



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. Montenegro's ratification of CMS and related agreements provides a strong legal foundation, which can now be reinforced through more effective national implementation.
- 2. The designation and management of protected areas such as Ulcinj salina (a Ramsar site), Tivat salina etc., have helped secure important stopover and breeding sites for migratory birds and other species.
- 3. Active participation in regional frameworks shows progress, and deeper integration into EU biodiversity initiatives.
- 4. As part of EU accession, Montenegro has started preparing Natura 2000 areas; this process overlaps strongly with CMS priorities and will enhance migratory species protection.

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

- >>> 1. Montenegro lacks systematic monitoring programs and comprehensive scientific data on migratory species populations, routes, and trends, which makes effective implementation of CMS obligations difficult.
- 2. Although legal frameworks exist, enforcement against illegal killing, fishing, and wildlife trade remains limited due to lack of resources, capacities etc.
- 3. Infrastructure expansion, coastal urbanization threatens critical habitats such as wetlands, rivers and coastal areas essential for migratory species.
- 4. Migratory species require coordinated management across borders, but Montenegro's collaboration with neighboring countries still remains underdeveloped.
- 5. Awareness among general public, local communities, and even some decision-makers about the importance of migratory species conservation is limited.

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

- >>> 1. Establish comprehensive, long-term monitoring programs for migratory species and their habitats, supported by scientific research and data-sharing at national and regional levels.
- 2. Enhance the capacity of inspection sector and law enforcement institutions to address illegal hunting/killing, fishing, and wildlife trade, while promoting community-based monitoring.
- 3. Prioritize the restoration of degraded wetlands (e.g. Ulcinj salina), rivers and coastal ecosystems...
- 4. Set up national databases, GIS platforms, and mobile apps for reporting sightings of migratory species and illegal activities.
- 5. Access EU funds (LIFE, IPA) and international donors to ensure stable long-term funding for CMS-related projects.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party

>>> Montenegro

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

>>> 01032009

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> No

Report compiler

Name and title

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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slender-billed Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western African Aquatic Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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)..

Yes, the list is correct

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 some species

Please indicate in the Excel file linked to below the species for which taking is prohibited. Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Section IV prohibition of take Montenegro.xlsx - Prohibition of take_updated_MNE_2025

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

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

>>> - Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No.54/16

- Decision on placing certain plant and animal species under protection ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro", No. 76/2006 of December 12, 2006)

- Rulebook on Detailed Conditions for trade in protected wild species of Plants, Animals and Fungi ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 061/17 of October 02, 2017)

- Decision on the Establishment of the Red list of Reptiles and Amphibians of Montenegro ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 087/23 of September 27, 2023)

- Rulebook on habitat types and priority habitat types, and the list of plant and animal species including priority species, bird species, and species for which sites are designated as part of the Ecological network ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 112/24 of November 22, 2024)

IV.2 **Exceptions:** Where the taking of Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

IV.3. Where the taking of all Appendix I species is **not** prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to update existing legislation or develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Yes

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies

Other

>>> The competent Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development has prepared a draft of the new Law on Nature Protection, as well as a draft of the new List of protected plant and animal species. Inter-institutional consultations and the submission of comments are currently being carried out, after which a public debate will take place.

Additionally, the Government of Montenegro is currently in the process of collecting feedback on the National Action Plan for addressing the illegal killing, capturing, and trade of migratory birds for the period 2025-2030, which is expected to be adopted by the end of the III quarter of this year.

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
- Press and media coverage
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

Impact of actions

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

>>> 1. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) Celebrations

Montenegro actively participates in World Migratory Bird Day, celebrated on the second Saturdays of May and October. This global campaign aims to raise awareness about the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. In 2023, events included educational activities, workshops, and public outreach to highlight the importance of migratory birds and the challenges they face during their long journeys.

2. Collaboration with International Conservation Organizations

Montenegro collaborates with organizations such as EuroNatur and BirdLife International, local NGOs (especially with Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro) to enhance conservation efforts for migratory birds. These partnerships focus on protecting key habitats along the Adriatic Flyway, combating illegal bird hunting, and promoting sustainable land-use practices. Through joint initiatives, Montenegro benefits from shared expertise and resources aimed at preserving migratory species.

3. Public Awareness Campaigns on Illegal Killing of Birds

Montenegro has been involved in regional workshops and campaigns addressing the illegal killing, capturing, and trade of migratory birds. These efforts aim to educate the public about the legal and ecological implications of such activities and promote compliance with national and international conservation laws. The workshops provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss challenges and share best practices in bird conservation.

For example: The CMS Secretariat, on behalf of MIKT, organized together with the Montenegrin Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Development, a workshop on how to develop, implement and monitor National Action Plans on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB). The workshop was organized from Monday, 2 September to Wednesday 4 September 2024, in Podgorica, Montenegro. Same is addressed only to Balkan countries, specifically to experts from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia.

4. Educational Programs and School Outreach

Various NGOs and local institutions in Montenegro conduct educational programs targeting schools and local communities. These programs include classroom sessions, field trips to protected areas, and interactive workshops designed to engage young people in biodiversity conservation. By fostering a sense of responsibility towards nature, these initiatives aim to cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

5. Media Engagement and Public Information Campaigns

Montenegro utilizes various media platforms, including television, radio, and social media, to disseminate information about migratory species and conservation efforts. Public service announcements, documentaries, and feature stories help raise awareness about the importance of protecting migratory birds and their habitats. These campaigns aim to reach a broad audience and encourage public participation in conservation activities.

(<https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/692752/mert-ljudsko-blagostanje-je-neopozivo-povezano-sa-stanjem-svjetskih-mocvara>)

V.3. Overall, how successful have these awareness actions been in achieving their objectives?

Tick one box

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

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

3. Good impact

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

>>> Montenegro has undertaken multiple initiatives to increase public awareness of migratory species, their habitats, and migration systems. These measures have been implemented primarily by state institutions, often in collaboration with NGOs and international organizations. Key actions include annual bird ringing campaigns at Ulcinj Salt Flats, participation in Natura 2000 site designation process, development of the National Action Plan for Migratory Birds (2025–2030), educational workshops, and outreach programs targeting schools and local communities. Public engagement has been further supported through media campaigns and events such as World Migratory Bird Day.

The assessment of these actions is based on multiple forms of evidence, including official reports and national plans submitted to CMS, national legislation and regulatory acts, documentation from international programs, records of field activities, NGO and partner organization reports, media coverage, and scientific monitoring data. Collectively, this evidence demonstrates Montenegro's commitment to fostering awareness and understanding of the ecological importance of migratory species and their habitats, as well as promoting public participation in conservation efforts.

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.

>>> Montenegro has begun incorporating the conservation of migratory species, as outlined under CMS obligations, into sectoral planning and strategies across multiple economic and development sectors:

1. Transport Sector

Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for road, railway, and port infrastructure projects now include considerations of migratory species and their habitats. Measures such as wildlife corridors, underpasses, and habitat buffers are planned to minimize disturbance along migration routes. CMS objectives are used to inform national guidelines for environmentally sensitive transport development, ensuring compliance with biodiversity conservation standards.

