

United Kingdom CMS National Report 2019

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Version control

Activity & Organisation	Date
CMS National Report UK draft 1 sent to statutory bodies – Information request phase	15.2.19
CMS National Report UK draft 2 - collation of Information request phase comments with identification of comment authors	15.3.19
CMS National Report UK draft 3 – clean version of draft 2 with some rephrasing, reorganizing etc.	23.4.19
CMS National Report UK draft 3.1 – clean version of draft 3	10.5.19
CMS National report UK draft 3a/b/c/d – revised version resolving consistency issues	19.6.19
CMS National report UK draft 3d/e – consolidated comments	3. 7.19

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

In your country, in the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):
use of technology – e.g. improved satellite tags for tracking animals, use of satellites to study occurrence of offshore illegal fishing.

.....
Fundraising from the private sector for conservation projects featuring charismatic species has been successful – e.g. sharks, sea turtles and whales.

Flyway plans for migratory geese and the European Goose Management Platform

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

Difficulties in establishing population estimates for marine species (whales, turtles etc.) prevents monitoring of population trends. Also lack of evidence makes securing long-term Government funds for migratory species difficult.

lack of offshore patrol vessels for surveillance, enforcement and research

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

New collaborations and improved tags and technology for at-sea tracking should allow for confirmation of additional range states for Appendix I *Pterodroma cahow* within the next few years. The number of range states will likely increase over time, as the population grows, and our knowledge of their habitat use improves. awareness-raising with other range states, and threat mitigation will become critical.

.....

I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	
Name of Contracting Party	<p>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; including the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies</p> <p>Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to which ratification of the CMS has been extended.</p> <p>Crown Dependencies:</p> <p>Bailiwick of Jersey</p> <p>Bailiwick of Guernsey (including also the separate administrations of Alderney and Sark)</p> <p>Isle of Man</p> <p>Overseas Territories:</p> <p>Ascension Island, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha</p> <p>Bermuda</p> <p>British Indian Ocean Territory</p> <p>British Virgin Islands</p> <p>Cayman Islands</p> <p>Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs)</p> <p>Falkland Islands</p> <p>Gibraltar</p> <p>Montserrat</p> <p>Pitcairn</p> <p>South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands</p> <p>Turks and Caicos Islands</p>
Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country	1 October 1985
Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention	<p>Anguilla</p> <p>British Antarctic Territory</p>

<p>Report compiler</p>	<p>Name and title: Dr Ant Maddock & Dr James Williams Full name of institution: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Telephone: +44 (0)1733 866936 / 866868 Email: ant.maddock@jncc.gov.uk James.williams@jncc.gov.uk</p>
<p>Designated CMS National Focal Point</p>	<p>Name and title of designated Focal Point: Mr. Kristopher Blake Full name of institution: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Mailing address: Head of CITES Implementation Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Wildlife, International, Climate and Forestry Policy 2nd Floor Horizon House Bristol BS1 5AH , United Kingdom Telephone: +44 (0)208 02 63500 Email: Kristopher.Blake@defra.gov.uk</p>
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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, or

Updates or corrections:

- Ruddy headed goose.

CMS Instrument [automatic population]

CMS Instrument	Party/Signatory	Range State, but not a Party/Signatory	Not applicable (= not a Range State)
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Sharks	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Slender-billed Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X
Western African Aquatic Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> X

III. SPECIES ON THE CONVENTION APPENDICES

Please confirm that the [automatically populated] lists provided below for each species/subspecies correctly identify the **Appendix I** species for which the country is a Range State

- Yes, the lists are correct and up to date
- No, the following amendments need making:

See the excel spreadsheet attached.

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats):

- Addax nasomaculatus
- Bos grunniens
- etc.....

Aquatic mammals:

- Balaena mysticetus
- Megaptera novaeangliae
- etc.....

Bats:

- Tadarida brasiliensis

Birds:

- Oxyura leucocephala
- Anser erythropus
- etc....

Reptiles:

- Chelonia mydas
- Eretmochelys imbricata
- etc....

Fish:

- Acipenser sturio
- Pangasianodon gigas
- etc.....

Please confirm that the [automatically populated] lists provided below for each species/subspecies correctly identify the **Appendix II** species for which the country is a Range State

- Yes, the lists are correct and up to date
- No, the following amendments need making:
[free text box]

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats):

- Equus hemionus*
- Loxodonta africana*
- etc.....

Aquatic mammals:

- Balaenoptera bonaerensis*
- Caperea marginata*
- etc.....

Bats:

- Eidolon helvum*
- Otomops madagascariensi*
- etc....

Birds:

- Crex*
- Sarothrura boehmi*
- etc....

Reptiles:

- Crocodylus porosus*
- Podocnemis expansa*
- etc....

Fish:

- Carcharodon carcharias*
- Rhincodon typus*
- etc.....

Insects:

- Danaus plexippus*

IV. LEGAL PROHIBITION OF THE TAKING OF APPENDIX I SPECIES

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

- Yes for all Appendix I species
- Yes for some species
- Yes for part of the country, or a particular territory or territories
- No

Complete analysis of the regulatory regime in UK and overseas territories is ongoing and

will follow.

[If selected yes for 'all' this question will appear]

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

.....

.....

[add link(s) and / or upload document(s)]

[If selected yes for 'some' this appears]

Please indicate the species for which taking is prohibited:

(select all that apply)

- Species X
- Species Y

[we will consider ways to pre-populate this section with relevant species]

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

.....

.....

[If selected yes for 'part of the country' this appears]

Please indicate which part of the country or territory/territories:

.....

Please indicate the species for which taking is prohibited:

(select all that apply)

- All Appendix I species
- Species X
- Species Y

[we will consider ways to pre-populate this section with relevant species]

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

.....

.....

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

[only to appear if the user selects 'Yes for all Appendix I species' or "Yes for some" in

previous question]

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate which species, which reasons among those in CMS Article III(5) (a)-(d) (given in the table below) justify the exception, any temporal or spatial limitations applying to the exception, and the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” that make the exception necessary.

[we will consider ways to prepopulate species list from earlier question on Appendix I species]

Species	Reasons for exception (as defined in Art III(5))	Details of any applicable time or area limitations, and the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” that make the exception necessary
Species X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a) the taking is for scientific purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> b) the taking is for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the affected species. <input type="checkbox"/> c) the taking is to accommodate the needs of traditional subsistence users of such species. <input type="checkbox"/> d) extraordinary circumstances so require. 	[free text]
Species Y		
....		

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 develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

[only appears if ‘Yes for some species’ or ‘Yes for part of the country’ or ‘No’ was selected in ‘Is the taking of Appendix I species prohibited by national legislation in accordance with CMS Article III(5)?’]

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

- Legislation being considered
- Legislation in draft
- Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in [insert year.....]

<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) [free text]
<p>Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in intentionally taking Appendix I species?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know </p> <p>If yes, please provide more information on the circumstances of the take; including any future plans in respect of such take.</p> <p>[free text box]</p>

V. AWARENESS

(SPMS Target 1: People are aware of the multiple values of migratory species and their habitats and migration systems, and the steps they can take to conserve them and ensure the sustainability of any use.)

During the reporting period, please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII on SPMS Target 15 may also be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- X Campaigns on specific topics

Metropolitan UK:

The work of the Wildlife & Countryside Link Coalition, alongside Government and its agencies, to highlight the importance and value of British wildlife (including migratory species), the need for improved wildlife protection, and for more robust approaches to combat wildlife crime <https://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife-crime.asp>.

There are several codes of conduct throughout the UK setting out guidelines for interactions with marine mammals. For example, the UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy (in draft) has an action to review these codes and look for alternative management and educational approaches to protect marine mammals from wildlife tourism disturbance. Various campaigns have also been published such as the current 'Rude to Intrude' campaign led by WDC, aimed at reducing marine mammal disturbance <https://www.wcl.org.uk/we-all-need-our-personal-space-so-do-whales-and-dolphins-its-rudetointrude.asp> and a longer video that highlights how to recognise and report disturbance of whales and dolphins. More information at:

<https://uk.whales.org/our-4-goals/create-healthy-seas/watch-out-for-dolphins-when-you-are-on-the-water/>

As part of the UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy, Defra is leading a Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, looking at new ways of monitoring and mitigating cetacean bycatch. A workshop was held in May 2019 and the report can be downloaded online:

<https://www.cefas.co.uk/cetacean-bycatch-workshop/>

Several codes of conduct for observing basking sharks are available (e.g. <https://www.sharktrust.org/basking-shark-project> which target boat handlers and others and are designed to reduce the risk of killing, injury or harassment. Greater awareness of basking sharks amongst the public has been achieved through the production of posters and educational booklets and through educational material distributed to fishers by Cefas to help distinguish different types of rays.

The UK Turtle Code provides advice to sea users on how to deal with marine turtle encounters and is advocated by the UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCB) and NGO partners: <https://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/wildlife/turtlecode.pdf>.

Operation turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* partnership (<http://www.operationturtledove.org/>) highlights the plight of this trans-Saharan migrant to land managers and other stakeholders. The turtle dove is UK's fastest declining breeding bird and the work highlights agricultural intensification and hunting as two of the key drivers of decline on its western flyway, alongside loss of suitable habitat and disease.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust highlighted the threats faced along the migration of the Berwick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* with a 7,000km journey by paramotor from the arctic breeding grounds, across the Russian tundra, and back to the UK. The expedition team provided a bird's eye view on the challenges facing these endangered birds and gathered first-hand evidence that is contributing to conservation action all along the migratory flyway. This initiative, known as *Flight of the Swans*, prompted more than 40 activities in 11 countries, from scientific meetings and workshops to community and school events. Important messages about migratory birds and wetland conservation reached millions of people through more than 1,800 media outputs as this novel idea galvanised the support of politicians, hunters, farmers, educators and the general public.

In a project to understand the origins of Eurasian Woodcock wintering in the UK and raise awareness of their migration, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) has placed satellite tags on over 80 woodcocks and highlighted their migration routes through the public-facing website <https://www.woodcockwatch.com>. In addition, the GWCT has produced a Woodcock Factsheet available for download from its website at <https://www.gwct.org.uk/media/552832/Woodcock-fact-sheet.pdf>, and provided guidance on ensuring that the shooting of Eurasian Woodcock in the UK is sustainable at <https://www.gwct.org.uk/policy/position-statements/shooting-woodcock/>.

Wales:

The [Angel Shark Project Wales](#) was launched in 2018 and seeks to safeguard the angel shark, *Squatina* one of the world's rarest sharks, through the participation of fishermen, heritage and citizen-science. The project is a collaboration between the Zoological Society of London and Natural Resources Wales, funded by Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery Fund. Following widespread global decline over the past 100 years, it is hoped that action in Welsh waters for the critically endangered angel sharks can help to save the species from extinction. This multidisciplinary project is focused around a series of broad outcomes that include communicating the status and importance of angel sharks and their conservation; community, citizen science and data collection by fishermen; production of an [information leaflet and best-practice handling guide](#) to improve caught angel shark survival; and the production of the Wales Angel Shark Action Plan.

Scotland:

The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (SMWWC) <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-coasts-and-seas/scottish-marine-wildlife-watching-code> (2006), revised in 2017 aims to minimise disturbance to marine wildlife, including cetaceans, seals, basking sharks, birds, otters and turtles.

The Scottish Entanglement Alliance <http://www.scottishentanglement.org>, funded through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), aims to engage with the Scottish inshore fishing industry to better understand the incidence of marine animal entanglements and develop mitigation strategies. The project has produced materials for marine users to raise awareness of entanglement and a best practice guide for fishermen.

Isle of Man:

In 2017 the Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch staff spent a month 'plastic free' to raise awareness of the issue of plastic pollution in the marine environment. A screening of the documentary film 'A Plastic Ocean' was also well attended with good interest from the public, in particular from a student who went on to campaign in her high school for changes regarding plastic use. Further, the government issued an Isle of Man Coastal Code and use of the Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus* Code. It has supported WiSe accreditation courses for boat operators to help minimise disturbance (<https://www.wisescheme.org/>).

Bermuda:

General turtle alert signs and public awareness campaigns have been used to make boat operators aware that they should move slowly in turtle habitats. In 2018 a series of public activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Bermuda Turtle Project were held, including a year-long public lecture series, a gala fundraiser, numerous news articles and a commemorative stamp issue (<https://www.gov.bm/articles/bermuda-turtle-project>).

Whale watching guidelines to ensure boats do not disturb migrating humpback whales were developed by the Bermuda Government. They were featured in a campaign of newspaper ads, social media articles, newsletters in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

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

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Educational signboards to inform people visiting Turtle Cove about the importance of foraging hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* in the coves and base personnel are not allowed to swim in the cove.

St. Helena:

Annual Marine Awareness and seasonal education material including turtles produced.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2016 an injured loggerhead turtle was repatriated to Gran Canaria after rehabilitation at the Guernsey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA). This was possible due to public engagement, media campaigns, fundraising and sponsorship across the community, plus collaboration with Centro de Recuperación de Fauna Silvestre de Tafira in Gran Canaria. She was successfully released into the wild in September 2016.

<http://www.gspca.org.gg/blog/tag/loggerhead-turtle>

In terms of regular migratory species, most awareness and appreciate stems from the work done by ornithology groups.

Woodcock migration study underway tracking woodcocks to establish whether they are visiting from the UK, or Russia.

- X Teaching programmes in schools or colleges.

Metropolitan UK:

The importance of CMS is highlighted in annual biodiversity awareness campaigns and school education programmes.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust undertakes education programmes on migration directly with school groups that visit WWT wetland centres and indirectly through the provision of online materials – see <https://learningzone.wwt.org.uk/resources/before/getting-into-flight-and-migration-ks1/> and <https://learningzone.wwt.org.uk/our-sessions/>

Some of the UK NGOs e.g. regional Wildlife Trusts and ORCA engage with schools, running workshops and sessions which highlight the threats and pressures faced by our migratory species e.g. <https://www.orcaweb.org.uk/get-involved/orca-in-schools/whale-education-month>. The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme hosts student workshops, running post-mortem examinations of cetaceans to establish cause of death, highlighting the key pressures.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The island-wide Eco-active programme launched in 2006 has continued to grow from a simple public awareness campaign into a suite of tailored programmes and outreach work across government, schools, businesses and the community. It raises environmental awareness and disseminates information to promote environmentally conscious decision making. It has several ongoing campaigns and projects running in conjunction with Jersey's Biodiversity Partnership. For example, in 2017 an education and social awareness campaign, the Jersey Bat Project, was launched in collaboration with the government, the Jersey Bat Group and the Jersey National Park. Several key events included the donation of bat boxes to schools, the production of an animation about bats for use in school lesson plans, and workshops, walks and talks involving local school children. <https://www.gov.je/news/2017/pages/batsonthetimetable.aspx>.

Isle of Man:

The Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch Education and Outreach Officer regularly delivers sessions for local schools and youth groups on the species found in Manx waters, and general cetacean facts and interesting behaviours, as well as more specific areas such as threats and conservation issues like plastic pollution. In 2018, it hosted a university group as part of their zoology course to spend a week learning about cetaceans and research techniques. The course proved popular and another group from the same college was hosted again in 2019. Manx BirdLife held a three-day/week primary school education programme about swallow *Hirundo rustica*, house martin *Delichon urbicum* and swift *Apus* conservation. Further, Manx BirdLife has an adult education programme (class and field based) providing identification skills and deeper understanding of spring migration bird species.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island school visits raise awareness by bringing children to watch nesting green turtles *Chelonia mydas* or release hatchlings during the breeding season. The island hosts environmentally sound turtle tours twice weekly during the nesting season to

raise awareness. Migration tracks that form part of an interactive web-GIS Marine Spatial Planning tool has been established as part of the research work to inform MPA designation (<http://asios.cles.ex.ac.uk/>).

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeanglia* Project gave school presentations on the island and an internationally acclaimed 60-minute documentary was created and shown locally. Tours of Nonsuch Island for school children and adults are held which includes seeing a Bermuda Petrel, Cahow *Pterodroma cahow* chick in the nesting season. A burrow-mounted camera known as the 'Cahow Cam' streams live footage from a nest on Nonsuch Island <http://www.nonsuchisland.com/live-cahow-cam/>.

Gibraltar:

There are environmental education and awareness programmes for all migratory species (migratory raptors, passerines, marine reptiles and cetaceans) coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools (see: www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi).

There is an annual International Bat Night (under the auspices of Eurobat) held at Gibraltar Botanic Gardens.

Turks & Caicos Islands:

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum donated time to update the schools' curriculum course "Wonderful Water", it produced a few years earlier, at the request of TCI's Director of Education. It is used in state schools and made the new version more widely by putting on the web (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wonderful-water>). The wetlands of TCI are of international importance to migrant bird species (as well as residents).

- X Press and media publicity, including social media

Metropolitan UK:

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) uses social media to promote work on migratory species. New social media accounts focusing on seabird surveys (@JNCC_UKseabirds on twitter, and the VSAS – Volunteer Seabirds at Sea group on Facebook) have strengthened the connection between JNCC and the public, and improved its ability to demonstrate expertise to a key target audience. Publicity pieces through the Seabirds Count census promotion were used to increase awareness of the status of migratory seabirds in the UK. Radio interviews, magazine articles and blogs, as well as appearances on popular TV programmes such as the BBC's 'Spring Watch' increased awareness and broadened the public audience.

The National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project is a collaboration between the Bat Conservation Trust, bat workers and volunteer Bat Groups across the UK. Participants in this project have contributed to news pieces and TV interviews to raise awareness of the migratory journey of Nathusius' pipistrelle into and out of the UK.

Migratory species are a regular feature of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust's communications, featuring as 'hero' species or flagships to capture the public imagination and raise awareness of connected environmental issues. Each autumn the return of waterbirds from their breeding grounds is celebrated at the Trust's ten wetland sites, with walks and talks, bird festivals and communications with the media and through social media channels. The return of the first Berwick's Swan to Slimbridge regularly makes

national news. Outside of autumn, the tagging and marking of shorebirds such as Spoon-billed Sandpipers in Asia and Black-tailed Godwits in north west Europe provides further opportunities to tell engaging stories about migratory species. WWT's magazine is sent to around 200,000 members. The Trust has around 35,500 followers on its main Twitter account, 15,000 on the main Facebook page, and 3,000 on Instagram. External media coverage is difficult to quantify in a meaningful way, but it regularly get >2000 print and online articles per year, with a potential audience in the tens of millions. Broadcast coverage would add many more tens of millions to the audience that engage with the Trust's stories.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

There is a programme of messages and news stories being run and distributed continually throughout the year via news releases, social media and published articles @eco active jersey and #WildAboutJersey
<https://www.gov.je/news/2014/pages/protectjerseyseabirds.aspx>.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In 2016 an injured loggerhead turtle *Caretta* was repatriated to Gran Canaria after rehabilitation at the Guernsey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA). This was possible due to public engagement, media campaigns, fundraising and sponsorship across the community, plus collaboration with Centro de Recuperación de Fauna Silvestre de Tafira in Gran Canaria. She was successfully released into the wild in September 2016
<http://www.gspca.org.gg/blog/tag/loggerhead-turtle>.

Isle of Man:

Public consultation and publicity for the designation of nine new marine nature reserves included CMS species in the designation justifications. Press releases in early summer 2018 raised awareness of public responsibilities when encountering wildlife protected under the Wildlife Act 1990, particularly relating to the Shark Trust's Code of Conduct and to basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus*. Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch has a successful and growing Facebook page with over 6,600 followers and a developing Instagram account with regular cetacean sightings posted by the community. Throughout the year, newspaper and magazine articles highlight periods of good activity for cetacean sightings and are often also picked up online through platforms such as BBC Isle of Man. Manx BirdLife has undertaken press and radio coverage to highlight the occurrence of the *blythii* form of the lesser whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.

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

Bermuda:

Public presentations and articles on turtles are published in local media to maintain awareness and interest. Film footage of humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* taken using drones is shown in the arrivals hall of the Bermuda International airport.

A burrow-mounted camera known as the CahowCam has streamed live footage from a nest on Nonsuch Island for six years. In 2016, through a partnership between Nonsuch Expeditions, the Bermuda Government and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, an improved camera system was mounted. In the 2017/18 breeding season, the CahowCam had over 600,000 views from over 100 countries (Madeiros, 2018).

<http://www.nonsuchisland.com/live-cahow-cam/>.

Several articles in the local news reported on the rehabilitation and release of two

loggerhead turtles, one hawksbill and several green turtles by the Bermuda Aquarium. There were also articles on the migration of a tagged Tiger Shark, a shortfin mako shark tagged in Cape Cod which had made its way to Bermuda, and a number on hammerhead shark sightings between April and August 2018. The hatching of the first Bermuda Petrel chick of the year is also reported in the local media, as are the final number of chicks reared in any breeding season.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Eight green turtles *Chelonia mydas* were tagged on Diego Garcia to track their migrations to the foraging grounds in the Indian Ocean. One turtle made the longest documented migration (3,979km) for an adult green turtle. The results were published in a scientific journal and through CTURTLE global email group and social media.

Hays, G. C., Mortimer, J. A., Ierodiaconou, D. and Esteban, N. (2014), Use of Long-Distance Migration Patterns of an Endangered Species to Inform Conservation Planning for the World's Largest Marine Protected Area. *Conservation Biology*, 28: 1636-1644. doi:10.1111/cobi.12325.

St. Helena:

Annual Marine Awareness and seasonal education material is prepared and there is targeted media coverage during turtle nesting attempts.

- X Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events

Metropolitan UK:

Whalefest is an annual festival, bringing together UK and international visitors with a host of stands, talks and engagement on marine mammals in the UK. This event recently joined *Incredible Oceans* to widen the reach and collaborate on events. The UK participates in [World Oceans Day](#) by holding a variety of national events, talks and ocean-related activities, as well as using media to promote ocean conservation. The UK Wildlife Trusts hold an annual [National Marine Week](#), which celebrates the UK seas, including awareness of migratory species. The RSPB hosts [Dolphinwatch](#) during spring/summer, recording cetaceans from key locations, as well as providing an awareness and education opportunity. ORCA, a UK cetacean conservation charity, holds an annual [Oceanwatch](#) event, training sea-goers such as ferry crews to record sightings during summer months, increasing awareness of species they come across, and encouraging care when interacting with them.

England:

In 2018, the annual international Bird Fair, hosted a lecture by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) on birds and their migration showing how cutting-edge technology is advancing understanding of these amazing journeys and providing detail to help unravel the mysteries of bird migration and help understand how to support birds on their journeys. A separate presentation showed a continual stream of migrating birds passing the Greek Island of Lesbos as they move from their wintering grounds in Africa to their breeding grounds in Europe.

Scotland:

There are successful public viewings of the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* on the Isles of Mull and Skye and the species is an important part of wildlife tourism on Scotland's west coast islands. On Mull, an RSPB report calculated that up to £5 million of tourism spend annually was due to interest in white-tailed eagles (http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/wildlifeatwork_tcm9-282134.pdf).

