the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man YouTube site <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRy1deVnfhTrN8U8nL8OTDw> to highlight the interest of these sites. MNR site guides and spotter sheets have been created to engage with the public. <https://www.gov.im/MNR>

Bermuda:

Public presentations and articles on turtles are published in local media to maintain awareness and interest. Several articles in the local news reported on the rehabilitation and release of sea turtles by the Bermuda Aquarium and the decline in the green turtle population around Bermuda.

A burrow-mounted camera known as the CahowCam has streamed live footage from a nest on Nonsuch Island for many years. <http://www.nonsuchisland.com/live-cahow-cam/>.

The hatching of the first Bermuda petrel chick of the year is also reported in the local media, as are the final number of chicks reared in any breeding season.

Press release about the estimated number of humpback whales in Bermuda's waters by Grove et al 2023 *Frontiers*.

Press release in 2022 about the amended legislation to protect all sharks, with the exception of *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, *Mustelus caris insularis*, *Hexanchus griseus*, in Bermuda's EEZ

Press release about the protection of *Mobula birostris* in Bermuda's waters

St. Helena:

Annual Marine Awareness and seasonal education material is prepared and there is targeted media coverage

during turtle nesting attempts.

Falkland Islands:

Local media (radio, tv, print, social) regularly feature stories/news items on the variety of migratory wildlife in the Falkland Islands, providing updates from scientific studies undertaken by local organisations (e.g. SAERI, Falklands Conservation) on their ecology, status, behaviour etc.

The Falkland Islands Government helps fund biodiversity related research and actions. One funded project was looking into trophic interactions between Albatross and fishing vessels. The researcher used this opportunity to widely distribute findings through the radio, print media and a public event. Similarly, the annual seabird monitoring programme releases all its findings in a media article (linking to the full length report) every year. The programme is now in its 30th year. World Ocean Day is celebrated through online and in-person events.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

Relevant information and publicity in relation to conservation of migratory species is disseminated through the government website (www.gov.gs) and social media channels (@GovSGSSI) and through those of our research partners (www.bas.ac.uk). Film and media projects regularly visit the Territory to film migratory species. Notably, the BBC 'Seven Worlds One Planet' documentary released in 2019 featured black browed-albatross and steps being taken to promote their conservation.

Cyprus SBAs:

In 2022 a documentary was released on the importance of Akrotiri Peninsula and its species (including marine turtles) which was widely publicized by Birdlife Cyprus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9esYv43oPc>

The SBAA prepares press releases on a regular basis which receive wide coverage in local newspapers/social media on protected species (especially turtles and wild birds), conservation actions, enforcement activity and other information to raise awareness and minimize damaging activities.

Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events:

Metropolitan UK:

Whalefest is an annual festival, bringing together UK and international visitors with a host of stands, talks and engagement on marine mammals in the UK. The UK participates in World Oceans Day by holding a variety of national events, talks and ocean-related activities, as well as using media to promote ocean conservation. The UK Wildlife Trusts hold an annual National Marine Week, which celebrates the UK seas, including awareness of migratory species. The RSPB hosts Dolphinwatch during spring/summer, recording cetaceans from key locations, as well as providing an awareness and education opportunity. ORCA, a UK cetacean conservation charity, holds an annual Oceanwatch event, training sea-goers such as ferry crews to record sightings during summer months, increasing awareness of species they come across, and encouraging care when interacting with them.

Scotland:

There are successful public viewings of the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* on the Isles of Mull and Skye and the species is an important part of wildlife tourism on Scotland's west coast islands.

The Scottish Dolphin Centre is managed by the international charity Whale and Dolphin Conservation. Visitors, both local people and tourists, have access to accurate and engaging information about cetaceans that live in Scotland, with an emphasis on bottlenose dolphins. WDC also delivers an extensive outreach program, providing outdoor activities focused on cetaceans. It uses interactive resources to engage people of all ages with information about cetacean anatomy and behaviour, as well as materials on threats and conservation efforts to better protect whales and dolphins.

The Scottish Seabird Centre is a conservation and education charity in North Berwick which runs wildlife boat trips to view the seabirds on Bass Rock, North Berwick.

Anglers and skippers are invited to add skate photos and the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme (SSTP) tag numbers to a database by visiting Skatespotter.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Jersey Biodiversity Partnership Wild About Jersey initiative aims to get people outdoors, into nature, meeting new people and learning more about the natural world. Wild About Jersey wants to protect and support our natural environment by:

- helping people change their behaviour
- encouraging islanders to become environmental volunteers
- monitoring Jersey's wildlife using volunteers
- connecting organisations so that they can work together
- organising events to showcase the natural environment
- Sharing information on volunteering opportunities and local conservation efforts.

The aim is to inspire and train the community to help gather vital information. Individuals are encouraged to Become a Wild Volunteer with Wild About Jersey (gov.je). This information is used to protect and improve the environment. Activities can include: monitoring bats, counting toads and surveying butterfly species.

The design and piloting of the Roostwatch JE citizen science scheme created an easy way for anyone to get involved in bat conservation and report their sightings of bat roosts in Jersey. The project developed a range of social media assets to promote the scheme and designed a number of resources on bats and what to look for. The new roost records gained through this scheme add to our knowledge of bats in Jersey, their roosting preferences and will help facilitate further research and monitoring and will aid the development of a call library for Jersey.

In January 2023 the Marine Conservation Society held The Marine Mission to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Islanders and visitors were invited to come and support the 'Marine Mission' to celebrate, discover and learn about how to protect the richness and biodiversity of Jersey's marine environments, to meet local marine scientists and experts from JMC and several other local organisations who work to protect and promote the island's wetlands.

<https://jerseymarineconservation.org/marine-mission/>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

La Societe ornithology section and RSPB both run regular bird walks which are open to the public.

Since 2019, a Bioblitz has been held annually. School groups are invited to attend alongside expert recorders. In the evenings the sessions are open to members of the public. It is rotated around 3 locations. The intention is to hold the event in May, when migratory birds will be recorded.

Events are run for the public in a wetland site each World Wetlands Day. This raises awareness of the importance of wetlands to many species, including those migrating through.

In 2022 and 2023, a Bailiwick Wildlife Photography Exhibition has taken place featuring work from local photographers of all ages and skills. The exhibit not only encourages the public to go out into nature to take the photos but it displays Guernsey's wildlife for those that may not normally see it.

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man holds a large marine festival every year to highlight marine issues. MWDW has coordinated an exhibition of the work of a wide range of wildlife conservation organisations at Peel Cathedral. The Manx Wildlife Trust provide community outreach during National Marine Week.

Cyprus SBAs:

The current Darwin Plus project (ending in March 2023) "Habitat restoration and wise use for Akrotiri and Cape Pyla" includes community based events aiming at raising awareness.

<https://birdlifecyprus.org/projects/akrotiri-cape-pyla-darwin-project/>

Also, as part of other Darwin Plus projects or other initiatives, presentations are hosted at Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre to promote the biodiversity of the area.

Gibraltar:

A new Field Centre has been constructed in the heart of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, Upper Rock, which is being used to raise awareness on conservation generally, including migratory species (see:

<https://www.chronicle.gi/tovey-cottage-natural-history-field-centre-opens-in-the-nature-reserve/>). In addition,

there is an annual International Bat Night (under the auspices of Eurobat) held at Gibraltar Botanic Gardens (see: <https://www.gibmuseum.gi/our-work/gib-bats>) as well as annual participation in Birdlife's EuroBird Watch organized by the GONHS (see: <https://www.gonhs.org/news/199-eurobirdwatch-2021>).

Public Environmental Education Programmes have been prepared for a range of migratory species including the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*, common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* and fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus* amongst other species.

St Helena:

General awareness raising of hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* during the annual Marine Awareness Week. In February 2021, the St Helena National Trust hosted the third annual Bone Shark (whale shark) Festival. This showcased the technology used in research, allowed members of the community to experience the underwater world of St Helena using virtual reality headsets, held competitions, and promoted upcoming research projects.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

The 30 October 2020, designated Environment Day, is a new public holiday. Local events are organized to celebrate environmental protection initiatives and raise awareness. A 'Future South Georgia' competition was run in 2020 to engage young people in discussions about conservation priorities for the Territory. Submissions of art works and poetry were received and the winners from each category had their work published in the Government's stewardship framework: Protect, Sustain, Inspire. See:

<https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/SGSSI%20brochure%202022.pdf>

Falkland Islands, Tristan da Cunha and South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

These South Atlantic OTs have all held different community events or celebrations (e.g. media stories, cake baking competitions, school events) on the newly established World Albatross Day (WAD) - the 19 June was declared WAD by ACAP in response to the 'conservation crises' that faces these birds. The 19 June was selected as WAD as this was the date the Agreement was signed in 2001. The inaugural WAD was held on 19 June 2020. Each year since, each WAD has had a particular theme - 2020: Eradicating Island Pests; 2021: Ensuring Albatross Friendly Fisheries; 2022: Climate Change; 2023: Plastic Pollution. ACAP arranges a number of events and resources around each theme to highlight how they threaten albatrosses (and petrels, by inference). <https://www.acap.aq/world-albatross-day/introduction-to-world-albatross-day>

Engagement of specific stakeholder groups:

Metropolitan UK:

The UK is intending to phase out lead shot entirely and it is already illegal over water courses. There was a drive to do this voluntarily and ahead of time but it seems to have faltered

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/voluntary-uk-initiatives-to-phase-out-toxic-lead-shot-for-pheasant-hunting-have-had-little-impact>. There has been outreach by various police forces and a Lead Shot Working Group was created by WCCAG to consider the issue.

JNCC coordinate the UK ACAP Steering and Stakeholder Groups. The Steering Group is made up of

metropolitan and relevant SAOT government representatives; the Steering Group of relevant NGOs, research institutes, and experts with an involvement or interest in issues that affect albatross and petrel conservation. Both groups are used to provide data, feedback and advice to ensure the UK and SAOTs are effectively represented and engaged in ongoing ACAP work and initiatives, and that their interests are taken into account when decisions within ACAP are made.

There is close collaboration between the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and NGOs, such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust on the conservation of migratory birds, including sharing of data and information on specific scientific topics.

Defra has provided the seed funding to establish the Curlew Recovery Partnership (CRP), which brings together a range of organisations providing co-ordination and support to those engaged in curlew conservation. The CRP has recently partnered with Natural England to set up a new two-year project using Species Recovery Programme (SRP) funding, co-ordinated by the CRP with scientific oversight provided by British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and partners in the CRP Research Working Group. The aim of the project is to trial interventions that will address the key drivers of low productivity and inform developing agri-environment measures.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (<https://www.wcl.org.uk/>) is an umbrella organisation for a wide range of charities with an interest in nature conservation, access to the countryside and animal welfare. Link's key role is to bring together their members on issues of common concern and to present a clear, consistent message to government, opinion leaders and the general public. There are regular meetings with the government, SNCBs and Link to discuss concerns and issues.

Isle of Man:

Continued activity by specialised NGOs engaging various stakeholder groups in relation to basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*, cetaceans and birds. Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch (MWDW) has opened a cetacean interpretation/education area and shop. The Manx Government engages various stakeholders in relation to Marine Nature Reserve designations and management planning (which includes CMS species and their habitats) including the fishing industry, conservation NGOs, recreational users and the public.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In January 2023, tree surgeons on the island were provided with training on the awareness of, and best practice for, bats, birds and other protected species when carrying out tree works.

Ascension Island:

Presentations about green turtle *Chelonia mydas* biology and ways to observe them without causing disturbance are given to military staff on the island.

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Turtle Project conducts an intensive two-week course on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. This annual in-water course has the objective of building capacity in the Western Atlantic region by providing training to university students, biologists, conservation officers and resource managers from countries throughout the Atlantic basin. In 2019, 189 green turtles were caught and then in 2021 and 2022 there was a significant decrease in the number of green turtles caught with 75 and 54 in 2021 and 2022, respectively. The decline is likely a result of the disappearance of seagrass, their primary food source, around Bermuda.

British Virgin Islands:

In the British Virgin Islands during the leatherback turtle nesting season (March to May), schools and individuals in the community are invited to witness their nesting activities with a conservation guide from the Ministry. Over the years several animals have been satellite tracked with the schools being involved in the process to track their locations.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands take active measures and are working with the fishing industry to minimise seabird bycatch through discard management and education of fishermen.

St Helena:

Each year the Marine Section of the Environmental Management Division hosts a marine awareness week which includes presentations and marine-themed events and activities for the local population. The marine sightings scheme is promoted monthly. Annual Marine Awareness and seasonal education material are produced and there is media coverage during nesting attempts.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

An annual stakeholder event is held to update on Government activities. As part of this, the fishing industry are specifically engaged on relevant topics including bird by-catch mitigation. The CCAMLR ad hoc working group on incidental mortality in fisheries (WG-IMAF) met in Hobart in October 2022 for the first time since 2011. The working group was reconvened to consider issues of whale mortality in the Southern Ocean krill fishery, interactions between seabirds and net monitoring cables and seabird mortality in the region's longline fisheries. Experts from science and the fishing industry contributed to the meeting.

<https://meetings.ccamlr.org/system/files/meeting-reports/e-imaaf-2022-rep%20prelim%20v1.pdf>

Cyprus SBAs:

As part of a current Darwin Plus project, a two-day workshop was organized to bring together information collected by experts with a view to having a common base knowledge and to improving conservation and management actions. The workshop focused on terrestrial fauna (insects, birds, bats, etc) and flora, marine fauna (sea turtles, Monk seals, etc), flora, habitats and ecosystems (*Posidonia*, habitats, etc) and abiotic

parameters (groundwater, inland surface and marine water, rainwater). As part of turtle conservation actions, the SBAA meets with volunteers involved in conservation actions to present the conservation approach and protocols based on minimum intervention. There is regular interaction with different expert groups, students, universities, NGOs and consultants to identify gaps in knowledge and to improve management, enforcement and conservation practices and citizen science is widely promoted and used for bird records, and marine and terrestrial invasive species.

Special publications:

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2022, the States of Guernsey published guidance on wildlife friendly gardening. It provides information on encouraging bats and birds into garden settings as well as avoidance of pesticides

<https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=163356&p=0>

Two annual reports have been written from data recorded in the Bailiwick Bat Survey. Information can be found on www.bats.org.gg. This gives information on which species have been recorded in the survey, the patterns of activity of those species and the locations of the recordings. It is accessible for the public to read. Since 2019, the 'Give Wildlife a chance' guidance has been published in the Guernsey Tidetable booklet, used by many boaters around the island and is available for free. It advises how to safely enjoy viewing and interacting with wildlife when at sea. The focus is on seabirds and marine mammals.

Isle of Man:

Manx BirdLife has published Birds of Conservation Concern on the Isle of Man. <http://manxbirdlife.im/bocciom/>

Bermuda:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has published protected species information sheets for species covered by the Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003. CMS listed species that appear in the booklet include, the European eel, green turtle, leatherback turtle, loggerhead turtle, hawksbill turtle, Kemp's Ridley turtle, humpback whale and sperm whale.

Grove T, King R, Stevenson A and Henry L-A (2023) A decade of humpback whale abundance estimates at Bermuda, an oceanic migratory stopover site. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 9:971801. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2022.971801

Meylan PA, Hardy RF, Gray JA, and Meylan AB (2022) A half-century of demographic changes in green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) foraging aggregation during an era of seagrass decline. *Marine Biology* (2022) 169:74

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-022-04056-5>

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands with Falklands Conservation have a countryside code and safe distance guide to raise awareness for not disturbing or harming protected species. The Falkland Islands are home to over 70% of the world's black-browed albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*, and 40% of the world's southern giant petrels *Macronectes giganteus*, both of which are CMS and ACAP listed species. The guidelines together with the legislation help raise awareness of not disturbing these species during their breeding times to help ensure breeding success.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

Data, including those relevant to conservation of marine migratory species has been published on the new South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands MPA data portal. See https://www.mpa-dataportal.gs/f?p=154:LOGIN_DESKTOP:13963781415223

Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites:

Metropolitan UK:

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust coordinates a specialist communication and education network called Wetland Link International. WLI is a network of 300 wetland centres across the globe, with regional networks in the East Atlantic, the Americas and East Asia Australasia flyways. The focus is on raising awareness of wetlands and their importance for migratory birds through developing and sharing resources and helping to deliver the Ramsar CEPA programme and other major projects such as Flight of the Swans and Migratory Birds for People. WLI runs the 'birds and schools' project each year to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, whereby schools visit local wetlands, discuss migration and the WMBD theme for that year, and then share their experiences by video conference.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Wetland Centre was opened to the public on World Wetlands Day in February 2014 and overlooks the Island's most significant inland wetland Sites of Special Ecological Interest known as La Mare au Seigneur (St Ouen's Pond). Owned and managed by the National Trust for Jersey, the Centre contains video screens, an interactive camera, binoculars and interpretation panels and can be used as a classroom by local schools. Events are held throughout the year by the Trust to encourage people to visit the centre and to appreciate the wetland and its inhabitants.

Snorkel Portelet, launched in 2022, provides residents and tourists the opportunity to explore Jersey's valuable marine environment. Created by Blue Marine Foundation, in partnership with the Societe Jersiaise, the snorkel trail is the first of a new network planned for the Island.

Snorkel Portelet is made up of three components, the trail itself, an education programme and a citizen science portal. The self-guided trail showcases rocky reefs, kelp, sand and a small seagrass bed. These habitats support a range of marine life with ballan and cuckoo wrasse, spider crabs and snakelocks anemones among the species for snorkelers to see. The trail sits within the recently designated Portelet Bay No-Take-Zone (NTZ) - the first to be created in Jersey. The new designation means no fishing or other extractive activities can occur within the zone and it is an offence to remove any marine species with exceptions for

scientific investigation.

<https://www.bluemarinefoundation.com/snorkel-portelet/>

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Educational signboards are used to inform people visiting Turtle Cove about the importance of foraging hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* in the coves and base personnel are not allowed to swim in the cove.

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

Tick one box

GUIDANCE TIP:

If the impact of awareness actions has been assessed by (for example) project evaluation studies or follow-up audience attitude surveys during the reporting period, those provide a basis for answering this question. If the assessment has involved any type of quantitative measure of the impact, please specify. It is recognized that such assessment studies may not always be available, in which case it is acceptable to base your answer on an informed subjective judgement. Alternatively, if there is genuinely no basis for forming such a judgement, please select "Unknown".

Question V.4 gives you the opportunity to explain the basis on which you have answered question V.3.

Please select only one option

- 1. Very little impact
- 2. Small impact
- 3. Good impact
- 4. Large positive impact
- Unknown

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

>>>

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 details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

Note that these strategies/planning processes may be relevant for objectives, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), and **13.116** (Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species). Please make reference to any relevant CMS documents in your response as appropriate.

>>> Whether the conservation of migratory species features in national or local strategies and or planning processes related to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods varies across the UK Overseas Territories.

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations have passed both primary and secondary legislation under which competent authorities have duties to “have regard for biodiversity”, including migratory species, when conducting all functions and decision making. Biodiversity is a devolved matter in the UK. Across the four countries of the UK, specific legislation is in place to embed migratory species considerations (and all biodiversity) across public bodies in respect of development and associated planning processes. Relevant legislation is the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, the Wildlife and Natural Environments (Scotland) Act (2011) and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Environment Act 2021 (search <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>).

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010, the UK is legally required to take measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) for our seas, and to do this through development and implementation of the UK Marine Strategy (UKMS). The overall objective of UKMS is consistent with the UK’s vision for ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas’.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (hereafter Marine Act) establishes a statutory system for marine spatial planning in the UK’s seas, with equivalent legislation in place in Scotland (Marine (Scotland) Act 2010) and Northern Ireland (Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013) which support the delivery of the UK Government and Devolved Administration’s shared vision for ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’. The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS), adopted in March 2011, sets out further detail on the long-term strategy for managing sustainable development in the UK marine area, including the policy framework for developing marine plans. Under the Marine Act, plans need to be evidence-based and provide stakeholders with as much certainty as possible, whilst recognising that they will need to adapt over time to respond to the changing environment. Marine mammals have been an integral part of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)-led UK Marine Monitoring Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) which aims to better integrate monitoring of different habitats and species.

In the UK, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published UK data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators at <https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/>. The progress report can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/reporting-status/>. The UK also provided its Voluntary National Report to the UN HLPF in July 2019.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/1732/173203.htm>

England:

The UK Government’s National Planning Policy Framework embeds sustainable development in planning policy in England and sets out how the planning system contributes to this. In 2018, the National Planning Policy Framework was amended to strengthen both the protection for irreplaceable habitats and to make clear that developments should provide biodiversity net gain, promoting the conversion, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats. The framework states plans should recognise the wider value of ecosystem services in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>).

The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature and reduce environmental pollution.

The Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning is an alliance of 19 organisations representing the conservation, planning and development sectors, who are working together to simplify, streamline and improve the consideration of biodiversity in the UK planning process. It is led by the Bat Conservation Trust. The partnership aims to provide resources to help consider protected and priority species earlier in the UK planning process and encourage building projects to deliver a net gain in biodiversity. This includes an innovative web-based planning tool – the Wildlife Assessment Check* – that offers householders and small to medium scale developers a simple check to see whether a potential development project requires expert ecological advice. <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/>

Natural England are teaming up with the Bat Conservation Trust and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, with support from the Association of Local Government Ecologists, to develop a new system of Earned Recognition (ER). The aim is to cover the full range of impacts and licensing purposes for bats with a system that rewards demonstrable competence. It has the advantage of streamlining the process, and should result in better outcomes for bats and stakeholders. Following the recent call for applications which closed in December 2022, 150 applications will be assessed through the Bat ER Beta.

Scotland:

Scotland's National Marine Plan (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan/>) creates a single planning framework to manage Scotland's seas. The Plan ensures that increasing demands for use of the marine environment are managed, encouraging economic development of marine industries, and incorporating environmental protection into marine decision making. The Plan is currently being updated. Regional Marine Plans are also in development by Regional Marine Planning Partnerships.

The Scottish MPA network includes 231 sites for nature conservation protecting a broad range of habitats and species that are found in our seas. Species protected include harbour porpoise, common skate and puffins. The update of Scotland's National Policy Framework for migratory and breeding goose populations ensures their sustainable management while minimising the negative impacts of farming and other pressures on these species.

Wales:

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 brings biodiversity into the central decision-making process for public bodies in Wales including development and associated planning processes. It influences biodiversity action and resourcing and the consideration of long-term impacts. The Act puts in place the 'Resilient Wales' goal: 'A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)'. All public bodies in Wales are required to work towards this and adopt the principles outlined in the Act. Coupled with this, Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 places a statutory duty on public authorities in Wales to have regard the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in exercising their functions and to report their performance to the Welsh Government.

UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies:

The elected governments of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies have come together, under the Chairing by Gibraltar's Environment Minister, to form the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council. This meets approximately annually, with UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (which facilitated the initiation) providing the secretariat. Conservation of migratory species is amongst the range of topics being addressed to share experiences and identify shared objectives as well as being among the many topics addressed in the strategies to implement the Environment Charters agreed between UK and UK Overseas Territories.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Jersey's long-term community vision, instigated by the Government of Jersey, is Future Jersey, and sets a desired direction to inform and guide future planning by public and private organisations. The vision has ten key outcomes against which progress is measured. One concerns the protection of Jersey's unique natural environment for future generations, to be measured through indicators including the distribution and abundance of breeding bird populations, sea water quality and the status of Jersey's Ramsar sites.

<https://www.gov.je/government/planningperformance/governmentperformance/pages/futurejersey.aspx>

In January 2020, the original suite of indicators was extended to nearly 190 with the launch of the Jersey Performance Framework (gov.je), to measure the progress that Jersey makes towards achieving sustainable community, environmental and economic wellbeing. Measures include the area of land protected as ecological Sites of Special Interest, the average count of 44 species of birds per hectare across different habitat types, coverage of Marine Protected Areas and number of dolphin encounters.

<https://www.gov.je/government/planningperformance/governmentperformance/pages/governmentperformanceasures.aspx#anchor-1>

Jersey Bridging Plan 2022-2025 is the primary consideration in any planning-related decision-making across the Island and outlines policies to achieve the sustainable development of the island with a balance between social, environmental, and economic considerations. In 2022 a new Bridging Island Plan (BIP) for Jersey was brought into effect for the period 2022-2025. The BIP introduces a number of key policy changes to increase the protection of Jersey's special and unique assets from inappropriate development, and in particular the sensitive and coastal habitats that are important to migratory species. These include:

- a new Protected Coastal Area to provide the highest level of protection to Jersey's most sensitive coast and countryside locations and including the unique intertidal zones and offshore reefs;
- the recognition of marine habitats and areas of high marine biodiversity and seascape value;
- The BIP also encourages development to protect and improve existing green infrastructure assets, and to

contribute towards the delivery of new green infrastructure assets and wider green infrastructure networks.

- Public bodies have a duty to have regard to the promotion of biodiversity and should seek to aim for and demonstrate that their development leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand.
- The BIP also recognizes the importance of biodiversity net gain as an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand – and the Minister for the Environment has undertaken to designate and publish strategies for the conservation of biodiversity and to report on actions taken in pursuance of that duty and will help inform the mandatory application of biodiversity net gain in the next Island Plan.
- In 2022, as part of the Bridging Island Plan, the States Assembly voted in favour of delivering a Marine Spatial Plan. The Plan would be similar in concept to the Island Plan. However, while the Island Plan deals with land use issues, the MSP will set out how the marine environment can best be used and protected.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2020, Guernsey's Biodiversity Strategy was redesigned as Guernsey's Strategy for Nature. The strategy incorporates a framework of high-level objectives that encompass the latest advances in mainstreaming biodiversity and horizon scanning for pressures on nature, through increasing community awareness of nature and its health and wellbeing benefits. The 3 goals are to connect our island community with nature, care for nature to ensure diversity and resilience of our natural capital and assets, and to foster and share knowledge about nature.

Through consultation and an assessment process, a list of priority species and habitats has been produced for Guernsey, as an action from the Strategy for Nature. The process for selecting the species and habitats considered listing on CMS appendices. Species and habitat action plans will now be established.

Montserrat:

Biodiversity mainstreaming occurred within the planning processes, where major development is needed to replace the natural capital on this small island which was destroyed in 1997 by volcanic action. At the request of the Governments of Montserrat and the UK, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum arranged for its own and other donated specialist time to hold a series of workshops on Environment Impact Assessment on the island, giving rise to a series of recommendations provided by technical experts.

Falkland Islands:

Migratory species currently feature in the Falkland Islands Environment Strategy.

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>. The strategy recognises the central and universal role that the natural environment plays in the sustainable development of our health and wellbeing, our economy and our nation as a whole. The strategy outlines our national vision for the future, one that includes a biodiverse, healthy, sustainable, adapted and connected natural environment for all.

Pitcairn:

Care of the environment and marine conservation and research are key to the islands' sustainable development. The 2023 award of Platinum status to the MPA underlines the work that the community have done to ensure this.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Biodiversity mainstreaming is outlined in the government's stewardship framework, Protect, Sustain, Inspire. See: <https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/SGSSI%20brochure%202022.pdf>. The framework outlines how the Government will deliver environmental recovery and resilience through world-leading, evidence-based sustainable management. It sets out four guiding values that will underpin the Government of SGSSI's vision; environmental protection, evidence-based decision-making, sustainability and openness.

Cyprus SBAs:

The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (mirroring the provisions of the Habitats Directive) and the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance (mirroring the provisions of the Birds Directive) safeguard the protection of important migratory species through very strict provisions. These include the undertaking of Appropriate Assessments (an integral part of the planning process) when Special Areas of Conservation/Special Protection Areas are affected and the rejection of activities/plans/projects when they have adverse impacts on protected habitats/species.

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

E.g. Agenda 2030, reporting for International Whaling Commission, CBD, EU Nature Directives, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Responses to this question should be focused on the reporting processes of the country rather than on plans and regulations within the country. This question intends to understand if the values of migratory species and habitats are featured in other national reporting that your country participates in, such as reporting to other biodiversity MEAs, the International Whaling Commission, European Commission etc.

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The UK works to co-ordinate input to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to which it is a Party. This includes co-ordination on the implementation of action, and through reports to those MEAs, in part through the work of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee – the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation which acts as the Secretariat to the Four Countries Biodiversity Group – a co-ordination mechanism between Whitehall, Devolved Administrations, and Statutory Nature Conservation bodies.

Gibraltar:

Habitat and species assessments have been and continue to be carried out to meet the requirements of Natura 2000 and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for example.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Jersey Performance Framework (gov.je) launched in 2020, measures the progress that Jersey makes towards achieving sustainable community, environmental and economic wellbeing. Measures include the area of land protected as ecological Sites of Special Interest, the average count of 44 species of birds per hectare across different habitat types, coverage of Marine Protected Areas and number of dolphin encounters.