2. Agriculture Sector

Sustainable agricultural practices are promoted to reduce habitat fragmentation and pesticide use, which benefits migratory birds and other species. Agri-environment schemes include wetland and riparian habitat protection measures, contributing to migration corridor preservation. Integration of CMS objectives ensures that agricultural expansion does not compromise key habitats for migratory species.

3. Tourism Sector

Eco-tourism and bird-watching tourism development are planned around key migratory sites, such as Ulcinj Salina and Skadar Lake, providing economic benefits while protecting habitats. CMS objectives guide visitor management, infrastructure development, and awareness programs to prevent disturbance to migratory species.

4. Construction and Spatial Planning

Large-scale construction projects undergo assessments for potential impacts on migratory species, with mitigation measures required before approval.

5. Cross-sectoral Coordination

Ministries responsible for transport, agriculture, tourism, and construction collaborate with the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development to ensure sectoral strategies align with CMS objectives.

Sectoral plans increasingly incorporate biodiversity considerations, supporting sustainable development and minimizing conflicts between economic growth and conservation.

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:

>>> Montenegro has increasingly recognized the importance of migratory species in its environmental, socio-economic, and development planning. Over the past few years, migratory species conservation has been embedded in national and local frameworks in several ways:

1. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2021–2025)

The NBSAP includes objectives to protect critical habitats for migratory birds, marine mammals, and fish, particularly wetlands, rivers, and coastal zones. It identifies key migration corridors and stopover sites, linking habitat protection to broader ecosystem services such as water purification, flood control, and fisheries productivity. The strategy explicitly mentions education and awareness programs for local communities, farmers, and schools, highlighting the ecological and socio-economic value of migratory species. NBSAP implementation is coordinated by the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, ensuring alignment with other sectoral policies.

2. National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD 2030)

The NSSD integrates biodiversity and migratory species conservation into sustainable economic development, particularly in tourism, agriculture, and fisheries. Eco-tourism initiatives, such as bird-watching tourism at

Ulcinj Salt Flats and Skadar Lake, create alternative livelihoods for local communities, linking conservation with income generation. The strategy promotes sustainable resource use in rural areas, reducing pressures on habitats while indirectly protecting migratory species. NSSD 2030 also references ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation, connecting migratory species conservation to resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable livelihoods.

3. Local Action Plans for Biodiversity (LAPB)

Municipalities have adopted LAPBs that integrate habitat protection and migratory species considerations into local development planning, including spatial planning, land use, and eco-tourism zoning. Examples include Skadar Lake National Park and Bojana/Buna River corridor initiatives, where local authorities engage communities in habitat restoration, wetland management, and awareness campaigns.

LAPBs emphasize community participation, providing training and incentives for sustainable fishing, farming, and tourism practices that minimize disturbance to migratory species.

4. National Action Plan for Migratory Birds (2025–2030)

Montenegro is finalizing its National Action Plan to combat illegal killing, trapping, and trade of migratory birds, expected to be adopted by the end of Q3 2025. The plan focuses on awareness campaigns, enforcement, and community engagement, linking conservation of migratory birds to sustainable livelihoods by reducing illegal activities and promoting alternative income sources.

Inter-institutional consultations and public participation ensure that conservation measures align with social and economic needs of affected communities.

5. Integration into Poverty Reduction and Livelihood Strategies

While migratory species are not always explicitly referenced, poverty reduction projects led by UNDP and other partners incorporate environmental sustainability, indirectly benefiting these species. Examples include wetland management projects, sustainable fisheries, and eco-tourism initiatives, which provide employment and income while conserving habitats. Local communities involved in conservation receive training, technical support, and sometimes financial incentives, creating a direct link between biodiversity protection and improved livelihoods.

6. International Collaboration and EU Alignment

Montenegro aligns national planning with EU directives (Habitats and Birds Directives), AEWA, and CMS obligations, ensuring that migratory species conservation is integrated into broader policy frameworks.

Present and future participation in LIFE projects supports habitat restoration, public awareness, and sustainable development practices that benefit both people and wildlife. Regional cooperation through the Adriatic Flyway Initiative ensures protection of migratory routes, linking cross-border conservation to economic and social benefits.

7. Education, Public Awareness, and Citizen Science

Montenegro has conducted bird ringing campaigns, educational workshops, and citizen science programs, engaging students, local communities, and volunteers. Initiatives like World Migratory Bird Day events and media campaigns raise awareness about the ecological and economic value of migratory species. These programs foster local stewardship and link conservation with tourism, recreation, and environmental education, enhancing livelihoods while protecting migratory species.

Additionally, Montenegro actively reports on the conservation of migratory species and the protection of their habitats to the European Commission, particularly in the context of its EU accession process and obligations under international agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

1. Annual Progress Reports

As part of its EU accession negotiations, Montenegro submits annual progress reports to the European Commission. These reports detail the country's alignment with EU environmental and nature protection standards, including the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. For instance, the 2024 report highlights Montenegro's efforts in nature protection and the implementation of EU environmental standards.

2. Environmental Performance Reviews

Montenegro's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts Environmental Performance Reviews, which assess the country's progress in environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation. These reviews evaluate the implementation of CMS obligations and the protection of migratory species and their habitats.

3. Reporting under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives

Montenegro, as a candidate country, aligns its legislation with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. These directives require member states to report on the conservation status of habitats and species, including migratory species, and on measures taken to protect them. Montenegro's alignment with these directives demonstrates its commitment to conserving migratory species and their habitats.

4. Participation in CMS Conferences of the Parties

Montenegro actively participates in the Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the CMS, where countries report on their conservation efforts for migratory species. These conferences provide a platform for Montenegro to share its progress and challenges in conserving migratory species and to receive guidance from other parties.

International Collaboration and Reporting

1. Reporting under the Bern Convention

Montenegro is a party to the Bern Convention, which requires countries to report on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats. These reports include information on migratory species and their habitats, demonstrating Montenegro's commitment to international biodiversity conservation standards.

2. Participation in Regional Initiatives

Montenegro is involved in regional initiatives such as the Adriatic Flyway, which focuses on the conservation of migratory birds along the Adriatic coast. Through these initiatives, Montenegro collaborates with neighboring countries to protect migratory species and their habitats.

3. Reporting under the CMS

As a contracting party to the CMS, Montenegro reports on its implementation of the convention's provisions, including the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. These reports are submitted to the CMS Secretariat and are accessible to the public, providing transparency and accountability in Montenegro's conservation efforts.

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.

>>> NGO CZIP CZIP Mission is to protect birds and other animal and plant species, their habitats, biodiversity monitoring of Montenegro, citizen education, popularization of scientific research, as well as cooperation with other organization's at home and abroad, dealing with the protection of nature.

The objectives of the organization are:

- To initiate, encourage and support scientific and professional research of ornitho-fauna and other biodiversity groups in the area of Montenegro.
- To promote and present to national and international public the richness of biodiversity.
- To educate and raise awareness of people about their knowledge of birds and other members of biodiversity.
- To indicates to the needs and means of protection of birds and their habitats, as well as other members of biodiversity.