The Scottish Dolphin Centre is managed by the international charity Whale and Dolphin Conservation. Over the past three years, it has welcomed over 90,000 visitors each year. These visitors, both local people and tourists, have access to accurate and engaging information about cetaceans that live in Scotland, with an emphasis on bottlenose dolphins. WDC also delivers an extensive outreach program, providing outdoor activities focused on cetaceans to over 800 young people in each of the last three years. It uses interactive resources to engage people of all ages with information about cetacean anatomy and behaviour, as well as materials on threats and conservation efforts to better protect whales and dolphins.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

A themed environmental event 'Wild About Jersey' is held each February. Messages are targeted to raise awareness as well as recruiting the public to change their behaviors, meet and learn about organisations involved in protecting and conserving Jersey's plant and animal life and discover how they can get involved and become conservation volunteers and/or citizen scientists

<https://www.gov.je/news/2018/pages/wildaboutjersey2018.aspx>. Plastic Free Jersey is an initiative that brings together individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to reduce plastic use. Surfers Against Sewage developed the scheme to tackle the plastic problem specifically in coastal areas. The Wetland Centre was opened to the public on World Wetlands Day in February 2014 and overlooks the Island's most significant inland wetland Sites of Special Ecological Interest known as La Mare au Seigneur (St Ouen's Pond). Owned and managed by the National Trust for Jersey, an annual event at the Centre is held to mark World Wetlands Day, with activities such as guided walks, talks and bird watching.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

The Channel Island Bat Conference took place in August 2018 and was a collaborative effort by La Société and Annyctalus Ecology

<https://gsy.bailiwickexpress.com/gsy/news/new-bats-found-guernsey/#.XLD9ivZFxPY>

A dolphin identification project was launched in 2019 because of a significant increase in dolphin sightings and the possibility of collaboration with Groupe d'Etude des Cétacés du Cotentin (GECC). There have been several lectures on migratory birds such as osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

Isle of Man:

The Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch (MWDW) Show in February 2018 attracted over 2,000 people to learn about the local cetacean species and the research work conducted by MWDW. Children were engaged through quizzes, colouring and activity sheets, and all ages enjoyed the life-size, life-like inflatable cetaceans alongside facts and pictures. In early 2019 MWDW opened a visitor centre, the first of its kind on the island, to act as the headquarters and public base. It displays information about cetaceans, identifying local species, shows a range of cetacean bones, has a library, and there are activities for children. The Isle of Man holds a large marine festival every year to highlight marine issues.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island hosts turtle tours twice weekly during the nesting season to raise awareness of the turtles in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Migration tracks to form part of an interactive web-GIS Marine Spatial Planning tool to be established as part of the research work to inform MPA designation.

Cyprus SBA:

Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus* awareness campaigns (and clarification to various stakeholders on what is prohibited by legislation) as well as enforcement actions are conducted. Education and awareness raising is conducted for the ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca* and red-footed falcon *Falco vespertinus*.

Gibraltar:

Public Environmental Education Programmes have been prepared for the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*, Audouin's gull *Larus audouinii*, common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* and fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus*. Environmental education programmes including for the loggerhead turtle *Caretta* are coordinated by the Department of the Environment see: www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi).

St Helena:

General awareness raising of hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* during the annual Marine Awareness Week.

- X Engagement of specific stakeholder groups

Metropolitan UK:

There is close collaboration between the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and NGOs, such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on the conservation of migratory seabirds, including sharing of data and information on specific scientific topics. A new project was established to better understand the energetics and foraging behaviour of red-throated divers *Gavia stellata* during the non-breeding season. As a migratory species, this species is potentially at risk from cumulative habitat loss across its flyway and wintering grounds from offshore wind development and other marine activities. This work is funded by a consortium of government and private (offshore wind industry) organisations.

There is also close collaboration between Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and NGOs, such as the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust on the conservation of Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*. In 2019, the WWT commenced a Severn Vale Curlew recovery project, aiming to restore one of the lowland Curlew subpopulations and create a pathfinder for other similar initiatives. This involves working with farmers and voluntary groups to map Curlews and protect them from predators and farming operations. More widely, a voluntary group - the Curlew Forum - was established in 2017, which aims to reverse the current decline in southern and lowland England by sharing knowledge and experience, raising awareness, offering advice, and securing funding. The Forum brings together representatives from >10 local projects in southern England. WWT is part of the coordinating team of the Forum. National Curlew recovery meetings for Wales, Scotland and lowland England, and 'Curlew Summits' hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales and at 10 Downing Street by Lord John Randall, the then Environment Advisor to the Prime Minister, have also taken place.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (<https://www.wcl.org.uk/>) is an umbrella organisation for a wide range of charities with an interest in nature conservation, access to the countryside and animal welfare. Link's key role is to bring together their members on issues of common concern and to present a clear, consistent message to government, opinion leaders and the general public. There are regular meetings with the government, SNCBs and Link to discuss concerns and issues.

A Bycatch Focus Group has been established by Defra, secretariat by JNCC, driving forward protected species (birds, cetaceans etc.) bycatch monitoring and mitigation with the involvement of invited stakeholders. The group will oversee the setup of Regional Task Groups to bring together stakeholders in addressing the issues of bycatch.

Migration patterns of *Nathusius' pipistrelle* are relatively well known in mainland Europe but the movements of bats in and out of the UK and their migration routes and origins are not known. The National *Nathusius Pipistrelle* Project will provide the first attempt to understand the migratory activity of *Nathusius' pipistrelles* in the UK, and assess the potential impact of wind turbines to bat populations both in the UK and beyond.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Jersey Biodiversity Partnership is an informal partnership of more than 30 organisations and individuals committed to preserving and enhancing biodiversity in Jersey. Organisations within the partnership provide support by offering, time, expertise, funding and other resources. Partnership agreements are created to support stakeholders. For example, public presentations and workshops are held by the partners at the Wild About Jersey events to showcase and raise awareness. Training was delivered to tree surgeons in the island, in the awareness of, and best practice for, bats, birds and other protected species when carrying out tree works.

Isle of Man:

Continued activity by specialised NGOs engaging various stakeholder groups in relation to basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*, cetaceans and birds. Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch (MWDW) has opened a cetacean interpretation/education area and shop. The Manx Government engages various stakeholders in relation to Marine Nature Reserve designations and management planning (which includes CMS species and their habitats) including the fishing industry, conservation NGOs, recreational users and the public.

Ascension Island:

Presentations about green turtle *Chelonia mydas* biology and ways to observe them without causing disturbance are given to military staff on the island.

Bermuda:

There are public presentations for residents and articles in local media. The Bermuda Turtle Project conducts an intensive two-week course on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. This annual in-water course has the objective of building capacity in the Western Atlantic region by providing training to university students, biologists, conservation officers and resource managers from countries throughout the Atlantic basin. In 2017 course participants caught 194 green turtles at 14 sites. In 2018 259 green and one hawksbill turtle were caught during the two-week course.

A humpback whale trailing ropes was observed in Bermuda in the autumn of 2018. Locally

knowledge and equipment to deal with an entangled whale was not available. To remedy this gap, a workshop was held in February 2019 with a specialist from Canada. He trained marine stakeholders from the Bermuda Government, Bermuda Aquarium, Dolphin Quest Bermuda and several local dive shops on techniques to safely free whales tangled in marine debris or fishing gear.

St Helena:

Each year the Marine Section of the Environmental Management Division hosts a marine awareness week which includes presentations and marine-themed events and activities for the local population. The marine sightings scheme is promoted monthly. Annual Marine Awareness and seasonal education material are produced and there is media coverage during nesting attempts.

- X Special publications

Metropolitan UK:

Special Protection Areas, under the EU Birds Directive, and the UK Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Guidelines for birds both select 1% or more of the biogeographical population of a regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive) as a criterion for inclusion in these protected areas.

The country strategies for biodiversity and the environment in each of the four UK countries include priorities, and are supported by additional measures and indicators, reflecting the countries' different responsibilities, needs and views towards biodiversity generally and include migratory species.

Isle of Man:

Revision of the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment report in 2018, includes chapters on marine mammals, basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*, birds and marine turtles:

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/infrastructure/harbours-information/territorial-seas/manx-marine-environmental-assessment/>. Manx BirdLife has produced a fold-out card listing all birds and indicating which are migratory species.

Manx BirdLife has set up a swift *Apus apus* conservation community group established with NGO support to promote knowledge sharing, monitoring of populations and installation of nest boxes. Manx BirdLife has given four presentations to community groups on migratory species.

The Isle of Man Government has issued an Isle of Man Coastal Code and use of the Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) Code (<http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.org/about/code-of-conduct/>). It has supported WiSe accreditation courses for boat operators to help minimise disturbance (<https://www.wisescheme.org/>).

Ascension Island:

Tracks from satellite telemetry of two hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* turtles form part of an interactive web-GIS Marine Spatial Planning tool to be established as part of the research work to inform Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation.

Bermuda:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has published protected species information sheets for species covered by the Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003. CMS listed species that appear in the booklet include, the European eel, green turtle, leatherback turtle, loggerhead turtle, hawksbill turtle, Kemp's Ridley turtle, humpback whale, sperm whale, Bermuda petrel and whale shark.

(<https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/PSA-booklet-June.pdf>)

British Indian Ocean Territory:

In contrast to previous reports, the British Indian Ocean Territory is now known to host important nesting populations of hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and green *Chelonia mydas* turtles. Non-resident military personnel are given an educational introduction to wildlife conservation when they are posted to the island. Visiting yachts are made aware of the strict no-take laws. Information is made available on BIOT's turtle populations, including via leaflets, signs and notice boards. In 2016, the British Indian Ocean Administration published stamps featuring photos of green and hawksbill; the Turtle Stamp Edition <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/information%20sheet.pdf>.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands with Falklands Conservation have a countryside code and safe distance guide to raise awareness for not disturbing or harming protected species. The Falkland Islands are home to over 70% of the world's black-browed albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*, a CMS and ACAP listed species. The guidelines together with the legislation help raise awareness of not disturbing these species during their breeding times to help ensure breeding success. The Falkland Islands take active measures and are working with the fishing industry to minimise seabird bycatch through discard management and education of fishermen.

- X Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites
-

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust coordinates a specialist communication and education network called Wetland Link International. WLI is a network of 300 wetland centres across the globe, with regional networks in East Atlantic, the Americas and East Asia Australasia flyways. The focus is on raising awareness of wetlands and their importance for migratory birds through developing and sharing resources and helping to deliver the Ramsar CEPA programme and other major projects such as *Flight of the Swans* and *Migratory Birds for People*. WLI runs the 'birds and schools' project each year to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, whereby schools visit local wetlands, discuss migration and the WMBD theme for that year, and then share their experiences by video conference.

Turks & Caicos Islands

Turks & Caicos National Museum hosted a series of lectures across the islands with UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum specialist speaking on the international importance to migrant birds of wetlands in TCI, threats and necessary conservation measures.

- Other (please specify) [\[free text\]](#)

- No actions taken

[the following questions only appear if an action was selected in 'During the reporting period, please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems']

Please indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions 11.8 (Rev. COP12) (*Communication, Information and Outreach Plan*) and 11.9 (*World Migratory Bird Day*) which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

[free text]

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

Tick one box

- 1 very little impact
 2 small impact
 3 good impact
 4 large positive impact
 not known

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

Review of the text above.

VI. MAINSTREAMING MIGRATORY SPECIES IN OTHER SECTORS AND PROCESSES

(SPMS Target 2: Multiple values of migratory species and their habitats have been integrated into international, national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, including on livelihoods, and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.)

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
 No

If yes, please provide a short summary:

[free text]

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations have passed both primary and secondary legislation under which competent authorities have duties to "have regard for biodiversity", including migratory species, when conducting all functions and decision making. Biodiversity is a devolved matter in the UK. Across the four countries of the UK,

specific legislation is in place to embed migratory species considerations (and all biodiversity) across public bodies in respect of development and associated planning processes. Relevant legislation is the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, the Wildlife and Natural Environments (Scotland) Act (2011) and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (search <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>).

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (hereafter Marine Act) establishes a statutory system for marine spatial planning in the UK's seas, with equivalent legislation in place in Scotland (Marine (Scotland) Act 2010) and Northern Ireland (Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013) which support the delivery of the UK Government and Devolved Administration's shared vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS), adopted in March 2011, sets out further detail on the long-term strategy for managing sustainable development in the UK marine area, including the policy framework for developing marine plans. The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations have started to identify and implement marine plans in inshore and offshore waters. Marine plans for UK seas are due to be in place by 2021. These Marine Spatial Plans provide area-based guidance setting out where consent for different activities is most likely to be given. Under the Marine Act, plans need to be evidence-based and provide stakeholders with as much certainty as possible, whilst recognising that they will need to adapt over time to respond to the changing environment. Marine mammals have been an integral part of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)-led UK Marine Monitoring Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) which aims to better integrate monitoring of different habitats and species.

In the UK, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published UK data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators at <https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/>. The progress report can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/reporting-status/>. The UK also provided its Voluntary National Report to the UN HLPF in July 2019. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/1732/173203.htm>

England:

The UK Government's National Planning Policy Framework embeds sustainable development in planning policy in England and sets out how the planning system contributes to this. In 2018, the National Planning Policy Framework was amended to strengthen both the protection for irreplaceable habitats and to make clear that developments should provide biodiversity net gain, promoting the conversion, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats. The framework states plans should recognise the wider value of ecosystem services in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>).

The Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning is an alliance of 19 organisations representing the conservation, planning and development sectors, who are working together to simplify, streamline and improve the consideration of biodiversity in the UK planning process. It is led by the Bat Conservation Trust. The partnership aims to provide resources to help consider protected and priority species earlier in the UK planning process and encourage building projects to deliver a net gain in biodiversity.

This includes an innovative web-based planning tool – the Wildlife Assessment Check* – that offers householders and small to medium scale developers a simple check to see whether a potential development project requires expert ecological advice. <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/>

Natural England teaming up with the Bat Conservation Trust and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, with support from the Association of Local Government Ecologists, are working together on a new system of earned recognition. The aim is to cover the full range of impacts and licensing purposes for bats with a system that rewards demonstrable competence. It has the advantage of streamlining the process, allowing the system to focus on outcomes and should result in better outcomes for bats and stakeholders.

Scotland:

Scotland's National Marine Plan (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan/>) creates a single planning framework to manage Scotland's seas. The Plan ensures that increasing demands for use of the marine environment are managed, encouraging economic development of marine industries, and incorporating environmental protection into marine decision making.

The update of Scotland's National Policy Framework for migratory and breeding goose populations ensures their sustainable management while minimising the negative impacts of farming and other pressures on these species.

Wales:

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 brings biodiversity into the central decision-making process for public bodies in Wales including development and associated planning processes. It influences biodiversity action and resourcing and the consideration of long-term impacts. The Act puts in place the 'Resilient Wales' goal: '*A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)*'. All public bodies in Wales are required to work towards this and adopt the principles outlined in the Act. Section 6 of the Act places a statutory duty on public authorities in Wales to have regard the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in exercising their functions and to report their performance to the Welsh Government.

UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies:

The elected governments of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies have come together, under the Chairing by Gibraltar's Environment Minister, to form the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council. This meets approximately annually, with UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (which facilitated the initiation) providing the secretariat. Conservation of migratory species is amongst the full range of topics being addressed to share experiences and identify shared objectives as well as being among the many topics addressed in the strategies to implement the Environment Charters agreed between UK and UK Overseas Territories. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum monitors progress in achieving these, and fulfilling international commitments, including the Aichi Targets and relevant Sustainable Development Goals. The most recent report is "Review of performance by 2016 of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents and

moving towards the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets” (available at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/implementation>).

Bailiwick of Jersey:

A first, long-term community vision, instigated by the Government of Jersey, is *Future Jersey*, and sets a desired direction to inform and guide future planning by public and private organisations. The vision has ten key outcomes against which progress is measured. One concerns the protection of Jersey’s unique natural environment for future generations, to be measured through indicators including the distribution and abundance of breeding bird populations, sea water quality and the status of Jersey’s Ramsar sites [Future Jersey - Jersey's long-term, community vision.](#)

In 2016, *The Environment in Figures: A Report on the Condition of Jersey’s Environment 2011-2015* was published as Jersey’s first environmental benchmark report. It is to be updated every five years and measures progress against 48 environmental indicators, which include dolphin abundance and number and status of Ramsar sites (marine waters), numbers of wading and breeding birds (Natural Environment) [Environment in Figures Report 2011-2015.](#)

Montserrat:

Biodiversity mainstreaming occurred within the planning processes, where major development is needed to replace the natural capital on this small island which was destroyed in 1997 by volcanic action. At the request of the Governments of Montserrat and the UK, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum arranged for its own and other donated specialist time to hold a series of workshops on Environment Impact Assessment on the island, giving rise to a series of recommendations provided by technical independent experts.

Do the ‘values of migratory species and their habitats’ referred to in SPMS Target 2 currently feature in any other national reporting processes in your country?

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a short summary:

See above.

Describe the main involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

Metropolitan UK;

Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) based in the UK have active communication programmes designed to raise the profile of migratory species. The European Cetacean Monitoring Coalition (ECMC; [http://www.marine-life.org.uk/european-cetacean-monitoring-coalition-\(ecmc\)](http://www.marine-life.org.uk/european-cetacean-monitoring-coalition-(ecmc))) collates, synthesizes and publishes ferry or other platform-of-opportunity data from multiple survey partners, in collaboration with a large

volunteer base. The initiative is driven by ORCA and MarineLife, and other UK NGOs, which promote cetacean conservation in political, scientific and public fora. The data collected through the initiative have contributed to distribution datasets for cetaceans in UK waters and further afield.

[British Divers Marine Life Rescue](#) (BDMLR) is a network of volunteers trained to respond to live cetacean stranding events to manage the welfare of the animal(s) and the public, with the ultimate aim of refloating animals where possible.

JNCC led a project titled the [Joint Cetacean Protocol](#), designed to collate suitable marine mammal data from a variety of platforms into a single dataset. The UK has strong NGO involvement in campaigning and raising awareness for marine mammals, such as Whale and Dolphin Conservation; The Wildlife Trusts; Wildlife & Countryside Link; Marine Conservation Society; ORCA; MARINELife; Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Seawatch Foundation. These organisations contribute to data collection, awareness, campaigning and steering elements of marine mammal work in the UK.

CMS CoP 10 established an [Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds](#) (AEMLAP) for the species covered by this Resolution, and which was agreed at CoP 11 (Resolution 11.17). UK, via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, continues to input to the work of the group to promote the implementation of the Plan. The main schemes to monitor the abundance of migratory land and water birds in the UK are as follows:

Scheme	Web-site	Funders
Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)	www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs	British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), JNCC, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP)	www.rbbp.org.uk	JNCC, RSPB, BTO
Waterways Breeding Bird Survey WBBS)	www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/wbbs	JNCC, BTO
Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)	https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs	JNCC, BTO, RSPB, WWT (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust)
Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme	https://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/	JNCC, SNH, WWT

There have been recent bespoke national surveys on migratory species such as wintering thrushes. Considerable research continues within the UK funded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and some universities, e.g. on the pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. A significant part of the work of RSPB BTO and GWCT is conducted in partnership with statutory conservation agencies, for example, the Action for Birds in England programme between RSPB and Natural England (NE), has funded diagnostic research on turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* and wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* in recent years. GWCT has studied origins and migration patterns of wintering woodcock in UK using satellite tags, in collaboration with the French Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) doing the same in France. In addition, the GWCT runs the National Gamebag Census, a monitoring scheme collating information on numbers of huntable bird species shot annually in the UK. The Seabird Monitoring Partnership is an annual monitoring programme for UK's breeding seabird population, collecting data on

abundance and productivity of all 25 seabird species. In addition, JNCC has, in conjunction with Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries, instigated a programme of 'at sea' surveys of seabird distribution (known as CalMap). Distribution data for Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* have been collected by MarineLife in conjunction with Natural England and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas). RSPB and NE have funded tagging work delivered through the OxNav group at Oxford University. This is to understand movements of Balearic shearwaters and to test the hypothesis that the birds seen in UK waters are juveniles.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust coordinates the World Wetland Network (WWN), a support network for smaller NGOs and civil society organisations globally, to facilitate engagement with and delivery of the Ramsar Convention objectives. WWN ran a global citizen science survey of wetlands, with over 500 responses from across the world, that was presented at the Ramsar COP13.

The National Bat Monitoring Programme run by BCT <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme> enables volunteers to take part in surveys by observing bats in their local area. Ultimately this monitoring programme provides evidence, including to government, needed to make bat conservation work and includes trends for 11 of 17 bat species in the UK. Anyone can take part, from beginners to experts. There is a new initiative, the 'British Bat Survey' <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/british-bat-survey> which builds on advances in the latest developments in acoustic sensor design, automated call recognition and interactive volunteer feedback. BCT worked with researchers from University College London, Oxford University and the British Trust for Ornithology to develop this new survey for the NBMP, it will allow a much broader range of people to take part with only minimum experience. It was operational in the south west of England in 2019 but will be available across the UK in the future.

England:

WWT has been pioneering the use of 'headstarting' to restore threatened shorebird populations.

WWT has been participating in an EU LIFE project (Life Blackwit UK, 2016-21) to restore the UK breeding population of black-tailed godwit. As part of this project, WWT translocated godwit eggs from the Nene Washes SPA to the Ouse Washes SPA, where they are hatched and reared in captivity and released at fledging. Some birds have been released back at the Nene Washes. The project to date has been extremely successful: ca.80% of eggs taken into captivity result in a released fledgling, resulting in a major boost to the productivity of the national population. Recruitment of headstarted birds into the breeding population has been above expectations.

In 2019, WWT began trialing headstarting of Curlews in the Severn Vale. Ca.50 birds have been released, using eggs that were licensed for destruction on military airfields due to bird-strike risk. This project is a partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Natural England. We have also been lending advice and support to other Curlew headstarting initiatives, notably Curlew Country in Shropshire, England, and on Dartmoor (with the Duchy of Lancaster, Dartmoor National Park and RSPB).

WWT and RSPB continue to monitor the Crane *Grus grus* population created in south-west England through the Great Crane Project (2010-14). The breeding success of the re-established population has steadily increased, and it now occupies five counties. GWCT is running an EU LIFE project for the recovery of Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* in the Avon Valley in collaboration with the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and has started similar work on Curlew *Numenius arquata* in the New Forest.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales has been undertaking monitoring to provide evidence of potential migratory movements of bats between Ireland and Wales. This work was initiated using bat detectors on ferries during the Interreg funded Mammals in a Sustainable Environment project in 2015/16. Monitoring has continued in 2017/18 using bat detectors on off-shore islands and promontories. The target species of this work are Nathusius' pipistrelle and Leisler's bats; the data obtained are being used to support the Welsh Nathusius' pipistrelle project to further build a picture of the species distribution and migratory behavior.

An NRW supported project led by the Bat Conservation Trust has been running a pilot project in which citizen scientists in two areas in Wales are engaged as volunteers to deploy sensors in the environment that pick up the acoustic calls of bats. This is resulting in new records and therefore new understanding about the use of the landscape by bat species. This in turn can be used to ensure that policies and processes take the presence of bats into account.

Scotland:

RSPB Scotland, working in collaboration with the Swiss Ornithological Institute and the Shetland Ringing Group, has shown that red-necked phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* nesting in Shetland, migrate west across the Atlantic and then south to winter along the Pacific shores of Peru and Ecuador. This is the first time this migration route and wintering area has been established for any British bird
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/360162-tiny-tag-reveals-recordbreaking-bird-migration>.

