



**CMS**

## **2025 CMS National Report**

**Deadline for submission of the National Reports: : 30 September 2025**

**Reporting period: from May 2023 to February 2025**

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions and are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, when required.

National Report format is available through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Through Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) and Decisions 14.27, 14.25 National Reports and 14.2 Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat were tasked with developing a new format for National Reports that aligns with the SPMS. However, given that the indicators of the SPMS are not yet in place, and due to the time constraints caused by the exceptionally short intersessional period before COP15, there is insufficient time to substantially amend the National Report format to fully align it with the SPMS.

The Standing Committee therefore agreed to develop a new format for the reporting period after COP15, and to use the previous National Report format for the current reporting period, with only minor adjustments. These adjustments would include a limited number of additional questions on topics that COP14 specifically requested to be reported through National Reports.

Additionally, it was agreed not to attach the full list of species in Appendices I and II for verification by Parties, as this information was collected during previous reporting cycles but could not be fully assessed and reflected in the National Reports format due to a lack of resources. Instead, the Standing Committee agreed to collect information on Range States for species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 during this reporting cycle, in accordance with Decision 14.234.

A proposal of the National Reports format was circulated by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee members on 13 December and it was agreed through communication procedure, in line with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by Standing Committee through communication procedure. In addition, as was also the case for reporting prior to COP14, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat from the previous reporting cycles.

Please note that guidance is available for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact Mr. Aydin Bahramlouian, Public Information Officer, [aydin.bahramlouian@un.org](mailto:aydin.bahramlouian@un.org)

**NOTICE:** Before clicking on the hyperlinks in this questionnaire, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

Note: These reporting processes of other relevant intergovernmental frameworks are examples of information resources to be used when filling out this national report, which may assist in identification and strengthening of synergies among these processes. This list is **not** exhaustive. There are many other sources of information that may also be of relevance for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems.

## High-level summary of key messages

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

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2024 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds” rather than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles” rather than just “lack of funding”.

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

- >>> - Restoration of habitats and species: Nature Restoration Regulation 2024/1991: binding targets for restoration measures on 20% of marine and terrestrial EU surface by 2030, and of all ecosystem in need of restoration by 2050. Currently, EU member states are drafting National Restoration Plans.
- Challenges with migratory species brings different countries together and is a good example of how the global biodiversity crisis should be addressed through international cooperation. Migratory species share the same challenges as resident species; through the international cooperation on migratory species, knowledge and experience to face these challenges is shared, which also benefits resident species.

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

- >>> - Continuing fragmentation due to land use changes and intensification of land use.
- Addressing the accurate impact of renewable energy initiatives on migratory species, especially for migratory birds and bats, as well as the cumulative impact along the migratory routes.
- Reconciling the rapidly growing blue economy with strong nature conservation and restoration policies e.g. when developing a Marine Spatial Plan, when trying to establish a marine protected area, ...
- Fragmented competencies in the Belgian government.

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

- >>> - Promote transboundary cooperation
- Promote complementarity and avoid duplication of work in the different MEA
- Maintaining or creating robust migratory routes and stopovers in order to facilitate migration in a changing world (climate change, land pressure and land use intensification ...).
- Technical and financial support for the implementation of conservation measures alongside with enforcement of protection requirements along migratory routes

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of the Party

>>> Belgium

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

>>> 01101990

### **Report compiler**

Name and title

>>> Dr Ir Lucie Rivière

Full name of institution

>>> Service Public de Wallonie (SPW), DPEAI, DPEnv

Email

>>> lucie.riviere@spw.wallonie.be

### **Designated CMS National Focal Point**

Name and title of designated Focal Point

>>> Dr. Ir. Lucie Rivière

Full name of institution

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Mailing address

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Email

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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:

No, updates or corrections are required, as follows:

Updates or corrections:

>>> Not applicable has been selected according to the Range State

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

*Please select only one per line*

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

### III. Species on the Convention Appendices

III.1 Please confirm that the Excel file “Res. 14.19 species per Party” linked below correctly identifies the **Appendix II** species listed in Resolution 14.19 Guidance on the treatment of species included within aggregated families listed under Appendix II for which your country is a Range State.

The list of Resolution 14.19 species per Parties is available **here**.

