



CMS

2025 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: : 30 September 2025

Reporting period: from May 2023 to February 2025

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

National Report format is available through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Through Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) and Decisions 14.27, 14.25 National Reports and 14.2 Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat were tasked with developing a new format for National Reports that aligns with the SPMS. However, given that the indicators of the SPMS are not yet in place, and due to the time constraints caused by the exceptionally short intersessional period before COP15, there is insufficient time to substantially amend the National Report format to fully align it with the SPMS.

The Standing Committee therefore agreed to develop a new format for the reporting period after COP15, and to use the previous National Report format for the current reporting period, with only minor adjustments. These adjustments would include a limited number of additional questions on topics that COP14 specifically requested to be reported through National Reports.

Additionally, it was agreed not to attach the full list of species in Appendices I and II for verification by Parties, as this information was collected during previous reporting cycles but could not be fully assessed and reflected in the National Reports format due to a lack of resources. Instead, the Standing Committee agreed to collect information on Range States for species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 during this reporting cycle, in accordance with Decision 14.234.

A proposal of the National Reports format was circulated by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee members on 13 December and it was agreed through communication procedure, in line with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by Standing Committee through communication procedure. In addition, as was also the case for reporting prior to COP14, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat from the previous reporting cycles.

Please note that guidance is available for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact 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 2024 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 and the UK Overseas Territories. Improving 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 two 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 two internships during this reporting period to support making progress with CMS Decisions and implementing various workstreams.

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, the country’s air will be cleaned, natural habitats restored, biodiversity increased, waste reduced, and resources used better. It aims to 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 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan> was the first revision of the 25YEP. The government concluded a rapid review of EIP23 and published a statement of the rapid review’s key findings on 30 January 2025. The Environmental Plan 2025 will be published later this year. It will be a clearer, prioritised plan for achieving environmental outcomes such as reducing waste across the economy, planting more trees, improving air quality and halting the decline in species. The plan EIP25 will clearly describe the actions which need to be taken, who is responsible, and how they stack up to help reach the goals in the plan. In Wales, Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a statutory duty on public authorities in Wales to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. Public Authorities must have due regard to the Section 7 list of habitats and species of principal importance. Planning Policy Wales 12 (2024) considers Biodiversity and Ecological Networks and provides a strong updated policy framework for decision making and policy formulation within the planning system to secure this.

Northern Ireland’s first Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) was approved by the Northern Ireland Executive and subsequently published by DAERA in 2024. The EIP is a statutory requirement of the Environment Act 2021. One of six Strategic Environmental Outcomes within the EIP is ‘Thriving, Resilient and Connected Nature and Wildlife’. This Strategic Environmental Outcome includes lists of action and targets towards ‘protecting nature on land’, ‘protecting nature at sea’ and ‘natural capital’ along with accompanying ‘future vision/outcome’ statements. Two targets with relevance to the Convention include under ‘protecting nature on land’: ‘By 2030: At least 30% of land and freshwater protected, connected and managed for nature’ and under ‘protecting nature at sea’: ‘By 2030: 30% of seas protected, ensuring an ecologically coherent and well managed MPA network’.

In 2024, Jersey adopted the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) with key defined purposes including the development of a network of Marine Protected Areas, the development of a framework for organising human and marine resources and activities in Jersey’s territorial waters; to inform the policies of the next iteration of the Island Plan and to support co-ordinated development and decision-making on all aspects affecting the marine environment. Also, in 2024, completion of the first Quinquennial Review of the Schedules of protected species confirmed that adequate legal protection is afforded to species to enable the island’s international obligations to be met and as an accurate reflection of species’ local and international conservation statuses.

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

>>> The complexity of the number of Decisions and Resolutions adopted make it difficult to prioritise which actions are most urgent or important to best implement the Convention.

The limited capacity and resources available to the UK's Overseas Territories in implementing the convention.

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

>>> Noting the comments above about capacity and resources, it is likely that different parts of the UK, including the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories, will have different priorities depending on their local circumstances. For Metropolitan UK, the following three issues are key to effective implementation of the Convention:

- Recognising the interwoven strands of biodiversity loss and climate change,
- Tackling illegal and unsustainable take,
- One-health through wildlife health workstream.

In the Bailiwick of Jersey, priorities include:

- ensuring that the conservation of migratory species is duly considered, particularly in the adoption of renewable energies such as solar power and offshore wind turbines, and
- implementing the biodiversity duty provisions contained within the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the 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

>>> Dr James Williams

Full name of institution

>>> Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Telephone

>>> +44 (0)1733 866868

Email

>>> james.williams@jncc.gov.uk

Designated CMS National Focal Point

Name and title of designated Focal Point

>>> Ms Caroline Daisley

Full name of institution

>>> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Mailing address

>>> International Biodiversity and Climate Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
Horizon House, 1 Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH

Telephone

>>> +44 (0)790 075 6143

Email

>>> caroline.daisley@defra.gov.uk

Representative on the Scientific Council

Name and title

>>> Dr. James M. Williams

Full name of institution

>>> Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Mailing address

>>> Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Quay House, 2 East Station Road, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2
8YY

Telephone

>>> +44 (0)1733 866868

Email

>>> James.Williams@jncc.gov.uk

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:

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

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

III.1 Please confirm that the Excel file “Res. 14.19 species per Party” linked below correctly identifies the **Appendix II** species listed in Resolution 14.19 Guidance on the treatment of species included within aggregated families listed under Appendix II for which your country is a Range State.

The list of Resolution 14.19 species per Parties is available **here**.

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

GUIDANCE TIP:

During the last two reporting cycles, information has been collected on Appendix I and Appendix II species, and the information received still needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this reporting cycle only focuses on bird species identified under Resolution 14.19. This Resolution invites Parties to consider the list of Species in its Annex when preparing National Reports. This question aims at collecting information on Range States of species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19. Parties are therefore invited to review the Range State data which are available in the excel spreadsheet “Res. 14.19 species per Party”. Please confirm that the list is correct, or if amendments are needed, create a line for each species for which you wish to indicate different information from that shown in the Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, please also provide supporting evidence, such as a reference to a scientific paper. A more detailed spreadsheet with Data per countries and territories is available here as background information. The data used for these spreadsheets are based on the CMS standard references for non-passerine and passerine species, as determined by Resolution 12.27(Rev.COP14) Taxonomy and Nomenclature, using its online version HBW-BirdLife Version 9.0 (October 2024)..

No, amendments are needed for the following species:

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III responses received v2.xlsx](#)

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

IV.1. Is the taking of Appendix I species prohibited by national or territorial legislation in accordance with CMS Article III(5)?

Yes for all Appendix I species

Please identify any change in the legal statute(s) concerned that has been introduced since the last reporting:

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

>>> Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2024, the first Quinquennial Review of the schedules of protected species to the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 was completed. Through this process, it was confirmed that adequate legal protection is afforded to species to enable the Island's international obligations to be met and as an accurate reflection of species' local and international conservation status. <https://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=5876>
Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2025, the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 came into effect. This amendment increases the protections afforded to animals (vertebrates and cephalopods), including prohibiting wild animals from being used in circuses or being reared for their fur or hide, and places restrictions on the use of certain indiscriminate trapping methods (e.g., leghold traps, snares, and glue traps).

Saint Helena:

A review of protected areas in 2024 created new nature reserves and extended the boundaries of old reserves.

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/National-Protected-Areas-Ord-Updated-141022-1.pdf>

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

In 2023, the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) designated two Specially Protected Areas – the South Georgia Terrestrial Protected Area (SG TPA) and the South Sandwich Islands Terrestrial Protected Area (SSI TPA). Together they cover the whole landmass of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, including all offshore islands to the mean high-water mark, and complement the SGSSI Marine Protected Area which was designated in 2012. The conservation objectives and permitted activities within the two protected areas are detailed in the SGSSI TPA Management Plan and supported by the new Wildlife and Protected Areas (SPA Management Plan and Prohibited Activities) Regulations 2023.

Ascension Island:

A review of protected areas in 2024 created new nature reserves and extended the boundaries of old reserves.

[20250521_National-Protected-Areas-Ord_CONSOLIDATION.pdf](#)

IV.2 **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?

Yes

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_v2.xlsx](#)

IV.4. Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits (consistent with the definition of "Range State" in Article I of the Convention)?

No

V. Awareness

V.1. 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 may also be relevant).
(select all that apply)

GUIDANCE TIP:

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **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 Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and livelihoods), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests), Res. **14.14** (CMS Jaguar Initiative), Res. **14.13** (Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), Res. **14.12** (Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea), Res. **14.10** (Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)), Res. **14.8** (Conservation and sustainable management of seagrass ecosystems), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.1** (Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032), Res. **12.6 (Rev.COP14)** (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), Res. **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), and Decision 14.194 (Ecological Connectivity), Decision 14.54 (Marine Wildlife Watching) and Decision 14.223 (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

- Campaigns on specific topics
- Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
- Press and media coverage
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

Impact of actions

V.2. Please provide details for the actions selected in the previous question and indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

>>> 1) Campaigns on specific topics

Metropolitan UK:

Various non-governmental campaigns have taken place, such as the current 'Rude to Intrude' campaign led by Whale and Dolphin Conservation, 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>.

The 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 the 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.

To protect the UK's 42 seabird island Special Protection Areas (SPAs), NatureScot, Natural England, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales contributed funding for the Biosecurity for Life programme, a partnership project between the RSPB, National Trust and National Trust for Scotland, which ran from August 2018 to July 2023.

Education and public awareness raising on biosecurity best practice were key components of the project.

There are now legacy projects in place in England, Scotland and Wales, which are continuing to deliver training and awareness raising in relation to biosecurity at SPA seabird breeding islands.

<https://biosecurityforlife.org.uk/>

The Biosecurity for LIFE project ended in July 2023 and has been succeeded by three short-term country-level projects: Biosecurity for Scotland, Biosecurity for England, and Biosecurity for Wales, which aim to continue the work started by Biosecurity for LIFE and to bring together a partnership seeking to maintain seabird island biosecurity measures in place permanently.

A number of SPAs have programmes to manage disturbance through engagement with the public. For example, Bird Aware Solent, made up of fifteen local councils, Natural England, the RSPB, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and Chichester Harbour Conservancy, works to raise awareness of coastal birds to address the impact of recreational visits on the SPAs along the Solent coast. <https://birdaware.org/solent/>

The Severn Estuary has established Good Practice Guidelines to help manage and protect its unique environment. These guidelines, developed by the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA), aim to minimize disturbance to wildlife and habitats while promoting responsible recreational activities:

Severn-Estuary-EMS-Good-Practice-Guidelines-English.pdf. ASERA is made up of members from nature conservation agencies, local authorities, ports and harbour authorities, water companies and drainage boards.

Wales:

Following a recent consultation (December 2024) the Welsh government is developing the Welsh Seabird Conservation Strategy focusing on the protection, conservation and restoration of seabirds in Wales. It aims to achieve this by providing a framework for a continuous assessment of the status of seabirds and of ongoing conservation action in Wales, by providing high-level recommendations where conservation action needs to be improved or adjusted, and by enabling and safeguarding deliverable conservation actions through collaboration with stakeholders.

Wild Seas Wales, a partnership of organisations, has published marine codes of conduct which outlines best practice for recreational and commercial users within marine protected areas. It has undertaken social media campaigns, coupled with its animated guidance videos to promote sustainable marine recreation.

<https://wildseas.wales/>

Biosecurity for Wales continues working to implement and improve long-term biosecurity practice across all Welsh islands that are SPAs and expands to include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for breeding seabirds. A round up of the work undertaken by the project in 2024 can be found at:

<https://biosecurityforlife.org.uk/blog/2025-01-15-biosecurity-for-wales-2024-roundup>

Scotland:

The Scottish government recently published a Scottish Seabird Conservation Action Plan, which includes an objective to raise awareness of the conservation, environmental, economic, and cultural importance of Scotland's seabirds across all sectors, fostering societal behavioural changes that reduce risks to seabird populations and promote their long-term protection. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-seabird-conservation-action-plan/>.

NatureScot is a partner in Species on the Edge. This multi partner, National Lottery funded project aims to engage with local communities, provide advice and undertake conservation action to support a range of coastal species including a number of App I and App II birds. <https://speciesontheedge.co.uk/>

'Biosecurity for Scotland's Seabird Islands' (Biosecurity for Scotland in short) continues the work started by Biosecurity for LIFE (2018 - 2023) in Scotland, bringing together organisations, island communities and businesses to safeguard Scotland's internationally important seabird islands from invasive non-native mammalian predators. This work is funded to March 2026 by the Nature Restoration Fund and is led by RSPB Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland and NatureScot. A series of codesign workshops are engaging with stakeholders to develop a long-term Scottish biosecurity programme; there is no funding currently secured for seabird island biosecurity in Scotland beyond March 2026.

While there have been no severe mortality events reported at seabird colonies since 2023, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to circulate in Scotland. Well-established liaison with Scottish government and Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) continues to review intelligence and impact on HPAI risk ratings. NatureScot leads the Scottish Task Force on Avian Influenza in Wild Birds, manages a wild bird mortality reporting network across key sites around Scotland, and supports APHA with collection of samples from wild bird (and more recently mammal) carcasses. NatureScot is also collaborating with research projects to better understand species impact and recovery (University of Edinburgh's ECOFLU project, and APHA's iPREPARE project).

The Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) was awarded funding by the Marine Fund Scotland (2024-2025); it has been running workshops across Scotland to collect data on creel and pots practice among different fishing communities and promote the use of sinking rope replacement in static gear fisheries to reduce the risk of entanglement, following the successful pilot trial in the Inner Sound. SEA also provided ropes to replace traditional rope in end to life fleet on a voluntary basis. Subsequently, SEA was funded by the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) (2025-2026) to continue the distribution of sinking lines. SEA is running a socio-economic analysis to develop practical and effective solutions for reducing marine megafauna entanglement and morbidity associated with current fishing practices with data collected from the workshops, with a focus on the Sea of the Hebrides Nature Conservation MPA designated for mobile species including basking shark.

Northern Ireland:

In 2024, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) consulted on a Seabird Conservation Strategy and Action Plan which has an objective to raise awareness of the importance of Northern Ireland's seabirds Consultation on the Seabird Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. A public consultation was held at the same time on an Elasmobranch Conservation Strategy which had an objective on managing wildlife interactions, to be delivered using actions on education and awareness and outreach events and programmes with the public and stakeholders DAERA Elasmobranch Conservation Strategy consultation document.pdf. Both of these strategies are due for publication by spring 2026.

In addition, DAERA recently launched marine wildlife disturbance guidance documents (a leaflet and flyer) highlighting best practice guidance to avoid marine wildlife disturbance: Marine Wildlife Disturbance Guidance Documents | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The countryside respect campaign is a biannual campaign run by the Government of Jersey with the support from the Jersey National Park, the National Trust for Jersey, Jersey Heritage, and the Jersey Farmers Union and other members from the Jersey Access Service 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 February 2025 the JASP group, launched the Pawsitive Impact Campaign. This campaign encourages simple actions such as keeping dogs on a lead where it matters, sticking to paths, and cleaning up after them - to help safeguard farmland, wildlife and natural sites. <https://jerseynationalpark.com/pawsitiveimpact/>
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>

Resolution 11.9 (Rev.COP13) - In 2024 and 2025 The Société Jersiaise held a beginners' birdwatching event to mark World Migratory Bird Day.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Bailiwick Bat Survey utilised citizen science to monitor bat populations in Guernsey, Sark, Alderney and Herm from 2021 to 2024. In addition to capturing data on bat activity across the Bailiwick, the survey has also been very successful in spreading awareness of bats. Regular media interest throughout the survey provided an opportunity to engage with the public on the important role bats play in the environment and the threats they are under, their migration patterns and highlight the Channel Islands being a key stepping stone between UK and Europe.

Resolution 11.9 (Rev.COP13) - interpretation signs are in place at sensitive sites for overwintering birds to raise awareness of the risks of disturbance. Media releases are issued each year as birds are migrating through the islands to highlight their vulnerability to disturbance.

A wildlife watchers code of conduct, named 'Give Wildlife a Chance', has been published and is frequently promoted on social media. This code raises awareness of the impact of disturbance on seabirds and marine mammals and provides recommendations for how different marine and coastal users can avoid causing disturbance.

Resolution 12.20 - The Clean Earth Trust (CET) produces annual Marine Letter Reports, which quantify the scale of marine litter problem around Guernsey. Data used to compile these reports are collected from publicly attended beach cleans and the CET run campaigns around the release of the reports to increase public awareness of the issue, particularly in reference to risks to wildlife.

Since 2019, the Pollinator Project has been running campaigns to promote pesticide reduction, including a pesticide amnesty and a pesticide audit on the island. The Project 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.

The States of Guernsey provide £40,000 of grant funding annually to support local conservation projects or students who wish to study an aspect of the local environment. These include projects which focus on raising awareness of the natural environment and threats to species and habitats. For example, in 2023, a grant was awarded to Wild Islands, a local charity who produced a film promoting the local marine environment including bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncatus*.

Isle of Man:

The government has issued an Isle of Man Coastal Code, promotes use of the basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* Code, and is currently in the final stages of producing a comprehensive guidance leaflet on behaviour around marine wildlife in collaboration with local NGOs.

There has been continued activity by specialised NGOs engaging various stakeholder groups in relation to basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*, cetaceans and birds. The Manx government supports several of these organisations with specific service level agreements based on annual Key Performance Indicators. 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.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island has an annual campaign to raise awareness of migrating turtles from Brazil to Ascension, with safe watching guidelines to minimise disturbance. There is satellite tagging of turtles, sharks and seabirds which migrate outside of the MPA, with details shared through local newspapers, public notices and social media.

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, a research and education programme by the Bermuda Zoological Society and the Sea Turtle Conservancy, has released a number of news articles, held public lectures, published scientific articles, and offers an annual international course on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. <https://bermudaturtleproject.org/>

The Bermuda Turtle Project also 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.

Whale watching guidelines to ensure boats do not disturb migrating humpback whale *Megaptera*

novaeangliae were developed by the Bermuda government.

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

British Virgin Islands:

As the yachting capital of the world, boaters in the British Virgin Islands are encouraged to report whale sightings during the migration season. Educational lectures on sea turtles are given at the schools. Copies of a 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/bvimarineawareness>.

Cyprus SBAs:

Awareness campaigns take place at turtle nesting beaches during the nesting season. Presentations on sea turtles are organised during the nesting season, and dedicated educational programmes on sea turtles are delivered to students through the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre.

Dedicated educational programmes on bird migration and important migratory species are delivered to students through the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre.

St Helena:

During the annual Marine Awareness Week there are information displays, marine related activities, radio quizzes, game night and marine facts in local newspapers. In 2023, the Blue Marine Foundation, the St. Helena National Trust and St. Helena Tourism launched the #BeGentleToGiants campaign to celebrate and support a responsible Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* code of conduct. <https://www.begentletogiants.org/the-guidance>

Falkland Islands:

Falklands Conservation leads on raising awareness of migratory species. They cultivate an active social media presence and promote and support campaigns on local migratory species. See

<https://falklandsconservation.com/>

Pitcairn:

RSPB has ongoing visits to the island, carrying out presentations and training on Pitcairn's endemic reed warbler. An expedition to Henderson in 2024 will focus on monitoring the endemic birds and finding out which baits worked best to attract rats.

The Blue Belt has a lot of involvement in outer island expeditions and the management of the marine science base. They are also funding an expedition in September with CEFAS leading the science data collection and training.

The MMO (marine management organisation) has declared Henderson and Ducie islands as a shark and ray sanctuary.

2) Teaching programmes in schools or colleges

Metropolitan UK:

As highlighted above, the UK government is moving ahead with a new general certificate of secondary education (GCSE) in natural history.

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/>.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust also coordinates a specialist communication and education network called Wetland Link International (WLI). WLI is a network of 300 wetland centres across the globe, with regional networks in 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. 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. <https://wli.wwt.org.uk/>

Some of the UK NGOs e.g. regional Wildlife Trusts engage with schools, running workshops and sessions which highlight the threats and pressures faced by migratory species. For example, the Wildlife Trusts offer school visits to nature reserves as well as lessons at schools. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/learning>.

Wales:

Project SIARC (Sharks Inspiring Action and Research with Communities), which was established in 2021, is a collaborative project led by ZSL (Zoological Society of London) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), with the support of Nature Networks Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund and On the Edge. The project aims to catalyse links between fishers, researchers, communities and government to collaborate and safeguard elasmobranchs, with a focus on angelshark *Squatina squatina* and tope shark *Galeorhinus galeus*, among other elasmobranchs. The project is engaging with schoolchildren through interactive primary school sessions, including 'Meet the Scientist' sessions and learning how to 3D print shark models with Swansea University. Several bilingual resources have been developed for schoolchildren, including an eBook to explore the heritage of angelsharks in Wales. Thousands of members of the public and hundreds of schoolchildren have engaged with the project's work.

Curlew Connection Wales, launched in 2023, is a partnership project led by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and funded by the Nature Networks Fund. The project aims to reverse the decline in breeding curlew in Wales and will focus on three Important Curlew Areas within Wales: Bannau Brycheiniog, Montgomeryshire and the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Curlew Connections will aid delivery of the Wales Action Plan for the recovery of curlew Recovery Plan | Curlew Wales (2021) and will provide a focus to engage with farming and landowning communities to maximise curlew

recovery interventions.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A local educational fund has provided funding to two local charities: La Société Guernesiaise and the Guernsey Nature Commission, to support the delivery of an Environmental Education Programme in all local primary schools and to host an annual BioBlitz to which all year 5 students are invited.

Isle of Man:

The Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch charity 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. The Isle of Man government has a multi-annual Service Level Agreement with this organisation that includes support for a public engagement event. 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.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island school visits raise awareness by bringing children to watch nesting green turtle *Chelonia mydas* or emerging hatchlings during the breeding season. The island hosts environmentally sound turtle tours weekly during the nesting season to raise awareness. The Marine Protected Area (MPA) has a youth group to engage young people with the surrounding MPA. Students at the school can now study for a GCSE in Marine Biology, with Ascension MPA used as a case study.

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 <https://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.

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>).

Falkland Islands:

Throughout the reporting period, Falkland Islands schools have been able to learn about migratory species and their conservation first-hand 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. An annual career day features presenters from a range of backgrounds promoting careers in ecology with emphasis on migratory species. In 2025, members of the Environment Department have visited primary school classes and given discussions on local biodiversity and migratory species throughout the Falkland Islands.

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.

British Virgin Islands:

In the British Virgin Islands during the leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* 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.

3) Press and media coverage

Metropolitan UK:

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) uses social media to promote work on migratory species. Social media accounts focusing on seabird surveys (the VSAS – Volunteer Seabirds at Sea Facebook group) have strengthened the connection between JNCC and the public, and improved its ability to demonstrate expertise to a key target audience. Articles and news items on migratory species are often included in JNCC's Nature News - a monthly e-newsletter. Furthermore, migratory species often feature in communications on JNCC's main Facebook (>2000 followers), X (9k followers), BlueSky (1k followers) and LinkedIn (18k followers) accounts.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust promotes migratory species through its social media accounts. Migratory species are a regular feature of WWT's communications, featuring as 'hero' species or flagships to capture the public 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 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* to Slimbridge regularly makes national news. Outside of autumn, the tagging and marking of shorebirds such as spoon-billed sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* in Asia and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* in north-west Europe provides further opportunities to tell engaging stories

about migratory species. WWT's magazine is sent to around 200,000 members.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has been satellite-tracking common cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* since 2011, with updates frequently featured in the organisation's social media accounts.

<https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/cuckoo-tracking>

Scotland:

Scotland's biodiversity indicators for waterbirds and seabirds raise the profile of migratory species and have a good media pick up.

Wales:

The LIFE projects:

- Biosecurity for LIFE (LIFE 3.0 - LIFE17 GIE/UK/000572)

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE17-GIE-UK-000572/biosecurity-for-life-safeguarding-the-uks-globally-important-seabird-island-spas-from-invasive-alien-species>;

- LIFE roseate tern (LIFE14 NAT/UK/000394) <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE14-NAT-UK-000394/improving-the-conservation-prospects-of-the-priority-species-roseate-tern-throughout-its-range-in-the-uk-and-ireland>;

- LIFE Little Terns: (LIFE12 NAT/UK/000869) <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE12-NAT-UK-000869/improving-the-conservation-status-of-the-little-tern-in-the-uk-through-targeted-action-at-the-most-important-colonies>;

- LIFE Curlew project (LIFE19 NAT/UK/000844) <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE19-NAT-UK-000844/curlews-in-crisis-emergency-action-to-halt-the-decline-of-curlew-numenius-arquata-in-priority-landscapes-across-the-uk>;

all raised the profile of these species with communications plans in place resulting in good media pick-up. In addition, the two Nature Networks funded projects on black grouse and curlew also received good media attention.

Of great media interest was the news story around Jinx, a three-year-old working cocker spaniel that has been trained to detect the presence of rats on breeding seabird islands. Jinx was trained using Welsh government funding from the Nature Networks fund. Jinx was the UK's first biosecurity dog.

The UK Woodland Birds Steering Group is a joint group between organisations that represent sectors of government agencies, conservation, academia and woodland management. The Steering Group aims to develop a woodland bird framework to aid recovery of nine at-risk UK woodland birds (hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, lesser spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*, marsh tit *Parus palustris*, willow tit *Parus montanus*, nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* and woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*) and improve the resilience of associated woodland ecosystems.

The woodland bird framework will address five principal themes:

- Address evidence gaps to ensure management delivers for at-risk species, including deploying and testing novel solutions
- Ensure all actions are underpinned by effective monitoring
- Provide clear leadership on woodland birds in the UK
- Deploy tried and tested management interventions
- Develop international collaboration to achieve results along migratory flyways

The Group has recently developed a communications plan around its work.

NatureScot has generated regular significant communications relating to seabirds over this reporting period issuing several news releases updating on the impacts of avian flu, the slow recovery and declining numbers etc. Additionally, seabird news releases included a first Mediterranean gull record, a scheme to protect little terns at Islay airport and guidance on gulls. Several Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF) news releases drew attention to projects to restore seagrass, including the largest planting partnership with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SEN). SMEEF also funded some cetacean projects. While no news releases focused on cetaceans, projects featured projects included partnerships with Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and research on the Moray Firth dolphins on social media platforms.

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 via eco active jersey.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Media releases and frequent social media campaigns are published by both the States of Guernsey and local NGOs to promote the projects and initiatives outlined above, raising awareness of the natural environment and the threats to species and habitats.

In 2024, the first State of Nature report for Guernsey was published by the Nature Commission. The publication of the report and its findings was widely promoted in news and social media outlets.

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man continues to raise awareness of beach-nesting terns and waders through press releases, signage, education and public liaison.

Bermuda:

Public presentations and articles on turtles are published in local media to maintain awareness and interest. 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

Pterodroma cahow chick of the year is also reported in the local media, as are the final number of chicks reared in any breeding season. There was a press release about the estimated number of humpback whale Megaptera novaeangliae in Bermuda's waters by Grove et al. (2023).

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. South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI), Falklands Conservation) on their ecology, status, behaviour etc.

A recent example includes the coverage of Endangered Species Day by Falklands Radio in May 2025. This included interviews with conservation groups, government officials, and policy makers, much of which focused on migratory species.

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. The report can be found at <https://falklandsconservation.com/downloads/>.

World Ocean Day is celebrated through online and in-person events, with the most recent iteration in 2025 being celebrated in the local town hall with a variety of booths, activities, and speakers.

South Georgia & the 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 research partners, such as the British Antarctic Survey (www.bas.ac.uk). Film and media projects regularly visit the Territory to film migratory species. The South Georgia Heritage Trust supports conservation work on albatrosses <https://sght.org/albatross-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. The documentary has been used as an awareness tool over the past three years. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9esYv43oPc>.

The Sovereign Base Areas Administration 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.

4) Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Wildlife Trusts hold an annual National Marine Week, which celebrates the UK seas, including awareness of migratory species. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/national-marine-week>.

Scotland:

There are successful public viewing sites for white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* on several Hebridean islands and the species is an important part of wildlife tourism on Scotland's west coast islands.

Seawilding exhibited a garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show which focussed on Seagrass in the coastal landscape of Loch Craignish, highlighting the increasing importance of marine conservation in mitigating climate change.

Wales:

Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales ran a series of annual public engagement events and news stories for World Curlew Day (21st April).

Northern Ireland:

DAERA operates the Portrush Coastal Zone, which serves as Northern Ireland's primary coastal and marine education centre, operated by the Marine and Fisheries Division. The centre provides interactive exhibits, discovery pools, and educational displays that explore the region's rich marine biodiversity and coastal heritage. It also offers panoramic views of the Skerries and the Causeway Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - the UK's first marine protected area for harbour porpoises - alongside access to the adjacent Portrush National Nature Reserve, known for its geological significance.

Rathlin Island is internationally important for breeding seabirds and is home to Northern Ireland's largest seabird colony. Rathlin West Light Seabird Centre, managed by the RSPB, provides an opportunity to view thousands of seabirds nesting on the cliffs and sea stacks, and learn about each species and their reliance on the marine environment.

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 the 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, and 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 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 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.

The Marine Conservation Society holds an annual 'Marine Mission' event to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Islanders and visitors are 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/>.

The ornithological section of the Société Jersiaise holds an annual Beginners' Bird Watching event each year to coincide with and to highlight World Migratory Bird Day.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

La Société Guernesiaise 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. It is rotated around three locations. The intention is to hold the event in May, when migratory birds will be recorded.

A number of local charities host a joint event 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.

Since 2022, an annual 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 photographs, but it displays Guernsey's wildlife for those that may not normally see it.

Isle of Man:

The Manx Wildlife Trust coordinates an annual Festival of the Sea to highlight marine issues and engage the public in relation to marine life.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island hosts turtle tours weekly during the nesting season to raise awareness of the turtles in a safe and environmentally sound manner. An annual marine festival is held to celebrate migratory fish, turtles, seabirds and sharks which utilise the MPA. The festival showcases the work of the Ascension government to conserve these species and uses new technologies to engage islanders with underwater scapes such as 'hearing the ocean' using hydrophones, and VR headsets to experience reefs and deep seas.