WWT has been researching the causes of decline in the Greenland White-fronted Goose since 2011, via two PhD studentships in partnership with Exeter University. At present the causes of decline remain obscure. At a whole-population level, productivity has declined. However, there are major variations in the productivity of birds from the two main wintering sub-populations: the Wexford, Ireland population has very low productivity, but numbers are stable, whereas the Islay, Scotland population has higher productivity but has declined massively. Preliminary results from x-raying live captured birds in Scotland suggests that shooting of Greenland white-fronted goose may be much more prevalent than expected, given that it is not legal quarry anywhere in its range. WWT is investigating whether lead poisoning may be an additional significant mortality factor for birds wintering in Scotland. Disturbance of wintering Greenland White-fronted Geese on Islay by management activities for Greenland Barnacle Geese (shooting and scaring) has a very strong effect on behaviour, causing lost feeding time, displacement and extra energy expenditure. However, current evidence suggests that, for the population as a whole, the frequency of disturbance events is sufficiently low as not to present a major problem.

WWT has been investigating limiting factors for Taiga Bean Goose wintering in Scotland

since 2014. A single flock in Slamannan comprises over half of the UK population. GPS telemetry has allowed WWT to identify staging sites in Norway and Denmark, and breeding sites in Sweden, and to investigate threats at these sites. A significant number of birds have been caught and marked, potentially allowing analyses of survival to be implemented.

WWT has been working to restore the UK breeding Common Scoter population since 2010. Since 2016, WWT completed a PhD studentship that used palaeo-ecological methods to understand the ecological changes that have taken place at lochs in the Flow Country, the major UK breeding area, over the last ca.200 years. This showed that there has been a substantial shift towards more nutrient-tolerant aquatic communities since widespread afforestation of the region in the 1980s. However, this appears to have resulted, inter alia, in an increase in general abundance of macroinvertebrates, which form scoter diets. The implication is that food supply has not decreased over the period that scoter populations have been declining (last 20 years), but rather has probably increased. This suggests that food availability is not the primary cause of decline.

Since 2012, WWT has been working to conserve the West Inverness-shire Lochs population of Common Scoter. This is the second key site for breeding scoters in the UK. Detailed monitoring indicates that scoter nest success tends to be highest on islands, but the islands themselves are in unfavourable status due to flooding, and also low water levels that connect them to mainland (creating easy predator access). Some islands are now too dominated by tree cover to make good nesting habitat. Water level fluctuations caused by hydro-loch management are having profound ecological effects, especially on Loch Loyne, the single most important loch in Scotland for scoters. Low water levels in summer, which have been increasingly frequent, cause predation of island nests (see above), but may also affect benthic food supply (this is not yet clear).

Using the evidence gathered by WWT, a consortium of WWT, RSPB, SNH, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Forestry Commission Scotland has been working to improve the conservation status of the SPA. Trees have been removed from islands, artificial floating nest islands have been deployed, and in 2019 SSE raised water levels in Loch Loyne; the latter may have a significant positive effect.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Birds on the Edge project is a partnership between the States of Jersey, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the National Trust for Jersey, seeking to support the active management of Jersey's coastland to restore populations of birds to the island. Since 2018 work has focused on increasing knowledge on seabird populations, identifying and addressing threats such as terrestrial predation, and managing habitats to maximize their suitability for seabird colonies <http://www.birdsontheedge.org/>.

Isle of Man:

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch undertake a cetacean, public sightings recording programme, related public engagement and some research.

Manx Birdlife has completed a full seabird census of the Isle of Man in 2017 and 2018, under a Manx Government contract and with industry match-funding, contributing to Seabirds Count, a census in action across the British Isles on an approximately 15-yearly basis, coordinated through the Seabirds Monitoring Programme Partnership. The Isle of Man continues to contribute LIFE projects for hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* and little terns *Sterna albifrons* through satellite tagging and colour ringing.

Manx Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus* Watch undertake public sightings recording

programme and research and the Manx Wildlife Trust contributes to various programmes related to species and habitat conservation and education, including CMS species.

Hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* were tagged in each of 2015 and 2016 and coordinated by Manx BirdLife in association with the RSPB's Hen Harrier LIFE+ Project and the Manx Ringing Group. The 2015 bird did not survive long but the 2016 tag is still active and was recently reported from England.

Montserrat

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Montserrat National Trust are running a community participation initiative "Adopt a Home for Wildlife", as a prime method of restoring native vegetation following devastation by volcanic action. The lead is taken by local community members. As well as encouraging local participants to take responsibility for conservation, this is currently the best way of resisting alien invasive plant species which have increased markedly while most of the island has had to be closed to public access for safety reasons. The restored ecosystems are vital for both resident and migratory species. Actions by the group have led to creation of habitat for migrant waterbirds in the absence of coastal wetlands on the island due to in-filling several years ago of the last examples because of a very poor planning decision.

Describe the main involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

[free text]

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.)

Have any governance arrangements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, improved during the reporting period?

- Yes
- No, but there is scope to do so
- X No, because existing arrangements already satisfy all the points in Target 3

If yes, please provide a short summary:

See also Section VI. Mainstreaming migratory species in other sectors and processes.

Metropolitan UK:

The UK has been elected as the European regional representative and the Chair of the AEWA Standing Committee and onto the Ramsar standing committee.

As a contracting party of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), the UK works towards the OSPAR Commission's

strategic objective “to halt and prevent by 2020 further loss of biodiversity in the OSPAR maritime area, to protect and conserve ecosystems and to restore, where practicable, marine areas which have been adversely affected.” To achieve this, the UK adopted recommendations to improve the status of threatened and/or declining seabirds <https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/list-of-threatened-declining-species-habitats> and will report on this later in 2019. Co-operation between the UK and other OSPAR Contracting Parties has also helped implement the European Union’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008L0056>) at European Regional Sea scale (i.e. the North-East Atlantic). Under the MSFD EU Member States work together to achieve Good Environmental Status in European Waters. The UK and other Member states have developed marine strategies that include the monitoring (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-two-uk-marine-monitoring-programmes>) and assessment (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>) of marine bird populations and a programme of management measures (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-uk-programme-of-measures>).

UK also contributed to the adoption of draft resolutions on seabird conservation at MoP7 of the African Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA), in December 2018 ([link](#)). Specifically, a [review on the incidence and impacts of marine plastics on AEWA seabirds](#), and formal advice regarding [AEWA priorities for seabird conservation](#) (adopted by Resolution 7.6 which addresses a range of other seabird conservation issues). [Guidance to reduce the impact of fisheries on AEWA seabird species](#) has been produced. The UK is party to international goose flyway plans under AEWA for the Greenland and Svalbard populations of barnacle geese *Branta leucopsis*.

A Common Environmental Assessment Framework (CEAF) has been established to facilitate cumulative assessments of the impact of large-scale deployment of offshore wind power across Europe. The work will be beneficial for a range of migratory species.

The UK is a Party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) which supports the development of action plans and other relevant resolutions on migratory cetacean species, with clear governance on management and reporting. E.g. the Common Dolphin Species Action Plan (in draft).

Defra has set up a UK Cetacean Bycatch Focus Group to bring together Government policy advisors, industry representatives, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and scientists at a national level to provide governance and strategic advice and recommendations to UK Government in support of a Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.

England:

Natural England appointed a Bat Expert Panel to help shape the future of bat conservation in England. The Panel will provide a forum for generating ideas and testing Natural England’s thinking with the aim of securing better outcomes for bats and stakeholders.

Scotland:

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) participates in the European Goose Management Platform and European Goose Modelling Consortium. SNH Hosted the June 2019 meeting of the EGMP.

The UK National Wildlife Crime Unit has set up a Marine Working Group to assist in coordinating and communicating enforcement and crime prevention measures around

Scotland's coasts. The group principally focuses attention on working processes and prevention measures concerning whales, dolphins, porpoises, basking sharks and seals.

Scottish Natural Heritage SNH (Des Thompson) is Chairman of the Technical Committee to the Raptor MoU.

Isle of Man:

Introduction of new legislation (the Manx Marine Nature Reserves (Designation) Order 2018 SD 2018/0185 and Manx Marine Nature Reserves Byelaws 2018 SD 2018/0186) will help protect CMS species and their habitats.

The following enable seismic surveys to be determined by the appropriate conservation department of government as part of an integrated development planning process. They provide for statutory requirements to follow JNCC guidelines and reference to a statutory nature conservation committee, as well as capacity to seek external advice:

- Controlled Marine Area (Seismic Survey Works) Regulations 2016 SD2016/0362
- Controlled Marine Area (Seismic Survey Works) Byelaws 2016 SD2016/0361.

In the reporting period two additional governments signed the Hamilton Declaration on collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea; the Cayman Islands in 2017 and the Dominican Republic in 2018. <http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/about-the-commission/hamilton-declaration>

[if answered yes for previous question]

To what extent have these improvements helped to achieve Target 3 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (see text above)?

Tick one box

- 1 minimal contribution
- 2 partial contribution
- 3 good contribution
- 4 major contribution
- not known

Please describe briefly how this assessment was made

Review of text above.

Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different sectors or groups been established at national or other territorial level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a short summary:

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Four Countries Group (senior officials from the four UK administrations) discuss issues relating to the CMS as necessary. At a technical level the Network of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Experts helps to undertake the practicalities of internal Government coordination.

To provide interaction and integration of activities in the use of resources to conserve migratory species, multi-stakeholder working groups and steering committees are in place for most conservation and research projects undertaken collaboratively among government departments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man Biodiversity Strategy explicitly incorporates CMS issues and the Government and NGOs collaborate to deliver sightings and strandings information into a database, the latter feeding into the UK database (Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme).

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Between 2016 and 2018 a substantial review of the primary legislation for the protection of wildlife in Jersey took place, to bring the legislation up to date as well as to ensure continued compliance with international responsibilities.

The Jersey Biodiversity Strategy (2000) explicitly incorporates CMS issues. Species Action Plans are in place for several migratory species including bats (all species), Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, brent goose *Branta bernicla* and basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*). New primary legislation has been drafted to replace the existing Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 and is scheduled to be brought into force in 2019/20. The new legislation will introduce several key changes including strengthened protection for breeding sites and resting sites, controls of invasive species and a requirement for public bodies to have regard for biodiversity, including migratory species, when conducting their functions and decision making.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

A Biodiversity Education Officer was appointed in 2017 for the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy which was agreed by the States of Deliberation in December 2015. The Biodiversity Partnership works on Ramsar Sites and has implemented Puffin Awareness buoys to protect the Atlantic puffin, *Fratercula arctica*. A reporting app, "Awk App", is in development to record awks; puffin, *Fratercula arctica*, razorbills, *Alca torda*, and guillimots *Alca aalge*.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Commercial fishing ceased in 2010 but the ecosystem faces continuing threats from illegal fishing. The area is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel. All available assets are used – including the BIOT patrol vessel, military vessels/aircraft, and yachts which are issued permits. Collaboration with neighbours in the Indian Ocean enhances protection of its ecosystem, ensures compliance with its regulations, and develops enforcement capability. An MPA covering at least 50% of the EEZ will be formally designated in 2019.

Bermuda:

In the reporting period Bermuda renewed its sister sanctuary agreement with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary in the USA, to protect a shared population of Humpback Whales. <https://stellwagen.noaa.gov/sister/>

In February 2017, the Bermuda Government received a report on satellite vessel tracking data from fishing vessels active in Bermuda's EEZ between 2013 and 2016, from Satellite Applications Catapult in the UK. The report showed little evidence of illegal fishing.

The Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003 fully protects the following CMS-listed species within Bermuda's EEZ: Bermuda petrel, green turtle, hawksbill turtle, leatherback turtle, Kemp's Ridley turtle, loggerhead turtle, European eel, whale shark, humpback whale and sperm whale.

Cyprus SBA:

There is close monitoring of fishing activities occurring near the sea caves where there are Mediterranean monk seals *Monachus monachus*.

Falkland Islands:

Wild birds and marine mammals are protected legally to provide protection against disturbance or injury. Islanders also encourage and help fund research into CMS species including sei whales *Balaenoptera borealis* and albatrosses. The Falkland Islands Government also support an annual seabird monitoring program which has been operational for almost 30 years. Falklands Conservation lead on a project to develop a site-based conservation approach for sei whales at Berkeley Sound, Falkland Islands.

Gibraltar:

Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and implementation of the Gibraltar Marine Reserve Management Plan https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/documents/environment/publications/Gibraltar_Marine_Reserve_Management_Plan.pdf. Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones (including a Dolphin Protection Zone), no fishing and no anchoring zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

There is strict legislation to enforce the extensive marine protected area (MPA) within the maritime zone. In December 2018 a series of enhancements to the MPA were announced which included extending coverage to all 1.24 million km² of the maritime zone and increasing the area of the MPA covered by strict no-take zones to 23% of the total coverage. The seasonal closure of the krill fishery was extended by two months to further reduce competition between krill dependent predators (including cetaceans) and the krill fishery during key feeding and breeding periods <http://www.gov.gs/32110-2/>. There is also strict fisheries legislation in place which includes the application of all relevant CCAMLR conservation measures.

There have been two UK Government funded 'Blue Belt' research surveys to the South Sandwich Islands in 2019 providing new information on the region's pelagic and marine ecosystems respectively. Both cruises included teams of marine mammal observers assessing the composition and distribution of cetacean populations in the region. This research complemented the second year of a UK 'Darwin Initiative' funded study at South Georgia (led by the British Antarctic Survey) which obtained new information on populations of southern right *Eubalaena australis* and humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae*.

St Helena:

All four cetacean species (sperm whale, *Physeter microcephalus*, humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*, northern right whale *Eubalaena glacialis* and sei whale

Eubalaena australis) in St. Helena's waters are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 23-25 of CMS COP Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) (*Synergies and partnerships*)?

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a short summary:

[free text]

Has your country or any jurisdictional subdivision within your country adopted legislation, policies or action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species?

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please identify the legislation, policies or action plans concerned:

Metropolitan UK: and UK overseas territories

Biodiversity is a devolved matter in the UK *and UK overseas territories*. Across the four countries of the UK, specific legislation is in place for migratory species considerations (and all biodiversity). The UK Government and Devolved Administrations have passed both primary and secondary legislation under which competent authorities have duties to have regard for biodiversity, including migratory species, when conducting all functions and decision making. The UK Government, Devolved Administrations and their agencies have established partnerships with bodies such as the Wildlife & Countryside Link. The UK Government supports overseas territories in meeting CMS objectives.

VIII. INCENTIVES

(SPMS Target 4: Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to migratory species, and/or their habitats are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats are developed and applied, consistent with engagements under the CMS and other relevant international and regional obligations and commitments.)

Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your

country resulting in benefits for migratory species?

- Yes
- X Partly / in some areas
- No, but there is scope to do so
- No, because no such incentives have existed

If yes or partly, please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

Metropolitan UK:

The UK has made significant progress with reforming harmful subsidies – particularly with those subsidies that incentivised over-production or overharvesting in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. For example, the UK and EU member states removed incentives for over-production which were potentially harmful for biodiversity under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) as reported previously.

There may be negative incentives associated with agriculture such as increases in biofuels which may adversely affect those migratory species that use cropped habitats. The UK's agri-environment schemes (see next section) aim to address these negative incentives.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

With the new Rural Economy Strategy 2017 – 2021 farming subsidies in Jersey are being de-coupled from area and instead linked to the directed procurement of public goods (water, biodiversity). There is now a requirement to reach standards set by the Linking Farming and the Environment (LEAF) Marque Audit which has specific measures to preserve habitat. Farms receiving financial support from the States must be LEAF-accredited by 2019.

Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country resulting in benefits for migratory species?

- Yes
- X Partly / in some areas
- No, but there is scope to do so
- No, because there is no scope to do so

If yes or partly, please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

Metropolitan UK:

The large-scale biodiversity losses in UK in the second half of the 20th century have largely stabilised or slowed with the introduction of nature conservation initiatives throughout the 20th century, including positive incentive programmes and the designation of protected area networks including benefitting migratory species. Further, UK fish stocks are now showing signs of recovery following their historic over-exploitation as the proportion of stocks fished at or below the level capable of producing Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), and the proportion of stocks with biomass above the level capable of producing MSY, have increased significantly since 1990.

As part of the reform of the European Union reforming harmful subsidies, the introduction of greening measures in 2013 (which built on the decoupling of agricultural support from

production in 2003), along with the measures proposed in the Clean Air Strategy published in January 2019, will reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector to deliver key atmospheric pollutant emission reduction targets under the National Emissions Ceiling Directive. In addition, a range of incentives have been developed and implemented to achieve biodiversity outcomes and promote sustainable management. These include agri-environment measures, sustainable woodland management payments and the introduction in 2014 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

The reformed Common Fisheries Policy, through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) has made a commitment to support and invest in selective gears and fishing techniques (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-implementation-reports>). This incentive will have a positive impact on conservation and sustainable use of migratory marine species and increased selectivity decreases unwanted catch/bycatch and increases efficiency meaning less time fishing resulting in less fuel consumption and less overall impact on the seafloor.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) provides a sustainable forestry certification scheme in the UK. Certification is voluntary and involves an inspection of the forest management by an independent organisation to check conformation with internationally-agreed principles of responsible forest management. Timber can then carry the FSC label, guaranteeing that it comes from a well-managed forest. FSC also offers Chain of Custody (CoC) certification which ensures that FSC materials and products have been checked at every stage of processing. There are 1,603,877ha of FSC certified forest in the UK and 2,333 CoC certificates have been issued (FSC 2018).

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for sustainable fisheries is a certification and labelling program for wild-capture fisheries that meet best practice guidelines set by both the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and ISEAL, the global membership association for sustainability standards. Fisheries are assessed by independent certification bodies and must demonstrate their fishery is sustainable, e.g. against MSC sustainability criteria, with minimal environmental impacts and has effective management (see the MSC website <https://www.msc.org/> for more detail). The fish and seafood from certified fisheries carry the blue sustainability MSC label which can provide enhanced reputation, and visibility as well as access to new and niche markets making it a positive incentive to fishers, with added benefits to the ecosystem through sustainable fishing. Several large-scale fisheries have been certified around the UK including the UK Fisheries Ltd/Deutsche Fischfang Union/Doggerbank Northeast Arctic fishery and the Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group North Sea Haddock fishery.

Agri-Environment Schemes (AES) work in concert with other biodiversity conservation measures, such as protected areas, to manage more effectively the wider landscape matrix. There is growing evidence that such measures have beneficial effects on target bird species at the farm and, to a lesser degree, landscape scale (Baker *et al.* 2012, , Walker *et al.* 2018).

AES that influence how crops are grown is important because several UK migratory birds use cropped habitats significantly. AES in England aims at reversing declines in farmland bird populations as the literature identifies positive impacts of AES on bird abundance. The benefits of more targeted elements of the scheme are greater than those in the entry-level or broad and shallow schemes particularly when targeted and delivered in partnership with NGOs and landowners to support recovery of scarce or restricted range species such as stone curlew (*Burhinus oedichnemus*, Evans and Green 2007).

Evans, A.D. & Green R. E. 2007. An example of a two-tiered agri-environment scheme designed to deliver effectively the ecological requirements of both localised and widespread bird species in England. *J Ornithology* 148: 279–286.

Baker, D.J., Freeman, S.N., Grice, P.V. & Siriwardena, G.M. 2012. Landscape-scale responses of birds to agri-environment management: a test of the English

Environmental Stewardship scheme. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 49: 871–882;
Walker, L.K., Morris, A.J., Cristinacce, A., Dadam, D., Grice, P. V. & Peach, W. J. 2018. Effects of higher-tier agri-environment scheme on the abundance of priority farmland birds. *Animal Conservation* 21: 183–192)

Stroud, D.A., Bainbridge, I.P., Maddock, A., Anthony, S., Baker, H., Buxton, N., Chambers, D., Enlander, I., Hearn, R.D., Jennings, K.R, Mavor, R., Whitehead, S. & Wilson, J.D. - on behalf of the UK SPA & Ramsar Scientific Working Group (eds.) 2016. The status of UK SPAs in the 2000s: the Third Network Review. [c.1,108] pp. JNCC, Peterborough.

Walker, L.K., Morris, A.J., Cristinacce, A., Dadam, D., Grice, P. V. & Peach, W. J. 2018. Effects of higher-tier agri-environment scheme on the abundance of priority farmland birds. *Animal Conservation* 21: 183–192.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The [LEAF Global Standard marque](#) is a farm assurance system showing that food has been grown sustainably with care for the environment. It is independently audited and incentivises businesses to farm in the most economically and environmentally sustainable way. The Countryside Enhancement Scheme (CES) is an agri-environment programme which makes financial support available annually for environmental projects and training that will benefit habitats and wildlife. Projects supported between 2016 and 2018 with a focus on migratory species have included a survey of Jersey’s sea beds inside and outside of no mobile gear zones to assess the impact on benthic ecology and commercial fisheries; and willow coppicing within Grouville Marsh wetland reserve to improve the wetland habitat for the benefit of floral diversity and avian fauna.

Falkland Islands:

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for sustainable fisheries is a certification and labelling program for wild-capture fisheries that meet best practice guidelines set by both the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and ISEAL, the global membership association for sustainability standards. The Falkland Islands Toothfish Longline fishery is MSC accredited.

IX. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

(SPMS Target 5: Governments, key sectors and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption, keeping the impacts of use of natural resources, including habitats, on migratory species well within safe ecological limits to promote the favourable conservation status of migratory species and maintain the quality, integrity, resilience, and ecological connectivity of their habitats and migration routes.)

During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are contributing to the achievement of the results defined in SPMS Target 5?

- X Yes
- In development / planned
- No

[if answered ‘yes’ or ‘in development/planned’ for previous question]

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented

Metropolitan UK: (see also section above dealing with sustainable accreditation).

Sustainable use underpins the UK approach to species conservation and management and is implemented via legislation and policy delivery. However, robust data is somewhat lacking and this, inhibits the ability to adopt adaptive harvesting approaches for migratory species which can be hunted. This is a priority for the future and will help with assessments of potential impacts on migratory species using N2K sites.

A sustainable use approach has started in the marine environment in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>.

A Severe Weather scheme helps the conservation of waterbirds (ducks, geese, waders; many migratory). During prolonged periods of severe weather these birds struggle to feed on heavily frozen ground, and have less energy to deal with any disturbance. The scheme manages the disturbance caused by waterfowl shooting and minimises disturbance from activities such as bird ringing, walking, water-based recreation etc. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act Section 2 (6) the relevant Secretary of State(s) has power to impose a temporary close season of waterbird shooting during 'prolonged severe weather'. The Severe Weather scheme provides an agreed process as to what qualifies as 'prolonged severe weather'.

In relation to hunting, the information outlined in the previous UK report to CMS remains relevant, namely that the European Commission launched its Sustainable Hunting Initiative in 2001, aimed at improving understanding of the legal and technical aspects of the EC Wild Birds Directive on hunting, as well as developing a programme of scientific, conservation and awareness raising measures to promote sustainable hunting under the Directive. A guide to sustainable hunting was published in 2004 and updated in 2008 (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/index_en.htm).

