



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.24

14 November 2019

Original: English

13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 20.1 – 20.2

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS
EUROPE**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document provides an analysis of the National Reports for the region of Europe. Results are summarized in this document and visually presented in Annex I.

This regional analysis has been prepared by the Secretariat to inform Parties and as a basis for further discussions at the regional preparatory meetings for COP13 to be held in November 2019 in Bonn.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS

EUROPE

Background

National reporting is the principal means for understanding the state of implementation of CMS, and to guide future action. This analysis report summarizes the information provided by Parties from the region of Europe for the period between COP12 (October 2017) and the deadline for reporting to COP13 (September 2019).

This regional analysis has been prepared in-house by the Secretariat to inform Parties and as a basis for discussions at the regional preparatory meetings for COP13 to be held in November 2019 in Bonn. Reports included in this analysis were received from 86 per cent of the Parties from the region (37 of 43 eligible Parties), including a number submitted past deadline, the same submission rate as for COP12.

Annex I presents percentages from single response questions, while whole numbers demonstrate the response from questions which allow multiple selections. Only questions with a reasonable response rate are presented. The global analysis of all National Reports submitted by parties before the deadline can be found in document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.20.1.

Main findings

Parties reported an increase in efforts to enhance and improve policy frameworks and legislation, and to further integrate themes of migratory species into strategies and planning processes. Most Parties indicated that collaboration between focal points occurs frequently and that this collaboration has improved conditions for migratory species and migration systems. Parties reported an increase in awareness programmes for migratory species, their habitats and migration systems and their prioritization in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for conservation and management. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in awareness programmes as well as direct conservation efforts in the region. Many Parties also noted that the private sector made notable contributions through compliance, funding, and partnerships with NGOs.

Exchange of information, research and innovation are categories which are well-developed in the region. However, Parties demonstrated the wish to build further capacity in these categories to better implement the CMS obligations and Resolutions. Parties reported good implementation of area-based conservation measures and identifying habitat. However, more work towards assessments of ecosystem services and contributions towards migratory species could lead to improvement. Overall, Parties reported good collaboration and awareness in the region, and ongoing work towards the rectification of pre-existing infrastructure issues. Some Parties reported limited removal of harmful incentives and the introduction of positive incentives for the benefit of migratory species. Work remains to be done in targeted legislation, improving habitat quality, and implementation of concerted actions relevant to CMS.

Threats and pressures in the region have notable adverse impacts, with high response rates especially for habitat destruction and degradation. These threats and pressures have an ongoing detrimental influence on conservation efforts as presented by most Parties.

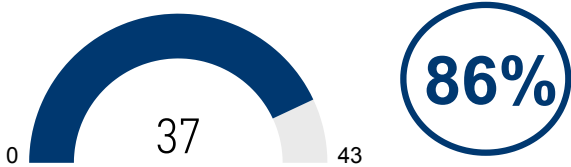
In the majority, Parties reported that limitations in the region relate to exchange of information, funding, research and innovation. Limited capacity and ability for habitat identification, assessments, and addressing the needs of relevant CMS species, their habitats and migration systems prevent action as reported by Parties. Many Parties in the region also suggested that the fostering of consideration for local and indigenous groups was not applicable within their borders.

The main challenge in the analysis is due to a number of questions for which no responses were given, such as in questions VII.4 and X.4, and supporting documentation, evidence, or elaboration required for some questions was not provided. An example of this would be questions XIX.1 “During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?” to which more than half of the Parties answered affirmatively. However, of those Parties, only two-thirds responded to the follow-up question “to which particular targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution?”. Some responses provided by Parties contradict earlier responses in the questionnaire. An example of this is a majority of Parties explicitly addressed conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats, or migration systems in national biodiversity action plans (Q XVI.1), however, some Parties did not specifically elaborate on the “migratory species” aspects, with most suggesting impact under a broader “conservation” umbrella.

Next steps

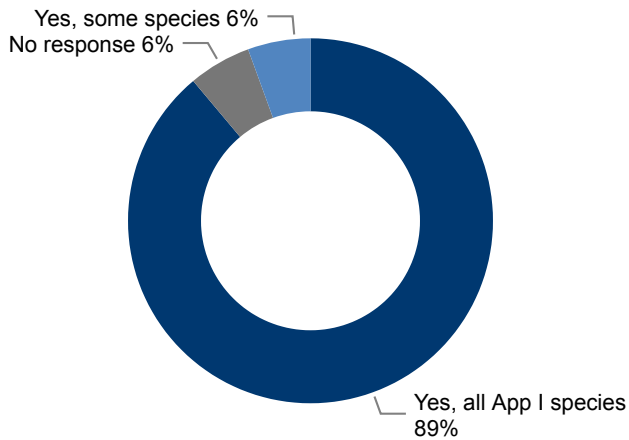
Following the presentation and distribution of this analysis, the Secretariat will endeavour to receive feedback from Parties on the reporting process and current template with a view to making improvements towards the next reporting period that will be reflected in the COP Document COP13/Doc.20.2

