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):
››› - Having migratory species captured in the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Environment Policy 2022-32
- Awareness program on migratory species in particular birds and turtles
- Use of community through the citizen science approach to monitor turtles
- Partneship with NGOs and the community for the protection of species and habitat

The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention? (List up to five items):
››› - Limited financial resources to implement the convention
- Human resources to conduct research, monitoring and enforcement activities
- Data gaps and population status on migratory species and distribution

The main priorities for future implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):
››› - Incorporate migratory species into Marae Moana spatial planning
- Improve species monitory and research
- Enhance and strengthen institutional and technical capacity across key stakeholders
- community engagement and awareness to support conservation of habitats and citizen science

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party
››› Cook Islands

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country (DDMMYY)
››› 01082006

Report compiler

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Designated CMS National Focal Point

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II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

Please confirm the status of your country's participation in the following Agreements/MOUs, and indicate any updates or corrections required:
☑ 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	☐	☑	☐
ACAP	☐	☑	☐
ACCOBAMS	☐	☑	☐
AEWA	☐	☑	☐
ASCOBANS	☐	☑	☐
Atlantic Turtles	☐	☑	☐
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	☐	☑	☐
Bukhara Deer	☐	☑	☐
Dugong	☐	☑	☐
EUROBATS	☐	☑	☐
Gorilla Agreement	☐	☑	☐
High Andean Flamingos	☐	☑	☐
IOSEA Marine Turtles	☑	☐	☐
Middle-European Great Bustard	☐	☑	☐
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	☐	☑	☐
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	☐	☐	☑
Ruddy-headed Goose	☐	☑	☐
Saiga Antelope	☐	☑	☐
Sharks	☑	☐	☐
Siberian Crane	☐	☑	☐
Slender-billed Curlew	☐	☑	☐
South Andean Huemul	☐	☑	☐
Southern South American Grassland Birds	☐	☑	☐
Wadden Sea Seals	☐	☑	☐
West African Elephants	☐	☑	☐
Western African Aquatic Mammals	☐	☑	☐

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

III.1 Please confirm that the Excel file “Res. 14.19 species per Party” linked below correctly identifies the **Appendix II** species listed in Resolution 14.19 Guidance on the treatment of species included within aggregated families listed under Appendix II for which your country is a Range State.
The list of Resolution 14.19 species per Parties is available **here**.
Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

GUIDANCE TIP:
During the last two reporting cycles, information has been collected on Appendix I and Appendix II species, and the information received still needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this reporting cycle only focuses on bird species identified under Resolution 14.19. This Resolution invites Parties to consider the list of Species in its Annex when preparing National Reports. This question aims at collecting information on Range States of species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19. Parties are therefore invited to review the Range State data which are available in the excel spreadsheet “Res. 14.19 species per Party”. Please confirm that the list is correct, or if amendments are needed, create a line for each species for which you wish to indicate different information from that shown in the Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, please also provide supporting evidence, such as a reference to a scientific paper.
A more detailed spreadsheet with Data per countries and territories is available here as background information.
The data used for these spreadsheets are based on the CMS standard references for non-passerine and passerine species, as determined by Resolution 12.27(Rev.COP14) Taxonomy and Nomenclature, using its online version HBW-BirdLife Version 9.0 (October 2024)..
☑ No, amendments are needed for the following species:

Bar-tailed Godwit / Limosa lapponica

Select occurrence of Bar-tailed Godwit / Limosa lapponica
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)

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

Cook Islands Biodiversity Database

Grey-tailed Tattler / Tringa brevipes

Select occurrence of Grey-tailed Tattler / Tringa brevipes
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› Cook Islands Biodiversity Database:
https://naturalheritage.gov.ck/cibed/dbs/species.html?pval=8841&t=Tringa%20brevipes&c=1

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.

