



2017 - NATIONAL REPORT OF PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

The deadline for submission of the reports is 24 April 2017. The reporting period is from May 2014 to April 2017.

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions. Parties are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, including, where appropriate, a summary of activities, information on factors limiting action and details of any assistance required.

The reporting format was agreed by the Standing Committee at its 40th Meeting (Bonn, November 2012) for mandatory use by Parties, for reports submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11). The 45th meeting of the Standing Committee recommended the use of the same format for reports submitted to COP12, with necessary adjustments to take into account relevant COP11 decisions, in particular amendments to the Appendices and resolutions.

COP Resolution 9.4 adopted at Rome 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 AEWA in their last Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5, 2012) reporting cycle. CMS now offers the Convention's Parties to use the ORS for submitting their national reports for the COP11 (2014) reporting cycle.

Please enter here the name of your country
> Italy

Which agency has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?
> Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Please list any other agencies that have provided input
> ISPRA - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale

I(a). General Information

Please enter the required information in the table below:

Party

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country

> 1 November 1982

Period covered

> 2014-2017

Territories to which the Convention applies

> Italy

Designated National Focal Point

Full name of the institution

> General Directorate for Nature and Sea Protection (Division II - Biodiversity) - Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (MATTM)

Name and title of designated Focal Point

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Appointment to the Scientific Council

Full name of the institution

> Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)

Name and title of contact officer

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Submission

Name and Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report

Name:

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Membership of the Standing Committee (if applicable):

Name:

> Not applicable

Implementation

Competent Authority:

> Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea ,Via Cristoforo Colombo 44 - 00147 Roma

Relevant implemented legislation:

> L. 25.1.1983 n.42 (ratification of Bonn Convention);

Other relevant Conventions/ Agreements (apart from CMS) to which your country is a Party:

> CBD Convention, Berna Convention, Ramsar Convention, Barcelona Convention, Alps Convention, Bird Directive (EU), Habitats Directive (EU)

National policy instruments (e.g. national biodiversity conservation strategy, etc.):

> L. 19.12.1975 n.874 (ratification of Washington Convention);

DPR 13.3.1976 n.448 and DPR 11.2.1987 n. 184 (ratification of Ramsar Convention);

L. 5.8.1981 n.503 (ratification of Berna Convention);

L. 31.12.1982 n.979 (protection of marine environments);

L. 25.1.1983 n.42 (ratification of Bonn Convention);

L. 25.8.1988 n.381 (fishing and protected species);

L. 6.12.1991 n.394 (protected areas);

L.150/92 (Implementaton of CITES)

L. 11.2.1992 n.157 + subseq. modifications (protection of wild fauna and hunting regulation);

L. 14.2.1994 n.124 (CBD ratification);

DPR 8.9.1997 n.357 (92/43/CEE ratification);

L. 9.12.1998 n.426 (environmental protection);

L. 27.5.1999 n.175 (ratification of Barcelona Convention);

L. 14.10.1999 n.403 (Alps protection) ;

D.M. 3.4.2000 (SPA and pCIS designation)

D.M. 17.10.2007 Criteria to establish conservation measures related to SPA (Special Protected Area)

CMS Agreements/MoU

Please indicate whether your country is part of the following Agreements/MoU. If so, please indicate the competent national institution

Wadden Sea Seals (1991)

Wadden Sea Seals (1991)

Non Range State

EUROBATS (1994)

EUROBATS (1994)

Party

Appointed member of the Advisory Committee

Name

> Dr. Danilo Russo

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ASCOBANS (1994)

ASCOBANS (1994)

Non Range State

AEWA (1999)

AEWA (1999)

Party

National Focal Point

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Appointed member of the Technical Committee

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ACAP (2001)

ACAP (2001)

Non Range State

Gorilla Agreement (2008)

Gorilla Agreement (2008)

Non Range State

ACCOBAMS (2001)

ACCOBAMS (2001)

Party

National Focal Point

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Siberian Crane MoU (1993/1999)

Siberian Crane MoU (1993/1999)

Non Range State

Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)

Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)

Signatory

Competent authority

Name

> Directorate-General for Nature and Sea Protection – Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection

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Contact point

Name

> Not yet appointed. In the meanwhile the CMS FP acts as MoU's CP.

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Atlantic Turtles MoU (1999)

Atlantic Turtles MoU (1999)

Non Range State

Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

Non Range State

IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)

IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)

Non Range State

Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)

Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)

Non Range State

Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)

Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)

Non Range State

West African Elephants MoU (2005)

West African Elephants MoU (2005)

Non Range State

Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU (2006)

Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU (2006)

Non Range State

Saiga Antelope MoU (2006)

Saiga Antelope MoU (2006)

Non Range State

Southern South American Grassland Birds MoU (2007)

Southern South American Grassland Birds MoU (2007)

Non Range State

Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)

Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)

Non Range State

Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)

Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)

Non Range State

Dugong MoU (2007)

Dugong MoU (2007)

Non Range State

Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU (2008)

Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU (2008)

Non Range State

Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Signatory

Competent authority

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High Andean Flamingos MoU (2008)

High Andean Flamingos MoU (2008)

Non Range State

Sharks MoU (2010)

Sharks MoU (2010)

Signatory

Competent authority

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South Andean Huemul MoU (2010)

South Andean Huemul MoU (2010)

Signatory

Involvement of other government departments/NGOs/private sector

1. Which other government departments are involved in activities/initiatives for the conservation of migratory species in your country? (Please list.)

> ISPRA - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale
CFS (Corpo Forestale dello Stato - National Forestry Corp)

2. If more than one government department is involved, describe the interaction/relationship between these government departments:

> ISPRA is responsible for technical and scientific advice to Ministry. CUTFAA (former CMS now joined Arma dei Carabinieri) is the enforcing body and also managing authority of some protected areas in which conservation activities are carried out.

3. Has a national liaison system or committee been established in your country?

Yes

4. List the main non-governmental organizations actively involved in activities/initiatives for the conservation of migratory species in your country, and describe their involvement:

> LIPU (Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli - Italian Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife Italy). It is a non-profit organization for the protection of birds and of their habitats, for the education of young people and for public awareness; Italian partner of Birdlife International.

WWF Italia is a charity and non Governmental Organization (NGO). It addresses global threats to people and nature such as climate change, threats to endangered species and habitats and unsustainable use of natural resources.

Legambiente (League for the Environment) is a widespread environmental organization in Italy, with 20 Regional branches and over 115,000 members. It is acknowledged as "association of environmental interest" by the Ministry of the Environment.

Centro Studi Cetacei is a non-profit organization for the study of marine mammals and reptiles.