Submissions



IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

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



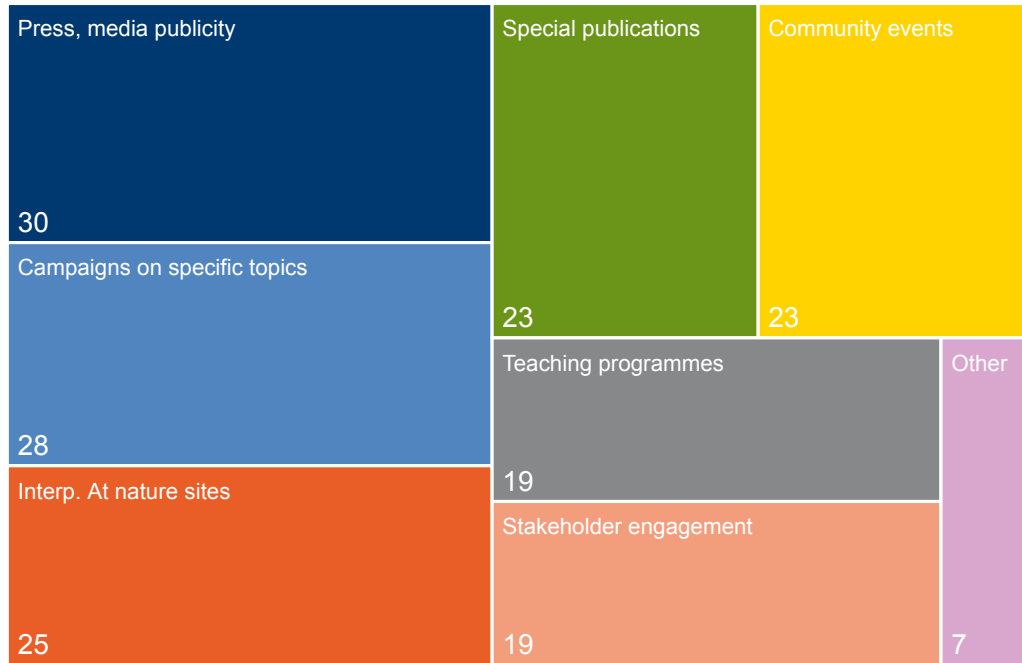
75% Have not granted exceptions, where the taking of all Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation (IV.2).

69% confirm no flagged vessels engaged outside of national jurisdiction in intentional taking of Appendix I species (IV.4).

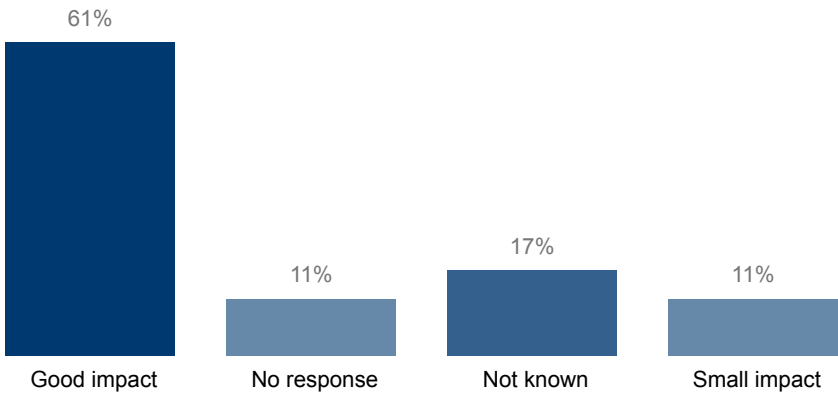


V. Awareness

(V.1) Actions that have increased people's awareness of the value of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems.



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



VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in other Sectors and Processes

Non-governmental organizations such as BirdLife and WWF plays critical roles in the region. NGOs conduct research and monitoring, education and awareness, capacity building and direct conservation projects for migratory species. In Luxembourg, for example, the natur &  mwelt foundation maintains bird banding stations and contributes scientiic data on migratory species, while ARK Nature in the Netherlands is involved in the reintroduction of migratory fish in riverine systems and researches the critically endangered atlantic sturgeon, endeavoring towards the success of the species.

Private Sector primarily contributes through adherence to guidelines and commitments, such as prevention of electrocution from powerlines by using insultaed wire, and providing small scale grants and other such funds for projects. The private sector also partners with NGOs, such as in Serbia, the Carlsberg Company Serbia partnered with Birds Protection and Study Society of Serbia and the Ministry of Environment to launch a campaign for the conservation of the eastern imperial eagle.

(VI.1) Does the conservation of migratory species feature in strategies and/or planning processes relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?



