



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):

>>> 1. New Zealand has collaborated with a large number of range states to prepare CMS listing proposals for all threatened gadfly petrels and flesh-footed shearwaters. Most of these species are not currently covered under any international instrument and their threats are poorly understood. They require immediate action to improve their conservation status. International cooperation and support will be critical to their future survival.

2. Tracking studies of migratory seabirds (including Appendix I and II species) has been expanded across new species, age classes and breeding sites to build a more comprehensive understanding of the migration and foraging behaviour of New Zealand’s seabirds and where they might be exposed to current and future threats at-sea.

3. There is increasing involvement of community groups, general public, iwi and imi (tribal authorities) in collaboration with national and regional government to tackle the data gaps for many migratory species. There is increasing use of mobile apps and online tools for reporting sightings of species and also reporting any incidents affecting species.

4. New Zealand hosted the 8th Meeting of Parties (MOP8) of the Agreement of the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in Dunedin, where Parties agreed a New Zealand-led Resolution which declared an ongoing conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels due to fisheries bycatch and reaffirmed actions to support greater uptake of ACAP best practice advice for bycatch mitigation.

5. New Zealand is leading work through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ocean and Fisheries Working Group to promote greater awareness of seabird conservation and the threat of fisheries bycatch. This includes a collaborative initiative led by Department of Conservation and the Southern Seabirds Trust to develop the Seabird Smart Fishing Toolkit - an interactive website designed to help fishing companies, especially those operating on the high seas, to reduce seabird bycatch and protect vulnerable species like albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters.

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

>>> 1. Fisheries bycatch continues to be one of the most significant threats to New Zealand’s migratory species. Whilst a range of measures have been developed to continue to address bycatch within New Zealand waters, there are substantial concerns posed by global fisheries bycatch across the migratory pathways of these species.

2. Lack of membership in the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) by key east Asian countries that are Range States for many of New Zealand’s most threatened migratory birds creates challenges. We have worked to find other avenues for cooperation, e.g. bilaterally and through international and regional instruments such as the East Asian-Australian Flyway Partnership.

3. New Zealand has a small human population (5.3 million people) and a very large marine area (4.3 million square kilometres) which is 15 times bigger than the land area. All of New Zealand’s CMS-listed species are marine species (seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, sharks, rays and turtles). Building up an understanding of current distribution, population changes and impacts of pressures such as fisheries bycatch and climate change is difficult with the available resources and lack of capacity to monitor such a large area.

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

>>> 1. The CMS-listed species that occur in New Zealand migrate across the Pacific, Indian, South Atlantic and Southern Oceans, occurring across 60% of the Earth’s surface area. We cannot protect our endemic species without the support of international partners. CMS is a critical Convention for New Zealand to ensure we meet our Biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity. International cooperation, tackling old and new problems together, is essential and this is why New Zealand is reaching out with new listing proposals and building international relationships to help secure the future for our migratory species.

2. Securing agreement at COP15 to list gadfly petrels and flesh-footed shearwaters on CMS Appendices.

3. Ongoing cooperation to address global fisheries bycatch risks. For example, Antipodean albatross are considered most at risk in waters outside New Zealand’s jurisdiction.

4. Encouraging non-Parties to join CMS, particularly those that are Range States for New Zealand’s most

threatened migratory species.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party

>>> New Zealand

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

>>> 01102000

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau

Report compiler

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II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.

[Appendix II New Zealand 2025.xlsx](#)

Asian Dowitcher / Limnodromus semipalmatus

Select occurrence of Asian Dowitcher / Limnodromus semipalmatus

Occurrence uncertain

Provide evidence (optional)

>>> The Asiatic dowitcher has been recorded six times in New Zealand, with sight records from the Avon-Heathcote estuary, Christchurch (August-September 1985); Firth of Thames (February-May 1987); Farewell Spit (January 1988); Maketu estuary (November 1998), Ohiwa Harbour (October-December 2002), and Motueka Sandspit (December 2016 to February 2017). All records in New Zealand have been of single birds on estuaries, usually associating with bar-tailed godwits.

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

[Asiatic dowitcher | New Zealand Birds Online](#)

Remark (optional)

>>> The Asiatic dowitcher is a very rare vagrant in New Zealand with only 6 records since 1950 when systematic record keeping began for rare birds. The species does not have a cyclical and/or predictable occurrence in New Zealand. Latham’s snipe is an uncommon visitor to New Zealand but occurs here often enough for New Zealand to be considered a range state, The species is very cryptic (hiding in dense wetland vegetation around lakes, swamps and estuaries). Many migrants are likely to be overlooked. All the other species on the species list for New Zealand occur in New Zealand annually. Banded dotterels are an endemic New Zealand breeding species, but a significant portion do regularly migrate to Australia and New Caledonia.

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.

>> New legislation:

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 - The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. The Act allows for a "Wildlife Approval" to be granted (under Schedule 7 of the Act). This is approval for an act or omission that would otherwise be an offence under the Wildlife Act 1953, including to "take" wildlife, consistent with the definition of CMS. In assessing an application for a Wildlife Approval, an advisory panel must take into account effects of the project on the protected wildlife and any relevant international conservation agreement such as CMS.

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

[Fast-track Approvals Act 2024](#)

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?

No

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.

>>> Communication, Information and Outreach Plan

- Every year, the Department of Conservation organises a range of activities during Conservation Week. Events are held throughout the country to raise general awareness of conservation issues. A number of activities are species-focused.
- Royal Cam is a 24/7 livestream hosted on the Department of Conservation website and the Cornell Lab's global network of live bird cams. Each season it broadcasts a chosen Royal Albatross chick's journey from egg to fledgling, providing insight into the behaviour of these special birds and the work that goes into conserving them at the Pukekura/Taiaroa Head colony near Dunedin.
- Radio New Zealand's "Critter of the Week" radio show that sometimes features migratory species
- World Wetlands Day promotion and resources for nationwide events
- Seaweek - a national week of celebration of our marine environment
- The Department of Conservation website hosts information and reports on the Conservation Services Programme funded projects to understand and help mitigate the impacts of commercial fishing on seabirds, marine mammals, sharks and turtles
- The Department of Conservation also hosts an Estuaries website to identify knowledge and information relating to sites that migratory birds use in New Zealand.
- Community groups host the arrival of the godwits events in October each year and departure of the godwits in Autumn each year. Leaders in this are Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust and Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary Trust.
- In Kaikoura, the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust hosts an annual event to farewell the departure of Hutton's shearwaters from the nearby mountains for the winter.
- A working group has been set up with a range of stakeholders (universities, bird rescue volunteers, Department of Conservation, Regional Councils and NGO's Southern Seabirds Trust and Live Ocean) to promote research, advocacy and public awareness campaigns about the impacts of artificial lights at night on seabirds. The plan is to promote the message around light attraction impacts on migratory seabirds in March 2026 to coincide with the gadfly petrel listing proposal being agreed at COP15.
- During World Albatross Day, the Department of Conservation, in collaboration with the Agreement on the

Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), raises awareness for large migratory seabirds and their threats annually.

- There has been an increase in public awareness efforts for green sea turtles in New Zealand largely through a satellite tagging project by the Department of Conservation, Auckland Zoo and SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's, and iwi (tribes) Ngāi Takoto and Ngāti Kahu.
- Environmental NGOs like WWF-New Zealand have run research, advocacy and conservation programmes on sharks and rays, migrating whales, seabirds and marine turtles.
- The Seabird Smart Awards are a biennial initiative by the Southern Seabirds Trust, designed to celebrate individuals—especially fishers—who demonstrate exceptional commitment to protecting New Zealand's seabirds from fishing-related harm.
- New Zealand ran an online Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Industry roundtable to enable wide stakeholder input into the development of the Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit, which included a total of 73 people from ten APEC economies: Australia; People's Republic of China; Japan; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and USA.
- The Seabird Smart Fishing Toolkit is a collaborative initiative led by New Zealand's Department of Conservation and the Southern Seabirds Trust being developed by the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group. The Toolkit is an interactive website designed to help fishing companies—especially those operating on the high seas—to reduce seabird bycatch and protect vulnerable species like albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters.
- Educational platforms like Twinkl provided teaching materials, lesson packs, and migration-themed activities for schools to help students understand the significance of migratory birds and their journeys.
- New Zealand has undertaken significant publicity and outreach regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), including setting up a hotline for members of the public to contact should they encounter suspicious wildlife deaths. Fortunately, the disease has not yet reached New Zealand.

World Migratory Bird Day -

New Zealand has used social media, blog posts, webinars, and press releases during World Migratory Bird Day to highlight and raise awareness for migratory birds annually.

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

[Educational platforms - Twinkl](#) - World Migratory Bird Day educational material for school children

[Seabird Smart Fishing Toolkit](#)

[http://](#)

[Department of Conservation Estuaries website](#)

[Department of Conservation Conservation Services Programme](#) - Information and reports on projects to understand and help mitigate the impacts of commercial fishing on seabirds, marine mammals, sharks and turtles

[Royal Cam](#) - 24/7 livestream of a Royal Albatross chick's journey from egg to fledgling

[Radio New Zealand's "Critter of the Week" radio show](#)

[World Wetlands Day promotion and resources](#)

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.

2. Small impact

V.4. Please identify the main form(s) of evidence that has/have been used to make this assessment.

>>> • On 20 May 2025, the New Zealand Embassy in Seoul co-hosted a World Migratory Bird Day reception with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). The event brought together diplomats, scientists, and conservationists to celebrate the theme: "Shared Spaces - Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities".

• Educational platforms like Twinkl provided teaching materials, lesson packs, and migration-themed activities for schools to help students understand the significance of migratory birds and their journeys, with a focus on World Migratory Bird Day.

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.

>>> • Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 is New Zealand’s national biodiversity strategy under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy sets out a strategic framework for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly indigenous biodiversity, in New Zealand, from 2020 to 2050. The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 Implementation Plan, launched in April 2022, is a stocktake of actions under way or planned that contribute to the Strategy’s objectives. The latest progress report on the Implementation Plan was published in 2024. The draft implementation plan for 2025-2030 is currently under development.