CTS (Centro Turistico Studentesco) is a non-profit organization for environmental protection and for the promotion of sustainable values, particularly for schools and tourism.

Marevivo is a non-profit organization for the protection of the marine environment.

Tethys Research Institute is a private non-profit organization for the study and conservation of the marine

environment, specialised in cetacean research.

GIRC (Gruppo Italiano Ricerca Chiroteri): founded by bat specialists, it aims at encouraging and coordinating studies and conservation actions on Italian bats.

4a. Please provide detail on any devolved government/overseas territory authorities involved.

> Not relevant

I(b). Information about involved Authorities

Identify the ministry, agency/department or organization that is responsible for leading actions relating to Appendix I species

1- Birds

> Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

2- Aquatic Mammals

> Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

3- Reptiles

> Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

4- Terrestrial Mammals

> Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

5- Fish

> Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection

II. Appendix I species

1. BIRDS

1.1 General questions on Appendix I bird species

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I bird species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

1a. If the taking of Appendix I bird species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I bird species:

By-catch

Electrocutation

Habitat destruction

Wind turbines

Other

> Habitat loss, unsuitable environmental conditions in stopover sites, illegal taking, disturbance due to direct/indirect human activities, killing of "look alike species" (especially for Ferruginous Duck and Marbled Teal), predation by alien species, bycatch from fishing devices.

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> The network of protected areas provides important opportunities for staging migrants safe from human-related threats. Critical sites like small islands in the Mediterranean and high passes across the Alps have been identified as important bottleneck sites for migrants through regular monitoring based on coordinated ringing projects. Further efforts have been made for habitat restoration in crucial areas for staging and wintering migrants like the network of wetlands in southern Sicily. Rat eradication has been successfully carried out on over ten Italian islands based on traditional techniques and aerial treatments. These actions, that are presently being undertaken according to a priority approach, are aimed at increasing the breeding success of seabirds (notably shearwaters and Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*) and have already achieved important results such as the recovery of productivity in functionally extinct shearwater colonies. Treated islands are in the Tuscan Archipelago (National Park), Circeo National Park and Sardinian MPAs. The national population of Audouin's Gull, a mobile breeder, is regularly monitored and appropriate conservation actions are taken every year as soon as the colony location has been determined. Anti-poaching activities are carried out by the National Forestry Corps, with the support of some NGOs, at key-sites mass illegal killings of migrating songbirds and raptors (e.g. Straits of Messina, South-western Sardinia, Pontian Archipelago, Central Alps).

2b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> Rat eradication is currently on-going in the largest island so far treated in the Mediterranean (Montecristo island). The above mentioned anti-poaching activities have led to most significant reduction of illegal killing.

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?

> No assistance needed

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I bird species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Poaching

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger bird species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> Some initiatives have been taken by both national and local NGOs to protect important wetlands in SE Sicily from hunting disturbance.

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> A National Action Plan on Illegal Killing of Birds is now underway for implementation; practical arrangements will follow accordingly.

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

> Difficulties in reaching an effective local enforcement of relevant legislation.

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors?

> No assistance needed

1.2 Questions on specific Appendix I bird species

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I bird species for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Acrocephalus paludicola*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

> No specific monitoring programs on the species, but intensive ringing in reed-bed habitats across mainland Italy and on several islands. Some individuals are regularly observed during the spring and autumn migrations.

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Habitat protection

Species name: *Anas formosa*

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> No range state

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> No activities foreseen

Species name: *Aquila clanga*

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> This species occurred with no more five/six individuals per year in the reporting period.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> No activities foreseen

Species name: *Aythya nyroca*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Melega L. (a cura di), 2007 - Piano d'azione nazionale per la Moretta tabaccata (*Aythya nyroca*). Quad. Cons. Natura, 25, Min. Ambiente - Ist. Naz. Fauna Selvatica.

Gustin M., Brambilla M. & Celada C. 2009. Valutazione dello stato di conservazione dell'avifauna italiana. Specie in Allegato I della Direttiva Uccelli. Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU).

Brichetti P & Fracasso G. 2013. Ornitologia italiana. Vol.1/2: Anatidae. Oasi Alberto Perdisa, Bologna.

Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125.

Zenatello M., Baccetti N., Borghesi F. (2014). Risultati dei censimenti degli uccelli acquatici svernanti in Italia. Distribuzione, stima e trend delle popolazioni nel 2001-2010. ISPRA, Serie Rapporti, 206/2014.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

increasing

> Wintering population: estimated 571 individuals (2006-2010).

Breeding population: no recent estimates available

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

> The species is regularly monitored in winter, along with other waterbirds.

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

> Species is protected under Law 157/92 that rules hunting activities

Control hunting / poaching

> To prevent accidental killing some Regional Administrations have banned the hunting on look-alike Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). The Decree 17 October 2007 bans the hunting on Tufted Duck in all wetlands included in SPAs.

Species restoration

> Some local reintroduction programmes were launched over the past decade but most of them without success. No recent initiatives.

Habitat protection

> A large proportion of wetlands of importance for the species, like breeding and wintering sites, have already some form of protection, in particular in the key-sites of Sicily and the Regional Delta Park. An important breeding site (pantano Cuba) in south eastern Sicily was acquired by a NOG to guarantee a better habitat management and protection.

Other

> Control of IAS: Some local administrations in North-eastern Italy are controlling Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*) populations.

Species name: *Emberiza aureola*

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> No range state

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> No activities foreseen

Species name: *Falco naumanni*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> - Bellini F., Cillo N., Giacca V., Gustin M., 2007 - L"avifauna di interesse comunitario delle gravine ioniche. Risultati di ricerche e monitoraggi effettuati nelle ZPS e SIC "Area delle gravine" dal 2004 al 2007. Pubblicità & Stampa, Bari: 1-95.

- Palumbo G., 1997 - Il Grillaio. Altrimedia.

- Palumbo G., Rizzi V., Malacarne G., 1997 - Contributo alla conoscenza di biologia riproduttiva, distribuzione e consistenza della popolazione di Grillaio (*Falco naumanni*) dell'Italian peninsula. Avocetta 21(2): 206-212.

- Bricchetti P. & G. Fracasso, 2003 - Ornitologia italiana. Vol. 1 - Gaviidae-Falconidae. Alberto Perdisa Editore, Bologna. - Spina F., Volponi S., 2008 - Atlante della migrazione degli uccelli in Italia. Non-Passeriformes: 1-628. INFS-MATTM.

Bricchetti P & Fracasso G. 2013. Ornitologia italiana. Vol. 1/3: Pandionidae-Falconidae. Oasi Alberto Perdisa, Bologna

Sarà M. 2008. Breeding abundance of threatened raptors as estimated from occurrence data. Ibis, 150: 766-778.