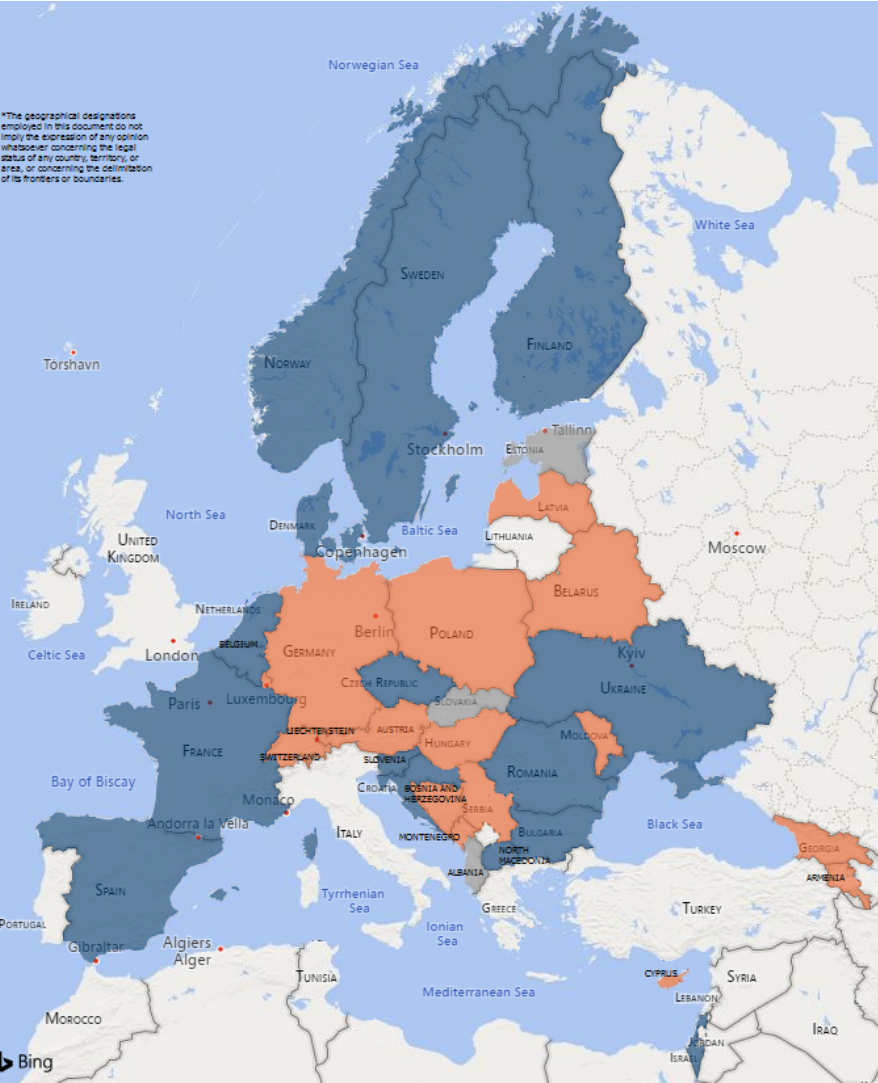
(VI.2) Do the values of migratory species and their habitats' feature in other national reporting processes?



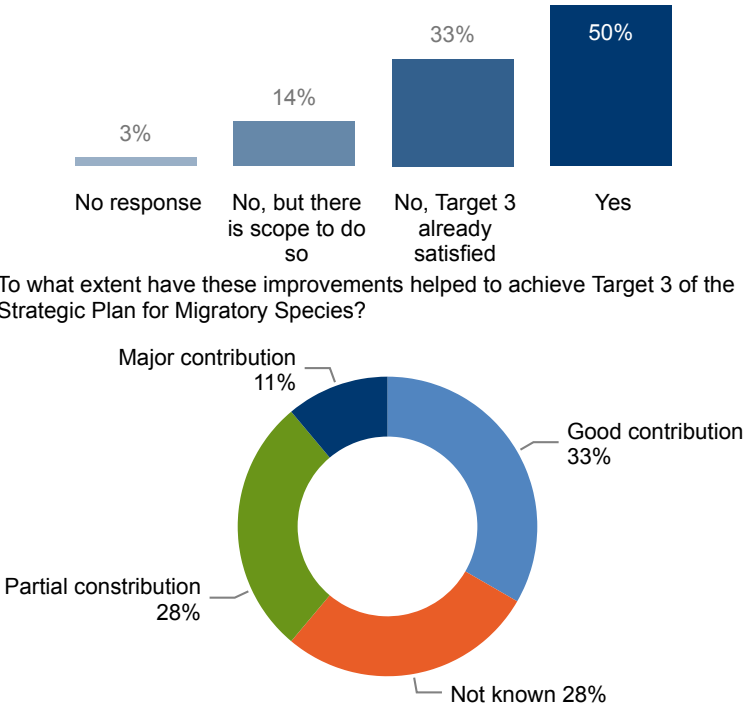
Note: Results represent only those parties which submitted national reports. Percentages are indicative of questions with singular choice, whole numbers indicate that parties may select more than one option.

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

(VII.2) Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different sectors/groups been established at national/territorial levels to address CMS implementation issues? ● No ● No response ● Yes



(VII.1) Have any governance arrangements affecting migratory species and their migration systems improved?



To what extent have these improvements helped to achieve Target 3 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species?

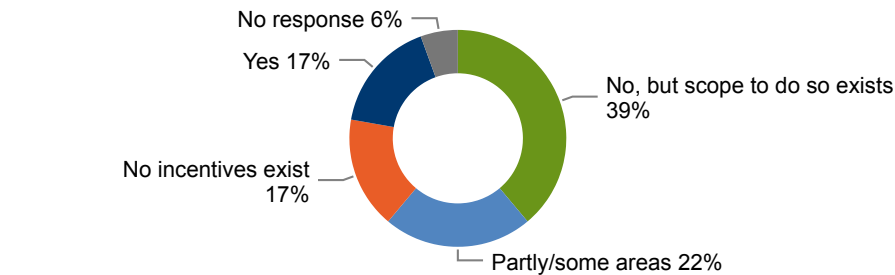
(VII.4) Has legislation, policies or action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species been adopted?