**Notice:** Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

#### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

During the last two reporting cycles, information has been collected on Appendix I and Appendix II species, and the information received still needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this reporting cycle only focuses on bird species identified under Resolution 14.19. This Resolution invites Parties to consider the list of Species in its Annex when preparing National Reports. This question aims at collecting information on Range States of species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19. Parties are therefore invited to review the Range State data which are available in the excel spreadsheet “Res. 14.19 species per Party”. Please confirm that the list is correct, or if amendments are needed, create a line for each species for which you wish to indicate different information from that shown in the Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, please also provide supporting evidence, such as a reference to a scientific paper. A more detailed spreadsheet with Data per countries and territories is available here as background information. The data used for these spreadsheets are based on the CMS standard references for non-passerine and passerine species, as determined by Resolution 12.27(Rev.COP14) Taxonomy and Nomenclature, using its online version HBW-BirdLife Version 9.0 (October 2024)..

No, amendments are needed for the following species:

#### **Emperor Goose / *Anser canagicus***

Select occurrence of Emperor Goose / *Anser canagicus*

Introduced

#### **Long-tailed Duck / *Clangula hyemalis***

Select occurrence of Long-tailed Duck / *Clangula hyemalis*

Occurrence uncertain

#### **Falcated Duck / *Mareca falcata***

Select occurrence of Falcated Duck / *Mareca falcata*

Occurrence uncertain

Remark (optional)

>>> Not present. Some sightings, probably escapes or birds that lost the way on migration.

#### **Great Snipe / *Gallinago media***

Select occurrence of Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

Occurrence uncertain

Remark (optional)

>>> this species is a very rare vagrant in Belgium. Although Belgium is on the migration pathway between the east- and north-European breeding grounds and the sub-Saharan wintering grounds, this species usually covers this distance in ultralong flights at very great heights

#### **Pallid Harrier / *Circus macrourus***

Select occurrence of Pallid Harrier / *Circus macrourus*

Present

Remark (optional)

>>> Present, but rare, on migration.

#### **Dartford Warbler / *Curruca undata***

Select occurrence of Dartford Warbler / *Curruca undata*

Not present

## IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

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

Yes for all Appendix I species

Please identify any change in the legal statute(s) concerned that has been introduced since the last reporting:

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

>>> Under regional nature protection legislation all Appendix I species are protected by law:

FL: Decree of the Flemish Government of 15 May 2009 regarding species protection and species management. Derogations are only accepted under strict conditions and only after assessment by the Agency for Nature & Forests.

Brussels region: all species are protected, no derogations accepted.

WL: all species are protected under the Nature Conservation Law.

FED : Marine species in the lists are protected by federal legislation, with the exception of commercial species (Appendix II) for which European legislation is valid (Common Fisheries Policy).

IV.4. Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits (consistent with the definition of "Range State" in Article I of the Convention)?

No

## V. Awareness

V.1. Please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country during the reporting period to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII may also be relevant).  
(select all that apply)

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and livelihoods), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests), Res. **14.14** (CMS Jaguar Initiative), Res. **14.13** (Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), Res. **14.12** (Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea), Res. **14.10** (Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)), Res. **14.8** (Conservation and sustainable management of seagrass ecosystems), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.1** (Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032), Res. **12.6 (Rev.COP14)** (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), Res. **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), and Decision 14.194 (Ecological Connectivity), Decision 14.54 (Marine Wildlife Watching) and Decision 14.223 (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

- Campaigns on specific topics
- Press and media coverage
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

### **Impact of actions**

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

>>> Each regional and the federal administration have their own communication activities related to the species protected under their legislation and occurring in their respective region.

In Flanders and Wallonia most actions on migratory species are also included under the EU Nature directives activities.