Cyprus SBAs:

The Darwin Plus-funded project, 'Habitat restoration and wise use for Akrotiri and Cape Pyla' (DPLUS141; 2021-2024), led by BirdLife Cyprus, hosted community based events aiming at raising awareness of the importance of the area for wildlife. <https://birdlifecyprus.org/projects/akrotiri-cape-pyla-darwin-project/>

The Akrotiri Spring Festival is an annual event hosted at the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre focusing on the importance of the peninsula and important species, including migratory ones. It is organised in collaboration with Birdlife Cyprus, Terra Cypria and the Municipality of Kourion.

Throughout the year, initiatives, presentations and events are hosted at Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre to promote the biodiversity of the area. Some of them form part of Darwin Plus-funded projects, while others are collaborations with local organisations, universities and local communities.

Gibraltar:

The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society organises Gibraltar's annual participation in BirdLife's EuroBird Watch (see: <https://www.gonhs.org/news/266-eurobirdwatch-2024>).

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* takes place during the annual Marine Awareness Week. The St Helena National Trust hosts an annual Bone Shark (whale shark) Festival.

Tristan da Cunha and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

These South Atlantic OTs have held community events or celebrations on World Albatross Day, including media stories, beach clean-ups and school events.

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.

5) Engagement of specific stakeholder groups

Metropolitan UK:

The Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) was awarded funding by the Marine Fund Scotland (2024-2025); it has been running workshops across Scotland to collect data on creel and pots practice among different fishing communities and promote the use of sinking rope replacement in static gear fisheries to reduce the risk of

entanglement, following the successful pilot trial in the Inner Sound. SEA also provided ropes to replace traditional rope in end to life fleet on a voluntary basis. Subsequently, SEA was funded by the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) (2025-2026) to continue the distribution of sinking lines. SEA is running a socio-economic analysis to develop practical and effective solutions for reducing marine megafauna entanglement and morbidity associated with current fishing practices with data collected from the workshops, with a focus on the Sea of the Hebrides Nature Conservation MPA designated for mobile species including basking shark. NatureScot is a partner in Working for Waders, which is a cross-sector partnership working with land managers to help conserve breeding waders. This ties into conservation action for Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* in Scotland. <https://www.workingforwaders.com/>.

RSPB is running Corncrake Calling to engage with farmers and provide advice to support the conservation of corncrake *Crex crex*. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-we-do/protecting-species-and-habitats/projects/corncrake-calling>

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) is the UK's largest shooting organisation, providing advice and training to its 150,000 members, including a new Sustainable Shooting Code of Practice for wildfowl quarry species. The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust also issues guidance.

<https://basc.org.uk/wildfowling/advice/sustainable-shooting-code-of-practice/>;

<https://www.gwct.org.uk/advisory/guides/>

The National Single Species Action Plan for the UK Breeding Population of Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 2023-2033 includes activities to increase understanding of and support for wetland conservation among local communities, including farmers and landowners, in key black-tailed godwit landscapes.

<https://projectgodwit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/National-Action-Plan-for-BTG-2023-2033.pdf>
Scotland:

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has established 79 snorkel trail sites in Scotland. The sites offer people an opportunity to snorkel within areas chosen for their ease of access, safe conditions and interesting marine life. Three new areas with 18 additional sites were added in 2025, providing snorkelling options for the Small Isles, South Ayrshire and South Fife.

NatureScot's Community Led Marine Biodiversity Monitoring project allows community led marine conservation groups access to advice and resources for their marine survey and monitoring projects. Several community groups have a focus on mobile species and use methods such as Baited Underwater Remote Video (BRUV) to examine presence and abundance. There are regular communications with groups undertaking such work as part of NatureScot's wider community stakeholder engagement.

Wales:

BTO's three-year Nature Networks Funded Project (2024-2026), Cudyll Cymru is a newly developed volunteer upskilling scheme, aims to monitor the populations and breeding productivity of four species of raptors in Wales (common buzzard, kestrel, red kite, sparrowhawk) and raven. The Project empowers local communities to learn more about raptors, fosters a sense of stewardship for their habitats and encourages active involvement in their preservation.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In January 2023 and 2024, 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.

Falkland Islands:

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

South Georgia & the 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 GSGSSI provide updates on entry requirements, permitted activities at visitor sites, reporting obligations and other related topics (e.g. response and reporting on the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) to tourism operators and expedition leaders at the annual International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) Field Conference.

Cyprus SBAs:

As part of turtle conservation actions, the Sovereign Base Areas Administration 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.

6) Special publications

Metropolitan UK:

Defra developed England's first national Marine and Coastal Wildlife Code, published in 2023, to provide overarching guidance on how to act responsibly around marine wildlife when visiting the coast. Similar documents of relevance for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are also available.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-and-coastal-wildlife-code>

BASC's Sustainable Shooting Code of Practice for wildfowl quarry species provides evidence-based recommendations for the sustainable harvest of wildfowl quarry species at a UK level. The code will be updated every 3–5 years, providing an adaptive approach to managing harvest sustainably.

<https://basc.org.uk/wildfowling/advice/sustainable-shooting-code-of-practice/>

In 2022, the fifth UK Birds of Conservation Concern assessment and the second GB IUCN assessment was published, with seabird addendums for both Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) and IUCN published in 2025.

Wales:

In 2022, the fourth assessment of Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales (BoCC) was published, with the addendum for seabirds published in 2024. To aid development of a NRW policy position on the predation of salmonids by fish-eating birds, the following NRW evidence reports were published:

Carss, D., N. and Russell, I., C. 2022. A synopsis of UK and European cormorant and goosander dietary studies. NRW Evidence Report Series No (591)

Taylor, R.C., Boersch-Supan, P., Cooper, C., O'Connell, P., Wetherhill, P., Bowgen, K., MacGregor C. and Calladine, J. 2022. A winter census (2020/21) of cormorant and goosander in Wales. NRW Evidence Report Series (No. 592)

Macgregor C.J., Boersch-Supan, P., and Taylor, R.C. 2022. Spring 2021 survey of Cormorant and Goosander on the River Usk. NRW Evidence Report Series (No. 593)

Russell, I. C. and Carss, D. N. 2022. Appraisal of the effectiveness of non-lethal and lethal control of fish-eating birds in preventing serious damage to natural and stocked fisheries. NRW Evidence Report Series (No. 594).

Taylor, R.C., Austin, G., Boersch-Supan, P., Bowgen, K., Burton, N., Calladine, J., Noble, D., Robinson, R. 2022. 2020/21 Winter Census of Cormorant and Goosander in Wales: Design and Analytical Approach. NRW Evidence Report Series (No. 598).

Macgregor, C.J., Boersch-Supan, P.H., Burton, N.H.K., Carss, D.N., Newson, S.E., Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Robinson, R.A., and Taylor, R.C. 2022. Informing decisions on lethal control of great cormorant and goosander in Wales: scenarios from Population Viability Analysis. NRW Evidence Report Series (No. 615).

To aid the conservation status of curlew in Wales, the Curlew Recovery Plan for Wales was published in 2022 together with statements by Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales on the role of predation control (published online in 2024) and Curlew Head-starting (published online in 2025).

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum published in 2023 the book "When the kite builds... Why and How we restored Red Kites across Britain" (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/kite-book/>) by Dr Mike Pienkowski reporting the outstanding success of this pioneering internationally supported project over nearly 40 years; all proceeds from sale of the book go to conservation.

Bird Study produced a special edition on the impacts of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on birds, resulting in 22 papers bringing research together from the UK and beyond.

Scientific research published in 2024 on Elasmobranch distributions and interactions with fisheries models where highest numbers of nine threatened species are predicted to occur and assesses the sensitivity of sharks, skates and rays to various fishing methods and predicts bycatch hotspots, revealing areas where conservation measures could have the greatest impact for these species.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Three reports have been published to summarise the annual findings of the Bailiwick Bat Survey which ran from 2021-2024, and a final report in 2024 summarised the findings of the four years combined. Information can be found on www.bats.org.gg. These reports contain information on which species have been recorded in the survey, the patterns of activity of those species and the locations of the recordings. They are accessible for the public to read.

The first State of Nature Report for Guernsey and Herm was published in 2024. This report is the first detailed account of the state of species and habitats in the islands. It summarises existing information, identifies notable data gaps and provides information on the threats to and drivers of biodiversity loss, including actions that individuals, charities and businesses may undertake to help conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Isle of Man:

Manx Wildlife Trust has published Freshwater Fish of Conservation Concern on the Isle of Man 2024:

<https://www.mwt.im/FFoCCIoM>.

Ascension Island:

A new Guide to the Wildlife on Ascension Island is freely available to the general public and visitors to the island.

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 *Anguilla anguilla*, whale shark *Rhincodon typus*, manta ray *Mobula birostris*, Bermuda petrel *Pterodroma cahow*, common tern *Sterna hirundo*, green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*, loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, Kemp's Ridley turtle *Lepidochelys kempii*, humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* and sperm whale *Physeter microcephalus*.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands government has a countryside code and safe distance guide to raise awareness of not disturbing or harming protected species. This is actively promoted throughout the year with additional

campaigns on radio, television, and social media during the main tourist season (September – March). This has become a critical necessity given the continued expansion of the tourism industry throughout the Falkland Islands, particularly as a stopover point along Antarctic cruise routes. Increasing numbers of tourists are increasing the pressure on migratory species, in particular on seabird breeding areas. 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. Additionally, other species such as magellanic penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus* and rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* are popular among tourists. 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 & the South Sandwich Islands:

Data, including those relevant to conservation of marine migratory species, has been published on the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands MPA data portal. See <https://www.mpa-dataportal.gs/>. The GSGSSI Biosecurity Handbook is regularly updated, and in relation to migratory species, a new section on how to identify, respond and report outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been added.

7) Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

Metropolitan UK:

Noss NNR is one of the many islands that make up the archipelago of Shetland, the most northerly part of the British Isles and is an internationally important seabird colony with 60,000 breeding seabirds nesting on the island. The visitor centre, which welcomes over 2,000 visitors annually, had newly designed and updated interpretation installed in 2024. The new information boards, coupled with talks from reserve staff, raise awareness of the global threats to seabirds and their marine environment and highlight their journey and life cycle in Shetland in the summer and at sea in the winter. Local communities were involved in the design process through specially commissioned artwork, photography and poems from local people which has helped share the issues faced by seabirds with visitors from across the world.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Wetland Centre overlooks the Island's most significant inland wetland Site 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, sandy and a small seagrass bed. These habitats support a range of marine life.

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

In 2024 and 2025, new way-marker signage has been installed around the island, including at one of the island's most significant Sites of Special Interest, Les Landes SSI. Four orientation panels were installed that provide a map of the area and its paths, advice for users with dogs and information about the site's wildlife, geology, history, and management.

Ascension Island:

Funded through the Darwin Initiative, new interpretation boards have been installed at Ascension's Nature Reserves and at the RAF airfield to raise conservation awareness.

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.

Falkland Islands:

A coastal path has been upgraded and maintained with viewing platforms and educational signage at Gypsy Cove, part of the broader Stanley Common National Nature Reserve. These have been recently upgraded as of 2024, and the site possesses boundary ropes and signage to ensure that disturbance to the local magellanic penguin breeding ground is minimised. This is a very popular tourism site and the additional infrastructure and signage is critical in the protection of the breeding grounds.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

GSGSSI has a range of documents which are updated annually and provide Operators, Expedition Leaders and vessel Masters with key information prior to visiting SGSSI. These outline certain codes of conduct and guidelines that must be observed. These are intended to ensure that visitors enjoy safe landings without causing any environmental damage or wildlife disturbance. It is highlighted that these documents include the Visiting South Georgia Handbook and the Site Visitor Management Plans (SVMP) that have been prepared for the most popular approved visitor landing sites and a number of overland walks. These detail open access areas, closed areas and routes for overland walks. Visitor management information is detailed as well as additional information such as hazards and areas which are particularly sensitive to disturbance.

A new exhibit has opened within the South Georgia Museum at Grytviken illustrating whale research being undertaken at South Georgia and promoting the recovery of whale species in the region and Blue Belt funding is being used to develop further educational materials on the MPA for visitors to the islands.

V.3. 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.

3. Good impact

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

VI.1. 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?

Yes

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe how CMS objectives are incorporated in other sectoral strategies such as transport, construction, agriculture, tourism, education, spatial planning, Sustainable Development Goals and other strategies.

>>> 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), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the 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 UK 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 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/>.

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 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan> was the first revision of the 25YEP. The government concluded a rapid review of EIP23 and published a statement of the rapid review’s key findings on 30 January 2025. The Environmental Plan 2025 will be published later this year. It will be a clearer, prioritised plan for achieving environmental outcomes such as reducing waste across the economy, planting more trees, improving air quality and halting the decline in species. The plan EIP25 will clearly describe the actions which need to be taken, who is responsible, and how they stack up to help reach the goals in the plan.

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, the Bat Conservation Trust and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, with support from the Association of Local Government Ecologists, have worked together to

develop a new system of awarding licences for work on protected species of bats through 'Earned Recognition'. The aim is to cover the full range of impacts and licensing purposes for bats with a system that rewards demonstrable competence. It streamlines the process, and should result in better outcomes for bats and stakeholders. The new approach was trialled from 2021-2023 and is now standard practice.

Scotland:

Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 embeds sustainable development in planning policy in Scotland and sets out how the planning system contributes to this. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

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.

Sixteen CMS species are provided with policy protection through Scotland's National Marine Plan General Policy GEN 9b as they qualify as Priority Marine Features (PMF) in Scottish waters. This aims to ensure development and use of the marine environment does not have a significant impact on their national status. However, cetaceans (as European Protected Species) and basking sharks (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011) also receive stronger legislative protection.

Publication of the Marine Protected Areas Report to Parliament in 2024 outlines progress on the Scottish MPA network. Conservation and Management Advice documents have been published for all marine SACs, SPAs and Nature Conservation MPAs.

A revised licensing regime in Scotland (in 2025) for gull species based on new population estimates for gulls from Seabirds Count.

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 seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, and to report their performance to the Welsh government. https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf Planning Policy Wales 12 (2024) considers Biodiversity and Ecological Networks and provides a strong updated policy framework for decision making and policy formulation within the planning system to secure this.

Northern Ireland:

Northern Ireland's Strategic Planning Policy Statement embeds sustainable development in planning policy and sets out how the planning system contributes to this. <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/strategic-planning-policy-statement>

Isle of Man:

CMS features in 'The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016: Towards a Sustainable Island', the island's planning policy document. The Climate Change Act 2021 required that development planning policy takes account of biodiversity net gain, and this forms a part of the current review of the Strategic Plan.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Jersey's long-term community vision, instigated by the Government of Jersey, is Future Jersey, which 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/GovernmentProgramme/pages/jerseystrategicframework.aspx>

In January 2020, the original suite of indicators was extended to nearly 190 with the launch of the Jersey Performance Framework to measure the progress that Jersey makes towards achieving sustainable community, environmental and economic wellbeing. Measures (known as Island Outcome Indicators) 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://stats.je/statistic/island-outcome-indicators/>

The Jersey Bridging Island Plan 2022-2025 (BIP) 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. 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, the recognition of marine habitats and areas of high marine

biodiversity and seascape value, encouraging 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. 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 2024, Jersey adopted the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) with the vision of a thriving marine environment providing environmental, economic, cultural and social benefits. Its defined purposes are to provide a framework for organising human and marine resources and activities in Jersey's territorial waters, to develop a network of Marine Protected Areas, to inform the policies of the next iteration of the Island Plan, and to support co-ordinated development and decision-making on all aspects affecting the marine environment. The vision is supported through a range of aims, including that the natural environment is restored and biodiversity is thriving, that seascapes are valued and their character is retained, and that enhanced and commercial fishing and aquaculture are sustainable and profitable.

Falkland Islands:

Migratory species feature in the Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021 – 2040. The strategy recognises the central and universal role that the natural environment plays in the sustainable development of health and wellbeing, economy and the nation as a whole. It outlines a national vision for the future that includes a biodiverse, healthy, sustainable, adapted and connected natural environment for all.

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>.

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 5 Year Stewardship Framework, Protect, Sustain, Inspire (2021-2025). 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. <https://gov.gs/stewardship-framework-for-sgssi/>

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.

VI.2. Does your country integrate the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' 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.

Yes

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 the UK government, the devolved administrations and the UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies.

Scotland:

Conservation status assessments have been undertaken for protected species as part of Habitats Regulations reporting; to be published in January 2026 by Scottish government.

A number of protected areas within Scotland's Marine Protected Areas network are designed to further the conservation of 33 species relevant to CMS (harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, Risso's dolphin, basking shark and 29 bird species). Feature status within these sites is reported biennially in OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas reporting (<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/marine-protected-areas/mpa-network-assessment>). Likewise, feature status within these sites is reported every six years, a requirement of Section 103 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; to report

to the Scottish Parliament on Scotland's Marine Protected Area (MPA) network (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-protected-area-network-2024-report-scottish-parliament/documents/>).

British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands, South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands, Tristan da Cunha: The UK works to co-ordinate input to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) to which it is a Party, and for and on behalf of these four South Atlantic Territories which have also ratified the Agreement. This includes co-ordination on the implementation of action, and through reports to ACAP, in part through the work of the JNCC.

VI.3. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Wildlife and Countryside Link is an umbrella organisation for a wide range of charities with an interest in nature conservation, access to the countryside and animal welfare. Its 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. It works to highlight the importance and value of British wildlife (including migratory species), the need for improved wildlife protection, and for more robust approaches to combat wildlife crime. There are regular meetings with the government, SNCBs and Link to discuss concerns and issues. <https://www.wcl.org.uk/>

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.

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 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) contributes to the conservation of migratory birds and other species through the management of nature reserves, education and engagement, research and conservation projects.

The Curlew LIFE project (2020-2025) aimed to reverse the decline of the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* in the UK by improving breeding habitat conditions in five priority UK landscapes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The project was led by the RSPB and funded by the EU LIFE Programme and regional partners: Cairngorms Connect, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs), the Fellfoot Forward programme of the North Pennines National Landscape and with additional support through the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

<https://curlewlife.org/>

The Biosecurity for LIFE programme (2018-2023) was a project run by a partnership between the RSPB, National Trust and National Trust for Scotland, with funding from NatureScot, Natural England, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales as well as the EU LIFE Programme. The project improved biosecurity measures at the UK's 42 seabird island Special Protection Areas (SPAs), benefitting migratory species including common eider *Somateria mollissima* and Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*. There are now legacy projects in place in England, Scotland and Wales, and ongoing organisational support for Northern Ireland's islands. Defra has provided funding to support the continuation of this work through the AfterLIFE plan from 2023.

<https://biosecurityforlife.org.uk/>

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) works to restore and conserve wetlands, which support a variety of migratory birds and other species, carries out conservation projects for migratory bird species and runs a range of research, monitoring, education and engagement programmes. For example, it 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.

The National Bat Monitoring Programme run by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) enables volunteers to take part in surveys by observing bats in their local area. This monitoring programme provides evidence, including to government, to make bat conservation work and includes trends for 11 of 17 bat species in the UK.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme>

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) is the UK's largest shooting organisation, providing advice and training to its 150,000 members, including a new Sustainable Shooting Code of Practice for wildfowl quarry species. It undertakes research and conservation on migratory species including Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* and Eurasian wigeon *Anas penelope*. It advises its members on voluntary measures to avoid negative impacts of shooting on migratory species, including a voluntary restraint in wildfowling during periods of severe weather that meet certain criteria. BASC is a partner in the Working for Waders (<https://www.workingforwaders.com/>) initiative in Scotland, the Curlew Recovery Programme (England), and Gylfinir Cymru (<https://www.curlewales.org/>), the Wales Curlew Partnership. <https://basc.org.uk/>

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) also issues guidance and carries out research on migratory species such as waders and hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. <https://www.gwct.org.uk/advisory/guides/>

Atlantic sturgeon *Acipenser sturio*: A UK Sturgeon Conservation Strategy and Action Plan in place, and this is being led by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). (McCormick, H., Murray, J., Colclough, S., Gessner, J.,

Greenslade, J., Reynolds, L., Hedges, S., Philipsen, P., Debney, A. (Eds), 2023. UK Sturgeon Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. Zoological Society of London, UK. 39 pp.)

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

Currently for bird population estimates no single source of information exists, and the information presented in this report was collated from a number of UK monitoring schemes and data sources, notably:

- The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/bbs> gives trends for common and widespread breeding birds (e.g. Heywood et al., 2025). For long-term trends, and where statistical feasible, combined BBS/Common Bird Census (CBC) trends are applied. To determine BBS trends, species require a reporting threshold of 40 1-km squares. For some breeding species in Wales, such as wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* and pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, sample sizes are below the reporting threshold and are thus insufficient to produce trends.
- For a small number of riverine species, trend information from the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/waterways-breeding-bird-survey> has been used.
- For seabirds, annual trend information is derived from the Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/seabird-monitoring-programme> that has monitored a UK-wide sample of colonies since 1986. Where trend information from annual monitoring do not exist, short- and long-term trends are provided from four complete censuses from Operation Seafarer (1969-70, Cramp et al., 1974); the Seabird Colony Register (1985-88, Lloyd et al., 1991); Seabird 2000 (1998-2002, Mitchell et al., 2004) and Seabirds (Count 2015-2021, Burnell et al., 2023).
- Winter Non-breeding Gull Survey (WiNGs) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/winter-gull-survey> takes place every ten years and has been repeated since 1952/53. The latest survey took place in the winters of 2023/24 and 2024/25. The purpose of the survey is to get decent population estimates of winter gulls in the UK and an understanding of distribution and increase or decreases, especially since the mass die offs from avian flu in 2022/2023.
- Non-estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS) is undertaken every six years and covers the non-estuarine areas that are not surveyed by WeBs. NEWS contributes to revised non-estuarine waterbird population estimates for the UK and its constituent countries. This gives a better understanding of the population estimates for coastal species such as purple sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and sanderling *Calidris alba*. The last NEWS survey was in 2017 https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/non-estuarine_waterbird_survey_3_news_iii_2015-16.pdf.
- For many native and non-native non-breeding waterbirds, annual trend information comes from the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/wetland-bird-survey> and the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (GSMP) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/goose-and-swan-monitoring-programme/about-gsmp> which provide annual trends for most wildfowl from 1966/67 onwards and for waders from 1974/75 onwards.
- For rare breeding birds (broadly defined as species with UK populations of less than 2,000 pairs), trend information is collated by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) <https://rbbp.org.uk/> for native and non-native species, unless better quality assessments were available from national surveys. For rare breeders, trends are calculated based on comparison of five-year mean values straddling the report periods i.e. 1978-1982 to 2012-2016 for long-term trends, and 2001- 2005 to 2012-2016 for short-term trends. As for treatment of BBS indices, this provides a degree of 'smoothing' in situations where there may be significant population changes between individual breeding seasons.
- For a number of scarce breeding species not well monitored by RBBP but too scarce to be monitored by BBS, trends are calculated from comparison of population sizes derived from national surveys undertaken through the Statutory Conservation Agency/RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Scheme (SCARABBS) now replaced by the Scarce Breeding Birds Survey through the UK Bird Monitoring Framework Group.
- For a small number of species where other sources are not available valid trends are derived from comparison of three breeding bird atlases of Britain and Ireland: 1968-72 (Sharrock 1976), 1988-91 (Gibbons et al., 1993) and 2007-11 (Balmer et al., 2013).
- The trends of a small number of species remain as unknown, typically as a consequence of the logistical problems of undertaking monitoring and/or methodological difficulties (e.g. common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).
- Other important national schemes report on other avian demographic metrics such as adult survival through the Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS) [https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/bird-ringing-scheme/ringing-surveys/retrapping-adults-survival#:~:text=The%20Retrapping%20Adults%20for%20Survival,area%20during%20the%20breeding%20season,the%20Constant%20Effort%20Sites%20scheme%20\(CES\)](https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/bird-ringing-scheme/ringing-surveys/retrapping-adults-survival#:~:text=The%20Retrapping%20Adults%20for%20Survival,area%20during%20the%20breeding%20season,the%20Constant%20Effort%20Sites%20scheme%20(CES)) and breeding success through the Nest Record Scheme <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/nrs>.
- The Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS) <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/predatory-bird-monitoring-scheme> is a long-term, national monitoring scheme that quantifies the concentrations of contaminants in the livers and eggs of selected species of predatory birds in Britain.
- As a consequence of the UK epizootics of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 2021 and 2022 within

poultry, captive birds and wild birds, Defra developed a UK reporting tool for poultry, other captive birds <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> and wild birds <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds>.

England:

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), with funding from Natural England, are developing a captive breeding programme for black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*.

Pensthorpe Conservation Trust runs a captive-breeding programme for corncrake *Crex crex* in partnership with Natural England and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). Corncrakes have been released in East Anglia.

Scotland:

The Orkney Native Wildlife Project aims to safeguard the unique and internationally important native wildlife of Orkney (including Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, common redshank *Tringa tetanus* and common snipe *Gallinago Gallinago*) by addressing the threat it faces from introduced stoats as well as providing other community benefits. The project is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, NatureScot and Orkney Islands Council with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the EU's LIFE programme and the Scottish government's Nature Restoration Fund.

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

BTO Scotland commissioned by NatureScot carried out gull tracking work which provided new information on terrestrial and marine foraging ranges and areas of usage. CivTech 10.3 programme, through Scottish government, NatureScot and NGO funding have been piloting developing better methodologies for censusing burrow nesting species.

Much of what is known about humpback whales in Scottish waters has come as a result of a network of citizen scientists; and the Scottish Humpback Catalogue is available online (managed by Lynsey McNeil). A collaborative project, run by the Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA), (links to SEA project update above) with NGO's (including Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and Cetacean Research & Rescue Unit (CRRU) using whale sightings and strandings data collected by citizen scientists, assessed entanglement risk to humpback whales in Scotland.

Wales:

The five-year (2020-2025) LIFE Curlew project (LIFE19 NAT/UK/000844) aimed to halt the decline of breeding curlew in five priority landscapes across the UK, including Wales, and to define and catalyse the future action needed to maintain viable populations of curlew within these landscapes by:

- Enhancing conditions for breeding curlew using best-practice conservation methods in the selected landscapes, to halt curlew population declines.
- Evaluating responses to this work through monitoring of habitat condition, predator abundance, curlew abundance and breeding success.
- Developing post-project plans to maintain viable populations in the selected landscapes and halt the decline of curlew elsewhere across the UK.
- Increasing understanding of the importance of curlew breeding in the UK, and of ways to help them, among local communities and visitors in the priority landscapes and more widely.
- Creating and strengthening networks to relevant to share best-practice approaches to curlew conservation across the UK and EU, and encourage and enable government bodies in the four countries of the UK to take large-scale, long-term conservation action for this species.

Safeguarding the UK's globally important seabird island SPAs from invasive alien species (LIFE17 GIE/UK/000572) <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE17-GIE-UK-000572/biosecurity-for-life-safeguarding-the-uks-globally-important-seabird-island-spas-from-invasive-alien-species>, August 2018 to July 2023. This project looked at three principal biosecurity steps: prevention, early detection and rapid incursion response. To facilitate the last step, incursion response hubs were created around the UK, including Wales, fully equipped to deal with any incursion of an invasive mammalian predator and a network of volunteers have been recruited to operate these hubs and react to any island incursion event. Biosecurity for Wales continues to work and implement and improve long-term biosecurity practice across all Welsh breeding seabirds island classified as SPAs or designated as SSSIs.

Particular priority has been given to actions that seek to reduce human-wildlife conflicts with protected birds given that such conflicts may act as drivers for illegal persecution, such as the illegal killing of hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* on moorland managed for red grouse *Lagopus lagopus scotica*. While illegal persecution constituted an important threat to hen harriers in Wales historically (Whitfield et al., 2008), its impact may have dwindled, and other natural drivers may now be more important for population regulation. Alternatively, Welsh birds may continue to suffer from persecution if they stray on to grouse moors in other upland regions of Britain.

A recent study commissioned by Natural Resources Wales found the mortality of first-year hen harriers in Wales was largely attributable to natural causes (Ewing et al., in prep). While illegal persecution still occurs, the regression of grouse moor management as an important land use means that illegal persecution now represents a less important mortality cause in Wales than in England or Scotland. The principal drivers of low-survival of Welsh birds are liable to be environmental in nature.

Northern Ireland:

DAERA provided funding through its Environment Fund for the 2019-2023 RSPB project, 'Improving environmental outcomes for wildlife and people'. Targets for this project included the populations of breeding waders at RSPB reserves across Northern Ireland.

DAERA also provided funding through the Environment Fund to the RSPB for the 2020/21-2023/24 project, 'Delivering curlew conservation in Northern Ireland'. This supported the UK-wide RSPB 'Curlew LIFE' project. The LIFE Raft project, led by the RSPB in partnership with the Rathlin Community, co-funded by EU LIFE, DAERA and other partner organisations, aims to eradicate non-native rats and ferrets from Rathlin Island SPA to restore populations of bird species including the migratory seabirds, common guillemot *Uria aalge albonis*, razorbill *Alca torda*, kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and puffin *Fratercula arctica*, as well as peregrine Falco peregrinus and corncrake *Crex crex*. The project runs from 2020-2025, with monitoring and biosecurity continuing to 2027. <https://rathlin360.com/life-raft/>

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group contribute to the data collection, awareness and campaigning elements of marine mammal work in Northern Ireland and liaise closely with BDMLR to facilitate rescue of marine cetaceans across Northern Ireland shores. This is also supported by work carried out by Ulster Wildlife and the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force.

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/>.

Since 2022, National Trust for Jersey and Birds on the Edge have been running a campaign to save Jersey's puffins and other migratory breeding seabirds from extinction. In May 2025, planning approval was obtained for the creation of a Seabird Reserve and the installation of a 1km fence along the cliffs on the north coast, to protect Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills and other seabirds from non-native predators such as rats and ferrets.

Monitoring of seabirds in the area is undertaken by the project partners.

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 new roost records gained through this scheme add to 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.

A partnership between Jersey, Guernsey and French governments and a range of non-governmental organisations (Office Français de la Biodiversité, La Société Guernesaise, Birds on the Edge, La Société Jersiaise, the British Trust for Ornithology and Le Mourier Marine Ltd) has the primary objective of monitoring the Critically Endangered Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* and has been broadened to collect data on all species that use the seas around the Channel Islands, through a combination of observations by boat and aerial surveys.

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:

The environmental charitable sector undertakes a significant amount of work to monitor and conserve migratory species and their habitats.