Mascara R., Sarà M. 2007. Censimento di specie d'uccelli steppico-cerealicole d'interesse comunitario nella Piana di Gela (Sicilia sud-orientale) (Aves). Naturalista sicil., S. IV, XXXI (1-2): 27-39.

La Gioia G. (a cura di), 2009 - Atlante degli uccelli nidificanti in provincia di Lecce (2000-2007). Edizioni Del Grifo (LE): 1-176.

Sigismondi A. (2012) unpublished data.

Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

increasing

> in 2005-2012 5500-6700 breeding pairs

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

increasing

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> Researches on breeding success, distribution and occurrence of the species are ongoing, based also on ringing and colour marking, both in Sicily, Apulia and Basilicata. Specific studies with GLSs and GPSs are also ongoing in the same areas.

Monitoring

> Monitoring programs have been carried on in Apulia, Basilicata and Sicily. Programs still ongoing in Apulia and Sicily. Funds by local Authorities. LIFE Projects allowed setting up some hundreds of nest boxes, also through the involvement of schools and the public, in Matera in Basilicata, where a very large colony is well known since centuries. LIFE Projects also led to active monitoring in Northern Italy (Parma).

Education/awareness rising

> Active conservation initiatives in Apulia, also in the framework of a EU LIFE Project, led to increased awareness, stimulated also by education programmes on largest colonies.

Species protection

> The species is protected at the national scale. Intense efforts have been devoted to improving rehabilitation techniques for young birds falling from nests.

Control hunting / poaching

> Illegal shooting of raptors still continues in Italy, but at a rapidly decreasing scale; migratory habits of the species helps decreasing risk of illegal taking. Poaching on the breeding pairs uncommon; the largest colonies are traditionally situated on buildings in old cities, where the falcon has always been accepted by local communities.

Species restoration

Habitat protection

> A total of 8 large colonies host an estimated 95% of the national population, out of which 4 have more than 200 pairs each. Ongoing and increasing restoration of old buildings pose a serious threat through loss of nesting opportunities. Active conservation measures taken in Gravina and Altamura by LIPU-BirdLife Italy by setting further nesting boxes. Increasing frequency of occupancy positively suggests the efficiency of this conservation tool.

Habitat restoration

> Deep concern for changes in agriculture practices which might affect hunting grounds and carrying capacity; monitoring and restoration projects on steppes in Apulia carried on by LIPU BirdLife Italy.

Other

> maintenance of buildings with colonies; artificial nesting sites in buildings.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> A national action plan will be published in 2017, in the framework of a LIFE Project.

Species name: *Haliaeetus albicilla*

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> The species occurred in Italy occasionally.

Species name: *Larus audouinii*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

increasing

> 1153-1286 breeding pairs in the period 2007-2009.

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

increasing

decreasing

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> Studies on movement ecology with GPS tagged birds in several breeding colonies (Apulia, Sicily, Tuscany).

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Monitoring

> Regular monitoring for the species is carried out under direct ISPRA coordination during breeding season and data is collected in a national database. Individual marking of juveniles is performed in order to gather infos on non breeding distribution and natal philopatry. All colonies are regularly checked for the presence of marked breeders.

Education/awareness rising

> Activities to increase public awareness have been carried out in the framework of a LIFE Project.

Species protection

> At some colonies, every year the authorities responsible for the breeding sites (local municipalities or park staff) limit human access and boat berth to the colonies during the tourist season. Colony surveillance by webcam and setting of fences have been carried out in Tuscany in the framework of a LIFE Project.

Habitat protection

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> Activities have been carried out

Species name: Numenius tenuirostris

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Habitat restoration

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> No records of the species in Italy since at least 2000, when an unconfirmed observation was reported.

Species name: Oxyura leucocephala

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

> The species is regularly monitored in winter, along with other waterbirds.

Species protection

Species restoration

Other

> Italy funded the drafting of the species Action Plan within AEWA.

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> The species occurred occasionally in Italy. Only one adult female was recorded in the reporting period.

Species name: Pelecanus crispus

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Other

> Italy supported the drafting of the Action Plan

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> In Italy the species occurred only with few escaped individuals in the reporting period.

Species name: Puffinus mauretanicus

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> In Italy the species occurred as a vagrant. Less of five unconfirmed observations have been recorded in the reporting period.

Species name: Pelecanus onocrotalus (only Palearctic populations)

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

> The species is regularly monitored during the IWC.

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> Species not regularly occurring in Italy. Only one unconfirmed observation in Sicily and one resident individual in Sardinia during the reporting period.

Species name: Neophron percnopterus

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Brichetti P & Fracasso G. 2013. Ornitologia italiana. Vol. 1/3: Pandionidae-Falconidae. Oasi Alberto Perdisa, Bologna

Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125.

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

[Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli \(2008-2012\)](#) - Italian report to art 12 EU Birds Directive

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

stable

> 2014-2016, 8-10 breeding pairs

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

stable

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> Movement ecology of satellite tracked birds.

Monitoring

> Breeding pairs are regularly monitored every year

Education/awareness rising

> A specific campaign has been promoted in Sicily in the framework of a EU LIFE Project.

Species protection

> A national action plan for the conservation of the Egyptian Vulture was published in 2009 (Andreotti A., Leonardi G, 2009 - Piano d'azione nazionale per il Capovaccaio Neophron percnopterus. Quad. Cons. Natura, 30. MAATM-ISPRA). Its implementation is currently ongoing.

Control hunting / poaching

> Active watching and protection of breeding territories to prevent nest robbery have been realized by national and local NGOs and in the framework of a EU LIFE Project (in Sicily).

A national action plan to tackle the illegal killing of birds was drafted in 2016 and approved in 2017. The implementation of this action plan will allow to combat illegal shooting and disturbance from hunting in crucial bottleneck areas for the Egyptian Vultures.

Species restoration

> A captive breeding program is ongoing with the support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment. In a breeding centre managed by CERM Association, 42 Egyptian Vultures are currently kept in captivity. In 2014-2016 ten young birds have been raised. An experimental release of six captive-bred juveniles was carried out in 2015 with the cooperation of the Vulture Conservation Foundation and the zoos of Jeréz de La Frontera (Spain), Prague and Zlin (Czech Republic).

Habitat protection

> Main breeding sites are inside protected areas (national and regional parks/EU Nature 2000 areas).

Other

> Supplementary feeding was provided to most of the breeding pairs.