FL : Information is published on the website of the ministry (ANB Agency), as well as the yearly information note on World Migratory Bird Day (in Dutch) <https://natuurenbos.be/vergunningen/beschermde-soorten>  
<https://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>

Yearly monitoring outcomes are provided by the Research Institute INBO: <https://www.inbo.be/en> More technical information is provided through: <https://www.ecopedia.be/> (in Dutch)

WL : Wallonia Regional Environmental Education Centres (CRIE, Le site du réseau des CRIE wallons : Un réseau, en Wallonie) are key tools in Wallonia's environmental awareness policy. They propose animations, educational activities to raise awareness of the environment, project presentations, and information tools. The Aquascope de Virelle is a visitor centre for the Virelle Pond Nature Reserve, which highlights the importance of the area as a migration zone (Saisons et migrations) and offers activities to discover these migratory species (Sur les traces des oiseaux voyageurs : quiz et découvertes - Aquascope)

FED : - Federal Action Plan on Marine Debris (Federaal Actieplan Zwerfvuil 2022-2027)

- Campaign on Underwater Noise in the North Sea ([www.underwaternoise.be](http://www.underwaternoise.be))

- Yearly monitoring outcomes of the North sea are provided by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences - Specific campaigns on Marine Litter:

> microplastics: <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/also-fed-microplastics>

> fishing for litter for fishermen: <https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/news/vissers-halen-51-ton-afval-uit-zee>

> On plastic pollution for the public: "De zee start bij jezelf": <https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/de-zee-begint-bij-jezelf>

> citizen science project on beach litter monitoring: <https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/news/afval-op-stranden-voornamelijk-plastic-zwerfvuil-en-bouwafval>

- Publication on sensitivity mapping for anthropogenic disturbance of seabirds at sea:

Vanermen N., Courtens W., Van de walle M., Verstraete H. & Stienen E.W.M. (2023). Seabirds@Risk -

Gevoeligheidskartering voor antropogene verstoring van zeevogels op zee. Rapporten van het Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek 2023 (53). Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek, Brussel. DOI:

<http://doi.org/10.21436/inbor.100121378>

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

<https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/de-zee-begint-bij-jezelf>

<https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/news/vissers-halen-51-ton-afval-uit-zee>

<https://www.health.belgium.be/en/also-fed-microplastics>

[www.underwaternoise.be](http://www.underwaternoise.be)

[Federaal Actieplan Zwerfvuil 2022-2027](#)

[Sur les traces des oiseaux voyageurs : quiz et découvertes - Aquascope](#)

[Saisons et migrations](#)

[Le site du réseau des CRIE wallons : Un réseau, en Wallonie](#)

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

Tick one box

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

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

2. Small impact

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

>>> More people, nature organisations, local authorities and also businesses and private companies are concerned and looking for further information.

Local actions show positive results, but there is still a need to upscale such actions to improve the status of habitats and species populations

## VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

VI.1. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any national or local strategies and/or planning processes in your country relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?

Yes

Please provide details:

### GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe how CMS objectives are incorporated in other sectoral strategies such as transport, construction, agriculture, tourism, education, spatial planning, Sustainable Development Goals and other strategies.

>>> Reference to migratory species in objectif 2.4 Étudier, surveiller et réduire l'impact de la pollution provenant de toutes les sources à des niveaux qui ne nuisent pas à la biodiversité et aux fonctions et services des écosystèmes, en tenant compte des effets cumulatifs of the new national strategy for biodiversity for 2030.

Reference to the CMS Convention in objectif 11 : assurer une mise en oeuvre cohérente des engagements et des accords liés à la biodiversité et entre eux of the new national strategy for biodiversity for 2030.

VI.2. Does your country integrate the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' in any other national reporting processes?

E.g. Agenda 2030, reporting for International Whaling Commission, CBD, EU Nature Directives, etc.

### GUIDANCE TIP:

Responses to this question should be focused on the reporting processes of the country rather than on plans and regulations within the country. This question intends to understand if the values of migratory species and habitats are featured in other national reporting that your country participates in, such as reporting to other biodiversity MEAs, the International Whaling Commission, European Commission etc.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Implementation of restoration of habitats and species using Species Protection Programmes, site specific management plans, monitoring activities and status of habitats and species are reported in the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive reports, including migratory species listed under the directives. Summary reports are published on the EU Nature Directives website. Connectivity of natural habitats is also included in the CBD national report.

VI.3. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> Nature organisations protect and manage natural values, including habitats and populations of wild species, including migratory species, in the nature reserves they own or areas they manage for local authorities or private companies. On a regular basis they also organise guided tours and visits, communication campaigns, monitoring activities and nature management activities.