Local volunteers participate in WeBS counts and the BTO breeding bird survey which are organized by La Société Guernesaise. Under a States of Guernsey contract, Environment Guernsey (a local not-for-profit) carry out seabird census surveys on offshore islets, Herm and the south coast cliffs.

The DolFin Project undertakes 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 (2021 - 2024) 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 Guernesaise. Over 200 volunteers have participated so far. Since 2022, La Société Guernesaise 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.

The Nature Commission, established in 2023, has published a State of Nature Report and are developing an extensive monitoring programme and a Nature Recovery Network.

La Société Guernesaise and the National Trust for Guernsey own a significant area of land that is managed to protect and enhance biodiversity. This includes wetlands which are known to be important sites for migratory birds which overwinter in the island.

Isle of Man:

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch undertakes cetacean and basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* public sightings recording programmes, 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, and coordinates the Marine Mammal Strandings programme and an annual seal survey on the Calf of Man on behalf of the Isle of Man government. Coordinated roosting hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* counts have continued over the reporting period. Manx Ringing Group utilised thermal imaging to ring Eurasian woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* and other migratory species at night in 2023. The Marine Research and Conservation Foundation (MARECO) is engaging with Manx NGOs and the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture on shark conservation issues in Manx waters.

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 2023, it 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-1>

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 currently planning a major rat eradication programme to take place on Henderson and possibly Pitcairn, which will help preserve the Henderson petrel *Pterodroma atrata* and other endemic and migratory birds.

Falkland Islands:

Falklands Conservation lead the Falkland Island Seabird Monitoring Programme, which has been undertaken for the past 30 years. This provides critical information on the long-term population trends on a variety of migratory species including black-browed albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*. Additionally, they lead on monitoring projects for other migratory seabirds, including burrowing seabirds such as white-chinned petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The South Georgia Heritage Trust runs a programme to report whale sightings within the territory and uses 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. <https://sght.org/whale-sightings-2/>.

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.

VI.4. Provide some examples of significant 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 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. <https://theriverstrust.org/our-work/water-stewardship>

The Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP) is being developed by governments to help offshore wind project applicants address unavoidable impacts to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) at a strategic level, facilitated through one or more Marine Recovery Funds (MRF) into which applicants can choose to pay to discharge environmental compensation obligations. In 2024, two compensatory measures for protected seabird features were approved as part of a suite of measures to deliver compensation for impacts of offshore windfarm developments in UK waters: i) Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures (offANS) for black-legged kittiwake and, ii) Predator Reduction via eradication, control and exclusion of invasive native & non-native mammals. The measures will be delivered by governments and renewable energy companies via the Marine Recovery Fund in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and a similar fund in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance>

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/>.

England:

The Upstream Thinking project is a 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.

southwestwater.co.uk/environment/working-in-the-environment/upstream-thinking/

Certain developments are subject to Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. Where developers are

unable to meet these requirements on or off-site, they must buy statutory biodiversity credits from the government as a last resort. The government will use the revenue to invest in habitat creation in England. Scotland:

The renewables sector is funding tagging research on a range of App I & App II species (mainly raptors and waterbirds) within the country to better understand their use of the landscape and risks from renewables developments.

The Offshore Wind Industry working specifically in Scotland but also across the UK have contributed significant funds to research programmes in order to gain better information and evidence on migratory species in respect of the impact assessment process and also the siting and design of offshore windfarms. Funds have contributed to development of tags, tracking studies on initiatives led by academic institutes and / or regulatory public bodies.

The Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF) has been working with the offshore wind industry to create a Seabirds Resilience Fund. This fund now holds £1.6m and a dedicated officer has been employed to run the fund. Money will be distributed through direct funding mechanisms and competitive rounds.

Further information is available in <https://smeef.scot/smeefs-third-impact-report-released/> .

Isle of Man:

The seabed is managed in Ramsey Bay MNR Fishery Management Zone, through annual surveys and management between Bangor University, Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308597X21002608>

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. Research and conservation work undertaken by Birds on the Edge and the National Trust for Jersey to protect and restore seabird populations is largely privately funded and relies on the support of key private landowners.

In 2024, the Greening Jersey Trust was established by Jersey Finance to encourage the financial services industry to collaborate to help transform and rewild sites across the Island. Private companies have been taking part in tree planting and wildflower meadow maintenance activities.

<https://www.jerseyfinance.com/industry/focus/sustainable-finance/the-greening-jersey-trust/>

British Virgin Islands:

Nature based tours and birdwatching have continued to be promoted on the British Virgin Islands and take place in Anegada in the Western Salt Ponds Ramsar Site as a promoted tourism product.

Turks & 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.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Members of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) provide logistic and scientific support to researchers and station personnel from national Antarctic programs and Antarctic organisations. This includes providing platforms for collecting data in the field and/or transporting personnel, equipment and supplies to stations, research camps or other vessels. With regular departures to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia throughout the season, IAATO vessels provide an important transport link. IAATO operators annually carry researchers in support of projects such as Penguin Watch and the Mapping Application for Penguin Populations and Projected Dynamics (MAPPPD). Both projects aim to alert scientists to any environmental change and help them understand what is causing it. Happywhale

<https://happywhale.com/home> encourages citizen scientists to upload their images of the mammals they encounter on their travels to its website. Identification experts can then examine these pictures to see if they match any whales already stored in the database, or if they are new to science. The contributors are notified of the results and can follow 'their' whale on its travels.

VI.5. 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.COP14)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species).

Yes

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.

>>> Scotland:

As part of the offshore wind planning process in Scotland there has been the development of a collision risk model specific to migratory bird species. This tool is suitable for use across the UK.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/strategic-study-collision-risk-birds-migration-further-development-stochastic-collision-risk-modelling-tool-work-package-1-strategic-review-birds-migration-scottish-waters/>
NatureScot has worked with partners to develop a marine feature sensitivity tool (FeAST) highlighting evidence around pressures, such as barriers to species movements. NatureScot as a statutory consultee use FeAST and refer others to the tool as part of EIA process. Work is in progress to populate with mobile species (birds/mammals/fish).

England:

A 2023 review of the implementation of environmental assessment regimes in England found that there is a lack of monitoring of 'compliance' to check that required actions have been taken, or of 'effectiveness' monitoring to ensure those actions have secured expected environmental outcomes.

<https://www.theoep.org.uk/environmental-assessment-regimes-england>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Lack of data or the ease of access to data hinders the consideration of impacts of energy generation projects affecting the island, such as terrestrial solar power installations and offshore wind turbines. Jersey government is in the early stages of developing policy surrounding potential offshore windfarm development, including the need for enabling legislation to mandate the need for environmental assessments to be undertaken prior to permits being granted for development of this nature.<https://iaato.org/>

VI.6. 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 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), Res. **10.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **14.207** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species) for more information.

>>> Biodiversity considerations are integrated into the UK's National Adaptation Programme, as well as a range of policies and legislation governing the development of energy infrastructure. Some of these policies or laws specifically refer to migratory species.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

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. The UK government published in July 2025 the report 'Unlocking benefits for people, nature and climate: Actions to jointly address climate change and biodiversity loss in England'. It has information on how planning across sectors is supposed to take into account nature.

The National Policy Statement (NPS) for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) requires developers of nationally significant electricity infrastructure in England, and sometimes in Wales and Scotland, to consider risks to birds such as swans and geese, to consider measures to make lines more visible such as bird flappers and diverters, with particular consideration given to feeding and hunting grounds, migration corridors and breeding grounds, where they are functionally linked to sites designated as Special Protection Areas. Developers should site lines away from, or parallel to, but not across, known flight paths, and consider design measures to reduce electrocution risks. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5>

In 2021, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, The Crown Estate and Crown Estate Scotland commissioned a study to scope out illustrative scenarios for future offshore wind expansion in UK waters and understand the trade-offs (including to seabird foraging areas and protected areas) associated with them. Natural England is investigating how to make use of the results of this work in future planning. <https://www.futureoffshorewindscenarios.co.uk/>

The Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP) is being developed by governments to help offshore wind project applicants address unavoidable impacts to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) at a strategic level, facilitated through one or more Marine Recovery Funds (MRF) into which applicants can choose to pay to discharge environmental compensation obligations. In 2024, two compensatory measures of protected seabird features, were approved as part of suite of measures to deliver compensation for impacts of offshore windfarm developments in UK waters: i) Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures (offANS) for kittiwake and, ii) Predator Reduction via eradication, control and exclusion of invasive native and non-native mammals. The measures will be delivered by governments and renewable energy companies via the MRF in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and a similar fund in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance>

England:

Natural England has published a series of documents on best-practice advice for the use of

environmental data and evidence standards for offshore wind development in English inshore and offshore waters.

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 the National Forest. It has full development plan status and lower tier development plans and decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales.

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. 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 2024, Scotland published a new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 (SBS) and associated triennial delivery plans. The SBS sets out Scotland's hope to be nature positive by 2030 and considers biodiversity alongside national energy and climate legislation.

NatureScot has produced updated guidance in relation to collision risk modelling, monitoring and survey methods, and mitigation measures for windfarm developments and birds. NatureScot and Marine Scotland have also produced a range of updated guidance related to marine renewable development birds. <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/renewable-energy/onshore-wind-energy/wind-farm-impacts-birds>

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

The Scottish government is updating its Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind in Scottish Waters. This updated plan will be accompanied with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and Marine Protected Area appraisal. The Plan considers the siting of offshore wind proposals and assesses these against environmental and socio-economic considerations and if required will provide compensation through plan derogation and mitigation. In addition, as part of the UK Energy Act 2023, consideration has been given to secondary legislation changes with regard to HRA and the delivery of compensation at a more strategic level. Proposals are currently out to consultation, and it is anticipated to deliver compensation across multiple projects, at scale as well as enabling the establishment of marine recovery fund(s) for delivery.

NatureScot recently published new guidance on the assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds. <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-and-mitigation-impacts-power-lines-and-guyed-meteorological-masts-birds>

Isle of Man:

The Energy Strategy 2023 notes the need for sustainability and balancing the benefits of development against effects on biodiversity. https://www.gov.im/media/1379841/defa-energy-stratv8-160623_compressed.pdf

The Climate Change Act 2021 includes a duty of public bodies for 'protecting and enhancing biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services', adding to the duty in the Wildlife Act to have regard to 'the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside, the protection of wildlife habitat, and the conservation of flora and fauna and geological or physiographical features of interest'.

https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2021/2021-0020/2021-0020_2.pdf

https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1990/1990-0002/1990-0002_2.pdf

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Carbon Neutral Roadmap, which was brought into force in 2022, builds on the progress made through the Energy Plan for Jersey: 'Pathway 2050', and supersedes the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2019. It outlines proposed policies to bring Jersey to net zero and focuses on the steps that need to be taken from 2022 to 2026. The Roadmap has been based on consultation with islanders, along with detailed technical studies and the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Climate Change. Enabling policies include promoting Jersey as a centre of excellence for blue carbon sequestration and using nature-based solutions to tackle both the climate and biodiversity crises.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/ClimateEmergency/JerseyClimateEmergency/pages/journeycarbonneutral.asp>

x

Jersey government is in the early stages of developing policy surrounding potential offshore windfarm development, including the need for enabling legislation to mandate the need for environmental assessments to be undertaken prior to permits being granted for development of this nature. In the meantime, the Planning and Building (Environmental Impact) (Jersey) Order 2006 applies, requiring Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments for proposed developments that may have a significant impact on the environment.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Government of Guernsey has set the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with an interim reduction target of 57% on 1990 levels by 2030 and a commitment to make the target legally binding. In agreeing the islands' climate change policy, the government also agreed that the approach should be intrinsically linked with the islands' "Strategy for Nature", which identifies nature's importance in both mitigation and adaptation. The development of the island adaptation strategy will seek to utilise nature-based solutions to support other interventions.

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).

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.)

VII.1. Have any governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, resulted in improvements 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.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

A ban on certain single-use plastics (drinks stirrers, balloon sticks, cutlery and polystyrene food and drink containers) in England and Wales came into effect in 2023, under the Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc. and Polystyrene Containers etc.) (England) Regulations 2023 and the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023, bringing these countries in line with Scotland and Northern Ireland, which both introduced similar single-use plastic bans in 2022 and 2020, respectively.

The Water (Special Measures) Act 2025 strengthens the power of the water industry regulators and puts penalties in place for water that fail to address pollution and illegal spills of sewage.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales publishes the State of Natural Resources Report every five years and this evidence then influences the Natural Resources Policy in Wales. The next report is due to be published in 2025, with plans for the report outlined in an interim report summary published in 2024.

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/sonarr2025-interim-report-2024-summary/?lang=en>

An outline for a new Sustainable Farming Scheme was published in 2024, with the scheme planned to commence in 2026. <https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-proposed-scheme-outline-2024>.

Further detail was published in July 2025. <https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-guide>

There is an environmental obligation to report on the conservation status of wild birds in Wales

via the Habitat Regulations: NRW will present advice to Welsh government on the outcome of the first Habitat Regulations 9A Birds Report in 2025.

Scotland:

In 2024, the Scottish government published the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 alongside the first in a series of triennial delivery plans. This sets out Scotland's ambition to be biodiversity positive by 2030 and the steps needed to do that.

The Scottish government has introduced a Bill to the Scottish Parliament as part of the Scottish response to the extant biodiversity and climate crisis. The Natural Environment Bill is being considered by committee at present.

The Scottish Seabird Conservation Action Plan (SSCAP) was published in August 2025 after a period of public consultation. This action plan sets out a series of proposed priority actions for building seabird resilience and focusing collaborative seabird conservation action.

An OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Birds was produced in 2024 containing 11 actions intended to achieve positive outcomes for marine birds in the OSPAR Maritime Area. Nine of these actions will be implemented as tasks of OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 Implementation Plan.

Another action will continue to implement the OSPAR Recommendations on Threatened and/or Declining bird species. The remaining action will implement an OSPAR Recommendation for reducing the bycatch of marine birds in the OSPAR Maritime Area.

England:

The 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan> was the first revision of the 25YEP. The government concluded a rapid review of EIP23 and published a statement of the rapid review's key findings on 30 January 2025. The Environmental Plan 2025 will be published later this year. It will be a clearer, prioritised plan for achieving environmental outcomes such as reducing waste across the economy, planting more trees, improving air quality and halting the decline in species. The plan EIP25 will clearly describe the actions which need to be taken, who is responsible, and how they stack up to help reach the goals in the plan.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory for major developments in 2024. This is a new process that requires the habitats lost on a development site to be accounted for and losses addressed. Developers are required to provide at least 110% of the biodiversity value found on the site prior to their development. BNG can be delivered either fully or in part through on-site habitat, off-site habitat, or as a last resort, the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits.

Northern Ireland:

The Northern Ireland Executive agreed and published a Programme for Government (PfG) 2024-2027 in 2025. One of nine PfG priorities is 'Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment'. A specific target on Lough Neagh, an important site for migratory wintering waterbirds and breeding seabirds in Northern Ireland, is to deliver the actions in the Lough Neagh Report and Action Plan. The PfG includes commitments to continue to implement Northern Ireland's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) which includes a range of commitments to improve the natural environment, and to publish a Nature Recovery Plan to ensure Northern Ireland is in line to achieve the Global Biodiversity Framework aim to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and ensure 30% of land and sea is effectively managed for nature.

Northern Ireland's first Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) was approved by the Northern Ireland Executive and subsequently published by DAERA in 2024. The EIP is a statutory requirement of the Environment Act 2021. One of six Strategic Environmental Outcomes within the EIP is 'Thriving, Resilient and Connected Nature and Wildlife'. This Strategic Environmental Outcome includes lists of action and targets towards 'protecting nature on land', 'protecting nature at sea' and 'natural capital' along with accompanying 'future vision/outcome' statements.

Targets with relevance to the Convention include under 'protecting nature on land'; 'By 2030: At least 30% of land and freshwater protected, connected and managed for nature' and 'Develop a new 'Nature Recovery Strategy 2032' which will set the direction for Northern Ireland's contribution to the UK's commitment to the International Global Biodiversity Framework, and under 'protecting nature at sea'; 'By 2030: 30% of seas protected, ensuring an ecologically coherent and well managed MPA network'.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2024, Jersey adopted the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) with the vision of a thriving marine environment providing environmental, economic, cultural and social benefits. Its defined purposes are to provide a framework for organising human and marine resources and activities in Jersey's territorial waters, to develop a network of Marine Protected Areas, to inform the policies of the next iteration of the Island Plan, and to support co-ordinated development and decision-making on all aspects affecting the marine environment. The vision is supported through a range of aims, including that the natural environment is restored and biodiversity is thriving, that seascapes are valued and their character is retained, and that enhanced and commercial fishing and aquaculture are sustainable and profitable.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/SeaCoast/pages/marinespatialplan.aspx>

In January 2025, the 'Jersey Ramsar Management Framework' was published, covering the four Jersey Ramsar sites, with the overall aim of outlining management in fulfilment of the requirements of the Ramsar Convention – including requirements to manage each site to maintain its ecological character, and to have procedures in place to detect if any threatening processes are likely to, or have altered, the ecological character of the site. Specific objectives and actions are laid out in five-year management plans for each Ramsar site and include regular monitoring and adaptive management.

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20greener%20living/Jersey%20Ramsar%20Management%20Framework.pdf>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2025, the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 came into effect. This amendment increases the protections afforded to animals (vertebrates and cephalopods), including prohibiting wild animals from being used in circuses or being reared for their fur or hide, and which places restrictions on the use of certain indiscriminate trapping methods (e.g., leghold traps, snares, and glue traps).

Ascension Island:

In response to Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ('30x30'), there was a review of the protected area network in 2024. After public consultation, there was a change to the legislation to incorporate new nature reserves and expand existing Nature Reserves. All Nature Reserves have five-year management plans, with annual reviews published on the Ascension Island government website:

<https://www.ascension.gov.ac/conservation/projects>.

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 since 2016.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The SGSSI Marine Protected Area (SGSSI-MPA) is one of the world's largest MPAs, covering an area of 1.24 million km² (an area 5 x larger than the UK). It was established in 2012 with the aim of conserving the rich marine biodiversity within the Territory's maritime zone and provides a framework for the SGSSI's marine environmental management and research needs. Further enhancements were made in 2013 and 2019 and in April 2025 the area of the MPA in which fishing is prohibited was greatly expanded following the second independent 5-year MPA review in 2024. Details of the new measures can be found within the latest legislation (SGSSI Gazette No 2 dated 22 April 2025). The no-take zones (NTZ), where all fishing activity is prohibited, now cover 470,000 km² and include the most biodiverse regions of the seabed. Longline and trawl fisheries have temporal and spatial restrictions in place to reduce overlap with foraging ranges of albatross, penguins, seals and whales, some of which are CMS App II listed species. The MPA measures are enforced by the year-round presence of the government's patrol vessel Pharos SG in order to reduce the threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. In addition, routine and targeted satellite surveillance is

obtained, and intelligence is also provided by other sources including the licenced fishing fleet. The MPA is subject to five yearly review to ensure that its measures continue to reflect the best available science. Scientific experts from British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquatic Science (CEFAS) and other institutions have worked with the government of SGSSI to develop and maintain a research and monitoring programme for the MPA to ensure the effectiveness of the MPA measures can be assessed over time. Details can be found within the research and monitoring plan for the MPA which was launched in 2021, and which is currently being updated.

In 2023, GSGSSI designated two Specially Protected Areas – the South Georgia Terrestrial Protected Area (SG TPA) and the South Sandwich Islands Terrestrial Protected Area (SSI TPA). Together they cover the whole landmass of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, including all offshore islands to the mean high-water mark, and complement the SGSSI Marine Protected Area which was designated in 2012. The conservation objectives and permitted activities within the two Protected Areas are detailed in the SGSSI TPA Management Plan and supported by the new Wildlife and Protected Areas (SPA Management Plan and Prohibited Activities) Regulations 2023. The SGSSI TPA Research and Monitoring Plan released in 2025 aims to identify and prioritise research and monitoring activities that will provide the knowledge required to manage and regulate the TPA effectively. As part of the TPA process, an Advisory Group was 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.

To what extent have these improvements helped to make relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive?

3. Good contribution

VII.2. 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 related 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.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The UK Four Countries Group (senior officials from the four UK administrations) discuss issues relating to 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, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Environment Agency, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Forestry Commission, and Forestry England.

Wildlife and Countryside Link is an umbrella organisation for a wide range of charities with an interest in nature conservation, access to the countryside and animal welfare. Its 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. <https://www.wcl.org.uk/>

Defra has provided funding to establish the Curlew Recovery Partnership (CRP), which brings together a range of organisations providing co-ordination and support to those engaged in Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* 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.

Scotland:

NatureScot is a partner in Working for Waders, which is a cross-sector partnership working with land managers to help conserve breeding waders. This ties into conservation action for Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* in Scotland. <https://www.workingforwaders.com/>

Wales:

Welsh government has provided funding to create a three-year NRW Species Recovery Advisor post (2022-25). This post sets the strategic direction of curlew recovery, amongst other species in Wales and is the secretariat for Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales. Welsh government also provided funding for a three-year hen harrier tagging programme (2021-2023) to investigate survival rates.

Wales has internationally important populations of breeding seabirds. Wales has a number of islands which currently do not have invasive mammals but have the potential to hold breeding seabirds. To look into this potential, NRW has funded a post using grant money from Welsh government. In 2025, this post will create a feasibility report on the different species, islands and methods which can be applied to extend and improve seabird populations in Wales.

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 the 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.

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum ran 1-day online workshops on non-native invasive species and avian influenza, involving participants from several other countries in addition to UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. In addition, UKOTCF has continued to run its quarterly meetings of its regional working groups, bringing together governmental, NGO and business workers in the territories of the Wider Caribbean, Southern Ocean and Europe regions, covering many topics including migratory species. UKOTCF has also started a new working group on ants (particularly invasive ones).

Isle of Man:

The statutory Wildlife Committee advises Isle of Man government on matters relating to the Wildlife Act and nature conservation. The Nature Conservation Forum brings together NGOs and the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture (DEFA) to discuss issues of interest. 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).

DEFA coordinates a Scallop Management Board consisting of industry members from various jurisdictions, including private sector fishers and processors and scientists, for the benefit of regional/transboundary fisheries management, reducing seabed impacts for the improvement of fishing stocks and benthic biodiversity. <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/fisheries/sea-fisheries/co-management/>

The seabed is managed in even higher resolution, and to similar purpose, in Ramsey Bay MNR Fishery Management Zone, through annual surveys and management between Bangor University, DEFA and the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308597X21002608>

Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey

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 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. Alderney Wildlife Trust took part in UKOTCF's webinar in September 2024 on avian flu which included several other UKOTs and key-note speakers from international experts. See:

<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/webinar-avian-flu/>

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 every two months to discuss ongoing implementation of the Strategy for Nature and advise on delivery and direction. It is chaired by the Guernsey Nature Commission, an NGO which plays a critical role in supporting the government, community, and businesses in

delivering Guernsey's Strategy for Nature.

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.

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.

Cyprus SBAs:

A Bird Trapping Steering Group was set up composed of experts and representatives from various NGOs to ensure that the bird trapping strategy is carried out effectively. This partnership approach assisted in monitoring the progress and effectiveness of the bird trapping action plan, making adjustments where needed for improvement while achieving the set objectives.

VII.3. 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 29, 30 and 32 of **Res. 11.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Synergies and partnerships) and in paragraph 7 of **Res. 14.3** (Engagement in CBD processes including the Global Biodiversity Framework) ?

GUIDANCE TIP:

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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Dec. 14.6** (CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Res.8.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD). Guidance documents for integrating considerations relevant to Migratory Species in NBSAPs are available at CMS website.

Yes

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, AEW, ASCOBANS and ACAP.

VII.4. 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?

No

VIII. Incentives

VIII.1. 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?

Partly / in some areas

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. UK-wide, the new trajectory recognizes the valuable role agricultural subsidies have in reducing harm and supporting so called 'public goods', such as support for migratory species, and schemes are increasingly associated with measures that ensure baseline biodiversity and climate standards are met. England:

The government is phasing out subsidies for land ownership and tenure and changing to a system where farmers and land managers are paid to deliver important outcomes for the climate and environment, including biodiversity, alongside food production.

VIII.2. Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country during the reporting period, resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Yes

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

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.

England:

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. ELM includes three schemes: the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Countryside Stewardship (CS) Higher Tier, and Landscape Recovery.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme pays farmers and land managers to take up or maintain sustainable farming and land management practices that protect and benefit the environment, support food production, and improve productivity. Management options include hedgerow management, integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use, and flower-rich strips to benefit pollinators and farmland birds.

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier, which will open in 2025, will pay for more targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats, including support for species recovery of specific animals. For example, it will include specific management options to provide nesting plots for Northern Lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus* and Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus*, and management of wet grassland for waders. A payment will be available specifically to provide support to threatened species, such as by providing a bespoke seed mix for Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

The Landscape Recovery Scheme, which has so far held two rounds for applications in 2022 and 2023, pays groups of farmers and land managers to do long-term, large-scale projects to enhance the natural environment, including protected sites and wildlife habitat. For example, the scheme has supported the development phase of a 20-year Ouse Washes Landscape Recovery partnership project to deliver habitat creation across the Fens in the east of England, benefitting species such as black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* and Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.

Scotland:

In Scotland, a trial of an Outcome-Based Approach for determining agricultural subsidies ran from 2019-2023.

This pilot explicitly considered how payments could be determined by support of migratory species such as northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and redshank *Tringa tetanus*.

Wales:

The Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) will be Welsh government's primary mechanism to support farmers, land management and sustainable food production from 2026 onwards. Actions will be supported through the Universal, Optional and Collaborative elements of the scheme delivering the Sustainable Land Management requirements under the Agriculture (Wales) Act including sustainable food production and improving ecosystem resilience.

NRW represents Wales on the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) expert groups for Greenland white-fronted goose, Eurasian curlew and black-tailed godwit and the CMS Expert Group.

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:

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.

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. Funding has been approved for the dairy industry to incentivise activities which deliver public goods, including environmentally sensitive management of Guernsey's farmed land (including landscape features such as earth-banks, hedges, woodlands, and grasslands), apprenticeships, diversification and high-quality food production. The scheme aims that within 10 years regenerative practices will be the norm.

Isle of Man:

The Agri-Environment Initiatives Scheme (AES) includes initiatives such as the Creation of Desirable Permanent and Transient Habitats; the Enhancement of Existing Habitats; the protection of Existing Habitats. A new Agriculture Strategy was published in 2024, including an aim to 'Maintain and enhance biodiversity and the environment, supporting the Biodiversity Strategy and Areas of Special Scientific Interest'.

https://www.gov.im/media/1386558/2024-agricultural-strategy_compressed.pdf

Falkland Islands:

The Environmental Studies Budget Grant Scheme provides a positive incentive for landowners to engage with Falkland Islanders to promote, conserve, and protect biodiversity. These grants support a variety of projects which seek to benefit the environment through awareness-raising, research, conservation, or management activities. While the ESB more broadly benefits all biodiversity and habitats across the Falklands, the grant scheme has significant benefits for migratory species. The priority areas are Biodiversity Protection, Habitat Restoration, Invasive Species and Biosecurity, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Pollution and Waste Management, and Innovation.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Fisheries are MSC certified.

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

IX.1. During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are relevant for conservation of migratory species?

Yes

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. The indicator 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. It can be used to inform policies and help to identify where to focus action for supply and demand measures to keep the impacts of resource use on all species, including migratory species, well within safe ecological limits. The underlying data were updated in 2024 to extend the timeseries to 2022 and to include a new biodiversity metric-- the LIFE Score-- which estimates extinction risk from habitat change associated with crop-commodity production. The 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. www.commodityfootprints.earth.

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 proposed scope of the regulations was published in December 2023, but they have not yet been finalised.

The FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) dialogues, launched in 2021, 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 Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund is a UK government grants scheme that provides support to innovative and scalable projects to reduce pressure on wildlife from illegal trade and, in doing so, reduce poverty in developing countries. Since 2014, the IWT Challenge Fund has supported 157 projects in over 60 countries to a value of over £51 million. Projects recently awarded funding have included:

- 'Towards Zero Poaching in the Greater Virunga Landscape' (2024-2027) led by WWF-UK, which aims to reduce illegal trade in mountain gorillas *Gorilla beringei beringei*
- 'Strengthening Indonesia's capacity to reduce illegal shark fisheries and trade' (2024-2028), led by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), which aims to scale-up a successful institutional capacity building project to increase detection of illegally traded sharks and rays in Indonesia;
- 'Behaviour change approaches to address belief-based use of vultures' (2023-2025), led by BirdLife International, which aims to reduce demand from traditional healers and consumers by building the evidence base on the drivers and influencers behind belief-based use of the hooded vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* and apply this to pilot social marketing campaigns in Senegal, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

Domestically, the UK introduced the Shark Fins Act 2023. The law places a ban on the import and export of shark fins which are not 'naturally attached' to the shark carcass. This will help ensure that the UK is not importing or exporting shark fins which have been obtained through shark finning practices.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/22>

The Fisheries Act 2020 provides the framework to manage fisheries as an independent coastal state outside of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. The act requires the UK fisheries policy authorities (Defra, and the devolved administrations) to publish fisheries management plans (FMPs) to help deliver ambition for sustainable fisheries. FMPs are evidence-based action plans, developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders. They assess the status of stocks, and must set out policies to restore stocks to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels. Each FMP will set out goals and the actions needed for their achievement. Once drafted, FMPs must go through a public consultation, giving all interested parties the opportunity to give their views. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fisheries-management-plans/fisheries-management-plans>

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'.

The UK is an active member of AEWA's European Goose Management Platform and implements an International Single Species Management Plan for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/south-west Scotland populations of the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, to sustainably manage populations that

cause damage to agriculture. The UK is working with other range states to develop an International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for Icelandic greylag goose *Anseranser*.

England:

The concept of sustainable use runs through England's 25 Year Environment Plan and includes introducing a sustainable fisheries policy. Further benefitting marine migrant 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.