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) based in the UK have active communication programmes designed to raise the profile of migratory species. The European Cetacean Monitoring Coalition collates, synthesizes and publishes ferry or other platform-of-opportunity data from multiple survey partners, in collaboration with a large volunteer base. The initiative is driven by ORCA and MarineLife, and other UK NGOs, which promote cetacean conservation in political, scientific and public fora. The data collected through the initiative have contributed to distribution datasets for cetaceans in UK waters and further afield.

British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) is a network of volunteers trained to respond to live cetacean stranding events to manage the welfare of the animal(s) and the public, with the ultimate aim of refloating animals where possible.

The UK has strong NGO involvement in campaigning and raising awareness for marine mammals, such as Whale and Dolphin Conservation; The Wildlife Trusts; Wildlife & Countryside Link; Marine Conservation Society; ORCA; MARINELife; Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Seawatch Foundation. These organisations contribute to data collection, awareness, campaigning and steering elements of marine mammal work in the UK.

CMS CoP 10 established an Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds (AEMLAP) for the species covered by this Resolution, and which was agreed at CoP 11 (Resolution 11.17). UK, via the JNCC, continues to input to the work of the group to promote the implementation of the Plan.

The main schemes to monitor the abundance of migratory land and waterbirds in the UK are as follows:

- Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) - British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), JNCC, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs
- Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) - JNCC, RSPB, BTO www.rbbp.org.uk
- Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS) - JNCC, BTO, RSPB www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/wbbs
- Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) - JNCC, BTO, RSPB <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs>
- Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme - JNCC, NatureScot, BTO <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/goose-and-swan-monitoring-programme>
- Seabird Monitoring Programme - BTO, JNCC, RSPB <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/seabird-monitoring-programme>

Considerable research continues within the UK funded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and some universities, e.g. on the pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. A significant part of the work of RSPB, BTO and GWCT is conducted in partnership with statutory conservation agencies, for example, the Action for Birds in England programme between RSPB and Natural England (NE), has funded diagnostic research on turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* and wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* in recent years. GWCT has studied origins and migration patterns of wintering woodcock in UK using satellite tags, in collaboration with the French Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) doing the same in France. In addition, the GWCT runs the National Gamebag Census, a monitoring scheme collating information on numbers of huntable bird species shot annually in the UK. The Seabird Monitoring Partnership is an annual monitoring programme for UK's breeding seabird population, collecting data on abundance and productivity of all 25 seabird species. In addition, JNCC ran a pilot project in 2018 to assess the feasibility of recruiting and training volunteers to collect high quality seabirds at sea data from the CalMac Ferries route network. This proved a success and through this work, the Volunteer Seabirds at Sea (VSAS) scheme was born and surveys along selected routes began in April 2019. Distribution data for Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* have been collected by MarineLife in conjunction with Natural England and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas). RSPB and NE have funded tagging work delivered through the OxNav group at Oxford University. This is to understand movements of Balearic shearwaters and to test the hypothesis that the birds seen in UK waters are juveniles.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust coordinates the World Wetland Network (WWN), a support network for smaller NGOs and civil society organisations globally, to facilitate engagement with and delivery of the Ramsar

Convention objectives. WWN ran a global citizen science survey of wetlands, with over 500 responses from across the world, that was presented at the Ramsar COP13.

The National Bat Monitoring Programme run by BCT <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme> enables volunteers to take part in surveys by observing bats in their local area. Ultimately this monitoring programme provides evidence, including to government, needed to make bat conservation work and includes trends for 11 of 17 bat species in the UK.

The British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) has been documenting the spread of *Sarcocystis* in migratory waterfowl in the UK, and in partnership with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and academics published evidence of the increase in abundance and number of affected host species in the UK (<https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.105638>). BASC and the Waterfowlers' Network in collaboration with academics are leading on Project Penelope (<https://www.waterfowlersnetwork.com/waterfowlers-network/our-projects/project-penelope/>), an international project aiming to track Eurasian wigeon through the annual cycle through the deployment of 6000 metal rings, 4000 colour rings and 115 GPS tracking harnesses. This work is also supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. Also with the Waterfowlers' Network, BASC is leading on the coordination of data collection from wing surveys across NW Europe in order to assess the age and sex ratios of harvested waterfowl, as well as encouraging hunters to site and record the use of duck nesting structures (<https://www.waterfowlersnetwork.com/2205>) with over 1000 nesting structures provided and monitored last year.

Work on the delivery of the England hen harrier recovery plan has been financially supported by BASC and there has been an increase in the breeding population of hen harrier with 2022 being the best year in England for successfully fledged chicks in over 100 years.

BASC has provided significant funding to the Curlew in Crisis project, are partners in the Working for Waders (<https://www.workingforwaders.com/>) initiative in Scotland, the Curlew Recovery Programme (England), compilers of the Wales Curlew Recovery Plan and key partners in Gylfinir Cymru (<https://www.curlewwales.org/>), Wales' Curlew Partnership.

Scotland:

BTO Scotland has used satellite tags to track the long-range movements of short-eared owls. The team hope to tag up to 25 individuals from sites across their breeding range in the UK. By following individuals from a range of locations, this will provide information to better understand how variation in local conditions affects their breeding success. <https://www.bto.org/community/blog/tracking-short-eared-owls-notes-field>
RSPB Scotland, working in collaboration with the University of St Andrews and Hooktone Limited, have conducted research into the sinking rates of hooks in the UK floated-demersal longline fishery and implications for seabird bycatch risk. This work provides new information on the sources of seabird bycatch in this fishery and provides suggested mitigation approaches:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0267169>

Northern Ireland:

DAERA is providing multi-year funding through its Environment Fund to the RSPB for a four year project (2019-2023) called 'Improving environmental outcomes for wildlife and people'. Targets for this project include the 'populations of breeding waders' at RSPB's reserves across Northern Ireland.

DAERA is also providing funding through its Environment Fund to the RSPB for a significant four year project (2020/21-2023/24) called 'Delivering Curlew conservation in Northern Ireland'. This match funding is to support a UK-wide RSPB 'Curlew LIFE' (<https://curlewlife.org/>) project which aims to halt the decline of the breeding Curlew population in five priority landscapes across the UK. Two of the five priority landscapes selected for the project are in Northern Ireland, at the Antrim Plateau and the Erne Lowland.

The 'Antrim Hills Curlew Initiative' project led by the RSPB, aims to encourage farmers to apply to enter the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS), promote good management and to work collectively in a coordinated landscape scale approach to manage breeding Curlew habitats. Support through the EFS delivers the largest contribution by DAERA to Curlew conservation in Northern Ireland.

A Lowland Breeding Wader Survey of Northern Ireland was carried out by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) on behalf of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). In 2018 and 2019 BTO conducted a re-survey of lowland sites to measure changes in the number of breeding wader pairs present and of habitat characteristics in the 30 years since the previous survey. The survey across 75 lowland sites in 2018-19, found 30 breeding pairs, a decline of 80% since 1985-87.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Birds on the Edge project is a partnership between the States of Jersey, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the National Trust for Jersey, seeking to support the active management of Jersey's coastland to restore populations of birds to the island. Since 2018 work has focused on increasing knowledge on seabird populations, identifying and addressing threats such as terrestrial predation, and managing habitats to maximize their suitability for seabird colonies <http://www.birdsontheedge.org/>.

The Société Jersiaise leads on the monitoring and reporting of the state of Jersey's birds, seabirds, waders and geese and publishes data: <https://www.jerseybirds.net/resources>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Local volunteers participate in WeBS counts, and the BTO breeding bird survey. These are organized by La Société Guernesaise. Under a States of Guernsey contract, Environment Guernsey carry out seabird census surveys for offshore islets, Herm and the south coast cliffs.

The Dolfin Project undertake cetacean recording and surveys. They encourage sightings from members of the

public and ask the public to participate in both land and boat surveys.

The Bailiwick Bat Survey utilized citizen science to carry out data collection. It was set up as a partnership between BTO and the States of Guernsey with coordination by La Société Guernesiaise. Over 200 volunteers have participated so far. Since 2022 La Société Guernesiaise bats section, in partnership with the States of Guernsey and BTO, have carried out tunnel surveys in winter to understand the value of underground sites for hibernacula.

Isle of Man:

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch undertake both a cetacean and basking shark public sightings recording programme, as well as related public engagement and research. The Manx Wildlife Trust contributes to various programmes related to species and habitat conservation and education, including CMS species. There was a hen harrier breeding survey in 2022, including IoM (Manx BirdLife), as well as coordinated roosting hen harrier counts over the reporting period. Manx Ringing Group utilised thermal imaging to ring woodcock and other migratory species at night in 2023.

Montserrat:

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Montserrat National Trust are running a community participation initiative "Adopt a Home for Wildlife". The project aims to increase Montserrat's globally important endemic/native plants and invertebrates, by managing invasive plant species, through community-led site-restoration. This will enhance biodiversity alongside people while providing sustainable small-enterprise opportunities and increasing community-wellbeing. The restored ecosystems are vital for both resident and migratory species. Actions by the group have led to the creation of habitat for migrant waterbirds in the absence of coastal wetlands on the island. <https://montserratnationaltrust.ms/adopt-a-home-too/>

British Virgin Islands:

In the British Virgin Islands a local NGO: Beyond the Reef assists with ocean cleanup of plastics and abandoned fishing gear from trawlers. <https://1beyondthereef.com/anegada-beach-cleanup> In 2022 they assisted rescuing about 12 stranded short fin pilot whales (unfortunately 50 plus died after stranding). In 2023 they started to study whales, dolphins and porpoises through monthly surveys using visual detection, acoustic and photo identification with assistance from the Caribbean Cetacean Society.

<https://1beyondthereef.com/whales>

Pitcairn:

Work on the Pitcairn MPA has included a number of partners, including Pew Foundation, the RSPB, universities and UK government departments. In addition, the RSPB is planning a major rat eradication programme to take place in 2025/6 on Henderson and possibly Pitcairn, which will help preserve the Henderson Petrel, the Henderson Rail and other endemic and migratory birds.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The South Georgia Heritage Trust run a programme to report whale sightings within the territory and use this as a mechanism to pass data to research institutions and raise awareness about the impacts of historic whaling and current conservation efforts to preserve them. See <https://sght.org/whale-sightings-2/>

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The Rivers Trust has set up a Water Stewardship Service <https://theriverstrust.org/our-work/water-stewardship> to provide a 'one-stop-shop' to enable businesses to work effectively with the 108 catchment partnerships to implement on the ground activities that contribute to the sustainability of both the water environment and the businesses involved.

England:

The Upstream Thinking project is a multi-award-winning catchment management scheme run by the South West Water company. The project applies natural landscape-scale solutions to improve water quality and supply and is delivered through a partnership with Westcountry Rivers Trust and Devon and Cornwall Wildlife Trusts, government agencies, environmental experts, landowners and tenant farmers, with the evaluation of catchment water quality change being undertaken by the University of Exeter. The second five-year Upstream Thinking programme was completed in 2020; it included working across 18 river catchments encompassing 80% of South West Water's drinking water catchments. southwestwater.co.uk/environment/working-in-the-environment/upstream-thinking/

The RSPB-Crossrail Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project recycled three million tonnes of earth from the London Crossrail tunnel excavation to create new wetland habitat in Essex, including seven artificial islands and bulldozing of 300m of the seawall to flood 115 hectares of farmland <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/casework/cases/wallasea-island/>

Northern Ireland:

INTERREG projects, such as 'From Source to Tap', 'Catchment Care' and 'Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy' (SWELL), are aimed at protecting and improving water catchments in Northern Ireland, and have had benefits in areas that align with Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle Ramsar Sites.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales hosts an 'actions database' identifying site management priorities and key partners for designated sites. This is being used to engage public, private and voluntary sector organisations in taking forward management actions on sites.

Scotland:

The ecological consultancy Macarthur Green have provided funding for tracking devices, particularly for windfarms <https://www.macarthurgreen.com/ornithology>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The States of Alderney established a 'marine users' forum in 2017, which has contributed to the establishment of the voluntary no-go zone to protect areas sensitive to disturbance with support from the private sector. The Alderney West Coast and the Burhou Islands Ramsar Site is a major asset for the Alderney tourism sector.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

On Jersey, the commercial sector is represented on the Ramsar Management Authority and plays an active role in advising management policy to ensure sustainable use of the sites. RIB boat operators have proposed a voluntary charge for passengers to support the management and conservation of the Jersey Ramsar Sites. Work undertaken by Birds on the Edge and the National Trust for Jersey to carry out research and conservation work to protect and restore seabird populations is largely privately funded.

Tristan da Cunha:

In Tristan da Cunha, the Conservation Department has worked closely with the UK, RSPB and the Percy FitzPatrick Institute (University of Cape Town) to study and protect the wetland values of Gough Island and Inaccessible Island Ramsar Sites.

British Virgin Islands:

Nature based tours and bird watching has continued to be promoted on the British Virgin Islands and takes place in Anegada in the Western Salt Ponds Ramsar Site as a promoted tourism product.

Turks and Caicos Islands:

On the Turks and Caicos Islands, some private sector companies, particularly those involved with sustainable tourism, have donated funds for wetland clean-ups and the provision of public awareness materials on an ad hoc basis.

Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP12)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species) and Decision **13.130** (Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species) for more information on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please describe any hindrances and challenges to the application of EIA and SEAs with respect to migratory species, lessons learned, and needs for further capacity development.

>>> Bailiwick of Jersey:

Lack of data or the ease of access to data hinders the consideration of impacts of energy generation projects and the evaluation of EIAs.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

In the government's delivery framework, by the end of 2024, it is committed to review and update where necessary the legislative and policy framework for activities on SGSSI in view of the latest international legislation, guidance and standards, including the delivery of an EIA regime that is proportionate and effective in maintaining biodiversity conservation and sustainable activities. See: Delivering PSI:

<https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/PSI/PSI%20brochure%20final-220422.pdf>

To what extent have biodiversity and migratory species considerations been specifically integrated into national energy and climate policy and legislation?

GUIDANCE TIP

Please refer to Resolutions **12.21** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **10.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **13.108** (Support to the Energy Taskforce) for more information.

>>> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets out a policy framework to reduce domestic emissions and ensure the UK adapts to climate change. This includes commitments to produce a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment to identify risks, followed by a National Adaptation Programme to address those risks every five years.

Adaptation is also embedded in other key government commitments such as the 25 Year Environment Plan.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> Wales:

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, adopted in 2021, sets out the direction for development including infrastructure to 2040. The plan includes specific policies on: Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure, and National Forest.

The Welsh National Marine Plan, adopted in 2019, sets out supporting and safeguarding policies for the sustainable development of a range of sectors, including renewable energy, alongside policies around climate change adaptation and mitigation, and environmental protection and enhancement. The plan states that “It is widely recognised that marine ecosystems are under pressure from a range of influences such as climate change, unsustainable human activities and the introduction of non-native species. By adopting the principles of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and meeting our commitments as a contracting party to Oslo and Paris Convention (OSPAR), together with implementing the UK Marine Strategy, the WFGA, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, we are committing to maintaining and enhancing our marine ecosystems”. Migratory species are specifically referred to in the ENV_07: Fish Species and Habitats policy, which states that: “ Proposals potentially affecting important feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key fish and shellfish species of commercial or ecological importance should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a. avoid adverse impacts on those areas; and/or b. minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c. mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Scotland:

In Scotland, biodiversity is considered alongside national energy and climate legislation:

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/renewable-energy/marine-renewables>

<https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-wildlife-struggling-recover-climate-change-and-biodiversity-loss>

British Virgin Islands:

British Virgin Islands have a Climate Change Policy. Whilst it does not specifically integrate migratory species, it does address the need for the Biodiversity bill.

[http://www.bvi.gov.vg/pub/Climate%20Change%20Policy%20Paper%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.bvi.gov.vg/pub/Climate%20Change%20Policy%20Paper%20(Final).pdf)

Gibraltar:

Protecting and restoring biodiversity (nature based solutions) form an integral part of the Climate Change Strategy (available from: https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/environment/20211124-Climate_Change_Strategy_Final.pdf).

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Carbon Neutral Strategy sets out a people-powered approach to respond to the aim for Jersey to be carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy builds on the progress made through the 'Pathway 2050: An Energy Plan for Jersey' and sets out a strategic framework of principles and a central planning scenario. The draft Carbon Neutral Roadmap outlines the proposed policies to start our journey to net-zero. Enabling policies have been defined as to include promoting Jersey as a centre of excellence for blue carbon sequestration, using nature-based solutions to tackle both the climate and biodiversity crises. Funding has been allocated through the Species and Habitat Protection Project to initiatives including a review of tree protection legislation.

<https://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=5530>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The climate change policy includes nature-based solutions and the Strategy for Nature as an appendix.

The amateur use of glyphosate-based pesticides was banned on 1st January 2023 meaning that only licensed operators can use such products.

A new water pollution law has been introduced which gives greater control over discharges into freshwater and the sea. This will benefit the habitats of migratory waterbirds and overwintering waders.

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?

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to understand improvements in governance arrangements in your country, which may potentially include improvements in policy, legislation, governance processes, plans etc. Please also consider the guidance below in VII.2.

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 details:

>>> After the Transition Period and pursuant to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, UK Regulations implementing EU environmental laws including the EU Habitats and Birds Directives have continued to have effect, with modifications to ensure their ongoing operability. Government policy ensures that Ramsar Sites are afforded the same protection as European sites (SACs and SPAs) now designated under UK Regulations. The UK Regulations require the creation of a national site network within the UK territory comprising the protected sites already designated under the Nature Directives and any further sites designated under these Regulations. Maintaining a coherent network of protected sites with overarching conservation objectives is still required to:

- fulfil the commitment made by government to maintain environmental protections
- continue to meet our international legal obligations, such as the Bern Convention, the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR), Bonn and Ramsar Conventions.

The Environment Act 2021 operates as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. New laws that relate to nature protection, water quality, clean air, as well as additional environmental protections have been established. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine some environmental protection into law. It offers new powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. Through the Convention for the Protection for the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the UK takes a leading role in shaping policy direction and raising key issues relating to biodiversity, as well as other topics. The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030 is the means by which OSPAR's 16 Contracting Parties will implement the OSPAR Convention until 2030. It sets out collective objectives to tackle the triple challenge facing the ocean: biodiversity loss, pollution, including marine litter, and climate change. The strategic objectives set out OSPAR's overarching goals on subjects such as protection, conservation and restoration of species and habitats, which are underpinned by qualitative and quantitative targets via operational objectives.

The UK has made a significant contribution to the production of OSPAR Convention's 2023 Quality Status Report, which assesses the environmental status of the northeast Atlantic and is due for publication later in 2023. This included leading on the assessment of the status of marine birds, which include wildfowl and waders that utilize the marine environment, as well as seabirds. The UK is currently participating in a Task & Finish Group to produce the OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Birds (RAP-Birds), which will recommend actions to reduce or eliminate the main threats to marine birds in the northeast Atlantic and is expected to be adopted by 2024. More broadly, there is recognition that the UK can only protect and manage the marine environment effectively in collaboration with our nearest neighbours, which we are committed to achieving through OSPAR.

The UK has been elected as the European regional representative and the Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee and as alternate regional representative for north and south-western Europe on the AEWA Technical Committee.

The UK contributed resolutions adopted at MOP 8 of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA) in September 2022. This included 'Improving the Base Knowledge for Effective Waterbird Conservation and Management' Resolution 8.7 and Addressing Causes of Waterbird Mortality Resolution 8.15. The UK added text around improved monitoring of the impacts of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on migratory waterbirds as the basis for potentially implementing emergency measures, and secured a mandate for the Technical Committee to support Contracting Parties in improving monitoring, collaboration and sharing of guidance around HPAI. The UK hosted a side event as a first step toward developing this collaborative work programme.

The UK is party to a number of International Single Species action plans under AEWA including curlew and black tailed godwit and also international goose flyway plans for the Greenland and Svalbard populations of barnacle geese *Branta leucopsis*. The UK is also party to a new AEWA International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the common eider (Baltic, North & Celtic Seas Population; 2023 -2032), and is currently

participating in the development of an ISSAP for the Icelandic breeding population of greylag goose. The UK remains an active Party to the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and is a member of the Conventions Strategic Plan 5 Working Group. The UK contributed to the adoption of a Resolution at Ramsar COP14 on waterbird population estimates, which included a request for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to develop a proposal to enable the resourcing and implementation of future timely and comprehensive Waterbird Population Estimates updates, in consultation with regional flyway agreements. The STRP will also develop guidance to Contracting Parties on closing identified gaps in waterbird population data, including opportunities for technical support and cooperation between countries. The UK provided voluntary funding to support the delivery of this proposal, as we recognise the importance of evidence-based conservation on waterbird species and their associated wetland habitats.

The UK is a Party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) which supports the development of action plans and other relevant resolutions on migratory cetacean species, with clear governance on management and reporting. E.g. the Common Dolphin Species Action Plan.

Wales:

- The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill (2022) - Bill introduced last September and passed in the Senedd last December will provide greater protection and conservation of migratory species.
- NRW publishes the State of Natural Resources Report every 5 years and this evidence then influences the Natural Resources Policy in Wales. The latest report can be found here: SoNaRR 2020
- A new Agriculture (Wales) Bill 2022 with proposals for a new Sustainable Farming Scheme was published in June 2022, which outlines how farmers will be rewarded for actions taken to respond to the climate and nature emergencies, alongside the sustainable production of food.
- Planning Policy Wales 2021 considers Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.

Scotland:

- The Scottish Government published a draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy on 13 December 2022. It is being consulted on with a final version to be published in spring alongside a Delivery Plan. The strategy commits to later introducing a Natural Environment Bill that will set legally-binding biodiversity targets and set out the strategy's monitoring and reporting framework.
- The Scottish Government published a Vision for Agriculture on 2 March 2022, which outlines how Scotland will deliver sustainable and regenerative farming that promotes nature restoration, and recently consulted on proposals for a new Agriculture Bill which closed on 5 December 2022.
- The 2021 Programme for Government committed to establishing Nature Networks, being delivered by NatureScot, which will support regional and national approaches to protect and restore nature.
- The Scottish Government 2020 Statement of Intent on Biodiversity (14h December 2020) outlined the commitment to protect at least 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030 (30x30 Target).
- The coalition government's Bute House Agreement committed to designate at least 10% of Scotland's seas as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), by 2026. A consultation on these measures is currently ongoing.
- In the Programme for Government 2022-23, Scottish Ministers committed to start the process of developing a new National Marine Plan for Scotland, to address the global climate and nature crises, by carefully managing increased competition for space and resources in the marine environment.
- NatureScot participates in the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP), European Goose Modelling Consortium and the European Seaduck International Working Group.
- NatureScot provides the Chair of the Technical Committee to the Raptor MoU and the EGMP.

England:

- The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 is the refresh and update of the 25 Year Environment Plan 2018. Specifically, the EIP outlines actions to promote nature recovery and conservation, including through new National Nature Reserves, the Nature Recovery Network, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Highly Protected Marine Areas.
- Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) 2021, which includes Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview>
- Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021 includes actions to conserve and enhance the natural environment National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Common Strategic Policy sets out a series of high-level ambitions for Jersey from 2023 to 2026, in the form of 7 priorities, one of which is entitled 'Environment'. Specific aims are included to protect and enhance the island's natural heritage, biodiversity, water, air and soil quality, to extend the protection of land, sea and unique built environments and the ongoing maintenance of the island's built infrastructure, including tree planting and the provision of green spaces.

In 2022, as part of the Bridging Island Plan, a commitment was made to produce a Marine Spatial Plan, which would set out how the marine environment can best be used and protected.

In June 2021 new wildlife legislation, the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 (jerseylaw.je) was brought into force. The new law ensures that Jersey's international commitments for the protection of species, through the CMS, CBD and Bern Conventions, are fully met. New provisions include the protection from interference of breeding sites and resting sites of bats, most wild bird species and marine species, the prohibition of deliberate and reckless

disturbance and provision for Areas of Special Protection to be designated in order to protect the breeding or resting activities of protected species. The new law also allows for controls of invasive species and a requirement for public bodies to have regard for biodiversity, including migratory species, when conducting their functions and decision making. The Schedules of Protected Species are subject to a review every five years, in order to confirm their Schedule status and to allow for species to be added or removed where this is justified.

In 2022 and 2023, 5 Areas of Special Protection have been designated on Jersey's offshore reefs in order to protect the breeding sites of seabirds including Common tern, Roseate tern, European Shag and Great Cormorant. In 2022 Portelet Bay was awarded the highest level of marine protection after it was designated a 'no-take zone' – the first in Jersey and only the fifth in the UK. Under new regulations fishing is restricted in the bay and it is an offence to remove any marine species from the area.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A new Marine Mammal stranding procedure for both live and dead strandings has been introduced. The Channel Islands invasive species working group was established to align the island's strategies and public messaging in relation to invasive species establishment. The islands are also collaborating on risk assessments, educational resources and horizon scanning.

A marine biosecurity group was established to work with marine stakeholders to prevent the establishment of marine invasive species.

Two new posts were appointed within government, a Director of the Natural Environment and a Senior Natural Environment Officer. These positions are responsible for relevant policy, legislation and international obligations relevant to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

A new water pollution law has been introduced which gives greater control over discharges into freshwater and the sea. This will benefit the habitats of migratory waterbirds and overwintering waders.

Ascension Island:

Designated 100% of its 445,000km² EEZ as a marine protected area in 2019. A management plan was adopted in 2021.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

New Specially Protected Areas have been designated to cover the entire landmass 3,800 km² of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. See

<https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Legislation/SGSSI%20Gazette%20No%202%20dated%205%20July%202022.pdf>. The South Georgia Terrestrial Protected Area will work to conserve, protect and preserve the ecosystem and restore biodiversity by ensuring that activities are managed sustainably with minimal impact on the ecosystem. The enhanced protection of the biodiversity will sit alongside sustainable tourism. As part of the designation on the South Sandwich Islands Protected Area, there is a prohibition of entry to the islands except for special circumstances. Prohibition on the carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) within the Maritime Zone reducing risk of significant pollution incidents which may affect the feeding grounds of species migrating through the SGSSI MZ. See: <https://laws.gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2020.pdf>

Bermuda:

In 2022, legislation amended to provide protection for *Mobula birostris* and all shark species, with the exception of *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, *Mustelus caris insularis*, *Hexanchus griseus*, in Bermuda's EEZ

Falkland Islands:

During the reporting period, we set up an Environment Department, which enables more capacity to deal with any issues related to the environment including migratory species. We have also committed to undertaking an update of our conservation and nature legislation. Wild birds and marine mammals are protected legally against disturbance or injury.

Gibraltar:

Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Marine Protected Area (Emerald Site) and implementation of the Gibraltar Marine Reserve Management Plan (see

https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/documents/environment/publications/Gibraltar_Marine_Reserve_Management_Plan.pdf and Conservation objectives

https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/SWoG%20Conservation%20Objectives_FINAL_23.1.18.pdf). Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones (including a Dolphin Protection Zone), no fishing and no anchoring zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for the entirety of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. All sharks and rays are protected under the Nature Protection Act 1991.

Cyprus SBAs:

The SBA Police draws up an Anti- Bird Trapping Strategy and Action Plan on an annual basis. The implementation of the Strategy and associated Business Plan has resulted in a drastic decrease in bird trapping. In May 2022 the SBAA published a Policy Statement for the promotion, regulation and control of development and the protection of the environment. The Policy Statement safeguards the protection of designated Ramsar site, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, outlines the necessity for the undertaking of Appropriate Assessments and makes provision for the preparation of master/area plans for important sites hosting migratory species.

https://www.sbaadministration.org/images/nmd/policy/nmd_policy_statement_final_EN.pdf

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 how this assessment was made

>>> Bailiwick of Jersey:

New wildlife legislation has provided stronger protection for migratory species, particularly birds, and for their breeding and resting sites, within Jersey and its territorial waters. At a policy level, the adoption of the Protected Coastal Area within the Bridging Island Plan, the forthcoming Marine Spatial Plan and no take zones will greatly improve the protection of Jersey's shoreline, marine biodiversity and marine habitats from potential impacts such as development and overfishing.

Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different government agencies/ministries, sectors or groups been established at a national and/or subnational level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

GUIDANCE TIP:

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 national processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.

The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments may be helpful in giving further context.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The UK Four Countries Group (senior officials from the four UK administrations) discuss issues relating to the CMS as necessary. At a technical level the Network of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Experts helps to undertake the practicalities of internal Government coordination.