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

[Conference poster \(CMS working group Vulture MSAP\) - First migration of released captive-bred Egyptian vulture juveniles in Italy \(2004-2015\)](#)

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> A 5-year Life Project aiming at the conservation of the Italian population of the Egyptian Vulture has been approved and will start in late 2017. Main actions are: 1) restocking with captive-bred birds, 2) supplementary feeding in breeding and stopover areas, 3) nest surveillance; 4) making power-lines safe.

Species name: Aquila heliaca

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> The species occurred with 5-6 individuals per year in the reporting period.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> No activities foreseen

Species name: Falco cherrug (except Mongolian populations)

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> A study on feeding ecology of a GPS tagged wintering individual was carried out in Sicily.

Monitoring

> Only few data coming from observations and GPS tagged birds are currently available. No data on wintering and migrating populations.

Species name: Falco vespertinus

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

stable

unclear

> No recent estimates available. Last census in 2013 (50-70 breeding pairs).

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

increasing

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

Species name: Otis tarda (Middle-European population)

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> No records of the species in the reporting period.

Species name: Otis tarda

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> No records of the species in the reporting period.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> No activities foreseen

Species name: Coracias garrulus

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125.

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

Italian report to art. 12 EU Birds Directive - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2012)

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

increasing

> 300-500

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

increasing

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> Some studies on breeding ecology are ongoing on nest box breeding populations.

Monitoring

> Breeding populations are monitored in some areas (Sicily, Tuscany, Latium, Emilia-Romagna).

Other

> Nest boxes were placed in several breeding areas (Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Latium).

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

> Activities have been carried out

2. AQUATIC MAMMALS

2.1 General questions on Appendix I aquatic mammals

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I aquatic mammals species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies - the 10th January 2007 Circular 004/2007 "Onboard possession of forbidden fishing nets of gear": on the illegal status of the presence on board and even in the harbour

The National Law 61/2006 (Official Gazette no 52 of the 03-03-2006), establishing the Ecological Protection Zone according to the principles of UNCLOS, entered into force in March 2006. Through the implementation of this Law, Italy is extending his jurisdiction beyond the limits of its territorial sea on matters like: a) protection of marine mammals, b) protection of marine environment against pollution, c) regulation of maritime traffic, d) exploration and exploitation marine resources and e) archaeological and cultural heritage. The Ecological Protection Zone does not apply to fishery.

1a. If the taking of Appendix I aquatic mammals species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

> Exception have been granted for scientific reasearch (sample collections)

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I aquatic mammals:

- By-catch
- Collision with fishing traffic
- Pollution
- Other

> Illegal fishing (driftnets);

loopholes in mediterranean fishing regulation as an attempt to disguise driftnets fishing under another name;

collision with ships and boats

Disturbance from unregulated, disrespectful whale-watching

Acoustic pollution

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> Since 1996 the Italian Coast Guard provide to notify the Ministry of Environment about any sighting and stranding along the whole italian coastline of the specimens of cetacean regularly present in the Mediterranean sea .

Since January 2008, is operative the official national stranding database granted by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, within the frame of the ACCOBAMS protocol to monitor cetacean populations.

Project to monitor the presence/circulation of morbilliviruses throughout years among wild cetaceans found stranded along the Italian coastline was funded by the Italian Ministry for the Environment; detailed immunohistochemical (IHC) and biomolecular (RT-PCR) investigations against Morbillivirus were carried out from the lung, brain (whenever available), lymph node and spleen tissues from all stranded striped dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and sperm whales under study. Moreover, the following activities are still in force: I) The Mediterranean Marine Mammals Tissue Bank (Department of Experimental Veterinary Science at the University of Padua - is a recognized CITES Institution (IT 020), II) The task force for necropsies on stranded large cetaceans which was established in 2006, thanks to the funding of the Ministry of Environment at the Department of Public Health, Comparative Pathology and Veterinary Hygiene, University of Padua.

Public Awareness, environmental education for stakeholders

Establishment of Marine protected Areas

Strengthening patrol of illegal fishing practices

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I aquatic mammals species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

- By-catch

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger aquatic mammals species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> In cooperation with ACCOBAMS and the IWC, a series of initiatives - funded by the Italian Ministry of the Environment - to investigate and suggest mitigation measures for the risk of collision in the Mediterranean, particularly in the Pelagos Sanctuary has been developed. One of the first aims of this initiative is to improve and increase the dataset for the Mediterranean basin and raise public and institutional awareness. A dedicated web site (www.tethys.org/collision/) presents latest updated information about ship strikes, helps disseminate public awareness materials to inform ship crews and the general public and includes reporting forms. This regional database is compatible with the global IWC database and the Mediterranean data will form an integral part of it. An important component is also the collaboration among shipping companies, port authorities and scientists, along with the provision of public information on reporting. The available information for the Mediterranean Sea is sparse. Reliable estimates of fatality rates and associated information are essential to assess impacts at the population level and design effective mitigation measures. Preliminary qualitative maps to assess areas where ship strike risk may be high in the Mediterranean Sea have been produced, overlapping naval traffic - obtained from AIS data and from ferry routes - and large whales" known preferred habitats.

- In all waters belonging to Pelagos sanctuary, fast speed motorboat and jet sky competitions have been banned, also though Municipalities partnership;

- Establishment of CERT - Cetaceans Emergency Reponse Team at Padua University - National intervention Unit for stranded live cetaceans, mass stranding and for dead specimens weightinh more than 1 ton;

Establishment of National database of cetacean's stranding at Padua Universiti (BDS) and Natural History Museum in Milan;

Enhancement of Tissue bank of marine Mammals at Padua (MMMTB);

•Drafting and adoption of national Guidelines on cetacean stranding's management;

- Establishment of National network on cetacean's stranding, together with Helath Ministry and Scientific Institutions (Re.Na.S.M.M.);

•Implementation of several monitoring projects on cetacean species and on anthropic pressure as below indicated:

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> - Project "Enhancement and integration of operational structures linked to the establishment of Network for stranded cetaceans" - Padua University (continued)

2.2 Questions on specific Appendix I aquatic mammals

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I aquatic mammals species for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Balaenoptera physalus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Notarbartolo di Sciara G., Panigada S. 2006. Fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus* (Mediterranean subpopulation). Pp. 11-15 in Reeves R.R., Notarbartolo di Sciara G. (compilers and editors). The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

unclear

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

stable

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

Education / awareness rising

Species name: *Delphinus delphis* (Mediterranean population)

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Bearzi G. 2006. Short-beaked common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* (Mediterranean subpopulation). 2003 Assessment. Pp. 130-136 in Reeves R., Notarbartolo di Sciara G. (compilers and editors). The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

decreasing

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

Education / awareness rising

Species name: *Monachus monachus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Not known