Wales:

A report published in 2023 by JNCC on behalf of Welsh government aims to improve understanding of the global environmental footprint and impacts of commodities that are consumed in Wales, but that may be produced anywhere in the world. The study downscales the Global Environmental Impacts of Consumption indicator to provide data for Wales and provides a range of other metrics, such as the Ecological Footprint, the Material Footprint and waste metrics, alongside case studies investigating specific commodity supply chains. <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/welsh-global-impacts-report-published/>

Scotland:

Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy was published in 2024 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/>

A review of Scotland's Goose Management policy was published in 2024. This aims to ensure the sustainable management of resident and migratory geese, including migratory populations of greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* and greylag goose *Anseranser* while minimising the negative impacts of farming and other pressures on these species. The core delivery mechanism for protected goose species up to 2023 was goose management schemes co-ordinated by Local Goose Management Groups. These involved payments to farmers to support populations of protected geese, as well as payments for goose monitoring and management.

Northern Ireland:

The NI Executive's 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'.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In recognition of the threat that invasive non-native species pose to the marine environment and marine industries, a Marine Biosecurity Plan has been produced which recommends practical actions, infrastructure, policies and legislation which could be implemented to prevent new invasive species from entering and spreading around Guernsey's waters. A guide has also been produced which outlines best practice biosecurity actions for marine industries such as fisheries and aquaculture.

The States of Guernsey have approved revisions to the support provided to the dairy sector, with the aim of supporting and increasing environmentally sensitive land management practices.

Isle of Man:

An Agri-Environment Initiatives Scheme 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 Department of Environment Food and Agriculture and the Isle of Man Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group have encouraged sustainable soil management via the use of the Soil Mentor app, and training on soils and dung beetles. The winner of Isle of Man FWAG's Bronze Chough Award, which rewards commercial farming that works in partnership with nature, also won the UK Silver Lapwing Award.

A long term management plan has been brought into operation to improve sustainability and reduce the pressure on the local 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, guided by a Biosphere Strategy. They includes annual awards (taking account of innovation and impact) and an annual Sustainable Mann business training course and sustainability toolkit for business. <https://www.biosphere.im/our-5s>

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.

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The area of deforestation worldwide associated with UK consumption has decreased in the long-term from 2005 to 2022, and in the short-term from 2017 to 2022. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-global-biodiversity-impact/>

Overall, a positive trend towards a greater proportion of stocks fished sustainably is evident in both the long

term and short term, according to the latest available data up to 2020. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-b2-sustainable-fisheries/>

The proportion of woodland certified as sustainably managed has increased in the long-term from 2001 to 2024, although it has remained stable in the short-term since 2019. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-b1b-sustainable-forestry/>

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

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
Legal hunting	Metropolitan UK: Unquantified and potentially unsustainable hunting of the globally Vulnerable common 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), greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> (App II) and Eurasian woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (App II) https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1365-2664.14281 . Bailiwick of Guernsey: Hunting of Eurasian woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (App II) and common snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (App II) is permitted through the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance, due to their inclusion on a game list. Hunting is restricted seasonally, and approved methods of shooting are stipulated. No monitoring of annual harvest rates is undertaken. Populations of common snipe are measured through WeBS counts but no monitoring is carried out for Eurasian woodcock.	3

Illegal hunting	<p>Metropolitan UK: Birds of prey, including hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (App II), golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (App II), northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (App II), peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (App II), and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (App I & II). There has been a recent rise in confirmed and suspected incidents of hen harrier persecution, with 102 incidents recorded from 2020–2024. https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/birdcrime</p> <p>Compliance with regulations on the use of lead shot in wildfowling is currently poor (e.g. Cromie et al. 2010, Strong et al. 2024). In England and Wales, the use of lead shot is prohibited over all foreshore, over specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and for the shooting of all ducks and geese, Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> and moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>, wherever they occur. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the use of lead shot is banned on or over any area of wetland for any shooting activity. Species that are shot in the UK include mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (App II), gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i> (App II), Eurasian wigeon <i>Mareca penelope</i> (App II), Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (App II), northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> (App II), tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> (App II), common pochard <i>Aythya farina</i> (App II), common goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> (App II), greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> (App II), pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> (App II) and greater white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> (App II), although the impacts of lead in the environment are likely also to affect other species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cromie, R.L., A. Loram, L. Hurst, M. O'Brien, J. Newth, M.J. Brown & J.P. Harradine (2010). Compliance with the Environmental Protection (Restrictions on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999. Report to Defra, Bristol. Pp 99. http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16075 • Strong, E.A., Crowley, S.L., Newth, J.L., O'Brien, M.F., Colom, R.L., Davis, S.A., Cromie, R.L., Bearhop, S. and McDonald, R.A., 2024. Spatial and temporal variation in the prevalence of illegal lead shot in reared and wild mallards harvested in England. <i>Environmental Pollution</i>, 363, p.124756. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749124014702 <p>The UK government announced a ban on lead ammunition in July 2025. Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain's countryside-- GOV.UK. New measures will ban shot containing more than 1% lead and bullets with a lead content of more than 3%. Beyond limited exemptions, these types of ammunition will no longer be sold to the public. Following extensive public engagement, a three-year transition period will support the shooting and hunting sectors to shift to more environmentally friendly alternatives. There will also be a two-year period for outdoor shooting ranges where lead is used to implement measures that prevent pollution from entering the environment. As part of the restrictions, there will be exemptions in place for the military, police, elite athletes, outdoor target shooting ranges with risk management measures in place, museum collections and other minor uses.</p> <p>Wales: The police-led National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) 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. The priorities of the NWCU are reviewed every two years by the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group, which is composed of representatives from the UK statutory nature conservation bodies (JNCC, Natural England, NatureScot, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales) and eNGOs. In June 2021, and in recognition of the unique elements to wildlife and rural crime in Wales, the Welsh government provided the funding for a dedicated post of an All-Wales Wildlife and Rural Crime Coordinator with a focus on providing information, training, resources and coordination across Wales' police areas. Following the success of the pilot year, a further three years of funding was committed. One of the themes for the wild bird crime working groups is the illegal persecution of hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> and peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>. A strategy to guide that work was issued jointly with the police in Wales for 2023–2025 with a view to dovetailing with the content of the National Police Chiefs Council strategies for wildlife and rural crime, and to align with the same period. In 2024 Welsh government announced funding for the programme would be extended to 2028 to allow for the development and execution of a new 2025–2028 strategy. The new Strategy was launched in July 2025.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>British Indian Ocean Territory: The ecosystem faces continuing threats from illegal fishing.</p>	1
Other harvesting and take	<p>Metropolitan UK: A major police investigation (Operation Tantalion) identified and prosecuted the theft of peregrine falcon eggs and chicks from wild nests for laundering into domestic and international falconry markets in this reporting period. https://www.nwcu.police.uk/news/wildlife-crime-press-coverage/operation-easter-27-years-of-stopping-egg-thieves/ https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/feb/13/peregrine-falcon-thieves-dna-database-scotland-wild-raptors-birds-aoe</p>	1
Illegal trade		

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 milvus</i> (App II) and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (App I & II). Northern Ireland: Common buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> (App II) Bailiwick of Guernsey: In 2020, several peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (App II) were found deliberately poisoned.	1
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?

>>> 1) Illegal killing

Metropolitan UK:

The police-led National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCUC) 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 NWCUC is assisting in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime. It produces analyses which highlight local or national threats and was given £1.2 million in funding to continue its work from 2022 until 2025. UK Border Force continues to make seizures and work with international partners to ensure illegal wildlife products do not enter the market.

The priorities of the NWCUC are reviewed every two years by the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group, which is composed of representatives from the UK statutory nature conservation bodies (JNCC, Natural England, NatureScot, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales), other statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew) and NGOs (Bat Conservation Trust, RSPB, TRAFFIC). Current priorities include bat crime, CITES and bird of prey crime.

The Bird of Prey Persecution Priority Delivery Group (BOP PDG) brings together NGOs, government and police to shape collective actions to detect and prevent bird of prey persecution. The group takes forward activities to raise awareness and facilitate intelligence and incident reporting, leading to increased prevention and enforcement activity. An additional enforcement group has also been established for Bird of Prey crime to ensure progress is made with ongoing investigations and recent court cases, and to identify and share best practice for bird of prey crime. The group seek to find solutions to ongoing problems and discuss the various tactical opportunities that are available.

The NWCUC leads a Hen Harrier Task Force (HTF) uses innovative technology (e.g. drones) and strategic partnerships to detect, deter and disrupt offenders. Its first year of operation was 2024 and it appears to have been successful. There were no known incidents of hen harrier persecution on traditional 'hot spot' sites for this crime.

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.

The Wildlife Crime Group of Wildlife and Countryside Link 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. The group published its latest Annual Wildlife Crime Report in 2024. <https://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife.asp>

Scotland:

The Wildlife Management & Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 introduced a compulsory license for land used to kill or take red grouse with the aim of addressing wildlife crime and in particular persecution of raptors on grouse moors. This will provide a means of deterring wildlife crime, as well as encouraging compliance with a Code of Practice for grouse moor management.

Operation Tantallon is an operation relating to the theft of peregrine falcons from the wild which are then being laundered into the falconry trade. This international enquiry has been led by Police Scotland with investigative, intelligence and analytical support from NWCUC and further assistance from a number of partner agencies.

Northern Ireland:

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

Wales:

In June 2021, and in recognition of the unique elements to wildlife and rural crime in Wales, the Welsh government provided the funding for a dedicated post of an All-Wales Wildlife and Rural Crime Coordinator with a focus on providing information, training, resources and coordination across Wales' police areas. Following the success of the pilot year, a further three years of funding was committed. A strategy to guide that work was issued jointly with the police in Wales for 2023-2025 with a view to dovetailing with the content of the National Police Chiefs Council strategies for wildlife and rural crime, and to align with the same period. In 2024 Welsh government announced funding for the programme would be extended to 2028 to allow for the development and execution of a new 2025-2028 strategy. The new Strategy was launched in July 2025. https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-07/wildlife-and-rural-crime-strategy-2025-2028_0.pdf <https://www.gov.wales/wildlife-and-rural-crime-strategy-2023-2025>

Cyprus SBAs:

In 2024-2025, there was a 98% reduction in bird trapping cases recorded by the SBA police since 2016, with 391 cases initiated in 2016, compared to seven cases initiated in 2024-2025.

An increase in heavy fines has played a significant role in both the reduction and deterrence of bird trapping by creating a strong economic disincentive for would-be offenders.

Utilizing technology such as drones and surveillance cameras was crucial in the fight against illegal bird trapping. These advanced tools enable the team to cover vast and often inaccessible areas, identifying and responding to illegal activities in real-time. Drones provided aerial surveillance that quickly located hidden trapping sites including the capturing of suspects committing the actual offence. In addition, high-resolution and motion-detecting cameras offer continuous monitoring, significantly enhanced ability to gather critical evidence, and ultimately deter illegal trappers. This technological approach not only increases the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation efforts but also played a significant role in the reduction of bird trapping activities.

2) Legal hunting

Metropolitan UK:

A review of Scotland's Goose Management policy was published in 2024. This aims to ensure the sustainable management of resident and migratory geese, including migratory populations of greater white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* and greylag goose *Anser anser* while minimising the negative impacts of farming and other pressures on these species. The core delivery mechanism for protected goose species up to 2023 was goose management schemes co-ordinated by Local Goose Management Groups.

These involved payments to farmers to support populations of protected geese, as well as payments for goose monitoring and management.

Defra via JNCC has recently commissioned a review of the sufficiency of the UK's data on waterbird harvest, for upcoming publication. The review examines the scope and comprehensiveness of the data on waterbird harvest that is voluntarily provided by UK shooting organisations and assesses its sufficiency for determining the sustainability of waterbird harvest in the UK.

The UK is an active member of AEWA's European Goose Management Platform and implements an International Single Species Management Plan for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/South-west Scotland populations of the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, to sustainably manage populations that cause damage to agriculture. The UK is working with other range states to develop an ISSAP for Icelandic greylag goose *Anser anser*.

3) Other harvesting and take

Operation Easter was developed in Scotland 28 years ago. The operation is now facilitated by the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) in conjunction with UK police forces and partner agencies. The operation targets egg thieves by sharing intelligence across the UK to support enforcement action. In recent years the operation has also been expanded to cover some emerging trends of criminal behaviour such as the online trade in eggs and the disturbance of nests for photography. The operation has helped to bring about a long list of convictions.

4) Deliberate poisoning

Metropolitan UK:

Since 1 January 2025 it has been illegal to use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in outdoor locations unless they are connected to a building. Although the primary reason for this change was to reduce residues in non-target wildlife, SGARs are commonly used to illegally poison birds of prey and this change in the law should facilitate enforcement against improper rodenticide use.

Northern Ireland:

The Bird of Prey Persecution and Poisoning Report Northern Ireland 2021-- 2022 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 2024. 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 2021 to 31st December 2022, with an overview of incidents between 2018 and 2022 (five-year analysis).

Scotland:

The Scottish government publishes annual reports on wildlife crime, the most recent being 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/wildlife-crime-in-scotland-2023/pages/raptor-persecution/> This documents the types and levels of illegal persecution of App II raptors.

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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The

prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)**(Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)**(Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21**(Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31** (Rev.COP14) (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), 14.119-14.121 (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), 14.125 (Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force), Decision 14.126 (South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force).
 >>> There has been a recent rise in confirmed and suspected incidents of Hen Harrier persecution, with 102 incidents recorded from 2020–2024. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/birdcrime>

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
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Bycatch	2	<p>Metropolitan UK: The greater North Sea area is identified as the region of concern for bycatch of 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 UK Bycatch Monitoring Programme (BMP) estimated that between 502 to 1,560 harbour porpoises, 165 to 662 common dolphins and 375 to 872 seals (grey and harbour) were captured as bycatch in UK fisheries in 2019 (Kingston et al., 2019). The 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. The UK has schemes in place to collect data on seabird bycatch in fisheries, including the UK Bycatch Monitoring Programme, but does not have comprehensive data, meaning that a recent preliminary assessment of the scale and impact of seabird bycatch in the UK had a high degree of uncertainty. A preliminary analysis estimated that bycatch accounts for more than 1% of annual mortality of common loon <i>Gavia immer</i> (App II) in UK waters, although the report notes that this may be an over-estimate. Non CMS-listed species including common murre, great cormorant and northern gannet, are affected in greater numbers. https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=20461 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. Wales: Following a recent consultation (December 2024) the Welsh government is developing the Welsh Seabird Conservation Strategy focusing on the protection, conservation and restoration of seabirds in Wales. It aims to achieve this by providing a framework for a continuous assessment of the status of seabirds and of ongoing conservation action in Wales, by providing high-level recommendations where conservation action needs to be improved or adjusted, and by enabling and safeguarding deliverable conservation actions through collaboration with stakeholders (including reducing incidental bycatch). The protection of seabirds in Wales forms part of the Welsh government's wider environmental protection activities. These activities are underpinned by legislative duties and international commitments contained within: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Bonn Convention); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the Ramsar Convention); Environmental (Wales) Act 2016; EU directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive; The Wild Birds Directive; Marine and Coastal access Act 2009; The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. UK Overseas Territories: 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. South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Seabird bycatch within SGSSI waters is thought to be negligible, but bycatch risk remains from external fisheries outside of the South Georgia Maritime Zone, and particularly longline fisheries. A recent analysis of interactions between wandering albatross <i>Diomedea exulans</i> (App II) breeding in South Georgia with fishing vessels found that bycatch risk was highest at the Patagonian Shelf break, with birds most frequently visiting fishing vessels from South Korea, the Falkland Islands, the UK and Chile. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320722003494?dgcid=author Falkland Islands: Although bycatch of seals in the Falkland Islands has historically been low, it increased dramatically from 2017. Following the introduction of mitigation measures (including Seal Exclusion Devices), seal bycatch levels have fallen, but bycatch continues to affect South American fur seal <i>Arctocephalus australis</i> (App II) and, less commonly, South American sea lion <i>Otaria byronia</i> (App II). https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/82/5/fsae161/7916773 Cayman Islands: incidental bycatch. British Virgin Islands: There have been reports of incidental bycatch of sea turtles by seine net fishers and also incidental catch of leatherback turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (App I & II) by long line fishing. Cyprus SBAs: incidental bycatch affecting primarily marine turtles.</p>
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Other forms of unintentional taking	2	Destruction of eggs and chicks by agricultural machinery is a major threat to ground-nesting bird species including Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (App II), northern lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (App II) and comcrake <i>Crex crex</i> (App II).

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), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), and Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species) and Dec. 14.31 b) and c). Parties are encouraged to report on the implementation of the recommendation included in Drynan and Baker 2023 “Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks” provided in Annex 1 to UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1.

>>> Metropolitan UK:

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.

In 2022, the UK and Devolved governments published the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative. This sets out how government 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><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-wildlife-bycatch-mitigation-initiative/marine-wildlife-bycatch-mitigation-initiative>.

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 UK co-led the assessment of bycatch for the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023, 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. <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/indicator-assessments/marine-mammal-bycatch/>

Clean Catch UK is a programme governed by several groups whose memberships are drawn from among the fishing industry, the wider seafood industry, scientists, environmental NGOs, regulators, policymakers, and technology providers. It aims to help the UK government to minimise and – where possible – eliminate bycatch of sensitive marine species, by working with fisheries to develop data collection on and mitigation of bycatch, carrying out research, and sharing knowledge among and from similar initiatives in the UK and overseas.

<https://www.cleancatchuk.com/>

The UK recently led the development of a Recommendation adopted under the OSPAR Convention in 2024 to better understand and reduce bycatch of marine birds in the OSPAR maritime area. This will provide an added impetus and focus to fill gaps in the monitoring of bycatch in UK waters.

<https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=57701> <https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=57701>

England:

The English Seabird Conservation and Recovery Pathway (ESCaRP) technical report, published in 2024, includes recommendations to mitigate and monitor the risk of seabird bycatch in fishing gears.

<https://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=20777>

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 Scottish waters, and to develop sustainable, proportional mitigation strategies for the benefit of those affected <https://www.scottishentanglement.org/about/>. In 2024-25, the Scottish Entanglement Alliance received funding from Scottish government to carry out industry workshops around Scotland’s coastline to raise awareness of weighted ground lines as a mitigation method for reducing the entanglement risk of creels. 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’ was published in 2023. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-understanding-seabird-bycatch-scottish-longline-fisheries-exploring-potential-solutions/>. The Scottish government commissioned further research into trialling technical measures to reduce bycatch in collaboration with the longline industry. These trials are ongoing.

Scottish organisations are among the partners of the EU LIFE project, ‘Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Regions’ (CIBBRiNA; 2023-2029). The project is a collaboration of fishers, authorities, scientists, and other relevant stakeholders across 13 countries that aims to minimize the bycatch of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species in the North-East Atlantic, Baltic, and Mediterranean regions. Partners include the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen’s Association, the University of St Andrews, the University of the Highlands and Islands (Shetland), the University of Glasgow and the SeaWatch Foundation. <https://cibbrina.eu/>

The Scottish government launched a consultation on a new Scottish seabird conservation – action plan in December 2024. This includes measures to address seabird bycatch.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-seabird-conservation-action-plan/>

Wales:

Following a recent consultation (December 2024) Welsh government is developing the Welsh Seabird Conservation Strategy focusing on the protection, conservation and restoration of seabirds in Wales. It aims to achieve this by providing a framework for a continuous assessment of the status of seabirds and of ongoing conservation action in Wales, by providing high-level recommendations where conservation action needs to be

improved or adjusted, and by enabling and safeguarding deliverable conservation actions through collaboration with stakeholders.

The protection of seabirds in Wales forms part of the Welsh government’s wider environmental protection activities, including reducing the risk of seabird by-catch.

Northern Ireland:

DAERA’s Seabird Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and Elasmobranch Conservation Strategy both have objectives to increase the evidence base with regards to the impact of bycatch and to determine potential bycatch mitigation measures that can be implemented in collaboration with stakeholders.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Seabird bycatch 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 to minimise the risk of interactions between the fishery and high predators during the breeding season. From the 2025 fishing season, it became mandatory for krill trawlers to use cetacean exclusion devices on their nets to minimise any risk of whale bycatch.

Falkland Islands:

The Darwin Plus project, ‘Understanding increased FI seal bycatch to inform bycatch Action Plan’ (DPLUS168; 2022-2025), led by the South Atlantic Environmental Research institute, aims to assess the factors leading to an increase in seal-fishery interactions, and how the increase impacts fisheries and marine ecosystems. This project aims to better understand seal-fishery interactions and produce recommendations and guidance to help align long-term management objectives and actions into action plans supporting Fisheries and Oceans Governance. <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS168/>

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 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. <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/indicator-assessments/marine-mammal-bycatch/>

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
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Wind turbines	<p>Metropolitan UK: Large scale deployment of offshore wind farms in UK waters is planned to continue, and development of onshore wind farms is likely to increase since the government lifted the ban on onshore wind development in England. The UK government announced in 2020 an ambition to quadruple the amount of offshore wind to a capacity of 40 GW by 2030, including 1 GW of innovative floating offshore wind. The Scottish government's offshore wind policy statement states that as much as 11 GW of installed capacity is possible by 2030, compared with less than 1 GW installed and operational in 2020. Further major expansion is expected after 2030. A sectoral plan for offshore wind energy outlines areas for development. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution https://www.gov.scot/publications/offshore-wind-policy-statement/ https://www.gov.scot/publications/sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy/ In January 2023, The Crown Estate signed Agreements for Lease for six offshore wind projects which could generate up to 8GW of renewable electricity. Developments that have received funding through the government's renewables auction in 2024 included the largest offshore windfarm project in Europe - the Hornsea 3 project off the Yorkshire coast; the largest floating offshore wind project in the world to reach market, Green Volt, which is double the size of Europe's total installed floating offshore wind capacity, as well as a number of onshore wind developments. The OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023 identified renewable energy as an activity exerting pressures on marine birds, with high intensity in the Greater North Sea and medium intensity in the Celtic Seas, with an increasing trend in both. It also notes that the expansion of renewable energy technologies will cause disturbance to marine mammals, during construction and decommissioning, as well as through increased ship traffic during operation. https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/thematic-assessments/ Legislation, policies and guidance are in place in the UK to minimise and compensate for significant impacts of wind developments on biodiversity. However, a 2023 review of the implementation of environmental laws for assessing the environmental effects of development and other activities through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in England found that there is a lack of monitoring of 'compliance' to check that required actions have been taken, or of 'effectiveness' monitoring to ensure those actions have secured expected environmental outcomes. https://www.theoep.org.uk/environmental-assessment-regimes-england Should the environmental impacts of wind farm development not be effectively avoided, mitigated or compensated, CMS-listed species including terns, divers (loons), and ducks may be affected, 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. A concentration of records of Nathusius's pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> (App II) in NE Scotland and on offshore installations (and in SW Norway) is consistent with growing evidence that this species is migratory across the northern North Sea (as well as further south) and that this potentially puts it at risk from collision with offshore wind farms in the area. Research on the subject is required at the GB level. Bailiwick of Jersey: Proposed offshore wind turbines in Bay of St Malo may impact migratory species.</p>	3
Other collisions		
Electrocution		
Vessel strikes	<p>Metropolitan UK: Shipping poses a risk of collision, particularly for larger whales. Bailiwick of Guernsey and Bailiwick of Jersey: Boat and jet ski collisions with harbour 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 & the South Sandwich Islands: shipping of all varieties poses a risk of collision for whale species which is heightened given increasing populations. Some mortality and injury of seabirds on SGSSI may be attributed to bird-strike as a result of collision of birds in flight with vessels. The most-affected species are not CMS-listed, but low numbers of white-chinned petrel <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i> (App II), grey-headed albatross <i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i> (App II), sooty albatross <i>Phoebastria fusca</i> (App II), wandering albatross <i>Diomedea exulans</i> (App II), light-mantled albatross <i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i> (App II) and grey petrel <i>Procellaria cinerea</i> (App II) have been involved in bird-strike events. However, the magnitude of the problem is poorly understood. Falkland Islands: Shipping of all varieties, with notable increases in cruise ships, poses a risk of collision for whale species. Similar to South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands, this is likely to be heightened given increasing populations of whale species. Ship strikes are also relevant for bird species.</p>	3

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

>>> 1) Wind turbines
Metropolitan UK:

Defra's Offshore Wind Enabling Actions (OWEA) Programme aims 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 Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP) is being developed by governments to help offshore wind project applicants address unavoidable impacts to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) at a strategic level, facilitated through one or more Marine Recovery Funds (MRF) into which applicants can choose to pay to discharge environmental compensation obligations. In 2024, two compensatory measures of protected seabird features, were approved as part of suite of measures to deliver compensation for impacts of offshore windfarm developments in UK waters: i) Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures (offANS) for kittiwake and, ii) Predator Reduction via eradication, control and exclusion of invasive native & non-native mammals. The measures will be delivered by governments and renewable energy companies via the MRF in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and a similar fund in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance/strategic-compensation-measures-for-offshore-wind-activities-marine-recovery-fund-interim-guidance>

In 2024 OSPAR adopted a Regional Action Plan on Marine Birds; the UK is co-leading a task in that plan which commits to delivering measures to address impacts of offshore wind development on marine birds. The task will take into account ongoing work within OSPAR and independently by OSPAR contracting parties and the offshore wind industry to look at compensation options. The outcomes of this action can be used to identify any compensation options that need to be implemented through OSPAR measures or other action.

In 2024, JNCC, Natural England, NatureScot and Natural Resources Wales published a joint advice note regarding bird collision risk modelling for offshore wind developments to help the offshore wind industry in assessing the risk of seabird collision with wind turbines. <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/new-collision-risk-modelling-guidance/>

The Offshore Wind Strategic Monitoring and Research Forum OWSMRF was a collaborative partnership led by a group of seven developers, EDF Renewables UK, Equinor, Ørsted, RWE, ScottishPower Renewables, SSE Renewables and Shell. JNCC acted as the secretariat and played a role in the delivery of scientific outputs. From 2021-2023, the Forum focused on black-legged kittiwake, shearwaters and storm-petrels. It produced four knowledge gap reports 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 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. Recently funded projects have examined interactions of common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (App II) with offshore wind turbines and the impacts of displacement effects of wind farms on red-throated divers *Gavia stellata* (App II). <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. The UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and JNCC are on the steering group for the fund as well as individual projects. For example, the Reducing Seabird Collisions Using Evidence (ReSCUE) To the ReSCUE: Understanding flight heights for seabird conservation and offshore wind expansion – Natural England project is a multi-year, multi-partner project led by Natural England, that is using existing sources of data and innovative technology such as light detection and ranging (LiDAR) to provide a better understanding of seabird flight heights and vulnerability to collision with wind turbines.

<https://www.marinedataexchange.co.uk/content/info/offshore-wind-evidence-and-change-programme>

The Protected Environmental Features Risk Appraisal project aims to identify and map the protected sites within the National Site Network (including Special Protected Areas) which are most at risk from pressures arising from offshore floating turbines, fixed turbines and electrical cables.

<https://www.marinedataexchange.co.uk/content/stories/protected-environmental-features-risk-appraisal>
Scotland:

NatureScot has updated its collision risk model to estimate the bird collision risk of wind farms, and has published new guidance on assessing the effects of small-scale wind farms on migratory greylag geese *Anser anser* (App II) and Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* (App II) in Scotland.

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

NatureScot continues to support the Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT) Scottish Bat Officer post, whose duties in recent years have included promotion of the BCT-led Nathusius's pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* (App II) monitoring scheme, through training and working with local bat groups to improve understanding of the occurrence of this species in Scotland.

Scottish government recently consulted on a draft updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, which sets out an integrated planning framework for offshore wind developments.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/draft-updated-sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy-2025/>

To improve understanding and assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable developments, and in line with the Precautionary Principle, Marine Directorate 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/>

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

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 seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in exercising their functions and to report their performance to Welsh government.

Planning Policy Wales 12 (2024) considers Biodiversity and Ecological Networks and provides a strong updated policy framework for decision making and policy formulation within the planning system to secure this.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2024, adopted in 2021, sets out the direction and development including infrastructure to 2040. The plan includes specific policies on: Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure, and the National Forest. It has full development plan status and lower tier development and plans and decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales.

England:

Natural England is working on the Planning Offshore wind Strategic Environmental Decisions (POSEIDON) project, which aims to provide up-to-date evidence, including information on seabirds, and new mapping tools to identify suitable sites for low-impact offshore wind development.

<https://www.marinedataexchange.co.uk/content/stories/poseidon-planning-offshore-wind-strategic-environmental-impact-decisions>

In 2024, Natural England published a report that gathers data on the potential environmental effects (including impacts on seabirds) of floating offshore wind technology to develop an evidence base to better inform decision making and spatial planning.

<https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5224811773820928>

2) Power lines

Scotland:

In 2025, NatureScot published guidance on the assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds. <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-and-mitigation-impacts-power-lines-and-guyed-meteorological-masts-birds>

3) Other collisions

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The Darwin Plus-funded project (DPLUS143; 2021-2024), 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), developed bird-strike reporting systems for vessels operating in GSGSSI MZs. This will ensure practical, standardized data collection and robust analysis to inform management practices of GSGSSI. In parallel, handling and care guidelines have been revised to improve the survival of landed birds.

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS143/>

A voluntary 10 knots speed limit has been introduced at South Georgia to minimise the risk of whale strikes within high-risk areas. Following research into vessel traffic patterns and whale population density estimates, the speed limit was implemented within a georeferenced polygon where the highest risk of whale strike was identified.