The vision of the Center is the harmony in the relationship between people and nature, and economic development based on the principles of sustainable use of resources

Links:

<https://czip.me/>

<https://czip.me/en/about-us/reports/>

<https://czip.me/en/about-us/publications/>

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

>>> The private sector in Montenegro has played an increasingly important role in the conservation of migratory species and their habitats, often in partnership with state institutions and civil society.

Eco-tourism operators such as Monticola Ltd., established by the Centre for the Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP), have developed guided bird-watching tours at sites like Ulcinj Salina and Lake Skadar, generating revenue for conservation while raising awareness among visitors.

Similarly, Undiscovered Montenegro, a responsible travel company, actively supports conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican at Lake Skadar by contributing financially to nesting raft maintenance and monitoring, and by integrating bird conservation messages into its tourist experiences. Local businesses have also invested in infrastructure that benefits both visitors and migratory species: for example, Camp Virpazar, in partnership with CZIP and the Public Enterprise for National Parks, has introduced solar-powered boats and improved bird observatories at Skadar Lake to promote eco-friendly tourism while reducing disturbance to sensitive species. Additionally, large restoration efforts such as the "Saving Salina for Nature and People" project at Ulcinj Salina involve private tourism operators, local enterprises, and community stakeholders in developing sustainable income streams while safeguarding one of the Adriatic Flyway's most important stopover sites for migratory birds. Through these activities, the private sector in Montenegro is not only generating economic opportunities but also directly contributing to the long-term protection of migratory species and their critical habitats.

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.

>>> Insufficient species-specific data and mapping - MNE lacks comprehensive, up-to-date data on species migratory ranges, routes, and critical habitats as well on timing and seasonal use of areas. National biodiversity databases are still developing, and there is still insufficient data for many migratory species or do not exist at all.

Transboundary Coordination gabs - migratory species move across national borders. While MNE is party to Espoo Convention and CMS, in practice: transboundary consultations are often limited to formal notice, with weak follow-up. Additionally, there is limited ecological coordination with neighbors (e.g. Albania, Serbia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia) on protecting shared flyways, rivers or marine corridors.

Weak consideration of cumulative and long-term impacts - EIA/SEA often focuses on site-specific, short-term effects. More precisely, species may be exposed to multiple pressures over time, but EIA/SEA only examines each project in isolation.

National and local authorities responsible for both EIA/SEA often lack specialist in migratory species, tools to model species movements and very often access to regional or global datasets.

Limited public participation and transparency - while public consultations are required in law, in practice they may be poorly advertised, technical documents are hard to access or understand, affected stakeholder's may be excluded or ignored.

Monitoring and Post EIA/SEA follow up is not at a satisfactory level.

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.

>>> Montenegro has made progress in integrating biodiversity considerations into its national energy and climate policies, reflecting its commitment to sustainable development and alignment with EU environmental standards. Foundational laws such as the Law on Nature Protection and the Law on Protection of Marine Environment establish a strong legal framework for the protection of ecosystems and species, which indirectly supports the conservation of migratory species as well. While specific references to migratory species and their movement patterns are still limited within sectoral legislation, there is a clear and growing awareness of the importance of harmonizing renewable energy development with biodiversity goals. Strategic documents, including the National Biodiversity Strategy and updated climate commitments (NDCs), demonstrate Montenegro's willingness to advance a balanced approach that considers both environmental protection and energy transition. Continued efforts to enhance data collection, intersectoral coordination, and regional cooperation will further strengthen the country's capacity to effectively integrate migratory species considerations into energy and climate planning, in line with its international obligations and conservation priorities.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> A positive example from Montenegro is the 2024 Law on the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources, which promotes renewable energy development while requiring compliance with environmental safeguards, including biodiversity protection under the Law on Nature Protection and EIA legislation. This ensures that new energy projects undergo environmental assessments that can address potential impacts on ecosystems and migratory species. Additionally, Montenegro's ongoing development of its National Energy and Climate Plan provides an opportunity to further integrate biodiversity considerations—such as migratory corridors and sensitive habitats—into long-term energy and climate planning, aligning with EU standards and international conservation commitments.

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.

No, because existing arrangements are considered to be sufficient

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.

No

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

VII.4. Has your country or any jurisdictional subdivision within your country adopted legislation, policies, initiatives or action plans during the reporting period that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species?

No

VIII. Incentives

VIII.1. Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country during the reporting period resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Yes

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

>>> /

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.

>>> Acceptance of the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies - on 14 June 2024, MNE formally deposited its instrument of acceptance of the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies. This agreement seeks to prohibit subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, subsidies for fishing overfished stocks and subsidies for fishing on the unregulated high seas. This is the mayor step because subsidies that enable overfishing or IUU fishing are harmful incentives for migratory species. Eliminating or restricting such subsidies should improve sustainability and reduce pressure on migratory aquatic organisms.

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

>>> Montenegro's National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2030 (NSSD 2030), along with complementary plans such as the Spatial Plan to 2040, the National Biodiversity Strategy, and its climate commitments (NDCs), establishes a comprehensive policy framework that addresses sustainable production and consumption with direct relevance to the conservation of migratory species. These strategies promote sustainable land and marine use, protect natural capital, and aim to reduce environmental pressures from agriculture, fisheries, and tourism—sectors that significantly affect the habitats of migratory birds, marine mammals, and fish. The NSSD 2030 includes goals for safeguarding ecosystem integrity, limiting land conversion, expanding organic agriculture, and enhancing protected areas, particularly in coastal and marine zones that serve as key stopover or breeding sites. Legal and institutional measures aligned with international conventions (e.g., CBD, CMS, Bern) further support habitat conservation and aim to combat threats like habitat degradation and illegal killing of migratory birds. However, challenges remain in enforcement, marine protection coverage, and ensuring that development—especially in coastal areas—does not undermine critical habitats. While the strategic direction is aligned with migratory species conservation, implementation effectiveness and stronger integration of species-specific needs into national planning remain crucial for long-term success.

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

>>> 1. Policy frameworks & strategic plans

- Continuation and operationalization of the NSSD 2030, Spatial Plan to 2040, and biodiversity-related goals.
- EU-aligned commitments to marine/coastal protection (30% by 2030), and restoration of degraded habitats.

2. Restoration projects

- Projects launched at Ulcinj Salina to restore hydrological systems and improve habitat quality for migratory birds.
- Development of a biodiversity monitoring program (BioMon) and bird-ringing activities to support long-term data collection.

3. Marine monitoring and species protection

- Marine habitat surveys (e.g. GEF Adriatic) assessing ecological status of seagrass meadows.
- SAMESEA project to monitor and protect marine migratory species like dolphins, turtles, and monk seals.

4. Data and knowledge initiatives

- Publication of Montenegro's first national checklist for sharks, rays, and chimaeras (2024).
- Updated reporting on bird species presence and breeding/migration patterns (CZIP reports, 2023-2024).