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

> Single sightings are reported sporadically along Sardinian coasts, the lesser Sicilian islands and southeastern Italy. There is no information on reproductive activity along Italian coasts

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

> Single sightings are reported sporadically along Sardinian coasts, the lesser Sicilian islands and southeastern Italy. There is no information on reproductive activity along Italian coasts

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Education / awareness rising

Species name: *Physeter macrocephalus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Notarbartolo di Sciarra G., Frantzis A., Bearzi G., Reeves R.R. 2006. Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* (Mediterranean subpopulation). Pp. 48-56 in Reeves R., Notarbartolo di Sciarra G. (compilers and editors). The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

stable

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Monitoring

Education / awareness rising

Habitat restoration

Species name: *Ziphius cavirostris*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

unclear

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

3. REPTILES

3.1 General questions on Appendix I reptiles

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I reptiles species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

1a. If the taking of Appendix I reptiles species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

> According to Habitat Directive, the exceptions have been granted by the competent authority for: relevant damages prevention; flora or other fauna protection; public health and safety; scientific research; environmental education.

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I reptiles species:

By-catch

Pollution

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I reptiles species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Destruction of nesting beaches

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger reptiles species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> -Environmental education to aware tourists and fishermen;

-Monitoring and management of the nesting sites;

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

> Lacking of collaboration among stakeholders involved into conservation and management of marine turtles.

3.2 Questions on specific Appendix I reptiles

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I reptiles species for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Caretta caretta*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Bentivegna F., Paglialonga A. 1998 Status of the sea turtles in the Gulf of Naples and preliminary study of migration. Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Sea Turtle Symposium. NOAA Tech Memo. NMFS-SEFCS-415:141-144.

Carreras C., Pont S., Maffucci F., Pascual M., Barcelo´A., Bentivegna F., Cardona L., Alegre F., SanFelix M., Fernandez G., Aguilar A. 2006 Genetic structuring of immature loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the Mediterranean Sea reflects water circulation patterns. *Marine Biology* 149: 1269-1279

Casale P., Nicolosi P., Freggi D., Turchetto M., Argano R. 2003. Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Italy and in the Mediterranean basin. *Herpetological Journal* 13:135-139

Casale P., Laurent L., De Metrio G. 2004. Incidental capture of marine turtles by the Italian trawl fishery in the north Adriatic Sea. *Biological Conservation* 119(3):287-295. 235

Casale P., Cattarino L., Freggi D., Rocco M., Argano R. 2007. Incidental catch of marine turtles by Italian trawlers and longliners in the central Mediterranean. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 17: 686-701

Casale P. 2008 Incidental catch of marine turtles in the Mediterranean Sea: captures, mortality, priorities. WWF Italy, Rome.

Casale P., Freggi D., Gratton P., Argano R., Oliverio M. 2008a Mitochondrial DNA reveals regional and interregional importance of the central Mediterranean African shelf for loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*). *Scientia Marina*, 72(3):541-548

Casale P., Freggi D., Rocco M. 2008b. Mortality induced by drifting longline hooks and branchlines in loggerhead sea turtles, estimated through observation in captivity. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 18: 945-954

Casale, Affronte M., et al. 2010. Sea turtle strandings reveal high anthropogenic mortality in Italian waters. *Aquatic Conservation: marine and freshwater ecosystems*. 20:611-620.

Casale P., Margaritoulis D. 2010 Sea turtles in the Mediterranean: distribution, threats and conservation priorities. Gland, Switzerland, IUCN. 294 pp.

Casale P. 2011 Sea turtle by-catch in the Mediterranean. *Fish and Fisheries* 12: 299-316.

Fortuna et al. 2010 By-catch of cetaceans and other species of conservation concern during pair trawl fishing operations in the Adriatic Sea (Italy).

Fortuna, C.M., Filidei, E. jr. 2011a. Annual Report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004 - 2010. Rapporto tecnico preparato per il Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, 10 pagine.

Fortuna, C.M., Holcer, D., Filidei, E. jr, Tunesi, L., 2011b Relazione finale del progetto "Valutazione dell'impatto della mortalità causata da attività di pesca su Cetacei e tartarughe marine in Adriatico: primo survey per la stima dell'abbondanza" (Prot. MIPAAF DG PEMAC n. 1690 del 10/02/2010 e al Prot. MATTM DPN n. 27623 del 23/12/2009), 51 pagine + Allegati.

Garofalo L., Mingozzi T., Micò A., Novelletto A. 2009 Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) matriline in the Mediterranean: further evidence of genetic diversity and connectivity. *Mar Biol*. 156: 2085-2095

Garofalo L., Mingozzi T., Urso S., Novelletto A. 2010 Nesting activity of the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* in Calabria (southern Italy): nest assignment by means of a genetic "flipper-print". *Atti VIII Congresso Nazionale Societas Herpetologica Italica*, pp. 531-536

Gaspari S. 2011 Conservazione e genetica di *Caretta caretta* nel Mar Adriatico. Relazione Finale presentata all'ISPRA. Università degli Studi di Firenze, Dipartimento di Biologia Evoluzionistica. 17 pp.

Guglielmi P., Di Natale, A. & Pelusi, P. 2000. Effetti della pesca col palangaro derivante sui grandi pelagici e sulle specie accessorie nel Mediterraneo centrale. Rapporto al Ministero per le Politiche Agricole e Forestali. DGPA Roma.

Lauriano, G., Panigada, S Casale, P., Pierantonio, N G. P. Donovan. 2011. Aerial survey abundance estimates of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the Pelagos Sanctuary, Northwestern Mediterranean Sea. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 437:291-302.

Maffucci F., Kooistra W.H.C.F., Bentivegna 2006 Natal origin of loggerhead turtles, *Caretta caretta*, in the neritic habitat off the Italian coasts, Central Mediterranean. *Biological Conservation*, 127:183-189.