A list of organisations involved was provided in the national report of 2017 (Natuurpunt/Natagora, Vogelbescherming/Ligue royale pour la protection des oiseaux, Sea Life, AVES, Virelles Nature, WWF, Cercle des naturalistes de Belgique, Ardennes et Gaume, Les amis de Fagnes.

Bigger nature conservation organisations (natagora/natuurpunt) are involved in international umbrella organisations as BirdLifeInternational, BatLifeEurope, etc that are important to address transboundary cooperation and protection especially relevant for migratory species.

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

>>> A growing number of private companies re-naturalise, restore and manage their domains for specific species groups, often initiated through a project funded by EU or regional financial programmes.

A list of private sectors and their projects is provided in the national report of 2017.

Other private companies act for the conservation of migratory species.

Elia is Belgium's transmission system operator and is responsible for the transmission of electricity. For several years, they have been working to reduce the risk of birds colliding with high-voltage power lines. In 2024, as part of the international LIFE project 'SafeLines4Birds' and in order to better identify the threats to the black stork, several individuals were fitted with GPS tags and will be tracked throughout their lives.

Balade, a private company, has financed, in collaboration with Natagora, stork poles and observatories in the Gueule nature reserve (RW).

VI.5. Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP14)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species).

Yes

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

>>> FL : Assessment of cumulative impacts of a project with respect to similar developments along the migratory route in other countries is hard. Most often the impact on migratory species is limited to the project zone and surrounding areas.

FED: In EIAs for human activities at sea (e.g. offshore wind farms), the potential impact on migration pathways of seabirds are considered, but given the small relative size of the Belgian waters and the need for multiple use of space it is mostly not possible to reconcile economic needs (also in light of the green transition) with ecological needs. Without proper coordination on a larger scale, e.g. (southern) North Sea basin, it is also not well known what the need is and whether Belgian measures are effective as stand-alone measures.

VI.6. To what extent have biodiversity and migratory species considerations been specifically integrated into national energy and climate policy and legislation?

**GUIDANCE TIP**

Please refer to Resolutions **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), Res. **10.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **14.207** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species) for more information.

>>> More and more actions are taken to implement measures for the conservation of migratory species, eg in Environmental Impact Assessments, which is a legal obligation. In relation to energy, EIAs are mandatory for the building of wind turbines, both at land and sea (offshore structures). These EIA's will always take into consideration the conservation of bats and birds.

Walloon region: EIAs are included in the Nature Conservation Law, in the Spatial Planning Code. Impact Assessments of plans and programs are also included in the Environment Code.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> All windturbine parks and the Princess Elisabeth energy Island have been developed after approval of EIAs, taking into account migratory species.

Flanders region: areas with higher risk of wind turbine impact on migratory species have been mapped (birds and bats) and are publicly available.

Walloon region : In the Report on the Environmental Impact of Wallonia's Air, Climate and Energy Plan for 2030 (RIE-PACE2030.pdf), solutions are proposed to reduce collisions between birds or bats and high-voltage power lines or wind turbines.

FED : In the Belgian part of the North Sea (BPNS), a pile driving ban is in effect from the beginning of January to the end of April to protect harbor porpoises. This measure is in place due to the high density of porpoises in the area during this period. In permit of the energy island: designation of marine mammal observers; disturbance of birds need to be avoided on that part of the island where no construction is taking place

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

[RIE-PACE2030.pdf](#)

## VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

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

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

### GUIDANCE TIP:

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

No, because existing arrangements are considered to be sufficient

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

### GUIDANCE TIP:

There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism.

These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.

**The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments** may be helpful in giving further context.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> A Belgian Coordination Committee on International Environment Policies involves the National Focal Points of biodiversity-related MEAs.

At each regional level various coordination committees and/or site specific fora look into integrated approaches for protection and management of sites, to safeguard habitats of species and enhance cooperation at local and regional level.

VII.3. Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 29, 30 and 32 of **Res. 11.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Synergies and partnerships) and in paragraph 7 of **Res. 14.3** (Engagement in CBD processes including the Global Biodiversity Framework) ?

### GUIDANCE TIP:

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Dec. 14.6**(CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Res.8.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD).

Guidance documents for integrating considerations relevant to Migratory Species in NBSAPs are available at CMS website.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Through the coordination committee reported above.