- The National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) under the Resource Management Act came into force in late 2023. It sets out a range of regulated measures clarifying how local authorities/councils should protect and maintain biodiversity. The NPSIB fills a significant gap in the way we manage our biodiversity across public and private terrestrial and wetland ecosystems, and strengthens management of biodiversity on private land where many of our threatened species, habitats, and ecosystems are found. The NPSIB specifically sets out a methodology for identifying and protecting ‘significant natural areas’ including habitat for threatened species. It also contains provisions to provide for “Highly Mobile Species” which include some of New Zealand’s Appendix II species.

- The National Plan of Action – Seabirds 2020 (NPOA Seabirds 2020) aims to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds in fisheries. It outlines the New Zealand Government’s ongoing commitment to reducing bycatch of seabirds in our fisheries. The NPOA-Seabirds is currently under review.

- The National Plan of Action Sharks 2013 (NPOA Sharks 2013) sets out goals and objectives for the conservation and management of sharks caught in New Zealand fisheries waters. In 2022, the NPOA sharks was reviewed, and a draft updated plan was developed. However, the 2013 iteration of the NPOA-Sharks remains the current version in effect.

- The 2021 Living Standards Framework is a high-level framework to understand the drivers of wellbeing for New Zealanders, including in relation to our natural environment, to inform government policy advice.

- Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand aim to help monitor progress around social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of New Zealanders. It includes a suite of environmental indicators that track: Biodiversity health; Land and freshwater quality; Marine ecosystems; and Climate change impacts. These indicators provide a data-driven foundation for understanding the pressures on habitats that migratory species rely on—such as wetlands, estuaries, and coastal zones. This work supports many cross-government initiatives and international reporting requirements, including the Living Standards Framework and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

- New Zealand’s International Seabird Strategy (Rautaki Manu Moana) sets the strategic direction for the New Zealand Government (primarily Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) to implement its international seabird conservation commitments by addressing threats, primarily fisheries bycatch, and working with other countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to improve mitigation, monitoring, and seabird population knowledge. The strategy aims to protect New Zealand’s unique seabird populations, many of which migrate beyond New Zealand where they are vulnerable to fishing gear.

Conservation of New Zealand’s biodiversity, including our migratory species like seabirds also features in regional strategies and planning processes, for example:

- Regional Coastal Plan: Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands - explicitly addresses migratory species such as seabirds which breed on these islands. It contains objectives, policies and methods including rules, which establish the framework within which certain uses are permitted and proposals for activities can be assessed. Issues included in the Plan are: strict biosecurity controls to prevent invasive species; anchoring and fuel restrictions to reduce pollution and disturbance; and access limitations to sensitive areas to protect nesting and feeding sites.

- Otago Regional Council’s Biodiversity Strategy - (currently under review) sets out regional outcomes and work programmes to enhance indigenous biodiversity. The associated Biodiversity Action Plan includes active management such as pest control, habitat restoration, and regional leadership in biodiversity coordination.

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

[Otago Regional Council’s Biodiversity Strategy](#)

[Regional Coastal Plan: Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands](#)

[International Seabird Strategy](#)

Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa - Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand

The 2021 Living Standards Framework

Review of NPOA Sharks 2013: Progress against Objectives and Actions

The National Plan of Action – Seabirds 2020 (NPOA Seabirds 2020)

National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)

TE MANA O TE TAIAO AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT for the year ended 30 June 2024

TE MANA O TE TAIAO AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2020

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:

>>> The values of migratory species and their habitats feature in the following national reports that were compiled by New Zealand during the 2023-2025 intersessional period:

- Our Environment 2025 – part of NZ’s national environmental reporting series, provides an overall picture of New Zealand’s environment across the marine, freshwater, atmosphere and climate, land, and air domains.
- New Zealand’s National Report on the Implementation of the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, 2025
- Conservation status of marine mammals in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2024. New Zealand Threat Classification Series.
- New Zealand reports annually to the IWC on a variety of things related to cetaceans, including euthanasia, bycatch, and research programmes.
- New Zealand reports regularly to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including on migratory species as relevant, such as sharks and turtles.

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

[Conservation status of marine mammals in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2024](#)

[New Zealand’s National Report on the Implementation of the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, 2025](#)

[Our Environment 2025](#)

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.

>>> There are a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in conservation of migratory species in New Zealand. They include:

- Forest & Bird (The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society) - advocacy and habitat protection - Birdlife International partner in New Zealand
- Northern Seabird Trust – advocacy and research, management of species; prepared a practical guide showing how communities and Māori can restore seabirds to mainland New Zealand as more areas become predator free - it covers restoration techniques, protection, monitoring, and benefits for people and ecosystems.
- Southern Seabird Trust - mitigation of impacts of commercial fishing on seabirds
- WWF - advocacy and habitat protection
- Greenpeace – advocacy
- ECO - advocacy and networking
- Chatham Island Taiko Trust – advocacy and protection, management of species.
- Auckland Museum – seabird research
- Massey University (Albany), University of Auckland, and University of Otago – cetacean research
- Project Jonah – whale stranding response
- University of Auckland – research (seabirds; white shark, blue shark; cetaceans - including the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium, New Zealand cetacean tissue collection, ship strike in Hauraki Gulf – Ports of Auckland voluntary protocol)
- Pūkoro Miramira Naturalists Trust – Advocacy and education on migratory shorebirds and management of a wetland site of significance to migratory shorebird species. Research into the distribution of key habitats of migratory birds in DPR Korea. Research and monitoring of sites and Species in the East Asian-Australian Flyway. Promotion of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness activity in the East-Asian Australian Flyway Partnership strategy. Details of current research projects can be found at <https://shorebirds.org.nz/shorebird-research-at-pukorokoro>

- Birds New Zealand – Research, monitoring and networking. Birds New Zealand maintain the national wader population database. Birds New Zealand are funding, through their primary sponsor T-GEAR Charitable Trust, a major GPS satellite tracking project of eastern bar-tailed godwit. The project will commence this summer. Partners include Birdlife Canada, Global Flyway Network, Massey University and Miranda Naturalists Trust.
 - Avon Heathcote Ihutai Trust – promote the understanding and conservation of the Avon Heathcote estuary at Christchurch. They support multi agency cooperation and host community events to celebrate the international migrants which summer over at this site.
 - University of Canterbury – research
 - Massey University (Dr Phil Battley) – migratory shorebird research
 - Victoria University (Dr. Billy van Uitregt) - building Indigenous perspectives into migratory shorebirds through research, art, and connection
 - Auckland University of Technology - research
 - International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) – advocacy
 - Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) – advocacy, research, education, conservation
 - World Animal Protection (formerly WSPA) – advocacy
 - Manta Watch NZ – satellite tagging and biopsy of oceanic manta rays in collaboration the Department of Conservation, Conservation International and Reshark
 - Reshark – satellite tagging and biopsy of oceanic manta rays in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Manta Watch NZ
 - Conservation International - satellite tagging great white sharks and oceanic manta rays in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Manta Watch NZ
 - Auckland Zoo's – New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine (NZCCM) provides front line veterinary care for all protected sea turtle species in New Zealand
 - Sealife Kelly Tarlton's provides rehabilitation and rewilding for all protected sea turtle species in New Zealand
 - Sharks Pacific – advocacy , research, education, conservation
 - Environmental Law Initiative (ELI)- Legal, advocacy and research
- The Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries coordinate a number of forums that address migratory species and integrate government agencies, scientists, industry and NGOs e.g. the Seabird Advisory Group – a forum to provide for collaborative review by government and non-government experts, with specific working groups for Black petrel and Antipodean albatross.

VI.4. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

- >>> • The fishing industry, through Seafood New Zealand and the Deepwater Group Limited, have a range of initiatives to work with fishers to reduce impacts on seabirds, marine mammals, sea turtles and shark species. Fishing industry guidelines on best handling practices for protected species are described in the relevant industry operational procedures.
- The fishing industry pays Conservation and Fisheries Services levies, as a regulatory requirement under the Fisheries Act, to fund the collection of data, research to understand the nature and extent of impacts, and development of mitigation strategies to reduce the incidental take of seabirds, marine mammals, reptiles and some marine fish in fishing operations.
 - Cross-agency sea turtle bycatch working group (Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries) is currently working with industry, through Seafood New Zealand to develop a sea turtle operational plan to reduce bycatch in the New Zealand surface longline fishery.
 - Fishing operators participated in the trial of improved seabird bycatch mitigation options for pelagic longline fisheries, including weighted hooks.
 - The Southern Seabird Trust is an innovative alliance with representatives from the seafood industry, New Zealand government, WWF-New Zealand, Te Ohu Kaimoana and recreational anglers. The Trust work with skippers, crews and anglers to reduce harm to seabirds through fishing. Amongst a range actions the Trust has run a series of interactive workshops around the country for inshore commercial fishers. The workshops aim to build on fishers' knowledge of local seabird species and seasonal patterns, provide up to date information on mitigation devices and practices, and build an understanding of why and how looking after seabirds is part of everyday fishing practice.
 - A range of fishing industry companies engaged with the Southern Seabird Trust and Department of Conservation in the development of a Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit.
 - SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium operates New Zealand's only rehabilitation programme for sea turtles. Olive ridley and green sea turtles are the species most commonly stranding species in New Zealand. Olive ridley sea turtles rarely survive rehabilitation, however we have great success rates with green turtles and hawksbills.
 - Auckland Zoo provides New Zealand's only world class specialist vet care for marine reptiles including the five species of sea turtles found in New Zealand waters.
 - Conservation International has funded research on the movements of oceanic manta rays and white sharks in New Zealand waters, including the purchase of satellite tags and satellite time and funding for fieldwork and data analysis. Conservation International personnel have been directly involved in tagging operations and are collaborating on manta ray research in New Zealand.

- Manta Watch NZ have provided considerable resources to the conservation of oceanic manta rays in New Zealand and collaborate widely, including with Department of Conservation, on manta research and conservation initiatives.
- Live Ocean is also supporting research on southern right whales and manta rays.
- Albatross Encounter Kaikoura (<https://albatrossencounter.co.nz/>) have helped fund research on albatrosses and petrels.
- Wellington Zoo has provided sponsorship for research projects on migratory seabirds.
- In October 2023, Department of Conservation and Air New Zealand renewed their partnership to work together for conservation, building on more than a decade of collaboration. The renewal will see Air New Zealand directly invest more than \$5 million in Department of Conservation biodiversity programmes over the next five years, including in pest control, species monitoring and the Conservation Dogs Programme (a nationwide network of dog-handler/dog teams who detect New Zealand's protected species or unwanted pests).