To provide interaction and integration of activities in the use of resources to conserve migratory species, multi-stakeholder working groups and steering committees are in place for most conservation and research projects undertaken collaboratively among government departments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

The UK Inter-Agency Climate Change Group (IACCG) brings together representatives from the UK environmental agencies to update on climate change policy and evidence developments across the four UK nations, identifying common areas of interest and sharing experience. Its membership includes: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, JNCC, Environment Agency, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Forestry Commission, and Forestry England.

JNCC is a co-leader of a new global partnership to elevate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a key tool in addressing the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. The International Partnership on MPAs, Biodiversity and Climate Change is an alliance of government agencies and organisations from across the world, working together to progress the evidence base around the role of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and biodiversity in tackling climate change. <https://www.mpabioclimate.org/>

The key goals of the partnership are:

- Decision makers understand the link between the ocean, MPAs, and climate change and have the support needed to implement MPAs as a nature-based solution.
- Decision makers link MPAs, biodiversity and climate change as a contribution to national and international commitments.
- Countries globally have the evidence and tools they need to implement effective MPA networks that mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity, and increase resilience.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Jersey Biodiversity Partnership is an informal partnership of more than 30 organisations and individuals committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity in Jersey. Organisations within the partnership provide support by offering, time, expertise, funding and other resources. Partnership agreements are created to

support stakeholders. For example, public presentations and workshops are held by the partners at the Wild About Jersey events to showcase and raise awareness.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Biodiversity Partnership Group is made up of government and non-government organisations with an interest in Guernsey's environment. The group meets once every two months to discuss ongoing implementation of the Strategy for Nature and advise on delivery and direction.

A Nature Commission has been established in partnership between government and the third sector. The Commission will play a critical role in supporting the government, community, and businesses in delivering Guernsey's Strategy for Nature. It will help the government ensure that our natural capital is managed efficiently and sustainably. The commission will be a signposting service to environmental initiatives, fundraise for environmental causes, educate the public and proactively engage with local businesses to ensure sustainable economic prosperity.

An Outdoor Charter Group was established in 2019 to facilitate communication between government, wildlife groups and outdoor activity providers. The aim of the group is to better manage landscapes to allow for sustainable recreational opportunities through information sharing and best practice guidance.

In 2023, the Channel Islands agreed to set up a Bat Conservation Forum to ensure ongoing compliance with EUROBATs and work cooperatively throughout the islands. The forum consists of all those involved with bat workers, research and monitoring.

The Channel Islands are working together to better understand the migration of marine species such as cetaceans and fish. Each island has committed to 3 years of monitoring using a FishINTEL device coupled with a C-POD cetacean monitor to track activity within channel island waters.

The Channel Islands have set up a group to co-operate and communicate between islands regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. This consists of nature conservation groups, government veterinary officers, and government conservation officers. This allows for a Channel Island wide approach to the virus, early warning systems between the islands, sharing of knowledge and resources and consistent messaging in shared media outlets.

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man Biodiversity Strategy explicitly incorporates CMS issues, and the Government and NGOs collaborate to deliver sightings and strandings information into a database, the latter feeding into the UK national strandings database (Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme).

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Commercial fishing ceased in 2010 but the ecosystem faces continuing threats from illegal fishing. The area is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel. All available assets are used - including the BIOT patrol vessel, military vessels/aircraft, and yachts which are issued permits. Collaboration with neighbours in the Indian Ocean enhances protection of its ecosystem, ensures compliance with its regulations, and develops enforcement capability.

Falkland Islands and South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

FI and SGSSI have a Wildlife Disease Response Group which has representatives from both governments (including environment departments and veterinary dept [FI]), research and conservation groups, experts and JNCC. The group has recently been taking action on preparing responses both territories will take if a suspected or confirmed case of the H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is detected.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

A steering group to guide activities relating to ACAP listed species is in place and facilitates co-ordination between the UK and other South Atlantic overseas Territories. As part of the Terrestrial Protected Area (TPA) process, an Advisory Group has been convened with invited representatives from the tourism industry, scientific community, government administration and charitable sector in order to provide advice on matters relating to the development and ongoing monitoring of TPAs on South Georgia.

Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 25-27 of **Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP13)** (Synergies and partnerships)?

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Resolution 13.1**(Gandhinagar Declaration on CMS and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Resolution 8.18 (Rev.COP12)**(Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD).

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please provide details:

>>> The UK Government officials regularly meet through the Network of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Experts which brings together officials dealing with MEAs as well as holding regular focused meetings of

relevant national focal points such as CITES, CBD, Ramsar, Bern, AEWA and ACAP.

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please identify the legislation, policies, initiatives, or action plans concerned:

>>>

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 during the reporting period 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.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The UK continues to reform agricultural subsidies following departure from the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy. Whilst the details of these national agri-environment schemes are still under development, the UK-wide trajectory recognizes the valuable role agricultural subsidies have in reducing harm and supporting so called 'public goods', such as support for migratory species. Across the UK, schemes are increasingly associated with measures that ensure baseline biodiversity and climate standards are met. For instance, in Wales, this is currently referred to as the National Minimum Standards:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-07/sustainable-farming-scheme-outline-proposals-for-2025.pdf> and developing Scottish policy details essential minimum conditions required for subsidy payment: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/delivering-vision-scottish-agriculture-proposals-new-agriculture-bill/>

Monitoring the implementation of these schemes, designed to reduce harmful incentives, will be critical to assess their impact on migratory species.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since 2021 farming subsidies in Jersey have been de-coupled from area and instead linked to the direct procurement of public goods (water, biodiversity). There is now a requirement to reach standards set by the Linking Farming and the Environment (LEAF) Marque Audit which has specific measures to preserve habitat. Farms receiving financial support from the States must be LEAF-accredited by 2019. The Rural Economic Framework (REF) 2022 builds on this and sets out policies for the management of the Jersey countryside that embrace the responsibility in the care of our resources, and in which all stakeholders work alongside Government to support the wider strategic needs of the Island, in particular with regard to the production and supply of food, water security and the quality of Jersey's natural environment.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/ProtectingEnvironment/Land/FarmingEnvironment/pages/ruraleconomyframework.aspx>

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time periods concerned:

>>>

Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country during the reporting period, 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.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The reform of agricultural subsidies post EU-Exit highlights the UK-wide recognition of the value public investment has to deliver positive outcomes for nature and wider society. In England, the Agriculture Act (2020) underpins the delivery of Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes. These ELM schemes are a critical measure for the delivery of positive incentives and England's environmental targets set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan and now being implemented by the Environmental Improvement Plan published in 2023. Within ELM schemes, migratory species will particularly benefit from Landscape Recovery projects,

which will provide long term support for species such as turtle doves (*Streptopelia turtur*), nightjars (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and nightingales (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). These projects will also improve the condition of existing critical habitats and fund the creation of habitats used by migratory species. England's Environment Act (2021), alongside the 25 Year Environment Plan, has also led to the creation of the Nature Recovery Network which, to date, has resulted in five large scale projects which will provide habitat for migratory species.

In Scotland, the trial of an Outcome-Based Approach for determining agricultural subsidies is a significant forward step for the application of positive incentives both in Scotland and across the UK. Wider implementation of outcomes-based payment methodologies, where payment is determined by the successful implementation of measures, will be a critical step forward for positive incentives for migratory species. This Scottish pilot explicitly considered how payments could be determined by support of migratory species such as lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and redshank (*Tringa tetanus*).

In Northern Ireland, the DAERA Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) is a voluntary agri-environment scheme that supports farmers to carry out environmentally beneficial farming practices on agricultural land. EFS is made up of three levels; a Wider Level Scheme (EFS (W)) aimed at delivering benefits across the wider countryside outside of designated areas, a Higher Level Scheme (EFS (H)) primarily aimed at site specific environmental improvements at strategically important sites and for priority habitats and species, and a Group Level Scheme (EFS (G)) to support co-operative work by farmers in specific areas.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) provides a sustainable forestry certification scheme in the UK. Certification is voluntary and involves an inspection of the forest management by an independent organisation to check conformation with internationally-agreed principles of responsible forest management. Timber can then carry the FSC label, guaranteeing that it comes from a well-managed forest. FSC also offers Chain of Custody (CoC) certification which ensures that FSC materials and products have been checked at every stage of processing.

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for sustainable fisheries is a certification and labelling program for wild-capture fisheries that meet best practice guidelines set by both the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and ISEAL, the global membership association for sustainability standards. Fisheries are assessed by independent certification bodies and must demonstrate their fishery is sustainable, e.g. against MSC sustainability criteria, with minimal environmental impacts and has effective management (see the MSC website <https://www.msc.org/> for more detail). The fish and seafood from certified fisheries carry the blue sustainability MSC label which can provide enhanced reputation, and visibility as well as access to new and niche markets making it a positive incentive to fishers, with added benefits to the ecosystem through sustainable fishing. Several large-scale fisheries have been certified around the UK including the UK Fisheries Ltd/Deutsche Fischfang Union/Doggerbank Northeast Arctic fishery and the Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group North Sea Haddock fishery.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The LEAF Global Standard marque is a farm assurance system showing that food has been grown sustainably with care for the environment. It is independently audited and incentivises businesses to farm in the most economically and environmentally sustainable way. The Countryside Enhancement Scheme (CES) is an agri-environment programme which makes financial support available annually for environmental projects and training that will benefit habitats and wildlife, which have included projects to survey Jersey's sea beds inside and outside of no mobile gear zones to assess the impact on benthic ecology and commercial fisheries; and willow coppicing within Grouville Marsh wetland reserve to improve the wetland habitat for the benefit of floral diversity and avian fauna.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2021 the Strategy for nature fund was launched. The fund consists of £40k worth of funding for local environmental initiatives which aim to further the goals of the government's Strategy for Nature. £9,000 (3 x £3k) is dedicated specifically to bursaries for students completing graduate or post graduate degrees with a commitment to carry out data collection for their research project on-island. The remaining £31,000 forms the bulk of the Fund and is open to local charities, education facilities and the general public, for projects based in Guernsey or Herm which meet at least one of the objectives of the Strategy for Nature. So far, funding has been provided to projects on migratory species relating to bats, cetaceans and owls, as well as wider habitat restoration and education programs.

Isle of Man:

The Agri-Environment Initiatives Scheme (AES) has been created within the Agriculture and Fisheries Scheme (AFGS) to better meet the current Agricultural Strategy. One of the four key objectives of the Agricultural Strategy is 'providing support for targeted initiatives that produce conserved and cherished landscapes, enhance biodiversity, sequester carbon and, improve water quality and reduce flood risk'. The AES provides a mechanism to support this through initiatives such as: the Creation of Desirable Permanent and Transient Habitats; the Enhancement of Existing Habitats; the protection of Existing Habitats.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands Toothfish Longline fishery is MSC accredited.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Rigorous fisheries management is ongoing and includes Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from

pollution or poaching.

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The UK has funded the development of an indicator of the global environmental impacts of consumption, which can be found at www.commodityfootprints.earth. This provides data on species loss, tropical deforestation, water use and a number of other impact types that are associated with production and consumption around the world. The indicator has been included as a component indicator in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Data can be broken down by commodity and by geography. The indicator increases understanding of the issue in a way that can be used to inform policies and delivery mechanisms in a range of areas and help to identify where to focus action for supply and demand measures in order to keep the impacts of resource use on all species, including migratory species, well within safe ecological limits. The two biodiversity metrics reported provide information on the impacts of resource use on conservation status, whilst many of the other metrics reported (e.g. tropical deforestation, land use, water use) provide information on the impacts of resource use on the quality, integrity and resilience of habitats, including migration routes.

Due Diligence legislation is being introduced which will obligate companies above a certain size to investigate their supply chains and confirm that they are not linked to any deforestation that is illegal in the production country when importing a defined list of commodities into the UK.

The FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) dialogues are government-to-government dialogues that are 'bringing together the largest producers and consumers of internationally traded agricultural commodities (such as palm oil, soya, cocoa, beef, and timber) to protect forests and other ecosystems while promoting sustainable trade and development and addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.' They have also been involved in setting up roundtables to bring together key industry actors for key commodities to develop solutions and ran the Global Resources Initiative which created a roadmap for action in this area.

The UK has long been pressing for stronger international action to protect sharks against unsustainable fishing practices. The UK was pleased to support the listing of almost 100 shark and ray species (a significant portion of which were co-sponsored by the UK) on Appendix II of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) following a successful Conference of the Parties in Panama in 2022. This landmark agreement has placed nearly all shark species traded internationally for their fins under CITES. The UK remains committed to the implementation of these listings. The remainder of the Requiem shark family will be included in November 2023, including the blue shark *Prionace glauca* (already CMS-listed). The UK is currently undertaking a non-detriment finding (NDF) for the species.

The UK also had a proposal adopted (with Secretariat's amendments) at CITES CoP19 entitled 'Making non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State'. Subsequently, the CITES Secretariat is tasked with convening a technical workshop to discuss making robust NDFs for species introduced from the sea (i.e., from areas beyond national jurisdiction).

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) are leading work to ensure sharks in Indonesia are sustainably harvested and reduce illegal trade of shark and ray products. This work is funded by the UK Government under the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund.

<https://www.cefas.co.uk/impact/case-studies/safeguarding-international-trade-in-threatened-shark-species-in-indonesia/>

They have also produced a new visual tool to identify shark trunks in the international meat trade:
<https://marinescience.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/08/launching-a-new-visual-tool-to-identify-shark-trunks-in-the-international-meat-trade/>

Domestically, the UK is currently progressing the Shark Fins Bill through Parliament. The Shark Fins Bill proposes a ban on the import and export of shark fins which are not 'naturally attached' to the shark carcass. The proposed ban includes shark fins, parts of shark fins and all products containing shark fins, including tinned shark fin soup. This will help ensure that the UK is not importing or exporting shark fins which have been obtained through shark finning practices. If successful, this ban will represent another important step in the UK's journey to delivering better shark conservation globally.

A Severe Weather scheme helps the conservation of waterbirds (ducks, geese, waders; many migratory). During prolonged periods of severe weather these birds struggle to feed on heavily frozen ground, and have less energy to deal with any disturbance. The scheme manages the disturbance caused by waterfowl shooting and minimises disturbance from activities such as bird ringing, walking, water-based recreation etc. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act Section 2 (6) the relevant Secretary of State(s) has power to impose a temporary close season of waterbird shooting during 'prolonged severe weather'. The Severe Weather scheme provides an agreed process as to what qualifies as 'prolonged severe weather'. In December 2022 the UK reached a period (eight days) of consecutive freezing conditions – this meant that across the UK a voluntary restraint on waterfowl shooting was put in place temporarily. The restraint was lifted after three days of continuous thaw. The British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) has led on an initial assessment of the sustainability of waterbird harvest in the UK (<https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14281>), finding that harvest levels for most species are likely to be sustainable and identifying species where further work is needed.

England:

The National Planning Policy Framework embeds sustainable development in planning policy in England and sets out how the planning system can contribute to this. The framework states plans should recognise the wider value of ecosystem services in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan.

The concept of sustainable use runs through England's 25 Year Environment Plan and includes introducing a sustainable fisheries policy as the UK leaves the EU (and the Common Fisheries Policy). Further benefitting marine migratory species, the plan ensures seafloor habitats are productive and sufficiently extensive to support healthy, sustainable ecosystems and that all fish stocks are recovered to and maintained at levels that can produce their maximum sustainable yield. By leading efforts to protect the marine environment and to tackle marine pollution, England will pursue a sustainable, international and transboundary approach that prioritises reducing global reliance on plastics, increases economically viable recycling processes, and promotes maritime practices that prevent harmful matter entering the seas.

The recent update to the 25YEP, the Environmental Improvement Plan, outlines progress in relation to Goal 6: Using Resources Sustainably. Progress updates include:

- Championed international forest protection and restoration and sustainable agriculture, including through the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use as UN Climate Summit COP26 President, the Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture, and the launch of the Forest Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) dialogue.
- Published the England Trees Action Plan setting out our long-term vision for England's forestry sector to 2050 and the measures we will take to boost tree planting and improve woodland management, including for sustainable timber production.
- Taken back control of our waters, letting us manage our own fish stocks to increase their sustainability through the first UK Fisheries Act 2020 since 1981.
- Published our government Food Strategy setting out how we will broadly maintain domestic food production whilst meeting our net zero and other commitments.

Wales:

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 brings biodiversity into the central decision-making process for public bodies in Wales, including development and associated planning processes. It influences biodiversity action and resourcing and the consideration of long-term impacts. The Act puts in place the 'Resilient Wales' goal: 'A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)'. All public bodies in Wales are required to work towards this and adopt the principles outlined in the Act. A national milestone for this was set in December 2021 - "Wales will use only its fair share of the world's resources by 2050". Coupled with this, Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a statutory duty on public authorities in Wales to have regard for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in exercising their functions and to report their performance to the Welsh Government.

A Welsh Ecological Footprint and a downscaled version of the Global Environmental Impacts of Consumption indicator are currently under development.

Scotland:

Managing geese in Scotland has required the development and implementation of a national policy framework for migratory geese <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-geese>.

Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy will be published in 2023 and this has a large focus on sustainable production and consumption, particularly through nature-friendly farming, fishing and forestry.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045-tackling-nature-emergency-scotland/pages/2/>

Scotland's 2020 Environment Strategy includes an outcome that "we are responsible global citizens with a sustainable international footprint". Pathways to implement the outcomes are currently under development.

Northern Ireland:

The NI Executive Sustainable Development Strategy has a guiding principle of 'Living within environmental limits', which covers 'Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to protect and improve our environment and ensure that our natural resources are unimpaired and remain so for future generations'.

Overseas Territories:

The UK Caribbean Overseas Territories are highly dependent on the natural environment for their economic and social wellbeing. The environment provides goods and services of significant cultural and economic value and provides a key role in protecting manmade assets and protecting human life. The UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee embarked on the 'Natural Capital in the Caribbean and South Atlantic Overseas Territories' project in late 2016. This project has provided an assessment of natural capital in several Overseas Territories and is building capacity to monitor environmental change and integrate environmental evidence into economic policy making and infrastructure planning. Working with the UKOT governments, and with several research organisations and private sector specialists, the project uses economic assessments and analysis, spatial mapping, and satellite data to:

- assess the economic and social value of the terrestrial and marine natural environment for each of the Territories;
- identify the priority natural capital assets and metrics (or measurable attributes) to monitor changes in value through time;
- integrate natural capital valuations into national mapping to define the spatial distribution of the assets (value mapping), and to promote the integration of such valuations into planning and policy making.

Benefits to migratory species include identification and valuing of areas containing breeding or spawning grounds, juvenile habitat and important habitats for migratory species, including cetaceans, turtles, pinnipeds, seabirds and sharks. Understanding the value of biodiversity is hoped to lead to sustainable management to prevent negative impacts such as disturbance of turtles and nests, boat disturbance to cetaceans, as well as limiting catches of sharks and other large fish to support long-term benefits. An initial guide to natural capital accounting was produced in 2016: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/ee730d0b-5884-4620-b9c6-df1cd49e60f1> Further reports, including natural capital reports for individual Territories, can be found here: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/natural-capital-in-the-overseas-territories/>

The sustainable approach for the UK OTs is outlined in the overarching strategy for the conservation of Biodiversity in these areas. JNCC is supporting Defra and the UK Overseas Territories to update the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (2009; Review 2014). The aim of this work is to build collaboration and consensus to deliver both the UK Government and OT Governments priorities for biodiversity and nature conservation. The intention is to develop this Strategy within the next 18 months via consultation with each of the UKOTS, and then support OT Governments with the development of implementation plans during the final 18 months.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2021 the Bridging Island Plan was supported by a Sustainability Appraisal which considered how the draft Island Plan sought to address key environmental, social and economic sustainability issues facing the Island. The aim of SA was to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA sought to maximise the plan's contribution to sustainable development.

<https://www.gov.je/news/2021/pages/IslandPlanAppraisal.aspx>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Guernsey are working to introduce a Marine Biosecurity Plan for the island. Recognising the threat that invasive non-native species could have on the marine environment, the plan will introduce actions to prevent such species arriving.

Biodiversity Net Gain has been proposed within Guernsey's Strategy for Nature to ensure that developments do not lead to a loss of species and habitats. This has since been adopted as supplementary planning guidance by Planning Service whilst we work to produce a framework to enable its application.

A review of the Island's dairy sector was started in 2022. This aims to explore how the sector should be supported to reduce its environmental impacts. The review will conclude in 2023.

Isle of Man:

Designation of the Isle of Man as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, including the territorial sea (the only whole nation UNESCO Biosphere at this time), is increasing interest towards sustainable development and embedding the Biosphere ethos within the community.

An Agri-Environment Initiatives Scheme has been launched and is being delivered by Manx Wildlife Trust engaging with farmers. <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agriculture/agri-environment-initiatives-grant-scheme/>. The 2022 Biosphere Award for the Environment went to the entire farming community and farming support community, which has adopted the Isle of Man Government's Agri-Environment Scheme. In its first year, 160 farm businesses participated and almost £1.5 million was committed to schemes that improve habitats for nature on land that is farmed.

A long term management plan has been brought into operation to reduce the pressure on the king scallop fishery <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/commercial-fishing/iom-licencing/isle-of-man-king-scallop-fishery/>.

UNESCO Biosphere IoM has undertaken a wide range of projects aimed to engage people with more sustainable living and these are constantly changing. A Biosphere Strategy has been launched to guide this work. <https://www.biosphere.im/our-5s>

Ascension Island:

Tourism will no longer be encouraged or supported on Ascension Island because of its primary purpose as a military base.

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Overall, a positive trend towards a greater proportion of stocks fished sustainably is evident in both the long term and short term. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-b2-sustainable-fisheries/>

In March 2021, there were 1.4 million hectares of certified woodland across the UK, representing 44% of the total woodland area. The proportion of woodland certified as sustainably managed has remained stable at either 43% or 44% since 2007. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-b1b-sustainable-forestry/>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Bridging Island Plan indicated positive support for the plan as proposed, with no significant changes recommended.

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.

Intentional Taking

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please note that as per Article 1(i) of the Convention, “Taking” means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in such conduct.

	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
Deliberate poisoning	Metropolitan UK: Birds of prey. Peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (App II), golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (App II), northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (App II), hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (App II), red kite <i>Milvus</i> (App II) and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (App I & II). Northern Ireland: Buzzard, <i>Buteo buteo</i> (App II) Bailiwick of Guernsey: Several peregrine falcons, <i>Falco peregrinus</i> , have been found deliberately poisoned.	1
Illegal trade		
Other harvesting and take		
Illegal hunting	Metropolitan UK: Birds of prey, turtle dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (App II). Cyprus SBAs: Illegal trapping and killing of blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> (App II), European robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (App II) and song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> (App II). British Virgin Islands: There are some reports of illegal take of sea turtles during the close season (April 1st to November 30th). The British Virgin Islands also has illegal fishing by foreign commercial vessels, but doesn't have the capacity to monitor its 200 nm of EFZ. Gibraltar: Illegal fishing using proscribed methods in Gibraltar by foreign commercial vessels can impact migratory species especially cetaceans, marine reptiles and elasmobranchs which are all protected in Gibraltar.	1
Legal hunting	Metropolitan UK: Unquantified and potentially unsustainable hunting of the globally Vulnerable Common common Pochard pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> continues in the UK. No monitoring of waterbird annual harvest rates is undertaken in the UK, but an initial assessment has found that harvest levels are likely to be sustainable for most waterbird species. However, there is evidence of potential overharvest of Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (App II), mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (App II), gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i> (App II), graylag geese <i>Anser answer</i> (App II) and woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (App II). https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1365-2664.14281 Bailiwick of Guernsey: Hunting of woodcock and snipe (App II) is permitted through the game list. While this is an appendix II species, no monitoring of annual harvest rates is undertaken. Populations of snipe are measured through WeBS counts but no monitoring is carried out for woodcock.	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?

>>> Deliberate poisoning:

Metropolitan UK:

The poisoning of a range of migratory species of birds remains a problem in the UK. The UK has been active in

developing a range of measures to help eradicate the deliberate poisoning of birds, especially birds of prey. One of the seven UK wildlife crime priorities is bird of prey crime, including poisoning. Supporting efforts and action to tackle the wildlife crime priorities is one of the strands of the work of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) (www.defra.gov.uk/paw). The government's Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) investigates the deaths of wildlife, including birds of prey, where there is evidence that pesticide or rodenticide poisoning may be involved

Northern Ireland:

The Bird of Prey Persecution and Poisoning Report Northern Ireland 2019 - 2020 prepared by the Raptor Subgroup of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAW NI) (<https://www.wildlifecrimeni.org/copy-of-wildlife-crime-northern-ire-1>) was published in 2022. The aim of this report is to increase awareness and understanding of the occurrence and distribution of crimes against birds of prey, and to increase monitoring and reporting of such incidents. This report on the persecution and secondary poisoning of birds of prey in Northern Ireland covers incidents recorded in the period 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2020, with an overview of incidents between 2016 and 2020.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A media campaign was conducted in 2020 requesting information from the public on recent peregrine poisonings. A reward of £5,000 was donated for anyone with information. Although no prosecutions were made, there has been no evidence to suggest there has been a bird poisoned since.

Illegal killing:

Metropolitan UK:

The UK is committed to tackling wildlife crime. The police-led National Wildlife Crime Unit assists in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime by gathering intelligence and providing analytical and investigative support to the police and other enforcement authorities and statutory agencies, domestically and internationally. The primary objective of the NWCU is assisting in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime. It produces analyses which highlight local or national threats and has been given £1.2 million in funding to continue its work from 2022 until 2025. UK Border Force continues to make successful seizures and work with international partners to ensure illegal wildlife products do not enter the market.

The Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit Report (2021) provides an overview of the research, virtual and in-country activities undertaken as part of the comprehensive analysis of the UK's preventive and criminal justice responses to wildlife crime conducted by UNODC, based on the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Toolkit assessment.

The UK is committed to protecting endangered animals and plants from poaching and illegal trade to benefit wildlife, local communities and the economy while protecting global security.

Actions to tackle illegal wildlife trade include:

- Committing over £43 million through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund to 136 projects in 60 countries since 2014;
- Introducing one of the toughest bans on elephant ivory sales in the world, with some of the strongest enforcement provisions;
- Building capacity through the British-military 'Counter IWT Taskforce' to train rangers
- Funding the global wildlife crime reports by the UN Office for Drugs and Crime, providing comprehensive data and analysis;
- Supporting the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC).

A further £30 million is being invested between 2022 and 2025 to directly counter the illegal wildlife trade by targeting strategic gaps in the criminal justice response, catalysing innovative and sustainable solutions, and maintaining global action and capacity.

JNCC continues to co-ordinate and chair the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) which provides advice to the UK Police 'Wildlife Crime Tasking and Co-ordination Group' on the impact of crime on protected species and/or habitats and advises on conservation priorities and intelligence requirements for wildlife law enforcement in the UK. This advice feeds into identifying priorities for the NWCU; current priorities include a number of CMS-listed species such as bats and raptors.

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW) comprises representatives of statutory and non-government organisations working together to combat wildlife crime. It aims to reduce wildlife crime through effective and targeted enforcement, better regulation and improved awareness. The Partnership makes sure that skills, experience and specialist knowledge are pooled. PAW's objectives are to:

- Raise awareness of wildlife legislation and the implications of wildlife crime.
- Help and advise on wildlife crime and regulatory issues
- Make sure wildlife crime is tackled effectively

The Wildlife and Countryside Link, Wildlife Crime Group <https://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife.asp> works to improve the conservation and protection of wild flora and fauna threatened by domestic wildlife crime and international trade, also seeking to address the associated welfare issues. The working group aims to ensure the effective enforcement of UK wildlife laws and the proper implementation of the CITES, and relevant EU directives. To strengthen the calls for improvements to wildlife crime recording, in late 2022 Wildlife and Countryside Link and Wales Environment Link published its sixth Annual Wildlife Crime Report. https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/assets/uploads/WCL_Wildlife_Crime_Report_2021_29.11.22.pdf

Northern Ireland:

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime in Northern Ireland (PAWNI) (<https://www.wildlifecrimeni.org/>)

consists of a number of statutory and non-government organisations who work in partnership to reduce wildlife crime by raising awareness and promoting effective enforcement. PAWNI aims to establish a Northern Ireland network of contact points to provide advice, information and expertise and collect wildlife information. Wales:

Wales' first joint Police and Welsh Government Strategy for Wildlife and Rural Crime in Wales was launched to cover 2023-2025. <https://www.gov.wales/wildlife-and-rural-crime-strategy-2023-2025>

The strategy has been tailored to Wales' needs and will be delivered through priority groups including Bird Crime; Habitats; and Mammals and European Protected Species.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The new Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, brought into force in June 2021, provides for more effective regulation and enforcement of wildlife offences in Jersey, including for reckless and deliberate actions affecting protected species, their dens, nests, breeding or resting sites. The new law has stronger penalties for committing offences.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning intentional taking?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **12.10** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.12 (Rev.COP13)**(Action Plans for Birds), **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19**(Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **11.15 (Rev.COP13)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **11.16 (Rev.COP13)**(The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)**(Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.18 (Rev.COP12)**(Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), **11.21**(Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), **11.31** (Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offenses within and beyond Borders), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.27-28** (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), **13.74** ((Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes) and **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>> In 2021 there were 90 incidents of confirmed raptor persecution recorded in England and Wales, 80 of which occurred in England. This is the second highest figure the RSPB has ever recorded in England, following 2020's unprecedented high of 105 incidents.