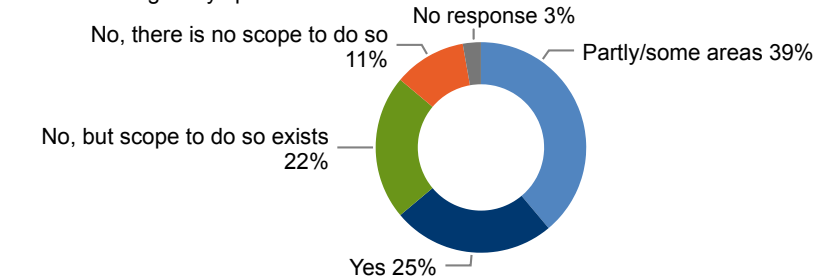
78% of CMS focal points and other relevant Conventions collaborate to develop coordinated and synergistic approaches as per CMS Resolution 11.10 (VII.3).

VIII. Incentives

(VIII.1) Have any harmful incentives been eliminated, phased out or reformed resulting in benefits for migratory species?

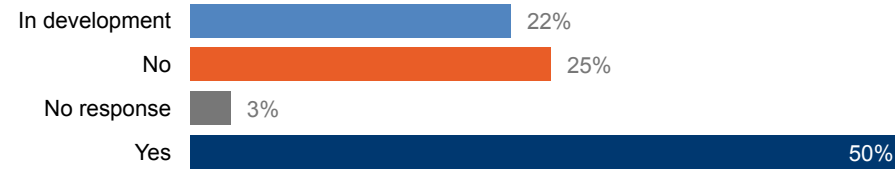


(VIII.2) Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives resulting in benefits for migratory species?



IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

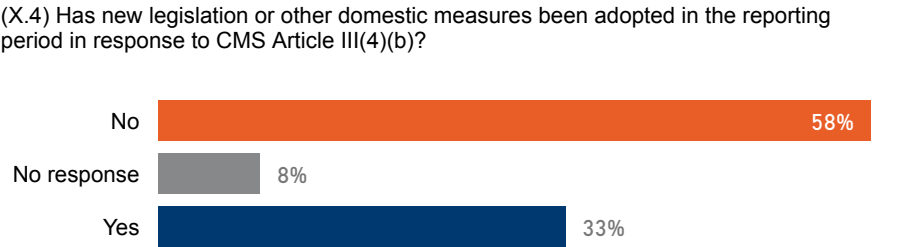
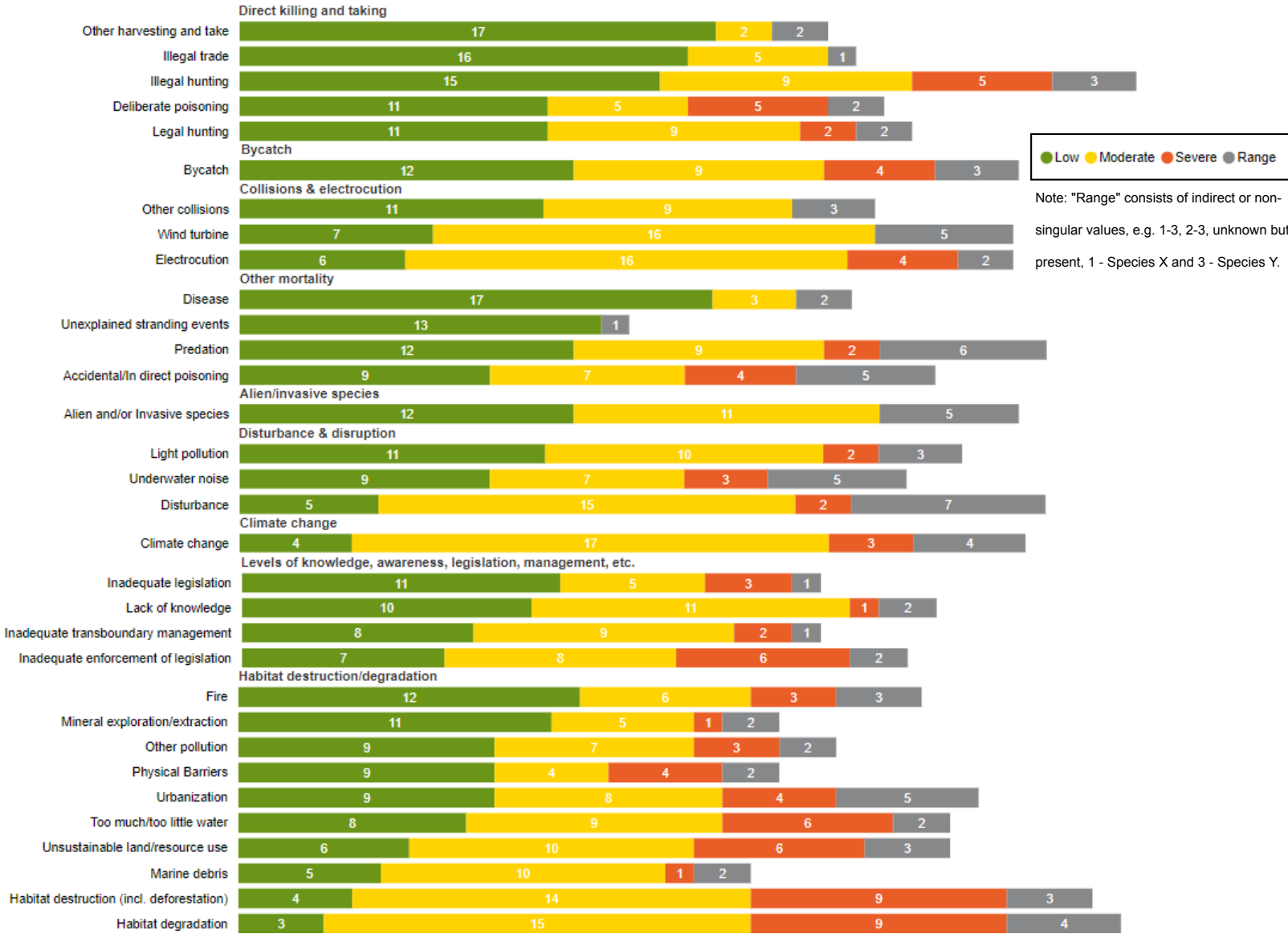
(IX.1) Have plans been implemented/steps taken concerning sustainable production/consumption which are contributing to results defined in SPMS Target 5?