Mingozzi T. 2010 Nidificazione della Tartaruga marina *Caretta caretta* in Italia: sintesi dei dati 2005-2009. *Atti VIII Congresso Nazionale Societas Herpetologica Italica*, pp. 525-530

Mingozzi T., Masciari G., Paolillo G., Pisani B., Russo M., Massolo A. 2007. Discovery of a regular nesting area of loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* in southern Italy: a new perspective for national conservation. *Biodivers. Conserv.*16:3519-3541

Orsi Relini L., Palandri G., Garibaldi F., Cima C. 1999 Longline swordfish fishery in the Ligurian Sea: eight years of observation on target and bycatch species. *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers ICCAT* 49: 146-150

STECF 2005 Commission Staff working paper. Report of the scientific, technical and economic committee for fisheries. STECF opinion on the Report of the First Meeting of the Subgroup on By-catches of turtles in the EU Longline Fisheries (SGRST/SGFEN 05-01) November, 2005

SWOT Database Online. DiMatteo, A., Fujioka, E., Wallace, B., Hutchinson, B., Cleary, J., Halpin, P. Data provided by the SWOT Team. 2009 See individual records for citations for particular nesting sites. World Wide Web electronic publication. [Http://seamap.env.duke.edu/swot](http://seamap.env.duke.edu/swot)

Tomas J., Formia A., Fernandez M., Raga J.A. 2003 Occurrence and genetic analysis of a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Sci. Mar.*, 67 (3): 367-369.

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> a) Università di Roma "La Sapienza", project: Biology, ecology and conservation of *Caretta caretta* in central Mediterranean. b) Università degli Studi di Torino, projects: 1. Relationships between bycatch and feed behaviour in *Caretta caretta*. 2. Fishing effects on Mediterranean population of *Caretta caretta*. 3. Hormonal methods for the sex determination of *Caretta caretta*.

Monitoring

> a) University of Calabria, project TARTACare Calabria". b) WWF Italy, project: Monitoring of marine turtles at national scale. c) Soc. Coop. Monitoraggio delle Risorse Naturali, project: Monitoring of *Caretta caretta* in Eolian Islands. c) Università degli Studi di Torino, project: Monitoring of *Caretta caretta*'s nesting in Lampedusa Island (Sicily).

Other

> CTS; project: Marine turtles conservation by means of CTS rescue centres

Species name: *Chelonia mydas*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

unclear

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

> WWF Italy, project: Monitoring of marine Turtles at national scale.

Other

> CTS, project: Marine turtles conservation by means of CTS rescue centres

Species name: *Dermochelys coriacea*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

unclear

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

> WWF Italy, project: Monitoring of marine Turtles at national scale.

Other

> CTS, project: Marine turtles conservation by means of CTS rescue centres

Species name: *Lepidochelys kempii*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

unclear

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

5. FISH

5.1 General questions on Appendix I fish species

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I fish species prohibited by the national legislation listed as being implementing legislation in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

1a. If the taking of Appendix I fish species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

5.2 Questions on specific Appendix I fish species

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I fish species, for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Acipenser sturio*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Not anymore range state

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

Species name: *Carcharodon carcharias*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> ICRAM 2007 Guidelines to compile a National Action Plan to protect Cartilaginous Fishes
Nursery area in the Sicily channel Once common in Adriatic sea now the species is considered rare

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

Species name: *Cetorhinus maximus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> ICRAM 2007 Guidelines to compile a National Action Plan to protect Cartilaginous Fishes

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

unclear

> Young specimens have been reported in the Ligurian Sea and north Tyrrhenian Sea

Species name: *Mobula mobular*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

6. LISTING OF OTHER ENDANGERED MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX I

1. Is your country a Range State for any other endangered migratory species currently listed in Appendix I? (according to the latest IUCN red data list). N.B.: States in which a species occurs as a vagrant (i.e. not "on its normal

migration route") should not be treated as Range States. Please refer to Article 1 of the Convention for clarification.
 Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> Balaenoptera physalus, Marmaronetta angustirostris, Neophron pecnopterus

1a. Is your country taking any steps to propose listing any of these species?

No

III. Appendix II Species

1. INFORMATION ON APPENDIX II SPECIES

Information pertaining to the conservation of Appendix II species that are the object of CMS Agreements will have been provided in periodic Party reports to those instruments. It will suffice therefore to reference (below), and preferably append, a copy of the latest report that has been submitted to the Secretariat of each of the Agreement/MoUs to which your country is a Party.

EUROBATS (1994)

Date of last report:
> November 2014

Period covered:
> 2011-2013

AEWA (1999)

Date of last report:
> 2015

Period covered
> 2012-2014

ACCOBAMS (2001)

Date of last report:
> 2013

Period covered:
> 2011-2013

Sharks MoU (2010)

Date of last report:
> 2016 within the European Union Report

Period covered:
> 2014-2016

2. QUESTIONS ON CMS AGREEMENTS

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Bird Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Bird Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Bird Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bird Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Marine Mammal Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS

Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Mammal Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Marine Turtle Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Turtle Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Bat Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Bat Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Bat Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bat Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Fish

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Fish ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II

Fish ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Fish, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

3. LISTING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX II

1. Is your country a Range State for any migratory species that has an unfavourable conservation status, but is not currently listed in Appendix II and could benefit from the conclusion of an Agreement for its conservation?

N.B.: States in which a species occurs as a vagrant (i.e. not "on its normal migration route") should not be treated as Range States. Please refer to Article 1 of the Convention for clarification.

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> Some passerines with unfavorable conservation status regularly occur in Italy (including breeding populations). Among these, Laniidae, Alaudidae, Acrocephalini, Emberizidae are the most threatened taxonomic groups (see for details Nardelli R., Andreotti A., Bianchi E., Brambilla M., Brecciaroli B., Celada C., Dupré E., Gustin M., Longoni V., Pirrello S., Spina F., Volponi S., Serra L. 2015 - Rapporto sull'applicazione della Direttiva 147/2009/CE in Italia: dimensione, distribuzione e trend delle popolazioni di uccelli (2008-2013). ISPRA, Rapporti, 219/20125).

1a. Is your country taking any steps to propose the listing of this/these species in Appendix II?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> Some contacts have been taken with other European CMS countries to evaluate the opportunity of a listing proposal.

IV. National and Regional Priorities

1. What priority does your country assign to the conservation and, where applicable, sustainable use of migratory species in comparison to other biodiversity-related issues

Medium

2. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

Yes

2.1. If Yes, please indicate and briefly describe the extent to which it addresses the following issues:

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species

> National single species action/management plans have been published either for endangered or huntable species.

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of the habitats of migratory species, including protected areas

Actions to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger migratory species (e.g. alien invasive species or by-catch)

> A national action plan to tackle the illegal killing of birds was drafted in 2016 and approved in 2017.

Anti-poisoning dog-units have been created in the framework of different EU LIFE projects to contrast the use of poisoned baits.

Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration

Research and monitoring of migratory species

> Monitoring of migratory birds are performed on regular basis. Main monitoring projects are:

International Waterbird Census (IWC/ISPRA), last report published in 2014

(<http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/pubblicazioni/rapporti/risultati-dei-censimenti-degli-uccelli-acquatici-svernanti-in-italia>)

Landbird Ringing Projects: Progetto Piccole Isole ISPRA and Progetto Alpi ISPRA/MUSE.