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.

>>> All marine consent applications under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 must include an impact assessment that addresses: Effects on the biological diversity and integrity of marine species, ecosystems, and processes; and effects on rare and vulnerable ecosystems and the habitats of threatened species. The Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 requires consideration of impacts on protected wildlife and any relevant international conservation agreements, however the purpose the Act (to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects) is weighted above all other considerations. There is increasing interest in developing offshore wind generation in the New Zealand region. This new industry raises a lot of concerns about impacts on migratory species (seabirds and marine mammals). New Zealand has a high number of endemic seabirds, most of which are migratory, plus many nocturnally active species and also more winter nesters than any other country. Collision risks with turbines at night or in low visibility conditions are seen as an area of concern. For marine mammals, underwater noise during construction and ongoing noise generated by turbine movement are seen as risks to marine mammals. The state of knowledge about our species in the marine environment is still insufficient to fully understand all the risks.

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.

>>> Under the Wildlife Act and Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 it is an offence to kill protected wildlife. The Department of Conservation will generally seek an evaluation of any impact of wind farm development on threatened indigenous species and/or impacts on large numbers of unthreatened species in the context of notified applications for resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991, Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012, or Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. The Wildlife Act specifies what wildlife is protected, partially protected or not protected, and all marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. The Resource Management Act requires wind farm developers to avoid, remedy or mitigate effects on wildlife (depending on the circumstances i.e. there will be circumstances where avoid is required), for example, by ensuring that windfarms do not cause unacceptable effects resulting from migratory bird species passing through the windfarm area. The New Zealand Department of Conservation has begun engagement with other government sector groups and industry to understand the implications of offshore and open ocean wind farm developments on protected species, including migratory seabirds and marine mammals.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> There is currently no national policy or risk assessment framework for this activity as no wind farms have been developed in the ocean previously in our region.

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:

>>> Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

- In 2022, WCPFC agreed to review the measure on seabird bycatch mitigation by 2024. New Zealand offered to lead this work with the aim of strengthening seabird bycatch mitigation requirements. New Zealand emphasized the need to improve seabird mitigation in both the southern and northern hemisphere areas within the core range of the Antipodean albatross; to strengthen and improve the requirements for line weighting and tori line specifications; and to eliminate ineffective mitigation options from the measure. In 2025, New Zealand continues the process of reviewing this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) and has proposed taking a phased approach focusing on requiring longline fishing vessels fishing in the area of 25°S-30°S to use two out of three measures (weighted branch lines, night setting, tori lines or hook shielding devices).

- In 2025, New Zealand is actively engaged in the CMM Marine Pollution review led by Canada. The Marine Pollution CMM is scheduled to be reviewed by WCPFC in 2026.

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

- Since 2023, New Zealand, along with Japan, has been leading intersessional work to expand the southern hemisphere seabird risk assessment to other CCSBT Member nations. The first iteration of the assessment was published in 2024, and a second iteration containing data from additional CCSBT Members is due to be presented at the CCSBT Extended Commission meeting in October 2025. This work is partially funded by the FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project and will be carried on by the FAO after the conclusion of the CCSBT work in 2025.

MOU-Sharks

- The fifth Meeting of the Signatories to the Sharks MOU (MOS5), originally planned for late 2025, was postponed to mid-2026. This decision was made due to rescheduling of CMS COP15 and other major international conferences, as well as limited capacity and workload constraints.

East Asian-Australian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

The 11th Meeting of Partners of the EAAFP took place in Brisbane in March 2023. Key outcomes of interest to New Zealand included:

- Adoption of sister site guidelines to support site managers across the flyway;
- Support for the three governments of the Yellow Sea to maintain momentum to promulgate World Heritage Convention site nominations and to support domestic implementation;
- Adoption of further improvements to good governance to support the structure and future viability of EAAFP; and
- Maintain bilateral relationships, in particular with China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea).
- The 12th Meeting of Partners is being held in November 2025 with a focus on involving Traditional Owners in the flyway.

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

- New Zealand hosted the ACAP 8th Meeting of Parties (MOP8) in Dunedin, New Zealand.

- Key outcomes of MOP8 included:

- o Parties agreed an ambitious Advisory Committee Work Programme, including a renewed focus on ACAP's communications strategy and engagement with regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and jurisdictions that fish within the migratory range of ACAP species. This is an important outcome because, while effective bycatch mitigation practices exist, these are not widely used in the high-risk fisheries.

- o Parties agreed a New Zealand-led Resolution which declared an ongoing conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels due to fisheries bycatch and reaffirmed actions to support greater uptake of ACAP best practice advice for bycatch mitigation.

Bilateral/regional cooperation

- Over 2023 -2025 New Zealand has developed Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit, an interactive website for fishing companies who want to make their pelagic longline fishing business more seabird-safe. The Toolkit contains:

- 1) an app that allows a fishing company to assess the seabird-safety of their vessels and set a goal for

improvements; 2) an interactive map that zones the world's oceans according to threatened seabird distribution and risk; and 3) detailed practical information describing proven seabird-safe measures and monitoring methods applicable to the vessel class the Toolkit is aimed at (high seas pelagic longline vessels >24m).

- Over 2025 – 2026 New Zealand is working with the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group on a Seabird-Safe Fishing - Capacity Gap Analysis. This project is exploring the capacity building needs of high seas longline fleets for seabird-safe fishing. The project is co-sponsored by Chile, People's Republic of China, Mexico, Peru, Chinese Taipei, the United States, and Thailand. The project involves research with the longline industries of China and Chinese Taipei to explore the practical challenges and capacity gaps mitigating seabird bycatch, and opportunities to address these. Outputs include an online workshop on March 2026 and a published APEC report setting out recommendations for Governments, industries, NGO's and funders to address key barriers to seabird-safe fishing.
- Over 2024 and 2025, New Zealand has led the review of the seabird bycatch mitigation requirements for the WCPFC; and in the South Pacific Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO).
- The Department of Conservation has bilateral science collaborations with Peru, Ecuador, and Chile to develop understanding about the risk of longline fishing to threatened species of albatross and petrels that migrate between New Zealand and these South American waters. In 2024, New Zealand also held capacity building workshops in Ecuador and hosted scientist secondees from Peru and Ecuador.
- New Zealand and China have established a Vice Ministerial dialogue to promote cooperation on migratory shorebirds. There have been several formal and informal meetings to advance shorebird research and management and progress the renewal of a Memorandum of Agreement between sister sites in both countries.
- A Memorandum of Agreement, signed in 2024 between the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Department of Conservation of New Zealand, aimed at promoting the exchange of bird banding data for migratory shorebirds and seabirds, has facilitated ongoing cooperation and data sharing between the two countries, enhancing the quality and scope of bird banding research.
- New Zealand welcomed the approval in February 2025 of Green Climate Funding for the Regional Tuna Programme.

Domestic initiatives

- In 2022, the New Zealand government set up a cross-agency working group (Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation) to proactively review and address sea turtle bycatch in New Zealand's surface longline fishery, and is currently working with industry, through Seafood New Zealand to develop a sea turtle operational plan to reduce bycatch in the New Zealand surface longline fishery.
- In 2023, New Zealand made it mandatory for commercial fishers who are surface longlining in New Zealand fisheries waters to use circle hooks (a practice which was already widespread).
- A quantitative risk assessment for sharks was conducted for highly migratory species caught in pelagic fisheries.
- The New Zealand Government contracted an assessment to identify and map habitats of particular significance for sharks.
- As of October 2024, all surface longline vessels operating in New Zealand waters are required to use hook-shielding devices on all hooks or apply three seabird mitigation measures simultaneously (tori lines, night setting, and line weighting). These rules align with ACAP best practice, making New Zealand the second country globally to require this level of protection for seabirds. Vessels fishing on the high seas must follow WCPFC requirements requiring two mitigation measures south of 30°S, and one measure between 25-30°S.
- This year, the New Zealand government completed the rollout of on-board cameras across commercial fishing vessels. These cameras are now operating on 217 vessels, helping to improve monitoring of fishing activity, and to better understand interactions with protected species. On-board cameras are also supporting better adherence to landing and discard rules, while enhancing transparency and data quality.
- Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust and the Department of Conservation are currently working to nominate a new site to the East Asian-Australasian Partnership Flyway Network Site program aiming to secure international recognition for the habitat's ecological significance.

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

[Seabird-Safe fishing Toolkit](#) - An interactive website for fishing companies who want to make their pelagic longline fishing business more seabird-safe

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:

>>> • Multi-sector advisory groups have been established to input into the review of National Plans of Action.
• New Zealand also holds annual meetings of the Seabird Advisory Group (SAG), a multiagency, multi-stakeholder group established to monitor progress against the NPOA Seabirds 2020.
• The New Zealand government set up a cross-departmental working group (Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation) to proactively review and address sea turtle bycatch in New Zealand's surface longline fishery.

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 New Zealand focal points of CMS and other multilateral environmental agreements collaborate on their work to ensure a coordinated approach. This includes meetings to provide updates on our work; consultation on meeting papers and New Zealand positions in advance of meetings; and reporting back on outcomes after meetings.

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?

Yes

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

>>> • The Department of Conservation, the University of Auckland and the University of Otago have a long-standing campaign to encourage public reporting of southern right whales around the New Zealand mainland. This will allow us a better understanding of this population as it recovers from commercial whaling and potentially recolonizes historic breeding and calving grounds.

• The Department of Conservation also maintains a variety of avenues (app-based, web-based, phone hotline) for members of the public to report sightings and strandings of marine mammals. A memorandum of understanding is in place with Project Jonah to respond to marine mammal strandings, including for training of members of the public to be first responders to incidents.

• Christchurch City Council, the Canterbury Community Trust and Environment Canterbury actively support in kind the work of the Avon-Heathcote Ihutai Estuary Trust which is a non-profit organisation formed in 2002 with the vision of: Communities working together for Clean Water - Open Space - Safe Recreation and Healthy Ecosystems at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary that we can all enjoy and respect.

• The Hauraki Gulf forum works with regional government and tribal authorities to promote research, management and improvements to the Hauraki Gulf region. This includes producing status reports and publications with emphasis on migratory species that breed in or use the gulf as an important foraging habitat. The forum engages with communities and business interests to promote sustainable use of the Gulf.