In the UK the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published UK data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators at <https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/>. The progress report can be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment-uk.github.io/reporting-status/>.

England:

The National Planning Policy Framework embeds sustainable development in planning policy in England and sets out how the planning system can contribute to this. The framework states plans should recognise the wider value of ecosystem services in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan

The concept of sustainable use runs through England's 25 Year Environment Plan and includes introducing a sustainable fisheries policy as the UK leaves the EU (and the Common Fisheries Policy). Further benefitting marine migrant species, the plan ensures seafloor habitats are productive and sufficiently extensive to support healthy, sustainable ecosystems and that all fish stocks are recovered to and maintained at levels that can produce their maximum sustainable yield. By leading efforts to protect the marine environment and to tackle marine pollution, England will pursue a sustainable, international and transboundary approach that prioritises reducing global reliance on plastics, increases economically viable recycling processes, and promotes maritime practices that prevent harmful matter entering the seas. The UK is also taking an active role in securing a new international agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Wales:

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 brings biodiversity into the central decision-making process for public bodies in Wales including development and associated planning processes. It influences biodiversity action and resourcing and the consideration of long-term impacts. The Act puts in place the 'Resilient Wales' goal: '*A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)*'. All public bodies in Wales are required to work towards this and adopt the principles outlined in the Act. Section 6 of the Act places a statutory duty on public authorities in Wales to have regard the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in exercising their functions and to report their performance to the Welsh Government.

Scotland:

The Natural Capital Asset Index (NCAI) measures annual changes in natural capital and is one of the Scottish Government's Key Performance Indicators. The NCAI measures the quality and quantity of habitats in Scotland, according to their potential to deliver different ecosystem services now and into the future. The NCAI covers terrestrial habitats but a further Index for marine habitats is being developed.

Managing geese in Scotland has required the development and implementation of a national policy framework for migratory geese <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/managing-geese>.

UK Overseas Territories:

The UK Caribbean Overseas Territories are highly dependent on the natural environment for their economic and social wellbeing. The environment provides goods and services of significant cultural and economic value and provides a key role in protecting manmade assets and protecting human life. The UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee embarked on the 'Natural Capital in the Caribbean and South Atlantic Overseas Territories' project in late 2016, (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7443-theme=default>).

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, jointly with its UKOT partners, has provided a wide range of interpretative products to enhance sustainable tourism and local valuing of the natural resource, in many cases focusing on migratory species. These include a new web-site (www.ukotcf.org.uk), social media, and conventional publications, including "Birding in Paradise" books covering Montserrat and the Turks & Caicos Islands. UKOTCF also donated images, video, text, editing and fund-raising to the international broadcast TV series "Britain's Treasure Islands", including also free short videos and a major book. The main broadcast series has now been shown on BBC4 and iPlayer, and by other leading networks around the world.

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved. [\[free text\]](#)

Metropolitan UK:

About 30% of fish stocks are now at sustainable levels, for example, and since 2010 the proportion of large fish in the North Sea has climbed sharply to levels not seen since the

1980s.

UK Overseas Territories:

JNCC embarked on the 'Natural Capital in the Caribbean and South Atlantic Overseas Territories' project in late 2016 <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7443>. The project will provide an assessment of natural capital in several Overseas Territories and will build capacity to monitor environmental change and integrate environmental evidence into economic policy making and infrastructure planning. Working with the UKOT governments, and with several research organisations and private sector specialists, the project will use economic assessments and analysis, spatial mapping, and satellite data to:

- assess the economic and social value of the terrestrial and marine natural environment for each of the Territories;
- identify the priority natural capital assets and metrics (or measurable attributes) to monitor changes in value through time;
- integrate natural capital valuations into national mapping to define the spatial distribution of the assets (value mapping), and to promote the integration of such valuations into planning and policy making.

Benefits to migratory species are likely to include identification and valuing of areas containing breeding or spawning grounds, juvenile habitat and important habitats for migratory species, cetaceans, turtles, pinnipeds, seabirds and sharks. Understanding the value of biodiversity is hoped to lead to sustainable management to prevent negative impacts such as disturbance of turtles and nests, boat disturbance to cetaceans as well as limiting catches of sharks and other large fish to support long-term benefits. The sustainable approach for the UK OTs is outlined in the overarching strategy for the conservation of Biodiversity in these areas. Further details can be found at: Overseas Territories 2011 publication:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69204/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf.

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man government is pursuing strategies towards sustainable development, for example: Future Fisheries, Biodiversity and Food Matters strategies. Action to reduce mobile fishing gear activity has been taken, reducing overall fishing effort within the territorial sea, reduced access to the 0-3 Mile area and designating 52% of the 0-3 Mile area as Marine Nature Reserves (which exclude mobile gear, except in one fishery management area). Designation of the Isle of Man as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, including the territorial sea, is increasing interest towards sustainable development and embedding the Biosphere ethos within the community.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island offers opportunities to realise high-value tourism based around scuba diving, sport fishing and wildlife watching of charismatic animals such as turtles and whales subject to the outcome of the 'Future of Ascension' discussions

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69204/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf.

[if answered no for first question above]

What is preventing progress?



X. THREATS AND PRESSURES AFFECTING MIGRATORY SPECIES; INCLUDING OBSTACLES TO MIGRATION

(SPMS Targets 6+7: Fisheries and hunting have no significant direct or indirect adverse impacts on migratory species, their habitats or their migration routes, and impacts of fisheries and hunting are within safe ecological limits; Multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation of migratory species or to the functioning, integrity, ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.)

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? (tick the boxes apply)

Pressure	Appendix I species	Appendix II species	Species/species groups affected; and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Direct killing and taking				
Illegal hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<i>Metropolitan UK:</i> birds of prey, turtle dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> <i>Bailiwick of Guernsey:</i> Destruction of nesting sites of marsh harrier, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> . <i>British Indian Ocean Territory:</i> Illegal fishing of turtles. <i>Cyprus SBA:</i> Illegal trapping and killing of blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> , European robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> and song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> .	2
Legal hunting			Unquantified, and potentially unsustainable, hunting of the globally Vulnerable Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> continues in the UK No monitoring of annual harvest rates is undertaken in the UK and as a consequence it is currently unknown if hunting is sustainable	3
Other harvesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Metropolitan UK:</i> The most recent UK Article 17 report reveals minke whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> , white-beaked dolphin	3

and take			<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> , Atlantic white-sided dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> , common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> , bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena</i> , and common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> are negatively impacted through bycatch in the harvesting of marine fish and shellfish.	
Illegal trade	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<i>Gibraltar</i> : Illegal fishing by foreign commercial vessels (fish)	2
Deliberate poisoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<i>Metropolitan UK</i> : birds of prey. peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> , golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> , goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> , hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , red kite <i>Milvus</i> and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> . <i>Northern Ireland</i> : buzzard <i>Buteo</i>	1
Bycatch				
Bycatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<i>Metropolitan UK</i> : Bycatch of harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena</i> and common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> , particularly off southwest England, numbering low hundreds for the common dolphin and ~1500 for harbor porpoises per annum. Very rare captures of other species including white-beaked dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> , Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i> and pilot whales. Entanglement of minke whales <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> is a problem around Scotland and increasing occurrence of humpback whales <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> around the UK coast has also resulted in some entanglement in creels. Spurdog, porbeagle <i>Lamna nasus</i> and common skate <i>Dipturus batis</i> are the elasmobranchs that are prioritised for research into problems of bycatch by Cefas. The mitigation of bycatch of albatross and petrel species is a key activity under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in some UK Overseas Territories.	2
			<i>Cayman Islands</i> : incidental bycatch	3
Collisions and electrocution				
Electrocution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Wind turbines	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<i>Metropolitan UK</i> : Large scale deployment of offshore wind farms in UK waters is planned to	

			<p>continue with a recent sector deal. For some migratory species this may contribute to negative trends, although direct measures are problematic. Species at risk include black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), large <i>Larus spp</i>, some terns and <i>Morus bassana</i>. Other species at risk of habitat loss through displacement and/or barrier effects created by flying around wind farms include divers, seaducks, and auks , with red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> a particular concern in UK waters (see Dierschke <i>et al</i> 2016 for a review [Dierschke, V.; Furness, R.; Garthe, S. (2016). Seabirds and Offshore Wind Farms in European Waters: Avoidance and Attraction. <i>Biological Conservation</i>, 202, 59-68.]).</p> <p>There is increasing awareness that the issue of interactions between bats and offshore wind farms needs to be considered. The EUROBATS manual 'Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects' states that "offshore wind turbines should be surveyed in the same manner as land-based turbines". Nathusius' pipistrelle as a bat that migrates between mainland Europe and the UK is likely to be at particular risk.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Jersey</i>: Proposed offshore wind turbines in Bay of St Malo may impact migratory species.</p>	
Other collisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Global</i>: boat collisions with sharks and marine mammals.</p> <p><i>Metropolitan UK</i>: Offshore wet renewable turbines/ devices pose a collision risk to all marine mammals. Shipping poses a risk of collision, particularly for larger whales.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey</i>: Boat and jetski collisions with porpoises, bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>, and common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey</i>: Boat and jetski collisions with porpoises, bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>, and common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>.</p>	
Other mortality				

<p>Predation</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> bottlenose dolphins attack other species such as harbour porpoise and common dolphin. Grey seals are also known to predate on other species, primarily harbour seals and other grey seals.</p> <p>Curlews and other meadow birds are affected in particular by unsustainably high rates of predation on nests and chicks; although Red Fox and Carrion Crow are believed to be the most prevalent, several native generalist predators are involved, and it has been noted that populations of such generalists tend to be higher in the UK than in other parts of Europe.</p> <p>In farmed lowland areas, which form a relatively large proportion of the Curlew breeding range in the UK, destruction of eggs and chicks by agricultural machinery is also a major threat. Changes in grassland farming methods over recent decades have led to earlier mowing, which now takes place multiple times in a season, and during the period that Curlews are incubating or chick-rearing.</p>	
<p>Disease</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> Surveillance on marine mammal diseases is ongoing through the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) and Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS) and through pinniped surveys. Seals are affected negatively by Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) or similar diseases. There is some monitoring to identify potential outbreaks and a large study ongoing in Scotland to investigate the decline of harbour seals <i>Phoca vitulina</i> in Scottish waters.</p> <p>Long term scanning surveillance of 'found dead' waterbirds continues monitoring levels of diseases such as avian influenza and lead poisoning, and identifying apparently emerging diseases such as sarcocystosis in dabbling ducks. A joint surveillance project established between the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation has found an increasing incidence of this disease in the UK (following reports of the disease further up the flyway in eastern and northern Europe). The role of introduced mammals such as raccoon dog <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> may play a role in transmission.</p>	

			<p><i>Falkland Islands and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands</i>: there is a risk of wildlife disease to penguins, albatross and other seabirds, and pinnipeds.</p> <p>The fungus associated with WNS, <i>Pseudogymnoascus destructans</i> (previously called <i>Geomyces destructans</i>), has also been identified on a number of bats in Europe, including the UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and other countries. However, unlike in the USA, these findings have not been linked with mass mortalities and WNS has not been confirmed in Europe. https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/threats-to-bats/white-nose-syndrome/white-nose-syndrome-in-europe</p>	
Accidental/in direct poisoning			<p><i>Metropolitan UK</i>: Lead poisoning from ammunition sources continues particularly in waterbirds and large raptors. Although resistance to change to non-toxic ammunition persists there is a growing acceptance within the shooting community that change is inevitable and even desirable considering marketing of game meat.</p>	
Unexplained stranding events	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Metropolitan UK</i>: All cetacean strandings are recorded and where possible/practical, investigated through post mortem to identify cause of death and other factors of note. The most recent unusual mortality event involved a number of Cuvier's beaked whales <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> and northern bottlenose whales <i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i> stranding during Summer 2018.</p>	
Alien and/or invasive species				
Alien and/or invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Metropolitan UK</i>: Several species of migratory seabirds especially Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus</i> and storm petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> have, in the past, abandoned many of their nesting islands (and mainland colonies too) due to invasion by rats. This impact continues as does the impact of rats, American mink <i>Neovison vison</i>, stoats <i>Mustela erminea</i> and hedgehogs <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> on ground nesting terns (especially <i>Sterna</i> species).</p> <p><i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> has strong negative impacts on western oakwoods – the principal habitat for wood warblers <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>, pied flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> and redstart <i>Phoenicurus</i>.</p> <p>Muntjac and fallow deer have profound impact</p>	

		<p>on woodland understory and scrub posing a large threat nightingales <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>.</p> <p>There is ongoing work to eradicate the invasive ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Jersey</i>: A British-Irish Council Environment meeting in 2018 discussed non-native species and their threat to the environment of Jersey https://www.gov.je/news/2018/pages/asianhornetscouncilmeeting.aspx https://www.gov.je/news/2018/pages/nonnative-speciesthreat.aspx.</p> <p><i>OTs</i>: In most of the UKOTs invasive alien species have severe impacts on migratory species including:</p> <p><i>Ascension Island</i>: The spread of non-native plants (particularly <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>) threatens green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> nesting beaches. There is some predation of green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> hatchlings by black rats <i>Rattus rattus</i> and sooty terns <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i> are negatively impacted by rats.</p> <p>Bermuda: Black and Norway rats remain a threat to Appendix I listed Bermuda Petrel. An active rat control programme exists on nesting islands, and a new trap type is being tested in 2018/19 to reduce use of poison baits. https://environment.bm/s/2018-REPORT-ON-CAHOW-RECOVERY-PROGRAM.pdf</p> <p><i>British Indian Ocean Territory</i>: Avifauna remains subject to pressure from invasive species (especially black rats) on several islands. Species include: red-footed booby <i>Sula sula</i>, brown booby <i>Sula leucogaster</i>, brown noddy <i>Anous stolidus</i>, lesser noddy <i>Anous tenuirostris</i>, sooty tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>.</p> <p>Hawksbill <i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i> and green turtles <i>Chelonia mydas</i> impacted by rats taking eggs on nesting beaches.</p> <p><i>BVI, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, TCI, Ascension Island</i>: Hawksbill <i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>, green <i>Chelonia mydas</i> and leatherback turtles <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> threatened by rats, dogs and pigs taking eggs on nesting beaches. Cats, risk of red ants on Montserrat to turtle nests.</p>
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			<p><i>Gough Island:</i> (part of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago) albatrosses and petrels are threatened by non-native species.</p> <p><i>Falkland Islands:</i> Black-browed albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> impacted by house mice. Black-browed albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>, white-chinned petrel <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i> and thin-billed prion impacted by feral cats, rats, house mice and rabbits.</p> <p><i>Pitcairn Islands:</i> Henderson <i>Pterodroma atrata</i> and Phoenix <i>Pterodroma alba</i> petrels threatened by Polynesian rats and feral cats.</p> <p><i>Caribbean UK Overseas Territories:</i> introduced invasive lionfish devastating many other species</p> <p><i>Montserrat:</i> feral animals impacting remaining native forest (used by both migrant and resident species) in area under restricted access for safety reasons</p> <p><i>Montserrat:</i> many invasive plant species, boosted by impracticability of management during volcanic emergency, impacting habitat of migrant and resident animal species</p>	
Disturbance and disruption				
Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> Bottlenose dolphin and other cetacean species, Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>, hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i> and white-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>. Many birds are affected by recreation disturbance e.g. little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> and other seabirds, waders and waterfowl..</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey:</i> Atlantic puffin, <i>Fratercula arctica</i>, guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>, razorbill, <i>Alca torda</i>, grey seals, <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p> <p>Disturbance is an issue for marine mammals through on-water tourism and leisure activities e.g. whale watching; disturbance of seal haul-out sites.</p> <p><i>Bermuda:</i> disturbance of humpback whales by private and commercial whale watching boats – guidelines have been developed for whale watching and ‘disturb’ has been added to offenses under the Protected Species Act</p>	

			2003.	
Light pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> Developments are required to undertake an EIA which looks at the impact of light pollution. In Scotland, development of policy and management of lighting on wind turbines to prevent collisions with lit structures.</p> <p>Juvenile Manx shearwater on Rum attracted to street lighting in Mallaig is an issue of concern. Artificial lighting of bat roosts, access points and foraging pathways can be extremely disturbing to bats.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Jersey:</i> marine mammal species (principally seals and dolphins) are impacted by light.</p> <p><i>Ascension Island:</i> some anecdotal incidences of green turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> hatchlings becoming disorientated and dying due to light pollution from the shore and boats and adult female green turtles abandoning nesting attempts due to disturbance from people with torches or cameras.</p> <p><i>Bermuda:</i> light can be a fatal attractant to the nocturnal Bermuda petrel <i>Pterodroma cahow</i>, especially for newly fledging chicks and prospecting birds. [We know that lighting can be altered to ensure that it does not confuse turtles but not being used everywhere.]</p>	
Underwater noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> There are various sources of underwater noise which can cause masking of biologically important sounds, disturbance and hearing damage to marine species, including those resulting in impulsive noise (for example, seismic surveys, pile driving, underwater explosions), and sources of non-impulsive continuous noise (for example, shipping). These have the potential to impact cetacean and pinniped species. Various initiatives are under way to address this issue (see next section).</p> <p>The most recent UK report suggests potential negative impacts of noise on harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>, minke whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>, white-beaked dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>, Atlantic white-sided dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>, Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>, bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>, common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>, long-finned pilot whale</p>	

			<i>Globicephala melas</i> , , common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i> .	
Habitat destruction/degradation				
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>British Indian Ocean Territory's</i> avifauna remains subject to pressure from historic habitat modification (felling and replacement of native hardwoods with coconut palms).</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey: 2018 Habitat Survey</i> being finalised but preliminary results highlight significant loss of grassland habitat thus impacting on species.</p> <p><i>Bermuda:</i> Loss of inshore seagrass habitat through natural and human-induced causes has reduced foraging and developmental habitat of Green Turtles <i>Chelonia mydas</i></p> <p>See above for more overseas territories examples.</p>	
Habitat degradation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Land use change and habitat degradation affects a number of species across the UK, a few examples are included below.</p> <p>The loss of 95%+ of unimproved grassland in the UK has been a contributory factor to the decline of the grey long-eared bat which number IRO 1,000 animals and continues to decline.</p> <p>There is evidence that habitat degradation, affecting both foraging habitats and nesting habitats, has been the primary factor responsible for the decline of Turtle Doves in the UK (Browne, S.J. & Aebischer, N.J. 2003, Habitat use, foraging ecology and diet of Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> in Britain, Ibis 145: 572-582; Browne, S.J. & Aebischer, N.J. 2004, Temporal changes in the breeding ecology of European Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> in Britain, Ibis 146: 125-137; Browne, S.J., Aebischer, N.J., Yfantis, G. & Marchant, J.H. (2004). Habitat availability and use by Turtle Doves <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> between 1965 and 1995: an analysis of Common Birds Census data, Bird Study 51: 1-11).</p> <p>There have also been long-term changes in woodland that are likely to have affected Eurasian Woodcock, where higher abundance</p>	

			is associated with increased heterogeneity of woodland habitats (Heward, C.J., Hoodless, A.N., Conway, G.J., Fuller, R.J., MacColl, A.D.C. & Aebischer, N.J. 2018, Habitat correlates of Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> abundance in a declining resident population, <i>Journal für Ornithologie</i> 159: 955-965). Changes to woodland management practices over the course of the last century (e.g. reduction of coppicing, monocultural forestry) have reduced the areas of open and young woodland habitats and produced woods that are less heterogenous in terms of tree age and structure.	
Mineral exploration/extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Unsustainable land/resource use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are a number of concerns with regard to unsustainable resources, such as the unsustainable use of pesticides in agricultural and domestic use.	
Urbanization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bailiwick of Guernsey</i> : Loss of agricultural land to curtilage affecting birds in general.	
Marine debris (including plastics)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Metropolitan UK</i>: Microplastic particles can be consumed by marine animals, potentially damaging their health. Larger items entangle animals and smother habitats, as well as damaging tourism and posing a serious risk to life and livelihood by causing breakdown of vessels at sea.</p> <p>Surveillance of the impact of marine debris on cetaceans is monitored through the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP).</p> <p>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>), Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>, Leach's storm petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> and black guillemot <i>Cepphus grylle</i> and other seabirds ingest plastic fragments.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Jersey</i>: marine mammals fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>, common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>, Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>, grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>, white-sided dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>, killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i>, common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>, harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>, striped dolphin <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>, bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>, leatherback turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>, hawksbill turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>, loggerhead turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey</i>: Marine mammals,</p>	

			bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i> , and grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> .	
Other pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> Strong evidence shows that excessively high levels of long-lived contaminants, specifically polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are still present in cetacean apex predators such as bottlenose dolphins <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> and killer whales <i>Orcinus orca</i>. Population-level effects are unknown.</p> <p>Whilst many pollution incidents may involve the release of oil and gas, some maritime incidents may release hazardous and noxious substances or inert material or a combination of these that have the potential to threaten many marine species.</p> <p>Bermuda: new research initiated in 2019 will investigate chemical loads in Bermuda Petrels (https://www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies-projects/bermuda-petrel/20049).</p>	
Too much/too little water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turks & Caicos Islands: lack of management of salt-pans, and inappropriate uses, have reduced importance to internationally important migrating waterbirds. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum has assembled an elite team to work with locals to address this, but has been unsuccessful so far in securing funding from HMG or other sources.	
Fire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Physical barriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UK – Offshore wind turbines as potential barrier to migratory species.	
Climate change				
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i></p> <p>The State of UK Birds (2017) highlighted how species' distributions are moving northwards, shifting their distributions as temperatures rise and their habitats change. Many rarer breeding birds are at risk of extinction in the UK, based on projections of how climate will become less suitable for these species. These birds are mainly found in the north of the UK and in many cases, such as for the dotterel <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>, whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>, common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>, and Slavonian grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>,</p>	

			<p>population declines have already been considerable http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/2017%20SUKB.pdf .</p> <p><i>Ascension Island:</i> Recent (unpublished) research by the University of Exeter suggests temperatures on turtle beaches have not risen or affected incubation. However, increases in wave height and energy threaten the area of nesting beaches available and increase the risk of nest washout.</p> <p><i>British Indian Ocean Territories:</i> Temperatures at nesting beaches determines sex ratios of hatchlings. In a warming climate, there is a positive skew towards females.</p> <p>Bermuda: climate-induced severe weather events will continue to erode the nesting islands of the Bermuda Petrel. A translocation project to reduce the impact of this threat has been undertaken successfully.</p>	
Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.				
Lack of knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<p><i>Metropolitan UK:</i> Lack of knowledge of marine mammal abundance, distribution, life-history, behavior and in particular the cumulative effects at the population level of man-made pressures. Given the relatively new nature of offshore renewables, knowledge of impact on marine mammals and birds is also limited.</p> <p>The 2018 review of the Population and Conservation Status of British Mammals http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5636785878597632 and associated red listing https://www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/population-review-red-list/ highlighted that for a number of bat species we are still data deficient making assessment of status and designing of conservation measures severely impeded.</p>	
Inadequate legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey:</i> Lack of legislation to protect wild species and spaces in general. All species affected by environmental squeeze. The only legislation is very general and assumes explicit knowledge of the impact done by humans, therefore ignorance is an excuse. Some areas of activities are governed by voluntary codes of conduct, such as minimizing disturbance as a result of commercial wildlife watching and some recreation activity.</p> <p>http://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/article/99630/Animal-Welfare-Guernsey-Ordinance-</p>	

			2012.	
Inadequate enforcement of legislation			<p><i>England:</i> Compliance with regulations on use of lead shot in wetlands continues to be low.</p> <p><i>Bailiwick of Guernsey:</i> Although good animal welfare legislation exists it is has often been difficult to implement http://www.guernseylegalresources.gg/article/99630/Animal-Welfare-Guernsey-Ordinance-2012.</p>	
Inadequate transboundary management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify)				
Shipping Off-shore developments			<i>Metropolitan UK:</i> Given the relatively new nature of offshore renewables, knowledge of impact on marine mammals and birds	

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering any of the pressures identified above? (Identify the pressures concerned).