Unintentional Taking

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Other forms of unintentional taking	2	In farmed lowland areas, which form a relatively large proportion of the curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (App II) breeding range in the UK, destruction of eggs and chicks by agricultural machinery is a major threat. Changes in grassland farming methods over recent decades have led to earlier mowing, which now takes place multiple times in a season, and during the period that curlews are incubating or chick-rearing.
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		

Bycatch	2	<p>Metropolitan UK: The greater North Sea area is identified as the region of concern for harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (App II), and the southwest of England remains the area of highest risk for common dolphin, <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (App II). Other cetacean species are occasionally recorded through the Bycatch Monitoring Programme by on board observers, including white-beaked dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> (App II), Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i> (App II) and pilot whales <i>Globicephala</i> (App II), but with smaller populations and limited information on the risk of bycatch. The bycatch estimates versus population impact is not well understood. Data collection in 2020 and 2021 was impacted by covid, therefore data availability from those years has been affected and reports have not yet been published. In 2019, one harbour porpoise and six common dolphin bycatches were recorded. Scotland: Entanglement has been investigated in Scotland through the Scottish Entanglement Alliance, identifying that entanglements of humpback whales <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (App I) and Minke whales <i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i> (App II) are occurring at higher frequencies than previously thought. Spurdog <i>Squalus acanthias</i> (App II) and porbeagle <i>Lamna nasus</i> (App II) are the elasmobranchs that are prioritised for research into problems of bycatch by Cefas. The mitigation of bycatch of albatross and petrel species is a key activity under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in some UK Overseas Territories. Cayman Islands: incidental bycatch. British Virgin Islands: There have been reports of incidental bycatch of sea turtles by seine net fishermen and also incidental catch of leather back turtles <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (App I & II) by Long Line Fishing. Cyprus SBAs: incidental bycatch affecting primarily marine turtles.</p>
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing bycatch or catch in ALDFG?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.22**(Bycatch), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **10.15 (Rev.COP12)** (Global Programme of Work for the Cetaceans) and **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species).

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Bycatch remains one of the main threats to a range of migratory species at the global level. Several institutions in the UK are actively involved in researching the impact of bycatch and in devising ways to reduce the number of animals caught.

The UK Bycatch Monitoring Programme (BMP) is a broadscale at-sea fishery dependent data collection programme focussed on Protected, Endangered and Threatened species (PETS) including marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles, and sensitive fish species. The programme is funded by Defra and the Scottish Government and has been operating in its current form since 2005. The latest available report (2019) can be found online at:

<https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectID=19943&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=ME6004&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

The UK has co-led the assessment of bycatch for the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023

<https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/indicator-assessments/marine-mammal-bycatch/> which concluded that bycatch of cetaceans (based on assessments for harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* and common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*) are exceeding the calculated thresholds for mortality across all Assessment Units, including UK waters.

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations published the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI) in 2021. This forms a framework to develop data collection; analysis; mitigation trials and management of bycatch across the UK. It sets out how we will work collaboratively with the fishing industry and other stakeholders to minimise and, where possible, eliminate the bycatch of sensitive marine species. The Clean Catch programme has been running a trial in the south west of England testing mitigation measures such as passive acoustic reflectors and lights on nets to reduce bycatch, as well as a self-reporting system. This work is planned to develop in the coming months to support delivery of the BMI.

Bycatch workshops have been held in May 2019 and March 2022. The reports can be downloaded online respectively: <https://www.cefas.co.uk/cetacean-bycatch-workshop/>

<https://www.cleancatchuk.com/hauling-up-solutions-2-workshop-report-released/>

As part of a suite of analyses on seabird bycatch in UK waters, Defra & JNCC have published reports on (<https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=20461>):

- Northridge et al. 2020 Preliminary seabird bycatch estimates in UK fisheries.
- Miles et al. 2020 Preliminary assessment of seabird population response to potential bycatch mitigation in the UK-registered fishing fleet.
- Anderson et al. 2022 Seabird Bycatch Mitigation: Evidence Base for possible UK application and further research

Ongoing work is identifying areas and fisheries around the UK that might be suitable for regional pilot schemes to undertake seabird bycatch mitigation trials (Defra), and a more in-depth study of bycatch of Northern Fulmar in Scottish waters (Scottish Government).

Scotland:

The Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) is a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund project set up to engage with the Scottish inshore fishing industry to better understand the incidence of marine animal entanglements in our waters, and to develop sustainable, proportional mitigation strategies for the benefit of those affected. <https://www.scottishentanglement.org/about/> Two reports have been published by SEA in this reporting period on marine animal entanglements in the Scottish creel fishery:

- <https://www.scottishentanglement.org/downloads/naturescot-research-report-1268-scottish-entanglement-alliance-sea-understanding-the-scale-and-impacts-of-marine-animal-entanglement-in-the-scottish-creel-fishery-16th-december-2021/>
- <https://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v49/p217-232/>

The Scottish Government commissioned research into seabird bycatch in UK waters. The paper 'Improving Understanding of Seabird Bycatch in Scottish Longline Fisheries and Exploring Potential Solutions' is due for publication in Q1 2023/24.

The Scottish Government launched its consultation on the Future Catching Policy in March 2022. This includes consultation on measures to reduce bycatch of sensitive species across Scottish fishing fleets and on the use of REM for fisheries monitoring.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

Seabird by-catch is an enduring risk in long-line fisheries, however strict bycatch mitigation measures have reduced incidences to negligible levels in the fisheries that operate in the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands Maritime Zone. The move to vessels operating using moonpools for hauling is likely to have reduced the potential for interactions with seabirds. Additionally, a winter only long-line fishery is operated and the start of the tooth-fish long line season was moved from 16 April to 1 May in order to reduce interactions with the white-chinned petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, breeding season based on data on latest fledging dates.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning bycatch?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).

>>> The OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023 <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qs-2023/indicator-assessments/marine-mammal-bycatch/> concluded that bycatch of cetaceans (based on assessments for harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* and common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*) are exceeding the calculated thresholds for mortality across all Assessment Units, including UK waters.

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		
Other collisions	Global: boat collisions with sharks and marine mammals. Metropolitan UK: Shipping poses a risk of collision, particularly for larger whales. Wales: A tidal demonstrator project consented in Welsh waters (Morlais) inside a HP site poses a potential collision risk for marine mammals. Bailiwick of Guernsey and Bailiwick of Jersey: Boat and jetski collisions with porpoises <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (App II), bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II), and common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (App II). South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands: shipping of all varieties poses a risk of collision for whale species which is heightened given increasing populations. UK South Atlantic Overseas Territories: ship-strikes or collisions of seabirds (e.g. petrels, prions, shearwaters, albatrosses) with vessel superstructure, resulting in physical injury or death.	3

Wind turbines	Metropolitan UK: Large scale deployment of offshore wind farms in UK waters is planned to continue with a recent sector deal. In January 2023, The Crown Estate signed Agreements for Lease for six offshore wind projects which could generate up to 8GW of renewable electricity. For some migratory species this may contribute to negative trends, although direct measures are problematic. Species at risk include several CMS-listed terns and gulls. Other species at risk of habitat loss through displacement and/or barrier effects created by flying around wind farms include divers, seaducks, and auks, with red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> (App II) a particular concern in UK waters (see Dierschke et al 2016 for a review [Dierschke, V.; Furness, R.; Garthe, S. (2016). Seabirds and Offshore Wind Farms in European Waters: Avoidance and Attraction. <i>Biological Conservation</i> , 202, 59-68.]). Offshore wet renewable turbines/devices pose a collision risk to all marine mammals. There is increasing awareness that the issue of interactions between bats and offshore wind farms needs to be considered. Bailiwick of Jersey: Proposed offshore wind turbines in Bay of St Malo may impact migratory species.	3
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing collisions and electrocution?

>>> Wind turbines:

Metropolitan UK:

The rapid development of the wind energy industry in the UK has continued and a range of guidance has already been produced providing best practice information for developers, planners and ecological consultants.

In 2021, Defra's Offshore Wind Enabling Actions (OWEA) Programme commenced a two-year programme to increase understanding of the environmental impacts of offshore wind and find strategic solutions to manage and mitigate impacts in order to reduce barriers to the expansion of offshore wind across the UK. The programme is led by Defra and delivered in partnership with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and in collaboration with other relevant Government Departments, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, Regulators and offshore wind developers.

Following the announcement of the British Energy Security Strategy (BESS), the UK Government is developing an Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP) to ensure we continue to meet commitments on ocean recovery as offshore wind deployment is accelerated. The BESS committed to implementing Offshore Wind Environmental Standards (OWES). OWES aim to ensure that offshore wind farms are designed, constructed, operated and decommissioned in a way that minimises their impact on the natural environment, whilst supporting accelerated deployment across the industry. We expect OWES to relate to a range of receptors, including bird and benthic impacts.

The Offshore Wind Strategic Monitoring and Research Forum OWSMRF is a collaborative partnership led by a group of seven developers, EDF Renewables UK, Equinor, Ørsted, RWE, ScottishPower Renewables, SSE Renewables and Shell. JNCC acts as the secretariat and plays a role in the delivery of scientific outputs. Over the course of the Pilot Year (2019–2020) and the Continuation Year (2021–2023), the Forum has focused on two groups of priority bird species, namely the black-legged kittiwake, shearwaters and storm-petrels (Procellariiforms). OWSMRF produced four knowledge gap reports (KG1, KG2, KG3, KG4), and a list of 38 research ideas to improve understanding of the ecology and behaviour of these species, how they may interact with offshore windfarms and how any potential effects may be mitigated. High priority research ideas have been developed into detailed project proposals and promoted to UK strategic research programmes by JNCC. The majority of kittiwake research ideas have already been taken forward for example through the Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme and the Offshore Wind Evidence and Change Programme.

The Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme (<http://www.orjip.org.uk/>) has also funded several marine mammal projects, e.g, a review of Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) used as mitigation measures and looking at the effectiveness of ADDs in deterring minke whales *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*.

JNCC recognises the lack of evidence available to assess transboundary cumulative impacts of offshore renewable energy on migratory bird populations (<http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/document/identifying-evidence-needs-inform-assessment-cumulative-impacts-offshore-renewable-energy>) and continues to work with statutory nature conservation bodies, developers and other stakeholders to identify high priority evidence needs and research to address these needs. In 2022, JNCC funded a project to inform advice in relation to marine industries on the use of acoustic devices to deter marine mammals from areas where there is a risk of injury or death in the UK. <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/e2d08d7a-998b-4814-a0ae-4edf5d887a02> The DESNZ Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment programme has supported several key research projects, assessing potential impacts of offshore renewables and populations of marine mobile species (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/offshore-energy-strategic-environmental-assessment-sea-an-overview-of-the-sea-process#offshore-energy-sea-research-programme>).

The Crown Estate manage the seabed around England and Wales and is funding a programme of strategic projects to enable accurate assessments of plan-level impacts for a future round of seabed leasing for offshore wind. The Offshore Wind Evidence and Change programme is led by the Crown Estate, together with its programme partners, DESNZ and Defra. It is being delivered in collaboration with devolved government bodies and organisations from across the UK that have an interest in planning for the future of offshore wind (<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/what-we-do/on-the-seabed/offshore-wind-evidence-and-change-programme/>). The UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and JNCC are on the steering group for the fund as

well as individual projects.

The UK is involved in the North Sea wide initiative to develop a common environmental assessment framework CEAF, for the effects of offshore wind farms on birds and mammals. This arose from the Political Declaration on Energy Cooperation between North Seas countries (June 2016).

With the designation of several marine protected areas for harbour porpoise, and the Southern North Sea SAC (SNS SAC) in particular, conflict has arisen between the need for spatial protection and several planned wind farms in the area, already being installed or due to be installed in the coming decade or longer. Noise management guidance for the SNS SAC was published in 2020 by the SNCBs to ensure that significant disturbance of harbour porpoise is avoided. The SNCB guidance considers underwater noise disturbance to be significant if it excludes harbour porpoises from more than 20% of the relevant area of the site in any given day, or an average of 10% of the relevant area of the site over a season.

There is increasing awareness that the issue of interactions between bats and offshore wind farms needs to be considered. The EUROBATS manual 'Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects' states that "offshore wind turbines should be surveyed in the same manner as land-based turbines". At the EUROBATS Meeting of Parties in October 2022, the UK agreed to Resolution 9.4 on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations which invites Parties to observe 21 actions intended to mitigate the threat posed by wind turbines, both onshore and offshore, to bats.

Guidance, based on the EUROBATS guidance, has also been introduced in the UK for developers, planners and ecological consultants on survey, assessment and mitigation for Bats when considering the siting and running of onshore wind turbines.

Scotland:

NatureScot has produced updated guidance in relation to collision risk modelling, monitoring and survey methods, and mitigation measures for windfarm developments and birds

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/renewable-energy/onshore-wind-energy/wind-farm-impacts-birds> as well as bats

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/bats-and-onshore-wind-turbines-survey-assessment-and-mitigation>

NatureScot and Marine Scotland have also produced a range of updated guidance related to marine renewable development and both birds and marine mammals: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/renewable-energy/marine-renewables/advice-marine-renewables-development>

Scottish Government is preparing a review of the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy due to be published 2024. A related offshore wind plan for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas decarbonization (INTOG) is also underway and due to be completed in 2024.

To improve understanding and assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable developments, and in line with the Precautionary Principle, Marine Scotland has established the Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) programme. ScotMER is an initiative that involves collaboration from industry, environmental NGOs, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, and other interested stakeholders, to facilitate the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Scottish waters. This body of research will support sound scientific decision making and management through filling knowledge gaps and using new research to inform future decision making and policy.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-renewable-energy/science-and-research/>

Regional advisory groups have been established with all governmental, industry and non-governmental stakeholders in order to provide advice to the Scottish Ministers for research, monitoring and mitigation programmes at a strategic level.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales is working on collision risks associated with wind turbines.

Power lines:

Metropolitan UK:

With relatively few large bird species, risk of electrocution from power lines in the UK is generally low.

Electrocution risk is further reduced by consideration of hazards as part of the normal planning process when new power line routes are proposed close to sites of importance for birds. Commercial power line companies have, for many years, used highly visible deflectors on power lines to reduce the incidence of bird strikes.

While collisions do occur, practical mitigation measures are implemented to reduce their occurrence. They are not considered to be a major risk to migratory birds in the metropolitan UK.

Other collisions:

Scotland:

The Marine Mammal Scientific Support programme is using sonar and PAM measurements at tidal turbines to investigate potential for collision of marine mammals with tidal infrastructure. The High Current Underwater Platform (HiCUP) sensor array was deployed at a tidal energy development in May 2022 and will be collecting data until May 2023. Results from this research are expected in 2024.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

Following surveys indicating a significant increase in the density of large whales around South Georgia and a corresponding increase in vessel traffic in the maritime zone, a voluntary speed limit of 10 knots has been encouraged within coastal waters at a depth of less than 1000m to reduce the risk of whale strike. See

<https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Visitors/Information/Visiting%20South%20Georgia%202022-23.pdf>

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands hosts globally important breeding populations of seabirds,

including seven of the 31 listed ACAP species. Population declines of these and other seabirds on SGSSI may be attributed to factors including bird-strike: the collision of birds in flight with vessels resulting in physical injury or death. Basic bird-strike reporting protocols for SGSSI do exist, but data collection is not standardised, making robust analysis challenging. Consequently, factors leading to bird-strike events and the magnitude of the problem in SGSSI waters are poorly understood. The Darwin Plus funded project (DPLUS143) being implemented by JNCC in partnership with the Government of South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) and Argos Froyanes Ltd (AFL) will develop bird-strike reporting systems for vessels operating in SGSSI MZs. This will ensure practical, standardized data collection and robust analysis to inform management practices of GSGSSI. In parallel, handling and care guidelines will be revised to improve the survival of landed birds. To date, beta-versions of the reporting form and bird-handling guidelines have been developed and undergone sea-trials on different vessel types. It is anticipated that the final reporting forms and bird-handling guidelines will be presented to GSGSSI for implementation by early 2024.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds, **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10**(Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures).

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Other mortality

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Disease	1	Metropolitan UK: Seals are affected negatively by Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) or similar diseases. There is some monitoring to identify potential outbreaks and a large study ongoing in Scotland to investigate the decline of harbour seals <i>Phoca vitulina</i> in Scottish waters. A joint surveillance project established between the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation has found an increasing incidence of <i>Sarcocystis</i> in ducks in the UK (following reports of the disease further up the flyway in eastern and northern Europe). The role of introduced mammals such as raccoon dog <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> may play a role in transmission. Highly pathogenic avian influenza of the sub-type H5N1 outbreak from October 2021 to end of reporting period; impacting migratory waterbirds and seabirds (impact variable from low to severe; no Appendix I species, but severe impact in Appendix II listed seabirds <i>Sterna dougallii</i> , <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> , and <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>). The fungus associated with WNS, <i>Pseudogymnoascus destructans</i> (previously called <i>Geomyces destructans</i>), has also been identified on a number of bats in Europe, including the UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and other countries. However, unlike in the USA, these findings have not been linked with mass mortalities and WNS has not been confirmed in Europe. https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/threats-to-bats/white-nose-syndrome/white-nose-syndrome-in-europe Bailiwick of Guernsey: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was detected in 2022 and affected several species of seabird. Populations are being monitored in 2023 to understand the impact and presence of the disease. Falkland Islands and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: there is a risk of wildlife disease to penguins, albatross and other seabirds, and pinnipeds.
Accidental/indirect poisoning	2	Metropolitan UK: Waterfowl, birds of prey and scavenging birds are at risk of exposure to lead due to feeding habits that involve ingesting lead gunshot as grit or consuming prey animals that have been shot with lead ammunition. Although resistance to change to non-toxic ammunition persists, the shooting community initiated a voluntary transition to non-toxic ammunition without the use of single-use plastics for live quarry shooting in 2020. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Several clay shooting ranges are placed adjacent to wetlands. The ranges still use lead shot. Due to the new water pollution law, conversations have begun with shooting clubs on how to reduce risk to the natural environment.

Unexplained stranding events	3	Metropolitan UK and Gibraltar: All cetacean strandings are recorded and where possible/practical, investigated through post mortem to identify cause of death and other factors of note. The most recent large scale unusual mortality events involved a mass stranding of long-finned pilot whales <i>Globicephala melas</i> (App II) in the Western Isles in June 2020, a mass stranding of sperm whales <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> (App I & II) in Yorkshire in December 2020 and a mass stranding of bottlenose dolphins <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II) in Highland, Scotland in August 2021. Cyprus SBAs: Turtle, dolphin, whale and shark strandings are recorded. Dolphin and shark strandings are investigated through the Republic of Cyprus Department of Fisheries and Marine Research. Injured turtles are taken to a rehabilitation Centre operated by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research. Stranded birds are handed to the Republic of Cyprus Game and Fauna Service for further investigation and/or care.
Predation	1	Metropolitan UK: Bottlenose dolphins <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> attack other species such as harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (App II) and common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (App II). Curlews <i>Numenius arquata</i> (App II) and other meadow birds are particularly impacted by unsustainably high rates of predation on nests and chicks; although red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> and carrion crow <i>Corvus Corone</i> are believed to be the most prevalent, several native generalist predators are involved, and it has been noted that populations of such generalists tend to be higher in the UK than in other parts of Europe. The historical incursions of rats continue to impact the amount of safe nesting habitat available to all ground-nesting seabirds and other migratory bird species. These impacts have been exacerbated by the more recent spread of American mink <i>Neovison vison</i> , and human-assisted incursions onto islands by native stoats <i>Mustela erminea</i> and hedgehogs <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> . Bailiwick of Guernsey: high rat densities in bird colonies are assumed to be reducing productivity of these species. Cyprus SBAs: Turtle nests are suffering from fox predation and various measures are implemented to address the problem. Ascension Island: There is some predation of green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> hatchlings by black rats <i>Rattus rattus</i> and mynah birds <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> . Bermuda: Black and Norway rats remain a threat to Appendix I listed Bermuda petrel <i>Pterodroma cahow</i> . An active rat control programme exists on nesting islands. British Indian Ocean Territory: Avifauna remains subject to pressure from invasive species (especially black rats) on several islands. Hawksbill <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (App I & II) and green turtles <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I & II) impacted by rats taking eggs on nesting beaches. BVI, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn (Henderson Island), TCI: Hawksbill <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (App I & II), green <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I & II) and leatherback turtles <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (App I & II) are threatened by rats, dogs and pigs taking eggs on nesting beaches. Gough Island: (part of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago) albatrosses (including the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross <i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i> and Tristan albatross <i>Diomedea dabbenena</i> (both App II)) and petrel chicks and eggs are predated by mice. Pitcairn Islands: Henderson petrel <i>Pterodroma atrata</i> (App I) is threatened by Polynesian rats <i>Rattus exulans</i> .

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering other mortality?

>>> Predation:

Metropolitan UK:

To protect the UK's 42 seabird island Special Protection Areas (SPAs), NatureScot, Natural England, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales are contributing funding for the RSPB's Biosecurity for Life programme which seeks to address the need for biosecurity measures through the removal of introduced predatory mammals. The programme concludes in July 2023. A key component of Biosecurity for LIFE is education and awareness raising for the public on biosecurity best practice.

RSPB is coordinating the development of the AfterLIFE plan to continue implementation of biosecurity measures to support the UK's seabird islands. AfterLIFE funding has been confirmed for Scotland, Wales and England, and planning for a handover from the project continues in preparation for the new projects, which will start in May 2023.

Scotland:

The Orkney Native Wildlife Project aims to safeguard the unique and internationally important native wildlife of Orkney by addressing the threat it faces from invasive non-native stoats as well as providing other community benefits. The project is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, NatureScot and Orkney Islands Council with generous support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the EU's LIFE programme.

<https://www.orkneynativewildlife.org.uk/>

Isle of Man:

A rat eradication programme has been in operation on the Calf of Man since 2012 and monitoring and mop up work is ongoing.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2022 National Trust for Jersey and Birds on the Edge launched a campaign to save Jersey's puffins from extinction, with the main threat identified as being predation from non native predators such as rats and ferrets. A predator-exclusion fence is to be built along the cliffs below the footpath to protect the puffins, their eggs and chicks from these predators.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

As well as an integrated pest management strategy to reduce rat numbers in offshore islands and islets, we have also undertaken a feasibility assessment of a rat eradication program and are working with a private company to investigate options to progress this.

Falkland Islands:

Since the previous reporting period, the eradication of rats and mice on two island groups (Bleaker and Arch Islands) has been successfully undertaken, funded by the Falkland Islands Government. To ensure its success, rodent detector dogs have been employed.

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands:

In order to enhance biosecurity provision and prevent the re-introduction of rodents a Biosecurity Dog Programme was established in 2019 following a 2-year trial period. The programme currently employs two handlers and has 3 trained detector dogs. The aim is to check vessels and cargo in the Falklands Islands before they depart for South Georgia. 219 searches have been conducted since the programme was formally initiated.

Pitcairn:

A major rat eradication programme is planned for 2025/6.

Tristan da Cunha:

Tristan da Cunha Government and RSPB are leading on the eradication of house mice through the Gough Island Restoration Programme (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/gough-island-restoration-programme/>). The UK Government supports this project. The budget was estimated at £10.5 million (AUD\$19.3 million) for the entire programme. The mice eradication operation, originally planned for 2020, was delayed until June-August 2021 due to implications caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic. While the programme was executed successfully, unfortunately mice were detected in December 2021. RSPB has initiated an investigation into why the eradication was unsuccessful. This investigation will be undertaken by an independent panel of eradication, toxicology and mouse ecology experts to review all aspects of the Gough Island eradication attempt. Findings of the review are expected in mid-late 2023, after which decisions will be made about a future eradication attempt.

Disease:

Metropolitan UK:

Ongoing surveillance for infectious and non-infectious disease in vertebrate wildlife (excluding cetaceans) in GB is delivered by the Animal and Plant Health Agency Diseases of Wildlife Scheme (DoWS) in conjunction with the GB Wildlife Health Partnership which includes SRUC Veterinary Services, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Forestry England, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Natural England, Institute of Zoology and the Garden Wildlife Health project. New and emerging wildlife disease threats are reported through the GB disease surveillance and emerging threats reports.

Unprecedented outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been occurring across the UK, Europe, North and South America with potentially significant impacts on migratory birds. A significant outbreak of H5N1 in the UK began in migratory waterbirds in October 2021 and spread to migratory seabirds in the spring of 2022. The UK's avian influenza disease control measures seek to contain the number of animals that need to be culled, either for disease control purposes or to safeguard animal welfare. The UK's approach aims to reduce adverse impacts on the rural and wider economy, the public, rural communities and the environment (including impact on wildlife), whilst protecting public health and minimising the overall cost of any outbreak. On the 31 August 2022, Defra and the Welsh Government published the Mitigation strategy for avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales which supports the Notifiable Avian Disease Control Strategy for Great Britain and contains guidance to support land managers and ornithologists in mitigating the impact of avian influenza in wild birds.

APHA continue to closely monitor the global situation of avian influenza as part of this work. The APHA avian influenza national reference laboratory (NRL) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols. In addition, where appropriate marine mammals submitted to the APHA DoWS, including via the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme and Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme, are tested for influenza of avian origin at the NRL. Findings are published online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bird-flu-avian-influenza-findings-in-non-avian-wildlife>

In response to the unprecedented global outbreak of H5N1 (clade 2.3.4.4b) highly pathogenic avian influenza, the UK's avian influenza NRL has increased its surveillance of cases in mammals and genome analysis of the virus itself while keeping a close eye on its spread in global populations of wild birds.

Alongside the UK Government's continued investment in the NRL and APHA's Weybridge site, in June 2022 an eight-strong consortium 'FluMap' led by APHA and funded by Defra and the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council was launched that received £1.5 million in funding to develop new strategies to tackle avian influenza outbreaks. This research project will help build our understanding in a number of key areas, including why the current virus strains have formed larger and longer outbreaks and understanding transmission and infection in different bird populations, and environmental persistence of the virus. In addition to supporting international collaboration through specific research projects, such as DeltaFlu, international collaboration and knowledge exchange is facilitated through discussions between the UK Chief Veterinary Officer and representatives from the APHA avian influenza national and international reference laboratories, and their counterparts in the EU and globally through the World Organisation for Animal Health and allied projects. Including through the joint WOAHO-FOA Scientific Network on animal influenza OFFLU.

The UK statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) assist the UK Government, the Devolved Administrations, and others in the ongoing monitoring of wild bird populations and the impact HPAI may have had on these populations, and provide advice on potential species recovery actions. The SNCBs have also contributed to the national contingency planning and have supported Defra and the Devolved Administrations in liaising with the wider international community on these issues.

In addition to the usual risk assessments undertaken by Defra, JNCC and BTO hosted an international workshop on monitoring, management and research related to HPAI in wild birds in November 2022 (Highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds in the United Kingdom in 2022: impacts, planning for future outbreaks, and conservation and research priorities. Report on virtual workshops held in November 2022 | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology).

Several new working groups were also established to support exchange of information and plan responses. For example, Defra, in collaboration with the Welsh Government, funded and established the Defra-Welsh Government Advisory Group on HPAI and Wild Bird Recovery to advise, recommend actions and develop guidance on minimising the impact of HPAI on wild bird populations. The group will liaise with equivalent groups in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and with other countries beyond the UK to share knowledge and resources. The group is lead and chaired by JNCC and made up of key experts, such as Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, RSPB, British Trust for Ornithology, National Trust, Wildlife & Countryside Link, WWT, BASC and GWTC.

Defra, the SNCBs and BTO have all enhanced surveillance of mortality to enable improved risk assessments. The SNCBs, working with animal health teams, are preparing management guidance to ensure that any options to reduce the spread of HPAI once present in wild birds is reduced as far as possible; this covers removal of dead birds, handling and ringing birds for scientific purposes and access to seabird colonies. JNCC continues to support the BTO/RSPB/JNCC Wetland Bird Survey, BTO National Ringing Scheme and other wild bird monitoring schemes as fundamental sources of information that aid the ongoing assessment of risk, and responses to, outbreaks. In addition, Government agencies have engaged with stakeholders, such as organisations representing bird ringers and hunters, to ensure relevant guidance has been produced and disseminated.