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

Yes

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

>>> FL : Action plan for Black-tailed Godwit and Eurasian Curlew: approved in the end of 2020, running from 2021 till 2025 (can be extended). See: <https://natuurenbos.vlaanderen.be/dieren-en-planten/soortenbescherming/lijst-van-alle-sbps> (search for 'weidevogels')

WI and FL : Citizen science to monitor bird populations in private gardens every winter (Participez au recensement des oiseaux de jardin avec Natagora - <https://www.natuurpunt.be/het-grote-vogelweekend>)

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

<https://www.natuurpunt.be/het-grote-vogelweekend>

[Participez au recensement des oiseaux de jardin avec Natagora](https://www.natuurpunt.be/het-grote-vogelweekend)

<https://natuurenbos.vlaanderen.be/dieren-en-planten/soortenbescherming/lijst-van-alle-sbps>

## VIII. Incentives

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

Partly / in some areas

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

>>> FED : In the Belgian part of the North Sea (BPNS), a pile driving ban is in effect from the beginning of January to the end of April to protect harbor porpoises. This measure is in place due to the high density of porpoises in the area during this period.

In the environmental permit noise limits are imposed, with imposed fines when noise level is exceeded.

Incentives are given through subsidy programmes especially in sites under agricultural practices. Application of environment requirements are controlled through the EU cross compliance system under the Agricultural policy.

VIII.2. Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country during the reporting period, resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Partly / in some areas

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

>>> e.g. incentives for leaving green cover on agricultural land as foraging areas for migratory birds.

## IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

IX.1. During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are relevant for conservation of migratory species?

No

What is preventing progress?

>>> No new action

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

### Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?

Guidance: This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on CMS-listed migratory species at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

Please note that, consistent with the terms of the Convention, “in your country” may in certain circumstances include areas outside national jurisdictional limits where the activities of any vessels flagged to your country are involved.

#### Intentional Taking

##### GUIDANCE TIP:

Please note that as per Article 1(i) of the Convention, “Taking” means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in such conduct.

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Legal hunting	all appendix I and II species	3
Illegal hunting	all appendix I and II species	2
Other harvesting and take	all appendix I and II species	3
Illegal trade	all appendix I and II species	3
Deliberate poisoning	all appendix I and II species	3

#### Unintentional Taking

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Bycatch		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Other forms of unintentional taking	2	Lagenorhynchus albirostris (App II), Acipenser sturio (App I) & Galeorhinus galeus (App II)

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing bycatch or catch in ALDFG?

##### GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.22**(Bycatch), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), and Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species) and Dec. 14.31 b) and c). Parties are encouraged to report on the implementation of the recommendation included in Drynan and Baker 2023 “Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks” provided in Annex 1 to UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1.

>>> FED : EU LIFE CIBBRINA project which aims to reduce the incidental bycatch of Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP) species

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

[CIBBRINA](#)

## Collisions and electrocution

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Wind turbines	birds and bats	2
Other collisions	large marine mammals (Megaptera novaeangliae (App I)	2
Electrocution	birds and bats	2
Vessel strikes		

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

>>> Progressive action by ELIA, the manager of the high voltage power grid in Belgium, on the most harmful existing powerlines: putting fireflies, pigtailed and other devices that make the powerlines more visible for birds and as such reduce collision risk. For this ELIA cooperates with nature conservation NGO's Natagora/Natuurpunt to detect the priority areas and to assess the impact of the actions.

## Other mortality

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Disease, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	1	
Unexplained stranding events		
Accidental/indirect poisoning		
Disease	3	

## Alien and/or invasive species

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Alien and/or invasive species	Bird and aquatic species	2

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

>>> WI: - Horizontal agreement with river contracts for projects to manage invasive alien aquatic species (mainly plants).

- An assessment of the impact of raccoons based on a review of all scientific literature in order to identify species at risk and propose appropriate control measures.

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> WI : The significant increase in raccoon and nutria populations. There is not yet any well-coordinated management at the regional level, but this is currently being prepared.

## Disturbance and disruption

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	Seabirds affected by windturbine parks at sea	1

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> Development of large windturbine parks at sea. This causes disruption of, and has an impact on the behaviour of migratory seabirds.