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, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	1	<p>Metropolitan UK: Seals are affected negatively by Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) or similar diseases. A joint surveillance project established between the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation found an increasing incidence of <i>Sarcocystis rileyi</i> in ducks in the UK from around 2014 (following reports of the disease further up the flyway in eastern and northern Europe). In the 2021/22 season, 63 suspected cases of Sarcocystosis were reported and in the 2022/23 season 45 cases were reported, although it is likely that the number of cases reported greatly underrepresents the true prevalence. Affected species include mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (App II), Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> (App II), common teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (App II), northern shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i> (App II) and gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i> (App II). Introduced mammals elsewhere in the North-West European flyway such as raccoon dog <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> may play a role in transmission. The outbreak of the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus (HPAI) from 2021 initially affected wintering waterbirds in the UK, with seabirds particularly impacted during the following breeding season. In the winter of 2021/22, over 10,000 barnacle geese <i>Branta leucopsis</i> (App II) wintering on the Solway Firth died from the disease - between a quarter and a third of the entire Svalbard breeding population - however, the population rapidly recovered, probably through a combination of the widespread development of natural immunity and high levels of breeding success in the years following the outbreak (Griffin & Peach 2024). High numbers of dead pink-footed geese <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> (App II), greylag geese <i>Anser anser</i> (App II), mute swans <i>Cygnus olor</i> (App II) and Whooper swans <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (App II) were also reported. Breeding numbers of multiple seabird species suffered large declines, including the CMS Appendix II-listed Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> and common tern <i>Sterna Hirundo</i>. The greatest decline was seen in the non-CMS-listed great skua <i>Stercorarius skua</i>, and northern gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i> also suffered declines (Tremlett et al. 2024). Monitoring work carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) confirmed HPAI in other species, particularly in raptors and waders. Many raptors, including over 1,000 common buzzards <i>Buteo buteo</i> (App II), have tested positive and peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (App II), golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (App II) and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (App I & II) have been particularly badly hit (Wilson et al. 2025). •Griffin, L. R., & Peach, W. J. (2024). Impacts of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on a Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> population wintering on the Solway Firth, UK. <i>Bird Study</i>, 71(4), 392-403. •Tremlett, C. J., Cleasby, I. R., Bolton, M., & Wilson, L. J. (2024). Declines in UK breeding populations of seabird species of conservation concern following the outbreak of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) in 2021-2022. <i>Bird Study</i>, 71(4), 293-310. •Wilson, M. W., Beckmann, B. C., & Wernham, C. V. (2025). Reduced breeding success consistent with effects of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) on raptors in Scotland in 2022. <i>Bird Study</i>, 72(1), 51-60. The fungus associated with WNS, <i>Pseudogymnoascus destructans</i> (previously called <i>Geomyces destructans</i>), has been identified on a number of bats in Europe, including the UK. 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.</p>
Unexplained stranding events	2	<p>Metropolitan UK and Gibraltar: All cetacean strandings are recorded and where possible/practical, investigated through postmortem to identify cause of death and other factors of note. Recent large-scale unusual mortality events involved mass strandings of 77 long-finned pilot whales <i>Globicephala melas</i> (App II) in Orkney, Scotland in 2024 and 55 long-finned pilot whales in Lewis, Scotland, in 2023. Cyprus SBAs: Turtle, dolphin, whale and shark strandings are recorded.</p>

Accidental/indirect poisoning	2	<p>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. Compliance with regulations on the use of lead shot in wildfowling is currently poor. In England and Wales, the use of lead shot is prohibited over all foreshore, over specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and for the shooting of all ducks and geese, coot <i>Fulica atra</i> and moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>, wherever they occur. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the use of lead shot is banned on or over any area of wetland for any shooting activity. However, several studies of shot ducks have found that compliance with prohibitions on the use of lead shot is poor (e.g. Cromie et al. 2010, Strong et al. 2024). There is evidence demonstrating a continued impact of lead poisoning on waterbirds in the UK. A study by Newth et al. (2012) found elevated levels of lead in the blood of 34% of 285 waterbirds tested at four sites in England and Scotland during the 2010/2011 winter. Lead poisoning accounted for the deaths of at least 10.6 % of 2,365 waterbirds recovered across Britain between 1971 and 2010 and 8.1 % (of 1,051) between 2000 and 2010, with lead gunshot being the most likely source of poisoning. A detailed analysis by Green & Pain (2016) indicated correlational evidence of continuing impacts of lead poisoning on UK wintering ducks, especially common pochard <i>Aythya farina</i> (App II). •Cromie, R.L., A. Loram, L. Hurst, M. O'Brien, J. Newth, M.J. Brown & J.P. Harradine (2010). Compliance with the Environmental Protection (Restrictions on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999. Report to Defra, Bristol. Pp 99. http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16075 •Green, R.E. and Pain, D.J., 2016. Possible effects of ingested lead gunshot on populations of ducks wintering in the UK. <i>Ibis</i>, 158(4), pp.699-710. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1111/ibi.12400 • Newth, J.L., Cromie, R.L., Brown, M.J., Delahay, R.J., Meharg, A.A., Deacon, C., Norton, G.J., O'brien, M.F. and Pain, D.J., 2013. Poisoning from lead gunshot: still a threat to wild waterbirds in Britain. <i>European Journal of Wildlife Research</i>, 59, pp.195-204. https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10344-012-0666-7 • Strong, E.A., Crowley, S.L., Newth, J.L., O'Brien, M.F., Colom, R.L., Davis, S.A., Cromie, R.L., Bearhop, S. and McDonald, R.A., 2024. Spatial and temporal variation in the prevalence of illegal lead shot in reared and wild mallards harvested in England. <i>Environmental Pollution</i>, 363, p.124756. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749124014702 As previous set out above, the UK government announced a ban on lead ammunition in July 2025 Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain's countryside - GOV.UK. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Several clay shooting ranges are placed adjacent to wetlands. The ranges still use lead shot.</p>
Disease		

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

>>> Extra Geographic information on Wildlife Disease:

Wales:

NRW together with other UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) assist the UK and devolved governments in the monitoring of wild bird populations and the impact of HPAI may have on these populations, and provide advice on potential species recovery actions. Since 2022, NRW has operated a targeted wild bird mortality reporting system at key breeding seabird and non-breeding waterbird sites. The UK SNCBs have also contributed to the national contingency planning and have supported Defra and the devolved governments in liaising with the wider international community on these issues.

Enhancements to the monitoring and assessment of bird species affected by HPAI have been introduced, especially focussed on birds of prey, non-breeding waterbirds and breeding seabirds monitored under the UK Seabird Monitoring Programme, as a response to significant mortality of these taxa in 2022 and 2023.

Birdwatchers and volunteer bird surveyors can now record dead wild birds through existing citizen science platforms (e.g. Wetland Birds Survey) operated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Several new working groups were established to support exchange of information and plan responses. For example, Defra and the Welsh government commissioned JNCC to establish 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 collaborates with the NatureScot Avian Influenza Task Force for Scotland and gathers information from conservation, land management and wildlife disease experts from a range of organisations to assess what conservation and monitoring actions can be implemented with respect to wild bird populations impacted by avian influenza. The group is led and chaired by JNCC and made up of key experts from organisations such as Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, RSPB, BTO, National Trust, Wildlife & Countryside Link, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, BASC and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.

The mitigation strategy for avian influenza in wild birds (2024) in England and Wales sets out the policies and approach that Defra and the Welsh government, and their delivery agencies APHA, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales take to avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales, within the remit of national law. It also contains guidance for the general public and non-governmental organisations on issues which may impact them in relation to avian influenza in wild birds. The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in England and Wales: the Ornithological Expert Panel, the Avian

Influenza Wild Bird Recovery Advisory Group, the Defra Group Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Working Group, the Avian Influenza Outbreak and Biosecurity Communications Stakeholder group, the Welsh Wild Birds Avian Influenza Strategic Response Group, and the Joint Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies Working Group on Avian Influenza. Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: notification and reporting (including international obligations), surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols, HPAI research, wild bird population monitoring, support for species recovery, biosecurity of natural settings, restrictions on activities (ringing, access, feeding of wild birds, shooting, gamebird release), and removal and disposal of dead wild birds.

Falkland Islands and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

There is a risk of wildlife disease to penguins, albatross and other seabirds, and pinnipeds.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was confirmed in South Georgia in 2023, 2024 and 2025 in the following CMS (App II) listed species: *Diomedea exulans*. It was also confirmed in the following non-CMS listed species: *Pygoscelis papua* (gentoo penguin), *Aptendytes patagonicus* (King penguin), *Stercorarius antarcticus* (brown skua), *Arctocephalus gazella* (Antarctic fur seal) and *Mirounga leonina* (South elephant seal).

Significant Advances:

1) Disease

Metropolitan UK:

Ongoing surveillance for infectious and non-infectious disease in vertebrate wildlife (excluding cetaceans) in Great Britain 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 (WWT), 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.

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

The joint *Sarcocystis* surveillance project established between the WWT and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) continues to collect data and report on incidences of *Sarcocystis rileyi* in ducks in the UK.

The UK's Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols across Great Britain on behalf of Defra, Welsh and Scottish governments. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs of Northern Ireland (DAERA) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports across Northern Ireland. The public are encouraged to report findings of dead wild birds using the online reporting website. Some of the birds are collected for testing, to help understand the risk posed to poultry and other captive birds and to understand how the disease is distributed geographically and in different types of wild bird. 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bird-flu-avian-influenza-findings-in-non-avian-wildlife>

The UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) assist the UK and devolved governments 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. Since 2022, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland have operated a targeted wild bird mortality reporting system at key waterbird sites. The SNCBs have also contributed to the national contingency planning and have supported Defra and the devolved governments in liaising with the wider international community on these issues.

Enhancements to the monitoring and assessment of those species affected by HPAI have been introduced, especially focussed on seabirds monitored under the UK Seabird Monitoring Programme, as a response to significant mortality of these taxa earlier in the triennium. Birdwatchers and volunteer bird surveyors can now record dead wild birds through existing citizen science platforms operated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Several new working groups were established to support exchange of information and plan responses. For example, as set out above, Defra and the Welsh government commissioned JNCC to establish 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.

Alongside the UK government's continued investment in the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge site, an eight-strong consortium 'FluMap' led by APHA and funded by Defra and the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council carried out a research project from 2022-2023 to develop new strategies to tackle avian influenza outbreaks. The project helped to build 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. The follow-up project, Flu:Trailmap, 'Transmission and risk of avian influenza: learning more to advance preparedness', is running from 2023-2026 and will build on the results of FluMap to better understand HPAI

viruses and their impacts and to further inform biosecurity and mitigation strategies.

In addition to supporting international collaboration through specific research projects, 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 WOAHA-FOA Scientific Network on animal influenza (OFFLU).

The Garden Wildlife Health Initiative, a collaborative project between the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Froglife and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), continues to provide a surveillance and research function investigating diseases of UK garden birds, some of which are migratory.

Scotland:

The Scottish wild bird highly pathogenic avian influenza response plan (2023) sets out the approach that the Scottish government and its agencies will take to respond to an outbreak of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland. The plan was updated in 2025 to incorporate the most up to date scientific advice. The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in Scotland: Scottish government, NatureScot, APHA, the Animal Disease Policy Group, the Ornithological Expert Panel (OEP), the Scottish Task Force on Avian Influenza in Wild Birds, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Public Health Scotland, local authorities, the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and rescue/rehabilitation centres. Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: animal health, legislative basis, pathogens and routes of incursion, wild bird surveillance, avian influenza in non-avian wildlife, guidance on carcass removal and disposal, advice for wildlife rescue/rehabilitation centres, research and monitoring of HPAI in wild birds, prevention of HPAI transmission to and within wild bird populations, wider measures to mitigate the impacts of HPAI on wild birds. activities that may impact wild bird HPAI transmission and or survivability, and the licensing/ringing decision making framework.

England and Wales:

The mitigation strategy for avian influenza in wild birds (2024) in England and Wales sets out the policies and approach that Defra and Welsh government, and their delivery agencies APHA, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales take to avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales, within the remit of national law. It also contains guidance for the general public and non-governmental organisations on issues which may impact them in relation to avian influenza in wild birds. The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in England and Wales: the Ornithological Expert Panel, the Avian Influenza Wild Bird Recovery Advisory Group, the Defra Group Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Working Group, the Avian Influenza Outbreak and Biosecurity Communications Stakeholder group, the Welsh Wild Birds Avian Influenza Strategic Response Group, and the JNCC Bodies Working Group on Avian Influenza. Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: notification and reporting (including international obligations), surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols, HPAI research, wild bird population monitoring, support for species recovery, biosecurity of natural settings, restrictions on activities (ringing, access, feeding of wild birds, shooting, gamebird release), and removal and disposal of dead wild birds.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Seabird populations have been monitored to understand the impact and presence of HPAI. 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:

In response to the suspected arrival of HPAI in the Falkland Islands in 2023, yearly guidance on HPAI has been published in partnership with Falkland Islands government, JNCC, and Falklands Conservation. This details enhanced biosecurity procedures for all stakeholders within the Falkland Islands. See Avian Influenza Booklet (falklands.gov.fk). Additionally, the Animal Health (Emergency Measures for Outbreaks of Infections Diseases) Order 2022, is utilised to monitor and control the spread of any suspected outbreaks. This includes the testing of suspect cases and levelled responses depending on the severity of the outbreak. These are published online with guidance and restrictions that all individuals must adhere to.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

In response to the arrival of HPAI in South Georgia in 2023, additional biosecurity measures were put in place by GSGSSI to minimise potential transfer by humans between sites and species, as well as to protect human health. A tiered response system for reporting and responding to outbreaks of HPAI was also implemented. These measures are detailed in the GSGSSI Biosecurity Handbook, and which is updated annually or more regularly as required. Scientific sampling to understand disease pathways and evolution, species affected, and to inform future monitoring and management of HPAI are ongoing.

2) Unexplained stranding events

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) undertakes investigations into the cause of death of marine animals (e.g. cetaceans, seals, turtles and basking sharks) that strand around the English and Welsh coastline, including analysing samples from stranded animals to establish life history and genetic information, to inform management. <https://www.zsl.org/what-we-do/projects/cetacean-strandings-investigation-programme-csip>

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 and a map of stranding locations are available on the Scheme's website. <https://strandings.org/>

Northern Ireland:

Many cetacean strandings 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 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 the British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

Cyprus SBAs:

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.

Ascension Island:

Increased biosecurity measures have been implemented to help prevent the spread of disease including HPAI from human vectors. A HPAI Incident Response plan has been drafted. Ascension Island now has increased capacity in disease diagnostics with the ability to collect and preserve samples for testing and in-house DNA testing reagents for HPAI.

3) Accidental/indirect poisoning

Metropolitan UK:

In February 2020, UK shooting organisations announced a plan to phase out the use of lead shot in live quarry shooting voluntarily within five years, although samples of pheasants shot in the 2024/2025 season indicated no significant reduction in the use of lead shot (Green et al. 2025). In 2021, Defra asked the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA) to prepare a restriction dossier for lead ammunition in all habitats. The HSE and the EA have considered the evidence of risk posed by lead in ammunition on human health and the environment, as well as the socioeconomic impact that would result from introducing further restrictions on lead in ammunition. They also considered the effectiveness, practicality, monitorability and enforceability of the suggested restriction.

As previously set out above, the UK government announced a ban on lead ammunition in July 2025 Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain's countryside - GOV.UK.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The States of Guernsey are trailing the use of lethal rat traps which do not use poisons, to reduce the likelihood of secondary poisoning to non-target species. Due to the new water pollution law, conversations have begun with shooting clubs on how transition away from using lead shot to reduce risk to the natural environment. One shooting range has improved their infrastructure to enable a transition to steel shot.

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

<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 deer <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i> and fallow deer <i>Dama dama</i> have profound impact on woodland understory and scrub posing a large threat to nightingale <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 an ongoing threat, due to large densities in nearby jurisdictions. The spread of non-native plants such as sour fig <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> and Cape ivy <i>Delairea odorata</i> smother native vegetation and threaten important habitats. In the marine environment, extensive surveys have confirmed the presence of a number of non-native species which are of concern, including carpet seasquirt <i>Didemnum vexillum</i>. UK Overseas Territories: 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>Neltuma 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 was already practiced in terms of surveillance, management and pathway action plans.

A revised Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy for 2023 to 2030 was published in 2023 to ensure coordinated action across Great Britain. This Strategy follows internationally recognised principles and priorities of prevention, rapid eradication and management.

A new Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Inspectorate has been established to ensure that relevant legislation (for example on the keeping of Species of Special Concern) is better understood by stakeholders and better enforced where necessary. It also aims to collect data so that certain risks such as invertebrates arriving from mainland Europe via contaminated water in leisure craft or angling equipment is better quantified and understood. Following scoping work in 2020, a pilot NNS Inspectorate of four staff was established in 2021. This was expanded to an inspectorate of eight staff in spring 2022, 11 staff in spring 2023, and there are currently 16 inspectors.

The UK eradication of ruddy duck is close to completion. The UK ruddy duck population is now thought to number between seven and eleven birds spread across several regions. Many of these are single birds and movement between regions is rare, so the species is likely functionally extinct in most regions of the UK. Monitoring of the population via internet reports, communication from site managers, and site visits continues, as does culling of birds wherever there is a risk of breeding in the future.

Scotland:

The Marine Directorate is the lead authority for INNS in the Scottish marine environment. The Marine Directorate 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. The implementation plan was reviewed in 2017 and a revised implementation plan published in 2018. Enforcement and permitting regulations came in to force in 2019, and NI remains aligned with the EU IAS Regulation. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-invasive-alien-species-implementation-plan-revised-2018>

Isle of Man:

See section above on predation for information regarding the Calf of Man rat eradication programme.

Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Collaboration between Jersey & Guernsey has led to the development of an invasive non-native species horizon scanning and risk assessment process for both Marine and Terrestrial species. Twice-yearly monitoring for marine invasives has also been implemented.

In 2023, three large scale risk assessments were undertaken jointly by the governments of Jersey and Guernsey in a 'Biosecure Bailiwick' approach, which identified and ranked invasive species that are currently established in the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, and high risk species judged in a "horizon scan" to be capable of becoming established in Jersey in the near future. In response, species contingency plans are being developed for each of the high-risk species identified in the horizon scanning exercise, identifying pathways of arrival and describing controls to be put in place to prevent this. A top Ten Red Alert List has been developed to raise awareness of horizon scanned invasive species with the general public and encourage reporting. Management Feasibility Studies are being developed for the top 30 highest risk established invasive species. These studies will identify which species can be eradicated from the island and which will require long term management. Species Management plans are being developed for the most feasible management strategy identified for each species. Management continues to control several high risk established invasive species.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A Marine Biosecurity Plan and Guide have been produced to reduce the risk of the introduction and onward spread of invasive non-native species to 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 14 in 2023 to three in 2024.

Control measures on invasive plants, including *Carprobrutus edulis*, *C. glaucascens*, *Delairea dorata* and *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, are ongoing. Control of Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* has been successful with eradication believed to be achieved within two years at all known sites. Control and monitoring of carpet seasquirt *Didemnum vexillum* is believed to be successfully keeping it contained in low levels in a single location.

Falkland Islands:

A Darwin Plus-funded project, 'New Island: completing preparatory steps for restoration against invasive mammals' (DPLUS169; 2022-2024), led by Falklands Conservation in partnership with Falkland Islands government and RSPB, concluded that eradication of invasive mammals from New Island is technically feasible with current techniques. <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS169/>

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) has implemented a range of biosecurity methods, including a Biosecurity Dog Programme (BDP), to ensure that South Georgia remains rodent-free. The rodent detector dogs are tasked to carry out checks on vessels and cargo bound for South Georgia for the presence of rodents, and signs of recent rodent activity in cargo. GSGSSI currently own two fully qualified rodent detector dogs and is now seeking tenders for a renewal of the programme for three more years from October 2025, with an option to extend for a further two years.

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. <https://gov.gs/document/non-native-plant-management-strat-v1-1/>

Cyprus SBAs:

A Darwin Plus-funded project, 'Preventing Common Myna invasion in Akrotiri SBA and Cyprus' (DPL00023; 2023-2024), led by Birdlife Cyprus in partnership with the University of Cyprus, helped prevent the Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* establishing through co-ordinated recording, effective control and targeted awareness-raising. Importantly, this project put a collaborative system in place for tackling future invasions.

Ascension:

In 2023-2024, a feasibility study was conducted for eradication of pest vertebrates:

<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/DPL00037/>

From 2021-2024, a project took place to control Mexican thorn, which smothers seabird nesting habitat and encourages rats. The project assessed biocontrol methods and improved chemical and mechanical treatments, resulting in an Integrated Control Plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS134/>

A separate one-year project beginning in April 2024 has introduced a moth for the biocontrol of Mexican thorn and provided 12 months of monitoring to evaluate its establishment and spread. Ongoing long-term monitoring is continuing through fixed point photography and drone surveys.

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00084>

Disturbance and disruption

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	Metropolitan UK: Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (App II) and other cetacean species, 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 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 over-wintering or foraging birds through dog walking or access to colonies. 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 whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (App I) by private and commercial whale watching boats. South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: disturbance of breeding sites of ACAP listed species by visitors (both tourists and scientists). Cyprus SBAs: There is disturbance to turtle nesting habitat and/or nesting attempts, and to birds at Lady's Mile beach (a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area) due to the presence of several restaurants and its popularity, receiving thousands of visitors during the summer months. Disturbing, illegal activities include levelling and removing of material from protected habitat (including sand-dunes) to create more parking space or to make the seashore more sandy; non-removal of sunbeds and umbrellas in the evening; night events/parties with loud music, strong lights, laser lights and fireworks.	3

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. During a period of voluntary restraint, countryside users are asked to take extra care not to cause unnecessary disturbance to birds which may be struggling in these severe conditions. Consideration is needed around activities like shooting, dog walking, rambling, bird watching/ringing and canoeing or kayaking. In December 2024, parts of the UK reached a period (seven consecutive days) of freezing conditions that triggered a voluntary restraint on waterfowl shooting to be put in place temporarily. The restraint was lifted after three days of continuous thaw.

Various non-governmental campaigns have taken place, such as the current 'Rude to Intrude' campaign led by Whale and Dolphin Conservation (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>.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Designation of six Areas of Special Protection in 2022-2023, affecting the offshore reefs at Les Ecréhous 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. [spz plemont leaflet \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/spz-plemont-leaflet)

The Portelet no-take zone, which prohibits all commercial and recreational fishing, covers an area of 0.26 km². Voluntary agreements are in place between Land Resource Management (Jersey government) and stakeholder groups such as the Jersey Climbing Club and Coaststeering groups during the breeding season to restrict access to key bird nesting sites.

BOTE-Code-of-Conduct-v2.pdf ([birdsontheedge.org](https://www.birdsontheedge.org)) is a birdwatching and bird photography code of conduct for Jersey.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In March 2024, an updated code of conduct was published which aimed to raise awareness of the wildlife in and around the Bailiwick and provides guidelines for how to observe and enjoy wildlife responsibly without causing disturbance.

Cyprus SBAs:

A Darwin Local project on the protection of Episkopi Cliffs and beach (designated a Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area) has just been completed (June 2025). Among other deliverables, access management measures have been implemented to protect sea turtle nesting habitat and nesting cliffs for designated species including Eleonora's falcon *Falco eleonora*.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Strict visitor guidelines which are both site and species specific are in place, including 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. Recreational use of drones is prohibited and the use of drones for science and media is only allowed under strict permit conditions to prevent wildlife disturbance. Under the new Terrestrial Protected Area (TPA) legislation, tourism landings on the South Sandwich Islands (SSI) are not permitted, and entry to the SSI are only granted under specific conditions <https://gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/TPA-management-plan-FINAL-.pdf>.

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
Marine debris (including plastics)	<p>Metropolitan UK: 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).</p> <p>Microplastic particles can be consumed by marine animals including seabirds and cetaceans, potentially damaging their health. Larger items entangle animals and smother habitats. Species impacted across Metropolitan UK, Bailiwick of Jersey and Bailiwick of Guernsey include: fin whale Balaenoptera physalus (App I & II), common dolphin Delphinus delphis (App II), Risso's dolphin Grampus griseus (App II), white-sided dolphin Lagenorhynchus acutus (App II), killer whale Orcinus orca (App II), harbour porpoise Phocoena phocoena (App II), bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus (App II), as well as leatherback turtle Dermochelys coriacea (App I & II), hawksbill turtle Eretmochelys imbricata (App I & II), and loggerhead turtle Caretta caretta (App I & II).</p> <p>Surveillance of the impact of marine debris on cetaceans is monitored through the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP). Low incidence of macroplastics 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 et al. 2019). Nelms, S.E., Barnett, J., Brownlow, A. et al. (2019) Microplastics in marine mammals stranded around the British coast: ubiquitous but transitory?. Sci Rep 9, 1075. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-37428-3</p> <p>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 sealife and turtles. Ascension: There are records of seabirds, particularly brown boobies (Sula leucogaster) using plastics to line their nest. There is an ongoing study of seabird stomachs for plastic ingestion (awaiting results but initial studies showing microplastics). South Atlantic Plastics Project (ZSL South Atlantic Plastics Project ZSL) looked at the impacts of the plastics on Ascension and St Helena wildlife and options to reduce or mitigate against plastics entering the local environment.</p>	2
Light pollution	<p>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 its impacts on bat roosts, flight paths and wildlife corridors is also a growing concern. Bailiwick of Guernsey: the results of a comprehensive four-year bat survey have evidenced avoidance of artificially-lit sites by some species of bat, which may negatively impact their foraging success or reduce roost availability. Ascension Island: Some anecdotal incidences of green turtle Chelonia mydas (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 Pterodroma cahow (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 & the South Sandwich Islands: Risk of bird strike on vessels due to nighttime operation of deck or ice lights.</p>	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 UK government has ambitions to radically increase deployment of offshore renewable energy developments. This construction on such a large scale is likely to lead to increased noise generated from piling during the installation of wind turbine foundations and offshore substations. Species potentially affected by noise include 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
Other pollution	Metropolitan UK: Strong evidence shows that excessively high levels of long-lived contaminants, specifically polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are 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. PCBs are released into the environment through improper disposal of contaminated equipment and leaching from landfills. 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. 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). Many freshwater habitats in the UK suffer nutrient pollution from agriculture and sewerage systems, or pollution from urban or transport runoff. Most UK water bodies do not meet criteria for good ecological status. https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-surface-water-status/ Freshwater pollution may affect CMS-listed species such as waterbirds. For example, at the Ouse Washes Special Protection Area in England, inappropriate levels of nutrients from diffuse pollution in combination with inappropriate water levels from flooding have adversely affected the extent/composition of vegetation communities on the washes. Resulting changes to the grassland mosaic have the potential to affect the notified bird interests by destroying habitat suitable for many of the birds that visit or breed at the site, such as Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> (App II), black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i> (App II), garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> (App II), and ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (App II). Cyprus SBAs: In the past year, water testing at the Salt Lake and nearby wetlands has indicated a deterioration of the ecological condition that could be related to a persistent source of pollution. The SBA Administration in co-operation with Republic of Cyprus government departments is investigating possible sources of pollution. These include pollutants from urban developments, stormwater, sewage and wastewater, runoff from gardens and gold course irrigation, agricultural activities, drainage works, etc. In the past few years there has been a decline in greater flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> and other migratory birds' numbers and this could be related to a persistent pollution problem at the Salt Lake and other wetlands.	2
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

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

>>> 1) Light pollution

Metropolitan UK:

In 2023, the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) in partnership with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) published guidance on avoiding or reducing impacts of artificial lighting on bats and their habitats.

<https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

England:

In 2025, Natural England updated its guidance on how to assess a planning application when there are bats on or near a proposed development site, which articulates the requirement for a survey where a development proposal includes the lighting of buildings or green space close to habitats that bats tend to use.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The impacts of artificial lighting from 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 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.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The impact of artificial light pollution on designated sites or known sensitive locations is being considered in new developments and street lighting upgrades.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The Darwin Plus-funded project (DPLUS143), which ran from 2021-2024 and was 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), developed bird-strike reporting systems for vessels operating in GSGSSI MZs. This will ensure practical, standardized data collection and robust analysis to inform management practices of GSGSSI. In parallel, handling and care guidelines have been revised to improve the survival of landed birds. <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS143/>.

2) Underwater noise

In January 2025, the UK government and devolved governments released a joint position statement which sets out their collective position on the use of low noise methods of clearing unexploded ordnance (UXO) within the UK marine environment, in relation to commercial marine developments, with the aim of reducing environmental impacts during UXO clearance in the marine environment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-environment-unexploded-ordnance-clearance-joint-position-statement/marine-environment-unexploded-ordnance-clearance-joint-position-statement>

Since 2021, over 30 noise-related research projects have been funded through the Offshore Wind Enabling Actions (OWEA) Programme, with many more projects being steered and overseen through Defra's involvement in a wide variety of other initiatives and programmes across the UK. This will continue to build understanding of marine noise impacts on a wide range of species and identify where interventions are required. Projects have aimed to assess and fill evidence gaps in the noise data to establish baselines for impulsive noise in UK waters; improve understanding of impacts of underwater noise on Harbour Porpoise and other species; determine how effective the current approach to noise management is; and identify further interventions to better manage and minimize impacts of underwater noise.

In 2025, JNCC, Natural England and Cefas published a position statement on the use of quieter piling methods and noise abatement systems when installing offshore wind turbine foundations. This was informed by a review of Evidence on the efficacy of underwater noise abatement undertaken by Cefas and published in 2024. <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/e1d38ce8-9bc6-4fb5-b867-f7f595caa25a>

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. In 2023, JNCC published guidance on the use of Passive Acoustic Monitoring in UK waters for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from offshore activities. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-mammals-and-noise-mitigation/>

The Marine Noise Registry has been developed by JNCC on behalf of Defra and the devolved governments 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. <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>

Scotland:

The East Coast Marine Mammal Acoustic Study (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. <http://marine.gov.scot/information/east-coast-marine-mammal-acoustic-study-ecommas>.

In 2022, the Scottish Passive Acoustic Network (SPAN) project commenced as an expansion of the ECOMMAS project. The SPAN project is using an extensive network of passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) stations to collect long-term data on marine mammal distribution, relative abundance, and underwater noise in data deficient areas around the coasts of Scotland and across offshore wind energy developments. SPAN is funded by the Scottish government's Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) program, which invests in targeted research addressing evidence gaps to enable and promote the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Projects using active acoustics in the marine environment outside those used as part of normal navigation or in licensed fisheries will require a Regulated Activity Permit including the use of appropriate mitigation measures.

3) 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. Surveillance of the impact of marine debris on cetaceans is monitored through the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP).

In England and Wales, a ban on the sale of certain single-use plastic items came into effect on October 1, 2023. This ban includes plastic cutlery, drinks stirrers, and balloon sticks, as well as certain polystyrene cups and food containers.

UK and OSPAR are working to assess marine litter levels and its impacts as part of the implementation of the North East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030.

The UK Marine Strategy (UKMS) aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES), which is defined by 11 high-level qualitative Descriptors. Descriptor 10 relates to Marine Litter: "The amount of litter and its degradation products on coastlines and in the marine environment is reducing and levels do not pose a significant risk to the environment and marine life". Marine litter in UK waters is periodically monitored through three common indicators: beach litter, plastic particles in the stomachs of northern fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis*, and seafloor litter. A consultation draft of the third update of the UKMS Part 1, including a progress assessment from 2019-2024, was published in June 2025. The 2024 assessment found that the UK has not met GES for marine litter. Overall marine litter levels remain high, although encouraging reductions in beach litter and plastics found in the stomachs of fulmar are being seen. Litter on the seafloor remains high in the Greater North Sea.