• The Department of Conservation has developed a cell phone app to encourage reporting of recreational bycatch of protected species.

• The Department of Conservation has contracted Community Trusts whose team members hold specialist

knowledge of seabird species (e.g. The Seabird Trust) to run specialised field projects to collect data on the at-sea distribution and to carry out mark-recapture projects to help determine the population size of the Appendix II-listed black petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*.

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

[Black Petrel Population Report 2025](#)

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?

No, because no such incentives have existed

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.

>>> • Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust (QEII Trust) is an independent charitable trust that partners with private landowners to protect natural and cultural heritage sites on their land with covenants, for the benefit of present and future generations. A covenant is an agreement between the QEII Trust and a landowner to protect land forever. The landowner continues to own and manage the protected land, and the covenant and protection stays on the land, even when the property is sold to a new owner. These partnerships have created a growing network of over 5000 protected areas throughout New Zealand, ranging from small backyard patches to huge swathes of high country. These covenants protect more than 190,000 ha of private land and play a hugely critical role as a refuge for some of New Zealand's rarest and most endangered biodiversity and ecosystems, including migratory species.

- The Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund supports the protection of indigenous biodiversity on Māori-owned land, including migratory species, while honouring the rights guaranteed to landowners under the Treaty of Waitangi. Ngā Whenua Rāhui aims to enable, facilitate and support activities directed at the protection of indigenous ecosystems through:

- o helping to protect indigenous biodiversity which has cultural importance to landowners;
- o leaving the land in Māori ownership and control; and,
- o covenanting (kawenata) and management agreements.

The fund is administered by the Department of Conservation and was established in 1991.

- The Department of Conservation runs an annual funding round for community-lead conservation initiatives to help protect native species and their ecosystems from invasive species (animals and plants), improve habitat values through restoration of natural vegetation communities and monitoring the success of these projects through online reporting of data and images. One such project that benefits migratory species is the pest management on Chatham Islands to protect the Chatham Island taiko/Magenta petrel (*Pterodroma magentae*) breeding on private land, maintaining fences to protect birds from domestic stock and predators, and establishing a new colony of the at-risk seabird sooty shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*).

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

>>> • In 2022, New Zealand's National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA sharks) was reviewed, and a draft updated plan was developed. However, the 2013 iteration of the NPOA-Sharks remains the current version in effect.

• New Zealand developed and adopted its first National Plan of Action for Seabirds (NPOA Seabirds) in 2004. The current iteration, adopted in 2020, sets out a vision that New Zealanders work towards zero fishing-related seabird mortalities. New Zealand also holds annual meetings of the Seabird Advisory Group (SAG), a multiagency, multi-stakeholder group established to monitor progress against the NPOA Seabirds 2020. A review of the 2020 plan has been initiated in mid-2025.

• In 2022, the New Zealand government has set up a cross-departmental working group (Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation) to proactively review and address sea turtle bycatch in New Zealand's surface longline fishery, and is currently working with industry, through Seafood New Zealand to develop a sea turtle operational plan to reduce bycatch in the New Zealand surface longline fishery.

• In 2023, New Zealand made it mandatory for commercial fishers who are surface longlining in New Zealand waters to use circle hooks (a practice which was already widespread).

• As of October 2024, all surface longline vessels operating in New Zealand waters are required to use hook-shielding devices on all hooks or apply three seabird mitigation measures simultaneous (tori lines, night setting, and line weighting). These rules align with ACAP best practice, making New Zealand the second country globally to require this level of protection for seabirds. Vessels fishing on the high seas must follow WCPFC rules requiring two mitigation measures south of 30°S, and one mitigation measures between 25-30°S.

• In May 2025, the New Zealand government completed the rollout of on-board cameras across many commercial fishing vessels. These cameras are now operating on 217 vessels, helping to improve monitoring of fishing activity, and to better understand interactions with protected species. On-board cameras are also supporting better adherence to landing and discard rules, while enhancing transparency and data quality.

• New Zealand also works in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to address the impacts of fishing on migratory species, including:

o Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

In 2025, New Zealand continues the process of reviewing the seabird Conservation and Management Measure (CMM).

In 2025, New Zealand is actively engaged in the CMM Marine Pollution review led by Canada. The Marine Pollution CMM is scheduled to be reviewed by the WCPFC in 2026.

Supporting assessments of a number of migratory shark species to understand stock status and impacts of fishing.

o Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) –

Adopted actions for the Multi-Year Seabird Strategy put forward by the Ecologically Related Species Working Group, as well as the revised Scientific Observer Program Standards put forward by the Extended Scientific Committee which allows on-board camera footage to be used to meet the 10% observer requirement for CCSBT.

Since 2023, New Zealand, along with Japan, has been leading intersessional work to expand the southern hemisphere seabird risk assessment to other CCSBT Member nations. The first iteration of the assessment was published in 2024, and a second iteration containing data from additional CCSBT Members is due to be presented at the CCSBT Extended Commission meeting in October 2025. This work is partially funded by the FAO Common Oceans Tuna Project and will be carried on by the FAO after the conclusion of the CCSBT work in 2025.

o South Pacific Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO).

In 2025 New Zealand worked with Peru and Chile to review the seabird CMM against best practice advice from ACAP and advocated for a range of improvements.

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	There has been a small take of two Appendix II albatross species - northern royal albatross (<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>) and Chatham albatross (<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>) at Chatham Islands - chicks collected as food by local community. The numbers taken has now reduced or stopped as a result of better engagement with the local community and providing information from recent research on these species. There is no evidence (2025) that this pressure has changed in intensity in past 5 years. Eastern bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) - Small numbers captured prior to migration in northern harbours but there is limited information about whether this still occurs annually.	3
Illegal hunting		
Other harvesting and take	The chicks of two migratory species (sooty shearwater - <i>Ardenna grisea</i> and grey-faced petrel - <i>Pterodroma gouldi</i>) - not listed on the appendices - are taken in cultural harvests. Both species are partially protected under the Wildlife Act. These harvests are managed by strict cultural protocols by local iwi (tribal) authorities. Legally they are managed under their own Wildlife Act regulations and only descendants of the local iwi are allowed to do so. There are no government controls over the numbers taken.	
Illegal trade		
Deliberate poisoning		

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).

>>> Populations of sooty shearwater - *Ardenna grisea* continue to decline in northern New Zealand and research has started to understand whether this is related to ongoing climate change impacts. There is limited

population monitoring on the islands where the harvests occur.

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
Bycatch	Risk from New Zealand bycatch varies from 1 for species such as Buller's albatross (<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>) to 3 for species such as light-mantled albatross (<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>)	White sharks, blue sharks, shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks are vulnerable to capture in a variety of commercial fisheries including set net, surface and demersal longline and mid- and bottom-water trawl fisheries. Basking shark bycatch occurs in mid-water trawl fisheries and occasionally inshore set net fisheries. Leatherback turtle bycatch predominantly occurs in New Zealand tuna and swordfish longline fisheries in the Bay of Plenty region and are occasionally entangled in rock lobster pot/trap float lines. Bycatch includes those species of the following Appendix II genera that occur in New Zealand waters: <i>Diomedea</i> , <i>Thalassarche</i> , <i>Phoebastria</i> , <i>Macronectes</i> and <i>Procellaria</i> .
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		This has been observed in some non-migratory species like cormorants in harbours but not in CMS listed migratory species. It continues to be a problem for sea turtles in New Zealand with reports annually of entanglements in ghost fishing gear.
Other forms of unintentional taking	3	Humpback whales are known to be at risk from entanglement in lines from pot fishing and set nets. Other large whale species may also be at risk, though there are fewer records of these entanglements in New Zealand. New Zealand runs disentanglement training courses to allow Department of Conservation staff to attempt to remove ropes and floats from entangled cetaceans. Each year there are several reports of recreational fishers catching protected sea turtles, seabirds and sharks on boat hooks and data can be viewed on the Department of Conservation website linked below.

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

Protected Species Catch in Recreational Fisheries

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.

>>> • A comprehensive national programme of population monitoring and tracking of albatross and large petrel species has been developed. This programme is providing a greatly improved evidence base on which to holistically advocate for the management of fisheries bycatch. This includes shaping the Concerted Action for Antipodean albatross, adopted at COP13 and now being implemented by New Zealand, Chile, and Australia. Population monitoring of marked birds is continuing each summer and a full population census was completed in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 summers using drone-based methods to count apparent nesting birds.

- As of October 2024, all surface longline vessels operating in New Zealand waters are required to use hook-shielding devices on all hooks or apply three seabird mitigation measures simultaneously (tori lines, night setting, and line weighting). These rules align with ACAP best practice, making New Zealand the second country globally to require this level of protection for seabirds. Vessels fishing south of 30°S on the high seas must follow WCPFC rules for seabird mitigation.

- In May 2025, the New Zealand government completed the rollout of on-board cameras across many commercial fishing vessels. These cameras are now operating on 217 vessels, helping to improve monitoring of fishing activity, and to better understand interactions with protected species. On-board cameras are also supporting better adherence to landing and discard rules, while enhancing transparency and data quality.

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

Antipodean Albatross and White-chinned Petrel Population Report Gibson's Albatross Population Report

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).

>>> • Fisheries bycatch continues to be one of the most significant threats to New Zealand’s migratory species. Whilst a range of measures have been developed to continue to address bycatch within New Zealand waters, there is growing evidence of substantial concerns posed by global fisheries bycatch across the migratory pathways of these species – see Gibson’s Albatross Population Report linked above.

- The southern royal albatross (*Diomedea epomophora*) has had a major decline in breeding numbers since the last population surveys in 2004-08. This change is most likely driven by bycatch in the high seas as estimates of population level risk from commercial fisheries in the New Zealand EEZ is low although recent camera monitoring on vessels is showing evidence of New Zealand captures. Estimates of bycatch from CCSBT members (ERSWG15) are also insufficient to explain population decline meaning that further bilateral engagement is needed with nations that have overlapping fisheries to identify further management options to reduce bycatch.

- The latest domestic fisheries risk assessment for seabirds (June 2023) found elevated levels of risk to some species, in particular Buller’s and Salvin’s albatrosses.