Common Breeding Birds Monitoring Programme (MITO/LIPU) <https://mito2000.it/>

National Atlas Project coordinated by Ornitho.it (<http://www.ornitho.it/>)

Other monitoring projects on single species or groups are ongoing: e.g. migratory raptors, colonial waterbirds and seabirds, cliff-nesting raptors.

Transboundary co-operation

> There are several international projects on migratory birds, such as Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Greater Cormorant, migratory raptors, seabirds

3. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any other national or regional policies/plans (apart from CMS Agreements)

Yes

3.1. If Yes, please provide details:

> CBD; Bern Convention; Habitat and Birds Directives; Barcellona Convention; Law 157/92; Law 394/91;

Pelagos Sanctuary Agreement; International Whaling Commission

3a. Do these policies/plans cover the following areas?

Exploitation of natural resources (e.g. fisheries, hunting, etc.)

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> The hunting of migratory birds is regulated by the EU Bird Directive and the national law 157/92. Only a restricted number of species can be shot by licensed hunters. Hunting is not allowed until the end of the breeding period and after the onset of the early movements towards the nesting grounds.

Economic development

Yes

Land-use planning

Yes

Pollution control

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Monitoring of debris and microplastic effect on cetaceans

Designation and development of protected areas

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> A network of protected areas have been created to enforce the EU Habitat and Birds Directives and the national Law 394/1991.

Development of ecological networks

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Pelagos Municipalities Partnership

Planning of power lines

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> The construction of new power lines require an EIA procedure.

Initiatives have been assumed to promote the adoption of safer poles and insulators in new electric power-lines across the country.

Planning of dams

No

V. Protected Areas

1. Are migratory species taken into account in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> Italian Marine Protected Areas are mostly coastal (with the exception of the International Sanctuary for Mediterranean Cetaceans). Establishment and management of these areas with regards to migratory species therefore usually envisages strictly coastal habitat protection such as marine turtle nesting grounds. Some areas have been recognized or proposed as Sites of Community Importance (92/43/EEC Directive) because of their importance for mammals conservation (e.g. presence of important bats roosting sites). Some areas have been classified as Special Protection Areas (79/409/EEC Directive) because of their importance as stopover sites for migratory birds. A specific project funded by the Ministry of Environment to LIPU BirdLife Italy has been carried on to assess the importance of offshore areas as special sites for the conservation of pelagic bird species (e.g., Shearwaters, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*).

1a. Please identify the most important national sites for migratory species and their protection status:

> Italy, as part of the European Union, has developed a National System of Protected areas, terrestrial and marine, within the Network of Natura 2000, with specific areas for birds (ZPS and Important Bird Areas), although not specifically for migratory species

1b. Do these protected areas cover the following areas?

Terrestrial

Yes

If Yes, please provide details and include the amount of protected areas coverage and the number of protected areas

> Area coverage 3,162,591 ha

Aquatic

Yes

Marine

Yes

If Yes, please provide details and include the amount of protected areas coverage and the number of protected areas

> Area coverage 2,853,034 ha

Pelagos Sactuary surface approximately 9,000,000 ha, shared with France and Monaco

1c. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, Regions and limited to Pelagos also Municipalities

VI. Policies on Satellite Telemetry

1. In the current reporting period, has your country undertaken conservation/research projects that use satellite telemetry?

Yes

If yes what is the state of those projects

on-going

Please provide details

> • Project "Satellite telemetry applied to finwhale in the Mediterranean in Pelagos sanctuary (new data on presence during winter). Tethys Institute

• Project "Satellite Telemetry apl "Telemetria satellitare applied on finwhale in the Mediterranean: finwhale tagging in winter-spring 2013 in Sicily Straits and in Orosei Gulf - IWC

• "Future": second tagging campaign in summer in Pelagos sanctuary - IWC

Several bird species have been studied with satellite telemetry (in brackets number of licensed individuals):

Northern Pintail (70), Eurasian Teal (80), Mallard (34), Gadwall (80), Cory's Shearwater, Yelkoun Shearwater (12), Little Egret (10), Night Heron (10), White Stork (12), Eurasian Spoonbill (27), Greater Flamingo (35), Eurasian Griffon Vulture (61), Osprey (12), Egyptian Vulture (6), Short-toed Eagle (2), Red Kite (15), Black Kite (60), Peregrine Falcon (26), Lanner Falcon (21), Common Kestrel (39), Lesser Kestrel (29), Stone Curlew (31), Woodcock (45), Audouin's Gull (8), Yellow-legged Gull (20), Mediterranean Gull (25), Fieldfare (30).

Three more projects were authorised in the reporting period:

One project on the Loggerhead Sea Turtle started in 2016 (unknown).

One project in 2014-2017 on the Cuvier's Beaked Whale (40) and one in 2015 on the Fin Whale (unknown).

2. Are any future conservation/research projects planned that will use satellite telemetry?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (including the expected timeframe for these projects):

> For birds, the following GPS tracking projects are planned by ISPRA: Slender-billed Gull (2018-2020), Mediterranean Gull (2016-2018), Greater Flamingo (2016-2018), Eurasian Spoonbill (2015-2017), Lesser Kestrel (2016-2018).

Further bird tracking projects are part of the following conservation projects:

LIFE project Under the Griffon Wings <http://www.lifeundergriffonwings.eu/it/index.html>

LIFE project Egyptian Vulture (starting in 2017)

Falcon Conservation (FalCon) <https://biarmicus.wordpress.com/il-progetto-2/> for the conservation of the Lanner Falcon

If No, please explain any impediments or requirements in this regard:

> Please refer to previous answers

3. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> Mediterranean Gull: the GPS-tracking study allowed to identify the foraging areas of birds breeding in one of the most important colony of the Adriatic Sea. These results are relevant for conservation measures to be applied in the cultivated area surrounding the breeding site. Main wintering sites, migration routes and staging areas were also identified.

Egyptian Vulture: the experimental release of GPS-marked juveniles revealed that late fledged individuals have reduced chances to follow adults during their first south-ward migration so incurring in a higher mortality than early fledged birds. This finding has relevant implications in planning further release programmes.

Eurasian Spoonbill: the analysis of GPS-marked juveniles allowed to discover the main wintering grounds, describe migratory routes and connectivity among colonies, assess mortality rate in different geographical regions.