CIs_CMS_App_I_spp_update_2025.xlsx

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.
››› see in attached document above

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)?
☑ Unknown

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 livehoods), 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.COP.14)**(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
☑ Engagement of specific stakeholder groups

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.
››› The citizen science initiative conducted by the Te Ipukarea Society for turtle photo-ID contribute to better science and monitoring
The engagement and involvement with community in citizen science and invasive species program for habitat and species conservation

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

Palmerston Island rat-free status - Declaration of the island of Palmerston as rat-free island.

TIS - Citizen Science to guide turtle conservation - Empowering community and general public to contribute to collecting turtle data to assist determine turtle pollution

Te Ipukarea Society - Turtles in the Cook Islands lagoon

Te Ipukarea Society - Highlighting migratory birds in the Cook Islands in particular uncommon migratory bird species.

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.
☑ 4. Large positive impact

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

Citizen Science to Guide Turtle Conservation - Empowering community and general public to contribute to collecting turtle data to assist determine turtle pollution

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

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

Cook Islands Climate Change Policy - Policy includes the sustainable managemnet of biodiversity and ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity
Marae Moana Act - Provides legal framework for the protection of marine biodiversity which included marine migratory species.
National Environment Policy 2022- 2032 - The policy includes Biodiversity as one of its key goals where migratory species is included among species for protection.

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.
››› Migratory Species highlighted in Goal B of the draft Cook Islands National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
Also in the National Environment Policy 2022-32

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:
››› Migratory species in particular turtles and marine ecosystems and protected areas reported in CBD 6NR
Annual interaction reports for shark and birds species are reported to the Western Central Pacific Tuna Commission Part 1 report and the annual National Offshore report. Operational catch and effort data, records of unloadings, species composition sampling data use statistical methods to estimate raised interactions.

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.
››› NGOs and Traditional leaders are key stakeholders who participate in public consultations. Traditional leaders involvement is to give the decision for conserving species on their islands.
Environment NGOs are key stakeholders in leading work on migratory species

VI.4. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.
››› A memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between private tour companies and the Cook Islands Tourism Coorporation was established to ensure the protection of the welfare of marine turtles and caring for the marine environment.
A citizen science program run by Te Ipukarea Society with the use of photographs to identify individual sea turtles where private operators contribute by collecting photos of turtles

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).
☑ No

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

››› The Cook Islands EIA and SEA are guided by the Environment Act 2003, it does not explicitly reference migratory species or their transboundary ranges and focus more on local habitat impacts. Baseline data and capacity within government are limited for identifying or evaluating risks making assessments difficult. Collaboration with NGOs, local communities, private sectors and regional partners shows the sharing of knowledge in monitoring and awareness.
Further capacity and training is needed for NES compliance officers to review, assess and consider migratory species into EIA projects. The need to identify and strengthern regional stakeholders to support EIA and SEA review.

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.
››› moderate but not yet comprehensive. Climate Change policy highlights the protection and management of biodiversity and ecosystems however is not explicit on migratory species concerns.

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

Cook Islands Climate Change Policy 2018-28

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

(SPMS Target 3: National, regional and international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems have improved significantly, making relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive.)

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

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

Please provide details:
››› The establishment of the Marae Moana marine Park has provided the whole EEZ of the Cook Islands to protect marine migratory species. A national invasive management program through the eradication of rats on islands have enhance the resilience of island habitats critical to migratory birds and turtles.
As a party to the Pacific Cetacean MoU has strengtherned cooperation to protect cetacean corridors across national boundaries. Also as a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission has supported the sustainable management of migratory tuna stocks and bycatch mitigation.

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

Please describe how this assessment was made
››› Marae Moana provides a clear and consistent basis for marine management across the Cook Islands EEZ. Agencies under the Marae Moana Act provides an annual marae moana report to Marae Moana to contribute to a national Marae Moana outlook report.
Biodiversity and invasive species programs have promoted community participation through citizen science and awareness programmes.