- The Western Pacific population of leatherbacks is critically endangered and nearing extinction levels.

Bycatch numbers in New Zealand surface longline fisheries continues to be of national and international concern for conservation of this species.

- Great white shark bycatch in commercial fisheries has seen concerning increases in recent years. In the past year there have been around 13 reported bycatch incidents with only four reported as released alive, noting that post-release survival is unknown. There also appears to be a shift to bottom trawl bycatch. Recreational bycatch is also of concern particularly for juveniles caught set net and on beachcast lines.

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
Wind turbines	Open ocean wind farms have surfaced as a new future threat to New Zealand migratory species over the past 3 years. All are at the planning stage at the moment with no offshore wind farms being put up for consenting under New Zealand resource management processes by June 2025. There are active research projects underway in New Zealand to assess flight paths and flight heights of species that might be at risk, including Appendix II-listed species (e.g. Westland petrels - <i>Procellaria westlandica</i>).	2 (if consented)
Other collisions	Not observed as a threat to migratory species within New Zealand.	
Electrocution		
Vessel strikes	Bryde’s whales have historically suffered high rates of mortality due to ship strike in the Hauraki Gulf. This has been virtually eliminated by a voluntary programme to reduce ship speeds.	3

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

>>> There has been no work undertaken on electrocution since the last reporting period. There has been preparation work done to understand more about the future risk of collisions with offshore wind turbines for migratory species.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans) and Decision 14.48.

>>> Electrocutions have only been observed with non-migratory birds (e.g. New Zealand falcons).

Open ocean wind farms have surfaced as a new future threat to New Zealand migratory species. There is

increasing concern that open ocean wind farms will create a new set of impacts on our migratory species. New Zealand has many winter nesting seabird species and nocturnally active seabirds. Flying in low light conditions during periods of poor visibility (fog, rain) is likely to increase the risk of collisions with turbines. There is a need to assess all the potential impacts on our endemic species as the marine species composition is quite different in the Northern Hemisphere where most current ocean wind farms have been developed. There are active discussions taking place between industry and government around the process for determining environmental effects of open ocean wind farms, including any effects on migratory species (flight pathways) and the impact of underwater noise on cetaceans if fixed towers are used. An offshore wind farm risk assessment document has been prepared by Department of Conservation species experts to provide factual information to wind farm developers. This is currently being reviewed for publication (Sept 2025). For marine mammals, the primary concern with proposed open ocean wind farm industries relates to underwater noise pollution. Cetaceans in particular, are highly susceptible to very loud underwater noise from activities such as pile-driving turbine supports into the seabed and from ongoing noise from turbine vibrations and shipping activity to service the wind farms. Noise carries further in seawater than in air and can disrupt communication between individuals (eg. mother and calves), mating behaviour, echolocation, foraging activities and of most concern damage to sensitive hearing organs in cetaceans. Wind turbines anchored by cables also present an entanglement or habitat displacement risk to marine mammals when foraging or on migration.

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)		HPAI has not yet reached Oceania including New Zealand. HPAI response plans for at-risk species have been prepared by Department of Conservation staff and other species experts. Incident management training sessions have been undertaken. Field teams working with species considered most at-risk (albatrosses, giant petrels, brown skuas and gulls) have been carrying out disease screening (swabbing and blood samples) to determine background disease exposure of each species to different pathogens and for early detection of any HPAI exposure.
Unexplained stranding events		Due to the diversity and abundance of cetaceans in New Zealand, large numbers of strandings occur each year. Most of these are unexplained, as is the case worldwide. In a limited number of cases, post-mortem examinations are undertaken to assess cause of death.
Accidental/indirect poisoning		No poisoning has occurred of CMS listed species in New Zealand.
Disease		Note: this heading should be Predation not disease. App II species White-capped Albatross (<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>): feral pigs and cats. At Auckland Islands. Active planning and field trials are being funded by Department of Conservation to prepare for an operational phase to remove the mammal pests in the near future. Early steps include putting in infrastructure (huts, tracks etc.) to support the complex eradication operation and setting up pre-operation monitoring sites. Gibson's albatross (<i>Diomedea antipodensis gibsonii</i>) (Appendix I): feral pigs and cats. At Auckland Islands. See above for activities at same site. Black petrel (<i>Procellaria parkinsonii</i>) (Appendix II): feral cats, <i>Rattus rattus</i> and <i>Rattus exulans</i> . On Great Barrier Island. The DOC Operations team on Great Barrier Island carry out annual pest control near the petrel colony to reduce densities of feral cats. Westland petrel (<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>) (Appendix II): domestic dogs, stoats. At Paparoa National park. Nests are monitored during the breeding season and pest control is undertaken in response to any incursions.

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

- >>> • Training programmes have been undertaken to upskill people in methods of disentangling cetaceans caught up in fishing gear (e.g. ropes and floats associated with lobster fisheries), based on a national Standard Operating Procedure for disentanglement.
- Department of Conservation has been working with the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand/Te Whatu Ora as part of a One Health approach to prepare for the possible arrival of H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in New Zealand. It has not yet reached Oceania, including New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands. Department of Conservation carried out an intensive year-long trial on captive birds (none are CMS-listed species) to see if the bird flu vaccine would be an effective tool to help prevent species loss during a disease outbreak. The trial was a success and all the study birds responded well to the vaccine. Department of Conservation is working with Ministry for Primary Industries on a broader vaccination plan for other species that might also benefit from vaccination if H5N1 reaches New Zealand. This would include some nationally threatened seabird species that are being proposed

for listing under the CMS appendices.

- Land-based predator initiatives - Predator Free 2050 – In 2016 the Government launched Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) and created the company Predator Free 2050 Ltd to attract philanthropic investment and fund landscape scale predator eradication to deliver the New Zealand government’s ambitious goal of eradicating possums, stoats and rats by 2050. Predator Free 2050 Limited is a Crown-owned, charitable company and provides co-funding to enable predator control and eradication projects at large landscape scale and the breakthrough science needed to underpin them. It is currently funding five large landscape projects, enabling predator control to eradication projects over 254,000 ha over five years.

Good progress is being made on removing predators from large mainland areas and keeping them out without the use of fences. The area where predators are suppressed to protect our native wildlife and forests has increased substantially. The 2021–2023 Biennial Progress Report, published in June 2023 by the Department of Conservation, highlights the following:

- Predator control was active over 1.77 million hectares of mainland New Zealand.
- 328 of 489 uninhabited offshore islands were predator-free.
- Several interim 2025 goals were on track, including:
 - o Suppressing predators over 1 million hectares
 - o Demonstrating predator eradication on at least 20,000 ha of mainland without fences.
 - o Eradicating predators from all uninhabited offshore islands (good progress is being made but will not meet the target in 2025).
 - o Supporting iwi-led eradication projects.
 - o Developing breakthrough science solutions

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Species), Res. **12.6** (Rev.COP14) (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. 14.18 Avian influenza and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

>>> Pest incursions are still occurring at sites previously cleared of predators. Significant resources have had to be redeployed away from new projects to locations in Fiordland and near Auckland to remove stoats that have reached islands cleared of all pests over 15-20 years ago. With climate change it is expected that predators will have greater opportunities to reach pest-free sites as sea temperatures warm up and severe storm events increase the possibility of pests floating to offshore islands on washed out debris. This exposes migratory species breeding on otherwise safe offshore islands to new pressures.

Alien and/or invasive species

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Alien and/or invasive species	Marine invasive species (e.g. Mediterranean fan worm) also have the potential to impact migratory species, through impacts on marine ecosystems of importance to them. The invasive seaweed Exotic Caulerpa has been detected in northern New Zealand and is spreading rapidly. The impact of this habitat destroying seaweed is still unknown on CMS species, but it is likely to invade coastal areas used by migratory shorebirds. Feral goats and brush-tailed possums occur in the Westland petrel (P.westlandica) colony and browse native vegetation making it more vulnerable to slips during storm events. On the Chatham Islands, feral cattle and pigs have been subject to intensive aerial control in the past 2 years to reduce population densities. Numbers built up as a result of Covid disruptions to island transport (stock removal from the island) and local hunting practices for pigs were disrupted. The control of these pests will benefit the forest habitats where the Chatham Island taiko/Magenta petrel breeds (a species being included in the gadfly petrel listing proposal to be presented at COP15).	3

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

[About exotic caulerpa and where it's been found in NZ](#)

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing alien and/or invasive species?

>>> An 8-year project is underway to eradicate introduced pests including feral pigs, feral cats, and mice from Auckland Island, New Zealand’s largest Subantarctic island and fifth largest island. Auckland Island is a nature reserve and World Heritage Site that is home to 500+ native plants and animals, including many migratory seabirds like the Appendix I-listed Gibson's wandering albatross (Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni). Work is underway to test techniques for eradication of feral pigs, feral cats and mice from main Auckland Island.

These trials are to identify the most cost-effective methods. Funding has been provided to prepare infrastructure for the project (tracks and huts) and to carry out testing of eradication tools. Also see Other Mortality section above for further information.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> See section above about the reinvasion of predators to some of our islands that were cleared of alien invasive species decades ago. Reinvasion is an ongoing risk with all invasive species. While biosecurity measures will help to defend remote sites, those within the swimming range of pests will remain vulnerable and regular surveillance is needed to detect and remove early invasions before too much damage is inflicted.

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	Sperm whales at Kaikōura are likely subject to some disturbance associated with tourism vessels and have shown a long-term decline in abundance. Dusky dolphins at Kaikōura also show disturbance due to tourism interactions. Other CMS-listed cetacean species in New Zealand may be encountered opportunistically by tourism vessels, but likely infrequently and therefore not suffering chronic disturbance effects. Interactions with all marine mammal species are managed via regulations and permitting under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. Other cetacean species affected by recreational boating activities are non-migratory. New Zealand is however doing research on the impacts of these activities and has closed commercial marine mammal viewing or swim with dolphin operations when they are found to be reducing population viability (for example in the Bay of Islands) Human disturbance to migratory seabirds is generally limited in New Zealand as most species breed on remote islands in sites protected as permit-only Nature Reserves. For mainland nesting seabirds there is no evidence that human disturbance is impacting the species in terms of breeding success. For migratory shorebirds, disturbance at roost sites is more of a problem as humans make use of coastal spaces for recreation (exercise, walking dogs, fishing, boating, jet-skiing and kite surfing etc.). Signage is put up in places to help educate the public and in some of the more publicly accessible roosts and breeding sites, Department of Conservation wardens and community volunteers are deployed to manage visitor pressures. But off-road vehicles and people seeking new places to go fishing do pose a disturbance risk to migratory shorebirds at some remote sites.	3

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **12.16** (Rev.COP14) (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), Res. **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and measures to mitigate threats to Important Shark and Ray Ares under Decision **14.61**.