The UK Government co-organised a side event at the 8th Session of the AEWA Meeting of Parties in October 2022; Avian Influenza: an unprecedented crisis for waterbirds and seabirds.

The CMS/FAO co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds continues to function, operating as a liaison mechanism between relevant multi-lateral environment agreements as necessary. The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) remains an active member of the Task Force, acting as de facto coordinator in the absence of a funded position.

The Garden Wildlife Health Initiative continues to provide a surveillance and research function investigating diseases of UK garden birds, some of which are migratory:

Folly, A.J., Sewgobind, S., Hernández-Triana, L.M., Mansfield, K.L., Lean, F.Z., Lawson, B., Seilern-Moy, K., Cunningham, A.A., Spiro, S., Wrigglesworth, E. and Pearce-Kelly, P., 2022. Evidence for overwintering and autochthonous transmission of Usutu virus to wild birds following its redetection in the United Kingdom. *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tbed.14738>

Hanmer, H.J., Cunningham, A.A., John, S.K., Magregor, S.K., Robinson, R.A., Seilern-Moy, K., Siriwardena, G.M. and Lawson, B., 2022. Habitat-use influences severe disease-mediated population declines in two of the most common garden bird species in Great Britain. *Scientific reports*, 12(1), pp.1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-18880-8>

Lawson, B., Robinson, R.A., Parmar, M., Killick, R., Cunningham, A.A., MacDonald, S.J. (2020) Aflatoxin and ochratoxin A residues in supplementary foods used for wild birds. *Science of The Total Environment* 731:138851. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.138851>

Scotland:

The Scottish Government is working with partner organisations through the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force to monitor and report the situation where action can be taken recognizing the importance of communication and coordination in preparedness and responses. A contingency plan for HPAI in wild birds is currently being developed which will set out how Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland. In addition to the GB surveillance programme, NatureScot and other relevant parties have been carrying out monitoring at key seabird colonies across Scotland to collect data on bird numbers and any mortality events. Colony surveys will be undertaken during the 2023 breeding season to assess the status of seabird colonies. The Scottish Government has published updated advice for local authorities, landowners, wildlife rescue centres and members of the public regarding reporting, safe collection and disposal of wild birds. This guidance will be kept under continuous review as the situation develops.

Seals are affected negatively by Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) or similar diseases. There is monitoring to identify potential outbreaks and a large study is ongoing in Scotland to investigate the decline of harbour seals *Phoca vitulina* in Scottish waters.

England:

Natural England has set up a monitoring system to collect data on seabird mortality at key sites, to help with assessing the impact of bird flu on seabird populations.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Channel Islands are in good communication regarding HPAI to give other islands early warning signs if it is

detected. It also gives the islands opportunity to have joint communication and knowledge sharing.

Falkland Islands and South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

FI and SGSSI have a Wildlife Disease Response Group which has representatives from both governments (including environment departments and veterinary dept [FI]), research and conservation groups, experts and JNCC. The group has recently prepared responses both territories will take if a suspected or confirmed case of the H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is detected.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

Due to the heightened risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, specific guidance on enhanced biosecurity procedures were developed for all those operating in the Territory. These include information on: requirements for a 5 minute observation period before entering areas of high wildlife density including what signs to be vigilant for; enhanced biosecurity and Personal Protective Equipment for those working in close proximity to wildlife; Steps for dealing with bird strike on ships or on shore. See

https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/Biosecurity/Biosecurity_Handbook.pdf

Unexplained stranding events:

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) analyse samples from stranded animals to establish life history and genetic information, to inform management.

Scotland:

The Scottish Government funds the Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme (SMASS) which undertakes investigations into the cause of death of marine animals (e.g. cetaceans, seals, turtles and basking sharks) stranded around the Scottish coastline. Annual reports are available on the Scheme's website:

<https://osf.io/ks2v6/> along with a map of stranding locations:

<https://batchgeo.com/map/55bc5dd3be77907976d22f7e7a4981b0>

Northern Ireland:

Many cetacean stranding's are reported directly by members of the public to the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group <http://www.iwdg.ie/browsers/strandings.php>.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Guernsey has established a marine mammal stranding protocol for both dead and live strandings. This includes recording procedures.

Gibraltar:

Similar to the UK, the Gibraltar Cetacean and Marine Reptile Stranding Programme involves the collection of data on all strandings in BGTW.

Accidental/indirect poisoning:

Metropolitan UK:

In 2020, the nine largest hunting organisations in the UK called for a voluntary transition away from the use of lead shot for live quarry shooting.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Guernsey has made a commitment to reduce pesticide use across the island. A working group has been set up between government and NGOs to try and achieve this.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning other mortality?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **11.15 (Rev.COP13)** (Preventing Poisoning of of Migratory Species), **12.6**(Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures) and **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>> Disease:

The 2021/22 season has seen the UK's largest outbreak of avian flu to date, which has affected wild bird populations, including some internationally important seabird populations.

Unexplained stranding events:

During 2020, 1102 cetaceans were reported to UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme partners across the UK, 11% higher than reported during the previous four-year period (mean n=992, 2016- 2019).

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
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<p>Alien and/or invasive species</p>	<p>Metropolitan UK: <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> has strong negative impacts on western oakwoods – the principal habitat for wood warblers <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> (App II), pied flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> (App II) and redstart <i>Phoenicurus</i> (App II). Muntjac <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i> and fallow deer <i>Dama dama</i> have profound impact on woodland understory and scrub posing a large threat to nightingales <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> (App II). There is ongoing work to eradicate the invasive ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> due to the threat of hybridization with the white-headed duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> (App I & II). Bailiwick of Guernsey: The establishment of Asian hornet <i>Vespa velutina</i> is a continual threat due to large densities in nearby jurisdictions. Whilst Asian hornets aren't known to directly impact any migratory species annexed to this convention, they may cause indirect effects such as a reduction in prey availability for migratory insectivores. Invasive plants, such as <i>Carpobrotus</i> sp., are established in many cliff sites and smothering former breeding seabird colonies. OTs: In most of the UKOTs invasive alien species have severe impacts on migratory species through predation of eggs and young. These impacts are outlined in the predation section. Other impacts include: Ascension Island: The spread of non-native plants (particularly <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>) threatens green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I & II) nesting beaches. Caribbean UK Overseas Territories: introduced invasive lionfish <i>Pterois</i> are devastating many other species, with both direct and indirect impacts on migratory species. Montserrat: feral animals are impacting remaining native forest (used by both migrant and resident species) in areas under restricted access for safety reasons. Many invasive plant species, boosted by impracticability of management during volcanic emergency, are impacting habitat of migrant and resident animal species. Cats and red ants on Montserrat provide a threat to turtle nests.</p>	<p>1</p>
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing alien and/or invasive species?

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation has been retained in UK legislation under the EU Withdrawal Act, and operability amendments have been made. The Regulation is implemented in England and Wales, and in Scotland in reserved areas, through the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019. This legislation requires much that we already practice in terms of surveillance, management and pathway action plans. The UK has reviewed the pathways of introduction of invasive alien species and strengthened its regulatory regime on non-native species. We have established a new Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy Inspectorate modelled on those in plant, animal, fish and bee health to bring our effort and level of success in managing INNS in line with other biosecurity regimes. The GB Invasive non-native species strategy operates to ensure coordinated action across Great Britain. This Strategy follows internationally recognised principles and priorities of prevention, rapid eradication and management, which we are committed to continuing. The Strategy was refreshed in early 2023 and builds on the successes of the last fifteen years. It sets out a series of ambitious aims to guide our strong partnership of Government, voluntary organisations, businesses, and the public into 2030.

Scotland:

Marine Scotland is the lead authority for INNS in the Scottish marine environment. Marine Scotland works in partnership with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NatureScot and other leading INNS expertise through the Scottish Marine INNS Group. The group organizes marine INNS monitoring and reporting, promotes collaborative working across authorities and also coordinates responses to outbreaks in the marine environment when required. The Scottish government is a signatory to the 2023 GB Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy; the Scottish Marine INNS Group promotes implementation of the Strategy as it applies to the marine environment.

INNS legislation in Scotland has been strengthened with amendments made to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011. Subsequent guidance on offences and responsibilities relating to INNS and their spread, including a framework of responsibilities for those authorities with legal powers relating to non-native species has been published. Community Biosecurity Plans have been produced to enable marine users to adhere to best practice guidelines of biosecurity to avoid introduction or spread of marine INNS.

Northern Ireland:

An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland was published in 2013 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/invasive-alien-species-strategy-northern-ireland>. The implementation plan was reviewed in 2017 and a revised implementation plan published in 2018 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-invasive-alien-species-implementation-plan-revised-2018>. Enforcement and permitting regulations came into force in 2019, and NI remains aligned with the EU IAS Regulation.

Isle of Man:

An Isle of Man Marine Biosecurity Plan has been completed, with implementation and species-specific action plans being developed. A terrestrial/freshwater plan is also planned (under the Biodiversity Strategy).

Bailiwick of Jersey:

INNS legislation in Jersey has been strengthened with the new Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, which prohibits the possession and release into the wild of INNS and provides for Species Control Agreements and Species Control Orders to be put in place in order to control or eradicate INNS.

Collaboration between Jersey & Guernsey has led to the development of a NNS horizon scanning and risk assessment process for both Marine & Terrestrial species. Factsheets are being produced to be used as public engagement, education and awareness tools. Twice-yearly monitoring for marine invasives has also been implemented and conversations with Ports of Jersey regarding surveillance of INNS and training of staff and relevant stakeholders has begun.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2019 the States of Guernsey produced an Asian hornet strategy with the aim of preventing their establishment on the island through a combination of capturing migratory queens in the spring, and then locating, treating, and removing secondary nests in the summer. The implementation of this strategy has proven to be successful so far, with secondary nests reducing from 8 in 2018, to two in 2022. An INNS Strategy has been produced for Guernsey which aims to focus on preventing the introduction and spread of INNS. A horizon scanning exercise has been undertaken and the resulting list has supported a policy preventing the importation of invasive non-native animals. A collaboration between the Channel Islands has been formalised through the adoption of a 'Collaboration Framework' and Jersey are currently supporting the CIs by leading on a risk assessment exercise of established INNS. Whilst we await the results of this exercise, control measures on invasive plants, including *Carprobrutus edulis*, *C. glaucascens*, *Delairea dorata* and *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, are ongoing.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands have developed an Environment Strategy which recognises that non-native species are one of the biggest threats to the natural environment and many globally important migratory species. The strategy provides actions that address risk areas for biosecurity and targets for combatting non-native species. A new Darwin Plus project being led by Falklands Conservation in partnership with Falkland Islands Government and RSPB is investigating the feasibility of eradicating introduced pests on New Island - see <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS169/>

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands:

Following the successful eradication of invasive rodents and reindeer, attention has been focused on management of invasive plants. Approximately £60,000 per annum is spent implementing the non-native plant management strategy which looks to control 39 of the Territory's most high-risk species and restore native vegetation which forms vital breeding habitat for bird species. See: <https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/Invasive%20Species/Non%20Native%20plant%20management%20strat%20V1.1.pdf>

Pitcairn:

Increased biosecurity regulation, with a new Biosecurity ordinance in final scrutiny.

Cyprus SBAs:

Acacia saligna - Since 2019 large areas have been cleared and there is an ongoing maintenance programme to maintain the areas clear of *Acacia*. Among other significant benefits the removal of *Acacia* has contributed significantly to a decrease in bird trapping. Common mynah *Acridotheres tristis* - Individuals have been identified and joint action is taken with the Republic of Cyprus Game and Fauna Service, the University of Cyprus and Birdlife Cyprus. Also, a Darwin Plus proposal has been submitted. Silver-cheeked toadfish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* and common lionfish *Pterois miles* - The Republic of Cyprus has been implementing measures. *Dodonea viscosa* and *Pennisetum setaceum* - removal has been taking place.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning alien and/or invasive species?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **11.28** (Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species).

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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
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Disturbance	Metropolitan UK: Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II) and other cetacean species, Peregrine Falco peregrinus (App II), golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (App II) goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (App II), hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (App II), red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i> (App II) and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (App I & II). Many birds are affected by recreation disturbance e.g. little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (App II) and other seabirds, waders and waterfowl. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Disturbance is an issue for marine mammals through on-water tourism and leisure activities, and birds through dog walking. Bailiwick of Jersey: Disturbance of seabirds is an issue in certain areas, such as the north coast and the offshore reefs, through on water tourism and leisure activities, disturbing rafting sites and seal haul out sites. Bermuda: disturbance of humpback whales <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (App I) by private and commercial whale watching boats. South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands: disturbance of breeding sites of ACAP listed species by visitors. Cyprus SBAs: There is disturbance to turtle nesting habitat and/or nesting attempts at certain beaches with large numbers of beach users, especially at night when restaurants are operating in areas where turtles are nesting. Unregulated access to protected habitat is affecting bird species. Disturbance to bats and Monk seals <i>Monachus monachus</i> (App I & II) from tourist and recreational activities.	3
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing disturbance & disruption?

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The Severe Weather Scheme involves monitoring the weather at a network of stations across Great Britain and if certain prolonged severe weather condition criteria are met then this triggers a request for voluntary restraint around disturbing birds, and then (if severe weather conditions continue) legal instruments (provided for under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 section 2.6) to implement temporary close season for shooting of birds on Schedule 2 part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In the winter of 2022/23, there was a period of voluntary restraint and temperatures increased before the need for a statutory suspension was reached.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

Strict visitor guidelines which are both site and species specific have been developed. Work has been undertaken with the International Association for Antarctic Tour Operators to provide for maximum approach distances to breeding birds in order to minimise disturbance. Tourists must be accompanied by an expedition leader and there is a requirement for a South Georgia specific examination which tests knowledge of conservation measures including how to minimise wildlife disturbance during landings and zodiac cruising.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Designation of five Areas of Special Protection affecting the offshore reefs at Les Ecrehous and Les Minquiers provides physical protection for key seabird nesting sites between end February and end August. During these times there is prohibited access to the breeding sites and restrictions on activities such as the use of drones and vessel speed limits in the wider ASP area. Guidance has been produced and circulated to all boat operators and users in the area. The Seabird Protection Zone on the north coast of the Island is in effect between May and July and is focused on protecting sensitive seabird populations. The Portelet no-take zone, which prohibits all commercial and recreational fishing, covers an area of 0.26 km². Engagement between Land Resource Management (Jersey Government) and stakeholder groups such as the Jersey Climbing Club and Coastering groups has led to successful voluntary agreements being put in place during the breeding season to restrict access to key bird nesting sites. There is a birdwatching and bird photography code of conduct for Jersey: <http://www.birdsontheedge.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BOTE-Code-of-Conduct-v2.pdf>

Bermuda:

Guidelines have been developed for whale watching and 'disturb' has been added to offenses under the Protected Species Act 2003.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning disturbance and disruption?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.16** (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and Decision **13.66** (Marine Wildlife Watching).

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Pollution

	Species/species groups affected (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
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Other pollution	Metropolitan UK: Strong evidence shows that excessively high levels of long-lived contaminants, specifically polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are still present in cetacean apex predators such as bottlenose dolphins <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II) and killer whales <i>Orcinus orca</i> (App II). Population-level effects are unknown. Blubber concentrations of PCBs have been associated with an increased risk of infectious disease mortality, reduced fecundity rates and reduced testes weights in harbour porpoises <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (App II). These findings are important in the context of other higher trophic level species (where data are lacking), such as killer whales, that accumulate higher levels of PCBs and face a greater toxicological threat. PCBs are released into the environment through improper disposal of contaminated equipment and leaching from landfills. Whilst many pollution incidents may involve the release of oil and gas, some maritime incidents may release hazardous and noxious substances or inert material, or a combination of these, that have the potential to threaten many marine species. There is growing recognition of the impact on migratory species from pollution in areas where they feed or rest along migratory routes (e.g. coastal landfill, chemical hotspots, exposure through pharmaceutical or industrial waste).	2
Underwater noise	Metropolitan UK: There are various sources of underwater noise which can cause masking of biologically important sounds, behavioural change, disturbance and hearing damage to marine species, including those resulting in impulsive noise (for example, seismic surveys, pile driving, underwater explosions), and sources of non-impulsive continuous noise (for example, shipping). These have the potential to impact cetacean and pinniped species. The most recent UK report suggests potential negative impacts of noise on harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (App II), minke whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> (App II), white-beaked dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> (App II), Atlantic white-sided dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> (App II), Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i> (App II), bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II), common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (App II), long-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala melas</i> (App II) and killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i> (App II).	2
Light pollution	Metropolitan UK: Artificial lighting of bat roosts, access points and foraging pathways can be extremely disturbing to bats. Bailiwick of Jersey: marine mammal species (principally seals and dolphins) are impacted by light. Artificial lighting through development and impacts on bat roosts, flight paths and wildlife corridors is also a growing concern. Ascension Island: some anecdotal incidences of green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I & II) hatchlings becoming disorientated and dying due to light pollution from the shore and boats and adult female green turtles abandoning nesting attempts due to disturbance from people with torches or cameras. Bermuda: light can be a fatal attractant to the nocturnal Bermuda petrel <i>Pterodroma cahow</i> (App I), especially for newly fledging chicks and prospecting birds. Altered lighting is used to prevent impacts on turtles, but is not being used everywhere. British Virgin Islands: Light pollution has affected several turtle hatchlings in the British Virgin Islands. Unfortunately, not all hotels / restaurants / homes on the coast / beaches have turtle safety lights. South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands: risk of bird strike on vessels due to nighttime operation of deck or ice lights.	2
Marine debris (including plastics)	Metropolitan UK: Microplastic particles can be consumed by marine animals, potentially damaging their health. Larger items entangle animals and smother habitats. Surveillance of the impact of marine debris on cetaceans is monitored through the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP). Many seabird species ingest plastic fragments. Low incidence of microplastics were found in gastrointestinal tracts of animals examined by the CSIP (e.g. Deaville et al. (2019) CSIP 2011-2017 final contract report (Appendices) pp. 19-23). In 2019, a paper assessing microplastics in a range of UK stranded marine mammals found particles in all sampled animals (Nelms, S.E., Barnett, J., Brownlow, A. et al. Microplastics in marine mammals stranded around the British coast: ubiquitous but transitory?. <i>Sci Rep</i> 9, 1075 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-37428-3) Species impacted across Metropolitan UK, Bailiwick of Jersey and Bailiwick of Guernsey include: fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> (App I & II), common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (App II), Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i> (App II), white-sided dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> (App II), killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i> (App II), harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (App II), bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II), as well as leatherback turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (App I & II), hawksbill turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (App I & II), loggerhead turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i> (App I & II). Pitcairn: The outer islands, especially Henderson, are affected by the plastic waste caught up in the South Pacific Gyre, which deposits large amounts of plastic waste on the shore. This impacts the local sea life and turtles. South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands: marine mammals and ACAP listed birds.	2

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing pollution?

>>> Light pollution:

Metropolitan UK:

EUROBATS has produced guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects. The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) has launched the latest practical guidance on considering the impact upon bats when designing lighting schemes. They have partnered with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and ecological

consultants to write this document on avoiding or reducing the harmful effects which artificial lighting may have on bats and their habitats. This guidance is available at <https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/> The guidance goes into depth about lighting levels and colour temperature impacts on different bat species. It is intended to raise awareness of the impacts of artificial lighting on bats but also the potential solutions to avoid and reduce this harm. The guidance was written by a panel of experts representing ILP, BCT and ecologists.

England:

Natural England has also produced new guidance - Bats: advice for making planning decisions - which articulates the requirement for a survey where a development proposal includes the flood lighting of buildings or green space close to habitats that bats tend to use.

Scotland:

NatureScot has produced an Information Note on the potential effects of wind turbine lights on birds and mitigation measures: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2020-10/Wind%20farm%20impacts%20on%20birds%20-%20Turbine%20lighting%20and%20birds%20-%20Information%20Note.pdf>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The impacts of artificial lighting posed by proposed new development on bats, other wildlife and on flight paths and wildlife corridors is a key consideration when evaluating proposals for development of land or property, and is evaluated in the context of the new guidance produced by the BCT and Institution for Lighting Professionals. Further assessments (such as transect surveys) and detailed lighting strategies are sought where appropriate to ensure that impacts are avoided or minimized.

Underwater noise:

Metropolitan UK:

Ordnance clearance can have a significant impact on vulnerable marine species including harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*. In November 2021 the UK Government released a joint position statement which demonstrates, for the first time, our preference for quieter alternative technologies in the removal of UXO from the marine environment. Low noise alternatives should be prioritized, wherever possible, over high-order detonations. Defra are now working to update the joint position statement with support from all signatories to reflect the outcomes of the trials and to address remaining concerns.

As part of the Offshore Wind Enabling Actions (OWEA) Programme, Defra has delivered a portfolio of 15 research projects aimed to:

- Assess and fill evidence gaps in the noise data to establish baselines for impulsive noise in our waters;
- Improve our understanding of impacts of underwater noise on harbour porpoise and other species;
- Determine how effective the current approach to noise management is;
- Identify further interventions to better manage and minimize impacts of underwater noise.

JNCC has developed a suite of mitigation guidelines to help reduce potential impacts from impulsive noise sources to marine mammals. Through consultation with regulators and industry, JNCC periodically reviews and updates these guidelines to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-mammals-and-noise-mitigation/>. In addition, a noise management approach has been implemented in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to manage noise disturbance within harbour porpoise SACs.

The UK's Marine Strategy Part Three: UK programme of measures published in December 2015, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-uk-programme-of-measures>), sets out a comprehensive set of existing and planned measures to help the UK achieve Good Environmental Status in our seas, including relevant legislation and other measures to address underwater noise.

The Marine Noise Registry (<https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>) has been developed by JNCC on behalf of Defra and devolved administrations to record human activities in UK seas that produce loud, low to medium frequency (10Hz - 10kHz) impulsive noise. The purpose is to quantify the pressure of man-made noise on the environment which will aid in the definition of a baseline level for impulsive noise in UK waters.

Scotland:

The ECOMMAS project uses acoustic recorders at 30 locations off the east coast of Scotland to detect echolocation clicks. At 10 of these locations, a broadband acoustic recorder is also deployed to record ambient noise levels. Data from the broadband recorders have been published as part of the first assessment of baseline underwater noise: <http://marine.gov.scot/information/east-coast-marine-mammal-acoustic-study-ecommas>

Marine debris (including plastics):

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Government funds monitoring of marine litter on beaches, in the water column and on the seafloor, supports beach cleaning, plays an active role in advising and influencing marine litter and microplastics research, and is a member of the Marine Litter Action Network, which works with stakeholders from various sectors to raise awareness of the sources and problems associated with marine litter.

Work on marine debris is undertaken by government, government agencies and by a range of non-government organisations including Whale and Dolphin Conservation. There is still a limited understanding of current levels, properties and impacts of marine litter. However the UK Marine Strategy Part One, published in 2012, indicated problems from marine litter in all regions within the Greater North Sea and the Celtic Seas where there are systematic surveys of beach litter density (www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status).

UK and OSPAR work to assess marine litter levels and its impacts, as part of the implementation of the North East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 is being undertaken. The aim of the UK Marine Strategy (UKMS) is to achieve Good Environmental Status, which is defined by 11 high-level qualitative Descriptors. Descriptor 10 is on Marine Litter: "Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment". The UKMS includes the following provisions for marine litter:

Part 1 (2012, 2018) Assessment and Targets

Part 2 (2014, 2020) Monitoring Programmes

Part 3 (2016, 2022) Programmes of measures

All parts are updated and subject to public consultation on a six year rolling cycle. Part 1 is being updated again, currently.

The UK delivery of the Litter Assessments has been done through the Clean and Safe Seas Evidence Group (CSSEG) of the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS), using three indicators to assess progress on marine litter towards GES (for latest UK indicator assessments (2018) see <https://moat.cefas.co.uk/pressures-from-human-activities/marine-litter/>):

1. Presence of litter on beaches

2. Presence of litter on seabed

3. Presence of floating litter (using a measure of plastic particles in the stomachs of northern fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis*)

These assessments have also been developed and implemented at a north-east Atlantic scale within OSPAR and were recently updated as part of the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023 (<https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qs-2023/indicator-assessments/>). A fourth indicator on the presence of micro-litter is being developed in OSPAR. Work on litter indicators in OSPAR is done by the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG ML) under OSPAR's Committee on Environment Impacts on Human Activities (EIHA). Given the trans-boundary nature of marine litter, the UK works closely with other countries in the OSPAR region, and actively implements the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML2), published in 2022 (<https://www.ospar.org/about/publications?q=891>).

The UK and Vanuatu continue to lead the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (CCOA) to tackle plastic pollution in the ocean. These ambitions are being supported by up to £66.4 million funding packages to boost global research and help countries across the Commonwealth stop plastic waste from entering the oceans.

The UK, alongside Canada, continues to lead the Global Plastics Action Partnership to help deliver the goals of the Alliance and further bring businesses, governments and organisations together to develop country action plans to address the plastic problem. The latest report, for 2022, can be found here:

<https://www.globalplasticaction.org/impact>

Wales:

Wales has a Clean Seas Partnership: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/marineandfisheries/information-and-statistics/wales-clean-seas-partnership>.

Scotland:

Scotland was the first administration in the UK to ban plastic stemmed cotton buds. The Environmental Protection (Cotton Buds) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 came into force on 12 October 2019. On 1 June 2022 legislation banning some of the most problematic single-use plastic products (expanded polystyrene beverage cups, expanded polystyrene food containers, single-use plastic beverage stirrers, plastic cutlery, straws, balloon sticks and plastic plates) came into force in Scotland.

An updated Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland was published on 28 September 2022. The updated strategy contains multiple actions on the most problematic types of marine litter including fishing and aquaculture gear, sewage-related debris, and plastic pellets: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-litter-strategy-scotland-2/>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Plastic Free Jersey is an initiative that brings together individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to reduce plastic use. Surfers Against Sewage developed the scheme to tackle the plastic problem specifically in coastal areas. <https://www.gov.je/Environment/Ecoactive/Campaigns/pages/plasticfreejersey.aspx>

The Blue Fish Campaign raises awareness of potentially polluting substances and their impact on the Island's water environment. The Campaign is part of eco active's work with schools, whilst eco active businesses who store or transport potentially polluting substances are required to develop a pollution prevention plan as part of the requirements to join the eco active business network.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/SaveWaterReducePollution/Pages/BlueFishCampaign.aspx>

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

There are strict regulations about waste management for all vessels, including the prohibition of discharge of plastics into Territorial waters. In 2019, vessels in toothfish fleet all fitted microplastics filters on washing machine outputs. These filters are fitted to all Government and British Antarctic Survey vessels plus at research stations. Long-term monitoring of levels of marine debris, including plastic, is undertaken at two sites in the Territory. Details of debris found on beaches and recovered from bird breeding sites, as well as entanglements of seals, is routinely reported to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

Other pollution:

Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) on oil pollution

Metropolitan UK:

The UK continues to address oil pollution and work is undertaken by government, government bodies and by a range of non-government organisations. Effective preparation is a key factor in dealing with incidents and the Marine Management Organisation keeps its Marine Pollution Contingency Plan up-to-date. This plan covers marine pollution in English and Welsh waters, or in the waters of the UK Overseas Territories, by oil or other pollutant liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737259/Marine_pollution_contingency_plan_2018.pdf

In addition, the UK maintains an Atlas of Coastal Sites Sensitive to Oil Pollution on a geographical information system. This identifies coastal habitats and protected sites of importance to a variety of CMS listed species. A review of the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations has been created, which includes advice on environmental aspects and monitoring.

In order to aid contingency planning for oil pollution, and to inform emergency decision making in the event of a pollution incident, JNCC has been involved in the development of the Seabird Oil Sensitivity Index (SOSI). The SOSI identifies areas at sea where seabirds are likely to be most sensitive to potential oil pollution.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/seabird-oil-sensitivity-index-sosi/>

JNCC has commissioned and published a report providing Guidance on Decision-making Thresholds for Air Pollution. This outlines decision-making thresholds to help inform assessments of the impacts of air quality on designated nature conservation sites, such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/air-pollution-report-published/> The JNCC-led and Defra funded Nitrogen Futures Project explored mitigation options for protecting habitats and species that are vulnerable to nitrogen pollution in the atmosphere <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/nitrogen-futures-project-reports-published/>

The National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP) is an important reference document for setting out the procedures and processes involved in pollution responses (latest revision 17 August 2017) to meet the emergence of new pollution threats and situations, recommendations and lessons learned.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638623/170817_NCP.pdf.

Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland, in conjunction with the UK Maritime Coastguard Agency, is reviewing the Northern Ireland Coastal Contingency Plan with a specific chapter addressing oiled wildlife.