Parties typically include these aims as part of a national strategy or action plans, especially highlighting circular economy principles. Norway, for example, detailed an obligatory off-take reporting/monitoring programme that conducts scientific analysis of current trends for recommendations on future adjustments.

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

(X.1) Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?



The most significant advances in the region are attributed to legislation and direct action. Inclusion of new areas into, and maintenance of, protected area networks was conducted by many Parties including Armenia, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Strengthening of legislation (or introduction of new legislation) was mentioned by Luxembourg and Malta. Data collection and monitoring was mentioned by many parties. A major advancement mentioned by Parties including Spain, Slovakia, Latvia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia was direct actions to protect birds from electrocution from overhead powerlines. Efforts to control invasive species were planned or conducted by Finland, Germany, and Spain. Other methods such as Environmental Impact Assessments in Slovenia, Romania's agro-environmental payments to encourage agricultural practices supporting environmental protection, and caging turtle nests in Cyprus to protect against predators, demonstrate creative solutions. Parties however did frequently communicate challenges related to water quality, pollution, habitat fragmentation, and the illegal killing of birds (X.2).

Groups frequently identified as under notable influence from these pressures are **raptors, ducks, dolphins, sturgeons, european eel, bats and turtles.**

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

Taxonomic Group	No. of Parties		No. of Taxa	
	Status Improved	Status Deteriorated	Status Improved	Status Deteriorated
Terrestrial Mammals (excluding bats)	0	0	0	0
Aquatic Mammals	3	4	4	4
Bats	2	6	2	20
Birds	7	5	49	105
Reptiles	1	0	1	0
Fish	0	5	0	2
Insects	0	0	0	0

Note: Table represents change in conservation status and in population.

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

(XII.3) Have concerted actions under CMS to address the needs of relevant migratory species been implemented?



(XII.4) Have steps been taken which have contributed to achieving the results defined in Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species?



XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

(XV.1) Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity?