>>> No major shifts since the last reporting period. Off-road vehicles are increasingly being reported as disturbing wildlife at places that are not easily accessible without off-road transport. Most of these species are not migratory but are threatened New Zealand breeding species. Occasionally some sites include migratory shorebird roosts (for example at the Kaipara Harbour). Boating activities do also disturb large flocks of seabirds associated with fish shoals. A prosecution of one reckless boat user has made the wider boating community more aware they need to slow down near rafts of seabirds.

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

[Man sentenced for skipping vessel into flock of protected seabirds: 25 January 2024](#)

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)	Soft plastic debris has been found blocking the alimentary tracts of some marine turtles and larger seabirds such as Appendix II-listed southern royal albatross (<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>) stranded around coastal waters. Plastics have been found around the nest sites of seabirds, especially flesh-footed shearwater (<i>Ardea carneipes</i>). There seems to be inter-colony differences in the extent of plastic ingestion. The birds on Ohinau Island for example have quite a lot of plastic debris around nests. This is possibly related to different foraging zones used by the birds, supported by tracking studies. Microplastics have been found in the common fish species, indicated higher trophic levels may also be affected.	3
Light pollution	Collisions by seabirds attracted to lights of fishing vessels and cruise ships was identified as a risk to many of our smaller migratory seabird species. These are not currently listed on CMS appendices. Engagement has been occurring with both fishing industry and cruise ship industry to find ways to mitigate the risk to seabirds. Guidelines on ways to manage vessel lighting impacts were presented prior to COP14. UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Inf.12.4.4.2b	2-3 depending on species. The most at risk species to this pressure are not currently listed on the CMS appendices.
Underwater noise	Noise from ship traffic can reduce the communication space of whales and dolphins, particularly Bryde's whales in the Hauraki Gulf. Noise from seismic surveys has reduced in New Zealand waters as oil and gas exploration permits were phased out. Construction of offshore wind energy generation facilities and/or seabed mining may introduce significant new sources of underwater noise, if permission is given to these proposals.	
Other pollution	High numbers of recreational vessels in sensitive habitat areas utilised by sea turtles increases the likelihood of boat strikes causing injury and death. This is a growing concern. It is also true for surface feeding sharks/ray, and cetaceans. It can also cause displacement of species during breeding season and alter behaviours around courtship and feeding.	
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

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

[Flesh-footed Shearwater Population Monitoring and Estimates 2023-24 Season Report](#)
[Flesh-footed Shearwater Population Monitoring Report](#)

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

>>> Waste minimization/plastic pollution

In March 2025, the Government adopted a new Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy, replacing the 2023 Te Rautaki Para strategy. The new strategy focuses on: Reducing waste disposal per person; Increasing reuse and recycling; minimizing emissions and environmental harm from waste and litter; and managing contaminated sites and legacy waste issues. New Zealand has continued its plastic product bans under the Waste Minimisation (Plastic and Related Products) Regulations 2022:

From 1 July 2023, bans included:

- Single-use plastic produce bags
- Plastic plates, bowls, and cutlery
- Plastic drinking straws
- Non-compostable produce labels

Mid-2025 bans will include:

- All remaining PVC food and beverage packaging
- All remaining polystyrene food and beverage packaging (e.g., yoghurt pottles)

Light Pollution

There has been active engagement with the fishing industry and other groups to find ways to reduce lighting levels in areas where migratory birds are at risk. The CMS lighting guidelines agreed at COP13 and COP14 were used as a basis for these discussions and helped raise the credibility over the importance of this threat to migratory birds. These guidelines have been regularly disseminated at meetings with stakeholders over ways to manage lighting impacts on wildlife, especially seabirds including the Appendix II-listed black petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*).

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).

>>> There is increasing use of lights for recreation (e.g. sports fields), industry (e.g. expansion of wharves), coastal development and recreational vehicles and boats. This means that finding ways to reduce impacts of artificial lights at night is going to need more educational campaigns to make the general public aware of the risks to seabirds, a group they generally know nothing about.

A recent hearing was held around the development of a large sand extraction mine on land lying close to the Appendix II listed Westland petrel (*Procellaria westlandica*) colony. Department of Conservation used evidence from the CMS guidelines around the risks of light pollution to seabirds and the potential impact it could have on these birds to get conditions added to the mining operation to restrict mining activity at night.

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	Severe storm damage from ex-tropical cyclones is an increasing concern as climate change creates larger and more destructive storm events in our region. These have damaged habitats of migratory species in the past decade. Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) foraging and roosting habitat is still at risk from inappropriate use for recreation and other uses. Mangrove clearance and fine sediment in terrestrial run-off adversely affects estuarine and shallow coastal habitats throughout much of New Zealand. This includes the habitat of a variety of migratory species including wading birds, white shark (juveniles occur in northern New Zealand harbours) and juvenile/sub-adult green turtles that utilise Northland harbours as important foraging habitat. Loss of seagrass meadows particularly impacts green turtles. Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus rogersi</i>): the major threat to populations of red knots is the loss of habitat in the Yellow Sea.	2
Mineral exploration/extraction	See example previously about the risk imposed to Westland petrels of a large open cast sand mining project at the Barrytown Flats near the only colony of the Appendix II-listed Westland petrel.	
Unsustainable land/resource use	N/A	
Urbanization	N/A	
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation		
Fire	N/A	
Physical barriers	The creation of wind farms in the open ocean, if consented in the near future, may create physical barriers to cetaceans and seabirds from underwater cables and turbine blades or virtual barriers if noise levels affect behaviours requiring the use of sound. Choice of wind farm locations will be critical in assessing any impact on migratory species. New Zealand's migratory seabirds may also be impacted by wind farm developments in other CMS range states (e.g. proposals for offshore wind farms to be built in the Bass Strait area off Australia)	

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

>>> New Zealand Department of Conservation has prepared an Offshore Wind Farm risk assessment document to highlight to industry the differences between marine communities (seabirds and marine mammals) in New Zealand compared to other regions of the world. It also covers the main risks from development of farms in the open ocean. The final draft is in the pre-publication stage (Sept 2025).

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	There is increasing awareness that climate change will impact breeding species through increased storm frequency and intensity, leading to landslides, flooding, sedimentation and habitat loss. Sea level rise and coastal erosion from storm surges is already happening and changing the coastlines. Marine heatwaves have impacted seabird productivity and may be changing movement patterns of birds and fish.	2
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report concerning climate change?

>>> • The Department of Conservation conducted Trait-based climate change vulnerability assessments of terrestrial taxa in Aotearoa New Zealand which included New Zealand’s key migratory waders the bar-tailed godwit and red knot which were categorised as ‘potential persisters’. Climate change risk assessments are the next step in the process before designing management actions for species. A similar risk assessment process has just been concluded for seabirds and will be published.

• Climate change impacts have the potential to wipe out the Whenua Hou diving petrel, a small migratory seabird. Their entire population breeds in the fragile sand dunes of Whenua Hou/Codfish Island, up to 20 m from the high tide line. Rising sea levels and increasingly frequent storms will eventually destroy their habitat on Whenua Hou. In December 2024, 15 Whenua Hou diving petrel chicks were transferred from Whenua Hou to a new location within Whenua Hou diving petrel’s historic range. This is the first of five transfers over the next five years to move a total of 75 chicks – the number considered sufficient to build a new colony without causing any long-term impact to the Whenua Hou colony.

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

[Trait-based climate change vulnerability assessments of terrestrial taxa in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

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).

>>> • There are reports that red knots and bar-tailed godwit are being impacted by changes to the timing of summer flush of food in the Arctic and by the loss of coastal habitat.

• The global spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) coincides with intensifying global climate changes. Climate change alters bird ecology, physiology, and migration pattern with potential to influence avian virus evolution, transmission and persistence. HPAI is a significant threat to seabirds of which New Zealand has the largest proportion of endemic species of any country. Most of these species are migratory. While still absent from this region of the world, there is active surveillance underway, especially as concern grows that it may reach New Zealand via Southern Ocean and Antarctica breeding colonies of seabirds.

• A Department of Conservation study, focusing on 11,300-ha Campbell Island, is predicting more extreme weather for New Zealand’s southernmost subantarctic island, which is likely to impact the sealions, albatross and other threatened species living there. Increases in temperatures, rainfall and wind are projected for Campbell Island. These climate projections have implications for conservation management on Campbell and other subantarctic islands, potentially having the biggest impact on nesting birds. Campbell Island is home to six species of albatross, including black-browed, grey-headed, light-mantled sooty and a small population of Gibson’s wandering albatross.

• In late 2024 Department of Conservation received reports about unusually high numbers of dead sooty shearwaters in northern New Zealand. Starvation was confirmed as the cause of the bird deaths, which we suspect is related to climate change-induced ocean warming, probably associated with unusually warm seas off the coast of Japan affecting the birds’ food stocks. In the spring migration, juvenile birds are returning from the coast off Japan to New Zealand in poor condition and dying on arrival.

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	1	Antipodean albatross (Appendix I)
Inadequate legislation		
Lack of knowledge	2	Beaked whale species

Inadequate enforcement of legislation		
---------------------------------------	--	--

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

>>> Tracking studies of seabirds has expanded our knowledge of bird movement across species, age classes, colonies and inter-annually. This growth of new information is helping to identify potential key overlap areas with pressures such as fisheries bycatch, risks from future offshore wind developments, exposure to marine plastics and risks from attraction to artificial light at night. Cameras onboard fishing vessels are providing new insights around the frequency of capture events and the variety of protected species impacted (many of them CMS migratory species such as albatrosses).

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

>>> There is still a lack of effective information coming from high seas fisheries about bycatch rates for species (numbers caught, species identifications etc.). There needs to be better enforcement through fisheries observers and electronic monitoring to understand the nature and extent of interactions with non-target species in these types of fisheries.