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	Falconidae (Appendix II), G. fulvus, A. chrysaetus,	1
Illegal hunting	Aquila chrysaetos (Appendix II), Falco peregrinus (Appendix II)	2
Other harvesting and take		
Illegal trade	A. graeca, C. coturnix, Anatidae, Umicidae	1
Deliberate poisoning	Coturnix coturnix (Appendix II); Streptopelia turtur (Appendix II) Scolopacidae (Appendix II)	1

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Za izvjestaj prema Bonskoj konvenciji CZIP 1.docx](#)

[cms montenegro birds 2019.PDF](#)

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

>>> 1. Development of a National Action Plan for Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (IKB NAP)

Montenegro hosted a workshop in Podgorica (2-4 September 2024) on how to develop, implement and monitor a National IKB Action Plan under the CMS/MIKT framework. The workshop aimed to align national priorities with the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 for combating illegal bird killing, taking, and trade.

This is significant because a NAP provides a structured, legal/policy basis for enforcement, priority setting, stakeholder coordination, monitoring, and measuring success. It moves beyond ad hoc efforts.

2. Stronger enforcement / seizures in illegal wildlife trade

There have been new, well-documented instances of smuggling / illegal trade of protected species (e.g. peregrine falcons, African spurred tortoises, finger clams) caught by border/customs authorities. Confiscations and legal complaints have been lodged, sometimes resulting in (though modest) sentences or fines. E.g., a suspended sentence for a person smuggling African tortoises and a red-throated barbet.

3. Capacity-building & regional collaboration

In addition to the NAP workshop, there have been broader regional / institutional efforts: e.g. workshops organized by the Environment Protection Agency, OSCE, and NGOs focusing on environmental crime, wildlife trafficking, capacity of enforcement agencies. The “BalkanDetox LIFE” program (mentioned in the IKB workshop) participating in developing roadmaps against wildlife poisoning and enhancing collaboration among civil society and government stakeholders.

4. Legal / institutional recognition of the issue & planned law reforms

Montenegro is working on a new Law on Nature Protection (as anticipated) that is expected to give clearer mandates, possibly stricter controls, shelters etc., to better address illegal keeping, trade, and the protection of wild animals. Environmental inspection and customs authorities are increasingly active: more frequent inspections, some prosecutions or fines, albeit symbolic in many cases.

5. Evidence and monitoring improvements

Improved documentation of incidents—smuggling, illegal keeping, transport etc.—through investigative journalism (CIN-CG), NGO reports.

Growing public awareness (through media, workshops) of illegal wildlife trade and poisoning issues. The IKB/NAP workshops and BalkanDetox’s anti-poisoning work are part of that.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa), Res.**13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res.**13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res.**12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Res.**12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)**(Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19**(Rev.COP14) (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res.**11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), Res.**11.16 (Rev.COP14)**(The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)**(Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)**(Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21**(Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31** (Rev.COP14) (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), 14.119-14.121 (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), 14.125 (Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force), Decision 14.126 (South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force).

>>> There is indication of a rising trend in wildlife smuggling and trade, especially of exotic or protected species, including birds, tortoises, etc.

Enforcement seems inadequate in many cases: many infractions lead to small fines or suspended sentences, rather than strong deterrent action. This suggest that although illegal taking is being detected, accountability and punishment are weak.

So overall, the negative trend is that illegal trade/smuggling/illegal keeping are not decreasing - rather, they appear persistent or perhaps growing in some sectors, with weak enforcement outcomes.

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		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Other forms of unintentional taking	No data	

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.

>>> The Fisheries development strategy 2024-2029 includes objectives aligned with EU polices to modernize the fleet, improve control and monitoring, and regulate gear use more effectively.

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).

>>> We cannot define the trends due the lack of data, but we pay attention that study "Composition and abundance of shark by-catch in Montenegrin Fisheries" found that among the nine shark

species observed in catches, three are classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN. For example *Isurus oxyrinchus* is nationally protected with permanent fishing ban. Despite protection, it suffers from significant incidental bycatch and some intentional catch. The same study noted that some fisheries directly target certain shark species (e.g. *Mustelus* spp.) because of commercial value (sale of meat etc.) with increases risk of over-fishing. The fishing fleet in MNE is generally old, small, lacks modern gear and infrastructure, and oversight/enforcement is weak. These conditions tend to increase risk of bycatch as well as unregulated catch.

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	Accipitridae (Appendix II); Falconidae (Appendix II)	2
Other collisions		Buildings with big glass surfaces
Electrocution	Accipitridae (Appendix II); Falconidae (Appendix II)	2
Vessel strikes		

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

>>> The key activities have been driven by a strategic partnership between the national power utility, Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG), and the ornithological NGO Center for the Protection and Study of Birds (CZIP), often with international financial support. This collaboration follows a systematic process: CZIP conducts scientific research to identify high-risk areas and secures funding for equipment, while EPCG provides the labor and expertise for installation.

A prime example of this successful model is a recent project on Cemovsko polje, a known important area for bird activity. Following this established procedure, CZIP has ordered the necessary batch of bird-safe equipment, which includes insulating materials and flight diverters. EPCG will then install this equipment on the power lines at this specific location. This initiative demonstrates the ongoing, proactive nature of their work, expanding efforts beyond primary sites like Ulcinj Salina to other key habitats.

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.

>>> The overarching negative trend is that current solutions, though excellent, are not yet scaling at the same rate as the threats evolving. The positive work of CZIP and EPCG is effectively fighting against a backdrop of legislative gaps, ongoing infrastructure development and an incomplete grid retrofit. For Montenegro to truly solve this issue, it must transition from successful pilot projects to a comprehensive national strategy back by law, dedicated funding, and integrated spatial planning that considers biodiversity from earliest stages of development.

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)	3/ Boutism during summer time	
Unexplained stranding events	1	Accipitridae (Appendix II); Falconidae (Appendix II)

Accidental/indirect poisoning		
Disease	No data	

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

>>> /

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).

>>> /

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		No data

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

>>> In Montenegro, the presence and management of alien and invasive species are addressed under national legislation, notably the Law on Alien and Invasive Alien Species of Plants, Animals and Fungi, which sets a legal framework for prevention, control, monitoring, and penalties related to biological invasions. Several non-native species have been documented in recent years, though direct links to negative impacts on migratory species listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) remain limited or unconfirmed. Among the most notable terrestrial invasive species is the Small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*), introduced in the 1980s and now widely established along the Montenegrin coast. While this species is known globally for preying on ground-nesting birds and reptiles, there is no published data confirming its impact on CMS-listed migratory birds in Montenegro. In aquatic ecosystems, the invasive bivalve *Corbicula fluminea* was first recorded in the Lake Skadar basin in 2022, raising concerns about its potential to alternative benthic communities and food availability for migratory waterbirds. Additionally, alien marine species such as the lionfish (*Pterois miles*) and blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) have been recorded in Boka Bay, likely facilitated by rising sea temperatures; however, their direct impact on migratory marine species, including CMS-listed sharks and rays, remains undocumented. Invasive alien plants such as *Solidago canadensis*, *Physalis angulata*, and *Ipomoea indica* have also been recently reported in Montenegro, with potential to alter habitats used by migratory birds, though concrete evidence of ecosystem-level impacts is lacking. Despite the legal foundation and growing awareness, there is currently no systematic monitoring program or risk assessment in place specifically evaluating the impacts of alien and invasive species on migratory species in Montenegro. Strengthening intersectoral coordination and integrating alien species management into CMS-related conservation planning remains a critical next step.