Yellow-legged Gull: Breeding adults marked with GPS were followed to assess the effects of YLG predation on eggs and chicks of other waterbirds of conservation concern. These results were translated into operational measures reported in international technical guidelines

(<http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/pubblicazioni/manuali-e-linee-guida/guidelines-for-management-of-the-breeding-populations-of-the-yellow-legged-gulls-larus-michahellis>)

Greater Flamingo: first data from 35 juveniles born in the three main Italian colonies gave the opportunity to describe timing of migration, barrier crossing strategies, wintering sites and connectivity in the western Mediterranean.

Further results are described in the following publications:

Mingozzi T., Mencacci R., Cerritelli G., Giunchi D., Luschi P. 2016.

Living between widely separated areas: Long-term monitoring of Mediterranean loggerhead turtles sheds light on cryptic aspects of females spatial ecology. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 485: 8-17.

Giunchi D., Caccamo C., Mori A., Fox J.W., Felipe Rodriguez-Godoy F., Baldaccini N.E., Pollonara E. 2015. Pattern of non-breeding movements by Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* breeding in Northern Italy. *Journal of*

Ornithology 156(4): 991-998.

Gustin M. 2014. First evidences of sexual divergences in flight behaviour and space use of lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*. *Environmental Skeptics and Critics*, 3(1): 1-7.

Gustin, M. (2014). Detected foraging strategies and consequent conservation policies of the Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* in Southern Italy. *Proceedings of the International Academy of Ecology and Environmental Sciences*, 4(4), 148.

Gustin, Marco; Ferrarini, Alessandro; Giglio, Giuseppe; Pellegrino, Stefania Caterina; Frassanito, Annagrazia. First evidence of widespread nocturnal activity of Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) in Southern Italy. *Ornis Fennica* (2014): 256-260.

Monti F., Dominici J.M., Choquet R, Duriez O., Sammuri G., Sforzi A. 2014. The Osprey reintroduction in Central Italy: dispersal, survival and first breeding data. *Bird Study*, 61(4): 465-473.

VII. Membership

1. Have actions been taken by your country to encourage non- Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

No

1a. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection

2. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> No results as no actions have being initiated

VIII. Global and National Importance of CMS

1. Have actions been taken by your country to increase national, regional and/or global awareness of the relevance of CMS and its global importance in the context of biodiversity conservation?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> In May 2015, on the occasion of a national meeting to celebrate 50 years of LIPU BirdLife Italy "A safe haven for migratory birds", mainly aimed to consider Illegal Bird killing, trapping and trade (IKB) in the Mediterranean, activities in Italy led by the Ministry of the Environment with the involvement of ISPRA and related to the larger CMS approach to contrast IKB in the Mediterranean have been described (by Fernando Spina, ISPRA, "Illegal Bird Killing in the Mediterranean conservation impact and international initiatives") to the audience, made of representatives of the EU Commission, Regional Authorities, stakeholders.

In September 2015 a first CMS Workshop on connectivity has been kindly hosted by the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park (proposed and organized by F. Spina as Chair of the CMS Scientific Council); the workshop has had also the patronage of the Italian ministry of the Environment. A press conference has been held in Venezia before the meeting and high representatives of the Ministry and of local Authorities have taken part to the opening session of the workshop. Local and regional media have recorded the meeting.

In June 2016 a first national workshop on IKB has been kindly hosted by the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park in Rosolina Mare (Venezia); the meeting has been organized by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and ISPRA and has seen participation of high representatives of the Ministry, and of national police bodies, Regional Governments, national stakeholders. The workshop has been primarily aimed to introduce a draft version of a national action plan on IKB. Media coverage had been granted to the meeting.

2. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Environment

IX. Mobilization of Resources

1. Has your country made financial resources available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

Yes

2. Has your country made voluntary contributions to the CMS Trust Fund to support requests from developing countries and countries with economies in transition?

No

3. Has your country made other voluntary financial contributions to support conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in other countries (particularly developing countries)?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> Support development of Action Plan for White-headed duck and Dalmatian Pelican

4. Has your country provided technical and/or scientific assistance to developing countries to facilitate initiatives for the benefit of migratory species?

No

5. Has your country received financial assistance/support from the CMS Trust Fund, via the CMS Secretariat, for national conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

No

6. Has your country received financial assistance/support from sources other than the CMS Secretariat for conservation activities having direct benefit for migratory species in your country?

No

X. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

Please provide information about measures undertaken by your country relating to recent Resolutions and Recommendations since the last Report. For your convenience please refer to the list of COP Resolutions and Recommendations listed below:

Strategic and Institutional Matters

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Res. 11.2)

> Italy funded the drafting of the Strategic Plan, and two species Action Plans (*Pelecanus crispus* and *Oxyura leucocephala*) within AEWA.

World Migratory Bird Day (Res. 11.9)

> Italy joined the organization of annual Concerts in Bonn to celebrate the World Migratory day in the years 2013-2016

Avian Species and Issues

Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (Res. 11.16)

> Italy has developed a National Action Plan to prevent illegal taking, trapping and Killing of wild birds. This Plan is going to be implemented in the next future; in the process to draft the plan a first ever Workshop on Illegal Killing has been convened in Po River Regional Park in June 2016 with the involvement of national and local Authorities, stakeholders and civil society representatives.

Poisoning Migratory Birds (Res. 11.15)

> Lead Poisoning - A national Expert Group on lead ammunition has been set up in 2013. Data have been gathered by ISPRA and Stelvio National Park to assess the impact of lead poisoning on terrestrial birds, especially raptors. ISPRA supported the European Commission in the drafting of a technical dossier on the effects of lead gunshot over wetlands, aimed at the introduction of a ban across the European Union. Poisoned baits - In the last few years, initiatives have been adopted in the framework of EU LIFE Projects to tackle the use of poison-baits. Police officers have been trained and 14 special anti-poisoning dog units (DU) have been created.

Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

1. The drop-down lists below contain the list of all species listed in Appendix II. Parties which did not submit a National Report in 2014 are requested to complete the entire form. Parties that did submit a report in 2014 are requested to review and update the data (e.g. new published distribution references and details concerning species added to Appendix II at COP11).

Chiroptera

Vespertilionidae spp (European populations)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> "AGGIORNAMENTO DELLA DISTRIBUZIONE E DELLO STATO DI CONSERVAZIONE DEI CHIROTTERI ITALIANI E IDENTIFICAZIONE DELLE STRATEGIE DI MONITORAGGIO" CIG N. 464598541B

Update of distribution and conservations status of Italian Chiroptera, and identification of monitorign strategy. Wildlife Research Unit, Laboratorio di Ecologia Applicata, Dipartimento di Agraria, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, via Università 100, 80055 Portici

Cetacea

Physter macrocephalus

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Grampus griseus (Mediterranean population)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Charadriiformes

Larus melanocephalus

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State