**Pollution**

	Species/species groups affected (provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Marine debris (including plastics)		
Light pollution	Caprimulgus europaeus Pluvialis apricaria Grus grus Rhinolophus hipposideros Chiroptera	1 1 1 1 2
Underwater noise	Harbour porpoise	1
Other pollution		
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

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

>>> FL : Flanders region: drafting of a (ecological) Darkness Requirement Map in order to guide actions against light pollution and prevent extra light pollution in sensitive areas. (<https://natuurenbos.vlaanderen.be/dieren-en-planten/soortenbescherming/duisternisbehoeftekaart> )

FED : Belgium is participating in the interreg DEMASK project. DEMASK aims to bring together policymakers, NGOs, and the maritime industry to manage the North Sea underwater soundscape. The project will enable stakeholders to take measures that will contribute to good management of the noise environment and strengthen the marine ecosystem. DEMASK will develop an approach to defining policy scenarios for underwater noise management and a method to quantify the effectiveness of these scenarios in mitigating noise pollution and its effects on marine life. Work Unit 3 is working specifically on marine life assessing and quantifying these scenarios in terms of their effects on marine organisms and biodiversity.

The OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Noise was adopted in June 2025. It consists of eight measures to address and further explore the effects of underwater noise on marine life.

WL :  Support for 10 Walloon municipalities in creating a dark network (complementing the green and blue networks) within their territory.

Enhanced reduction (-70%) of night-time lighting on the non-structural regional road network (small regional roads).

Maintaining the night-time switch-off of lighting on the regional road network (motorways and main regional roads) and on more than half of the municipal road network.

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), Res. **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species),

and Decision **14.223** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>> FED : The increasing number of offshore activities causes more pollution.

WL :  In several municipalities in Wallonia, the end of the night-time switch-off of municipal street lighting, initiated in October 2022 during the energy crisis;

The rebound effect caused by LEDs: as electricity consumption is lower, the tendency to provide more lighting at night – even when not necessary – increases, particularly in the private sector

### Habitat destruction/degradation

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Landscape fragmentation/loss of ecological connectivity, physical barriers		2
Habitat degradation		1
Mineral exploration/extraction		1
Unsustainable land/resource use		1
Urbanization		1
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation		3
Fire		1
Physical barriers		1

### Climate change

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Climate change	1	

### Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Inadequate transboundary management	2	
Inadequate legislation	2	
Lack of knowledge	2	
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	2	

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

>>> FED : Lack of knowledge on the role of the Belgian North Sea for CMS listed species e.g. as feeding or breeding ground for certain shark species during certain periods of the year.

Belgium is a partner in the Elasmon project where sharks and rays are tagged as much as possible to gain a better insight into their distribution, hot spots and possible maternity areas.

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?  
CMS Article III(4)(b) states 'Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor...to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species.'

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

This question is intended to specifically report on any new legislation or domestic measures **addressing obstacles to migration**. Relevant information would not include general conservation measures.

No

## XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

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

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

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

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

Aquatic mammals

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

Birds

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

## XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

XII.5. Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> KMGBF, Nature Restoration Law, Regional ecological network

### XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

XIII.1. Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified (e.g. by an inventory) in your country?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species. It is left to report compilers to work with any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement.

Helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the Resolution **Res. 14.16** (Ecological Connectivity) and in “**Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species**” presented to COP11 and the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention. For sharks and rays please refer to <https://sharkrayareas.org>. For marine mammals, please refer to <https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas/>.

Partially - to a large extent

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

>>> In all regions: the Natura 2000 migratory species and their habitats are protected by the Nature Conservation Law.

For migratory fish, management plans are prepared in the context of the Water framework Directive and include priority watercourses for which fish circulation is one of the priorities. Many migratory species are covered by Natura 2000 conservation measures.

The designation of the Natura 2000 sites for the protection of priority species and habitats as meant by the Birds and Habitats Directives (covers 220 944 ha for 240 sites in the Walloon Region which corresponds to approximately 13 % of the territory, ca 164.000 ha in Flanders covering ca 12,3%). The designation of sites happened in the period 1996-2002. The network is mainly based on the hydrological network. Wetlands are therefore well represented which is in favor of many migratory waterbirds. New Nature reserves are created each year with Regional budgets. The selection of the location of these new reserves is based on the presence of one or more threatened species, on the presence of high number of species or on the occurrence of a rare habitat. These Nature reserves contribute to increase the protected area’s network, which is very important for migratory species.