VII.2. Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different government agencies/ministries, sectors or groups been established at a national and/or subnational level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

GUIDANCE TIP:
There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism.
These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.
The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments may be helpful in giving further context.
☑ Yes

Please provide details:
››› The Kopapa Ao Ora Natura (Biodiversity Steering Committee) is an informal body comprising key government agencies and environment NGOs with resposibilities related to biodiversity. Its primary objective to provide advice and guidance on the conservation of the Cook islands natural biodiversity and ecosystems. The committee contributes to environmental decision making, consider emerging issues, and facilitates the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices. It promotes a coordinated approach to biodiversity related initiatives across the Cook islands.
The Marae Moana Technical and Advisory Group is a multi-stakeholder body that provide expert guidance and technical support on the management and implementation of the Marae Moana Marine Park. They play a key role in insuring decisions are evidence-based, foster collaboration among stakeholders and support the protection of the Marae Moana while enabling sustainable economic activities. The group is made up of government agencies, local communities and conservation organization.

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 NBSAPsare available at CMS website.
☑ Yes

Please provide details:
››› There is collaboration between CMS and relevant global and regional convention in the country. The recent review of NBSAP ensures migratory species are captured into its targets.

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

Please identify the legislation, policies, initiatives, or action plans concerned:
››› Taking or the retention of sharks for commercial fishing is prohibited under the Shark Conservation Regulations. The National Plan of Action for Sharks is currently under review.
Rarotonga Passage Management plan was developed to guide the sustainable and safe use of the lagoon passages, to reduce risks to both people and marine ecosystems by setting guidelines while community involvement is central to the plans success

VIII. Incentives

VIII.1. Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country during the reporting period resulting in benefits for migratory species?
☑ No, but there is scope to do so

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?
☑ Partly / in some areas

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.
››› The Marae Moana Marine park provides the framework to strengthern fisheries management and other highly migratory species.
Sector support has enabled the grant of positive subsidies to artisanal fisherman in exchange for catch and effort data, this has allowed for greater interactions of species as catch data by Artisinal fishers is on a voluntary basis.

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?
☑ In development / planned

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented
››› The Marae Moana Act 2017 was passed to encourage and promote the ecological, biodiversity and heritage values of the marine environment. This Act mandated a 50nm commercial fishing exclusion zone around all islands in the Cook Islands. Marae Moana is designed as a multi-use marine protected area extending over the entire EEZ of the Cook Islands.
The forthcoming Marae Moana outlook report highlights more of this.
Artisinal fuel subsidies have been introduced to encourage reporting rates from artisanal fisherman.

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved.
››› Analysis work continues to assess the effects since the introduction of the Marae Moana Act 2017. Initial analysis show an increase in the artisanal catch for each island in the Cook Islands, however, it is difficult to quantify if the reported catch is attributed to the increase in reporting incentives, such as the fuel subsidies for artisanal fisherman.

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		
Illegal hunting		
Other harvesting and take	Turtles	
Illegal trade		
Deliberate poisoning		

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	3	Fish species listed in Appendix II

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		
Other collisions		
Electrocution		
Vessel strikes	Whales	3 low

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		

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

XI.1. What (if any) major changes in the conservation status of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices (e.g. national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country during the reporting period?

“Conservation status” of migratory species is defined in Article I(1)(b) of the Convention as “the sum of the influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance”; and four conditions for conservation status to be taken as “favourable” are set out in Article I(1)(c).

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” during the reporting period. Information is expected to be provided here only where particularly notable shifts in status have occurred, such as those that might be represented by a re-categorisation of national Red List threat status for a given species (or subspecies, where relevant). Please record if any CMS listed species has become extinct or extirpated from your country - or reintroduced/re-established/established - during the reporting period (or before if not previously reported to CMS).

Please note also that you are only being asked about the situation in your country. Information about global trends, and global Red List reclassifications etc, will be communicated to the CMS via other channels outside the national reporting process.