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. 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. 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 2024, can be found at <https://www.globalplasticaction.org/impact>.

Wales:

Wales has a Clean Seas Partnership to co-ordinate action across communities, business and the public sector in tackling marine litter. The Partnership delivers the Marine Litter Action Plan (MLAP) for Wales, which is revised every three years. <https://businesswales.gov.wales/marineandfisheries/information-and-statistics/wales-clean-seas-partnership>

Wales was the first administration in the UK to introduce a dedicated scheme for End of Life fishing gear. The scheme, a partnership between Welsh government and Odyssey Innovation Ltd, provides dedicated collection points at harbours across Wales where fishers can dispose of used nets, ropes, buoys and other plastic fishing equipment for recycling. More than 15 tonnes of end-of-life fishing gear has been recycled since 2023, helping to protect marine environments and boost recycling rates.

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 in 2022. The 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/>

Isle of Man:

From 19 October 2023, the Climate Change (Single Use Plastics) Regulations 2022 came into force, prohibiting the sale, distribution and supply of the following single-use plastic items: plates, plastic carrier bags (with handles), straws (with necessary exceptions i.e. medical use), stirrers, cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks), polystyrene food containers for immediate use, polystyrene cups, plastic stemmed cotton buds, balloon sticks, and also products made from oxo-degradable plastics. The regulations also prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of rinse-off personal care products that contain plastic micro beads.

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. Plastic Free Jersey (gov.je)

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/water/pages/bluefishcampaign.aspx>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A local charity, the Clean Earth Trust, publish an annual Marine Litter Report which details the type, volume and sources of litter being collected from local beaches.

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. Microplastics 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.

4) Other 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 updated its Marine Pollution Contingency Plan in 2023. 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://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-pollution-contingency-plan>

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 (NCP) for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations has been created, which includes advice on environmental aspects and monitoring. The NCP is an important reference document for setting out the procedures and processes involved in pollution responses (latest revision 2024) to meet the emergence of new pollution threats and situations, recommendations and lessons learned. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-contingency-planncp>

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency published updated guidelines for ports on contingency planning for marine pollution preparedness and response in 2024.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contingency-planning-for-marine-pollution-preparedness-and-response-guidelines-for-ports](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contingency-planning-for-marine-pollution-preparedness-and-response-guidelines-for-ports/contingency-planning-for-marine-pollution-preparedness-and-response-guidelines-for-ports)

The UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme monitors pollutants in Appendix II raptors in the environment. <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/predatory-bird-monitoring-scheme>

England:

In 2023, the government published the Plan for Water to tackle pollution, including from storm overflows, agriculture, plastics, road run-off and chemicals. Funding was made available for water companies to upgrade infrastructure and for farmers to address water pollution and improve slurry infrastructure. A new Water Restoration Fund was established to restore and enhance the water environment in specified geographical areas, using environmental fines and penalties collected from water and sewerage companies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plan-for-cleaner-and-more-plentiful-water>

The Environmental Targets (Water) (England) Regulations 2023 set long-term targets under the Environment Act 2021 in respect of nutrient pollution from agriculture and sewage, and metal pollution from abandoned mines.

The Water (Special Measures) Act was introduced into Parliament on 4 September 2024 and received Royal Assent on 24 February 2025. The act significantly strengthens the power of the water industry regulators, ensuring monitoring of every sewage outlet and introduces harsher penalties for polluting water companies.

Isle of Man:

River Quality and Salmonid Monitoring reports have been published.

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/environmental-protection-unit/river-water-quality/>

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/fisheries/inland-fisheries/inland-science-and-research/>

An 'Assessment of Isle of Man monitoring data against OSPAR hazardous substances thresholds' has been published following analysis of samples by CEFAS, and two masters dissertations have been completed on phytoplankton: 'A Comparison of The Historic and Present Phytoplankton Dynamics and Environmental Parameters in Manx waters: A Season Shift' and 'A Historic Evaluation of Island Ecosystem Health: The Influence of Environmental Parameters on Phytoplankton Abundance and Community Structure in Manx Waters', all available online. <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/environmental-protection-unit/isle-of-man-marine-monitoring/>

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:

Use of Heavy Fuel Oil is prohibited for all vessels operating 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.

5) 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 Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*) are either banned or strictly regulated. Research determines concentrations of POPs in UK-stranded cetaceans.

Bermuda:

A project underway since 2019 has investigated 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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), Res. **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **14.223** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>> A consultation draft of the third update of the UK Marine Strategy (UKMS) Part 1, including a progress assessment from 2019-2024, was published in June 2025. The 2024 progress assessment found a slight increasing trend in probability that fishing net hauls contain litter in the Greater North Sea.

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
Landscape fragmentation/loss of ecological connectivity, physical barriers		
Habitat degradation	Metropolitan UK: Land use change and habitat degradation affects a number of species across the UK. For example, 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 number around 1,000 animals and continues to decline. There is evidence that degradation of foraging habitats due to increases in agricultural intensification is the most likely cause of the decline of turtle doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (App II) in the UK. •Dunn, J. C., & Morris, A. J. (2012). Which features of UK farmland are important in retaining territories of the rapidly declining turtle dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> ? <i>Bird Study</i> , 59(4), 394-402. 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, draining) have reduced the areas of open and young woodland habitats and produced woods that are less heterogenous in terms of tree age and structure. Bailiwick of Guernsey: The impact of traditional moorings on eelgrass beds has been studied by the Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project which found evidence of damage. Falkland Islands: Widespread agriculture, predominantly sheep grazing, has drastically modified the native vegetation across much of the island. The coastal grass tussock <i>Poa flabellata</i> has largely been extirpated from the two main islands, with the strongholds that remain being pristine ungrazed islands throughout the archipelago. Previous estimates have determined a loss of approximately 80% throughout the archipelago with an approximate 99% reduction in extent on the two main islands of East and West Falkland. Additionally, this overgrazing has led to soil destabilisation and widespread erosion, particularly in coastal areas, which impacts the suitability of habitat for a variety of migratory species.	2
Mineral exploration/extraction		1
Unsustainable land/resource use	There are a number of concerns with regard to unsustainable resource uses, such as the unsustainable use of pesticides in agricultural and domestic use.	2
Urbanization	Bailiwick of Guernsey: Loss of agricultural land to curtilage is reported as a threat to biodiversity, including farmland birds (State of Nature Report, 2024).	3
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation		

Fire	Falkland Islands: Wildfires have been a significant pressure since the last reporting period. This has been exacerbated by several years of lower-than-average annual precipitation, which may be as a result of climate change. In the past, burning to improve grassland quality has been undertaken, which has led to uncontrolled burns. However, the majority of wildfires during this reporting period have been caused by lightning strikes. Several significant wildfires have occurred throughout the archipelago within the past two years, the most notable of which, on Bird Island National Nature Reserve, resulted in the total loss of approximately 30% of the tussac habitat on the island and devastated the seabird populations. There were reported losses of black-browed albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> .	2
Physical barriers		3

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

>>> England:

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.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme pays farmers and land managers to take up or maintain sustainable farming and land management practices that protect and benefit the environment, support food production, and improve productivity. Management options include hedgerow management, integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use, and flower-rich strips to benefit pollinators and farmland birds.

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier, which will open in 2025, will pay for more targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats, including support for species recovery of specific animals. For example, it will include specific management options to provide nesting plots for northern lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus* and stone curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, and management of wet grassland for waders. A payment will be available specifically to provide support to threatened species, such as by providing a bespoke seed mix for turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

The Landscape Recovery Scheme, which has so far held two rounds for applications in 2022 and 2023, pays groups of farmers and land managers to do long-term, large-scale projects to enhance the natural environment, including protected sites and wildlife habitat. For example, the scheme has supported the development phase of a 20-year Ouse Washes Landscape Recovery partnership project to deliver habitat creation across the Fens in the east of England, benefitting species such as black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* and Eurasian spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.

The Environment Act (2021), alongside the 25 Year Environment Plan, has also led to the creation of the Nature Recovery Network, which includes action to create and restore wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones and has resulted in large scale projects which will provide habitat for migratory species.

Scotland:

In Scotland, a trial of an Outcome-Based Approach for determining agricultural subsidies ran from 2019-2023. This pilot explicitly considered how payments could be determined by support of migratory species such as northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, common 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.

Wales:

The Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) will be Welsh government's primary mechanism to support farmers, land management and sustainable food production from 2026 onwards. Actions will be supported through the Universal, Optional and Collaborative elements of the scheme delivering the Sustainable Land Management requirements under the Agriculture (Wales) Act including sustainable food production and improving ecosystem resilience.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since the production of the Jersey Tree Strategy in 2022, an officer group and advisory group have been formed to coordinate and deliver the strategy recommendations. Notable work in this area has included the development of a government/ charity partnership delivering a tree nursery producing tree stocks locally, and deployment of a Sentinel Site network of fixed biological monitoring sites focussed on tree health. Replanting in Jersey has been supported by charities and a National Trust hedgerow replanting scheme in the last five years. Since 2025, Jersey Biosecurity have drafted a Tree Strategy delivery plan, aiming to coordinate all tree activity across the island, via GIS systems. Jersey Finance have created the Greening Jersey Trust, which will allow Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) purchasing of replanting activities.

<https://www.jerseyfinance.com/industry/focus/sustainable-finance/the-greening-jersey-trust/>

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 adoption of a first Marine Spatial Plan for the island in 2024, represent a significant step forward for the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable management of the island's coastal and marine habitats. <https://www.gov.je/Environment/SeaCoast/pages/marinespatialplan.aspx>

Falkland Islands:

Habitat restoration is actively encouraged through the Environmental Studies Budget grant scheme, which is undertaken by the Environment Department through private contracts, and is further undertaken by individual private landowners. This primarily takes place through the erection of exclusion fencing around areas of good quality habitat and through the planting of native plant species, predominantly tussac grass. Projects currently being undertaken include the restoration of several eroding government-owned islands: Top, Bob's, Green, Gid's, and Middle Island. Middle Island is a National Nature Reserve which has been the subject of a phased restoration project over the past three years. Infilling with Tussac Grass has been undertaken to stabilise the soil and protect the nesting habitat of several migratory species.

In response to the potential for wildfire, wildfire management plans are being incorporated into current and future National Nature Reserve designations. The Falkland Islands Fire and Rescue Service is now trained to offer accredited vegetation fire courses to train volunteers in wildfire fighting techniques.

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 **14.6** (Deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities and migratory species) **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)**(Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.24**(Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), and Decisions **14.148-14.150** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

>>> 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

	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

Climate change	1	<p>Metropolitan UK: The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership provides an independent, authoritative overview of UK marine and coastal climate change impacts across 'Physical environment', 'Ecosystem change' and 'Societal impact' themes. The underlying evidence is updated on a 'rolling' basis, ensuring the detailed topic reports provide the most up-to-date information. The most recent reports on marine mammals (reviewed 2025), seabirds and waterbirds (2023) and fish (2023) found https://www.mccip.org.uk/all-uk/uk-impacts/hub/ecosystem-change: •The main effects of climate change on marine mammals are range shifts, loss of habitat, food-web changes, and increased exposure to disease. •UK and Ireland seabird and waterbird indices show declines since the 1990s, partly due to climate change effects across species' annual cycles and ranges. Many populations are near their range limit or are sensitive to changes in prey availability. •Declines in breeding seabird numbers have been linked to climate-mediated changes in fish prey species, affecting reproductive success and survival. Strong winds, heavy rain and rough seas can also impact reproductive success and overwinter survival for some species. •Declines in UK waterbird breeding populations and north-easterly shifts in waterbird winter distributions in Europe are also consistent with a warming climate. •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. 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. https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/state-of-uk-birds-2020-report.pdf An assessment of the climate vulnerability of species and habitats in English Special Protection Areas found that the vulnerability of both species and habitats varied considerably, with upland bird species such as merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> (App II) and golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (App II), and coastal and wetland habitats particularly at risk. Duffield, S. J., Morecroft, M. D., Pearce-Higgins, J. W., & Taylor, S. D. (2024). Species-or habitat-based assessments of vulnerability to climate change? Informing climate change adaptation in Special Protection Areas for birds in England. <i>Biological Conservation</i>, 291, 110460.</p> <p>Ascension Island: Research by the University of Exeter suggests that increases in wave height and energy threaten the area of green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I) nesting beaches available and increase the risk of nest washout. Recent research on the impacts of climate change on the Ascension Island MPA found that over the next century, the region will become warmer, more saline, more acidic, less productive, and with lower nutrient and chlorophyll concentrations in the surface waters. The most important current of the region, the Atlantic Equatorial Current, is also projected to weaken in all scenarios. These changes are likely to negatively impact the ability of the AIMPA to provide ecosystem services such as healthy ecosystems and fish stocks. https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2023JG007395 British Indian Ocean Territory: Temperatures at nesting beaches determine sex ratios of turtle 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 <i>Pterodroma cahow</i> (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. Falkland Islands: The risk from wildfires has been exacerbated by several years of lower-than-average annual precipitation, likely as a result of climate change. Several significant wildfires have occurred throughout the archipelago within the past two years, the most notable of which, on Bird Island National Nature Reserve, resulted in the total loss of approximately 30% of the tussac habitat on the island and devastated the seabird populations. There were reported losses of black-browed albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>. 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?

>>> Work on climate change in the UK is undertaken by government, government bodies and by a range of non-government organisations. 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. Further details can be found at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/climate-impacts>. The Third National Adaptation Programme report was published in 2023 and runs until 2028. This sets out the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change from 2023 to 2028, including protecting the natural environment. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-national-adaptation-programme-nap3> Actions are underway to facilitate species adaptation to climate change, including a major programme of peatland restoration, an important habitat for many migratory species, expansion of native woodlands, and 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 runs until 2025. The UK Peatland Strategy aims to drive and coordinate action across the UK, supported by country level plans that will establish a course for peatland conservation and management at a more detailed level <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/uk-strategy>.

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 underlying evidence is now being updated on a 'rolling' basis, ensuring the detailed topic reports, and their 'highlight' pages provide the most up-to-date information. The latest MCCIP updates includes separate reviews of climate impacts on seabirds and waterbirds, fish and marine mammals, as well as key migratory species habitats. <https://www.mccip.org.uk/all-uk/uk-impacts/hub/ecosystem-change>

The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) <http://ukstrandings.org/> is recording increasing numbers of turtles, some of which may be as a result of climate change. These animals are mostly juveniles or compromised adults with restricted ability to fight against currents. Increasing storms seem to be taking these turtles offshore into the North Atlantic Gyre. Leatherback turtles *Dermochelys coriacea* can cope with UK sea temperatures, but green turtles *Chelonia mydas*, Kemp's Ridley turtles *Lepidochelys kempii*, and loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* are hard-shell turtles that are subject to cold-stunning and will struggle to survive in UK waters.

To support CMS Resolution 13.2 Annex 6 (Programme of Work for the Intersessional Period between COP13 and COP14), the UK government (through a contract to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) funded by Defra via JNCC) commissioned a review of the latest evidence on the impacts of climate change on migratory species, with regard also to conservation actions, indicators and ecosystem services. The report was published in 2023.

Martay, B., Macphie, K.H., Bowgen, K.M., Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Robinson, R.A., Scott, S.E. & Williams, J.M. 2023. Climate change and migratory species: a review of impacts, conservation actions, indicators and ecosystem services. Part 1 – Impacts of climate change on migratory species. JNCC, Peterborough, ISBN 978-0-86139-001-4. <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/9989a5a2-1745-4532-a9f4-92c0c50ca304>

To support CMS Decision 14.214, JNCC convened an international in-person workshop on migratory species and climate change in Scotland in 2025. The workshop facilitated implementation of other actions listed in Decision 14.214, including identifying those migratory species that, on balance, are likely to be negatively impacted by climate change, especially those that are likely to need human-mediated interventions; identifying species that have a high probability of changing their migration routes as a result of climate change and the connectivity options available to them; identifying case studies of the role of migratory species in maintaining and enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation; proposing measures to help facilitate migratory species' range changes; and developing an interpretation of the term "barrier", so that there is consistency in the obligation to remove obstacles to migratory species.

Following on from the International Workshop in Edinburgh in February 2025, JNCC worked to help the CMS CoP-Appointed Councillor for Climate Change prepare for, deliver and follow-up the meeting of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Climate Change and Migratory Species. JNCC also helped to draft a document for CoP15. The document includes proposed amendments to the CMS Resolution on Climate Change, draft Decisions for the next triennium, and references no less than six information documents, ranging from a collation of case studies to vulnerability assessment methodologies, interpretation of the term 'barrier', and the report of the expert workshop in February. JNCC also supervised an Intern who produced a document on the impacts of climate change on cetacean welfare and conservation in response to Decisions 14.72b which is expected to form the basis for an Information Document to the Scientific Council and Conference of the Parties.

The LIFE on the Edge Project is a 4-year project led by the RSPB with the National Trust with the aim to improve the condition of seven low-lying coastal SPAs while also building their long-term resilience to sea level rise and informing future work elsewhere. <https://www.projectlote.life/>

Scientists at the Zoological Society of London and the University of Cambridge published a book entitled, 'Seabirds in the North-East Atlantic - Climate Change Vulnerability and Potential Conservation Actions', which aimed to assess seabirds' vulnerability to climate change in the North-East Atlantic, and to identify potential conservation actions that could reduce this vulnerability.

• Häkkinen, H., Petrovan, S. O., Taylor, N. G., Sutherland, W. J., & Pettoirelli, N. (2023). Seabirds in the North-East Atlantic: Climate change vulnerability and potential conservation actions. Open Book Publishers. <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0343>

England:

Climate change mitigation and adaptation is included as one of the goals of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.

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

A report published in 2023 considers the current designation and monitoring framework for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and considers how to sustain biodiversity in protected areas under climate change. <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4790455720738816>

Scotland:

Scotland's Third National Adaptation Plan was published in September 2024 and runs to 2029. It sets out the actions the Scottish government and its partners will take to respond to the impacts of climate change, including actions relevant to migratory species.

NatureScot published a climate adaptation framework in 2024. Adaptation measures relevant to migratory species include:

- Ensure the marine and terrestrial protected area network and species strategies take full account of climate change effects.
- Build adaptation into the legislative and regulatory regimes that advice contributes to, notably through legislative targets for habitat restoration, stronger regulation of deer management, and better policy support for the health of soils and freshwaters.
- Embed adaptation more fully in strategic planning and integration in the marine environment with blue carbon work to support restoration of marine habitats to help address climate change risks.

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-adapts-framework>

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. A draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027 was published for public consultation in 2025.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

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.

The Carbon Neutral Roadmap which was brought into force in 2022, builds on the progress made through the Pathway 2050: An Energy Plan for Jersey and supersedes the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2019. It outlines proposed policies to bring Jersey to net zero and focuses on the steps that need to be taken from 2022 to 2026. The Roadmap has been based on consultation with islanders, along with detailed technical studies and the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Climate Change. 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.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/ClimateEmergency/JerseyClimateEmergency/pages/journeycarbonneutral.aspx>

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, which Guernsey is on course to meet. In 2025, Guernsey adopted a Pathway to Net Zero which details options to decarbonise emissions and outlines the important role of nature in sequestration, and the need for additional understanding in the marine environment.

Gibraltar:

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

Falkland Islands: Wildfire management plans are being incorporated into current and future National Nature Reserve designations. The Falkland Islands Fire and Rescue Service is now trained to offer accredited vegetation fire courses to train volunteers in wildfire fighting techniques.

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 **14.211** (Climate change and Migratory Species).

>>> Metropolitan UK:

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership provides an independent, authoritative overview of UK marine and coastal climate change impacts across 'Physical environment', 'Ecosystem change' and 'Societal impact' themes. The underlying evidence is updated on a 'rolling' basis, ensuring the detailed topic reports provide the most up-to-date information. The most recent reports on marine mammals (reviewed 2025), seabirds and waterbirds (2023) and fish (2023) found:

- The main effects of climate change on marine mammals are range shifts, loss of habitat, food-web changes, and increased exposure to disease.
- UK and Ireland seabird and waterbird indices show declines since the 1990s, partly due to climate change effects across species' annual cycles and ranges. Many populations are near their range limit or are sensitive to changes in prey availability.
- Declines in breeding seabird numbers have been linked to climate-mediated changes in fish prey species, affecting reproductive success and survival. Strong winds, heavy rain and rough seas can also impact reproductive success and overwinter survival for some species.
- Declines in UK waterbird breeding populations and north-easterly shifts in waterbird winter distributions in Europe are also consistent with a warming climate.

- 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>

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 transboundary management		
Inadequate legislation	3	<p>Metropolitan UK: During the period of this report, the use of lead shot remained legal in England and Wales, except over all foreshore, over specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and for the shooting of all ducks and geese, coot <i>Fulica atra</i> and moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>, wherever they occur. The use of lead shot remained legal in Scotland and Northern Ireland, except on or over any area of wetland for any shooting activity. As previously highlighted, the UK government announced a ban on lead ammunition in July 2025 Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain’s countryside - GOV.UK. 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 recreational activities.</p> <p>Falkland Islands: While the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999 offers broad protections to wildlife, it can easily be circumvented and is inadequately enforced. Many activities, particularly those based around tourism, are governed by voluntary codes of conduct, e.g., The Countryside Code, or guidance, e.g., Guidelines for Yorke Bay and Gypsy Cove Penguin Colonies. While these have helped to reduce the instances of disturbance resulting from tourism operations, they are not legally enforceable and can be subject to abuse by tourists and operators. Much of the legislation surrounding the protected area network of National Nature Reserves is also very limited in scope. The protections afforded by many of the designations are limited and management activities that result in poor conservation outcomes are not legally enforceable.</p>

Lack of knowledge	2	<p>Metropolitan UK: Lack of knowledge of marine mammal abundance, distribution, life-history, behaviour 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. No compulsory monitoring of waterbird annual harvest rates is undertaken in the UK, and existing voluntary reporting schemes are patchy and inadequate for making an accurate assessment of the sustainability of harvest. Unquantified and potentially unsustainable hunting of the globally Vulnerable common pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> continues 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), greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> (App II) and Eurasian woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> (App II)</p> <p>https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1365-2664.14281. Birds of prey, including hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (App II), golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (App II), northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (App II), peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (App II), and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (App I & II), are affected by illegal killing. The UK government does not collect data on the number of birds estimated to be illegally killed, trapped or traded each year. Crimes relating to birds of prey are not categorised as Home Office “notifiable” crimes. Wildlife crime data collection largely relies on the good will of charities and other organisations to help with crime and incident data. As a result, the scope and scale of illegal killing of birds in the UK is poorly known. The UK has schemes in place to collect data on seabird bycatch in fisheries, including the UK Bycatch Monitoring Programme, but does not have comprehensive data, meaning that a recent preliminary assessment of the scale and impact of seabird bycatch in the UK had a high degree of uncertainty. A preliminary analysis estimated that bycatch accounts for more than 1% of annual mortality of common loon <i>Gavia immer</i> (App II) in UK waters, although the report notes that this may be an over-estimate. Non CMS-listed species including common murre (<i>Uria aalge</i>), great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) and northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>), are affected in greater numbers.</p> <p>https://randd.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=20461 Bailiwick of Guernsey: Data deficiency 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. Bailiwick of Jersey: Data deficiency on some species groups, e.g. marine mammals and bats. Knowledge of impacts of renewable energy developments such as solar power and offshore wind power is also limited. Cyprus SBAs: Key knowledge gaps include: marine species abundance and distribution (systematic surveys need to be undertaken); sea movements/behaviour/habitat use of marine turtles; Ecological impact of hydrological changes; effect of solar power plants on bird species; and impact of unsustainable farming practices on birds; migration patterns of red-footed falcons <i>Falco vespertinus</i> (App I & II). Falkland Islands: There are numerous knowledge gaps across migratory species within the Falkland Islands. While several species’ population trends are well understood, others, such as burrow-nesting seabirds or marine species, are poorly understood. Additionally, many areas within the Falkland Islands have not been investigated. It is often the case that migratory species are likely to exist in places where they have not yet been identified. South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Climate change effects on the marine environment around SGSSI have been evaluated through scientific research and through a Marine and Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) assessment of key climate effects, however, equivalent information on the potential effects on the terrestrial environment including key habitats for breeding seabirds, has been lacking.</p>
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	2	<p>Metropolitan UK: Compliance with regulations on the use of lead shot in wildfowling is currently poor. In England and Wales, the use of lead shot is prohibited over all foreshore, over specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and for the shooting of all ducks and geese, coot <i>Fulica atra</i> and moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>, wherever they occur. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the use of lead shot is banned on or over any area of wetland for any shooting activity. However, several studies of shot ducks have found that compliance with prohibitions on the use of lead shot is poor (e.g. Cromie et al. 2010, Strong et al. 2024). •Gromie, R.L., A. Loram, L. Hurst, M. O’Brien, J. Newth, M.J. Brown & J.P. Harradine (2010). Compliance with the Environmental Protection (Restrictions on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999. Report to Defra, Bristol. Pp 99.</p> <p>http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=16075 •Strong, E.A., Crowley, S.L., Newth, J.L., O’Brien, M.F., Colom, R.L., Davis, S.A., Cromie, R.L., Bearhop, S. and McDonald, R.A., 2024. Spatial and temporal variation in the prevalence of illegal lead shot in reared and wild mallards harvested in England. <i>Environmental Pollution</i>, 363, p.124756.</p> <p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749124014702 As previously highlighted, the UK government announced a ban on lead ammunition in July 2025 Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain’s countryside - GOV.UK. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Although good animal welfare legislation exists, it has often been difficult to implement</p> <p>http://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/article/99630/Animal-Welfare-Guernsey-Ordinance-2012.</p>

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

>>> 1) Lack of knowledge

Metropolitan UK:

Defra's Offshore Wind Enabling Actions (OWEA) Programme (2021-2023) aimed 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 was 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.

The Offshore Wind Strategic Monitoring and Research Forum (OWSMRF) was a collaborative partnership led by a group of seven developers, EDF Renewables UK, Equinor, Ørsted, RWE, ScottishPower Renewables, SSE Renewables and Shell. JNCC acted as the secretariat and played a role in the delivery of scientific outputs. From 2021-2023, the Forum focused on black-legged kittiwake, shearwaters and storm-petrels. It produced four knowledge gap reports 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 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. Recently funded projects have examined interactions of common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (App II) with offshore wind turbines and the impacts of displacement effects of wind farms on red-throated divers *Gavia stellata* (App II). <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. The UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and JNCC are on the steering group for the fund as well as individual projects. For example, the Reducing Seabird Collisions Using Evidence (ReSCUE) project is a multi-year, multi-partner project led by Natural England, that is using existing sources of data and innovative technology such as light detection and ranging (LiDAR) to provide a better understanding of seabird flight heights and vulnerability to collision with wind turbines.

<https://www.marinedataexchange.co.uk/content/info/offshore-wind-evidence-and-change-programme>

The UK is participating in OSPAR work (under the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Offshore Renewables Energy Development) that is conducting a pilot strategic assessment of cumulative impacts on seabirds in the North Sea.

Defra via JNCC has recently commissioned a review of the sufficiency of the UK's data on waterbird harvest, for upcoming publication. The review examines the scope and comprehensiveness of the data on waterbird harvest that is voluntarily provided by UK shooting organisations and assesses its sufficiency for determining the sustainability of waterbird harvest in the UK.

The Wildlife Crime Group of Wildlife and Countryside Link published its latest Annual Wildlife Crime Report in 2024. <https://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife.asp>

The RSPB published 'Birdcrime 2023', summarising 15 years' worth of data collected by the RSPB Investigations team. In 2025, the RSPB published a review of the illegal killing of Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus*. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/birdcrime>

Clean Catch UK is a programme governed by several groups whose memberships are drawn from among the fishing industry, the wider seafood industry, scientists, environmental NGOs, regulators, policymakers, and technology providers. It aims to help the UK government to minimise and – where possible – eliminate bycatch of sensitive marine species, by working with fisheries to develop data collection on and mitigation of bycatch, carrying out research, and sharing knowledge among and from similar initiatives in the UK and overseas.

<https://www.cleancatchuk.com/>

The UK recently led the development of a Recommendation adopted under the OSPAR Convention in 2024 to better understand and reduce bycatch of marine birds in the OSPAR maritime area. This will provide an added impetus and focus to fill gaps in the monitoring of bycatch in UK waters.

<https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=57701>

Scotland:

To improve understanding and assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable developments, and in line with the Precautionary Principle, Marine Directorate 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/>

The East Coast Marine Mammal Acoustic Study (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. <http://marine.gov.scot/information/east-coast-marine-mammal-acoustic-study-ecommas>. In 2022, the Scottish Passive Acoustic Network (SPAN) project commenced as an expansion of the ECOMMAS project. The SPAN project is using an extensive network of passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) stations to collect long-term data on marine mammal distribution, relative abundance, and underwater noise in data deficient areas around the coasts of Scotland and across offshore wind energy developments. SPAN is funded by the Scottish government's Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) program, which invests in targeted research addressing evidence gaps to enable and promote the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy.

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 Scottish waters, and to develop sustainable, proportional mitigation strategies for the benefit of those affected. <https://www.scottishentanglement.org/about/>.

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' was published in 2023. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-understanding-seabird-bycatch-scottish-longline-fisheries-exploring-potential-solutions/>

England:

Natural England is working on the Planning Offshore wind Strategic Environmental Decisions (POSEIDON) project, which aims to provide up-to-date evidence, including information on seabirds, and new mapping tools to identify suitable sites for low-impact offshore wind development.

<https://www.marinedataexchange.co.uk/content/stories/poseidon-planning-offshore-wind-strategic-environmental-impact-decisions>

In 2024, Natural England published a report that gathers data on the potential environmental effects (including impacts on seabirds) of floating offshore wind technology to develop an evidence base to better inform decision making and spatial planning.

<https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5224811773820928>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The publication of the islands' first State of Nature report in 2024 summarised the available data for species and habitats, conservation status and threats or drivers of loss. This is the first resource to summarise this data.