Gibraltar: A comprehensive marine monitoring programme is implemented in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in keeping with the requirements of the Marine Strategy. Descriptors such as underwater noise, plastics and all forms of pollution are monitored and assessed as part of the programme. Details of the ongoing Marine Monitoring Programme and Assessment are available from:

<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/environment/marine-strategy>

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Prohibition on the use of Heavy Fuel Oil by all vessels operating at the South Sandwich Islands came into force in 2019, with a phasing out of its use across the entire 1.24 million km² maritime zone. Strict regulations on bunkering and transshipment within SGSSI waters are also in force within the maritime zone.

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

Metropolitan UK:

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) known to accumulate in cetaceans in UK waters (e.g. killer whale *Orcinus orca* and harbor porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*) are either banned or strictly regulated. Research determines concentrations of POPs in UK-stranded cetaceans.

Bermuda: New research initiated in 2019 will investigate chemical loads in Bermuda Petrels (<https://www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies/projects/bermuda-petrel/20049>).

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning pollution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.5** (Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife), **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **13.122** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

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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
Physical barriers		
Fire		

Too much/too little water	Turks & Caicos Islands: lack of management of salt-pans, and inappropriate uses, have reduced importance to internationally important migrating waterbirds.	1
Urbanization	Bailiwick of Guernsey: Loss of agricultural land to curtilage affecting birds in general.	3
Unsustainable land/resource use	There are a number of concerns with regard to unsustainable resources, such as the unsustainable use of pesticides in agricultural and domestic use.	2
Mineral exploration/extraction		
Habitat degradation	Metropolitan UK: Land use change and habitat degradation affects a number of species across the UK. The loss of 95%+ of unimproved grassland in the UK has been a contributory factor to the decline of the grey long-eared bat <i>Plecotus austriacus</i> (App II) which numbers around 1,000 animals and continues to decline. There is evidence that habitat degradation, affecting both foraging habitats and nesting habitats, has been the primary factor responsible for the decline of Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (App II) in the UK: Browne, S.J. & Aebischer, N.J. 2003, Habitat use, foraging ecology and diet of Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> in Britain, <i>Ibis</i> 145: 572-582; Browne, S.J. & Aebischer, N.J. 2004, Temporal changes in the breeding ecology of European Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> in Britain, <i>Ibis</i> 146: 125-137; Browne, S.J., Aebischer, N.J., Yfantis, G. & Marchant, J.H. (2004). Habitat availability and use by Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> between 1965 and 1995: an analysis of Common Birds Census data, <i>Bird Study</i> 51: 1-11. There have also been long-term changes in woodland that are likely to have affected Eurasian woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (App II), where higher abundance is associated with increased heterogeneity of woodland habitats: Heward, C.J., Hoodless, A.N., Conway, G.J., Fuller, R.J., MacColl, A.D.C. & Aebischer, N.J. 2018, Habitat correlates of Eurasian woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> abundance in a declining resident population, <i>Journal für Ornithologie</i> 159: 955-965. Changes to woodland management practices over the course of the last century (e.g. reduction of coppicing, monocultural forestry) have reduced the areas of open and young woodland habitats and produced woods that are less heterogenous in terms of tree age and structure.	2
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	British Indian Ocean Territory: avifauna remains subject to pressure from historic habitat modification (felling and replacement of native hardwoods with coconut palms). Bermuda: Loss of inshore seagrass habitat through natural and human-induced causes has reduced foraging and developmental habitat of Green Turtles <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I & II). Bailiwick of Jersey: Jersey's trees have in recent years been subject to increased pressure from felling (as part of development or for other reasons) or decline through poor management, which has had associated negative impacts for wildlife. Eelgrass beds in Jersey have been subject to pressure and degradation from traditional mooring systems and craft movement, particularly on the east coast of the island.	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing habitat destruction/degradation?

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The impacts of the losses of unimproved grasslands in the most sensitive part of the grey long-eared bat range were addressed by 'Back from the Brink' – a project based in Devon <https://naturebftb.co.uk/the-projects/grey-long-eared-bat/> The final project report was published in 2021 which outlines success restoring habitat near roosts to support feeding opportunities, as well as habitat restoration between roosts to improve their connectivity. <https://naturebftb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SP03-Grey-Long-eared-Bat-Final-Report-BftB-Website.pdf>

England:

Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes are a critical measure for the delivery of positive incentives and England's environmental targets set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan and now being implemented by the Environmental Improvement Plan published in 2023. Within ELM schemes, migratory species will particularly benefit from Landscape Recovery projects, which will provide long term support for species such as turtle doves (*Streptopelia turtur*), nightjars (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and nightingales (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). These projects will also improve the condition of existing critical habitats and fund the creation of habitats used by migratory species. England's Environment Act (2021), alongside the 25 Year Environment Plan, has also led to the creation of the Nature Recovery Network which, to date, has resulted in five large scale projects which will provide habitat for migratory species.

Scotland:

In Scotland, the trial of an Outcome-Based Approach for determining agricultural subsidies is a significant forward step for the application of positive incentives both in Scotland and across the UK. Wider implementation of outcomes-based payment methodologies, where payment is determined by the successful implementation of measures, will be a critical step forward for positive incentives for migratory species. This Scottish pilot explicitly considered how payments could be determined by support of migratory species such as lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and redshank (*Tringa tetanus*).

Northern Ireland:

In Northern Ireland, the DAERA Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) is a voluntary agri-environment scheme that supports farmers to carry out environmentally beneficial farming practices on agricultural land. EFS is made up of three levels; a Wider Level Scheme (EFS (W)) aimed at delivering benefits across the wider countryside outside of designated areas, a Higher Level Scheme (EFS (H)) primarily aimed at site specific environmental improvements at strategically important sites and for priority habitats and species, and a Group Level Scheme (EFS (G)) to support co-operative work by farmers in specific areas.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2022 A Tree Strategy outlining how Jersey will protect, manage and restore its trees was launched with the aim of safeguarding the Island's trees and woodlands for future generations. The Strategy was created in collaboration with more than 40 stakeholders including farmers, biodiversity specialists, business owners and members of the community. The Strategy outlines a number of objectives, one of which is to bring tree protection under the island's planning law and the regulation of trees under the definition of development. Legislative changes are to be brought into force at the end of 2023/early 2024.

The Jersey Marine Conservation Seagrass project, working with the Ports of Jersey, is seeking to protect Jersey's largest seagrass site in St Catherine's Bay, through the development of an environmentally friendly mooring system. JMC are monitoring regrowth of seagrass at sites where unused moorings have been decommissioned and removed and are looking in closer detail at seabed sediments, focusing on the differences found in the scar areas compared with the dense seagrass surrounding them.

The inclusion within the Bridging Island Plan 2022-2025 of a new planning zone called the 'Protected Coastal Area', and the initiation of consultation around a first Marine Spatial Plan for the island, represent a significant step forward for the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable management of the island's coastal and marine habitats.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning habitat destruction/degradation?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), **13.6** (Insect Decline), **12.7 (Rev.COP13)**(The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.12 (Rev.COP13)**(Action Plans for Birds), **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **12.24**(Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), **12.26 (Rev.COP13)** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>> When averaged across five main terrestrial habitat types, approximately one-third of the loss of species richness is attributable to atmospheric nitrogen deposition. Many of these key habitats are important for migratory species. <https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/120951/8/fee1528.pdf>

Climate change

	<p>Overall relative severity of impact</p> <p>1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low</p>	<p>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</p>
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Climate change	1	<p>Metropolitan UK: The latest Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership update in 2020 found: •The main effects of climate change on marine mammals are range shifts, loss of habitat, food-web changes, and increased exposure to disease. •Climate change is one of the primary causes of declines in UK seabird populations. Over a third of species assessed in the UK showed declines of 20% or more in breeding abundance since the 1990s. •Climate change is projected to have mixed impacts on breeding and non-breeding waterbird species in the UK, with protected areas likely to continue to support internationally important populations. •There have been substantial changes in fish communities in UK waters, with more warm-water species and local declines of some cold-water species. Warming and associated oxygen solubility appears to be affecting growth rates, and the maximum size of fish. https://www.mccip.org.uk/all-uk/uk-impacts/hub/ecosystem-change The State of UK Birds (2020) determined that species' distributions are shifting northwards as temperatures rise and habitats change. Many rarer breeding birds are at risk of extinction in the UK, based on projections of how the climate will become less suitable for these species. These birds are mainly found in the north of the UK and in many cases population declines have already been considerable. state-of-uk-birds-2020-report.pdf (bto.org). Ascension Island: Recent (unpublished) research by the University of Exeter suggests temperatures on turtle beaches have not risen or affected incubation. However, increases in wave height and energy threaten the area of nesting beaches available and increase the risk of nest washout. British Indian Ocean Territory: Temperatures at nesting beaches determine sex ratios of hatchlings. In a warming climate, there is a positive skew towards females. Bermuda: Climate-induced severe weather events will continue to erode the nesting islands of the Bermuda Petrel Pterodroma cahow (App I). A translocation project to reduce the impact of this threat has been undertaken successfully. Pitcairn: Rise in sea levels will put the low-lying islands of Ducie and Oeno at risk. Both are major seabird nesting areas. Cyprus SBAs: Climate change has exacerbated coastal erosion, thus affecting the nesting habitat of marine turtles.</p>
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report concerning climate change?

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Work on climate change in the UK is undertaken by government, government bodies and by a range of non-government organisations. In January 2022, an update of the previous reports (2012, 2017) on the overall risk assessment of the impact of climate change on the UK was published (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2022>) and is based on an independent Evidence Report <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/independent-assessment-of-uk-climate-risk/>)

Actions are underway to facilitate species adaptation to climate change including a major programme of peatland restoration, an important habitat for many migratory species, expand native woodlands, and undertake several coastal management programmes to aid migratory waders in particular. For example, the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) provides funding to restore peatlands in the uplands and lowlands of England. It is a competitive grant scheme that will run until 2025. The UK Peatland Strategy aims to drive and co-ordinate action across the UK, supported by country level plans that will establish a course for peatland conservation and management at a more detailed level.

The UK has made significant progress in addressing the issues involved in dealing with climate change, especially in relation to adaptation. The assessment of changes to the climate in the UK is guided by the work of the UK Meteorological Office. This provides a sound evidence base on how the climate is changing in the UK. The National Adaptation Plan Report published in 2013 was reviewed in 2018 and runs until 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>. This includes a chapter dealing with the natural environment, including climate change and ecological resilience

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf.

In September 2021, the five UK statutory nature agencies (JNCC, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) launched a new report – Nature Positive 2030 – which emphasised the importance of utilising Nature-based Solutions to tackle climate change, and the essential role of nature in helping us survive our uncertain future.

The UK Inter-Agency Climate Change Group (IACCG) brings together representatives from the UK environmental agencies to update on climate change policy and evidence developments across the four UK nations, identifying common areas of interest and sharing experience. Its membership includes: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, JNCC, Environment Agency, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Forestry Commission, and Forestry England. The UK is also an active participant in several international climate change working groups, such as the Bern Conventions' Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

The UK's Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) regularly provides updates on evidence of impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems in UK waters and those of its Overseas Territories. The latest MCCIP update in 2020 includes separate reviews of climate impacts on seabirds, waterbirds, fish and marine

mammals, as well as key migratory species habitats: <https://www.mccip.org.uk/all-uk/uk-impacts/hub/ecosystem-change>

To support CMS Resolution 13.2 Annex 6 (Programme of Work for the Intersessional Period between COP13 and COP14), JNCC, through funding from Defra, are working with BTO to review the impacts of climate change on migratory species and develop guidelines for adaptation measures.

JNCC, through funding from Defra, carried out a project to develop the evidence base around climate smart decision making in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The project determined that MPA features provide climate related ecosystem services for carbon sequestration and coastal protection. Of the 180 MPAs around England and offshore from Northern Ireland:

- 52% protect habitats that support resilience to the pressures associated with climate change
- 43% protect habitats which play a key role in coastal protection against the projected increases in storm surge events and sea-level rise associated with climate change
- 29% protect habitats which contribute to oceanic and atmospheric carbon sequestration
- 21% protect seagrass beds and saltmarsh; known to be some of the planet's most efficient ecosystems in sequestering oceanic and atmospheric carbon.

This study demonstrates how MPAs enable the protection of marine habitats that provide climate mitigation and adaptation services. For more information see: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-smart-mpas/Northern-Ireland>:

The Climate Change Act 2022 requires DAERA to produce 5-year climate action plans (CAP). CAPs must also include annual GHG emissions targets as well as air quality, soil quality and biodiversity targets.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Rural Economy Strategy 2017-2021 focuses on environmental sustainability in the countryside to protect the island's countryside and non-renewable resources, and its resilience in adapting to climate change. The Birds on the Edge seabird research and survey project aims to increase knowledge of seabird populations in Jersey, their status, trends and threats from issues such as climate change and food availability.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2020 the Climate change policy for Guernsey was approved which sets the target to be carbon neutral by 2050. It also sets an interim target of reducing emissions by 57% on 1990 levels by 2030. Progress has been made to date, with the existing undersea electricity cable to France via Jersey reducing Guernsey's carbon emissions by around 35% on 1990 levels.

Gibraltar:

Gibraltar published a Climate Change Strategy in 2022 (see: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/environment/climate-change>).

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Government has contracted Smith Warner International Ltd to undertake a study to determine the impacts of sea level rise and changing storm activity on the islands of Bermuda. This study will help inform future conservation and restoration efforts which will benefit migratory species.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning climate change?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Decision **13.126** (Climate change and Migratory Species).

>>> Birds in the UK are showing changes in abundance and distribution, predominantly moving northwards (and sometimes eastwards), closer to their breeding grounds, in a way that is consistent with a changing climate. Many bird species are likely to have opportunities for colonisation and range expansion in the UK under projected climate change. However, some species are now wintering in areas where little or no monitoring takes place, and several species are declining and likely to be at a higher risk of extinction as the climate becomes less suitable.

The BTO carried out a review of the impacts of climate change on the UK's birds in 2021 and found that:

- Within the UK, breeding seabirds and upland breeding birds are the two groups most vulnerable to climate change. Fourteen seabird species are regarded as being at risk of negative climate change impacts.
- Overall, a quarter of UK breeding species appear to be negatively affected and a quarter may be responding positively; the remaining breeding species that have been studied appear relatively unaffected by climate change.

- There are significant gaps in our knowledge for other species, notably UK wintering bird populations.

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/research-reports/climate-change-and-uks-birds>

The latest Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership update in 2020 found:

- The main effects of climate change on marine mammals are range shifts, loss of habitat, food-web changes, and increased exposure to disease.
- Climate change is one of the primary causes of declines in UK seabird populations. Over a third of species assessed in the UK showed declines of 20% or more in breeding abundance since the 1990s.
- Climate change is projected to have mixed impacts on breeding and non-breeding waterbird species in the UK, with protected areas likely to continue to support internationally important populations.
- There have been substantial changes in fish communities in UK waters, with more warm-water species and local declines of some cold-water species. Warming and associated oxygen solubility appears to be affecting growth rates, and the maximum size of fish.

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	2	England: Compliance with regulations on use of lead shot in wetlands continues to be low. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Although good animal welfare legislation exists it has often been difficult to implement http://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/article/99630/Animal-Welfare-Guernsey-Ordinance-2012
Lack of knowledge	2	Metropolitan UK: Lack of knowledge of marine mammal abundance, distribution, life-history, behavior and in particular the cumulative effects at the population level of man-made pressures. Given the relatively new nature of offshore renewables, knowledge of impact on marine mammals and birds is also limited. The 2018 review of the Population and Conservation Status of British Mammals http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5636785878597632 and associated red list https://www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/population-review-red-list/ highlighted that for a number of bat species we are still data deficient, making assessment of status and designing of conservation measures severely impeded. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Data deficient on many species' local conservation status, life history and distribution. While there is a small pool of knowledgeable volunteers, many species lack scientifically rigorous research and monitoring. This is particularly prevalent in marine species. Cyprus SBAs: Key knowledge gaps include: Marine species abundance and distribution (systematic surveys need to be undertaken); Sea movements/behavior/habitat use of marine turtles; Ecological impact of hydrological changes; Effect of solar power plants on bird species; Impact of unsustainable farming practices on birds; migration patterns of red footed falcons <i>Falco vespertinus</i> (App I & II).
Inadequate legislation	3	Bailiwick of Guernsey: Lack of legislation to protect wild species and habitats. The only legislation is very general and assumes explicit knowledge of the impact of humans, therefore ignorance is an excuse. Some areas of activities are governed by voluntary codes of conduct, such as minimizing disturbance as a result of commercial wildlife watching and some recreation activity. No legislation against the use of lead shot.
Inadequate transboundary management		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc?

>>> Bailiwick of Jersey:

The new Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 has introduced strengthened provisions for the protection of wildlife and migratory species including the protection of breeding sites and resting sites and the provision for designation of Areas of Special protection to protect species during critical times in their life cycle. The new law also makes provision for actions to be taken to control or eradicate invasive non-native species. In 2023, Guidance has been published under the law and Codes of Conduct for the Island's ASPs produced and circulated in French and English.

<https://www.gov.je/environment/protectingenvironment/protectedwildlifewildplaces/Pages/index.aspx>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Bailiwick Bat survey launched in 2021 and has increased our understanding of bats. There is now conclusive evidence that 12 species of bat are found in the Bailiwick and it is possible to produce distribution and temporal patterns for each species. As this is a citizen science project with over 200 participants, there is greater bat awareness amongst the public. The Channel Islands are using acoustic monitors and Fish Intel devices to monitor cetacean and some fish populations throughout the islands. This study is in its first year, so analysis is not yet complete. The new water pollution law is helpful in the regulation of lead shot in wetlands; however it is not specifically designed for this purpose.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.?

>>>

Other (please specify)

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in other pressures?
>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning other pressures?
>>>

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?
CMS Article III(4)(b) states ‘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.’

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to specifically report on any new legislation or domestic measures **addressing obstacles to migration**. Relevant information would not include general conservation measures.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

In March 2021, plans for the UK’s first dolphin, whale and porpoise conservation strategy were launched by the Scottish Government in collaboration with government departments across the UK, Northern Ireland and Wales. The aim is to develop consultation on the strategy to ensure effective management, to achieve and/or maintain Favourable Conservation Status of the most common species of dolphin, whale and porpoise in UK waters. The strategy identifies a number of actions where further research or additional management measures could help to improve the conservation of these marine mammals. Actions include establishing UK-wide approaches to managing wildlife tourism, improving understanding of the impact that pollutants, plastics and underwater noise disturbances can have on cetaceans as well as increased research on how to reduce the threat of net entanglements. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/uk-dolphin-porpoise-conservation-strategy-high-level-report/>

Scotland:

A Scottish seabird conservation strategy is being developed, which will identify actions to address declines in seabird populations. The Scottish Avian Influenza Taskforce was established in 2022 to co-ordinate activity to monitor and minimize the impact of avian influenza on wild seabirds. A Scottish Avian Influenza in wild birds contingency plan is currently being developed which will set out how we will respond to any future outbreaks of avian influenza in wild birds.

Northern Ireland:

A Northern Ireland Seabird Conservation Strategy (NISCS) is being developed by DAERA in 2022-2023, with the advice and feedback from an Advisory Group, and in tandem with conservation strategies in each of the Devolved Administrations. The NISCS will review and report on the current status of seabird populations and identify and assess their sensitivity to threats and pressures, and thus inform management recommendations to maintain and improve conservation status. Following a public consultation, the Strategy aims to be published in 2023.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The designation of three new coastal Sites of Special ecological Interest and five Areas of Special Protection on the offshore reefs of Les Ecréhous and Les Minquiers have provided improved protection for breeding and migratory resting sites, particularly for summer seabird colonies of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (App II) and Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* (App II).

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 (e.g. national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country during the reporting period?

“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).

If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file detailing a longer list of species.

GUIDANCE TIP:

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” during the reporting period. Information is expected to be provided 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 record if any CMS listed species has become extinct or extirpated from your country - or reintroduced/re-established/established - during the reporting period (or before if not previously reported to CMS).

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)

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

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Changes in cetacean abundance are reported	The 2017 SCANS-III report published in 2021 should be used as a reference for status of cetacean species in the northeast Atlantic. The SCANS IV Survey was conducted in 2022 and results are still to be published.	https://scans3.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/re-sources/	Northeast Atlantic cetaceans

Bats

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	These species were first recorded in Guernsey in the Bailiwick Bat Survey in 2021.		https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/bto_research_report_-_bailiwick_bat_survey_new.pdf	Serotine Eptesicus serotinus, Leisler’s Bat Nyctalus leisleri, Common Noctule Nyctalus noctula, Lesser Horseshoe Bat Rhinolophus hipposideros and Whiskered or Brandt’s Bat Myotis mystacinus/brandtii (all Appendix II)

	A change in status cannot be determined as this is the first formal conservation assessment for UK bats. However, it should be noted that greater mouse-eared bat (<i>Myotis myotis</i>) was assessed as Critically Endangered, Grey long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>) was assessed as Endangered, and Serotine (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>) and Barbastelle bats (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>) were assessed as Vulnerable.	The first UK Mammal Red List has been published during this reporting period. This is the first time the conservation status of UK bats species has been formally assessed, and may have resulted in some changes to the status of the species due to the assessment methodology.	https://www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/population-review-red-list/	UK bat species (All App II)
	No species for which population trends are produced for are considered to have declined significantly since the baseline year of monitoring (1999).	This report provides updated population trends for nine of Great Britain's 17 breeding bat species, derived from data collected up to and including summer 2022.	https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/reports/nbmp-annual-report	UK bat species (All App II)

Birds

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species - Birds.xlsx](#)

Reptiles

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Decline in last decade	Decline due to loss of food source (seagrasses)	Meylan PA, Hardy RF, Gray JA, and Meylan AB (2022) A half-century of demographic changes in green turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) foraging aggregation during an era of seagrass decline. <i>Marine Biology</i> (2022) 169:74 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-022-04056-5	Green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Bermuda) (App I & II)

Fish

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

Insects

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

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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.)

During the 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?

E.g. Developments following the advice in Resolutions **12.8** and **13.7**.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide details:

>>>

During the 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

During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolutions **12.28 (Rev.COP13)**) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

GUIDANCE TIP:

If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)

>>> Concerted Action 13.7 for the Harbour Porpoise:

In February 2019, the UK Government and Devolved Administrations designated six Special Areas of Conservation to provide area-based management of areas identified for their importance for harbour porpoise.

These areas are:

- Southern North Sea SAC
- West Wales Marine SAC
- North Channel SAC
- Bristol Channel Approaches SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC.

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)?

E.g., steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways) and **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions **13.36** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), **13.41** (Flyways), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog) and **13.108** (Support to the Energy Task Force).

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, organized and chaired (via the COP-Appointed Councilor for Climate Change) two virtual intersessional working group meetings for the Climate Change Working Group in April 2023, and two virtual intersessional working group meetings on Range State and vagrant status in February and March 2023. Subsequently, JNCC led the development of guidance for CMS Parties on the use of the term “Vagrant” based on the discussions and outcomes of both working groups, which was discussed at the Sixth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, and which will be considered at COP14.

The UK hosted the Thirteenth Meeting of ACAP’s Advisory Committee (AC13) in Edinburgh, United Kingdom from 22 to 26 May. Meetings of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG) and the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG) will precede AC13.

The UK is party to a number of International Single Species Action Plans (ISSAPs) or International Single Species Management Plans (ISSMPs) under the framework of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), as follows:

- The UK adopted the following ISSAPs in this reporting period: Common Eider (Baltic, North & Celtic Seas Population; 2023 -2032), Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* (2021-230).
- The UK continues to implement the following ISSAPs/ISSMPs: Velvet Scoter (W Siberia & N Europe/NW Europe Population; 2019-2028), Barnacle Goose (East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population and Svalbard/South-west Scotland Population; 2019–2028), Taiga Bean Goose (2015-2025), Eurasian Curlew (2015-2025), Long-tailed duck (2015-2025), Greenland White-fronted Goose (2012-2022; 2023-2032), Black-tailed Godwit (2008-2018; 2019-2028), Bewick’s Swan (Northwest European population; 2012 – 2022; 2022-2025), spoonbill (2008), Canadian light-bellied brent goose (East Canadian High Arctic population; 2006).
- The UK also continues to implement the EU International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe (2018 – 2028).
- The UK was a party to the following AEWA ISSAPs/ISSMPs that were retired during this intersessional period: Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic Population; 2008-2022), Corncrake (2006-2022).
- ISSAPs are currently in development for the Icelandic population of the Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, red kite *Milvus milvus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, corncrake *Crex crex*, Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* and velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, with participation of the UK.

The UK participates in the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP), which provides the mechanism for a structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making and implementation process for the sustainable use and management of goose populations in Europe, with the objective of maintaining them at a favourable conservation status, while considering concerns of relevant stakeholders and the pertinent legislative frameworks and regulations.

The UK participated in the AEWA joint meeting of the Eurasian Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit International Working Groups in 2022 and contributed to revised workplans for these species (awaiting finalisation).

In 2020, the UK funded the creation of a population model for the East Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* population. This model will inform the implementation of the Barnacle Goose International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) across the East Greenland population’s flyway. It will hopefully also inform the implementation of the plan for the Svalbard population. The UK has also supported the initial development of an impact model to inform the implementation of the Barnacle Goose ISSMP in both the East Greenland and Svalbard populations. It is hoped the impact model will be completed in 2023. These models will be used to inform discussions on Greenland barnacle goose harvest, due to take place prior to the EGMP meeting in June 2023.

Initial discussions between some Range States have taken place on the recent change to the Icelandic greylag goose status and it has been agreed that a flyway plan will be developed. Work on this will follow on from the current work on barnacle goose plans.

As a contracting party of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the UK has adopted recommendations for conservation measures for the Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*. The UK is currently participating in a Task & Finish Group to produce a Marine Bird Recovery Action Plan, which will recommend actions to reduce or eliminate the main threats to marine birds (including waders, wildfowl and seabirds) in the northeast Atlantic and is expected to be adopted by 2024.

There are targets in the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative to reduce and where possible eliminate the bycatch of sensitive marine species in UK waters.

England:

In England, we have set four legally binding targets for biodiversity: to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030; then to reverse declines by 2042; to reduce the risk of species extinction by 2042; and restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat, also by 2042. We have set out our plan to deliver on these targets, along with our other environmental targets, in the revised Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23) published 31 January 2023.

Scotland:

The Scottish Government contributed funding in 2022 to the Small Cetaceans in European Atlantic Waters and the North Sea (SCANS) Surveys to ensure aerial and boat surveys were able to take place to ensure a comprehensive survey of European waters.

Scotland is leveraging the Future Catching Policy to implement bycatch reduction initiatives in Scottish waters. The Scottish Government commissioned research into seabird bycatch in UK waters. The paper ‘Improving

Understanding of Seabird Bycatch in Scottish Longline Fisheries and Exploring Potential Solutions' is due for publication in Q1 2023/24.

Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Post-2020 framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision **13.113 a)**

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Under the UK Environment Act 2021, the UK has set a Target to restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels, which will improve habitat connectivity.

The UK has committed to establish a UK wetland inventory, in support of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, mapping our wetlands for the first time and underpinning future actions to protect these vital habitats. This will help to prioritise actions to promote greater habitat connectivity.

In addition, the UK is using the concept of ecological networks as a key underpinning principle in the development of the terrestrial protected areas network in the UK. The selection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSIs) and Areas of Special Scientific Interest, (ASSIs in Northern Ireland) is guided by the need to maintain ecological coherence across terrestrial habitat types. SSSIs and ASSIs are designated and recognised as the main national level protected site in the UK.

Resolution 12.7 promotes international efforts to maintain ecological networks across migration routes, and the UK continues to play an active role in this aspect of conservation. Recent work in the marine environment, for example, has been guided by the need to maintain such networks of protected areas where possible. The UK government is committed to a network of sites including completing a 'Blue Belt' of MPAs around the coast.

Improving site connectivity remains a key objective, as highlighted in the Fourth Article 17 UK Habitats Directive Report (2019).

England:

The Defra 25 Year Environment Plan includes an overarching goal to create a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife. Including through: reversing marine biodiversity loss; increasing protected site area and management; ensuring healthy marine habitats; restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition; creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats.

Scotland:

The 2021 Programme for Government committed to establishing Nature Networks, being delivered by NatureScot. Nature Networks will connect nature-rich sites, restoration areas, and other environmental projects through a series of areas of suitable habitat, habitat corridors and stepping-stones. As well as supporting regional and national approaches to protect and restore nature, they provide local benefits to wildlife and people.

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 (e.g. by an inventory) in your country?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species. It is left to report compilers to work with any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement.

Helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the “**Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species**” presented to COP11 and the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention.

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?

>>> A report (Stroud et al. 2016) provides advice to governments in the UK relating to the future development of the SPA network and identifies potential gaps in meeting the responsibilities of the Birds Directive, especially to ensure it remains resilient to the environmental consequences of climate change. Several African and temperate migratory bird species are included in this review along with optimising the protected areas for each. The review also includes a Decision Framework analysis of the sufficiency of bird representation (152 assessments) in the existing UK SPA suite for individual species/populations. This report updates advice on the sufficiency of existing SPA suite for UK birds and provides advice about the need for more sites. Response options are being developed through further phases of the review.

<https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/d1b21876-d5a4-42b9-9505-4c399fe47d7e>

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “contribution” may relate to habitat types, and/or geographical coverage/distribution factors, and/or coverage of particular priority species or species groups, and/or factors concerning functional connectivity, and/or any other factor considered relevant to the achievement of SPMS Target 10.

(If you have information on assessments of management effectiveness, please do not include that here, but provide it instead in your response to question XIII.4).

Please select only one option

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

Please provide details:

>>>

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

In 2016, a Decision Framework analysis of the sufficiency of bird representation (152 assessments) in the existing UK SPA suite for individual species/populations was made (Stroud et al. 2016; <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/d1b21876-d5a4-42b9-9505-4c399fe47d7e>). This report updates advice on the sufficiency of existing SPA suite for UK birds and provides advice about the need for more sites. Response options are being developed through further phases of the review. A draft report by JNCC on the sufficiency of the UK marine SPA suite has been submitted to DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations who are considering the findings.

In 2023, the British Trust for Ornithology published a study that used data gathered by three large-scale citizen science programmes in the UK to provide a comprehensive assessment of whether national (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and European (Special Protection Areas/Special Areas of Conservation) designated areas are associated with improved state (occurrence, abundance), change (rates of colonization, persistence and trend in abundance), community structure and demography (productivity) of national avifauna, many of which are migratory species. The research found positive associations with state that suggest these areas are well targeted and that the greatest benefit accrued to the most conservation-dependent species since positive

associations with change were largely restricted to rare and declining species and habitat specialists.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-022-01927-4>

Scotland:

In 2018, NatureScot undertook a Scottish marine Special Protection Area network assessment with the aim to "...confirm the contribution the proposed SPAs and the species represented make to the Scottish Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network" (NatureScot, 2018). As part of the assessment, the contribution of the Scottish MPAs to the protection of migratory species is explored. Three sites are under public consultation (July 2019) for inclusion of minke whales *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* (Southern Trench in eastern Scotland and Sea of Hebrides in western Scotland) and Risso's dolphins *Grampus griseus* (northeast Lewis in the Western isles).

[https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-](https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-09/Scottish%20proposed%20SPA%20network%20assessment%20-%20September%202018.pdf)

[09/Scottish%20proposed%20SPA%20network%20assessment%20-%20September%202018.pdf](https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-09/Scottish%20proposed%20SPA%20network%20assessment%20-%20September%202018.pdf)

Scotland/Northern Ireland:

The Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring Project (MarPAMM) is a collaborative project aiming to improve how we protect mobile species and cross-border marine habitats in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The project is developing tools for monitoring and managing a number of protected coastal marine environments, collecting data on the abundance, distribution and movement of marine protected species and habitats. These data will contribute to the development of new habitats maps and models for a range of species, including connectivity assessments for species with mobile life stages. The project will produce a regional seabird model, a regional model of protected seabed species and habitats, a seal foraging and underwater noise model, and a coastal processes model. <http://www.mpa-management.eu/>

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:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

After the Transition Period and pursuant to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, UK Regulations implementing EU environmental laws including the EU Habitats and Birds Directives have continued to have effect, with modifications to ensure their ongoing operability. Government policy ensures that Ramsar Sites are afforded the same protection as European sites (SACs and SPAs) now designated under UK Regulations. The UK Regulations require the creation of a national site network within the UK territory comprising the protected sites already designated under the Nature Directives and any further sites designated under these Regulations.

Maintaining a coherent network of protected sites with overarching conservation objectives is still required to:

- fulfil the commitment made by government to maintain environmental protections
- continue to meet our international legal obligations, such as the Bern Convention, the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR), Bonn and Ramsar Conventions.

Northern Ireland:

- Conservation management plans are being developed for our 54 terrestrial SACs. There is a target to create or restore 75,000ha of wildlife rich habitat outside the protected site network (focusing on priority habitats and supported by nature-friendly land management) in this strategy, and to restore 75% of 150,000 hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition (securing their wildlife value for the future). NI draft Environment Strategy <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/daera/Draft%20Environment%20Strategy.PDF>.

- The Draft Peatland Strategy <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation>, sets out a framework for conserving and restoring our peatland habitats and biodiversity and providing nature-based solutions to climate change.

- DAERA is currently developing a new draft Biodiversity Strategy to align with targets of GBF, including Target 2 on Restoration.

- DAERA will deliver the 'Forests for our Future' Programme including associated conservation and protection measures for long established woodland and habitats of conservation concern.

- DAERA has proposed a new indicator species biodiversity metric for the monitoring of its new Future Agricultural Framework.

Wales:

- Biodiversity Deep Dive Recommendations were published in late 2022, which includes to 'transform the protected sites series so that it is better, bigger, and more effectively connected'.

- The Welsh National Marine Plan was published in 2019. A 3-year review has been completed and proposed updates include providing greater spatial prescription for the protection of seas.

- The Nature Recovery Action Plan NRAP was first published in 2015 and was updated in 2020-21. The Welsh Government are looking to revise NRAP to better align with GBF and incorporate the recommendations from

the Biodiversity Deep Dive to address both Nature Recovery and Climate Change.

- The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill (2022)- Bill introduced last September and passed in the Senedd last December will provide greater protection and conservation of migratory species.

- NRW publishes the State of Natural Resources Report every 5 years and this evidence then influences the Natural Resources Policy in Wales. The latest report can be found here:

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-report-sonarr-for-wales-2020/?lang=en>

- A new Agriculture (Wales) Bill 2022 with proposals for a new Sustainable Farming Scheme was published in June 2022, which outlines how farmers will be rewarded for actions taken to respond to the climate and nature emergencies, alongside the sustainable production of food.

- Planning Policy Wales 2021 considers Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.

Scotland:

- The Scottish Government published a draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy on 13 December 2022. It is being consulted on with a final version to be published in spring alongside a Delivery Plan. The strategy commits to later introducing a Natural Environment Bill that will set legally-binding biodiversity targets and set out the strategy's monitoring and reporting framework.

- The Scottish Government published a Vision for Agriculture on 2 March 2022, which outlines how Scotland will deliver sustainable and regenerative farming that promotes nature restoration, and recently consulted on proposals for a new Agriculture Bill which closed on 5 December 2022.

- The 2021 Programme for Government committed to establishing Nature Networks, being delivered by NatureScot, which will support regional and national approaches to protect and restore nature.

- The Scottish Government 2020 Statement of Intent on Biodiversity (14th December 2020) outlined the commitment to protect at least 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030 (30x30 Target).

- The coalition government's Bute House Agreement committed to designate at least 10% of Scotland's seas as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), by 2026. A consultation on these measures is currently ongoing.

- Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020 (SMA2020) portal reports on SG's vision for the seas, as set out in the National Marine Plan: 'Clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people'. It also provides an assessment of the condition of the Scottish marine area, including a summary of the significant pressures and human activities in our Scottish Marine Regions and Offshore Marine Regions.

- In the Programme for Government 2022-23, Scottish Ministers committed to start the process of developing a new National Marine Plan for Scotland, to address the global climate and nature crises, by carefully managing increased competition for space and resources in the marine environment.

- The Scotland 2045 - fourth National Planning Framework (draft: consultation) outlines how Development plans should facilitate biodiversity enhancement, nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; through the creation of new or restoration of degraded habitats; and, through measures to increase populations of priority species.

England:

- The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 is the refresh and update of the 25 Year Environment Plan 2018. Specifically, the EIP outlines actions to promote nature recovery and conservation, including through new National Nature Reserves, the Nature Recovery Network, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Highly Protected Marine Areas.

- Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) 2021, which includes Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview>

- The England Peat Action Plan 2021 is an integrated plan for the management, protection and restoration of our upland and lowland peatlands, so that they deliver benefits for nature and the climate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-peat-action-plan>

- England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 aims to improve nature recovery

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-trees-action-plan-2021-to-2024>

- The Nature Recovery Network 2020 aims to enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network>

- Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021 includes actions to conserve and enhance the natural environment <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 is a law to make provision relating to the conservation and protection of wild animals, birds and plants, and the promotion of biodiversity in Jersey, and for connected purposes:

<https://www.jerseylaw.je/laws/current/Pages/02.950.aspx>

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 details on what is covered:

>>> Assessments of management effectiveness have been carried out for Metropolitan UK, but not for many of the UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories.

Metropolitan UK:

The UK biodiversity indicator C1 shows trends in extent and condition of protected areas

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-c1-protected-areas>. The percentage of features, or area, of Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs) in favourable or unfavourable-recovering condition increased from 67% in 2005, to 87% in 2016, and then decreased slightly to 76% in 2022. The proportion of features or area of land in unfavourable-recovering condition has increased from 14% in 2005 to 31% in 2022. These changes reflect improved management of sites, but may also be affected by a greater number of sites/features having been assessed over time.

England:

Many of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) support migratory species. The government's Environmental Improvement Plan published on 31 January 2023 confirmed our 25 Year Environment Plan commitment to restoring 75% of SSSIs by area to favourable condition by 2042. It also set new interim targets: that by 31 January 2028, all SSSIs will have an up-to-date condition assessment; and 50% of SSSIs will have actions on track to achieve favourable condition. Natural England is improving its evidence base to make it easier for stakeholders to understand who needs to do what and by when to restore protected sites. It is using this information to lead delivery of a prioritised programme of SSSI action to achieve the interim targets and 25YEP goal for protected site condition and enable sites to contribute fully to species targets.

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 provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

OECM criteria and candidates are under consideration across the four countries in relation to reporting against the CBD target Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – target three

<https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022>

Beyond protected areas, other conservation measures which will benefit migratory species include agri-environment schemes (see UK Biodiversity Indicator B1a (<https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/028095a0-0b83-4d7e-b830-b050cb8f5865> for details of the higher-level schemes that have been in operation in each of the four countries).

Scotland:

Five Other Area Based Measures are recognised as part of the Scottish MPA network. Other Area Based Measures (OABM) contribute to the protection of biodiversity but were not set up specifically for this purpose (e.g. Fisheries restrictions). See here for further information: <https://marine.gov.scot/information/marine-protected-area-mpa-network>

Wales:

The Biodiversity Deep Dive Recommendations published in late 2022, outline how Wales will create a framework to recognise Nature Recovery Exemplar Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) that deliver biodiversity outcomes. Immediate actions include the establishment of an expert working group to recommend processes and criteria for recognising, monitoring and reporting on existing and candidate OECMs and Nature Recovery Exemplar Areas in Wales.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2022, Jersey's first No Take Zone was declared in Portelet Bay to give marine life in the area better protection and enable researchers to use the area as a natural lab. The new regulations mean it is an offence to remove any marine species from the zone, or to use a fishing boat in it. Exceptions are made for some scientific investigations.

The Plemont to Greve de Lecq Seabird Protection Zone comes into force each March to July in order to limit disturbance of breeding puffins and other sea birds in the area. There is restricted entry into the zone by sea and a code of conduct for anyone accessing the area by land following existing footpaths.

Codes of Conduct are in place for all of Jersey's Ramsar Sites.

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

Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13) 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 13.3 on Chondrichthyan Species

Decision 13.116 on Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species

>>> Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks

Metropolitan UK:

Following the UK's exit from the EU and pursuant to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, UK Regulations implementing EU environmental laws including the EU Habitats and Birds Directives have continued to have effect, with modifications to ensure their ongoing operability. All of the UK's former Natura 2000 sites, designated under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives, now comprise a 'National Site Network' (referred to in Scotland as the 'UK site network'), with the objective of contributing to the maintenance or restoration of the favourable conservation status of habitats and species listed in the Annexes to the Habitats Directive, and a similar objective in relation to wild birds. The statutory basis of the National/UK site network provides a similar framework for site protection and management to that which was in place when the UK was subject to the Habitats and Birds Directives. Government policy ensures that Ramsar Sites are afforded the same protection as European sites (SACs and SPAs) now designated under UK Regulations.

The UK government is committed to completing a 'Blue Belt' of MPAs around the coast. These sites will contribute to an Ecologically Coherent Network of MPAs in the North East Atlantic to which the UK has committed under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and other international commitments.

The UK government and Devolved Administrations have made a commitment to identify a suite of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) with "marine components" to protect bird species that are dependent on the marine environment for all or part of their lifecycle, where these species are found in association with intertidal or subtidal habitats within the site. In March 2022, a total of 125 marine SPAs had been designated.

In June 2021, the UK government made a commitment to identify and designate pilot Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) as a complement to the existing MPA network in English waters. HPMAs are intended to be areas of the sea set aside for the protection and recovery of marine ecosystems. They will prohibit extractive, destructive, and depositional uses, allowing only non-damaging levels of other activities to the extent permitted by international law. By setting aside some areas of sea with high levels of protection, HPMAs will allow nature to recover to a more natural state, allowing the ecosystem to thrive in the absence of damaging activities. The UK Government will identify pilot HPMAs, based on ecological, social and economic criteria, to select locations that provide the maximum biodiversity benefits while seeking to minimise impacts on sea users. Through the Bute House Agreement, Scottish Ministers have committed to designate at least 10% of Scotland's seas as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), by 2026. Defra intend to designate the first three Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) in English waters before 6 July 2023 following the analysis of responses from a consultation on five HPMA candidate sites.

England:

The foundation for delivering our 2030 species and wider biodiversity targets is our 25 Year Environment Plan vision to establish a Nature Recovery Network (NRN). The NRN is an existing government commitment for England. It will be an expanding and increasingly connected network of places that are richer in wildlife, support the recovery of our species, and are more resilient to climate change and other pressures.

Establishing the Nature Recovery Network requires action to restore and create ecosystems and habitats. The Network therefore has a clear role in driving up the value of our existing protected areas for nature and creating areas that could be protected in future.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands Government has been considering establishing Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), which would see areas set aside for the special protection of marine species of fauna and flora. A consultation was held to gather stakeholder and community views on the proposals. Two reports have been published: a technical report highlighting the science and economics of MMAs, and a report detailing the outcomes of the consultation process. Both can be accessed here: <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/marine-managed-areas-consultation-report>

Tristan da Cunha:

In November 2020, the Tristan da Cunha Marine Protection Zone (MPZ) was declared. The MPZ covers approximately 700,000 km² or 90% of waters under the Government of Tristan da Cunha's jurisdiction. Tristan da Cunha Government is working with the UK Blue Belt teams from the Marine Management Organization (MMO) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to update the necessary legislation/ratify the MPZ and produce/publish a 5-year MPZ Management Plan.

Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats:

Metropolitan UK:

Many coastal habitat areas are afforded statutory protection in view of their national and international importance. Under this protection, loss or damage to the habitat must be avoided unless the damaging activity is in the over-riding public interest. In such cases - which includes many flood and erosion risk management interventions - the loss or damage must be compensated in advance, to maintain the ecological integrity of this special network of sites.

England:

Restoring Meadows, Marsh, and Reef (ReMeMaRe) is a cross-Defra initiative, led by the Environment Agency, to support the restoration of key estuarine and coastal habitats in England. ReMeMaRe has a mission to

restore, through habitat creation, 15% of the current extent of our key estuarine and coastal habitats (such as saltmarsh, seagrass, native oyster reefs) by 2043. These habitats provide important ecosystem services, such as coastal defence, fish nursery sites, improved water quality, and carbon and nutrient sequestration. To date, the partnership have produced a suite of evidence products, such as Restoration Handbooks (launched at COP26) providing practical guidance on how to restore the priority habitats, and restoration potential maps, providing guidance on existing habitats and where E&C restoration may be most successful and beneficial. Next steps (from 2023) are to develop, with partners, the ReMeMaRe strategy into a National Action Plan, which in alignment with the Environment Agency's Habitat Creation and Restoration Programme, will enable the initiative to scale up ambition and move to a practical programme of active restoration.

<https://ecsa.international/reach/restoring-meadow-marsh-and-reef-rememare>

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?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The phrase “associated with” migratory species allows you to report on any assessments that cover ecosystem services of systems, habitats or species assemblages that include migratory species. The question is therefore not expecting you to limit this to assessments focused solely on one or more migratory species.

For a broader biodiversity assessment to be relevant here, the migratory species involved must be making some identifiable contribution to the ecosystem services concerned.

Note also the particular aspects to be taken into account that are specified in the wording of the SPMS target. For the CMS definition of “favourable conservation status”, see Article I(1)(c) of the Convention text.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 Partly / in progress
 No

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) funded a Marine Ecosystems Research Programme 2014-2018, which set out to integrate existing marine data and target new data with current models and knowledge of marine ecosystem services, to improve understanding of the whole UK marine ecosystem <https://marine-ecosystems.org.uk/Home>. Migratory seabirds featured in this work as top predators within the system-modelling that was done; new maps of distribution and density were produced, a synthesis of diet information created, and prey demands-availability mapped, and information on the role of density-dependence in driving population change synthesised to input into the models. Models have been tested through three case studies, which set out to identify and value the services produced by marine systems, including migratory species. Prior to this, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) reviewed services provided by marine systems, including migratory species.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329587133_UK_National_Ecosystem_Assessment_2011_The_UK_National_Ecosystem_Assessment_Technical_Report_UNEP-WCMC_Cambridge

The UK, through a contract to the British Trust for Ornithology funded by Defra via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, is undertaking a review of the impact of climate change on migratory species as specified in the programme of work in CMS Resolution 13.2 Annex 6. Part of this review will focus on the role of migratory species in ecosystems, demonstrating the key role that they can play in ecosystem management and climate regulation. The review is due to be finalised by August 2023. See here for a first draft:

https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_scc-sc6_inf.12.4.1c_migratory-species-and-their-role-in-ecosystems_e.pdf

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Heriot-Watt University published a research paper in 2022 on evaluation and valuation methods for cetacean regulation and maintenance ecosystem services. This paper highlights key areas for cetacean conservation in the UK and areas for future research on climate change mitigation through conservation, including phytoplankton uptake rates of nitrogen and phosphorus in nutrient limited waters, quantification of ‘enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem potential’, and nutrient removal from coastal waters.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2022.872679/full>

Please provide details (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?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Strategies to be considered under this section do not necessarily have to specifically address migratory species but be of sufficient relevance in relation to the objective of safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild populations.

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

>>>

Please describe the Captive breeding strategy:

>>>

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Natural England, in partnership with the International Centre for Birds of Prey (ICBP), is establishing a conservation breeding programme for hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* as part of a pioneering project to reintroduce this iconic species to southern England. Ten young birds have recently been transported to England from France to found the breeding programme.

Scotland:

The East Scotland Sea Eagle reintroduction programme, a partnership between RSPB, NatureScot and Forestry Commission Scotland, has established a successful reintroduction programme for white-tailed sea eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Between 2007 and 2012, 21 eaglets were collected from their nests in Norway, reared in captivity and then released in Scotland. In 2013, for the first time in almost 200 years, sea eagles bred successfully in East Scotland.

England:

Forestry England, in partnership with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, has reared six young white-tailed sea eagles taken from Scotland and released them on the Isle of Wight as part of a five-year reintroduction programme. To build the population, further releases of birds will take place each year. It will take several years for the young birds to become established and breeding will not start until at least 2024. By establishing a population on the south coast, it is hoped the birds will also support existing communities in France, the Netherlands and Ireland, helping to secure a long-term future of the white-tailed eagle in Europe.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, RSPB and Pensthorpe Conservation Trust co-lead a successful conservation breeding and reintroduction programme for common cranes *Grus grus* funded by Viridor Credits. Eggs were taken from German populations, incubated and reared in captivity, and 93 young cranes released in the Somerset Levels and Moors over 5 years. By the end of 2018, 18 chicks successfully fledged, and by the end of 2019 the total population was estimated at over 200 birds.

A group of private landowners and nature conservation organisations are working to restore a population of at least 50 breeding pairs of white stork *Ciconia ciconia* in southern England by 2030 through a five year phased release programme. Initial releases aimed at establishing local breeding populations have already been undertaken and will be supplemented in late summer each year by the release of captive-bred juvenile storks reared at Cotswold Wildlife Park. A total of 166 rehabilitated wild-fledged white storks from Poland, as well as a small number of others from northern France, have been released into predator-proof pens over the course of the last three years, in order to establish local breeding populations. Sussex was chosen as the area for release of the white stork as it is suitably placed to facilitate population spread across southern England. It is also the nearest suitable location to European populations, making it more likely any reintroduced birds will encounter vagrant birds from continental Europe. Mixing with vagrant birds will not only introduce important genetic diversity but may also encourage any established English breeding population to migrate.

Gibraltar:

A captive breeding and release programme for the lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni* continues to be carried out by the GONHS.

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Work investigating the genetics of great bustards *Otis tarda* worldwide began in June 2012 by Chester University. This research used genetic material extracted from stuffed British specimens to determine that Spanish great bustards were the closest match to the original British birds. With permission from both the Spanish and UK governments and funding from the EU LIFE+ Nature Fund, the great bustard group was able to collect 56 eggs from the Castilla la Mancha region of Spain. These eggs were then imported to the UK, and the surviving chicks were reared by a great bustard group and RSPB team in Wiltshire. In 2022, over 20 nests were located. Approximately one third of the UK population is wild bred and parent reared in Wiltshire; the rest being hand reared birds from either Russia or Spain. The population is not yet considered self-sustaining. There is an ongoing campaign to eradicate the ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* to prevent genetic introgression into the white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala* breeding population.

Bermuda:

Bermuda petrel - DNA and genetic studies of this species were undertaken in 2019. Due to the historically low numbers, some genetic bottlenecks are to be expected.

eDNA research to identify shark species in Bermuda's waters was undertaken by Global Fingerprint in 2018.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Satellite telemetry studies, reproduction and development studies (e.g. sex ratios, size classes, growth rates, movement studies), genetic and developmental migration studies.

Please describe the reproductive material archives/repositories strategy:

>>>

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.)

Does your country's National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan (NBSAP), or other relevant plans or strategies used in your country, explicitly address obligations under CMS, priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and ecological connectivity?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

>>> Metropolitan UK: UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework - <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-post-2010-biodiversity-framework/> UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework: Revised Implementation Plan (2018-2020) <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/587024ff-864f-4d1d-a669-f38cb448abdc/UKBioFwk-RevisedImpPlan-Jun2018.pdf> Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds (AEMLAP): https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/COP11_Doc_23_1_4_Rev1_Landbirds_Conservation_African_Eurasian_Region_E.pdf Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* action plan - <https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/ascobans-species-action-plan-north-east-atlantic-common-dolphin> ASCOBANS harbour porpoise *Phocoena* action plan - <https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/action%20plans/North-Sea-Conservation-Plan> UK Marine Strategy Part 1 - Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status 2018: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-updated-assessment-and-good-environmental-status> UK Marine Strategy Part 2- Monitoring Programmes 2020 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/marine-strategy-part-two-monitoring-programmes> UK Marine Strategy Part 3 - Programme of Measures 2022 (awaiting publication) UK dolphin and porpoise conservation strategy 2021 - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/uk-dolphin-porpoise-conservation-strategy-action-sheets/pages/2/> The Second OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML2), 2022 - <https://www.ospar.org/about/publications?q=891> The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy: 2022 to 2030 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-great-britain-invasive-non-native-species-strategy> England: 25 Year Environment Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan> Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan> England Peat Action Plan 2021 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-peat-action-plan> England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-trees-action-plan-2021-to-2024> The Nature Recovery Network 2020 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network> Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> Scotland: Scottish Biodiversity Strategy - <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity-strategy-2022-2045> Scotland's National Marine Plan - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan/> The Scotland 2045 - fourth National Planning Framework (draft: consultation) - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-2045-fourth-national-planning-framework-draft/pages/5/> Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland draft Environment Strategy - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/daera/Draft%20Environment%20Strategy.PDF> Draft Peatland Strategy - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation> A Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland inshore region was published in 2014 - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/strategy-marine-protected-areas-northern-ireland-inshore-region> Wales: Biodiversity Deep Dive Recommendations - <https://www.gov.wales/biodiversity-deep-dive-recommendations> Welsh National Marine Plan - <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan> Nature Recovery Action Plan - <https://www.gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan> Bailiwick of Jersey: Jersey Species Action Plans - <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20greener%20living/ID%20BiodiversityActionPlan%20DM.pdf> Bailiwick of Guernsey: Guernsey Strategy for Nature: <https://www.gov.gg/strategyfornature> Isle of Man: Isle of Man Biodiversity Strategy: <https://www.gov.im/biodiversity-strategy> Bermuda: Bermuda Biodiversity Action Plan: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/501134e9c4aa430673203999/t/58af2c40db29d6acd5e1fc25/1487875137986/Biodiversity+Action+Plan_March2003.pdf Falkland Islands: Falkland Islands National Environmental Strategy 2021-2040: <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy> Gibraltar: Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan - <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/20769343/available-as-a-pdf-download-gibraltar-ornithological-natural-> Gibraltar Marine Reserve Management Plan - https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/documents/environment/publications/Gibraltar_Marine_Reserve_Management_Plan.pdf Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan - https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/documents/environment/publications/Gibraltar_Nature_Reserve_Management_Plan.pdf South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands: ACAP implementation plan -

https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/Birds/FINAL_ACAP%20Implementation%20Plan%20SGSSI.pdf
Albatross conservation action plan summary -
https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/Birds/Consolidated%20albatross%20conservation%20plan_Final.pdf
Biosecurity Handbook -
https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/Environment/Biosecurity/Biosecurity_Handbook.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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The four countries of the UK have agreed to develop a new UK Biodiversity Framework. Our collective intention is that the new Framework will set out shared priorities and areas for collaboration across the UK, primarily as a collective response to the post-2020 global framework of goals and targets agreed at CBD COP15. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is coordinating this process. Benefits to UK's migratory species will be achieved through the framework's focus on the post-2020 global framework of goals and targets agreed at CBD COP15.

The UK is part of the steering group for the ASCOBANS Species Action Plan (SAP) for common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* which identifies the pressures and threats affecting common dolphins in the ASCOBANS area, including an assessment of risk and priorities. <https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/ascobans-species-action-plan-north-east-atlantic-common-dolphin>

The UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy, outlines actions to tackle identified key threats and pressures to dolphins and porpoises <https://www.gov.scot/publications/uk-dolphin-porpoise-conservation-strategy-action-sheets/pages/2/>

A North Sea action plan for harbour porpoise *Phocoena* has been developed within ASCOBANS. The Conservation Plan aims at achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status, specifically by suggesting a series of priority actions. <https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/action%20plans/North-Sea-Conservation-Plan>.

The UK Marine Strategy contains an assessment of marine bird populations (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>), details of monitoring programmes

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-two-uk-marine-monitoring-programmes>) and a programme of management measures (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-uk-programme-of-measures>).

England:

In England, we have set four legally binding targets for biodiversity: to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030; then to reverse declines by 2042; to reduce the risk of species extinction by 2042; and restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat, also by 2042. We have set out our plan to deliver on these targets, along with our other environmental targets, in the revised Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23) published 31 January 2023. The EIP23 revises the 25-Year Environment Plan which set out our vision for a quarter-of-a-century of action to help the natural world regain and retain good health, as control of important areas of environment policy returned to the UK post Brexit. EIP23 sets out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature and reduce environmental pollution.

Scotland:

The Scottish Government has committed to develop a Seabird Conservation Strategy, with the aim to identify actions to address the significant declines in seabird populations, including several migratory species. Other proposed conservation strategies include the UK Small Cetacean Conservation Strategy and an update to the Scottish Marine Nature Conservation Strategy. These strategies will aim to enhance the status of habitats and species and increase their resilience to climate change impacts.

Isle of Man:

The Biodiversity Strategy includes migratory species issues. A Biodiversity Delivery Group includes key delivery organisations and publishes annual plans. Species and habitat action plans are under development.

The Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Jersey Biodiversity Strategy (2000) explicitly incorporates CMS issues. Species Action Plans are in place for several migratory species including bats (all species), brent goose (*Branta bernicla*) and basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20greener%20living/ID%20BiodiversityActionPlan%20DM.pdf>.

An Invasive Non-Native Species framework is under development. Within this, collaboration with other Channel Islands to share resources and information is a key element. Risk assessments of both established and horizon-scanned non-native species in the Channel Islands, to establish their invasive potential is ongoing, to produce a prioritised list of non-native species in the Channel Islands. Factsheets are being produced to be used as public engagement, education and awareness tools.

The Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Convention on Migratory Species is listed as an international commitment within the government's Strategy for Nature and a key indicator for the strategies objective 5 - 5B Status of key species and habitats - relative changes in abundance and distribution of priority groups and indicator species to Guernsey including, Pollinators, Butterflies, Protected species, Key habitats. From this, species action plans are in development.
Bermuda:

The current Bermuda Biodiversity Action Plan 2003 does not contain specific items on migratory species - but inclusion of this to meet CMS obligations is intended for future BSAP updates. The plan does include regional cooperation under Objective A, and corridors for movement, and migratory species activities are reported in the BSAP implementation reports. Plan copy: https://environment.bm/s/Biodiversity-Action-Plan_March2003-2ym5.pdf

Implementation reports: <https://environment.bm/bap-implementation>

Falkland Islands:

The National Environmental Strategy 2021-2040 outlines the nation's vision for the future, one that includes a biodiverse, healthy, sustainable, adapted and connected natural environment for all. A series of consultations were held to develop the strategy, which was launched in September 2021. The strategy and first progress report (2022) can be accessed here: <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework: Implementation Plan 2nd Report:

<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/587024ff-864f-4d1d-a669-f38cb448abdc/UKBioFwk-ImpPlan-2ndReport-Oct2015.pdf>

Northern Ireland:

A progress report on the Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland inshore region was published in 2019 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/report-creation-network-conservation-sites-northern-ireland-inshore-region-progress-toward>

Bermuda:

Implementation of the Bermuda Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (BSAP): <https://environment.bm/bap-implementation>

Falkland Islands:

Environment Strategy Progress Report: <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>

Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, etc.

>>>

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant international agreements.

GUIDANCE TIP:

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>>

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.)

Note that progress in achieving Target 13 of the Strategic Plan considers indigenous and local communities.

In the absence of a national definition of 'indigenous and local communities', please refer to the Convention of Biodiversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"** for helpful guidance on these terms.

During the reporting period, 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

During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement 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 (e.g. as part of development projects)
- Formal recognition of rights
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms (legislation, policies, etc.)
- Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests
- Other

>>>

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

GUIDANCE TIP

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as those described in Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), and **13.116** (Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species).

>>>

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 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 provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>> In the UK and Overseas Territories there are no Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as defined in Article 8j of the Convention and SPMS Target 14 has therefore not been assessed. The needs, knowledge and practices of IPLCs are recognised and integrated into the UK's international work.

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.)

During the 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? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(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
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders
- Other (please specify):

>>>

- No steps have been taken

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

GUIDANCE TIP

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **13.35** (Light Pollution), **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions **13.37** (AEMLAP), **13.39** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.90** (Conservation and Management of the African Lion), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), **13.106** (Support to the Energy Task Force), **13.110** (Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat), and **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species).

Education campaigns in schools

>>> Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Three new posts have been funded which have an educational element within schools. La Société Guernesaise have two education conservation officers whose focus is the delivery of an Environmental Education programme through the school curriculum which is linked to the Strategy for Nature. In addition to working with the education curriculum they aim to work with and support youth groups and clubs to engage young people's interest in the environment. Guernsey Conservation Volunteers also work within schools, delivering talks on the local environment, as well as outdoor programs with active conservation work.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> Metropolitan UK:

JNCC manages two citizen science projects that monitor migratory seabirds. The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) (and its associated censuses) aims to produce accurate statistics on populations and productivity of the UK's breeding seabirds. A Volunteer Seabirds at Sea (VSAS) project uses volunteers on ferries to collect data on seabirds at sea, to inform trends in their abundance, distribution and phenology. Both schemes involve capacity building, via direct training (VSAS) or through the implementation of survey methods described in a manual (SMP). Public awareness is seen as crucial to these schemes as a means of engaging with potential volunteers and maintaining the engagement of those already taking part. Much of this work is carried out through JNCC's various social media accounts, supplemented by project specific newsletters, other JNCC outputs and project partners websites. Data collected on both of these projects are available to all.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/seabird-monitoring/>

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/volunteer-seabirds-at-sea-surveys/>

Isle of Man:

Public awareness raising in relation to invasive species and capacity building by developing formal agreements with NGOs to help deliver Government conservation objectives.

Montserrat:

The partnership of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum with Montserrat National Trust and other Montserrat NGOs and with the encouragement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Environment, has continued, also bringing in other partners including the Species Recovery Trust, in the DarwinPlus-supported project "Adopt a Home for Wildlife". As well as facilitating local individuals and communities to take

the lead in conserving and restoring areas for native wildlife, this includes a major element of citizen science. This has been developed jointly with the parallel project “From Blue Iguanas to Blue Vervain – Sharing the colonial histories from the UK Overseas Territories”, run by Montserrat National Trust, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Meise Botanic Garden (Belgium), and Leeds Museums and Galleries. This has resulted in a manifold increase in local biological records. It forms part of the “Hidden Histories” programme of NERC and AHRC.

Capacity building

>>> Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2022, the Strategy for Nature fund provided funding for upskilling of bat workers in Guernsey, further improving bat monitoring technique in local volunteers.

Bermuda:

In the reporting period Bermuda has engaged in a number of collaborative activities to build capacity related to management of migratory cetaceans. For example, the Bermuda government has engaged with several Caribbean countries along with Dutch and French overseas territories for workshops on establishing and managing whale sanctuaries. Bermuda also has a sister sanctuary relationship with the United States.

In the reporting period the Bermuda government has established new relationships with researchers in Portugal and Canada to expand research on the Bermuda Petrel to inform management needs and updated plans.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The British Trust for Ornithology, among other institutions, were involved in the development of the Migration Mapping Tool and HPAI Early Warning System which provides information on the migratory connectivity of 50 bird species in Europe, primarily to inform management of Avian Influenza outbreaks and the risks of other disease transmission by birds. The tool was first published in 2022 and will continue to be updated as a result of ongoing work.

See also: <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2020.2955>

The UK has committed to establish a UK wetland inventory, in support of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, mapping our wetlands for the first time and underpinning future actions to protect these vital habitats.

The UK worked with the ICES Data Centre to develop international databases on nesting seabird and seal sightings, in partnership with the Joint OSPAR/ICES/HELCOM Working Group on Marine Birds (JWGBIRD) and the OSPAR Marine Mammal Working Group. The seabird database contains data on breeding abundance, breeding success and non-breeding abundance of seabirds, wildfowl and waders from countries bordering the NE Atlantic. The seal database contains counts of harbour seal and Atlantic grey seal at haulout sites and breeding colonies, from countries bordering the NE Atlantic.

<https://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/Biodiversity.aspx>

These data have been used in the latest OSPAR assessment of the North east Atlantic:

<https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/indicator-assessments/> and in UK Marine Strategy assessments: (<https://moat.cefas.co.uk/biodiversity-food-webs-and-marine-protected-areas/>).

Scotland:

The Marine Scotland Open Data Network provides direct access to marine maps, data and information, aiming to increase accessibility and reuse of data, enable collaboration and ensure transparency (<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science/data>).

Isle of Mann:

Data sharing between government, NGOs and science providers to maximise effectiveness of data collection and its application to conservation and awareness raising is ongoing via the Manx Biodiversity Recording Partnership. <http://www.manxbiodiversity.org/Partners.html>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since its inception in 2013 the Jersey Biodiversity Centre (JBC) has gathered a database of over 400,000 biological records for the island, collating historical records and working with data providers, data users, wildlife NGO's, local government, researchers, consultants, and the development industry to gather current data. The data collated by the JBC is shared with third parties to inform decision making around land management, development planning, academic research and nature conservation work. Data from the JBC can contribute to compliance with requirements in law and government guidance. The JBC website allows both specialists and members of the public to record wildlife sightings around the island and its territorial waters. An accompanying phone app iRecord can be used to record data whilst in the field or at sea.

<https://jerseybiodiversitycentre.org.je/>

Guernsey:

The Guernsey Biological Record Centre is working towards a new website using the platform Indicia, which will allow data to easily be collected and shared with the public, allowing better access to data for research and awareness. The aim is to have a shared platform with Alderney and work closely with the Jersey Biodiversity center. <https://www.biologicalrecordscentre.gov.gg/>

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

>>> Metropolitan UK:

JNCC initiated the Offshore Wind Strategic Monitoring and Research Forum (OWSMRF) which aims to identify critical knowledge gaps and to encourage high quality research to address the gaps. Results of this research will supplement the evidence base to improve understanding of the impact of offshore wind development on migratory marine birds. OWSMRF comprises stakeholders from government, NGOs, industry and academia and aims to facilitate knowledge and data-sharing, and identify high priority research.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/owsmrf/>

Scotland:

The Marine Mammal Scientific Support programme provides the Scottish Government with ongoing scientific support through an assessment of data/evidence gaps, the identification and prioritization of research requirements to fill these gaps, and then delivery of research to support policy delivery on marine mammals. This process ensures the development of a programme that is appropriately aligned with policy needs and which provides a robust evidence base for future marine mammal policy development and implementation.

<http://www.smru.st-andrews.ac.uk/research-policy/reports-to-scottish-government/>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2022, the States of Guernsey commissioned a review of the capacity of current avian monitoring schemes in Guernsey to assess the population status of breeding and wintering bird species. This is a publicly available report that is used to improve practices and decision making. <https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/research-reports/review-capacity-current-avian-monitoring-schemes-guernsey>

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>>>

Other

>>>

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The migration patterns of Nathusius' pipistrelle are relatively well known in mainland Europe but not so in the UK. The National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project seeks to improve our understanding of the ecology, current status and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelles in Great Britain.

The aims of the project are to:

- Determine the resident and breeding status of Nathusius' pipistrelle in Great Britain.
- Determine the migratory origins of Nathusius' pipistrelles in Great Britain.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/surveys/national-nathusius-pipistrelle-survey>

The Seabird Monitoring Programme monitors the population changes of our internationally important breeding seabird species at coastal and inland colonies across the UK. In 2021, a report was published on trends in population numbers and breeding success, productivity, survival and diet of UK breeding seabirds, including migratory species. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/smp-report-1986-2019/>

The National Bat Monitoring Programme produces population trends for eleven bat species listed on Appendix II of the CMS for which the UK is a range state. It is a citizen science programme run by the Bat Conservation Trust, in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and supported and steered by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and NatureScot.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme>

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales has been undertaking monitoring to provide evidence of potential migratory movements of bats between Ireland and Wales. This work was initiated using bat detectors on ferries during the Interreg funded Mammals in a Sustainable Environment project in 2015/16. Monitoring continued in 2017-20 using bat detectors on off-shore islands and promontories. Following the outbreak of the pandemic the scale was reduced and only one island location was monitored. It is hoped that the project will be expanded out again in 2023. The target species of this work are Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* and Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri* bats; the data obtained are being used to support the Welsh Nathusius' pipistrelle project to further build a picture of the species' distribution and migratory behavior. This work is seen as critical given expansion of both on- and offshore wind farm developments in Wales.

NRW is supporting volunteer projects in several regions of Wales to survey for Nathusius pipistrelle, mirroring the National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project which has been running in England for a number of years. Currently data concerning the species in Wales is very limited and mainly comes from ad hoc record submissions. The project aims to proactively survey for the species in areas where presence is likely, using capture techniques to follow up on possible detector records.

Scotland:

FAME (Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment project and STAR (Seabird Tracking and Research) are twin projects in which RSPB, in collaboration with partners and a consortium of funders (including Marine Scotland, NatureScot and JNCC), have undertaken tracking of multiple species of seabirds from multiple colonies around the coast of the UK since 2010 <https://marine.gov.scot/information/fame-star-seabird-kittiwakes-guillemots-razorbills-and-shags-tracking-projects>

SEATRACK aims to map the non-breeding distribution of seabirds breeding in colonies encircling the Labrador,

Greenland, Barents, Norwegian, North and Irish Seas, which includes colonies in Canada, Greenland, Russia, Norway incl. Svalbard and Jan Mayen, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Ireland and United Kingdom. SEATRACK has been a module to SEAPOP since 2014. <https://seapop.no/en/seatrack/> - there are a few sites around Scotland. The Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) programme was set up by Scottish Government to improve understanding and assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable developments. The initiative involves research collaboration from industry, environmental NGOs, statutory nature conservation bodies and other stakeholders, to support sound scientific decision making and management. Ongoing projects include: strategic study of collision risk for birds on migration and further development of the stochastic Collision Risk Modelling tool; development of a framework to evaluate ornithological compensatory measures.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-renewable-energy/science-and-research/>

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) (<https://www.masts.ac.uk/>) is a consortium of organisations engaged in marine science, including Scottish Government, statutory advisors and academic institutions. MASTS aims to facilitate communication, collaboration and co-ordination within the marine research community, and provides an academic platform and knowledge base for marine governance and commerce.

Scottish Government funds the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS) which investigates the cause of death of marine animals stranded dead around Scotland's coast, and gathers information on reported cases of bycatch and entanglement to build on our current understanding of pressures facing marine mammals in Scottish waters.

<https://strandings.org/about/>

Guernsey:

In 2021, the Bailiwick Bat Survey launched which utilizes citizen science to monitor bat populations in Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, and Herm. Anyone across the islands can participate and so far, there have been over 200 volunteers collecting data and taking an interest in bat populations. The survey has been very successful in spreading awareness as well as data collection. The survey is in partnership with UK researchers and is using modern technology to collect the data, as well as feeding into species acoustic classification systems to improve automated species identification.

Falkland Islands:

Islanders encourage and help fund research into CMS species including sei whales *Balaenoptera borealis* and albatrosses. The Falkland Islands Government also supports an annual seabird monitoring program which has been operational for 30 years. Falklands Conservation lead on a project which developed a site-based conservation approach for sei whales *Balaenoptera borealis* at Berkeley Sound, Falkland Islands. We have also supported research to inform the designation of a national marine KBA for sei whales as well as a KBA for seabirds.

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands:

The study of the dynamics of Antarctic krill the major prey species for cetaceans at South Georgia, remains a major focus of the work of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Several key pieces of work have been funded in the last five years in this area including development of a 'risk assessment' for krill predators at both South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The Government's patrol vessel has been fitted with a scientific echosounder to enable the collection of bioacoustic data as part of a new 'winter krill' project lead by BAS. A specific focus of this work is to assess the interaction of the krill fishery, krill and its dependent predators to inform management.

There has been a significant increase in the quantity of whale research carried out within the SGSSI-MPA. This has included dedicated BAS-led research on southern right whales *Eubalaena australis*

<https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/south-georgia-right-whale-project/> and the purchase of sonar buoy acoustic listening devices to assess whale abundance within regions of the MPA.

<https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/wwwarp/>

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 (please specify):

>>>

No assistance required

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?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “resources” that are relevant here can be financial, human or technical. In addition to funding, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure could be relevant, as could the loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities, technology transfer, training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building.

Further comments on resource mobilization issues in the CMS context can be found in the **Strategic Plan for Migratory Species**, Chapter 4.

Further examples could include providing resources to actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **13.4** (Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative, and Decisions **13.23** (Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme, **13.25** (Conservation Status of Migratory Species, **13.32** (Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the EAAF), **13.36** and **13.37** (AEMLAP), **13.39** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **13.41** (Flyways), **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.69** (Marine Turtles), **13.76** (European Eel), **13.80** (Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans), **13.90** (Conservation and Management of the African Lion), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), **13.102** (Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity), **13.106** (Support to the Energy Task Force), **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **13.120** (Community Participation and Livelihoods), **13.122** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution), and **13.134** (Infrastructure Development).

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**, and which initiatives, plans and programmes has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

>>> In 2020/21 the UK government provided funding for:

- State of the Worlds' Migratory Species Report - £30,000

In 2021/22 the UK government provided funding for several CMS initiatives:

- State of the Worlds' Migratory Species Report - £42,500
- Cheetah - £10,200
- Forest elephants - £17,000
- Migratory wild animals and zoonotic diseases - £17,000

In 2022/23 the UK government provided funding for:

- Review on climate change and migratory species - £74,767

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has hosted four internships during this reporting period to support CMS Decisions, with outputs including:

- A Discussion Paper and Information Document for the Fifth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5) on considerations related to when the terms 'Range State' and 'vagrant' may apply, as per Decision 13.140.
- A Discussion Paper for the Fifth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5) on how species ranges may be altered as a result of climate change, which includes a decision tree to aid Parties in identifying actions they might wish to undertake as a result, as per Decision 13.128.
- A review on the impacts of ecotourism on migratory species and key considerations for the development of migratory species ecotourism guidelines, as per Decision 13.136. This paper was made available at the Sixth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC6).
- A case study analysis on community-based initiatives for the conservation and management of CMS listed species and a set of guiding principles, as per Decision 13.119, also made available at ScC-SC6.

The UK, through a contract to the British Trust for Ornithology funded by Defra via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, is undertaking a review of the impact of climate change on migratory species as specified in the programme of work in CMS Resolution 13.2 Annex 6. The project had four work packages:

- Work Package 1: Impact of climate change on migratory species. Review the current impact of climate change on migratory species and their habitats, using the previous review completed in 2010 as a key reference document and baseline.
- Work Package 2: Migratory species and their role in ecosystems. Demonstrate the key role that migratory species play in ecosystem management and consequently in climate regulation.
- Work Package 3: Future scenarios. Show that the conservation of migratory species can have much wider benefits, both for local communities and reducing the overall impact of climate change on ecosystems.
- Work Package 4: Conclusions and recommendations. Provide practical recommendations for action by CMS and by Parties that could be implemented to help the conservation of migratory species in the face of increasing climate change.

The review is due to be finalised by August 2023 and will be made available at or before COP14.

JNCC, in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, organized and chaired (via the COP-Appointed Councilor for Climate Change) two virtual intersessional working group meetings for the Climate Change Working Group in April 2023, and two virtual intersessional working group meetings on Range State and vagrant status in February and March 2023. Subsequently, JNCC led the development of guidance for CMS Parties on the use of the term “Vagrant” and the drafting of associated Resolutions and Decisions based on the discussions and outcomes of the working groups. Initial outputs were discussed at the Sixth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council and will subsequently be considered at COP14.

JNCC has carried out a scoping project on bird monitoring in Africa during the reporting period, with many actives supporting Decisions 13.41 to 13.46 - Flyways and Decisions 13.34 to 13.38 - Action Plan For Migratory Land Birds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEMLAP). The main aims of the project were to improve understanding of pressures that impact birds and their habitats in Africa and identify priority capacity building activities. As part of the project, JNCC hosted a virtual workshop on bird monitoring, which was attended by over 50 participants from across Africa, covering 17 different African countries, and with attendees from NGO’s, government and research institutions. The workshop had three key objectives: Understand regional and country-specific priorities and challenges in relation to bird monitoring and conservation; Share best practices in relation to collecting and utilising bird monitoring data; Identify the best ways to improve capacity for bird monitoring, both locally and across the African continent. As part of this work JNCC, via funding from Defra, commissioned the British Trust for Ornithology to review the state of bird monitoring in Africa and identify future priorities. This work is currently under review for publication. JNCC also co-lead a symposium and round table discussion on bird monitoring to support decision making and reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements with the South African AEWa focal point at the Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) in Victoria Falls in November 2022. Defra provided USD \$22,410 to fund the symposium and the attendance of several African delegates at PAOC.

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) is a new UK government-led programme delivered under the Blue Planet Fund by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the Marine Management Organisation. OCP aims to provide technical assistance to support countries to establish designated, well-managed and enforced Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). For example, in the Maldives, a Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessment (PAME) for Hanifaru MPA within the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve was completed. Hanifaru is an MPA for manta rays and whale sharks. The Assessment sought to review the existing management in place for Hanifaru Bay, and explore recommendations for how management could be improved for the future. This involved working closely with the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve team and running two workshops on Baa Atoll discussing the site and management with stakeholders. The report is available here: <https://jncc.gov.uk/media/7723/ocpp-maldives-pame-report-final.pdf>

Additionally, OCP works with countries to increase their preparedness for responding to maritime pollution incidents. Part of this includes specialist training on environmental impact assessment and post spill monitoring of mobile and migratory species such as marine mammals, in the event of a pollution incident. OCP also supports the countries to understand any potential impacts from incidents on any Marine Protected Areas and provides specialist oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation training.

UK Overseas Territories:

JNCC is developing a statistic to quantify the proportion of endemic species in the UKOTs that are considered globally threatened. The first iteration of the K3 indicator, published in May 2023, presents the percentage of threatened endemic species in the UKOTs based on initial data collection alongside the technical background information. This indicator has been developed using data from the IUCN Red List and RSPB The UK’s Wildlife Overseas: a stocktake of nature in our Overseas Territories (2014) (Stocktake). As of January 2023, 45.5% of endemic species in the UKOTs are considered threatened. JNCC is continuing to review endemic species records with the support of the UKOT Governments and Administrations working towards a full publication of the K3 indicator in 2024. The first iteration of the K3 indicator (experimental statistic) is available at: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/5226c2cc-e3cc-4075-8722-9a7497320800>

The FCDO’s Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) part funded a project to eradicate invasive non-native mice from Gough Island (part of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago) <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/gough-island-restoration-programme/>

The mice eradication operation, originally planned for 2020, was delayed until June-August 2021 due to implications caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic. While the programme was executed successfully, unfortunately mice were detected in December 2021. RSPB has initiated an investigation into why the eradication was unsuccessful. This investigation will be undertaken by an independent panel of eradication, toxicology and mouse ecology experts to review all aspects of the Gough Island eradication attempt. Findings of the review are expected in mid-late 2023, after which decisions will be made about a future eradication attempt.

The Blue Belt Programme, supported by the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), is the UK government’s flagship international marine conservation Programme. It works closely with UK Overseas Territories to assist them in creating and maintaining healthy and productive marine ecosystems. The Blue Belt Programme has supported the UK Overseas Territories to enhance marine protection across more than 4.3 million square kilometres of marine environment. Between 2022 – 2025, the Programme will be funded directly by the Foreign, Commonwealth

and Development Office's International Programme Fund. The funding will provide ongoing support for the management, enforcement and scientific monitoring of Marine Protected Areas, and will allow us to develop our understanding of the effectiveness of the marine protection in place. We will also be able to support other OTs who wish to enhance their marine protection and sustainable management. The Annual Update 2021-2022:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1081068/Bleu_Belt_Programme_AR_06.06.22.pdf

The Darwin Initiative is a competitive grant scheme focused on preserving and increasing biodiversity - animal and plant species and their habitats - in developing countries. Projects funded under the Darwin Initiative must support sustainable development in developing countries for the reduction of poverty. Applications for funding must define the project's contribution to economic development and welfare, whether this is direct or indirect. All applicants must also consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Applicants are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased equality, and to provide indicators disaggregated by gender where possible. Successful projects must refer to the actions undertaken for equality when reporting. Between 2019 and 2022, the Darwin Initiative provided funding for:

- 102 Darwin Initiative Main projects (funding available per project: £100,000 - £600,000)
- 5 Darwin Initiative Extra projects (funding available per project: £600,000 - £5m)
- 16 Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity projects (funding available per project: £50,000 - £200,000)
- 10 Darwin Initiative Innovation projects (funding available per project: £10,000 to £200,000)

A complete list of Darwin Projects can be found online at: <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/>

Through the Darwin Plus Initiative (also known as The Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund), the UK Government provides funding for:

- Environmental projects in UK Overseas Territories, and
- Fellowships for UK Overseas Territories (OT) Nationals to increase their knowledge and ability to meet long-term strategic outcomes for the natural environment in UK Overseas Territories.

Between 2019 and 2022, the Darwin Plus Initiative provided funding for:

- 102 Darwin Plus projects (funding available per project: £100,000 to £1,000,000)
- 7 Darwin Plus Fellowships

A complete list of Darwin Plus projects can be found online at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/>

Additionally, the Darwin Plus Strategic and Darwin Plus Local funds will open in FY 2023/24, for funding from FY 2024/25. Darwin Plus Strategic will fund larger transformative environmental projects, encouraging greater ambition and collaboration across the OTs. These will be £1m - £3m projects. Darwin Plus Local is being introduced to support small scale environmental projects in the UKOTs, with the aim of building capacity in-territory and contributing to local economies. For this first round, Darwin Plus Local will provide grants of up to £50,000 for organizations, and £20,000 for individuals.

The views of the UK Overseas Territories on how to make these schemes even more cost-effective are included in 2021 conference proceedings (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/ukotcf-online-conference-2021-download-proceedings/>) and the result on a consultation on best practice by UK Overseas Territories and endorsed by the Council of Environment Ministers of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (<http://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Framework-of-bestpractice.pdf>).

The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (IWTCF) provides financial support to practical projects around the world which are:

- reducing demand for IWT products
- ensuring effective legal frameworks and deterrents
- strengthening law enforcement
- developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT

The IWTCF consists of three schemes:

- IWTCF Main (£75,000 - £600,000) - Main grants are expected to deliver strong results to tackle IWT and poverty reduction based on good evidence, and strongly demonstrate the potential to scale. Main grants are awarded to projects which test new and innovative interventions to provide proof of concept at a smaller scale.
- IWTCF Extra (£600,000 - £1.5m) - Extra grants are for projects aimed at expanding activities that have already demonstrated success and impact at a smaller scale. This can be through landscape or replication scaling, or through delivering systems change which will have sustained impact beyond the project's original scale.
- IWTCF Evidence (£20,000 - £100,000) - Evidence grants are for projects which gather evidence to design an intervention. Projects may include, for example, market research to design and baseline demand reduction interventions.

Between 2019 and 2022, the IWTCF provided financial support for 66 different projects.

A complete list of IWTCF projects can be found online at: <https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/>

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum has mobilized many hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of skilled volunteer effort from across its network to support a wide range of conservation activities, including migratory species, in the UK Overseas Territories.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Funding has been made available for the Bailiwick Bat Survey, to improve the knowledge base of all species of

bats within the Bailiwick, as well as surveys of cetaceans and fish within Channel Island waters. Through the Strategy for Nature Fund, projects have been funded around the topics of invasive species, bats, birds, cetaceans and environmental awareness.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Ecology Trust Fund is a financial resource available for whole or partial support of local environmental projects. It was established in March 1991 by the States of Jersey with a sum of money received as an insurance settlement from the Amoco Cadiz oil tanker disaster of 1978.

Environmental projects supported through the fund have included hedgerow planting, reef and sub-tidal surveys and the purchase of bat monitoring equipment.

The Jersey Community Foundation offers grants to local groups for local environmental conservation and restoration projects.

<https://www.jerseycommunityfoundation.org/applying-for-funding/environment-fund/>

Wild Life Safe (WiSe) is a national marine eco-tourism training and accreditation scheme used by UK government agencies responsible for marine conservation. Courses are run in Jersey for both professionals and interested individuals. Once people complete the professional course and register with WiSe, they are nationally certified and accredited. Operators can display the WiSe logo to demonstrate they are a wildlife aware commercial operator.

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
- Unknown

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**, and which initiatives, plans and programmes has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

>>> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

- Seabird sentinels: mapping bycatch risk of wandering albatrosses using bird-borne radar detection (2019-2021) £269,420 <https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/bycatch-risk-of-wandering-albatrosses-using-radar-detection/>
- Initiating monitoring support for the SGSSI-MPA Research and Monitoring Plan (2020-2023) £283,417 <https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/fix-wing-wildlife-surveys-at-south-georgia/>
- Spatial Segregation of Seabirds at South Georgia (2021-2024) £269,233 <https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/>
- Monitoring albatrosses using very high resolution satellites and citizen science (2021-2023) £87,246 <https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/wildlife-from-space/albatrosses-from-space/>
- What goes thump at night: managing bird-strike in South Georgia (2021-2024) £95,392 <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS143/>
- A cross-UKOT camera network to enhance marine predator conservation (2022-2025) £397,757 <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS174/>
- Using satellite technology to monitor seabird populations at South Georgia (2023-2026) £489,579 <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS187/>
- Hungry humpbacks: measuring seasonal foraging intensity at South Georgia (2023-2025) £346,812 <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPLUS188/>

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

>>> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Several migratory seabird and marine mammal species, including Wandering albatross *Diomedea exulans* and Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Pitcairn:

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* and Henderson Petrel *Pterodroma atrata*, Green Chelonia *mydas* and Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

Cyprus SBAs:

Marine turtles; bird species through the protection of important 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
- Unknown

Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please consider answers provided in HLS.3 when answering this question where appropriate, as they may be of relevance.

>>> 1. Capacity across the range of CMS activities.

2. Collaboration on CMS programme of work with other Parties and non-Parties.

Cyprus SBAs:

Important priorities:

- Designated site Management and protection
- Condition monitoring of habitats/species

Pitcairn:

Support for RSPB rat eradication programme.