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).

>>> Montenegro has enacted a law concerning alien and invasive species which sets rules for prevention, monitoring, inspection, reporting, penalties, etc. However, in practice, monitoring (mapping), public awareness, and data collection are still catching up.

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

>>> Key advancements include the implementation of the SAMESEA project, which promotes cross-border cooperation and harmonized monitoring of marine sentinel species such as dolphins, sea turtles, and monk

seals, while identifying high-risk areas for human-wildlife interactions. The formal adoption of management plans for the country's first marine protected areas—Platamuni, Katič, and Stari Ulcinj—has established frameworks to regulate human activities and mitigate disturbance in ecologically sensitive zones. Significant efforts have also been directed towards combating the illegal killing and trade of migratory birds, notably through the development of a national IKB (Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade) action plan supported by CMS frameworks. Habitat restoration at Ulcinj Salina, a vital stopover site for migratory birds, has contributed to the recovery of suitable wetland conditions through infrastructure rehabilitation and water management improvements. Additionally, ongoing biodiversity monitoring by institutions like CZIP has led to new records and updated distribution data for various migratory species, improving conservation planning. Montenegro's accession to the EU LIFE Programme in 2025 has further strengthened institutional capacity and access to funding for biodiversity protection. Despite these achievements, challenges remain, including limited coverage and enforcement of marine protected areas, persistent data gaps, and the need for improved intersectoral coordination and public awareness. Nonetheless, these recent efforts represent meaningful steps toward reducing human-induced pressures and enhancing the conservation of migratory species across Montenegro's terrestrial and marine landscapes.

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 Areas under Decision **14.61**.

>>> While Montenegro has made progress in recent years toward the conservation of migratory species under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), several ongoing challenges continue to hinder the full effectiveness of these efforts. Marine protected areas, although formally designated, currently cover only a small portion of the country's coastal zone, and their management and enforcement mechanisms are still developing. Ecologically important habitats, such as Ulcinj Salina, continue to face pressures from insufficient water management, infrastructure decline, and competing land-use interests, which may impact their suitability for migratory species. Illegal hunting and trapping of migratory birds remain present along the Adriatic Flyway, with enforcement improving but not yet fully addressing the scale of the issue. Additionally, coastal development, expanding tourism, and associated light and noise pollution can lead to disturbance in key stopover or breeding areas for migratory fauna. In marine ecosystems, the increasing presence of non-native species combined with warming sea temperatures, pose growing ecological challenges. Climate variability is further influencing wetland dynamics, potentially affecting the availability and quality of habitats used by migratory birds. While strategic documents and action plans exist, implementation on the ground is sometimes constrained by limited institutional capacity, coordination challenges, or resource gaps. These issues, when considered alongside broader global trends of declining CMS species populations, underscore the need for continued investment in habitat protection, adaptive management, and cross-sectoral collaboration to support the long-term conservation of migratory species in Montenegro.

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

>>> Montenegro has implemented several pollution-reduction measures in recent years that support the conservation of migratory species listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), particularly those dependent on marine and coastal habitats. In April 2024, the country adopted a new Law on Waste Management (Official Gazette 34/2024), which introduced a ban on lightweight plastic bags (15–50 microns) that came into force on October 1, 2024, while thicker bags became subject to environmental fees. Revenue from these measures is directed to the Environmental Protection Fund. The law also introduced an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system covering packaging, single-use plastic products, fishing gear, and other categories, placing responsibility on producers and importers to finance and organize waste collection and management. These actions are particularly relevant for reducing marine litter that poses entanglement and ingestion risks to CMS species such as sea turtles, cetaceans, and seabirds. In parallel, Montenegro has advanced wastewater management infrastructure, with major EU- and donor-funded projects underway to improve sewage systems and wastewater treatment in key coastal municipalities. For example, under the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), the “Water Supply and Sanitation Adriatic Coast Programme” is upgrading sewerage networks and treatment capacity in Tivat, Kotor, and Ulcinj—areas adjacent to marine habitats used by migratory species. These combined efforts represent progress in addressing land- and sea-based pollution pressures that threaten the habitats and health of CMS-listed species in Montenegro.

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).

>>> In short:

1. Habitat protection and management of stopover/resting areas (wetlands, coastal zones) is insufficiently strong or consistent.
2. Pollution (air and marine) remains high in some areas, affecting habitat quality and imposing biological stresses.
3. Insufficient mitigation of disturbance and light pollution, especially during sensitive periods for migratory species.
4. Monitoring and enforcement gaps making it harder to ensure that pollution control measures are effective and that threats are detected early.

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

>>> The Platamuni Nature Park was declared the first Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Montenegro in April 2021. Montenegro also declared Katič Nature Park as an MPA in 2021.

The Stari Ulcinj Nature Park was proclaimed as a marine protected area (Nature Park) on 29 December 2021. Management Plans for all three MPAs (Platamuni, Katič, Stari Ulcinj) were adopted in 2022-2023: specifically, Platamuni's Management Plan on 23 December 2022, and for Katič and Stari Ulcinj on 6 April 2023.

Ulcinj Salina was designated a Ramsar site in September 2019 (site no. 2399), recognizing its international importance as a wetland.

In January 2024, initial restoration work was completed at Ulcinj Salina: about 6.6 km of dams and dykes were restored, and the most important sluices and pumps were repaired. This allows freshwater to be pumped out in winter and saltwater in spring.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> Even in formally protected or designated Marine Protected Areas: Platamuni, declared in April 2021, has seen six reports of illegal construction activity during 2023-2024.

In strictly protected national parks (e.g. Skadar Lake, Prokletije, Durmitor, Biogradska Gora, Lovćen) there have been dozens of attempts or cases of illegal building since early 2024.

Wetlands (including Ulcinj Salina, Lake Skadar, Tivat Salina, Mareza, Lužnica, etc.) are formally recognized (some under Ramsar etc.) but lack effective state protection in practice. Activities such as illegal dumping, pollution, illegal construction, and natural resource exploitation continue.

For Ulcinj Salina in particular: though declared protected, no suitable management body was established for years, which has hampered restoration and protection.

Seagrass species such as *Posidonia oceanica*, *Cymodocea nodosa*, *Zostera noltei* are in sharp decline, especially in bays affected by coastal development, concrete pontoons / wharves, anchoring, and pollution.

For example, large areas in Boka Kotorska Bay have lost *Posidonia* beds.

Areas nominated for Emerald Network status (e.g. Čemovsko Polje, Velika Plaža) are degrading: illegal logging, dumping, poaching, unauthorized construction are reported. Lack of awareness and weak enforcement allow habitat for rare/endemic species to be damaged in such candidate areas.

Some Ramsar or internationally recognized wetlands have protection in law, but management plans are not fully implemented. For example, Lake Skadar and Ulcinj Salina are said to be endangered despite protection status. Also, many wetlands deserving protection are unprotected; illegal constructions and space usurpation continue.

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	No data	

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report concerning climate change?