The Guernsey Biological Records Centre is moving the database of biological records to a web-based recording system (indicia) which will enable public access to biological records (subject to suitable safeguards) so that they can be used to inform decision making and improve wider understanding by the local community.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Through Jersey's planning legislation, developments with potential ecological impacts are required to be supported by appropriate ecological assessments and mitigation strategies to avoid, minimise or compensate for identified impacts. Post development monitoring is sought where practical, to increase understanding of long-term impacts and the effectiveness of mitigation techniques.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands government-owned island survey was undertaken over two seasons between 2023-2024. This involved a small team of ecologists surveying 90 islands throughout the archipelago. The results have further improved knowledge of these islands, helped to facilitate habitat restoration on several islands and have identified key areas for further research, including migratory species such as burrow-nesting seabirds.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

A Darwin Plus Local project (DPL00039) developed a report using a systematic data assessment and literature review, on the consequences of climate change for SGSSI terrestrial ecosystems, including assessment of future changes and potential management approaches. Information will be used by government to inform data-led decision making on how to monitor and mitigate impacts of climate change within the SGSSI TPA.

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00039>

2) Inadequate legislation

Metropolitan UK:

In February 2020, UK shooting organisations announced a plan to phase out the use of lead shot in live quarry shooting voluntarily within five years, although samples of pheasants shot in the 2024/2025 season indicated no significant reduction in the use of lead shot (Green et al. 2025). In 2021, Defra asked the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA) to prepare a restriction dossier for lead ammunition in all habitats. The HSE and the EA have considered the evidence of risk posed by lead in ammunition on human health and the environment, as well as the socioeconomic impact that would result from introducing further restrictions on lead in ammunition. They also considered the effectiveness, practicality, monitorability and enforceability of the suggested restriction.

As previously highlighted, the UK government announced a ban on lead ammunition in July 2025 Toxic lead ammunition banned to protect Britain's countryside - GOV.UK.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The new Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 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. Guidance has been published on the application of the law in relation to specific species groups including bats, birds and marine species, to provide an interpretation of what is meant by disturbance and breeding and resting sites. In 2023, further guidance has been published on the application of the law and Codes of Conduct for the Island's ASPs have been produced and circulated in French and English
<https://www.gov.je/environment/landmarinewildlife/legalprotectionspecies/Pages/index.aspx>.

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
	1	<p>Predation: Metropolitan UK: 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 stoat <i>Mustela erminea</i> and Western European hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>. American mink pose a threat to breeding migratory birds such as Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (App II), common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (App II), little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> (App II), Arctic loon (black-throated diver) <i>Gavia arctica</i> (App II), red-throated loon (red-throated diver) <i>Gavia stellata</i> (App II), dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> (App II), corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> (App II), common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (App II), common teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (App II), and common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (App II). Western European hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> was historically introduced to the Outer Hebrides in Scotland, where it eats eggs and young chicks, and causes up to 50% of all breeding failures in South Uist among: Northern lapwing <i>Vanellus Vanellus</i> (App II); dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> (App II), common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (App II); common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (App II) and common snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (App II). Eurasian curlews <i>Numenius arquata</i> (App II) and other ground nesting birds can be subject to 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. 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). Bailiwick of Guernsey: Seabird colonies are at risk from predation of brown rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> and feral ferrets <i>Mustela putorius furo</i>. Bailiwick of Jersey: the decline of seabird breeding colonies on the north coast has been linked to predation from rats and ferrets. Cyprus SBAs: Turtle nests are suffering from fox predation. Ascension Island: There is some predation of seabirds such as sooty terns (<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>) and of green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I) hatchlings by black rats <i>Rattus rattus</i> and common myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>. Bermuda: Black rats <i>Rattus rattus</i> and Norway rats <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> remain a threat to Appendix I listed Bermuda petrel <i>Pterodroma cahow</i>. British Indian Ocean Territory: Avifauna remains subject to pressure from invasive species (especially black rat) on several islands. Hawksbill <i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i> (App I & II) and green turtles <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (App I & II) are impacted by rats taking eggs on nesting beaches. British Virgin Islands, 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. A species action plan for marine turtles for Montserrat was created through the Darwin Plus project https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS106/. Falkland Islands: Norway rats <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> remain a threat to avifauna throughout much of the archipelago. High densities on most islands, particularly the main islands of East and West Falkland, are likely to be exerting significant pressure on the success of seabird colonies and other passerine species. Mice and feral cats are also present on many islands and have a similar negative impact on breeding birds. On a few islands (Split, Beaver, and Weddell), the Patagonian fox <i>Lycalopex griseus</i> is present and has a significant negative impact on any seabirds present. Tristan da Cunha: Gough Island 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) and Hendersons crane is threatened by Polynesian rats <i>Rattus exulans</i>.</p>

	3	Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation): British Indian Ocean Territory: The 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 turtle <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. A series of damaging storms in 2023/2024 has also resulted in the loss or damage of many mature trees across the island. 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. Bailiwick of Guernsey: Loss of natural habitats has been recorded in Guernsey through island-wide habitat surveys (JNCC Phase 1). The most recent survey in 2018 identified a reduction of 29% in species rich grasslands and heathlands since 2010. The State of Nature Report, 2024, identified habitat loss (caused by land management, development and land use change) as a threat to the status of almost all species included in the report.
	1	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.

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

>>> 1) Predation

Metropolitan UK:

The Biosecurity for LIFE programme (2018-2023) was a project run by a partnership between the RSPB, National Trust and National Trust for Scotland, with funding from NatureScot, Natural England, DAERA and Natural Resources Wales as well as the EU LIFE Programme. The project improved biosecurity measures at the UK's 42 seabird island/island group Special Protection Areas (SPAs), benefitting migratory species including common eider *Somateria mollissima* and Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*. Despite these efforts, over 40 biosecurity incursions were reported on these islands between 2018 and 2023, ranging from shipwrecks and cargo spills to invasive predators found on island or jumping ashore from vessels. So far, surveillance and incursion response efforts have prevented new populations of non-native predators becoming established on these islands. There are now legacy projects in place in England, Scotland and Wales, and ongoing organisational support for Northern Ireland islands. Defra has provided funding to support the continuation of this work through the AfterLIFE plan from 2023. <https://biosecurityforlife.org.uk/>

The Curlew LIFE project ran from 2020-2024 (with a short extension into 2025) and aimed to reverse the decline of the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* by improving breeding habitat conditions in five priority UK landscapes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The project was led by the RSPB and funded by the EU LIFE Programme and regional partners: Cairngorms Connect, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs), the Fellfoot Forward programme of the North Pennines National Landscape and with additional support through the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. Some of the actions carried out as part of the project aimed to reduce the impact of predation on breeding curlews, through habitat management, predator exclusion fences, lethal control of crows and foxes and diversionary feeding of common buzzards.

<https://curlewlife.org/>

Wales:

The Curlew Connections project funded under the Nature Networks Programme has received circa £1m to drive forward curlew recovery in three 'Important Curlew Areas' in line with the Wales Action Plan for the Recovery of Curlew.

Biosecurity for Wales continues working to implement and improve long-term biosecurity practice across all Welsh islands that are SPAs and expands to include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for breeding seabirds. A round up of the work undertaken by the project in 2024 can be found at:

<https://biosecurityforlife.org.uk/blog/2025-01-15-biosecurity-for-wales-2024-roundup>.

England:

A trial run by the Waterlife Recovery Trust (WRT) from 2019-2024 demonstrated the feasibility of eradicating American mink across almost 6,000 km² of East Anglia in England. In October 2023, the trial was declared successful, as the team found no evidence of mink reproduction within the Core Area during the 2023 breeding season. Natural England has provided funding to expand the project, and the WRT plans to roll out the methodology across Britain. <https://nbn.org.uk/news/a-mink-free-britain/>

Scotland:

The Orkney Native Wildlife Project aims to safeguard the internationally important native wildlife of Orkney (including Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, common redshank *Tringa tetanus* and common snipe *Gallinago Gallinago*) by addressing the threat it faces from introduced stoats as well as providing other community benefits. The project is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, NatureScot and Orkney Islands Council with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the EU's LIFE programme and the Scottish government's Nature Restoration Fund. <https://www.orkneynativewildlife.org.uk/>

The Hebridean Mink Project has been running since 2001 to prevent significant losses to ground nesting birds and migratory species including: Arctic, common and little tern, Arctic loon (black-throated diver), red-throated loon (red-throated diver), dunlin, corncrake, common ringed plover, common teal, and common shelduck. In 2018, it was thought that the number of mink had been reduced to a level where the population was no longer functional. However, in recent years, around 20-30 mink per year have been trapped throughout the islands by the Hebridean Mink Project team. A new project, 'Saving Nature Outer Hebrides', funded by the Nature Restoration Fund, has been established to develop a plan for complete eradication. <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/hebridean-mink-project>

Uist Wader Research (formerly known as the Uist Wader Project) has been running since 2012 and has successfully removed introduced hedgehogs from North Uist. A new project, the 'Saving Uist Nature' project, a partnership between RSPB Scotland, NatureScot and Scottish SPCA and funded by the Nature Restoration Fund, has been established to continue to remove invasive hedgehogs from Benbecula through live capture and translocation, before scaling up to South Uist.

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/uist-wader-research>.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/media-centre/saving-uist-nature>

The Scottish Invasive Species Initiative and its predecessors have been trapping American mink across more than a third of mainland Scotland since 2012, and have successfully prevented mink from invading the Flow Country World Heritage Site and helped to protect a variety of ground-nesting waters and waterfowl.

<https://www.invasivespecies.scot/mink-control-project><https://www.invasivespecies.scot/mink-control-project>
Wales:

The five-year (2020-2025) LIFE Curlew project (LIFE19 NAT/UK/000844) aims to halt the decline of breeding curlew in five priority landscapes across the UK, including Wales, with predator control a fundamental intervention. In addition, predator control was deployed across three important curlew areas by the Curlew Connection Wales project, launched in 2023, is a partnership project led by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and funded by the Welsh government's Nature Networks Fund. The project aims to reverse the decline in breeding Curlew in Wales and will focus on three Important Curlew Area within Wales: Bannau Brycheiniog, Montgomeryshire and the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Curlew Connections will aid delivery of the Wales Action Plan for the recovery of Curlew Recovery Plan | Curlew Wales (2021). In 2023, Gylfinir Cymru / Curlew Wales published a statement on the role and need for predator control to aid curlew recovery.

Northern Ireland:

The LIFE Raft project, led by the RSPB in partnership with the Rathlin Community, co-funded by EU LIFE, DAERA and other partner organisations, aims to eradicate non-native rats and ferrets from Rathlin Island SPA to restore populations of bird species including the migratory seabirds, common guillemot *Uria aalge albonis*, razorbill *Alca torda*, kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and puffin *Fratercula arctica*, as well as peregrine Falco peregrinus and corncrake *Crex crex*. The project runs from 2020-2025, with monitoring and biosecurity continuing to 2027. By 2024 almost 100 non-native ferrets were trapped and humanely destroyed in the first stage of the project. <https://rathlin360.com/life-raft/>

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. A rat was found in 2024 and analysis by Manx National Heritage supported the view that it had swum across (twice) but was eventually removed. Monitoring has moved from extensive wax block stations, in tubes, to cameras, which pick up activity better.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since 2022, National Trust for Jersey and Birds on the Edge has been running a campaign to save Jersey's seabirds from extinction, with the main threat identified as being predation from non-native predators such as rats and ferrets. Actions have included the implementation of a Seabird Protection Zone on the north coast of the island and long-term monitoring of breeding colonies. In May 2025, planning approval was granted for the installation of a predator-exclusion fence to be built along the cliffs below the north coast footpath to protect puffins and other nesting seabirds from predators. Monitoring of seabirds in the area is ongoing and will be continued following installation of the fence. <https://www.nationaltrust.je/our-work/conservation-projects/the-plemونت-seabird-sanctuary/>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A feasibility assessment of a rat eradication programme has been undertaken and conversations with a private company to eradicate rats from an archipelago within the Bailiwick of Guernsey are ongoing.

Falkland Islands:

The eradication of invasive mammalian species is set to continue with the successful application for a Darwin Strategic Grant in 2024 (DPR13ST/1005). This project comprises the eradication of four invasive species (rats, cats, mice, and rabbits) from New Island in the southwest of the archipelago. Government-owned islands which have been previously cleared of invasive species are monitored through walkover assessments during a Falkland Islands government island survey over two seasons from 2023-24. Additionally, to ensure success within some of the National Nature Reserve islands (e.g. Kidney and Cochon Island NNR), rodent detector dogs have been employed.

Bermuda: An active rat control programme exists on nesting islands.

Ascension Island: As part of a Darwin Local project, DPL00037, <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00037> consultants conducted a study to determine the feasibility of eradication of rats and mice from Ascension Island. The results indicated that a full eradication will be too cost prohibitive. However, recommendations were provided to improve the efficiency of rodent control. Some of these measures have been implemented and additional funding is sought to continue improvements.

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.

Yes

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

>>> England and Wales:

The mitigation strategy for avian influenza in wild birds (2024) in England and Wales sets out the policies and approach that Defra and Welsh government, and their delivery agencies APHA, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales take to avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales, within the remit of national law. It also contains guidance for the general public and nongovernmental organisations on issues which may impact them in relation to avian influenza in wild birds. The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in England and Wales: the Ornithological Expert Panel, the Avian Influenza Wild Bird Recovery Advisory Group, the Defra Group Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Working Group, the Avian Influenza Outbreak and Biosecurity Communications Stakeholder group, the Welsh Wild Birds Avian Influenza Strategic Response Group, and the JNCC Bodies Working Group on Avian Influenza. Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: notification and reporting (including international obligations), surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols, HPAI research, wild bird population monitoring, support for species recovery, biosecurity of natural settings, restrictions on activities (ringing, access, feeding of wild birds, shooting, gamebird release), and removal and disposal of dead wild birds.

Defra commissioned Natural England to assess the vulnerability of seabird species in light of the pressures they are facing and propose actions to address them. Those recommendations were published in 2024 as the English Seabird Conservation and Recovery Pathway technical report (ESCaRP)

In January 2025, Defra hosted a stakeholder workshop to consider recommendations from ESCaRP and implementation of actions across government and non-government stakeholders. Since then, Defra has established a Seabird Conservation Coordination Group, comprising a representative mix of government, ALBs, eNGOs, academics and industry representation, to help provide cross-sector coordination on the delivery of priority conservation actions for seabirds.

Scotland:

The Scottish government published a new Scottish seabird conservation - action plan in August 2025.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-seabird-conservation-action-plan-2/>.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-seabird-conservation-action-plan/>

The Scottish wild bird highly pathogenic avian influenza response plan (2023) sets out the approach that the Scottish government and its agencies will take to respond to an outbreak of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland. The plan was updated in 2025 to incorporate the most up to date scientific advice. The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in Scotland: Scottish government, NatureScot, APHA, the Animal Disease Policy Group, the Ornithological Expert Panel (OEP), the Scottish Task Force on Avian Influenza in Wild Birds, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Public Health Scotland, local authorities, the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and rescue/rehabilitation centres. Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: animal health, legislative basis, pathogens and routes of incursion, wild bird surveillance, avian influenza in non-avian wildlife, guidance on carcass removal and disposal, advice for wildlife rescue/rehabilitation centres, research and monitoring of HPAI in wild birds, prevention of HPAI transmission to and within wild bird populations, wider measures to mitigate the impacts of HPAI on wild birds. activities that may impact wild bird HPAI transmission and or survivability, and the licensing/ringing decision making framework.

Northern Ireland:

DAERA published a consultation document for a Seabird Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland in 2024. Through this conservation strategy, the department has proposed actions required to improve the evidence base for key species and what management may be necessary to halt population decline and help facilitate their recovery. <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/ni-seabird-conservation-strategy-and-action-plan/>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2024, Jersey adopted the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) with key defined purposes including the

development of a network of Marine Protected Areas, the development of a framework for organising human and marine resources and activities in Jersey's territorial waters; to inform the policies of the next iteration of the Island Plan and to support co-ordinated development and decision-making on all aspects affecting the marine environment

In January 2025 the 'Jersey Ramsar Management Framework' was published covering the four Jersey Ramsar sites, with the overall aim of outlining management in fulfilment of the requirements of the Ramsar Convention - including requirements to manage each site to maintain its ecological character, and to have procedures in place to detect if any threatening processes are likely to, or have altered, the ecological character of the site. Specific objectives and actions are laid out in five-year management plans for each Ramsar site and which include regular monitoring and adaptive management.

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

XI.1. 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.

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)
	Acoustic recording of Barbastelle bat <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> in Jersey from Jersey Bat Survey (JBatS) monitoring project in 2024 was confirmed by UK bat specialist.		This data has not been published yet, but current species list will be included in the forthcoming Jersey State of Nature report	Barbastelle bat <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> (App II)
	This species was first recorded in Guernsey in the Bailiwick Bat Survey in 2024.		Bailiwick Bat Survey: 2021-2024 Report. BTO Research Report 777	Parti-coloured bat <i>Vespertilio murinus</i> (App II)

Birds

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

	Moved from UK Amber List (2015) to UK Red List (2024). Breeding population moved from VU A2c+3c+4c (2017) to EN A2b+3b+4b (2024) on IUCN Red List for Great Britain.	Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> moved from Amber to Red on the UK Red List, owing to severe population declines of 50% over the 25-year time window.	Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Brown, A., Hearn, R., Lock, L., Musgrove, A., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R. 2015. Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. <i>British Birds</i> 108: 708-746 Stanbury, A., Brown, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Gillings, S., Hearn, R., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R. 2017. The risk of extinction for birds in Great Britain. <i>British Birds</i> 110: 502-517. Stanbury, A.J., Burns, F., Aebischer, N.J., Baker, H., Balmer, D.E., Brown, A., Dunn, T., Lindley, P., Murphy, M., Noble, D.G., Owens, R. and Quinn L. 2024. The status of the UK's breeding seabirds: an addendum to the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. <i>British Birds</i> , 117, pp.471-487.	Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (App II)
	Breeding population moved from EN A2a; C2a(ii) (2017) to CR C2a(ii) (2024) on IUCN Red List for Great Britain.	Roseate tern was initially assessed as EN C2a(ii), but was moved to CR due to the impacts of HPAI.	Stanbury, A., Brown, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Gillings, S., Hearn, R., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R. 2017. The risk of extinction for birds in Great Britain. <i>British Birds</i> 110: 502-517. Stanbury, A.J., Burns, F., Aebischer, N.J., Baker, H., Balmer, D.E., Brown, A., Dunn, T., Lindley, P., Murphy, M., Noble, D.G., Owens, R. and Quinn L. 2024. The status of the UK's breeding seabirds: an addendum to the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. <i>British Birds</i> , 117, pp.471-487.	Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (App II)
	Breeding population moved from NT A2a+3a+4a (2017) to VU A2b (2024) on IUCN Red List for Great Britain.	Common tern was initially assessed as NT A4c, B2b(v), but was moved to VU due to the impacts of HPAI.	Stanbury, A., Brown, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Gillings, S., Hearn, R., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R. 2017. The risk of extinction for birds in Great Britain. <i>British Birds</i> 110: 502-517. Stanbury, A.J., Burns, F., Aebischer, N.J., Baker, H., Balmer, D.E., Brown, A., Dunn, T., Lindley, P., Murphy, M., Noble, D.G., Owens, R. and Quinn L. 2024. The status of the UK's breeding seabirds: an addendum to the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. <i>British Birds</i> , 117, pp.471-487.	Common tern <i>Sterna Hirundo</i> (App II)

Reptiles

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

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Fish

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Critically Endangered		Regional Red List Assessment for GB (Scotland, England, Wales) <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (see: Nunn, A.D., Ainsworth, R.F., Walton, S., Bean, C.W., Hatton-Ellis, T.W., Brown, A. et al. (2023). Extinction risks and threats facing the freshwater fishes of Britain. <i>Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems</i> , 33(12), 1460-1476. https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.4014) the UK Eel Management Plan (see: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6758190df1e6b277c4f79ab6/UK_EMP_2024.pdf)	European eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
	Red-listed in the Isle of Man (first assessment)	Listing based on global status. Davies (2007) & Barry (2010) found the eel populations on the Isle of Man appear healthy. Presence/ absence surveys indicate healthy populations.	Manx Wildlife Trust (2024) Freshwater Fish of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man (FFoCCIoM) https://www.mwt.im/FFoCCIoM	European eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 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**.

No

XII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

No

XII.3. During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolution **12.28 (Rev.COP14)**) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

No

XII.4. Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to enhancing cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach?

E.g. steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways) and Res. **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions 14.130 (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), 14.137 (Flyways), and 14.207 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species).

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

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

- common eider *Somateria mollissima* (Baltic, North & Celtic Seas Population; 2023 -2032)
- Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* (2012-2022; 2023-2032)
- Taiga bean goose *Anser fabilis* (2015-2025)
- Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* (2015-2025)
- Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* (Northwest European population; 2012 - 2022; 2022-2025)
- Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (2008-2018; 2019-2028)
- Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* (2015-2025)
- Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* (2021-2030)

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 implements an International Single Species Management Plan for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/South-west Scotland populations of the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, to sustainably manage populations that cause damage to agriculture. Joint research work with the UK and Iceland is ongoing to better understand the Icelandic greylag goose *Anser anser* population, with a view to developing an ISSAP.

The UK 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 has coordinated the Eurasian curlew International Working Group, and participated in the AEWA joint meetings of the Eurasian curlew and black-tailed godwit International Working Groups in 2023 and 2024.

The UK led a working group of the AEWA Technical Committee to revise and improve implementation of priorities for seabird conservation under AEWA.

The UK is party to Species Action Plans (SAPs) under the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), as follows:

- ASCOBANS Species Action Plan (SAP) for North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)
- ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena* L.) in the North Sea

Through the Convention for the Protection of 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 UK participated in a Task & Finish Group to produce the OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Birds in the North-East Atlantic (2024 - 2030), which recommends actions to reduce or eliminate the main threats to marine birds (including waders, wildfowl and seabirds) in the northeast Atlantic. The UK recently led the development of a Recommendation adopted under the OSPAR Convention in 2024 to better understand and reduce bycatch of marine birds in the OSPAR maritime area. This will provide an added impetus and focus to fill gaps in the monitoring of bycatch in UK waters. The UK is participating in OSPAR work

that is conducting a pilot strategic assessment of cumulative impacts on seabirds in the North Sea. JNCC is a co-leader of a 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/>

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Collaboration with neighbours in the Indian Ocean enhances protection of its ecosystem, ensures compliance with its regulations, and develops enforcement capability. A Darwin Plus project

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00063> worked to improve recording of catch data for mobulid rays, Bailiwick of Jersey:

In 2023, The National Trust for Jersey and the Birds on the Edge project hosted a workshop on the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, attended by experts from the Channel Islands and France, to gather data and plan further monitoring. In 2024 a partnership was launched between Jersey, Guernsey and French governments and a range of non-governmental organisations including the Office Français de la Biodiversité, La Société Guernesaise, Birds on the Edge, La Société Jersiaise, the British Trust for Ornithology, Le Mourier Marine Ltd., the States of Guernsey and the government of Jersey. The primary objective was initially to collect data on the distribution of the Balearic shearwater and other species in Channel Island waters, through boat-based and aerial surveys, but has since.

Cayman Islands:

The Darwin Plus project (DPLUS128; 2021-2024) and the follow-on project (DPLUS207; 2024-2027), both led by RSPB, have been broadened: tackling invasive species (feral cats) on Little Cayman, home of the Booby Pond and Rookery RAMSAR site, which is an important feeding area for migratory heron. As well as removing feral cats, the projects have been working with local agencies and communities to support legislative change, enhance responsible pet management, and increase on-island capacity to implement enhanced biosecurity and invasive mammal suppression, long term.

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS128>

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS207>

XII.5. Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision14.194.

Yes

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 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.

The UK designates internationally important sites for migratory birds as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and these, together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), comprise the UK's contribution to the Bern Convention's Emerald Network. The UK SPA network has been through a series of reviews and the first phase of the Third Network Review, published in 2016, assessed the sufficiency of the network on a species-by-species basis, taking into account range coverage and the need for connectivity between sites. The report on the second phase of this review, published in 2025, sets out detailed advice and options for the designation of new sites, addition of qualifying bird species to existing sites, and reviews of site boundaries. Phase 3 is ongoing and will focus on implementation of the advice and options provided in the Phase 2 report.

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

<https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/5b816ab9-4268-4c48-bdc5-5241e4464d4b>

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 the 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.

The Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs) benefits migratory species, particularly the Landscape Recovery Scheme, which promotes habitat restoration and connectivity across large-scale landscapes, and Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier, which will fund bespoke management for priority habitat and species.

For instance, restoring wetlands and managing riparian corridors under these schemes can significantly aid migratory birds like roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* and Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* by improving breeding and stopover habitats. Hedgerow management and tree planting can also provide essential shelter and foraging opportunities for migratory passerines like willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. By focusing on joined-up habitat networks across farms and landscapes, ELMs creates a more resilient environment for a range of migratory species.

The Nature Recovery Network includes action to create and restore wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones and has resulted in large scale projects which will provide habitat for migratory species. Scotland:

Scotland has established Nature Networks, delivered by NatureScot. Nature Networks connect nature-rich sites, restoration areas, and other environmental projects through a series of areas of suitable habitat, habitat corridors and stepping-stones, with a primary purpose of ecological connectivity. Nature Networks will ensure that sites contributing to Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and other important areas for biodiversity, are well-connected and so provide maximum benefits to biodiversity. Each Local Authority in Scotland will have a spatially defined Nature Network. The core areas in this network, the important areas for biodiversity being connected together, will include all those sites that are contributing towards Target 3 (Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures). In the instance of not meeting the criteria for Target 3, other sites that are of local importance for biodiversity (e.g. Local Nature Reserves and Local Nature Conservation Sites) along with areas being restored for nature, will connect and contribute towards the Nature Networks. The connections between these core areas will be delivered primarily through ecological corridors, and where this is not possible, through 'stepping stones' of suitable habitat.

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

XIII.1. 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 Resolution **Res. 14.16** (Ecological Connectivity) and in “**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. For sharks and rays please refer to <https://sharkrayareas.org>. For marine mammals, please refer to <https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas/>.

Partially - to a large extent

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

>>> Metropolitan UK:

Internationally important sites for migratory birds are identified through the process to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and a network of SPAs has been designated. The network has been through a series of reviews and the first phase of the Third Network Review, published in 2016, assessed the sufficiency of the network on a species-by-species basis. The report on the second phase of this review, published in 2025, sets out detailed advice and options for the designation of new sites, addition of qualifying bird species to existing sites, and reviews of site boundaries. Phase 3 is ongoing and will focus on implementation of the advice and options provided in the Phase 2 report..

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

<https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/5b816ab9-4268-4c48-bdc5-5241e4464d4b>

Sites have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Great Britain and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland for their biological importance, including for migratory species. However, this network represents a sample of nationally important sites and does not include all sites that are nationally important for migratory species. There is an ongoing designations programme to consider further qualifying locations for designation as A/SSSIs.

The total extent of land and sea protected in the UK through national and international protected areas, and through wider landscape designations, has increased by 12 million hectares, from 28.6 million hectares in December 2017 to 40.6 million hectares by March 2024. This increase is almost entirely down to the designation of inshore and offshore marine protected areas. The extent of protected areas on land has increased by 5,564 hectares since 2019. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-c1-protected-areas>

Northern Ireland:

A Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland inshore region was published in 2014, and progress reports were published in 2019 and 2024. No new Marine Conservation Zones were designated in the Northern Ireland inshore region within the latest reporting cycle. A consultation document for a review of the Marine Protected Areas Strategy was published in 2024.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/strategy-marine-protected-areas-northern-ireland-inshore-region>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/report-creation-network-conservation-sites-northern-ireland-inshore-region-progress-toward>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-northern-ireland-marine-protected-areas-mpas-strategy-review>

Scotland:

There are currently 233 sites in the Scottish Marine Protected area network for nature conservation purposes, including those designated for marine mammals, birds, fish and seabed habitats. A Ministerial decision was made in June 2023 not to progress a policy for Highly Protected Marine Areas (HMPAs) in Scotland.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since 2019, three additional Sites of Special Ecological Interest have been designated under the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, representing 19 hectares. These are all coastal sites and include important staging posts for migratory bird species. In addition, six Areas of Special Protection have been designated under the Wildlife (Jersey) 2021 on the offshore reefs of Les Ecréhous and Les Minquiers, in order to protect the nesting activities of seabirds, including common tern *Sterna hirundo* and roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* between February and August of each year.

In 2024, Jersey adopted the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) with key defined purposes including the development of a network of Marine Protected Areas.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/SeaCoast/pages/marinespatialplan.aspx>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Through planning legislation, Guernsey has designated 11 Sites of Special Significance due to their ecological significance, which includes consideration of important sites for terrestrial migratory species, e.g., wetland

birds.

Isle of Man:

Ten marine nature reserves have been designated, with a total area of 430 km² (10.8% of the total area of territorial seas). All reserves are inside three nautical miles, and include 52% of this area. Areas are designated under the Wildlife Act 1990, and include specific conservation features (habitats and species) for designation, including CMS species. Reserves have been included in OSPAR, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) and JNCC databases and maps. Management plans are being developed.

Ascension Island:

Designated 100% of its 445,000km² EEZ as a marine protected area in 2019. A management plan was adopted in 2021. After a review of the protected areas network in 2024, Ascension is now protecting 28% of its land mass. Management plans are available for all protected areas, with annual reviews published on the Ascension government website. <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/conservation/projects>.

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003 effectively designated the entire EEZ as a protected area for whale shark *Rhincodon typus*, humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*, sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus*, European eel *Anguilla anguilla* and all locally occurring sea turtles. Additionally, Bermuda's EEZ was designated a whale sanctuary in 2012 for all cetaceans. In 2022, all sharks, with the exception of *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, *Mustelus caris insularis* and *Hexanchus griseus*, in Bermuda's EEZ were protected from take under the Bermuda Fisheries Act 1972.

British Virgin Islands:

Virgin Islands Fisheries (Protected Species) Order, 2014 provides protected areas for all sharks within the entire 200 nautical mile of the EEZ.