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

>>> N/A

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

>>> N/A

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:

>>> New Zealand has adopted new domestic legislation in relation to addressing the adverse effects of activities on migratory species during the reporting period:

- Requiring all surface longline vessels operating in New Zealand waters to use hook-shielding devices on all hooks or apply three seabird mitigation measures simultaneously: tori lines, night setting, and line weighting. These rules align with ACAP best practice, making New Zealand the second country globally to require this level of protection. Vessels fishing south of 30°S on the high seas must follow WCPFC rules requiring two mitigation measures.

New Zealand has domestically implemented the following international measures in relation to addressing the adverse effects of activities on migratory species. These have been implemented through the Fisheries Act 1996:

- Marine pollution measures through the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (2018) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (2019); and
- Improved seabird bycatch measures through the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (2017) and Commission on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.
- Mandating the use of circle hooks for when surface longlining in New Zealand fisheries waters in line with WCPFC Conservation Management Measures for Sea turtles.

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.

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Moved from Data Deficient to At Risk - Declining	Sperm whales have moved to At Risk – Declining under the New Zealand Threat Classification System due to long-term declines in abundance at Kaikoura. This may not be reflective of an overall decline in New Zealand waters, but a precautionary approach has been taken.	Lundquist et al. 2025 (https://nztns.org.nz)	Physeter macrocephalus (Appendix I and II)

Birds

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	To be reassessed in 2026	Will be available for COP16		No changes since COP14

Reptiles

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
				No changes

Fish

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Results not yet published (Sept 2025)	Will be available for COP16		Reassessment for sharks and rays just completed

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?

Yes

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?

Yes

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> New Zealand, along with Chile, and Australia has implemented the Concerted Action for Antipodean albatross, adopted at COP13. New Zealand reported to the Sessional Committee in 2021 and 2023 on progress to date, recently provided an update to ACAP MOP8, and intends to submit a renewal of the Concerted Action for consideration at COP15.

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

[Update to ACAP MOP8 on Concerted Action for Antipodean albatross](#)
[Concerted Action for Antipodean albatross Progress Report 2023](#)

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:

>>> New Zealand has been cooperating on the conservation of migratory species through the following organisations or channels:

- Regional Fisheries Management Organisations including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) on measures to address marine pollution, seabird bycatch, sea turtle bycatch and sharks.
- Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources on marine protection and seabird marine mammal bycatch.
- Active engagement in the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) through participation in meetings and intersessional work, hosting MOP8, co-convening the Seabird Bycatch Working Group during the 13th and 14th Meetings of the Advisory Committee, provision of voluntary contributions to the work programme and hosting ACAP secondees. International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the IWC Southern Ocean Research Partnership.
- A Memorandum of Agreement, signed in 2024 between the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Department of Conservation of New Zealand, aimed at promoting the exchange of bird banding data for migratory shorebirds and seabirds to enhance migratory shorebird research.
- Pūkoro Miramira Naturalists Trust and the Department of Conservation are currently working to nominate a new site to the East Asian-Australasian Partnership Flyway Network Site program aiming to secure international recognition for the habitat's ecological significance.
- New Zealand has been engaging with international collaborators on leatherback turtle and basking shark conservation including research on the critically endangered West Pacific leatherback turtle population. We also participate annually in the Australian Government Marine Turtle Round Table.

- New Zealand has increased its engagement with scientific partners and government agencies in Chile, Peru and Ecuador to better understand how fisheries in those regions might impact on a number of migratory species of albatrosses and petrels that use those regions as moulting zones. These include collaboration with sharing data, developing joint research initiatives and exchange programmes to bring out people to New Zealand to work with our government officials, scientists and industry representatives.
- New Zealand and China have established a Vice Ministerial dialogue to promote cooperation on migratory shorebirds. There have been several formal and informal meetings to advance shorebird research and management and progress the renewal of a Memorandum of Agreement between sister sites in both countries.
- New Zealand has been involved in several Pacific-focussed biodiversity protection projects, including:
 - o Climate Resilient Islands - This activity leverages the Indigenous knowledge of communities in Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu to safeguard ecosystems, deliver livelihoods initiatives and strengthen water security.
 - o Restoring Island Resilience - This initiative supports the “Pacific Invasive Species Management Support Service” (PRISMSS) at the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to manage invasive species in 14 countries. Under this project, New Zealand’s Department of Conservation, the Palmerston Atoll community, the Cook Island’s National Environment Service and Ministry of Agriculture, and the local NGO, Te Ipukarea Society formed a partnership to eradicate introduced ship rats (*Rattus rattus*) and Pacific rats (*Rattus exulans*) from Cook Islands’ Palmerston Atoll (500km from Rarotonga). Monitoring to confirm the atoll’s rat-free status was recently completed, with trail cameras and traps showing no evidence whatsoever of rats.
 - o Promoting Pacific Island Nature-based Solutions (PPIN) – PPIN seeks to further embed and mainstream nature-based solutions into policy and capacity building in the Pacific. It focuses on the Pacific in three demonstration countries: Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga.
 - o Kiwa Initiative - This Initiative aims to make Pacific ecosystems, economies and communities more climate resilient by increasing access to funding for nature-based solutions across government and civil society.
 - o Resilient Pacific Ocean - This activity provides support to five countries (Niue, Solomon Islands, Palau, Kiribati and Cook Islands) to build capacity for locally led approaches to climate and biodiversity-smart marine spatial planning and marine protection.

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:

>>> New Zealand has promoted the issue of ecological connectivity through engagement in the post-2020 biodiversity framework, the new agreement on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, the East Asian Australian Flyway Partnership, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

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?

>>> • New Zealand recently reviewed bycatch of marine reptiles in commercial fisheries and is modelling leatherback turtle habitat in New Zealand fisheries waters in an attempt to understand potential overlap with the surface longline fishery. Our focus has been areas considered bycatch hotspots.

- In 2025, New Zealand undertook an aerial survey to provide fishery independent information on the distribution of critically endangered leatherback turtles and other large marine megafauna off the northeast North Island. Data is currently being analysed.

- A programme of research involving telemetry studies to look at habitats of significance for resident juvenile and sub-adult green sea turtles in northern New Zealand is currently ongoing. New Zealand is also looking at genetic research to answer knowledge gaps on source populations for this migratory and endangered species and is hoping to collaborate with Australia on this.

- Research on oceanic manta rays is ongoing including population genetics and tagging studies. Results have so far demonstrated this species is breeding in New Zealand waters and that they spend 6 months in New Zealand before migrating north towards Fiji and Tonga. In 2025, areas of northern New Zealand were designated as habitats of significance by the IUCN Shark Specialist Group.

- Highly migratory shark habitat requirements are poorly known. A recent study to identify important reproductive areas for sharks found potential habitats of significance for white pointer sharks. However, existing data was not sufficient to identify important reproductive habitats for other highly migratory species such as blue, mako, porbeagle and basking sharks. This was largely because the primary data source—trawl survey data—contained few records of highly migratory species, which are more commonly caught using pelagic fishing methods. Further sampling that is spatially and temporally representative of fishing activity is required to assess overlap of fishing activity with important shark habitats.

- Surveys are still needed on some of the remoter sites (e.g. subantarctic islands) to fully identify breeding populations of all Appendix II-listed species (especially Procellaria petrels). This is only possible by use of helicopters and this is impacted by lack of suitable operators able to access these locations and health and safety concerns. Eradications of pests planned for Auckland Islands may provide suitable opportunities in the next 5 years.

- With respect to critical habitats and sites for marine mammals, there are a lot of major gaps. Most species are Data Deficient and information on their habitats and use is either inferred from elsewhere, other species, or simply not known. Most of what we know is based on generic assumptions. There are some studies that look at subsets of populations, from which things may also be inferred. There is an active programme on Southern right whales (<https://tohoravoyages.ac.nz/>) which has produced journal articles describing regional habitat use by this species. Some work that has been done looking at some aspects of other species including humpback whales from the Kermadecs, sperm whales at Kaikoura and false killer whales in the far North.

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 the use 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).

>>> The majority of ACAP-listed seabird species breed on Department of Conservation managed land (Nature Reserves and Specially Protected Areas within National Parks). These sites protect the largest colonies in New Zealand of breeding seabirds. Some important breeding sites on the Chatham Islands hold most of the world population for a few Appendix II-listed albatross species. These sites are on private land due to past cultural practices. Currently, island owners are fully aware of the importance of these colonies and allow research activities by trusted partners. The islands are effectively managed like reserves for the benefits of these species.

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:

>>> Funding has been allocated to prepare the infrastructure (huts and tracks) needed to remove invasive animals from main Auckland Island which will enhance the breeding sites for the Appendix I listed Antipodean albatross (Gibson’s wandering albatross subspecies) and Appendix II listed species (white-capped albatross and light-mantled sooty albatross). All other subantarctic islands within the New Zealand region have now been cleared of invasive mammal species. This work has been committed to as part of the Island-Ocean Connection Challenge.

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:

>>> • Monitoring of breeding sites for several albatross species plus protection and enhancement of roost sites for migratory waders. There is an extensive programme of work funded in part by levies from the New Zealand fishing industry.
• Annual summer and winter counts of migratory shorebirds are conducted at key habitats across New Zealand and shared through various platforms. These counts reflect ongoing habitat management within New Zealand and indicate the condition of critical stopover sites along the bird’s migration route. There is a downward trend in this data overtime.

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:

>>> There are many examples of protection of seabirds on private land. These mainly involve pest management to reduce populations of invasive alien species. Examples include the Chatham Island Taiko Trust work in collaboration with New Zealand Department of Conservation to protect the critically endangered Chatham Island taiko (Magenta petrel) and endangered Chatham petrel on Chatham Islands. The private owners of several Appendix II listed albatross species allow trusted research partners to collaborate with Department of Conservation and New Zealand fishing industry to fund critical research programmes on their islands.

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

[Conservation Services Programme Annual Plan 2025/26](#)

[Chatham Island taiko \(Magenta petrel\) information](#)

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.