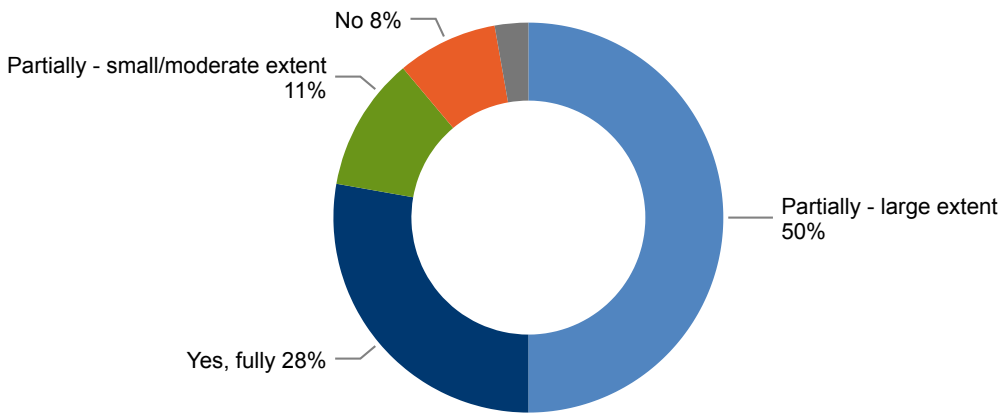
Relevant Strategies



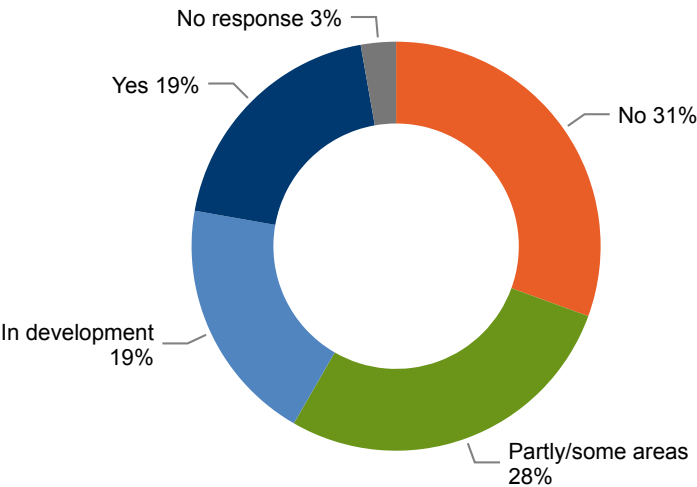
© François Schwab

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

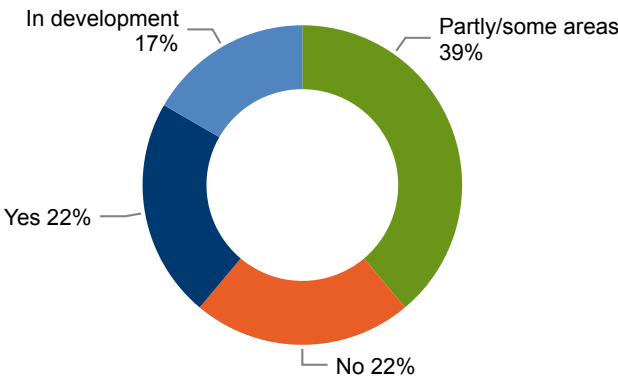
(XIII.1) Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified?



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



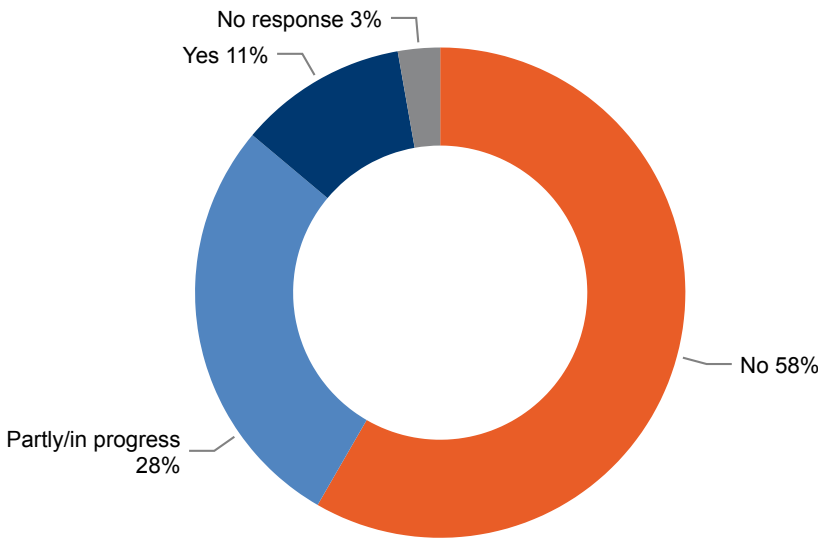
(XIII.4) In respect of protected areas that are important for migratory species, have any assessments of management effectiveness been undertaken in the reporting period?



75% implement area-based conservation measures that benefit migratory species beyond just Protected Areas (XIII.5).

XIV. Ecosystem Services

(XIV.1) Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species been undertaken since the adoption of the SPMS in 2014?



(XIII.3) Has any new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4)(a) been adopted?



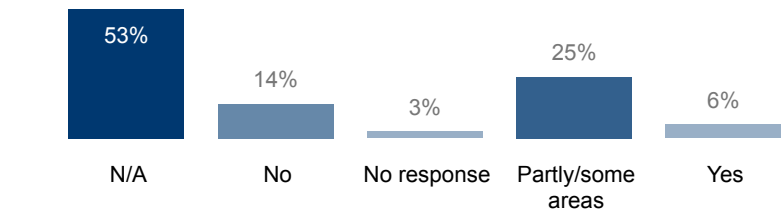
XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans

76% explicitly address conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats, or migratory systems in the national biodiversity strategy or action plans (XVI.1).

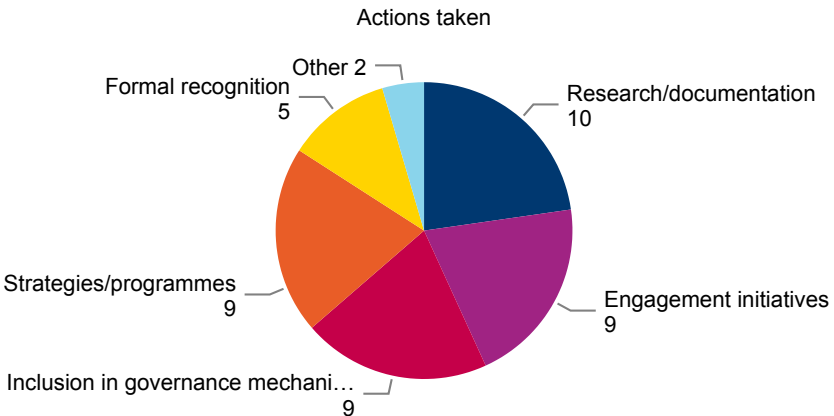
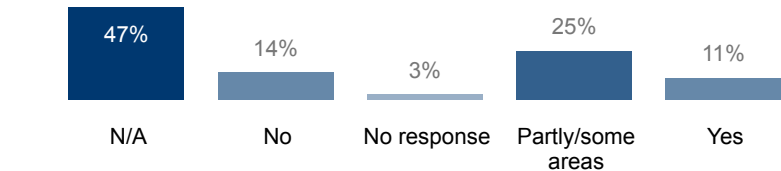
Although the affirmative response was high, many Parties noted that migratory species are often not specifically mentioned in legislation, however, biodiversity legislation generally applies to them. Some Parties do make specific mention, such as in legislation from the Czech Republic through directing attempts to resolve barriers to migration as part of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2016-2025. Germany as well, through part of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Nature Conservation Action Programme, directly comments on sustainable use and restoration, resolving barriers to migration and reducing threats to migratory species and their habitats.