>>> Montenegro has officially adopted an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The government also launched its first renewable energy auction in 2025, offering 250 MW of solar capacity with a capped price of €65/MWh, under a new Renewable Energy Law aligned with EU standards. In May 2025, Montenegro formally joined the EU LIFE Programme for environment and climate action, gaining access to EU funding for related projects. Additionally, €80 million in financial agreements were signed with the EU to support environmental protection, climate action, and green transition initiatives for the 2024–2027 period.

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).

>>> Montenegro is already experiencing measurable impacts of climate change, with confirmed data showing a rise in average air temperatures by approximately 1.1 °C over the last 30 years. Additionally, the Adriatic Sea's surface temperature along Montenegro's coast has increased by more than 1.5 °C since 1980, contributing to rising sea levels and the salinization of coastal wetlands. These changes are linked to more frequent and intense extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall, flash floods, and prolonged droughts. According to the World Bank, if no additional adaptation measures are taken, climate-related disasters could lead to a 7.9% drop in Montenegro's GDP by 2050. These impacts also threaten the sustainability of key sectors, including agriculture, tourism, water resources, and hydropower, increasing the urgency for both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

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	Coturnix coturnix (Appendix II);
Inadequate legislation		
Lack of knowledge	2	oturnix coturnix (Appendix II); Streptopelia turtur (Appendix II)
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?

>>> Legislative and Policy Developments

In December 2021, Montenegro proclaimed the Stari Ulcinj Nature Park as its third marine protected area (MPA), following the earlier declarations of Platamuni and Katič in 2021. This expansion increased the country's protected marine areas by approximately 4,764.7 hectares. These areas were designated due to their rich biodiversity, including habitats for migratory species, and are aligned with Montenegro's commitments under international conventions.

To ensure effective management, the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning, and Urbanism adopted comprehensive Management Plans for all three MPAs in 2023. These plans, developed with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project, aim to guide the conservation and sustainable use of these areas, addressing threats such as illegal fishing, pollution, and unregulated tourism. Montenegro has also committed to the 30x30 Initiative, aiming to protect 30% of its marine and terrestrial areas by 2030. However, as of mid-2025, only about 2% of its coastline is formally protected, indicating a significant gap between policy intentions and on-the-ground implementation.

Management and Conservation Initiatives

In April 2024, Montenegro hosted a regional workshop in Podgorica to develop National Action Plans

addressing the illegal killing, taking, and trade of migratory birds. This workshop, organized by the CMS Secretariat and the Montenegrin Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Northern Development, involved experts from several Balkan countries. The initiative aimed to align national efforts with the Rome Strategic Plan 2020–2030, focusing on eradicating illegal activities affecting migratory bird populations. Additionally, Montenegro has engaged in regional projects such as the SAMESEA Project, which focuses on the sustainable management of marine sentinel species, including dolphins, monk seals, and sea turtles. This project fosters regional cooperation and aims to harmonize monitoring efforts, enhance stakeholder engagement, and mitigate human-induced threats to marine biodiversity.

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

>>> Despite recent positive efforts such as the SAMESEA project and the establishment of marine protected areas, Montenegro continues to face significant challenges and negative trends in the conservation of migratory marine species and their habitats. Illegal construction and coastal development within protected areas like Platamuni have persisted, undermining habitat integrity and weakening enforcement efforts. Unregulated tourism, increasing maritime traffic, and illegal fishing activities also pose ongoing threats, leading to habitat degradation and disturbance to sensitive species such as dolphins, sea turtles, and monk seals. Furthermore, limited financial and human resources hinder effective monitoring, law enforcement, and community engagement, which are crucial for sustaining conservation outcomes. While regional cooperation initiatives provide frameworks for improved management, gaps remain in strategic planning and data sharing, complicating the timely identification and mitigation of emerging threats. These negative trends highlight the urgent need for strengthened governance, increased capacity building, and more robust implementation of conservation measures to ensure the long-term protection of Montenegro's marine biodiversity.

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

>>> Montenegro made progress in mitigating pressures on migratory marine species through strengthened policy, site-level management, and regional cooperation. The adoption of management plans for three newly designated marine protected areas (Platamuni, Katič, and Stari Ulcinj) introduced spatial zoning, anchoring restrictions, and visitor regulations aimed at reducing habitat disturbance and controlling human activity in ecologically sensitive areas.

Montenegro's active participation in the SAMESEA project has further supported these efforts by identifying high-risk zones—particularly in Boka Kotorska Bay—and piloting harmonized monitoring approaches for species such as dolphins, sea turtles, and monk seals. The project also facilitated stakeholder engagement through local roundtables and public outreach, promoting coexistence between conservation priorities and socio-economic activities like tourism and fisheries.

While enforcement and resource limitations persist, these developments represent a clear shift toward more structured, science-based, and participatory marine biodiversity governance. They also reflect Montenegro's increasing alignment with international obligations under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the EU's biodiversity agenda.

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

>>> Despite notable advances, Montenegro continues to face persistent challenges that undermine effective conservation of migratory marine species. One of the most critical issues is the gap between legal protection and on-the-ground enforcement. Reports of illegal construction within marine protected areas—such as Platamuni—highlight weak institutional oversight and limited accountability. In parallel, pressures from unregulated coastal tourism, boat traffic, and illegal or unsustainable fishing practices remain widespread, particularly in biodiversity-rich zones like Boka Kotorska Bay. While management plans exist, implementation capacity is constrained by insufficient funding, lack of specialized staff, and inadequate inter-agency coordination. Furthermore, data gaps in species monitoring and the absence of systematic biodiversity assessments hinder adaptive management and limit the effectiveness of international commitments under the CMS. These negative trends reflect structural weaknesses in governance and signal the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms, increased investment in monitoring, and broader integration of biodiversity into sectoral development planning.

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:

>>> In 2025, the Government of Montenegro formally adopted the Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2040, a comprehensive strategic document guiding national spatial development, infrastructure planning, and environmental protection. While the plan does not explicitly reference the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), nor specifically cite Article III(4)(b), it contains provisions relevant to the preservation of ecological connectivity and the integration of biodiversity considerations into land use and infrastructure development. The plan emphasizes sustainable spatial development, identifies ecologically sensitive zones, and outlines general measures to limit habitat fragmentation—an issue closely tied to the migration pathways of wild species.

Although these provisions provide a framework that could support efforts to prevent or minimize obstacles to animal migration, the lack of explicit designation of migration corridors or binding requirements for the removal of existing barriers limits the plan's direct applicability to CMS implementation. Furthermore, the plan does not mandate the development of wildlife crossing structures or ecological compensation mechanisms in areas affected by major infrastructure projects. As such, while the Spatial Plan 2040 represents a step forward in strategic planning for biodiversity, its potential to effectively implement the obligations under Article III(4)(b) will depend on subsequent sectoral regulations, enforcement, and integration with species-specific conservation measures.

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.

Birds

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[cms_montenegro_birds_2019.PDF](#)

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 During the reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species?

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Montenegro has been involved in regional CMS-related activities, such as hosting a 2024 Balkan workshop on national plans against illegal killing and trade of migratory birds, directly linked to CA objectives.

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 Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Montenegro has integrated ecological connectivity into its biodiversity and conservation strategies, largely through preparation for EU Natura 2000 obligations and participation in the Bern Convention Emerald Network.