No

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):

Gene typing research

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>> We collect annual genetic data (DNA haplotypes) from unbanded birds for managing chick translocations and other management manipulations for the critically endangered Chatham Island taiko/Magenta petrel (*Pterodroma magentae*). While not yet listed on CMS appendices, the species is migratory across the South Pacific. It is included in the new listing proposal for gadfly petrels being submitted to COP 15. DNA sexing is done for samples from other seabird species where individuals are tracked at sea to determine if sex-biased foraging behaviour exists, and might be putting the species at-risk from fisheries bycatch. For example, we have evidence now that female Antipodean albatross (Appendix I) forage further north than males and are exposed to greater overlap with pelagic longline fisheries in the high seas.

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

>>> <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-2020.pdf>

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[new-zealand-biodiversity-action-plan-2016-2020.pdf](#)

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.

>>> The scope of Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 includes all domains – land, fresh water, estuaries and wetlands, and the marine environment from the coastline to the outer edges of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the extended continental shelf. It also includes all types of tenure, including public lands, private land and Māori-owned land, and covers all indigenous and non-indigenous species, as well as migratory species that swim or fly between Aotearoa New Zealand and international waters or other countries. The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy provides the overall strategic direction for biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand for the next 30 years.

The strategic framework for the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy sets out how the different components of the strategy work together to achieve the long-term vision of Te Mauri Hikahika o te Taiao (Nature is vibrant and vigorous). There are five outcomes, which together describe what we are aiming to achieve by 2050.

While much of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy is directly or indirectly relevant to migratory species and their habitats, Outcomes 1 and 2 are particularly relevant (see page 43 of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy):

Outcome 1 - Ecosystems, from mountain tops to ocean depths, are thriving

- The mauri (life-force) of ecosystems is thriving
- A full range of indigenous ecosystems are protected and secured for future generations
- The health, integrity and connectivity of ecosystems have been maintained and/or restored, including in human-dominated areas

Outcome 2 - Indigenous species and their habitats across Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond are thriving

- The mana (authority, influence and prestige) of taonga (treasured) species is restored
- All indigenous species are protected and secure, and none are at risk of extinction due to human activities
- Species' populations are healthy, genetically diverse and have increased resilience to future threats including climate change
- Migratory species and their habitats are secured across international boundaries

There are a range of objectives set out to achieve the outcomes with detailed goals to be achieved by 2025, 2030, and 2050. The objectives and goals relating to Protecting and restoring are most relevant to migratory species and obligations under CMS (see pages 53- 54 of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy):

Objective 10: Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths

Objective 11: Management ensures that Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management

Objective 12: Natural resources are managed sustainably

Objective 13: Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects

Objective 6 is also relevant to New Zealand's engagement in CMS: Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally.

The Convention on Migratory Species is listed in Appendix 3 of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy as a relevant international agreement.

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

>>> Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan 2022 will be used over the next 30 years to set out a pathway for achieving the strategy. The implementation plan is intended to be a living document so that others who are involved in the biodiversity system can include their actions alongside those from central and local government. Being a living document also allows the plan to be adaptive to changes in knowledge and context. The implementation plan will be updated regularly to include new actions. There will be 5-yearly reviews of the implementation plan to evaluate progress towards goals and outcomes, re-assess priorities, and develop new actions. Progress towards achieving the goals and outcomes will be tracked using a monitoring and reporting system.

Pages 35-44 of the Implementation Plan set out actions to achieve objectives 10-13 of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. Many of these actions are currently underway. The latest progress report on the Implementation Plan was published in 2024. The draft implementation plan for 2025-2030 is currently under development.

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

[TE MANA O TE TAIAO AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT for the year ended 30 June 2024](#)

XVI.2. Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, etc.

>>> A New Zealand government representative chairs the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Yellow Sea Task Force aimed at coordinating conservation efforts cross China, South Korea, and North Korea to support the sustainable management of shorebird habitats in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion.

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant international agreements.

GUIDANCE TIP:

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>> See c above.

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?

Yes

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?

Yes

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

(select all that apply)

- Research & documentation
- Engagement initiatives (e.g. as part of development projects)
- Formal recognition of rights
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms (legislation, policies, etc.)
- Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

GUIDANCE TIP

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans).

>>> New Zealand is committed to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. This commitment, and our responsibilities under Section 4 of the Conservation Act, is led by the Department of Conservation and involves building and supporting effective conservation partnerships with Māori at the local level.

This responsibility reflects the importance to Māori of the lands and resources under Department of Conservation management. Department of Conservation is committed to developing effective conservation partnerships with Māori, and we employ specialist staff to support this. Department of Conservation also has a growing range of management and consultation arrangements with iwi (tribes) arising from Treaty settlements.

Our engagement with Māori is based on the following principles:

- Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- Protecting Māori cultural values on land managed by Department of Conservation and supporting protection of conservation values on land owned by Māori
- Empowering Māori communities to fulfil their customary duty as kaitiaki (guardians) of taonga (treasured) species and encouraging their participation in conservation delivery
- Considering cultural/social and ecological values in decision making
- Interacting (to the appropriate extent) with Māori on all issues that either party may raise to manage potential risk and maximise opportunities
- Engendering Māori support for conservation and the Department of Conservation.

Mātauranga māori or Māori knowledge, is the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors. This includes the Māori world view and perspectives, Māori creativity, and cultural practices.

Examples of our engagement with Treaty Partners in relation to migratory species, and reflection of mātauranga māori include:

- The establishment of Flyway Network sites for migratory waterbirds;
- In the development of CMS listing proposals for flesh-footed shearwater and gadfly petrels, the New Zealand government have engaged extensively with Māori and sought to incorporate Mātauranga māori.
- Iwi (Māori tribes) have been involved in habitat conservation efforts for seabirds, for example Ngāti Hei, in partnership with the Department of Conservation, have worked to remove the invasive species (rats) on Ohinau Island, a key breeding site for flesh-footed shearwater and Pycroft's petrel, and are now looking at other islands in their tribal area for possible eradication of pests and translocation of this species.
- There are many iwi-led projects relating to the conservation of shorebirds such as kauaka (bar-tailed godwits), including building of indigenous collaborations between indigenous leaders of Alaska, Australian First Nations communities and an iwi from New Zealand. In Whanganui, iwi are developing stories and art around kauaka to express their importance to the community.
- The Chatham Island Taiko Trust work in collaboration with New Zealand Department of Conservation to protect the critically endangered Chatham Island taiko (Magenta Petrel) and endangered Chatham Petrel on

Chatham Islands.

- Department of Conservation in partnership with iwi (tribes) Ngāi Takoto and Ngāti Kahu), with support from Auckland Zoo and SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's have embarked on a three year satellite tagging project for green sea turtles on the east coast of northern New Zealand. The project recognises the important place turtles hold in the culture and history of Rangaunu Harbour for local iwi.

XVII.3. How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country in the area of traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species?

3. Positive advances have been made

Please provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>> Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 actively seeks to support the regeneration and continuation of mātauranga Māori through the enhancement and regeneration of biodiversity. Mātauranga is a complete indigenous scientific knowledge system that is drawn from the relationship Māori have with all natural environments.

Objective 5 of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 specifically relates to the Part of the National Report: Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management.

Goals under objective 5 for achievement by 2025 include:

Goal 5.1 The use, development and restoration of mātauranga Māori is being invested in and supported and has equal mana (prestige, authority, control or personal charisma) to knowledge gained through other scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world.

Goal 5.2 Traditional and customary practices, including mahinga kai (traditional food source), are increasing, and the intergenerational transfer of mātauranga is underpinning the work of rangatira (leadership) and kaitiaki (guardianship).

Goal 5.3 Treaty partners, whānau (family groups), hapū (clans) and iwi (tribes) and Māori organisations are making decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori.

Progress reporting in 2023 indicated 91% of action to implement Objective 5 of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 were in completed, on track, or in a good state. There was a decrease in progress reported in 2024 with 54.5% of actions in this category.

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

[TE MANA O TE TAIAO AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT for the year ended 30 June 2024](#)

[TE MANA O TE TAIAO AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT for the year ended 30 June 2023](#)

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)

- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- 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).

Public awareness campaigns

>>> New Zealand Department of Conservation regularly engages social media to raise awareness of migratory species e.g. on World Albatross Day.

Capacity building

>>> The Department of Conservation supported and participated in a range of collaborative actions to build capacity related to mitigating bycatch of seabirds in fisheries, such as a port-based workshop with fishing operators in French Polynesia. A focus of the workshops has been how to prepare the materials needed to make effective tori lines (bird scaring lines) for use behind fishing vessels. These mitigation tools are required, under RFMO rules, to be used by fishing vessels operating in the high seas in areas where albatross are foraging.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> The Conservation Services Programme monitors the impact of commercial fishing on protected species, studies species populations and looks at ways to mitigate bycatch. It uploads all reports onto the Department of Conservation website. This makes the results of the research on a range of migratory species publicly and freely available. We are also actively funding research on movements of multiple species using a range of tracking technology - geolocation tags, satellite transmitters and GPS tags. Tags are also being funded by Fisheries New Zealand and funding sources such as universities, Birds New Zealand and Charitable trusts. Knowledge exchange is also delivered through a variety of bilateral and multilateral engagements, particularly for seabirds. Funding has been allocated to encourage staff exchanges and knowledge sharing between government and NGO groups working on seabirds in South America where a lot of our Appendix I and II-listed migratory seabird species go during the annual moult period between breeding seasons.

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>>> New Zealand has a number of bilateral arrangements that cover migratory species conservation, in particular for seabirds. Collaboration on research projects and sharing of information is an important component of these arrangements.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> The New Zealand government, including Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries regularly partners with academics, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders, e.g. fishing industry, to undertake research in relation to migratory species, the threats they face, and their habitats. For example, Department of Conservation is currently working on a collaborative project with Auckland University and Maanaki Whenua – Landcare Research to understand reasons behind the population decline of the highly migratory sooty shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*). The species is subject to fisheries bycatch across its annual cycle. However, the recent declines appear to be more connected to oceanic factors impacting foraging activity. The study is investigating marine heatwaves and other climate change related factors. This research will help us to understand how these changes might impact future traditional harvests of this species in southern New Zealand.

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?

- No

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.

- >>> • Ongoing engagement with People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other east Asian nations to explain the benefits of joining CMS for the better protection of migratory waterbirds;
- Cooperation to address global fisheries bycatch risks. For example, Antipodean albatross are considered most at risk in waters outside New Zealand’s jurisdiction.