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

(XVII.1) Have actions been taken to foster consideration for the indigenous/local knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to conservation/sustainable-use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?



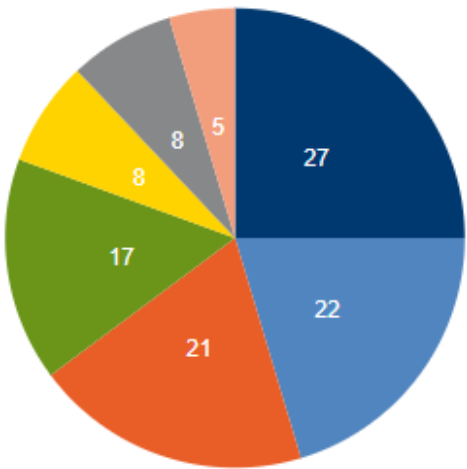
(XVII.2) Have actions been taken to foster effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?



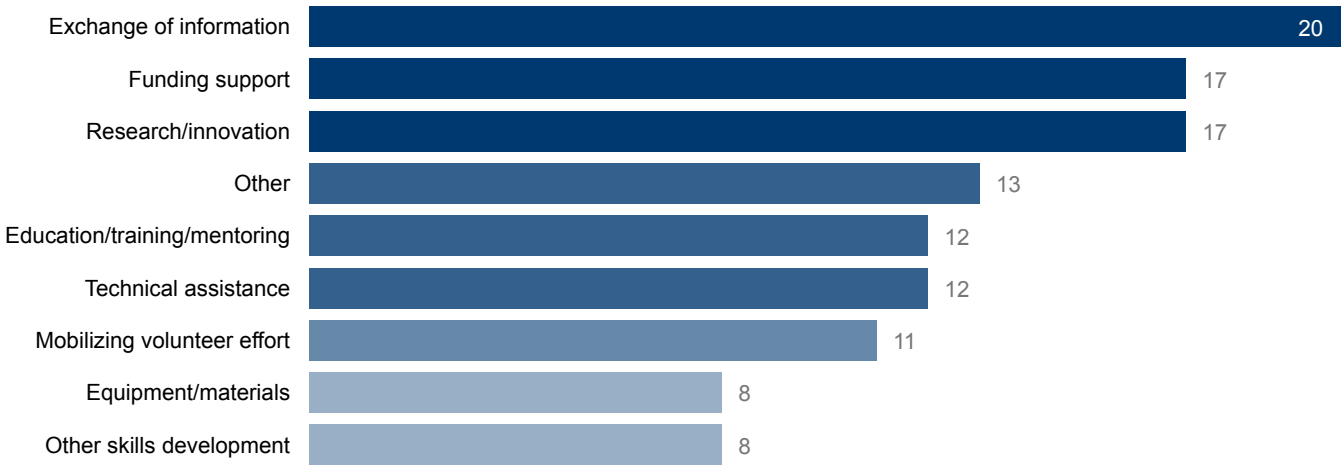
XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

(XVIII.1) Steps taken contributing to achieving Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

- Public awareness campaigns
- Knowledge/data-sharing initiatives
- Education campaigns in schools
- Capacity building
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Policy level agreements on research
- Other
- No steps have been taken