Metropolitan UK:

General

The UK has developed a common dolphin Species Action Plan on behalf of ASCOBANS, to identify key pressures and determine actions for Parties to implement.

A Scottish seabird conservation strategy is being developed, which will identify actions to address declines in seabird populations.

The UK is developing a UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy, with actions to tackle identified threats and pressures including bycatch, underwater noise, contaminants and wildlife tourism.

Defra leads on a UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative stemming from the UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy, which aims to create an action plan to address management of bycatch around the UK.

Monitoring of vessels using acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs or 'pingers') in the offshore gillnet fleet operating in ICES Subarea 7 from the south west UK and to the Spanish-owned UK registered fleet in Subareas 4 and 7. This helps assess the longer-term effects of pingers on cetacean bycatch rates and other potentially associated effects (such as seal predation levels).

Isle of Man: The designation of new marine nature reserves, introduction of associated byelaws, and new seismic survey regulations provide a basis for improved protection of habitats, species and the management of pressures, such as: underwater noise, bycatch, habitat loss/destruction, habitat degradation and unsustainable use.

Research is underway in the UK to understand impacts of offshore wind development on migratory birds and marine mammals and includes exploiting latest technology, such as tagging studies, digital aerial surveys and using cameras and radar. For example the

[ORJIP Bird Collision Avoidance study](#) improved understanding of bird avoidance behaviour in the vicinity of wind farms and individual turbines. Wind farms can affect coastal species of marine mammals. However, injury and killing can be mitigated. All relevant species are considered as part of the EIA process for individual offshore wind projects. As well as this at a plan level, identification of research projects to increase knowledge and understanding is underway with several research projects now completed including monitoring of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* through tagging.

Consideration of seabird species during the non-breeding season is undertaken for UK offshore wind farms. In 2012 Scottish government undertook a review of the potential effects of offshore wind farms on migratory species and concluded there would be no impacts. This report is due to be reviewed to take account of increased turbine heights in the intervening period.

SNH conducted a review of noise abatement systems (bubble curtains, casings, resonators and hammers other than impact pile-drivers) for offshore wind farm construction, and their potential application in Scottish waters. The review examined efficacy of noise reduction, benefits to marine fauna, practicality of use, cost, and impact/influence on the construction schedule. <https://www.nature.scot/snh-research-report-1070-review-noise-abatement-systems-offshore-wind-farm-construction-noise-and>

Consideration of marine species during the non-breeding season is undertaken for UK offshore wind farms.

Lighting

New guidance by the Bat Conservation Trust in partnership with the Institution for Lighting Professionals (ILP) and Clarkson & Woods ecological consultant was published in 2018. It is broad international guidance that complements the nationally drafted BCT / ILP guidance. <https://cdn.bats.org.uk/pdf/Resources/ilp-guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting-compressed.pdf?mtime=20181113114229> with Eurobats publishing its guidance on the same subject

https://cdn.bats.org.uk/pdf/Resources/EUROBATSGuidelines8_lightpollution.pdf?mtime=20181113114256

Habitat degradation

The impacts of the losses of unimproved grasslands in the most sensitive part of the grey long-eared bat range are being addressed by a 'Back from the Brink'

<https://naturebftb.co.uk/> by a specific project based in Devon <https://naturebftb.co.uk/the-projects/grey-long-eared-bat/>

Non-native species

SNH and RSPB in conjunction with landowners have overseen the successful eradication of black rats from the Shiant Isles in the Minch, Scotland. Following the removals, the European storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* was confirmed breeding in 2018. Work has also included enhancing biosecurity on seabird islands and the publication of a biosecurity manual and training programme for managers of island reserves. SNH and RSPB have started a new biosecurity LIFE-funded project. There is an ongoing eradication of the Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* across the UK.

Add in SNH-RSPB Orkney stoat eradication project. (<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-wildlife/orkney-native-wildlife-project>)

There are several initiatives in the UK overseas territories that contribute important information to the conservation of migratory species. For example, the FCO's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) is funding (currently £3.4 million over four years) work on increasing the capability of OTs in tackling the threat posed by invasive non-native species and part funding RSPB's project to eradicate invasive non-native mice from Gough Island (part of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago). Mice are estimated to reduce seabird chick numbers by approximately 2m each year.. The eradication will help save the Critically Endangered Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* and Gough Bunting *Rowettia goughensis*. In South Georgia, the removal of rodents by the South Georgia Heritage Trust [ought to credit them, rather than implying it is part of RSPB efforts] is having positive impacts on breeding seabirds e.g. albatrosses.

Marine Pollution

The National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP) is an important reference document for setting out the procedures and processes involved in pollution responses (latest revision 17 August 2017) to meet the emergence of new pollution threats and situations, recommendations and lessons learned https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638623/170817_NCP.pdf.

In the Bailiwick of Jersey, Plastic Free Jersey is an initiative that brings together individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to reduce plastic use. Surfers Against Sewage developed the scheme to tackle the plastic problem specifically in coastal areas.

Other Pollution

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) known to accumulate in cetaceans in UK waters (e.g. killer whale *Orcinus orca* and harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*) are either banned or strictly regulated. Research determines concentrations of POPs in UK-stranded cetaceans.

Underwater noise pollution

There are existing JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury from seismic surveys, pile driving and underwater explosions. In addition, guidance on underwater noise assessment and management, is being developed in England and Wales in support of management of the UK harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* SACs. JNCC administers the Marine Noise Registry which receives and compiles information on activities resulting in impulsive underwater noise, to monitor the spatial and temporal footprint of activities and help assess risk to species. There are two ongoing international projects to monitor ambient noise in UK waters.

Bycatch

Bycatch remains one of the main threats to a range of migratory species at the global level. Several institutions in the UK are actively involved in researching the impact of bycatch and in devising ways to reduce the number of animals caught.

The UK has a government-funded, dedicated at-sea bycatch observer programme to monitor risk and identify the need for management. A risk assessment of relative risk to marine birds from incidental capture in commercial marine fisheries was published in 2017 ([Bradbury et al 2017](#)). In 2018 Defra published 'Risk assessment of seabird bycatch in UK waters' to help assess the relative risk to marine birds in UK waters of being caught

and killed by commercial fishing gear.

Bradbury, G., Shackshaft, M., Scott-Hayward, L., Rexstad, E., Miller, D. and Edwards, D. (2017) Risk assessment of seabird bycatch in UK waters. Report to Defra. Defra Project: MB0126. http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14236_MB0126RiskassessmentofseabirdbycatchinUKwaters.pdf

In 2018, Defra (with the cooperation of devolved administrations) started the development of a UK National Plan of Action (PoA) to understand and where necessary reduce seabird bycatch. The PoA will have regard to initiatives including the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's International Plan of Action (IPoA) for Reducing the Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and be informed by others such as the EU PoA for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears. JNCC, on behalf of the UK, is working with other OSPAR Contracting Parties to develop assessments of bycatch mortality in marine birds across the North East Atlantic. These assessments will be used by European Union Member States to report on the status of marine bird species under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Furthermore, Defra has commissioned JNCC to draft a Plan of Action to address seabird bycatch (development) in UK waters, working with Devolved Administrations, the fishing industry and all interested parties. Together these initiatives will enable governments to assess if bycatch will prevent the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD - Directive 2008/56/EC) and to progress the aim of initiatives including the EU Action Plan for reducing bycatch.

The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) is continuing research on the development of measures to minimise cetacean bycatch (<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18535&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=bycatch&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>). Work on mitigation continues to focus on the use of an acoustic deterrent device (the Dolphin Dissuasive Device - DDD). DDDs are now deployed on all vessels identified as requiring them under Reg. 812/2004. SMRU are also continuing their monitoring of fisheries to estimate the total mortality of cetaceans in relevant UK fishing operations.

The Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) is a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund project set up to engage with the Scottish inshore fishing industry to better understand the incidence of marine animal entanglements in our waters, and to develop sustainable, proportional mitigation strategies for the benefit of those affected.

<https://www.scottishentanglement.org/about/>

Strandings

The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) and Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS) analyse samples from stranded animals to establish life history and genetic information, to inform management. (During 2015, 570 cetaceans were reported to CSIP, broadly comparable to that reported during the previous four-year period (mean n=607, 2011- 2014).

Disturbance

Scottish Government has commissioned research which will review how boat-based marine wildlife tourism is managed in other countries and recommend management measures that could be applied in Scotland. The study will focus particularly on boat-

based cetacean watching tourism.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning the pressures identified above? (Identify the pressures concerned).

[free text]

Have you adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) (“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”)?

- Yes
- No

If so, please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

[add link]

[options to add more links and legislation numbers]

Please add any further comments on the implementation of specific provisions in relevant CMS COP Resolutions, including for example:

- Resolution 12.22 on bycatch.

See under Sustainable Production (re seabird bycatch PoA) and section under threats dealing with bycatch in detail.

Metropolitan UK:

Bycatch monitoring is undertaken to estimate the total mortality of cetaceans in relevant UK fishing operations and identify any fisheries posing a risk to cetaceans. Details of measures taken to protect cetaceans can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reduce-dolphin-and-porpoise-bycatch-comply-with-regulations>. Work on bycatch is undertaken by government, government agencies and by a range of non-government organisations.

The accidental capture or bycatch of vulnerable and protected species has become an increasingly important aspect of fisheries management. There were regulations in place for vessels over 12m in length (EU Regulation 812/2004) to help mitigate the impact of bycatch, which includes the use of acoustic deterrent devices (pingers); this Regulation was repealed by the EU in June 2019. Corresponding and replacement provisions will be included in the new Technical Measures Regulation. The UK is continuing to investigate the most effective tools to mitigate cetacean bycatch.

- Resolution 12.14 on underwater noise.

Metropolitan UK:

There is limited understanding of the distribution and population level impacts of underwater noise in the marine environment. However man-made noise can mask communications and can cause behavioural change, physical harm or even death to

marine animals including cetaceans.

The UK's Marine Strategy Part Three: UK programme of measures published in December 2015, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-uk-programme-of-measures>), sets out a comprehensive set of existing and planned measures to help the UK achieve Good Environmental Status in our seas by 2020, including relevant legislation and other measures to address underwater noise.

More recently, the Marine Noise Registry (<https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>) has been developed by JNCC on behalf of Defra and devolved administrations to record human activities in UK seas that produce loud, low to medium frequency (10Hz – 10kHz) impulsive noise. The purpose is to quantify the pressure of man-made noise on the environment which will aid in the definition of a baseline level for impulsive noise in UK waters. Meanwhile an ambient noise monitoring programme has been developed by Cefas on behalf of Defra together with Marine Scotland to improve the understanding of the levels and distribution of continuous noise such as that produced by shipping.

The ECOMMAS project uses acoustic recorders at 30 locations off the east coast of Scotland to detect echolocation clicks. At 10 of these locations, a broadband acoustic recorder is also deployed to record ambient noise levels. Data from the broadband recorders have been published as part of the first assessment of baseline underwater noise, contributing to UK reporting under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive <http://marine.gov.scot/information/east-coast-marine-mammal-acoustic-study-ecommas>.

Brookes, K. 2017. The East Coast Marine Mammal Acoustic Study data. doi: 10.7489/1969-1

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- Resolution 12.20 on marine debris.

Metropolitan UK:

Work on marine debris is undertaken by government, government agencies and by a range of non-government organisations including Whale and Dolphin Conservation. There is still a limited understanding of current levels, properties and impacts of marine litter. However the UK's initial assessment for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), published in 2012, indicated problems from marine litter in all regions within the Greater North Sea and the Celtic Seas where there are systematic surveys of beach litter density (www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status; this has been updated and is due to go for consultation this year). UK and OSPAR work to assess marine litter levels and its impacts, as part of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is being undertaken. The aim of the MSFD is to achieve Good Environmental Status in Europe's Seas by 2020. GES is defined by 11 high-level qualitative Descriptors. Descriptor 10 is on Marine Litter: "Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment". As part of the UK's MSFD implementation the competent authority, Defra, has produced the UK Marine Strategy which includes provisions for marine litter:

Part 1 (2012) Initial Assessment and Targets

Part 2 (2014) Monitoring Programmes

Part 3 (2016) Programmes of measures

All parts are updated and subject to public consultation on a six year rolling cycle. Part 1 is being updated and will go to consultation in 2019.

Cefas has led on marine litter (JNCC has led on biodiversity Descriptors and on Descriptor 11 – Underwater Noise - impulsive).

The UK delivery of the Litter Assessments has been done through the Clean and Safe Seas Evidence Group (CSSEG) of the UK marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy

(UKMMAS) using three indicators to assess progress on marine litter towards GES:

1. Presence of litter on beaches
2. Presence of litter on seabed
3. Presence of floating litter (using a measure of plastic particles in the stomachs of northern fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis*).

These assessments were developed and implemented within OSPAR as part of the Intermediate Assessment 2017 <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/pressures-human-activities/marine-litter/>.

A fourth indicator on the presence of micro-litter is being developed in OSPAR. Work on litter indicators in OSPAR is done by the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG ML) under OSPAR's Committee on Environment Impacts on Human Activities (EIHA) www.ospar.org.

The UK's Marine Strategy Part Three: UK programme of measures, published in December 2015, sets out a comprehensive set of existing and planned measures to help achieve Good Environmental Status by 2020

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-uk-programme-of-measures>). It covers both macro and micro-sized litter and includes measures to address land-based and sea-based sources of litter, measures to improve education and awareness of the issue and measures to remove litter that has reached the marine environment. The UK Government funds monitoring of marine litter on beaches, in the water column and on the seafloor, supports beach cleaning, plays an active role in advising and influencing marine litter and microplastics research, and is a member of the Marine Litter Action Network, which works with stakeholders from various sectors to raise awareness of the sources and problems associated with marine litter.

Given the trans-boundary nature of marine litter, the UK is working with other countries to address marine litter; particularly neighbouring countries in the Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR). The UK actively implements the OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter, published in 2014 (www.ospar.org/documents?v=34422).

Additional recent actions to address marine litter are a charge for single-use carrier bags in England (since October 2015). (Nearly two billion five pence plastic bags were sold in the 2017/18 financial year compared to 7.6 billion in 2014, the year before the levy was introduced (Defra).) Similar charges in place in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have resulted in an 80% reduction in single-use carrier bags reducing the potential for plastic bags to become litter. The UK Government has also introduced a ban the use of plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products, to prevent their release to the marine environment. A National Litter Strategy is being developed by the Defra in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government, to promote concerted, co-ordinated and effective actions to reduce litter and littering on land. This in turn should lead to a reduction in the amount of litter reaching the marine environment.

See under Governance, policy and legislative coherence (review on the incidence and impacts of marine plastics on AEWA seabirds). Finally, to capitalise on the large UK effort of the Seabirds Count census, a simple recording form provided by the University of the Highlands and Islands Environmental Research Institute (UHI-ERI) to document nest incorporation of plastic, was included in volunteer survey packs. The work being led by UHI-ERI aims to understand if there are particular species/geographical areas with much marine debris in nests and therefore run a higher risk of associated hazards of this behaviour.

The UK and Vanuatu have led establishing the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (CCOA) to tackle plastic pollution in the ocean. These ambitions are being supported by up to £66.4 million funding packages to boost global research and help countries across the Commonwealth stop plastic waste from entering the oceans. The UK, alongside

Canada, launched the Global Plastics Action Partnership to help deliver the goals of the Alliance and further bring businesses, governments and organisations together to develop country action plans to address the plastic problem. Through which the UK has funded £2.4 million project to tackle global plastic pollution in rivers, deltas and oceans with three initial projects to be launched in Southeast Asia, West Africa and a Small Island Developing State. This has already received support and match funding from Coca Cola, Pepsico Foundation and Dow Chemicals.

Wales:

Wales has a Clean Seas Partnership

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/marineandfisheries/information-and-statistics/wales-clean-seas-partnership>.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

There are strict regulations about waste management for all vessels, including the prohibition of discharge of plastics into Territorial waters. This issue is taken seriously and several administrative penalties have been made in the last 12 months. Microplastics are an increasing area of interest in the Territory and four research permits have been issued in the reporting period to undertake scientific research into microplastics; results are not yet known. Long-term monitoring of levels of marine debris, including plastic, is undertaken at two sites in the Territory. Details of debris found on beaches and recovered from bird breeding sites, as well as entanglements of seals, is routinely reported to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

- Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) on oil pollution

Metropolitan UK:

The UK continues to address oil pollution and work is undertaken by government, government bodies and by a range of non-government organisations. Effective preparation is a key factor in dealing with incidents and the Marine Management Organisation keeps its Marine Pollution Contingency Plan up-to-date. This plan covers marine pollution in English and Welsh waters, or in the waters of the UK Overseas Territories, by oil or other pollutant liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737259/Marine_pollution_contingency_plan_2018.pdf

In addition, the UK maintains an Atlas of Coastal Sites Sensitive to Oil Pollution on a geographical information system. This identifies coastal habitats and protected sites of importance to a variety of CMS listed species. A review of the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations has been created, which includes advice on environmental aspects and monitoring. Associated with the oil and gas industry, a review of the JNCC guidelines to reduce disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys has been undertaken three times since 2003. Details of the most recent guidance from JNCC for the oil and gas industries can be found at

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4275>.

In order to aid contingency planning for oil pollution, and to inform emergency decision making in the event of a pollution incident, JNCC has been involved in the development of the Seabird Oil Sensitivity Index ([SOSI](#)). The SOSI identifies areas at sea where seabirds are likely to be most sensitive to potential oil pollution. <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7373>

Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland, in conjunction with the UK Maritime Coastguard

Agency, is reviewing the Northern Ireland Coastal Contingency Plan with a specific chapter addressing oiled wildlife. The UK response to major pollution incidents is detailed in the MCA STOp 2/16 (Scientific, Technical and Operational Advice notes) notice https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/561673/STOp2-16.pdf.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

In December 2018 GSGSSI announced the immediate prohibition on the use of Heavy Fuel Oil by all vessels operating at the South Sandwich Islands with a phasing out of its use across the entire 1.24 million km² maritime zone. Strict regulations on bunkering and transshipment within SGSSI waters are also in force within the maritime zone.

Bermuda: Representatives from the **United States Coast Guard** were in Bermuda in 2018 to assess what assistance they could offer to the Bermuda Government in the event of a major oil spill, to establish contacts with Bermudian personnel and view Bermuda's response plan, and to discuss ways to quickly move equipment and personnel onto the island if needed.

- Resolution 11.22 (Rev. COP12) on live captures of cetaceans (and Decision 12.48).

No action to report.

- Resolutions 7.5 (Rev. COP12) and 11.27 (Rev. COP12) on renewable energy.

Metropolitan UK:

The rapid development of the wind energy industry in the UK reported previously has continued and a range of guidance has been published by government agencies recently. New guidance has been produced providing best practice information for developers, planners and ecological consultants where bats may be impacted by wind turbine development (<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-01/Bats%20and%20onshore%20wind%20turbines%20-%20survey%20assessment%20and%20mitigation.pdf>). This guidance tailors the Eurobats guidance on assessing the impact of wind turbines on European bats, to the UK, and was prepared jointly by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales and several key stakeholder groups.

Offshore wind development around the UK has continued to grow, with several large offshore wind farms receiving consent and starting construction. Recognising that these large developments may have the potential to impact upon populations of migratory species, but that there is considerable uncertainty around the magnitude of impacts, the UK Government's statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCB) have developed an objective approach and the best empirical data to assess possible impacts from a planned offshore wind development. For example, the SNCBs recommended modelling potential bird collision mortality (<https://www.nature.scot/sncb-position-note-avoidance-rates-use-collision-risk-modelling>) and estimated mortality caused by displacement of individual birds from favoured habitats due new developments (http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Joint_SNCB_Interim_Displacement_AdviceNote_2017.pdf).

The Moray East windfarms project has developed an [environmental monitoring project](#) for Marine Scotland and other relevant stakeholders to monitor potential impacts on migratory species.

As new lease areas for offshore wind farm development are being identified around UK waters, the process to consider cumulative effects to birds, has become even more important. JNCC recognises the lack of evidence available to assess transboundary cumulative impacts on migratory bird populations (<http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/document/identifying-evidence-needs-inform-assessment-cumulative-impacts-offshore-renewable-energy>) and continues to work with statutory nature conservation bodies, developers and other stakeholders to identify high priority evidence needs and research to address these needs. JNCC can lead the way in some areas, for example by commissioning analysis to understand how to use the outputs of a large developer-funded collision-avoidance project (Bowgen, K. & Cook, A., (2018), Bird Collision Avoidance: Empirical evidence and impact assessments, JNCC Report 614, ISSN 0963-8091) to better understand red-throated diver foraging and energetics with inference to <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7681>

Much of this improved advice has been underpinned by work that has involved the deployment of novel tracking devices to better quantify the offshore movements of seabirds. Key papers and reports in addition to those linked above include:

- Aonghais S. C. P. Cook & Robert A. Robinson, (2016), Testing sensitivity of metrics of seabird population response to offshore wind farm effects, JNCC Report 553, ISSN 0963-8901.
- Johnston, A., Cook, A.S.C.P., Wright, L.J., Humphreys, E.M. & Burton, N.H.K. 2014. Modelling flight heights of marine birds to more accurately assess collision risk with offshore wind turbines. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 51: 31-41.
- Ross-Smith, V.H., Thaxter, C.B., Masden, E.A., Shamoun-Baranes, J., Burton, N.H.K., Wright, L.J., Rehfish, M.M. & Johnston, A. 2016. Modelling flight heights of lesser black-backed gulls and great skuas from GPS: a Bayesian approach. *Journal of Applied Ecology* doi: [10.1111/1365-2664.12760](https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.12760).
- Thaxter CB, Lascelles B, Sugar K, Cook ASCP, Roos S, Bolton M, *et al.* (2012) Seabird foraging ranges as a preliminary tool for identifying candidate Marine Protected Areas. *Biological Conservation*. 156:53-61.
- Wakefield, E.D., Owen, E., Baer, J., Carroll, M.J., Daunt, F., Dodd, S.G., Green, J.A., Guilford, T., Mavor, R.A., Miller, P.I., Newell, M.A., Newton, S.F., Robertson, G.S., Shoji, A., Soanes, L.M., Votier, S.C., Wanless, S. & Bolton, M. (2017). Breeding density, fine-scale tracking, and large-scale modeling reveal the regional distribution of four seabird species. *Ecological Applications*, 27(7) 2074-2091.

The UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (now Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)'s Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment programme has also supported several key research projects, assessing potential impacts of offshore renewables and populations of marine mobile species (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/offshore-energy-strategic-environmental-assessment-sea-an-overview-of-the-sea-process#offshore-energy-sea-research-programme>). [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656623/Offshore Energy SEA - Recent Research Summary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656623/Offshore_Energy_SEA_-_Recent_Research_Summary.pdf)

As part of the Moray East windfarm development, as [risk assessment](#) has been undertaken to assess the risk of disposal of unexploded ordnance on marine mammals.

The Crown Estate manage the seabed around England and Wales and is funding a programme of strategic projects to enable accurate assessments of plan-level impacts for future round of seabed leasing for offshore wind (<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/media-and-insights/stories/2019-a-sustainable-future-for-offshore-wind/>). The SNCBs and JNCC are on the steering group for the fund overall as well as individual projects.

ORJIP – Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme (<http://www.orjip.org.uk/>) has funded several bird and marine mammal projects, e.g, a review of Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) used as mitigation measures and looking at the effectiveness of ADDs in deterring minke whales *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*.

The UK is involved in the North Sea wide initiative, through international cooperation (arising from the Political Declaration on Energy Cooperation between North Seas countries (June 2016)) to develop a common environmental assessment framework CEAF, for the effects of offshore wind farms on birds and mammals.

The assessment of the potential impacts on marine mammal populations from offshore industries has used, on occasions, some form of population modelling framework to ascertain the likelihood of a population level impact resulting from the disturbance. JNCC commissioned the guide below as an accessible reference on population models used to help practitioners dealing with such assessments:

[Guide to population models used in marine mammal impact assessments – JNCC Report 607](#)

JNCC also worked with Natural England in commissioning [a report on the use of the iPCoD modelling framework to assess the aggregate/cumulative effects of the construction of offshore wind farms on the harbour porpoises in the North Sea.](#)

With the designation of several marine protected areas for harbour porpoise, and the Southern North Sea SAC in particular, conflict has arisen between the need for spatial protection and several planned wind farms in the area, already being installed or due to be installed in the coming decade or longer. Noise management guidance is being developed by the SNCBs (except in Scotland) to limit in time and space the amount of construction noise in any given year in order to avoid significant disturbance of harbour porpoise within the site. The approach is to be implemented in the context of adaptive management and monitoring. Different elements of a monitoring programme are being scoped out by JNCC and Natural England.

JNCC is planning to revise the protocol for minimizing the risk of injury from pile-driving: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_Guidelines_Piling%20protocol_August%202010.pdf

England:

Guidance has been produced by Natural England in relation to wind farms and birds: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-surveys-and-monitoring-for-onshore-wind-farms> and bats (<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35010>) and Natural England has produced a technical information note on bats and wind farms: Technical Information Note TIN051 <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35010?cache=1486401062.11>, and further details of the Defra funded research on bats and wind farms <https://gmem.org.uk/2017/02/07/bat-wind-turbine-monitoring/>. Exeter University published further research on this which can be accessed at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982216311885>

Further guidance is being developed for developers and local authorities to help them conduct more effective pre-construction and post-construction surveys and more targeted mitigation measures.

Scotland:

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has published guidance for the renewables industry <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/renewable-energy-development/types-renewable-technologies/marine-renewables/offshore-wind-energy>. SNH locational guidance, and details on survey methods and other guidance in relation to birds was published in August 2013 <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/C278917.pdf>. Marine Scotland is preparing a revised Sectoral Plan for Offshore Wind due to be published autumn 2019 with easing to take place thereafter. In addition, in late 2013 SNH created a reporting system for the public to submit records of birds or other species found dead or injured because of collisions with turbines.

SNH has also undertaken an assessment to model the potential cumulative impacts of Scottish east coast offshore windfarm construction on marine mammal species including minke whale, harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin and grey seal (<https://www.nature.scot/snh-research-report-1081-cumulative-impact-assessment-scottish-east-coast-offshore-windfarm>) .

The SNH document 'Bats and onshore wind turbines - survey, assessment and mitigation' (<https://www.nature.scot/bats-and-onshore-wind-turbines-survey-assessment-and-mitigation>) has now been published. This was produced in partnership with SNCBs and industry experts.

To improve understanding and assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable developments, and in line with the [Precautionary Principle](#), Marine Scotland have established the Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) programme. ScotMER is an initiative that involves collaboration from industry, environmental NGOs, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, and other interested stakeholders, to facilitate the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Scottish waters. This body of research will support sound scientific decision making and management through filling knowledge gaps and using new research to inform future decision making and policy. <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marineenergy/mre/research>

Regional advisory groups have been established with all governmental, industry and non-governmental stakeholders in order to provide advice to the Scottish Ministers for research, monitoring and mitigation programmes at a strategic level.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales is working on collision risks associated with wind turbines.

Isle of Man:

The Marine Infrastructure Management Act 2016 provides a modern regulatory structure for offshore marine development (see also *Impact Assessment and Migratory Species (7.2)*). This has been developed ahead of an expected proposal for offshore wind turbines and provides for up-to-date assessment and good practice. However, secondary legislation to enable full enactment of this Act has not been sufficiently progressed (only Controlled Marine Area (Seismic Survey Works) Regulations 2016 SD2016/0362 has been introduced by 2019). (<https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2016/2016->

[0007/MarineInfrastructureManagementAct2016_1.pdf?zoom_highlight=marine+development%20-%20search=%22marine">0007/MarineInfrastructureManagementAct2016_1.pdf?zoom_highlight=marine+development%20-%20search=%22marine](#)).

- Resolutions 7.4 and 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds.

Metropolitan UK:

With relatively few large bird species, risk of electrocution from power lines in the UK is generally low. Electrocution risk is further reduced by consideration of hazards as part of the normal planning process when new power line routes are proposed close to sites of importance for birds. Commercial power line companies have, for many years, used highly visible deflectors on power lines to reduce the incidence of bird strikes. While collisions do occur, practical mitigation measures are implemented to reduce their occurrence. They are not considered to be a major risk to migratory birds in the metropolitan UK. SNH has developed and published guidance of survey work and mitigation of powerline impacts <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-06/A2047189%20-%20SNH%20-%20Assessment%20and%20mitigation%20of%20impacts%20of%20power%20lines%20and%20guyed%20meteorological%20masts%20on%20birds%20-%20guidance%20-%20July%202016.pdf>

- Resolution 11.15 (Rev. COP12) on poisoning of migratory birds.

Metropolitan UK:

The poisoning of a range of migratory species of birds remains a problem in the UK. The UK has been active in developing a range of measures to help eradicate the deliberate poisoning of birds; especially birds of prey and has participated in the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group. Lead poisoning remains a problem in the UK and since COP 11 there has been some significant developments, such as a conference on the issue <http://oxfordleadsymposium.info/> a continued government process to assess the risks and mitigation measures <http://www.leadammunitiongroup.org.uk/> and an open letter to the European Commission from >50 scientists, including from the UK, outlining the risks and the solutions <http://www.europeanscientists.eu/open-letter/>. Some government agencies have moved to non-toxic ammunition for some of their operations and some game meat suppliers are moving to use of non-toxic ammunition for human health reasons. Some preparatory work has been undertaken with the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group's Lead Task Group.

One of the six UK wildlife crime priorities is raptor poisoning. Supporting efforts and action to tackle the wildlife crime priorities is one the strands of the work of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) (www.defra.gov.uk/paw).

Northern Ireland:

The white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* was persecuted to extinction by the early 1900s. Recently reintroduced (2007) to the Republic of Ireland (County Kerry) where the species is now breeding. 100 Norwegian white-tailed eagles were released between 2007 and 2011 in Killarney National Park, Kerry. The species is expected to breed again in Northern Ireland in the coming years. Conservation threats include illegal persecution such as shooting and poisoning.

- Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (and Decision 12.26).

- Resolution 11.31 on wildlife crime.

Metropolitan UK:

The UK is committed to tackling wildlife crime. The police-led National Wildlife Crime Unit assists in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime by gathering intelligence and providing analytical and investigative support to the police and other enforcement authorities and statutory agencies, domestically and internationally. The primary objective of the NWCU is assisting in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime. It produces analyses which highlight local or national threats and has been given £1.2 million in funding to continue its work between 2016 and 2020. UK Border Force continues to make successful seizures and work with international partners to ensure illegal wildlife products do not enter the market, ushc as through Operation Thunderball

<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2019/Wildlife-trafficking-organized-crime-hit-hard-by-joint-INTERPOL-WCO-global-enforcement-operation>.

The UK is investing significantly internationally to address the root causes of wildlife crime and the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) across the four themes identified at the [London Conference in 2014](#); namely reducing demand, enhancing enforcement, building judicial capacity and achieving sustainable livelihoods. To date the fight against wildlife crime has been supported through:

- Funding (£18.5 million) through the UK's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund for 61 projects fighting the illegal wildlife trade in key source and destination countries. With a further £6.5 million committed;
- Passing the [Ivory Act 2018](#) to introduce one of the world's toughest bans on domestic ivory trade; expected to come into force in late 2019;
- Launching a new initiative, The Ivory Alliance 2024, which brings together political leaders, celebrities and conservationists to tackle ivory demand and lobby for closure of domestic ivory markets, and stronger enforcement bans or other ivory legislation in key demand and transit markets;
- Supporting the British military to deliver anti-poaching training to 84 rangers in Gabon, and 120 in Malawi. With £900,000 of new funding being announced in 2018 to develop a new British military counter-poaching taskforce;
- Funding the first global wildlife crime report by the UN Office for Drugs and Crime, providing comprehensive data and analysis;
- Supporting the UK's Crown Prosecution Service to build judicial capacity in key states like Kenya and Tanzania;
- UK Border Force sharing its expertise overseas, most recently with counterparts in Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia and South Africa; and
- £3.5 million for technical assistance to Financial Intelligence Units in developing countries, implemented by the UNODC and the Centre of Excellence for Financial Investigation, to tackle money-laundering and corruption associated with the illegal wildlife trade.

At the Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Hanoi in November 2016, the UK announced an additional £13 million funding to tackle IWT, followed by a further commitment of £31.5 million in 2018 for anti-wildlife trafficking projects around the world. The UK invited world leaders to London in October 2018, to follow up on conferences in London (2014), Kasane (2015) and Hanoi (2016), ensuring that global commitments on the illegal wildlife trade are delivered. This conference, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom, brought together global leaders from over 80 countries, and multiple other key role players and concluded with a renewed global commitment to fight the multi-billion-dollar illegal trade in wildlife <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-2018/london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-october-2018-declaration>.

JNCC co-ordinates and chairs the [Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group](#) (WCCAG)

which provides advice to the UK Police 'Wildlife Crime Tasking and Co-ordination Group' on the impact of crime on protected species and/or habitats and advises on conservation priorities and intelligence requirements for wildlife law enforcement in the UK. This advice feeds into identifying priorities for the NWCU; current [priorities](#) include a number of CMS-listed species such as bats and raptors.

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW UK) comprises representatives of statutory and non-government organisations working together to combat wildlife crime. PAW UK is a multi-agency partnership comprising representatives of the organisations involved in wildlife law enforcement in the UK. It aims to reduce wildlife crime through effective and targeted enforcement, better regulation and improved awareness. The Partnership makes sure that skills, experience and specialist knowledge are pooled. The overarching objectives are:

- To facilitate effective enforcement to ensure that wildlife crime is tackled professionally;
- To influence the improvement of wildlife enforcement legislation; and
- To raise awareness of wildlife legislation and the implications of wildlife crime.

Within the UK, all wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Wildlife NI Order (as amended) 1985 with strong penalties for committing offences.

The Wildlife and Countryside Link, Wildlife Crime Group

<https://www.wcl.org.uk/wildlife.asp> works to improve the conservation and protection of wild flora and fauna threatened by domestic wildlife crime and international trade, also seeking to address the associated welfare issues. The working group aims to ensure the effective enforcement of UK wildlife laws and the proper implementation of the CITES, and relevant EU directives. To strengthen the calls for improvements to wildlife crime recording, in late 2018 Wildlife and Countryside Link and Wales Environment Link published its second Annual Wildlife Crime Report.

- Resolution 12.21 on climate change (and Decision 12.72).

Metropolitan UK:

Work on climate change is undertaken by government, government bodies and by a range of non-government organisations. In January 2017, an update of the previous report (2012) on the overall risk assessment of the impact of climate change on the UK was published (<https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/>) and is based on an independent Evidence Report <https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/>).

Actions are underway to facilitate species adaptation to climate change including a major programme of peatland restoration, an important habitat for many migratory species, expand native woodlands, and undertake several coastal management programmes to aid migratory waders in particular.

The UK has made significant progress in addressing the issues involved in dealing with climate change, especially in relation to adaptation. The assessment of changes to the climate in the UK is guided by the work of the UK Meteorological Office. This provides a sound evidence base on how the climate is changing in the UK. Further details can be found at: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-guide/science>. The National Adaptation Plan Report published in 2013 was reviewed in 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>. This includes a chapter dealing the natural environment including climate change and ecological resilience

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf.

The Interreg funded COMPASS project will deliver a network of monitoring buoys in the seas off the west coast of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The project will develop long-term monitoring strategies for highly mobile protected species and provide infrastructure for baseline oceanographic and ambient noise monitoring. The project will enable a clearer understanding of the impacts of changes in oceanographic climate on underwater habitats and species across the region. <https://compass-oceanscience.eu/>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Rural Economy Strategy 2017-2021 focuses on environmental sustainability in the countryside to protect the island's countryside and non-renewable resources, and its resilience in adapting to climate change. The Birds on the Edge seabird research and survey project aims to increase knowledge of seabird populations in Jersey, their status, trends and threats from issues such as climate change and food availability.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Climate change impacts on turtle nesting beach temperatures has been monitored (Esteban *et al.* 2016). Changes to sand temperatures at nesting beaches affects incubation and consequently the sex ratios of hatchlings. In a warming climate, there is a positive skew towards females. However, datalogger deployments from 2012-2014 showed that sand temperatures were relatively cool supporting a balanced sex ratio; this demonstrated the importance of the many shady nesting sites on the BIOT for green *Chelonia mydas* and hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

Esteban *et al.* 2016. Male hatchling production in sea turtles from one of the world's largest marine protected areas, the Chagos Archipelago. Scientific Reports. <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep20339.pdf>.

Gibraltar:

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change in Gibraltar published a Nature Reserve Management Plan in 2019. which considers climate change https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/uploads/documents/environment/publications/Gibraltar_Nature_Reserve_Management_Plan.pdf.

Bermuda:

Bermuda experienced direct strikes by four hurricanes between 2014 and 2016, which caused significant coastal erosion, damaged Bermuda petrel burrows and completely flooded the nesting islands.

A project to translocate near-fledged petrel chicks to artificial nests on more elevated Nonsuch Island began in 2004 to ensure long-term breeding success despite rising sea levels. From 2004-2008 chicks were moved to Nonsuch colony A, and as of 2018, 18 pairs had returned there as adults. from 2013 to 2017 chicks were translocated to a second site a Nonsuch colony B. Two pairs had returned and established there as of 2018. The two Nonsuch colonies have produced 67 fledglings since 2009.

- Resolution 11.28 on invasive alien species.

Metropolitan UK:

The UK championed the introduction of an EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (which came into force on 1 January 2015) so concerted action could be taken across Europe. The EU Regulation requires much that we already practice in terms of surveillance, management and pathway action plans. The UK has reviewed the pathways of introduction of invasive alien species and strengthened its regulatory regime on non-native species, in line with the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation. In 2015 the updated Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy was published and sets out:

- a range of key actions to reduce the risk of introductions in future;
- measures to enable early detection of invasive non-native species and rapid action to control them before they become established;
- measures to promote better value for money and effort spent tackling those that are already here and well established.

This embodies the three-pronged approach agreed under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

RSPB has started a five-year biosecurity project aims safeguarding 41 of the UK's globally important seabird island SPAs from invasive alien species.

Scotland:

Marine Scotland is the lead authority for INNS in the Scottish marine environment. Marine Scotland works in partnership with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and other leading INNS expertise through the Scottish Marine INNS Group. The group influences INNS policy development in Scotland, promotes collaborative working across authorities and also coordinates responses to outbreaks in the marine environment when required. The Scottish government is a signatory to the 2015 GB Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy; the Scottish Marine INNS Group and its constituent parts promotes implementation of the Strategy as it applies to the marine environment.

INNS legislation in Scotland has been strengthened with amendments made to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011. Subsequent guidance on offences and responsibilities relating to INNS and their spread, including a framework of responsibilities for those authorities with legal powers relating to non-native species has been published.

Northern Ireland:

An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland was published in 2013 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/invasive-alien-species-strategy-northern-ireland>.

The implementation plan was reviewed in 2017 and a revised implementation plan published in 2018 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-invasive-alien-species-implementation-plan-revised-2018>. An Isle of Man Marine Biosecurity Plan has been completed, with implementation and species-specific action plans are being developed. A terrestrial/freshwater plan is also planned (within the Biodiversity Strategy).

Bailiwick of Jersey:

An invasive non-native species strategy is under development.

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands have developed a Biodiversity Framework which recognises that non-native species are one of the biggest threats to the natural environment and many

globally important migratory species. As a result, the Falklands has developed and are implementing a biosecurity and invasive species strategy. The strategy provides actions that address risk areas for biosecurity and targets for combatting non-native species.

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands:

In May 2018 the island of South Georgia was declared rodent free for the first time in 200 years. This followed a successful multi-year rat eradication programme funded through a UK charity (SGHT) and subsequent monitoring using specially trained rodent detector dogs. An increase in the number of endemic songbirds has been evident almost immediately whilst numbers of Procellariiforms are also thought to be increasing following the removal of predatory rodents.

Strict biosecurity regulations are enforced to prevent the reintroduction of rats to the island and reduce the likelihood of introduction of other non-native species to the island.

A biosecurity project, including horizon scanning for new threats, introduction pathway analysis, pest identification and development of online training modules, is being undertaken by the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat. Substantial progress was made in 2018, and the project is to continue until 2020. The project website is: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=619>

- Resolution 12.6 on wildlife disease.

Metropolitan UK:

Seals are affected negatively by Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) or similar diseases. There is monitoring to identify potential outbreaks and a large study is ongoing in Scotland to investigate the decline of harbour seals *Phoca vitulina* in Scottish waters. In addition, the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (www.ukstrandings.org) funded by UK governments, collates, analyses and reports data for all cetacean strandings around the coast of the UK including making assessments on potential cause of death.

The UK statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) assist the UK Government, the Devolved Administrations, and others in the ongoing monitoring and risk assessment related to highly pathogenic avian influenza. The SNCBs advise Defra, and the Devolved Administrations, in response to surveillance and response options with respect to of HPAI viruses including H5N1 and other more recent recombinants and contribute to the low-level surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds. They have contributed to the national contingency planning and have supported Defra and the Devolved Administrations in liaising with other EU Member States and the wider international community on these issues.

JNCC continues to support the BTO/RSPB/JNCC Wetland Bird Survey and BTO National Ringing Scheme as fundamental sources of information that aid the ongoing assessment of risk, and responses to, potential outbreak. In addition, clear health and safety guidance has been issued for individuals whose activities may bring them into contact with potentially infected birds, such as bird ringers and hunters.

The CMS/FAO co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds continues to function, being re-activated when required (e.g. when there are particular AI conservation threats), operating as a liaison mechanism between relevant multi-lateral environment agreements as necessary. The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) remains an active member of the Task Force, acting as *de facto* coordinator in the absence of a funded position.

In addition to highly pathogenic AI, work has recently been published on the risk of wild birds introducing West Nile virus into the UK:

Bessell, P., Robinson, R.A., Golding, N., Searle, K. Handel, I., Boden, L., Purse, B.V.,

Bronsvort, M. 2016. Quantifying the risk of introduction of West Nile virus into Great Britain by migrating passerine birds. *Transboundary & Emerging Diseases* 63:e347-e359.

UK has pioneered research on the effects of the disease trichomonosis (caused by the protozoan *Trichomonas gallinae*) in turtle doves.

Dunn, J.C., Stockdale, J.E., McCubbin, A., Thomas, R.C., Goodman, S.J., Grice, P.V., Hamer, K.C. & Symondson, W.O.C. 2016. Non-cultured faecal and gastrointestinal seed samples fail to detect Trichomonad infection in clinically and sub-clinically infected columbid birds. *Conservation Genetics Resources Technical Note*, pp 1-3. DOI 10.1007/s12686-016-0518-y.

Dunn, J.C., Stockdale, J.E., Bradford, E.L, McCubbin, A., Morris, A.J., Grice, P.V., Goodman, S.J. & Hamer, K.C. 2016. High rates of infection by blood parasites during the nestling phase in UK Columbids with notes on ecological associations. *Parasitology (FirstView Article - December 2016)* 7 pages. doi:10.1017/S0031182016002274.

The Garden Wildlife Health Initiative continues to provide a surveillance and research function investigating diseases of UK garden birds, some of which are migratory:

Lawson B, Robinson RA, Fernandez JR, John SK, Benitez L, Tolf C, Risely K, Toms MP, Cunningham AA, Williams RA (2018) Spatio-temporal dynamics and aetiology of proliferative leg skin lesions in wild British finches. *Scientific Reports* 8(1):14670

Lawson B, Robinson RA, Toms MP, Risely K, MacDonald S, Cunningham AA (2018) Health hazards to wild birds and risk factors associated with anthropogenic food provisioning. *Phil Trans R Soc B* 373:20170091. DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2017.0091

Mather E, Lawson B, de Pinna E, Wigley P, Parkhill J, Thompson NR, Page AJ, Holmes MA, Paterson GK (2016) Genomic analysis of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium from wild passerines in England and Wales. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 82:22. 6728-6735. Doi: 10.1128/AEM.01660-16

Peniche G, Rodriguez-Ramos Fernandez J, Durrant C, John SK, Macgregor SK, Cunningham AA, Lawson B (2016) Nested PCR for *Suttonella ornithocola* reveals widespread infection in British Paridae species. *Eur J Wildl Res.* 63:50. Doi: 10.1007/s10344-017-1105-6

Lawson B, Malnick H, Pennycott TW, Macgregor SK, John SK, Duncan G, Hughes LA, Chantrey J, Cunningham AA (2010) Acute necrotising pneumonitis associated with *Suttonella ornithocola* infection in tits (Paridae). *Vet J.* 188:1, pp 96-100. Doi: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2010.03.010.

- Resolution 12.25 on conservation of intertidal and coastal habitats.

The UK supported the development of complimentary Ramsar and CMS resolutions.

- Resolution 10.2 on conservation emergencies

No action to report.

- Resolution 7.2 (Rev. COP12) on impact assessment.