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

Fish

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	relative to MSY, the North Pacific shortfin mako stock is likely (>50%) not in an overfished condition and overfishing is likely (>50%) not occurring relative to MSY-based abundance and fishing intensity reference points	Assessment conducted in 2017	SC14-SA-WP-11 Stock Assessment of Shortfin Mako Shark in the North Pacific Ocean Through 2016. https://www.wcpfc.int/node/31025	Isurus oxyrinchus, Appendix II
		There is a low probability that the Indo-Pacific whale shark is at risk from Pacific purse seine fisheries (median probability of less than 8% that current risk levels exceed life history-based notional reference points FLim and Fcrash)	SC14-SA-WP-12 Risk to the Indo-Pacific Ocean whale shark population from interactions with Pacific Ocean purse-seine fisheries Rev 1. https://www.wcpfc.int/node/31005	Rhincodon typus, Appendix I

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 During the reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species?
E.g. Developments following the advice in Resolutions **12.8** and **13.7.**
☑ No

XII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?
☑ No

XII.3. During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolution **12.28 (Rev.COP14)**) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?
☑ No

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

E.g. steps implementingResolutions **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).
☑ No

XII.5. Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?
E.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:
Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision14.194.
☑ Yes

Please provide details:
››› Through the Marae Moana Marine Park the Cook Islands have taken steps to promote ecological connectivity and ocean management.

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 small or moderate extent

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites?
››› While progress has been made through marine spatial planning, many terrestrial and marine ecosystems remain under studied. Limited baseline data and capacity constraints in technical expertise are main gaps. Strong collaboration with regional experts and partners will provide the support to strengthern research and data collection, monitoring and building local capacity.

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

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”)?
☑ No

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?
☑ No

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

Please provide details:
››› Marine ra'ui area (traditional closures) safeguards coastal and lagoon habitats and supports marine turtles and migratory birds.
The 50nm marine protected area around each of the islands under Marae Moana ensures pelagic, benthic, coral reefs, coastal and lagoon habitats are protected from any commercial activity.

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.
☑ Partly / in progress

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
››› The NBSAP is currently being reviewed which incorporates migratory species in goal B target B1 and has yet to be endorsed and released.

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.
››› NBSAP still under review

c. Please add comments on the implementation of the strategy or action plan concerned.
››› NBSAP still under review and targets have been determined

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

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, etc.
››› There has been ongoing programmes for the conservation and monitoring of marine turtles, seabirds and migratory sharks. The Technical and Advisory group under the Marae Moana continue to support a coordinated management of the EEZ.

XVII. Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities

In the absence of a national definition of ‘indigenous and local communities’, please refer to the Convention on Biological Diversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term “Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities”** for helpful guidance on these terms.

XVII.1. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to foster consideration for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?
☑ Partly / in some areas

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

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

GUIDANCE TIP
Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans).
››› Migratory species are considered within the broader frameworks such as the Marae Moana Marine Park and the National Environment Policy 2022-32 and the forthcoming NBSAP ensuring the intergration of migratory species.
The monitoring of marine turtles through citizen science by the Te Ipukarea Society have strengthened monitoring.
With Environment Act 2003 and the forthcoming Environment Bill continues to require EIA processes in place however the need to address migratory species within this process is required.
Engagement of local communities, private sector have fostered awareness and invasive control programs

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

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

XVIII.1 During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in the area of knowledge, data and capacity building? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)
(select all that apply)
☑ Public awareness campaigns
☑ Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

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

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

Public awareness campaigns
››› The citizen science intiative allows the general public to contribute data and provide them with a better understanding of the importance of the species and the population.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
››› Information gathering initiatives on turtles in collaboration with tourism operators.

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
☑ Other skills development
☑ Provision of equipment or materials
☑ Exchange of information & know-how
☑ Research & innovation
☑ Mobilizing volunteer effort (e.g. citizen science)

XIX. Resource Mobilization

XIX.1 During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

GUIDANCE TIP:
The “resources” that are relevant here can be financial, human or technical. In addition to funding, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure could be relevant, as could the loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities, technology transfer, training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building.
☑ Yes, made available for activities within the country

XIX.2. During the reporting period, has your country received financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?
☑ Yes

Please select the source(s) concerned (select all that apply):
☑ The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
☑ Private sector
☑ Non-governmental organization(s)

Please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:
☑ The same