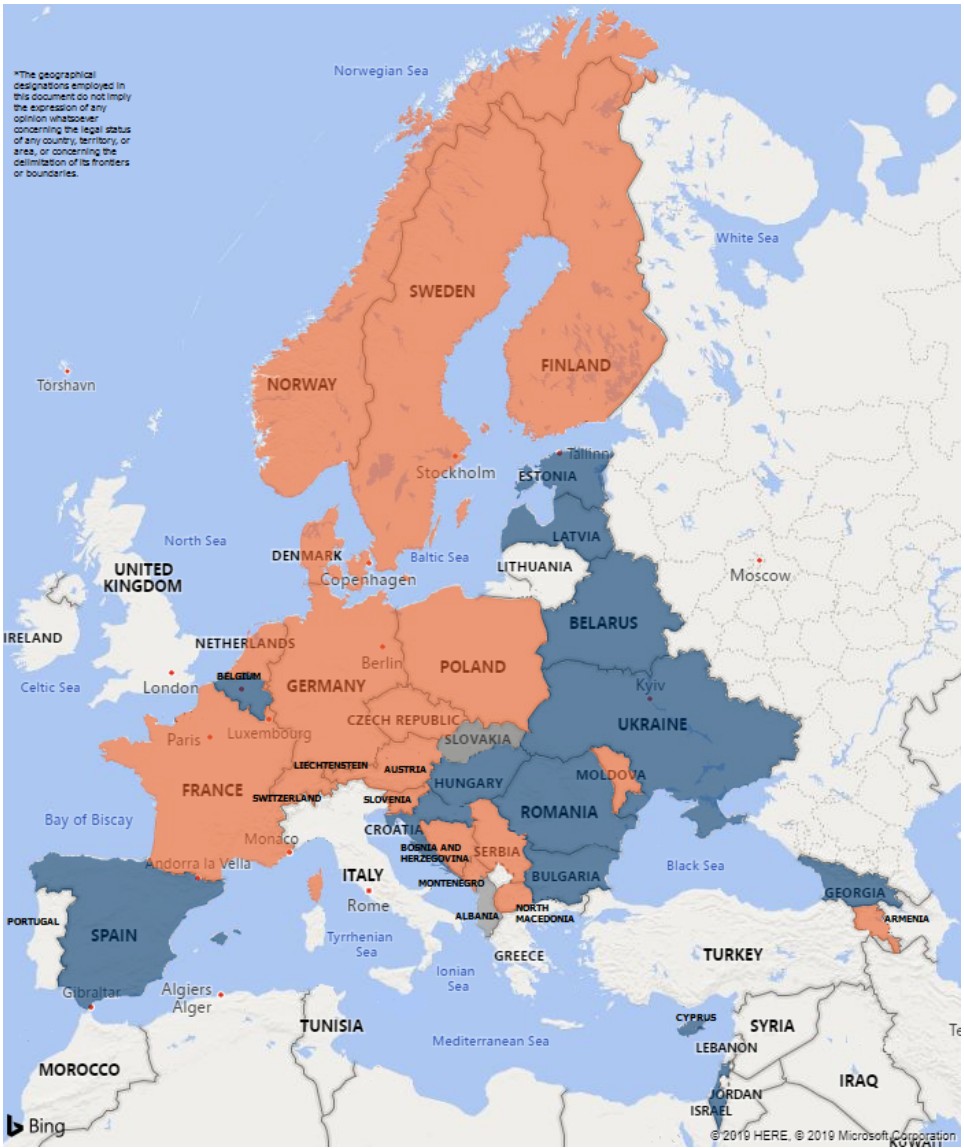
(XVIII.3) What assistance is required to build capacity to implement CMS obligations and Resolutions?



XIX. Resource Mobilization

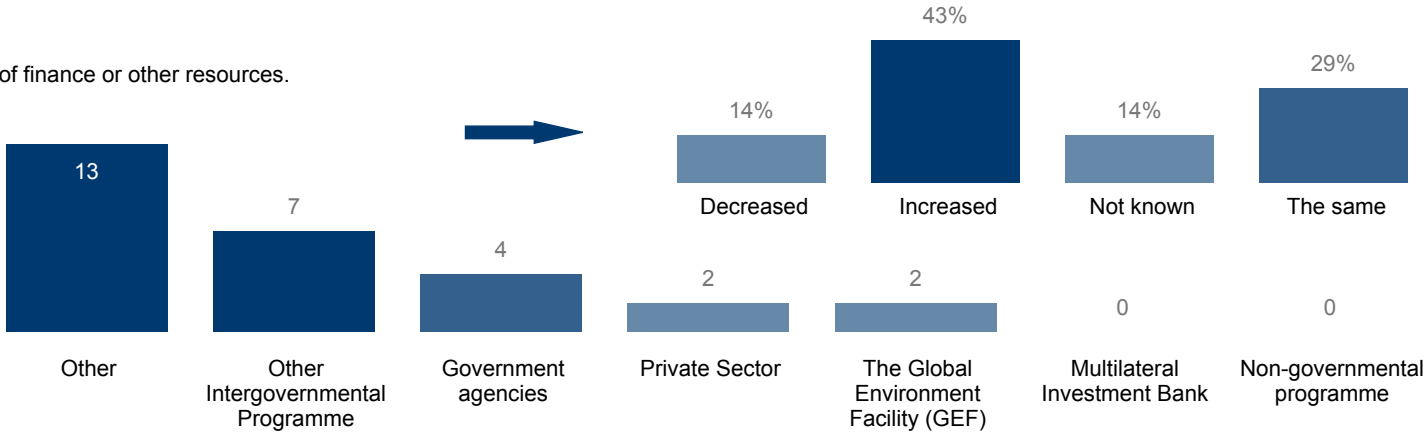
(XIX.2) Have financial or other resources been recieved specifically benefitting migratory species?

● No ● No response ● Yes



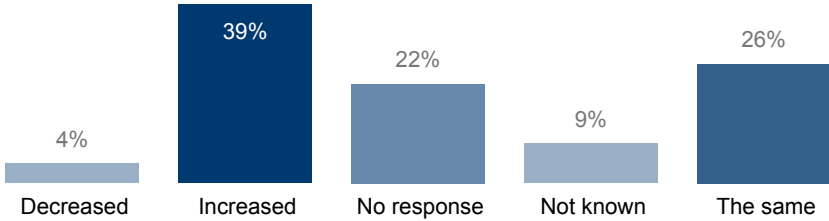
Overall levels of resourcing compared to the previous reporting period.

Sources of finance or other resources.



The overall levels of resourcing compared to the previous reporting period.

62% made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species within their country (XIX.1).



© Daniel Bergmann



© Charlie Phillips



© M. A. Cedenilla, CBD Habitat