Metropolitan UK:

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 are implemented to ensure that certain (mainly public sector) plans and programmes are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This aims to provide a high level of protection for the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental

considerations (including effects on migratory species as a component of UK biodiversity) into the preparation of plans and programmes, thereby promoting sustainable development. The UK also implements EC Directive 85/337/EEC (the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive), which applies to a wide range of projects (i.e. physical interventions in the environment) through various national regulations. Although there are no specific references for any proposed new development to take account of migratory species, legislation implementing the EIA Directive in the UK has a requirement for developments of a certain type to consider transboundary effects. The EIA Regulations establish a consent system whereby a project is not granted consent to proceed if it is likely to have significant negative effects on the environment. Among the environmental factors considered is biological diversity, including migratory species. Details of EIA and SEA legislation and guidance on procedures can be found on several government web sites including <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/> and <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>.

XI. CONSERVATION STATUS OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

(SPMS Target 8: The conservation status of all migratory species, especially threatened species, has considerably improved throughout their range.)

What (if any) major changes in the conservation status of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices (for example national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country in the current reporting period?

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Source reference	Comments
Not applicable			

Aquatic mammals

Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Source reference	Comments
The 2017 SCANS-III report should be used as a reference for status of cetacean species		https://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans3/files/2017/05/SCANS-III-design-based-estimates-2017-05-12-final-revised.pdf	

Bats			
Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Source reference	Comments
			Note: The UK Mammal Red List has been published during this reporting period https://www.mammal.org.uk/science-research/population-review-red-list/ . This is the first time the conservation status of UK bats species has been formally assessed, and may have resulted in some changes to the status of the species due to the assessment methodology.
Birds			
Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Source reference	Comments
Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> , whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> , Slavonian grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i> , hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Declining	https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/state-of-uk-birds-2017.pdf	Birds in the UK are showing changes in abundance and distribution, predominantly moving northwards, in a way that is consistent with a changing climate. Climate change will provide opportunities for some species, while others will be more vulnerable. Many bird species are likely to have opportunities for colonisation and range expansion in the UK under projected climate change. Several species are declining and likely to be at a higher risk of extinction

			as climate becomes less suitable.
Aves	Red-list produced for British birds.	Andrew Stanbury, Andy Brown, Mark Eaton, Nicholas Aebischer, Simon Gillings, Richard Hearn, David Noble, David Stroud & Richard Gregory, in prep. An assessment of the risk of extinction for Birds in Great Britain.	An assessment of 241 species and 68 subspecies in Great Britain including migratory species.
Eurasian dotterel	Decline	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00063657.2015.1054145	
Snow bunting	Stable	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00063657.2018.1443057	The first national survey for snow bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> in the UK was carried out in 2011 and estimated the breeding population at 60 territories (95% confidence intervals = 48–83).
Wintering waterbirds. (Northern Ireland)	There are some declines in wintering waterbird sites thought to be due to change in migratory patterns.	(derived from designated sites (Areas of Special Scientific Interest ASSI) monitoring programme).	
Wintering geese and swans	Changes in wintering goose numbers, especially barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> populations (Greenland and Svalbard), Greenland white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> (declining), greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> (migratory); pink-	https://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/	

	<p>footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>; and Bewick's swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>.</p>		
<p>European storm petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i></p>	<p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) funded a census in 2016 to provide a breeding population estimate for these SPAs using established survey techniques.</p>		<p><i>Wales</i>: This species is a qualifying feature of the Skokholm and Skomer SPA with a conservation objective of 3,500 birds, representing 4.1% of the British breeding population and over 1% of the international population.</p>
<p>Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i></p>	<p>A census (part funded by NRW) was undertaken in 2018 to provide a contemporary breeding population estimate for this species using established survey techniques. Provisional findings suggest a population of over 400,000 pairs.</p>		<p>This species is a qualifying feature of the Skokholm and Skomer SPA with a conservation objective of 150,000 birds, representing over 50% of the global population. Rum Manx shearwater population to be surveyed in 2020.</p>
<p>UK seabirds</p>	<p>Changes documented for all 25 breeding seabird species in UK</p>	<p>http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1550</p>	<p>Seabird census (<i>Seabirds Count</i>) and MarPAMM – Interreg VA project starting 2019.</p>
<p>Over 40 species of migratory seabirds, wildfowl and waders</p>		<p>(IA2017) https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/</p>	<p>The UK co-chairs the OSPAR/ICES/HELCOM Joint Working Group on Marine Birds (JWGBIRD). Via JWGBIRD, the UK led the assessment of the status of over 40 species of migratory seabirds, wildfowl and waders in each of the OSPAR Regions: Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas and Arctic Waters (Norwegian part only) in the OSPAR</p>

		<p>(HOLAS II) http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/completed-projects/holas-ii</p>	<p>Intermediate Assessment 2017. The UK incorporated these results into an update of its Marine Strategy Part 1: Revised Assessment and Good Environmental Status to be published later in 2019. In co-operation within JWGBIRD comparable assessments were conducted in the Baltic Sea as part of the HELCOM (Helsinki Commission aka the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) 2nd Holistic Assessment of the State of the Baltic Sea 2017 (HOLAS II). These assessments of marine birds in the NE Atlantic and Baltic combined with information from the Black Sea and Mediterranean, by JNCC with the European Environment Agency provide an update on status across Europe (to be published as <i>State of Europe's seas</i> Report in 2019).</p>
<p>Great bustard <i>Otis tarda</i></p>	<p>Re-introduction</p>	<p>More information http://greatbustard.org/about-us/life.</p>	<p>Over the period 2004-2012, 168 Russian sourced juvenile birds were released into the wild in the UK. High mortality and low residency of the 168 released birds meant only nine birds were alive in early 2016. The releases of Spanish sourced birds have been much more successful, with 28 birds remaining alive from 126 eggs taken and 61 birds released in a two year period from 2014 to 2015. In 2007, the first breeding attempt took place, but the single clutch was infertile. Nesting attempts in the following years produced the first two chicks to successfully fledge in the UK for over 177 years in 2009 and a single bird fledged in 2010, however none of these</p>

			chicks successfully overwintered. In 2015 a single wild bred chick survived over winter and in 2016 two wild bred chicks survived over winter.
Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	By the end of 2018, there were more than 50 nesting events from which 18 chicks fledged successfully.		93 young cranes were released in the Somerset Levels and Moors over five years and survived well.
Seabird census. Arctic tern and common guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>			<i>Isle of Man</i> : A seabird census was completed in 2018 by Manx Birdlife. Most species showed significant declines except Arctic tern and common guillemot. Many large gulls have shown large declines in the last 18 years.
Cahow or Bermuda petrel <i>Pterodroma cahow</i>	In 2018, 13 chicks hatched and successfully fledged out to sea, bringing the total number of chicks produced by this colony since 2009 to 67.		<i>Bermuda</i> : The new nesting colony of cahows established on Nonsuch Island by the translocation of chicks between 2004 and 2008 continues to grow, with 20 pairs established in nest burrows and laying eggs. Almost three-quarters of the cahow population was banded by 2010 enabling individual bird identification to determine survival rates, breeding success and other aspects of breeding biology. Archival geolocational data loggers were attached to the legs of 12 nesting Cahows (Bermuda Petrels); 9 of these were recovered and the data downloaded, revealing the tracks taken by the birds at sea for up to 12 months. For the first time, it was revealed that Cahows fly thousands of miles to Mid-Atlantic or Canadian waters near Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to get food for their chicks in Bermuda. The

			<p>loggers also revealed that Cahows spend up to 5 months in waters around the Azores Islands or as far northeast as western European waters, travelling up to 80,000 miles in 12 months. These data were included in the 2018 update to the IUCN Red List assessment for the Cahow. New tracking devices are being used in 2019 to further investigate the foraging range of Cahows feeding chicks.</p> <p>The 2 new nesting colony of Cahows established on Nonsuch Island by the translocation of chicks between 2004 and 2017 has continued to grow, with 20 pairs established in nest burrows and laying eggs. In 2018, 13 chicks hatched and successfully fledged out to sea, bringing the total number of chicks produced by this colony since 2009 to 67.</p> <p>During the 2017/18 breeding season 124 pairs of nesting adult Cahows were recorded, with 71 fledglings produced; a slight increase from 2016/17 when 117 pairs nested.</p> <p>Almost three-quarters of the Cahow population was being banded by 2010 with leg identification bands enabling individual bird identification. They've been followed during their breeding lifespan, with bands used to determine survival rates, breeding success and other aspects of breeding biology.</p>
<i>Pterodroma cahow</i>	new assessment published in 2018 by BirdLife –	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22698088/132624	

	status remained Endangered	115#assessment-information	
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Reptiles

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

Fish

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

Insects

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

[ability to add more species/subspecies]

XII. COOPERATING TO CONSERVE MIGRATION SYSTEMS

(SPMS Target 9 : International and regional action and cooperation between States for the conservation and effective management of migratory species fully reflects a migration systems approach, in which all States sharing responsibility for the species concerned engage in such actions in a concerted way.)

In the current 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 (following the advice in COP Resolution 12.8)?

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a short summary.

Metropolitan UK:

A Migratory Landbird workshop on 14 and 15 March 2019 to develop a package of fundable projects to enhance the conservation of the European migratory landbirds in Africa is linked to the [Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds](#) (AEMLAP) agreed in 2014. The meeting developed a series of costed concept notes that outline projects that would deliver conservation actions related to issues highlighted in the action plan. It is intended that many project proposals would be costed and form a portfolio of immediately fundable projects that could be implemented by funding organisations or donors.

The UK is part of the steering group which has developed a common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* Species Action Plan on behalf of ASCOBANS, to identify key pressures and determine actions for Parties to implement for the conservation of the species.

<https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/draft-resolution-conservation-common-dolphins>

A North Sea action plan for harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* was also developed within ASCOBANS to coordinate management of harbor porpoise at that scale

<https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/action%20plans/North-Sea-Conservation-Plan>.

The UK is a key partner in SCANS, which is a large-scale collaborative ship and aerial survey to study the distribution and abundance of cetaceans in European Atlantic waters. The SCANS III survey was conducted predominantly during July 2016, with similar surveys conducted in 1994 and 2005/07.

UK fishing vessels now must use acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs or 'pingers') in line with Reg 812/2004.. An enforcement strategy is in place.

The UK has participated in EUROBATS Intersessional Working Groups including wind turbines, bats and building insulation and artificial lighting, all of which affect a number of migratory bat species. Guidance on wind turbines and artificial lighting have been published, and draft guidance on bats and building insulation is under development.

In the current reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

- Yes
 X No

If yes, please specify which countries have been approached.

[Add country drop-down list, allowing multiple selections]

In the current reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of concerted actions under CMS (as detailed in COP Resolution 12.28, and see species list [\[here\]](#)) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

- X Yes
 No

If yes, please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

Agreements at national and international levels have been made and are listed below:

- International single species action plans developed by the European Union: aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*, scaup *Aythya marila*, velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca*, corncrake *Crex crex*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, turtle dove

Streptopelia turtur and a grassland plan for breeding waders.

- The European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) provides the mechanism for a structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making and implementation process for the sustainable use and management of goose populations in Europe, with the objective of maintaining them at a favourable conservation status, while considering concerns of relevant stakeholders and the pertinent legislative frameworks and regulations.
- International single species action plans or management plans are in
- indevelopment developed by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and/or EU Member States for Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, common gull *Larus canus*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*, pintail *Anas acuta*, red kite *Milvus milvus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, Canadian light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla*, , Greenland population of barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, Taiga bean goose *Anser fabalis*, , spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, corncrake *Crex crex*, Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*, velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*.
- In addition to ongoing national research and conservation activities, several international processes and projects are linked to work on the Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata*. The EU International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe (2018-2028) includes the Curlew as one of eight species. The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative which is undertaking a wide range of monitoring and capacity building work along the entire East-Atlantic Flyway is also relevant for this species.
- International action plan developed by the Bern Convention: white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*.
- In replacement of UK Biodiversity Action Plans, the UK BAP list was used to compile country legislative lists. For example, England, has a list of key actions for the legislative list (NERC Act, Section 41) priority species but no action plans.
- An EU plan of action for seabirds (bycatch) which UK is dealing with and OSPAR has an action plan for the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*.

ICES established a regional impulsive noise registry in 2015 on behalf of OSPAR. This is an interactive database with time and location of impulsive noise sources in the OSPAR area. <http://underwaternoise.ices.dk>.

- Ambient noise EU funded projects: JOMOPANS <https://northsearegion.eu/jomopans/> and JONAS <https://iqoe.org/projects/jonas-joint-program-ocean-noise-atlantic-seas>

Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (*all relevant States engaging in cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach*), including for example (but not limited to) measures to implement Resolution 12.11 (and Decision 12.34) on flyways and Resolution 12.17 (and Decision 12.54) on South Atlantic whales?

- X Yes
 No

If yes, please provide details: [\[free text\]](#)

The UK is Party to, and active participant in, several agreements under the Convention on Migratory Species which have implications for the conservation of wetland-dependent species and to several MoUs (Memoranda of Understanding) which have implications for

the conservation of wetland-dependent species. These include:

- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas
- MoU on the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)
- MoU on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia
- MoU on migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia.

England:

There are targets for species within Biodiversity 2020 or the 25 Year Environment Plan i.e. act to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human-induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England, including providing opportunities to re-introduce native species.

Northern Ireland:

Many cetacean strandings are reported directly by members of the public to the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group <http://www.iwdg.ie/browsers/strandings.php>.

Scotland:

The first Meeting of the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group- Breeding Range States was held on 4-6 September 2018 in Aberlady, Scotland.

Developed pilot local goose management groups, mainly across the west coast islands as well as Orkney to manage wintering and breeding goose populations <https://www.gov.scot/policies/wildlife-management/species-management/>.

A Bermuda Government representative attended the first (May 2017) and second (Oct 2017) technical workshops of the project 'Transatlantic Marine Protected Area Network : Marine mammal's protection, a way to enhance transatlantic cooperation between MPAs.' and the final meeting in January 2018.

From 14 to 22 October Senior Marine Conservation Officer, Dr. Sarah Manuel, attended a meeting of the Caribbean Network for Marine Mammals Conservation (CARIMAM) in Martinique, along with participants from 14 other islands. The main objective of CARIMAM is to develop a network of Marine Protected Areas dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals in the Greater Caribbean and beyond. This network will aim at strengthening managerial skills and developing common tools for management and evaluation

Appendix II Eel species: In the reporting period two additional governments signed the Hamilton Declaration on collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea; the Cayman Islands in 2017 and the Dominican Republic in 2018. <http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/about-the-commission/hamilton-declaration>

XIII. AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES

(SPMS Target 10 : All critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures so as to maintain their quality, integrity, resilience and functioning in accordance with the implementation of Aichi Target 11, supported where necessary by environmentally sensitive land-use planning and landscape management on a wider scale.)

Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified (for example by an inventory) in your country?

- X Yes, fully
- Partially – to a large extent
- Partially – to a small or moderate extent
- No

Metropolitan UK:

Protected areas, including those designated for migratory species, are embedded in the planning system in the UK which requires assessment of developments, consequently giving them (and the species they host) a high level of protection. Improving site connectivity remains a key objective, as highlighted in section 6 of the UK's 2013 report on implementation of the EU Habitats Directive:

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/A17_2013_Gen_Imp%20Rpt.pdf.

The UK biodiversity indicator C1 shows trends in extent and condition of protected areas http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UKBI_2018.pdf. The total extent of land and sea protected in the UK through national and international protected areas, and through wider landscape designations, has increased by 12.6 million hectares, from 15.4 million hectares in December 2013 to 28 million hectares by March 2018. This 12.6 million hectare increase is largely due to designation of marine sites under the European Union Habitats and Birds Directives, the designation of Marine Conservation Zones in English, Welsh, and Northern Irish waters, and designation of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas in Scottish waters. The extent of protected areas on land has increased by 12,900 hectares since 2013. The condition of these sites has remained similar. Overall, this provides benefits to a range of UK species including terrestrial and marine migratory species.

In addition, the UK is using the concept of ecological networks as a key underpinning principle in the development of the protected areas network in the UK. The selection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSIs) and Areas of Special Scientific Interest, (ASSIs in Northern Ireland) is guided by the need to maintain ecological coherence across habitat types. SSSIs are designated and recognised as the main national level protected area in the UK. Resolution 12.7 promotes international efforts to maintain ecological networks across migration routes, and the UK continues to play an active role in this aspect of conservation. Recent work in the marine environment, for example, has been guided by the need to maintain such networks of protected areas where possible.

In 2016, a Decision Framework analysis of the sufficiency of bird representation (152 assessments) in the existing UK SPA suite for individual species/populations was made (Stroud *et al.* 2016; <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7309>). This report updates advice on the sufficiency of existing SPA suite for UK birds and provides advice about the need for more sites. Response options will be developed through further phases of the review. A draft report by JNCC on the sufficiency of the UK marine SPA suite has been submitted to DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations who are considering the findings, pending expected completion of the suite itself in 2019.

In February 2019, the UK Government and Devolved Administrations approved the final stages of designating the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* six Special Areas of Conservation to provide area-based management of identified areas of importance for

harbour porpoise. These areas are:

- Southern North Sea SAC
- West Wales Marine SAC
- North Channel SAC
- Bristol Channel Approaches SAC
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC.

The UK is committed to a network of sites including completing a 'Blue Belt' of MPAs around the coast and this is detailed below.

Northern Ireland:

A Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland inshore region was published in 2014 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/strategy-marine-protected-areas-northern-ireland-inshore-region> and a report on progress was published in 2019 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/report-creation-network-conservation-sites-northern-ireland-inshore-region-progress-toward>.

Scotland:

There are currently 217 sites in the Scottish Marine Protected area network for nature conservation purposes, including those designated for marine mammals, birds, fish and seabed habitats. The Scottish Government consulted on three MPAs which would offer additional levels of protection for minke whales, Risso's dolphin and basking shark, and also aims to classify a suite of further offshore Special Protection Areas under the Wild Birds Directive in 2019.

In 2018, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) undertook a Scottish marine Special Protection Area network assessment with the aim to "...confirm the contribution the proposed SPAs and the species represented make to the Scottish Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network" ([SNH 2018](#)). As part of the assessment, the contribution of the Scottish MPAs to the protection of migratory species is explored. Three sites are under public consultation (July 2019) for inclusion of minke whales (Southern Trench in eastern Scotland and Sea of Hebrides in western Scotland) and Risso's dolphins (northeast Lewis in the Western isles).

Scotland/Northern Ireland: The Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring Project (MarPAMM) is a collaborative project aiming to improve how we protect mobile species and cross-border marine habitats in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The project will develop tools for monitoring and managing a number of protected coastal marine environments, collecting data on the abundance, distribution and movement of marine protected species and habitats. These data will contribute to the development of new habitats maps and models for a range of species, including connectivity assessment for species with mobile life stages. The project will produce a regional seabird model, a regional model of protected seabed species and habitats, a seal foraging and underwater noise model, and a coastal processes model. <http://www.mpa-management.eu/>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since 2016 a total of six Sites of Special Ecological Interest have been designated under the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, representing 6.95 hectares. These are all

coastal sites and include important staging posts for migratory bird species.

Isle of Man:

Designation of nine new marine nature reserves, takes the total to 10. Area coverage is 430 km² (territorial sea is 3970 km² = 10.8%). All reserves are inside 3 nautical miles, and include 52% of this area. Areas are designated under the Wildlife Act 1990, and include specific conservation features (habitats and species) for designation, including CMS species. Reserves have been included onto OSPAR, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) WDPA and JNCC data bases and maps. Management plans are being developed.

Ascension Island:

Will designate at least 50% of its 200 nautical mile maritime zone as a marine protected area in 2019. A management plan is in preparation.

Bermuda:

The Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003 effectively designates the entire EEZ as a protected area for whale sharks, humpback whales, sperm whales, European eels and all locally occurring sea turtles. Additionally, Bermuda's EEZ was designated a whale sanctuary in 2012 for all cetaceans.

An important bird area was designated by BirdLife International in 2007 centered around the Bermuda Petrel breeding sites on the Castle Harbour Islands (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/coopers-island-and-castle-islands-iba-bermuda-to-uk>). These islands are a limited access nature reserve under the Bermuda National Parks Amendment Act 2017 due to their ecological importance.

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites as required to achieve SPMS target 10?

Gibraltar:

Gibraltar has designated the Rock of Gibraltar SPA/SAC and this offers protection for the remaining pairs of Lesser Kestrel and other migratory species. The Gibraltar Marine Reserve includes the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA which is part of the migratory route for Audouin's gulls *Ichthyaetus audouinii* and a range of other migratory seabirds. This protected area is also an important feeding and migratory route for sperm *Physeter microcephalus* and fin *Balaenoptera physalus* whales, common *Delphinus delphis*, striped *Stenella coeruleoalba* and bottlenose *Tursiops truncatus* dolphins.

St Helena:

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

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. In December

2018 the GSGSSI enhanced the MPA which included extending coverage to all 1.24 million km² of the marine zone and increasing the area of the MPA covered by strict no-take zones to 23% of the total coverage. The seasonal closure of the krill fishery was extended by two months to further reduce competition between krill- dependent predators (including cetaceans) and the krill fishery during key feeding and breeding periods. Details of the enhancements can be found here: <http://www.gov.gs/32110-2/>.

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

- Yes
- X Partly / for some areas
- In development
- No

If yes or partly, please provide a short summary.

Metropolitan UK:

A report (Stroud *et al.* 2016) provides advice to governments in the UK relating to the future development of the SPA network i.e. identifies potential gaps in meeting the responsibilities of the Birds Directive, especially to ensure it remains resilient to the environmental consequences of climate change. Several African and temperate migratory bird species are included in this review along with optimising the protected areas for each.

The seven designated UK SACs with harbour porpoise as the primary, or a qualifying feature, result in 13% coverage of available harbour porpoise habitat in the UK's continental shelf (water depths <200m). Based on the most recent (July 2016) survey data (Hammond *et al.* 2017]) the network covers approximately 18% of the UK's harbour porpoise population. The site boundaries were based on evidence of areas of persistent high density and therefore considered most important to the species (Heinänen & Skov 2015).

[ability also to add hyperlinks and/or upload documents]

<https://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans3/files/2017/04/SCANS-III-design-based-estimates-2017-04-28-final.pdf>

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_Report%20544_web.pdf

Stroud, D.A., Bainbridge, I.P., Maddock, A., Anthony, S., Baker, H., Buxton, N., Chambers, D., Enlander, I., Hearn, R.D., Jennings, K.R, Mavor, R., Whitehead, S. & Wilson, J.D. - on behalf of the UK SPA & Ramsar Scientific Working Group (eds.) 2016. The status of UK SPAs in the 2000s: The Third Network Review. [c.1,108] pp. JNCC, Peterborough.

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
- X No

If yes, please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

.....

[insert link]

[ability to add additional rows of text and hyperlinks]

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? example:

- X Yes
- Partly / for some areas
- In development
- No

If yes, please provide a reference and/or summarise what is covered:

The UK Biodiversity indicator on protected areas (C1: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4241>) show that the percentage of features, or area, of Areas / Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs) in favourable or unfavourable-recovering condition increased from 67% in 2005, to 86% in 2013, and remained stable at 85% in 2018. The proportion of features or area of land in unfavourable-recovering condition (the light blue part of Figure C1ii) has increased from 14% in 2005 to 35% in 2018. These changes reflect improved management of sites, but may also be affected by a greater number of sites/features having been assessed over time.