Gibraltar:

Gibraltar has designated the Rock of Gibraltar as a protected area (Emerald Site) and this offers protection for the remaining pairs of lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni* and other migratory species. The Gibraltar Marine Reserve includes the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Marine Protected Area (Emerald Site) which is part of the migratory route for Audouin's gull *Larus audouinii*, Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* and a range of other migratory seabirds. This protected area is also an important feeding and migratory route for sperm whale *Physeter microcephalus* and fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus*, common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, striped dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba* and bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*. A dolphin protection zone was created in 2018 to further enhance conservation measures in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

St Helena:

St Helena's 200 nautical mile maritime zone was designated a Category VI Marine Protected Area in September 2016 and a Marine Management Plan is in place.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

In June 2022 new Specially Protected Areas were designated to cover the entire landmass 3,800 km² of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. 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. Accepting that the isolation of the South Sandwich Islands offers inherent protection to its unique flora and fauna, 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.

Cyprus SBAs:

Qualifying habitats/species have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance and the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance. As part of the planning process, no activity, plan or project is approved if it affects the integrity or the character of an SPA/SAC.

XIII.2. Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the country's protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?

Partly / for some areas

Please provide details:

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 conservation of migratory species.

The "contribution" may relate to those of the identified **Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)** (www.marinemammalhabitat.org) and support to identification of new **Important Shark and Ray areas (ISRAs)** (<https://sharkrayareas.org>).

Regarding Birds of Prey, the "contribution" may relate to the Internationally Important Raptors Sites (relevant to the range of the Raptors MOU, as sites listed in table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU).

(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).

>>> Metropolitan UK:

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 was explored.

Scotland / Northern Ireland:

The Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring Project (MarPAMM) was a collaborative project aiming to improve protection of mobile species and cross-border marine habitats in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The project developed tools for monitoring and managing a number of protected coastal marine environments and collected data on the abundance, distribution and movement of marine protected species and habitats. These data have contributed 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 has produced 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/>.<http://www.mpa-management.eu/>

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The second five-year independent review of the SGSSI Marine Protected Area was undertaken in 2024. This resulted in further enhancement to the MPA, including a substantial expansion of the areas where fishing is prohibited. Longline and trawl fisheries have temporal and spatial restrictions in place to reduce overlap with foraging ranges of albatross, penguins, seals and whales, some of which are CMS App II listed species. New No Take Zones were introduced covering regions identified by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) experts as Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs).

XIII.3. 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")?

Yes

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

>>> Wales:

A new Sustainable Farming Scheme was outlined in 2024, with its launch planned for 2026.

England:

As previously highlighted the 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan> was the first revision of the 25YEP. The government concluded a rapid review of EIP23 and published a statement of the rapid review's key findings on 30 January 2025. The Environmental Plan 2025 will be published later this year.

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.

ELM includes three schemes: the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), Countryside Stewardship (CS) Higher Tier, and Landscape Recovery. The SFI scheme pays farmers and land managers to take up or maintain sustainable farming and land management practices that protect and benefit the environment, support food production, and improve productivity. CS Higher Tier, which will open in 2025, will pay for more targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats, including support for species recovery of specific animals. For example, it will include specific management options to provide nesting plots for northern lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus* and stone curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, and management of wet grassland for waders. The Landscape Recovery Scheme, which has so far held two rounds for applications in 2022 and 2023, pays groups of farmers and land managers to do long-term, large-scale projects to enhance the natural environment, including protected sites and wildlife habitat.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory for major developments in 2024. This is a new process that requires the habitats lost on a development site to be accounted for and losses addressed. Developers are required to provide at least 110% of the biodiversity value found on the site prior to their development. BNG can be delivered either fully or in part through on-site habitat, off-site habitat, or as a last resort, the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits.

Northern Ireland:

Conservation management plans (CMPs) are being developed for 57 terrestrial Special Areas of Conservation. The majority of SAC CMPs have now been completed, and as of March 2025 45 CMPs are available. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f2f05c09be774be99e27c0c9b74a7fd2>

In January 2023, The Marine Protected Areas (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) came into effect, prohibiting mobile bottom towed fishing gear in nine inshore MPAs. Although primarily introduced to protect designated benthic features, this regulation will allow these MPAs to act as refuge areas for tope during migration. Through the DAERA elasmobranch tagging programme, evidence is being gathered on tope movements within Northern Ireland waters to further develop conservation management measures for this species.

Scotland:

Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, adopted in 2023, 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. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

XIII.4. 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?

Yes

Please provide a reference and details on what is covered:

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

Metropolitan UK:

The UK biodiversity indicator <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ukbi-c1-protected-areas> shows trends in extent and condition of protected areas. The proportion of Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs) in favourable condition or in an unfavourable condition but recovering, has increased from 67% in 2005 to 81% in 2024. These results include data from Scotland and Northern Ireland up to 2021, and Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales from 2022 to 2024. Natural England have provided SSSI condition data for 2024 based on the number of features. Historical data for Natural England, based on area assessments, is not comparable and has not been included in this indicator. Site condition is assessed according to JNCC's Common Standards Monitoring framework. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/common-standards-monitoring/>

England:

A 2023 recent review by the Office for Environmental Protection of the implementation of environmental assessment regimes (including those relating to SPAs) in England found that there is a lack of monitoring of 'compliance' monitoring to check that required actions have been taken, or of 'effectiveness' monitoring to ensure those actions have secured expected environmental outcomes.

<https://www.theoep.org.uk/environmental-assessment-regimes-england>

Northern Ireland:

An OEP review published in 2025 that examined how well protected area laws in Northern Ireland are working found that they are ineffective, largely due to a lack of implementation.

<https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/action-urgently-needed-protect-and-restore-northern-irelands-natural-treasures-says-oep>

A further OEP report was published in April 2025, outlining the effectiveness and coherence of the MPA network. The information provided in this assessment suggests that the MPA network in England and Northern Ireland (and across the UK) meets the OSPAR criteria for an ecologically coherent network.

XIII.5. Beyond Protected Areas, are other effective area-based conservation measures implemented in your country in ways which benefit migratory species?

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Metropolitan UK:

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

Scotland:

There are currently no OECMs identified in Scotland, although it is highly likely there are a number of areas that would already broadly meet the CBD/IUCN criteria. NatureScot and Scottish government have invited representatives from a broad range of stakeholders to join an OECM Working Group to develop the criteria for OECMs in Scotland. The aim of this group is to build further on the IUCN's guidance on OECM criteria to adopt this for a Scottish context. The expertise and experience of the Working Group will directly influence and shape the form in which OECMs exist in Scotland.

Wales:

The 30by30 framework for Wales was published in 2025. This outlines criteria for areas reported under Target 3, including for OECMs. <https://www.gov.wales/30by30-framework-wales-html>

Isle of Man:

Temporary closures have been enacted to remove the effects of bottom gear from some areas of offshore mud, whilst research is conducted on the effects of management on biodiversity, fisheries, and carbon sequestration and reserves. The areas are important for Nephrops lobsters, and for brown crabs, that migrate into these deeper waters, seasonally, to incubate their eggs.

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 seabirds 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.

XIV. Ecosystem Services

XIV.1. Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species been undertaken in your country since the last reporting?

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.

Yes

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> Metropolitan UK:

To support CMS Resolution 13.2 Annex 6 (Programme of Work for the Intersessional Period between COP13 and COP14), the UK government (through a contract to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) funded by Defra via JNCC) commissioned a review of the latest evidence on the impacts of climate change on migratory species, with regard also to conservation actions, indicators and ecosystem services. The report was published in 2023.

- Martay, B., Macphie, K.H., Bowgen, K.M., Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Robinson, R.A., Scott, S.E. & Williams, J.M. 2023. Climate change and migratory species: a review of impacts, conservation actions, indicators and ecosystem services. Part 1 – Impacts of climate change on migratory species. JNCC, Peterborough, ISBN 978-0-86139-001-4. <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/9989a5a2-1745-4532-a9f4-92c0c50ca304>

Turks and Caicos Islands:

The Darwin Plus project (DPLUS129; 2021-2024), led by Environment Systems Limited, has provided new evidence on what contributes to the dynamic resilience of the Turks and Caicos Islands’ wetlands, and how they support biodiversity, coastal protection, carbon storage and water security. It evaluated how future climate change could impact the wetlands and provide evidence to aid the review and expansion of their protection under the RAMSAR Convention. <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS129/>

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

XV.1. 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.

Yes

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

Captive breeding and release

Gene typing research

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>> Captive breeding

Scotland:

Scotland is supplying donor stock chicks from the expanding reintroduced population of white-tailed sea-eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* to the Isle of Wight reintroduction project in England under licence.

England:

Natural England, in partnership with the International Centre for Birds of Prey (ICBP), has established 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 were transported to England from France to found the breeding programme. By spring 2024, females had laid 24 eggs, though none were fertile. A release site is being prepared in Wiltshire.

Forestry England, in partnership with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, has reared young white-tailed sea-eagles taken from Scotland and released them on the Isle of Wight as part of a five-year reintroduction programme. The first successful breeding attempt of the new population took place in 2023. 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 sea eagles in Europe.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, RSPB and Pensthorpe Conservation Trust co-lead a successful conservation breeding and reintroduction programme for common crane *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 five 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. Monitoring of the released population continues.

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>> Gene typing research

Metropolitan UK:

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. The UK eradication of ruddy duck is close to completion. The UK ruddy duck population is now thought to number between seven and eleven birds spread across several regions. Many of these are single birds and movement between regions is rare, so the species is likely functionally extinct in most regions of the UK. Monitoring of the population via internet reports, communication from site managers, and site visits continues, as does culling of birds wherever there is a risk of breeding in the future.

Bermuda:

Bermuda petrel – DNA and genetic studies of this species were undertaken in 2019. The genome was fully mapped in 2024 and an advanced genomic population study is presently underway.

eDNA research to identify shark species in Bermuda's waters was undertaken by Global Fingerprint in 2018.

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

XVI.1. 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?

Yes

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

>>> Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss: the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030 (NBSAP) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan> Metropolitan UK: UK Marine Strategy Part 1 – Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-updated-assessment-and-good-environmental-status> UK Marine Strategy Part 2- Monitoring Programmes 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-two-uk-marine-monitoring-programmes> UK Marine Strategy Part 3 – Programme of Measures 2025 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-2025-uk-programme-of-measures> The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy: 2023 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 2024 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> Scotland: Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045/National-Planning-Framework-4> The Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027 <https://www.nature.scot/doc/pollinator-strategy-scotland-2017-2027> Northern Ireland: Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland 2024 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-northern-ireland> Wales: Biodiversity Deep Dive Recommendations 2022 <https://www.gov.wales/biodiversity-deep-dive-recommendations> Welsh National Marine Plan 2019 <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan> Nature Recovery Action Plan <https://www.gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan> UK Overseas Territories: A new UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy is currently in development. Bailiwick of Jersey: Jersey Biodiversity Strategy <https://www.gov.je/Environment/LandMarineWildlife/LegalProtectionSpecies/pages/islandspecies.aspx> Jersey Marine Spatial Plan <https://www.gov.je/Environment/SeaCoast/pages/marinespatialplan.aspx> Bailiwick of Guernsey: Guernsey Strategy for Nature <https://www.gov.gg/strategyfornature> Isle of Man: 'Managing our Natural Wealth, The Isle of Man's First Biodiversity Strategy, 2015-2025'. <https://www.gov.im/biodiversity-strategy-together-with-a-range-of-species-based-biodiversity-action-plans-baps> - <https://www.biosphere.im/our-projects/baps>. 'The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016: Towards a Sustainable Island' <https://pabc.gov.im/strategicplan> Ascension Island: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Ascension Island Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – Ascension Island Government 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 & the South Sandwich Islands: <https://gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SGSSI-NBAP-2016-2020.pdf> <https://gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/NBAP-2016-2020-reveiw.pdf> <https://gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/TPA-management-plan-FINAL-.pdf> <https://gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MPA-Management-Plan-v2.0.pdf> <https://gov.gs/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/GSGSSI-MPA-Review-Workshop-2023-24-Final-Report.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 UK NBSAP for 2030 draws on the commitments made by the UK, the UK Overseas Territories, and Crown Dependencies to summarise and emphasise the UK's collective ambition and determination to work together

to address biodiversity loss. The UK NBSAP commits the UK to achieving all 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Benefits to UK's migratory species will be achieved through achievement of the GBF targets.

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>.

The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy: 2023 to 2030 covers invasive non-native species (INNS) in the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments and also species native to one part of a country that become invasive in areas outside their natural range. The overarching aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk of introduction and establishment and reduce the negative impacts of INNS in Great Britain through a strong partnership approach. This Strategy follows the CBD hierarchical approach, which emphasises prevention, followed by early detection and rapid response, and finally long-term management and control. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-great-britain-invasive-non-native-species-strategy>

England:

Four legally binding targets for biodiversity have been set: 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. The plan to deliver on these targets, along with other environmental targets and outcomes, will be published later this year in the revised Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP25).

The Nature Recovery Network includes action to create and restore wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones and has resulted in large scale projects which will provide habitat for migratory species.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network>

Scotland:

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 sets out Scotland's ambition for Scotland to be Nature Positive by 2030, and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045/>

The Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027 addresses the causes of decline in populations, diversity and range of pollinator species, and aims to help them thrive. Common bumble bee species such as *Bombus terrestris*, *B. lucorum* and *B. ruderatus* are frequent migrators, and other species such as *B. lapidarius*, *B. hypnorum*, *B. pratorum* and *B. pascuorum* have occasionally displayed migratory behaviour.

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/pollinator-strategy-scotland-2017-2027>

Northern Ireland:

The Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland 2024 provides a coherent response to the global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss and the opportunity to align the actions and measures needed to address biodiversity and climate simultaneously. One of its objectives is 'Thriving, resilient and connected nature and wildlife'. <https://www.ireland-ni.gov.uk/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-northern-ireland>

Isle of Man:

The Biodiversity Strategy includes migratory species issues. Species and habitat action plans have been published and continue to be written and agreed by a BAP Leaders' Group, based on the work of habitat and taxon groups. BAPs have been produced for beach nesting birds, bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*, common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus*, and seals.

<https://www.biosphere.im/our-projects/baps>

Section 7.8 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 addresses Wildlife and Nature Conservation. Paragraph 7.8.3 refers to CMS.

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>.

One of the priority topics of the Marine Spatial Plan is the natural environment and biodiversity, with the defined aim that 'the natural environment is restored and biodiversity is thriving'. Explicit recognition is made of migratory species (marine mammals and birds) and of the need to focus on the designation of Areas of Special Protection plus public education regarding appropriate behaviours around wildlife.

<https://www.gov.je/Environment/SeaCoast/pages/marinespatialplan.aspx#anchor-1>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Convention on Migratory Species is listed as an international commitment within the Strategy for Nature, which states that it coordinates the delivery of Guernsey's commitments to the Convention. Objectives of the strategy include 'Ensure an integrated, broad-scale approach to the conservation and management of our nature', 'Maximise the diversity of species and ecosystems', and 'Reduce pressures on nature and ensure the resilience of our natural capital and assets'.

Ascension Island:

The Ascension Island Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan identifies that CMS has been extended to Ascension Island. Strategic objectives of the plan include meeting Ascension's obligations under multilateral agreements.

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Biodiversity Action Plan 2003 does not contain specific items on migratory species. The plan does include regional cooperation under Objective A, and corridors for movement, and activities related to migratory species are reported in the NBSAP implementation reports available at <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.

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The Convention on Migratory Species is listed as an international commitment within the Strategy for Nature, which states that it coordinates the delivery of GSGSSI's commitments to the Convention. The overall vision is stated as "To work in partnership with experts and stakeholders in the UK and the rest of the world to conserve the biodiversity and ecosystem function of the South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands' environment for the benefit of all human kind, and to facilitate responsible access, ensuring that the Territory remains at the forefront of cutting-edge environmental management best practice".

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

>>> England:

The Environment Act 2021 requires that annual progress reports are published to describe what has been done to implement the Environmental Improvement Plan. The 2023-2024 annual progress report was published in July 2024. This shows mixed progress, with improvements in some areas and deterioration in others. For the apex goal of 'thriving plants and wildlife' there is a legally binding target to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030 and the latest data show potential progress towards this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-annual-progress-report-2023-to-2024/environmental-improvement-plan-annual-progress-report-2023-to-2024>

Isle of Man:

Reporting can be found at <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/ecosystem-policy-team/wildlife-biodiversity-and-protected-sites/biodiversity-strategy-and-delivery-plan/>

Ascension Island:

The main mechanism for implementing Ascension's commitment to migratory species is through listing CMS species under the Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 2013. This legislation makes it an offence to wilfully kill, take, trade or molest any protected species or wildlife products. Species from Appendix I and II that occur in Ascension are listed.

Bermuda:

Implementation of the Bermuda Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (BSAP) <https://environment.bm/bap-implementation>.

Falkland Islands:

A progress report for the Environment Strategy was published in 2022.

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

A progress report was published in 2021: Biodiversity Action Plan for South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands 2016-2020 – Review of Progress.

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

In the absence of a national definition of 'indigenous and local communities', please refer to the Convention on Biological Diversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"** for helpful guidance on these terms.

XVII.1. 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?

Not applicable

XVII.2. 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?

Not applicable

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 on Biological Diversity 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

XVIII.1 During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in the area of knowledge, data and capacity building? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

XVIII.2 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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions 14.130/14.131 (AEMLAP), 14.134 (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), 14.148-14.151 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Decisions 14.207-14.208 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), and 14.182 (Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife).

Education campaigns in schools

>>> Education campaigns in schools

Metropolitan UK:

The UK government is moving ahead with a new general certificate of secondary education (GCSE) in natural history. This qualification will equip young people to understand and respect the natural world and contribute to the protection and conservation of the environment locally, nationally and internationally.

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 engage with schools, running workshops and sessions which highlight the threats and pressures faced by migratory species. For example, the Wildlife Trusts offer school visits to nature reserves as well as lessons at schools. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/learning>

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Two local environmental charities, La Societe Guernesiaise and the Guernsey Nature Commission, undertake work in schools to deliver an Environmental Educational Programme. The Nature Commission has also hosted a Bioblitz annually to which all year 5 students are invited.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> Public awareness campaigns

Metropolitan UK:

The 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. The scheme involves capacity building via direct training. Public awareness is seen as crucial to this scheme 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 partner websites.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/volunteer-seabirds-at-sea-surveys/>.

Isle of Man:

Public awareness raising via Manx Wildlife Week, coordinated by Manx National Heritage, and Invasive Species Week, organised by the British Irish Council.

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 Darwin Plus-supported project "Adopt a Home for Wildlife" (<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS155/>, 2021-2024). 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, and running until 2023. This has resulted in a manifold increase in local biological records. It forms part of the "Hidden Histories" programme of Natural Environment Research Council

(NERC) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Knowledge and data sharing initiatives

Metropolitan UK:

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 British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) on the monitoring and conservation of migratory birds, including sharing of data and information on specific scientific topics. The main schemes to monitor the abundance of migratory land and water birds in the UK are as follows:

- Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) - BTO, JNCC, 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>

For a number of scarce UK breeding species not well monitored by RBBP but too scarce to be monitored by BBS, trends are calculated from comparison of population sizes derived from national surveys undertaken through the Statutory Conservation Agency/RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Scheme (SCARABBS) now replaced by the Scarce Breeding Birds Survey through the UK Bird Monitoring Framework Group.

The BTO, 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.

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. These data have been used in the latest OSPAR assessment of the North east Atlantic and in UK Marine Strategy assessments.

<https://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/Biodiversity.aspx>

Scotland:

The Scottish government's marine 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 Man:

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 (MBRP). The Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture (DEFA) supports the MBRP via a contract with Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT), which provides a data manager, and DEFA and Manx National Heritage support the connection to the NBN Atlas website, through which MBRP records can be viewed. <https://isleofman.nbnatlas.org/biodiversity-and-the-isle-of-man/>

DEFA supports (via a multi-annual service level agreement) the Small Shark Tagging programme on the Isle of Man, which is conducted by MWT. MWT engage with recreational anglers and charter boat operators to tag and record small sharks in Manx waters, and also undertake training for anglers to participate. Several Manx-tagged sharks have been recovered off the Netherlands, France and in the Bay of Biscay, indicating the migratory nature of these species.

Annual reports are provided: <https://www.mwt.im/citizen-science/shark-tagging>

DEFA supports (via a multi-annual service level agreement) the Marine Mammal Strandings programme on the Isle of Man, conducted by the MWT. The data collected is supplied to the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP). The strandings reporting and attendance is supported by a public volunteer (social-media based) network coordinated by MWT. While many of the strandings are local and resident, there are many records of migratory species, for example, a Cuvier's beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris*, for which mitochondrial genome sequencing confirmed identification and initial DNA barcode comparison indicated similarity to a whale stranded in Brittany in 2009 (Genbank Accession code PQ164987). Annual reports are provided: <https://www.mwt.im/strandings>

DEFA supports work conducted by the Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch (MWDW; a local eNGO Charity) which collates public sightings data on various migratory species, including basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*, and various cetacean species (including Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus*, bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* and common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, and whales). They also conduct their own land and sea-based survey programmes. Data collected include location and images that enable MWDW to link individual animal sightings to other locations via other organisations' ID catalogues. Public sightings reporting for basking shark and cetaceans: <https://mwdw.net/>. Annual reports are provided: <https://mwdw.net/reports-and-publications/>.
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/>.

In 2023, The National Trust for Jersey and the Birds on the Edge project hosted a workshop on the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, attended by experts from the Channel Islands and France, to gather data and plan further monitoring. A partnership involving the Office Français de la Biodiversité, La Société Guernesaise, Birds on the Edge, La Société Jersiaise, the British Trust for Ornithology, Le Mourier Marine Ltd., the States of Guernsey and the Government of Jersey has collected data on the distribution of the Balearic shearwater and other species in Channel Island waters, through boat-based and aerial surveys.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Following the publication of the State of Nature report in 2024, the Guernsey Nature Commission has undertaken an exercise to identify notable data gaps and is working with local stakeholders to develop a comprehensive monitoring programme to address those gaps.

The CiRecord partnership collates, verifies, and manages biological records from across the Channel Islands, allowing users to submit, view and download species records from Alderney, Guernsey (including Herm & Jethou) and Sark. The partnership aims to improve regional capability and modernise recording schemes, implementing a new system based on the Indicia toolbox as used by national recording schemes such as iRecord and the NBN Atlas. This will improve the impact of data on wider scientific research and conservation efforts. Data will be shared between the Alderney Biodiversity Centre, Guernsey Biological Records Centre and Le Société Sercquaise, and the partnership will work closely with the Jersey Biodiversity Centre.

<https://guernsey.jerseybiodiversitycentre.org.je/>

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

Metropolitan UK:

The National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project, which ran from 2014 to 2023, sought to improve understanding of the ecology, current status and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelles *Pipistrellus nathusii* in Great Britain. The project aimed to determine the resident and breeding status and the migratory origins of Nathusius' pipistrelle 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 internationally important breeding seabird species at coastal and inland colonies across the UK. The latest results from the Seabird Monitoring Programme (Seabird Population Trends and Causes of Change: 1986–2023, the annual report of the Seabird Monitoring Programme) were published on 21 November 2024. <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/smp-reports/Wales>:

For many native and non-native non-breeding waterbirds, annual Welsh trend information comes from the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/wetland-bird-survey> and the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (GSMP) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/goose-and-swan-monitoring-programme/about-gsmp> which provide annual trends for most wildfowl from 1966/67 onwards and for waders from 1974/75 onwards.

For a number of scarce Welsh breeding species not well monitored by RBBP but too scarce to be monitored by BBS, trends are calculated from comparison of population sizes derived from national surveys undertaken through the Statutory Conservation Agency/RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Scheme (SCARABBS) now replaced by the Scarce Breeding Birds Survey through the UK Bird Monitoring Framework Group

The Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS) <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/predatory-bird-monitoring-scheme> is a long-term, national monitoring scheme that quantifies the concentrations of contaminants in the livers and eggs of selected species of predatory birds in Britain.

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>

Considerable research by non-governmental organisations 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 a suite of species including turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, beach-nesting birds and the impacts of HPAI in recent years. GWCT has studied the origins and migration patterns of wintering Eurasian woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* in the

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 British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) and the Waterfowlers' Network in collaboration with academics led Project Penelope (2021-2024), an international project aiming to track Eurasian wigeon *Anas penelope* through the annual cycle through the deployment of 6,000 metal rings, 4,000 colour rings and 115 GPS tracking harnesses. 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/waterfowlers-network/our-projects/project-penelope/>

<https://www.waterfowlersnetwork.com/2205>

Scotland:

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 - there are a few sites around Scotland. <https://seapop.no/en/seatrack/>

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. Evidence maps have been produced to identify the evidence gaps when assessing the impacts of offshore renewable developments on receptor groups including birds, marine mammals and fish. The evidence maps help guide ScotMER research projects but also provide a platform to communicate needs to a broader stakeholder community and facilitate collaborative research opportunities.

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

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) 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.

<https://www.masts.ac.uk/>

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 current understanding of pressures facing marine mammals in Scottish waters. <https://strandings.org/>

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/>

Wales:

For many native and non-native non-breeding waterbirds, annual Welsh trend information comes from the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/wetland-bird-survey> and the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (GSMP) <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/goose-and-swan-monitoring-programme/about-gsmp> which provide annual trends for most wildfowl from 1966/67 onwards and for waders from 1974/75 onwards.

For a number of scarce Welsh breeding species not well monitored by RBBP but too scarce to be monitored by BBS, trends are calculated from comparison of population sizes derived from national surveys undertaken through the Statutory Conservation Agency/RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Scheme (SCARABBS) now replaced by the Scarce Breeding Birds Survey through the UK Bird Monitoring Framework Group.

The Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS) <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/predatory-bird-monitoring-scheme> is a long-term, national monitoring scheme that quantifies the concentrations of contaminants in the livers and eggs of selected species of predatory birds in Britain.

Bailiwick of Guernsey, Bailiwick of Jersey

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

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Bailiwick Bat Survey utilised citizen science to monitor bat populations in Guernsey, Sark, Alderney and Herm from 2021 to 2024. In addition to capturing data on bat activity across the Bailiwick, the survey has also been very successful in spreading awareness of bats and engaging volunteers. The survey was run in partnership with UK researchers and local charities and used modern technology to collect the data, as well as feeding into species acoustic classification systems to improve automated species identification.

In collaboration with the French Office for Biodiversity and the Government of Jersey, boat based transects were undertaken monthly from June to October in 2024 and are being repeated throughout 2025. These surveys are undertaken using the VSAS methodology and provide rigorous and robust sightings data on

seabirds, marine mammals and other notable species (e.g., basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus* and Sunfish).

Falkland Islands:

Islanders encourage and help fund research into CMS species including Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* and albatrosses. The Falkland Islands government also supports an annual seabird monitoring program which has been operational for 30 years.

The Darwin Plus-funded project, 'Climate change resilience in Falkland Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems' (<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS148/>, 2021-2024), led by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) in partnership with the Shallow Marine Surveys Group, Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association, British Antarctic Survey, Oregon state University and Falkland Islands government, has collated baseline information on marine species' trophic and migration patterns in the Falkland Islands waters. This has informed the creation of an ecosystem model, which recreates the Falklands food web to understand ecosystem structure, major energy flow pathways, and effects of environmental change.

The Environment Department oversees the selection and distribution of the Environmental Studies Budget grant scheme, which aims to help Falkland Islanders promote, conserve, and protect globally significant biodiversity and the natural environment, much of which is migratory. Projects undertaken over the past two years have included research and monitoring of migratory species such as southern rockhopper penguins.

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environmental-studies-budget>

Montserrat:

A Darwin Plus-funded project, 'Identifying cetacean species in Montserrat by establishing a hydrophone network' (<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00091/>, 2024-2025), led by the non-profit organisation Island Solutions Inc. in partnership with the Government of Montserrat, aims to establish a hydrophone network around the island to capture audio recordings of migratory humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* and other cetaceans. Photo documentation will also be gathered to identify migratory whales. This data will provide an accurate record of the cetacean biodiversity in Montserrat waters.

Results from satellite tracking of green and hawksbill turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*) carried out by a Darwin Plus-funded project, 'A Marine Turtle Action Plan for Montserrat'

(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS106/>, 2020-2023), led by the University of Exeter in partnership with the Marine Conservation Society and Government of Montserrat, was published in the journal *Endangered Species Research* in 2024. The published study found that sea turtles that nest in Montserrat migrate and feed in the waters of multiple Caribbean countries and territories, highlighting the need for international conservation efforts.

South Georgia & the 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). 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 the Darwin Plus funded project, 'Hungry humpbacks: measuring seasonal foraging intensity at South Georgia' (<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS188/>, 2023-2025), led by the British Antarctic Survey, which is measuring how whale foraging intensity varies across the feeding season, and the 'Wild Water Whales Acoustic Recovery Project' (2022-2024), which has used underwater sound recorders to study whales.

ACAP-listed wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) and white-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) are routinely bycaught in commercial fisheries outside SGSSI. Understanding the at-sea distribution and fisheries overlap of these species are key goals of the GSGSSI ACAP Action Plan and the MPA Research and Monitoring Plan. In 2022, wandering albatross and white-chinned petrel populations at multiple locations on South Georgia were tracked to determine inter-colony variation in at-sea foraging distributions so as to understand and mitigate bycatch risk, and focus management at appropriate spatial and temporal scales. The project <https://www.bas.ac.uk/project/spatial-segregation-of-seabirds-at-south-georgia/>, was funded by DPLUS, GSGSSI and the Friends of South Georgia Island. In 2023/24 an archipelago wide survey of wandering albatross, black-browed albatross and grey headed albatross was undertaken to update population trend data and monitor the impacts of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

XVIII.3 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)

No assistance required

XIX. Resource Mobilization

XIX.1 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.

- Yes, made available for activities within the country
- Yes, made available for activities in one or more other countries

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

- Increased

XIX.2. During the reporting period, has your country received financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

- Yes

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

- Other intergovernmental programme
- Non-governmental organization(s)
- Individual country governments/government agencies (please specify)

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

- Unknown

XIX.3. 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.

>>> Bailiwick of Jersey:

Ensuring that the conservation of migratory species is duly considered, particularly in the adoption of renewable energies such as solar power and offshore wind turbines.

Implementing the biodiversity duty provisions contained within the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021.

Cyprus SBAs:

Designated site management and protection.

Condition monitoring of habitats/species.

Pitcairn:

Support for RSPB rat eradication programme.