In September 2024, Montenegro hosted a regional workshop for Balkan countries on developing and monitoring national action plans against illegal killing and trade of migratory species. This event, supported by CMS partners, directly contributed to safeguarding flyway connectivity.

Our role has been mainly participatory and integrative, rather than leading recourse mobilization, but it contributes to maintaining connectivity in Europe migratory corridors.

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?

>>> In the past few years, Montenegro has made tangible progress in identifying and protecting critical habitats for migratory species, building a solid foundation for future conservation success. Through systematic inventories linked to the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention and the preparations for the EU Natura 2000 network, the country has been able to map sites of high ecological value that serve as key corridors and stopovers for migratory birds, bats, marine species, and fish. These initiatives not only fulfil international obligations but also bring Montenegro closer to full alignment with EU biodiversity policy, ensuring that its natural heritage is safeguarded within a wider European ecological network.

Special emphasis has been given to wetlands and coastal ecosystems. Iconic sites such as Skadar Lake and Ulcinj Salina have been reaffirmed as internationally significant for waterbirds and waders, while Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) have been updated in cooperation with BirdLife International and local partners. These sites are not only critical refuges for species but also important symbols of Montenegro’s rich natural identity, connecting the country to the Adriatic flyway and to global migration routes.

Montenegro has also shown leadership in regional cooperation. In 2024, it hosted a Balkan workshop on tackling the illegal killing and trade of migratory birds, demonstrating its commitment to strengthening ecological connectivity across borders. Participation in Adriatic and Balkan flyway projects has further enhanced monitoring and identified hotspots where urgent conservation action is needed. While most resource mobilization has come through EU and partner funding, Montenegro has effectively used this support for capacity building, monitoring, and site management planning.

Looking ahead, the outlook is optimistic. Montenegro’s progress in inventories, its growing network of protected areas, and its active engagement in international processes such as CMS COP14, the Bern Convention, and Natura 2000 preparations create strong momentum for the coming years. With continued integration into European biodiversity frameworks, improved cooperation with regional partners, and the strengthening of site management capacities, Montenegro is well-positioned to secure the ecological connectivity and functionality of its migratory species habitats. By building on achievements to date, the country can emerge as a model for how small states can play a significant role in global migratory species conservation.

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).

>>> Over the past four years, Montenegro has made significant progress in identifying, protecting, and managing critical habitats for migratory species, building on its commitments under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) and related international frameworks. Through systematic national inventories linked to the Emerald Network, Natura 2000 preparations, and Ramsar site monitoring, the

country has mapped key sites that provide breeding, stopover, and feeding habitats for migratory birds, bats, fish, and marine species. Iconic wetlands such as Skadar Lake and Ulcinj Salina have been confirmed as internationally important, while coastal and marine protected areas along the Adriatic support dolphins, turtles, and migratory fish, contributing to ecological connectivity along regional flyways. Montenegro has actively engaged in regional initiatives, including Balkan flyway projects and workshops on preventing illegal killing and trade of migratory birds, thereby enhancing cross-border collaboration and the functional connectivity of habitats. Assessments conducted under EU accession preparations, UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews, and CMS-linked surveys demonstrate that the protected areas network already plays a crucial role in migratory species conservation, while highlighting opportunities to expand coverage, strengthen management, and improve habitat connectivity. Supported through EU, UNECE, and CMS partner resources, Montenegro's actions reflect strong national commitment and provide a robust foundation for continued progress, positioning the country as a key contributor to migratory species conservation in the Balkans and the Adriatic region, with promising prospects for further ecological connectivity, effective protection, and regional leadership in the coming years.

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:

>>> A new Nature Protection Law has been prepared and is currently undergoing inter-institutional consultations. In addition, a new list of protected plant and animal species has been proposed and it's also under consultation. The adoption of the new law by the Parliament of Montenegro, along with the relevant species list, is expected by the end of 2025.

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:

>>> Over the past four years, Montenegro has undertaken initial assessments of management effectiveness in its protected areas, particularly those important for migratory species, through frameworks linked to EU accession, Natura 2000 preparations, Ramsar site monitoring, and CMS-related initiatives. These assessments have focused on both terrestrial and marine sites, providing a clear picture of strengths and areas needing improvement.

In the terrestrial network, key wetlands such as Skadar Lake and Ulcinj Salina have been subject to management reviews that evaluated habitat integrity, protection measures, and ecological connectivity for migratory waterbirds and other species. Findings confirm that these sites maintain high conservation value, with effective baseline protections in place. However, challenges were noted in enforcement against illegal hunting, hydrological management, and human disturbance, highlighting areas where targeted improvements can enhance effectiveness.

In the marine context, assessments of Adriatic Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been conducted under ACCOBAMS and national marine monitoring programs. Confirmed data show that these MPAs provide critical habitat for migratory dolphins, marine turtles, and fish species. Evaluations focused on fishing pressure, habitat quality, and compliance with protection measures. The results demonstrate that while some management measures are functioning effectively, gaps remain in surveillance, enforcement, and systematic monitoring, which are essential for fully safeguarding migratory species along the coast.

Under the EU Natura 2000 preparation process, preliminary ecological assessments and management analyses have been conducted across potential sites for designation. These analyses confirm that existing protected areas contribute significantly to maintaining habitat connectivity and species migration corridors, but also identify the need for enhanced monitoring, improved staffing, and stronger management plans to meet EU and CMS standards.

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

No

XIV. Ecosystem Services

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

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

Yes

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> Strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) have been conducted for various plans and programs, including the Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2040. These assessments evaluate potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services, indirectly benefiting migratory species by ensuring that their habitats are considered in planning decisions.

Furthermore, the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) for the Proposed Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2040, finalized in December 2024, includes an evaluation of biodiversity values and ecosystem services. This assessment considers the role of ecosystems in providing services such as water purification, carbon sequestration, and habitat for migratory species. While the report does not provide a detailed quantitative analysis, it acknowledges the importance of these services in the context of spatial planning.

Additionally, the National Biodiversity Strategy with Action Plan (NBSAP) for Montenegro emphasizes the importance of ecosystem services provided by biodiversity. The NBSAP outlines objectives and actions to conserve biodiversity and enhance the provision of ecosystem services, including those that support migratory species.

These reports collectively indicate that while Montenegro has not conducted a comprehensive, nationwide assessment specifically quantifying ecosystem services associated with migratory species, there is a recognized integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service considerations into spatial planning processes. This approach indirectly supports the conservation of migratory species by ensuring that their habitats and the services they provide are considered in planning and decision-making processes.

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.

No

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.cbd.int/doc/world/me/me-nbsap-v2-me.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.

>>> NBSAPs are tools for implementation of not only CBD, but the whole cluster of biodiversity-related conventions.

Montenegrin NBSAP don't include specific measures referring to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species but our NBSAP implicitly provide measures that are highly beneficial for migratory species, not least because "conservation" by far is the one of the three CBD objectives receiving most attention in NBSAP. In that context, NBSAP cover the topic of "protected areas" quite comprehensively compared to other topics, thereby indicating its importance relative to the conservation of migratory species.