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

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please describe: [\[free text\]](#)

Beyond protected areas, other conservation measures which will benefit migratory species include agri-environment schemes (see UK Biodiversity Indicator B1a (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4242>) for details of the higher-level schemes that have been in operation in each of the four countries).

Please add any particular information about key steps taken to implement specific provisions in relevant CMS COP Resolutions, including for example:

- Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks.
- Resolution 12.13 on Important Marine Mammal Areas.
- Resolution 12.24 on Marine Protected Area networks in the ASEAN region.
- Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats.

- Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks

Article 4 of the Birds Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the species identified in the Directive. Species include rare and vulnerable (Annex I species) and migratory species.

The UK is committed to completing a 'Blue Belt' of MPAs around the coast. These sites will contribute to an Ecologically Coherent Network of MPAs in the North East Atlantic to which the UK has committed under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and other international commitments.

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations have made a commitment to identify a suite of marine SPAs. In 2017/2018, 14 marine Special Protection Areas were classified with the aim to protect, among Annex I species, a variety of migratory birds. A further 15 marine SPA proposals are under consideration by government. Data from the three-classified marine (offshore) SPAs have been included in relevant accounts for Red-throated Diver and Common Scoter. In Scotland, there are a further 15 proposed SPAs (includes three with offshore components and one cross-border with England) under consideration for classification.

The Scottish Government consulted on three MPAs which would offer additional levels of protection for minke whales, Risso's dolphin and basking shark, and aims to classify a suite of further offshore Special Protection Areas under the Wild Birds Directive in 2019.

- Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats:

Metropolitan UK: Many coastal habitat areas are internationally protected under European Law. Under this protection, loss or damage to the habitat must be avoided unless the damaging activity is in the over-riding public interest. In such cases - which includes many flood and erosion risk management interventions - the loss or damage must be compensated in advance, to maintain the ecological integrity of this special network of sites. In England, the Environment Agency's Habitat Creation Programme provides strategic habitat compensation for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management to ensure not net loss of protected habitats.

XIV. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

(SPMS Target 11 : Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.)

Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species (contributing to the achievement of SPMS Target 11) been undertaken in your country since the adoption of the SPMS in 2014?

- X Yes
- Partly / in progress
- No

If 'yes' or 'partly / in progress', please provide a short summary (including source

references where applicable):

Metropolitan UK:

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) funded a Marine Ecosystems Research Programme 2014-2018, which set out to integrate existing marine data and target new data with current models and knowledge of marine ecosystem services, to improve understanding of the whole UK marine ecosystem <https://marine-ecosystems.org.uk/Home>. Migratory seabirds featured in this work as top predators within the system-modelling that was done; new maps of distribution and density were produced, a synthesis of diet information created, and prey demands-availability mapped, and information on the role of density-dependence in driving population change synthesised to input into the models. Models have been tested through three case studies, which set out to identify and value the services produced by marine systems, including migratory species. Prior to this, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) reviewed services provided by marine systems, including migratory species.

<https://marine-ecosystems.org.uk/Home>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329587133_UK_National_Ecosystem_Assessment_2011_The_UK_National_Ecosystem_Assessment_Technical_Report_UNEP-WCMC_Cambridge

XV. SAFEGUARDING GENETIC DIVERSITY

(SPMS Target 12 : The genetic diversity of wild populations of migratory species is safeguarded, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion.)

Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity in your country?

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please select the relevant strategies:

(select all that apply)

- captive breeding
- X captive breeding & release
- X gene typing research
- reproductive material archives/repositories
- X Other (please specify)

Metropolitan UK:

Work investigating the genetics of Great Bustards *Otis tarda* worldwide began in June

2012 by Dr. Paul O'Donohue at Chester University and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2019. This will update previous work on this subject for the species and greatly help to identify other potential sources of eggs or chicks for the reintroduction project.

White stork reintroduction to England. Sussex was chosen as the area for release of the white stork *Ciconia ciconia* as it is suitably placed to facilitate population spread across southern England. It is also the nearest suitable location to Europe populations, making it more likely any reintroduced birds will encounter vagrant birds from continental Europe. Mixing with vagrant birds will not only introduce important genetic diversity but may also encourage any established English breeding population to migrate.

There is an ongoing campaign to eradicate the Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* to prevent genetic introgression into the white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala* breeding population.

Gibraltar:

Captive breeding and release programme for the lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni* was carried out by the GONHS.

Bermuda:

Bermuda petrel – DNA and genetic studies of this species is being undertaken in 2019. Due to the historically low numbers, some genetic bottlenecking is to be expected.

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

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Satellite telemetry studies, reproduction and development studies (e.g. sex ratios, size classes, growth rates, movement studies), genetic and developmental migration studies.

XVI. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION XVI. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

(SPMS Target 13 : Priorities for effective conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems have been included in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with reference where relevant to CMS agreements and action plans and their implementation bodies.)

Are priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems explicitly addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

- X Yes
- No

If yes:

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

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

[Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds](#) (AEMLAP)

Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* action plan [Species Action Plan](#)

<https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/draft-resolution-conservation-common-dolphins>

ASCOBANS harbour porpoise *Phocoena* action plan

<https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/action%20plans/North-Sea-Conservation-Plan>

UK Marine Strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>)

Marine Litter OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2014
(www.ospar.org/documents?v=34422)

Non-native species strategy

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455526/gb-non-native-species-strategy-pb14324.pdf

Jersey Species Action Plans

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20greener%20living/ID%20BiodiversityActionPlan%20DM.pdf>

Jersey non-native species action plan

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=391>

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/scottish-biodiversity-strategy>

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

Metropolitan UK:

The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>) outlines agreements among the four UK countries to enable the UK to demonstrate leadership in international MEAs. Benefits to UK's migratory species will be achieved through the framework's focus on CBD and Aichi targets as outlined in the framework.

Defra has prepared a 25 Year Environment Plan

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>) defining ambitions and targets to focus, among others, species work in the future. A successor to Biodiversity 2020 is being developed with chapters on the development of a Nature Recovery Network and Species Recovery which should have major implications for migratory species.

CMS CoP 10 established an [Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds](#)

(AEMLAP) (Resolution 11.17). UK, via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, continues to input to the work of the group to promote the implementation of the Plan and hosted a workshop in March 2019 – see section XII. The Scottish Government committed to develop a Seabird Conservation Strategy with the aim to identify actions to address the

significant declines in seabird populations, including several migratory species, in 2019. The UK is part of the steering group for the ASCOBANS [Species Action Plan](#) (SAP) for common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* <https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/draft-resolution-conservation-common-dolphins>, which was agreed by Parties in September 2018 and is in the process of being finalised for Parties to review and formally adopt. Part of this action plan involves an awareness element to publicise the objectives and progress of the SAP. The UK is also developing a UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy, with actions to tackle the identified key threats and pressures. A North Sea action plan for harbour porpoise *Phocoena* has been developed within ASCOBANS <https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/action%20plans/North-Sea-Conservation-Plan>.

A species Action Plan on behalf of ASCOBANS includes monitoring of vessels that are using acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs or 'pingers').

The UK Marine Strategy contains an assessment of marine bird populations (currently being updated and will be published later in 2019; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>) and details of monitoring programmes (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-two-uk-marine-monitoring-programmes>) and a programme of management measures (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-three-uk-programme-of-measures>).

The UK is part of an EU Action Plan for reducing bycatch and implements the OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter, published in 2014 (www.ospar.org/documents?v=34422). It also, alongside Canada, launched the Global Plastics Action Partnership.

The UK championed the introduction of an EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (which came into force on 1 January 2015) with action across Europe and reviewed the pathways of introduction of invasive alien species and strengthened its regulatory regime on non-native species, in line with the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation. An updated Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy was published in 2015 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455526/gb-non-native-species-strategy-pb14324.pdf.

Isle of Man:

A Marine Biosecurity Plan has been completed.

The Bailiwick of Jersey:

The Jersey Biodiversity Strategy (2000) explicitly incorporates CMS issues. Species Action Plans are in place for several migratory species including bats (all species), Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), brent goose (*Branta bernicla*) and basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20greener%20living/ID%20BiodiversityActionPlan%20DM.pdf>. See also the non-native species action plan <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=391>.

Bermuda:

The current Bermuda Biodiversity Action Plan 2003 does not contain specific items on migratory species – but inclusion of this to meet CMS obligations is intended for future BSAP updates. The plan does include regional cooperation under Objective A, and corridors for movement, and migratory species activities are reported in the BSAP implementation reports. Plan copy: <https://environment.bm/s/Biodiversity-Action->

[Plan_March2003-2ym5.pdf](#)

Implementation reports: <https://environment.bm/bap-implementation>

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

XVII. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

(SPMS Target 14 : The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and their customary sustainable use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, thereby contributing to the favourable conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.)

Have actions been taken in your country to foster consideration for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No
- X Not applicable

Have actions been taken in your country to foster effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No
- X Not applicable

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

(select all that apply)

- research & documentation
- engagement initiatives
- formal recognition of rights
- inclusion in governance mechanisms
- management strategies & programmes that integrate traditional & indigenous interests
- other (please specify) [\[free text\]](#)

Please add comments on the implementation of the actions concerned.

How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country to achieving Target 14 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (see text above)?

Please select one option:

- 1 little or no progress
- 2 some progress but more work is needed
- 3 positive advances have been made
- 4 target substantially achieved (traditional knowledge is fully respected and there is effective participation from communities)

Please add comments on the progress made (where applicable).

In the UK and Overseas Territories there are no indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as defined in Article 8j of the Convention and SPMS Target 14 has therefore not been assessed. The needs, knowledge and practices of IPLCs are recognised and integrated into the UK's international work.

XVIII. KNOWLEDGE, DATA AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

(SPMS Target 15 : The science base, information, training, awareness, understanding and technologies relating to migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, their value, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of their loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and effectively applied.)

In the current reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species?

See text above, and the answers given in Section V concerning SPMS Target 1 on awareness

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- X Public awareness campaigns
- X Capacity building
- X Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- X Other (please specify): [free text]
- No steps have been taken

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

[question will only appear for those strategies selected above]

Metropolitan UK:

The UK is a world leader in scientific research and is developing the use of innovative technologies to inform biodiversity conservation. For example, the Research Excellent Framework (2014) rated 76% of the research submitted as 'world leading' or

'internationally excellent'. UK academic research productivity is 3.6 times the world average. In 2014, the UK represented 4.1% of the world's researchers, and accounted for 15.2% of the world's most highly-cited articles.

UK Government data relating to biodiversity in the UK follow an Open Access Policy, meaning they are available by default rather than by request. The UK continues to progress data management and knowledge sharing systems, which have increased (for example the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) includes over 223 million observations of wildlife). The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is an international network and research infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing open access to worldwide biodiversity data (the NBN is the UK's GBIF node). The UK is the second largest data publisher on GBIF and the fifth biggest user of GBIF data.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) (<https://www.ukri.org/>) works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish. Operating across the UK with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UKRI brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England. UKRI aims to support and help connect the best researchers and innovators with customers, users and the public, and invest public money in research to maximise its impact for citizens, in the UK and across the world.

In April 2019 the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) adopted its Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. At its most recent Plenary in March 2018, IPBES agreed to take forward further assessment on valuation of sustainable use of wild species.

The Ecosystems Knowledge Network (<https://ecosystemsknowledge.net/>) is an open resource for sharing knowledge or learning about the ecosystems approach. It aims to stimulate knowledge exchange and practical learning across the UK and assist organisations and groups to understand how an ecosystems approach can help build sustainable communities.

Conservation Evidence is a UK-based and free, authoritative information resource designed to support decisions about maintaining and restoring global biodiversity giving conservationists access to the latest and most relevant ecological knowledge to support policy or management decisions <http://www.t.conservationalevidence.com/>. And identifying where knowledge is currently lacking.

JNCC has initiated the Offshore Wind Strategic Monitoring and Research Forum (OWSMRF) that aims to identify critical knowledge gaps and to encourage high quality research to address the gaps. Results of this research will supplement the evidence base to improve understanding of the impact of offshore wind development on migratory marine birds. OWSMRF comprises stakeholders from government, NGOs, industry and academia and aims to facilitate knowledge and data-sharing, and identify high priority research.

The UK led the development and establishment of the OSPAR Seabird Database (<https://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/Biodiversity.aspx>), in partnership with the Joint Working Group on Marine Birds JWGBIRD and the ICES Data Centre. The database contains data on breeding abundance, breeding success and non-breeding abundance of seabirds, wildfowl and waders from countries bordering the NE Atlantic. These data are used in the OSPAR and UK Marine Strategy assessments.

In 2015, a Seabird Monitoring Programme report was published on trends in population numbers and breeding success, productivity, survival and diet of UK breeding seabirds, including migratory species. These data were fed into the OSPAR Seabird database (see above). This was followed by a nationwide census of breeding seabird abundance and distribution. The work will be completed in 2020 and results published in 2021. Volunteer surveyors have been recruited to survey >10,000 breeding seabird sites. Over 1,000 volunteer surveyors are expected to take part and collect data for the census, these in turn

are being led by volunteer regional coordinators of which there are 53 in place. Given the incredible uptake, it is hoped some of these will continue to contribute to the annual monitoring scheme.

In 2016, a review of the UK's SPA suite gathered a wide range of UK bird species data, several of which are migratory. The data are incorporated into detailed species accounts including population size, trend, suitability of the existing SPA suite and recommendations for conservation for each species.

The National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project, a collaboration between The Bat Conservation Trust, bat workers and voluntary Bat Groups, is the first attempt to understand the migratory activity of Nathusius' pipistrelles in the UK through ringing recapture studies and stable hydrogen isotope analysis. The results will be used to inform guidance to the wind energy industry. The recorded range expansion of Nathusius' pipistrelle has been shown to be linked to climate change and future climate change is predicted to have further impact on this species' distribution. Comprehensive information on the distribution and status of the species in the UK currently is therefore essential to determine a full understanding of the effects of future climate change and to take appropriate action to ensure the conservation of this species in the UK.

The National Bat Monitoring Programme produces population trends for eleven bat species listed on Appendix II of the CMS for which the UK is a range state. It is a citizen science programme run by the Bat Conservation Trust, in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and supported and steered by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales is funding a two-year research programme (2018/19 – 2019/20) to improve knowledge of populations at different spatial scales and have a greater understanding of curlew *Numenius arquata* movements within breeding and wintering areas. The following four items will deliver this work.

- First, estimate of Welsh breeding curlew population and range change since Bird Atlas 2011 using the Bird Atlas 2007-11 as a baseline and more recent local surveys to generate a spatial map and population estimate for the species across Wales.
- Next, curlew demographic modelling for Wales to understand the effects of changes in breeding success, adult survival and recruitment on conservation interventions.
- Then, Migration routes and wintering locations of Welsh breeding curlew using leg-ring mounted geolocators to track breeding curlew through at least one winter (migration, overwinter and return migration) and
- Last, continue support for GPS tracking work upland and lowland breeding curlew to improve understanding of how breeding curlew use structurally different landscapes in Welsh uplands and lowlands and under different land management regimes.

Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government have funded a three-year research programme (2016/17-18/19) on Greenland white-fronted geese (GWfG) *Anser albifrons flavirostris* to assess

- i) movements of GPS tagged GWfG across their range to gain a better understanding of spatial and temporal distribution, vulnerability and behaviour,
- ii) the level of vulnerability to GWfG within Wales and
- iii) determine movements of GPS tagged Wales Greenland white-fronted goose GWfG winter field use and habitat selection within and out-with the Dyfi Estuary SPA. This research programme is coordinated by NRW and facilitated by the GWfG Partnership.

Scotland:

The Marine Scotland Open Data Network provides direct access to marine maps, data and information, aiming to increase accessibility and reuse of data, enable collaboration and ensure transparency (<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science/data>).

The Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) programme was set up by Scottish Government to improve understanding and assess the environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable developments. The initiative involves research collaboration from industry, environmental NGOs, statutory nature conservation bodies and other stakeholders, to support sound scientific decision making and management.

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) (<https://www.masts.ac.uk/>) is a consortium of organisations engaged in marine science, including Scottish Government, statutory advisors and academic institutions. MASTS aims to facilitate communication, collaboration and co-ordination within the marine research community, and provides an academic platform and knowledge base for marine governance and commerce.

Scotland's International Marine Conference 2019, organised by the Scottish Government, focused on current national and international actions to protect the marine environment. A wide range of topics were covered, including marine mammal interactions with tidal turbines, monitoring of bottlenose dolphin in a protected area, and marine animal entanglement in Scottish waters, and the impacts of and potential solutions for the problem of marine litter. <https://marineconference2019.scot/>

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Since its inception in 2013 the Jersey Biodiversity Centre (JBC) has gathered a database of over 400,000 biological records for the island, collating historical records and working with data providers, data users, wildlife NGO's, local government, researchers, consultants, and the development industry to gather current data. The data collated by the JBC is shared with third parties to inform decision making around land management, development planning, academic research and nature conservation work. Data from the JBC can contribute to compliance with requirements in law and government guidance.

In 2018 a new JBC website was launched ([Jersey Biodiversity Centre](#)), with facility for all islanders from specialists to members of the public, to record wildlife sightings around the island and including its territorial waters. The new website is built on the Indicia platform and allows data to be submitted 'casually' by completing the species information and then clicking on a map of Jersey to record the location of the sighting. An accompanying phone app iRecord can be used to record data whilst in the field or at sea.

In 2016 the first quinquennial review of the protected species Schedules to the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 was carried out and published in 2018. One of the principal aims of this periodic review is to ensure that the Schedules of protected species continue to meet the Jersey's local, national and international obligations for the protection of species [1st Quinquennial Review of Schedules to Wildlife Law](#).

Isle of Man:

Public awareness raising in relation to invasive species and capacity building by developing formal agreements with NGOs to help deliver Government conservation

objectives. Data sharing between government, NGOs and science providers to maximise effectiveness of data collection and its application to conservation and awareness raising.

Montserrat:

The Montserrat Virtual Museum of Natural History (MVMNH) is a novel scheme to capture information on the island's terrestrial biodiversity collected by researchers and to share it with island residents or wider users through an online database. Ohio State University and Montana State University are working with the Montserrat National Trust and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, with the support of the UK Government's Darwin Initiative to create the MVMNH. The original narrow concept to deliver insect data from an inventory of the Centre Hills funded by the RSPB, Durrell Wildlife Trust and Montana State University's Montana Agriculture Experiment Station was expanded after consultation with the Montserrat community to provide a platform that can serve a broader range of information across all terrestrial biodiversity on the island. The MVMNH has started cataloguing information on thousands of insect specimens. A library of related documents linked to these insect specimens and the species they represent will be developed next, followed by entries for wider biodiversity elements.

Bermuda: In the reporting period Bermuda has engaged in a number of collaborative activities to build capacity related to management of migratory cetaceans. For example, the Bermuda government has engaged with several Caribbean countries along with Dutch and French overseas territories for workshops on establishing and managing whale sanctuaries. Bermuda also has a sister sanctuary relationship with the United States (<https://stellwagen.noaa.gov/sister/>).

In the reporting period the Bermuda government has established new relationships with researchers in Portugal and Canada to expand research on the Bermuda Petrel to inform management needs and updated plans.

E.g.

Education campaigns in schools

[free text]

Public awareness campaigns

[free text]

Metropolitan UK:

JNCC manages two citizen science projects that monitor migratory seabirds. The Seabird Monitoring Program (SMP) (and its associated censuses) aim to produce accurate statistics on populations and productivity of the UK's breeding seabirds. And in 2018, a Volunteer Seabirds at Sea (VSAS) project was initiated with the aim to use volunteers on ferries to collect data on seabirds at sea, to inform trends in their abundance, distribution and phenology. Both schemes involve capacity building, via direct training (VSAS) or through the implementation of survey methods described in a manual (SMP). Public awareness is seen as crucial to these schemes as a means of engaging with potential volunteers and maintaining the engagement of those already taking part. Much of this work is carried out through JNCC's various social media accounts, supplemented by project specific newsletters, other JNCC outputs and project partners websites. Data collected on both these projects are available to all.

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)
- Other (please specify): [\[free text\]](#)

XIX. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

(SPMS Target 16: The mobilization of adequate resources from all sources to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species effectively has increased substantially.)

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

1. X Yes, made available for activities within the country
2. X Yes, made available for activities in one or more other countries
3. No

If yes, to which particular targets [\[texts of targets to be linked here\]](#) in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

Overseas Territories:

The FCO's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) is funding (currently £3.4 million over four years) work on increasing the capability of OTs in tackling the threat posed by invasive non-native species and part funding RSPB's project to eradicate invasive non-native mice from Gough Island (part of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago). Mice are estimated to reduce seabird chick numbers by approximately 2m each year. The eradication will help save the Critically Endangered Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* and Gough Bunting *Rowettia goughensis*.

The United Kingdom in partnership with the overseas territories is leading on ocean conservation having made remarkable progress over the past six years by committing nearly four million square kilometres of British waters to a 'Blue Belt' of protection by 2020. See Blue Belt 2.0 https://greatbritishoceans.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2017/10/Blue-Belt-2.0_October-2017-1.pdf.

The Darwin Initiative is a competitive grant scheme focused on preserving and increasing biodiversity - animal and plant species and their habitats - in developing countries. Projects funded under the Darwin Initiative must support sustainable development in developing countries for the reduction of poverty. Applications for funding must define the project's contribution to economic development and welfare, whether this is direct or indirect. All applicants must also consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Applicants are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased equality, and to provide

indicators disaggregated by gender where possible. Successful projects must refer to the actions undertaken for equality when reporting. [A complete list of Darwin Projects can be found online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative.](https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative)

In addition, through the Darwin Plus initiative (also known as The Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund), the UK Government provides funding for:

- environmental projects in UK Overseas Territories, and
- fellowships for UK Overseas Territories (OT) Nationals to increase their knowledge and ability to meet long-term strategic outcomes for the natural environment in UK Overseas Territories.

The UK is considering how best to protect biodiversity in the OTs.

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum has mobilized many hundreds of thousands pounds worth of skilled volunteer effort from across its network to support a wide range of conservation activities, including of migratory species, in the UK Overseas Territories.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The EU funded a project to increase the knowledge base of right whales in the waters of South Georgia and inform management of the South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands marine protected areas.

If yes, please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

1. Increased
2. The same
3. Decreased
4. X Not known

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

- X Yes
- No

If yes, please select the source(s) concerned (select all that apply)

- Multilateral investment bank
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Other intergovernmental programme
- X Private sector
- X Non-governmental organization(s)
- Individual country governments/government agencies [\[drop down list allowing multiple selections\]](#)
- Other (please specify): [\[free text\]](#)

If yes, to which particular targets [\[texts of targets to be linked here\]](#) in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

If yes, which migratory species have benefited as a result of this support?

.....

[option to add more rows]

If yes, please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- X Not known

Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring future support in your country? (name up to three specific types of activity)

1. Capacity across the range of CMS activities.
2. Collaboration on CMS programmes of work with other Parties and non-Parties.

Please add any further comments you may wish on the implementation of specific provisions in COP Resolution 10.25 (Rev. COP12) on *Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility*.

[free text]