The NBSAP observes biodiversity as a whole and anticipates some of the activities:

-Promote the establishment of protected areas networks/Protected areas are cornerstones for conservation of biodiversity in general and specifically migratory species.

-Promote restoration of habitats

-Promote integration of biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- Promote the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (TEEB).

- Addressing main threats to biodiversity,

- Improve the status of biodiversity through the conservation of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, ect.

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

>>> According to the European Commission's 2023 Montenegro Report, Montenegro has made limited progress in implementing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The report highlights that while the country has adopted various strategic documents, including the NBSAP, the implementation of these strategies remains insufficient. Key challenges identified include inadequate financial resources, limited institutional capacity, and insufficient coordination among stakeholders. These factors hinder the effective conservation of biodiversity and the achievement of the targets set out in the NBSAP.

Furthermore, the European Parliament's 2025 report on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Montenegro emphasizes the need for Montenegro to enhance its efforts in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. The report calls for stronger implementation of the NBSAP and better integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies. It also stresses the importance of improving monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress and ensure accountability.

In summary, while Montenegro has developed strategic frameworks for biodiversity conservation, the European Commission's reports indicate that the implementation of these strategies has been limited.

Addressing the identified challenges and enhancing institutional capacity will be crucial for the effective conservation of biodiversity and the successful implementation of the NBSAP.

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.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)

Other

>>> In Montenegro, recent years have seen increasing efforts to integrate traditional knowledge and the practices of local communities into the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) recognizes that traditional land-use practices, especially in rural and coastal areas, play a role in maintaining biodiversity and supporting ecosystem functions. Community involvement is evident in bird conservation initiatives, such as the annual monitoring and tagging of migratory birds at the Ulcinj salt flats, which provides critical data for international flyway conservation while actively engaging local volunteers in hands-on conservation activities. In the marine environment, Montenegro participates in regional CMS initiatives for species such as the Mediterranean Monk Seal and cetaceans, where local knowledge contributes to monitoring and habitat management. While formal action plans specifically focused on traditional knowledge are not extensively documented, these participatory approaches demonstrate a practical integration of local expertise and practices into conservation strategies. By fostering collaboration between communities, scientists, and authorities, Montenegro is laying the groundwork for a conservation approach that values and applies traditional knowledge, enhances ecological connectivity, and supports the sustainable management of habitats crucial for migratory species.

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).

>>> /

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?

2. Some progress but more work is needed

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

>>> /

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)

- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

XVIII.2 Please describe the contribution these steps have made towards achieving the results defined in Target 15:

GUIDANCE TIP

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions 14.130/14.131 (AEMLAP), 14.134 (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), 14.148-14.151 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Decisions 14.207-14.208 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), and 14.182 (Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife).

Capacity building

>>> Montenegro has undertaken several capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the role of local communities and integrate traditional knowledge into biodiversity conservation, particularly for migratory species. The Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism have organized training programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns for local stakeholders, focusing on sustainable land-use practices, wetland management, and participatory monitoring of migratory birds. For example, at the Ulcinj salt flats, volunteers from local communities are trained annually in bird observation, tagging, and data collection, providing practical skills while fostering stewardship of key migratory habitats.

In the marine context, capacity-building activities under ACCOBAMS and CMS regional initiatives have provided Montenegrin scientists, rangers, and community representatives with training in monitoring cetaceans, sea turtles, and monk seals, as well as in mitigation of anthropogenic threats. These programs enhance both technical skills and local engagement in conservation management.

Furthermore, national strategies such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) emphasize the need to strengthen institutional capacity for incorporating traditional knowledge and community practices into conservation planning and decision-making. While formal programs are still limited, ongoing workshops, community outreach, and hands-on monitoring activities demonstrate that Montenegro is actively building capacity to leverage local knowledge in support of migratory species conservation.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Montenegro has actively participated in several knowledge and data-sharing initiatives to support the conservation of migratory species. The Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro, in collaboration with international frameworks such as CMS, ACCOBAMS, and BirdLife International, facilitates the collection and exchange of monitoring data on migratory birds, cetaceans, marine turtles, and monk seals. For example, data collected at the Ulcinj salt flats are shared with regional and global bird monitoring networks, contributing to flyway-scale conservation planning .

In the marine environment, Montenegro participates in the ACCOBAMS database and regional cetacean monitoring programs, enabling the sharing of sighting records, population assessments, and threat analyses with other Adriatic and Mediterranean range states. These platforms support coordinated conservation action and inform regional species action plans.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> Non-governmental organizations, including Center for protection and research of birds and other local conservation groups, actively engage in field monitoring, awareness campaigns, and community-based conservation programs. They contribute to data collection on species movements, habitat use, threats, and often coordinate citizen science initiatives.

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)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance

- Education/training/mentoring
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation

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.

No

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.

>>> In Montenegro, the most important priorities for CMS implementation in future reporting periods focus on strengthening both the protection of habitats and the conservation of migratory species, requiring dedicated resources and technical support. First, there is a need to enhance the management effectiveness of key protected areas, including Skadar Lake, Ulcinj Salina, Durmitor, Prokletije, and coastal Adriatic MPAs, ensuring that staffing, monitoring, enforcement, and habitat restoration measures are sufficient to maintain ecological integrity. Linked to this is the strengthening of ecological connectivity, particularly corridors that allow the safe passage of migratory birds, bats, fish, and marine mammals, which are often fragmented or under pressure from human activities.

Second, Montenegro must prioritize the implementation of CMS-relevant species action plans and Concerted Actions. While the country participates in regional initiatives such as vulture conservation, cetacean monitoring, and monk seal protection, there is a clear need to translate these into national action plans, adequately resourced for monitoring, habitat protection, threat mitigation, and stakeholder engagement. Third, integrating traditional knowledge and local community practices into conservation remains a high priority. Initiatives such as participatory bird monitoring at Ulcinj salt flats and community engagement in marine conservation demonstrate the value of local knowledge, but formal mechanisms and capacity-building programs are needed to systematically apply this knowledge in planning and management.

Fourth, data collection, research, and sharing are critical. Montenegro requires expanded and systematic monitoring of migratory species, including population assessments, habitat use, and threat mapping, with strengthened platforms for data sharing at national, regional, and global levels to inform evidence-based decision-making and cross-border conservation initiatives.

Fifth, capacity building and awareness raising are essential for government agencies, NGOs, and local communities to effectively manage migratory species and their habitats. Training on monitoring techniques, sustainable resource use, and threat mitigation, combined with public awareness campaigns, can reduce pressures such as illegal hunting, habitat disturbance, and pollution.

Finally, legislative and policy support is a key priority. Montenegro is preparing a new Nature Protection Law and updated protected species lists, expected by the end of 2025. Effective adoption and implementation of these legal instruments, aligned with CMS obligations and EU biodiversity standards, will provide a strong framework for coordinated conservation action.

In summary, achieving CMS objectives in Montenegro will require financial resources, technical expertise, institutional strengthening, and active engagement of local communities and research organizations.

Addressing these priorities will ensure the long-term conservation of migratory species, maintain ecological connectivity, and reinforce Montenegro’s role in regional and global migratory species conservation networks.