In Wallonia, many caves are protected via the “underground caves of scientific interest” status, in Flanders fortresses and old buildings, in order to preserve wintering/summering sites for bats. New nature reserves also contribute to increase the number of feeding sites and habitats for bats.

Brussels: the designation of Natura 2000 sites for the protection of priority species and habitats, according to the Habitats Directive, covers 2334 ha for 48 sites (3 Special Sites for Conservation) in the Brussels Region, which corresponds to approximately 14% of the territory. These SSC include sites for migratory bird species and bats.

Addressing conservation measures outside Natura 2000 remains a challenge in Belgium, due to high urbanization and agricultural practices. For species with a wide distribution outside Natura 2000, especially migratory species, specific species protection programs have to be adopted first, which requires wide consultation of other authorities, land owners and users.

Addressing the main gaps outside Natura 2000 by mainstreaming biodiversity concerns in relevant sectors remains a challenge in Belgium. This includes mainstreaming biodiversity in production and consumption patterns, in land use planning and in urbanization.

FED : In the Belgian Part or the North Sea 5 Natura 2000 sites are designated (covering 37%) and since 21 December 2001 there is a Royal decree on species protection.

A 3-year study is being conducted on the distribution of twaite shads. This study, based on tagging as many twaite shads as possible, should give us input on which zones in the marine waters we may need to provide extra protection.

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

Partly / for some areas

Please provide details:

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

The “contribution” may relate to habitat types, and/or geographical coverage/distribution factors, and/or coverage of particular priority species or species groups, and/or factors concerning functional connectivity, and/or any other factor considered relevant to the conservation of migratory species.

The “contribution” may relate to the use of the identified **Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)** ([www.marinemammalhabitat.org](http://www.marinemammalhabitat.org)) and support to identification of new **Important Shark and Ray areas (ISRAs)** (<https://sharkrayareas.org>).

Regarding Birds of Prey, the “contribution” may relate to the Internationally Important Raptors Sites (relevant to the

range of the Raptors MOU, as sites listed in table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU).

(If you have information on assessments of management effectiveness, please do not include that here, but provide it instead in your response to question XIII.4).

>>> Through the international waterbird censuses there is a good view on which areas are important for which wintering species and how much individuals (proportion of the population). The most important wintering waterbird areas have been designated as N2000-SPA, although several areas are not covered that might also meet the criteria of Important Bird Area (IBA). The existing IBA-list needs however an update. For the AEWA Convention, a list of sites was compiled in 2020 to inventory those nationally and internationally important for migratory waterbird species. This list includes Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Important Bird Areas and CSN sites. The total area covered by these sites is 334,180 hectares.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds - rationaleMOP9\\_reporting.docx](#)  
[Belgium - AEWA waterbird sites inventory def v2.xlsx](#)

XIII.3. Has your country adopted any new legislation or other domestic measures in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4) (a) ("Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor ... to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction")?

No

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

Partly / for some areas

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

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Even outside of habitats of Community Interest, species of Community Interest (N2000) are also assessed. These are known as the habitats of N2000 species.

FED : The prohibition to fish inside the Belgian offshore windfarms

WL: effective area-based conservation measures are conducted mainly in forest ecosystems notably via 'pro sylva', forest areas with specific biodiversity conservation plans and hydromorphological soils protection.

FL: forests with management plan complying with FSC label, areas with approved 'management vision and implementation measures', parks with management plans, areas with long term agri-environment contracts.

Continuous wetland restoration in the framework of the SIGMA-project along the tidal part of the Scheldt River and its tributaries.

## XIV. Ecosystem Services

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

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

No

## **XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity**

XV.1. Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity in your country?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Strategies to be considered under this section do not necessarily have to specifically address migratory species but be of sufficient relevance in relation to the objective of safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild populations.

No

## XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

XVI.1. Does your country's National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan (NBSAP), or other relevant plans or strategies used in your country, explicitly address obligations under CMS, priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and ecological connectivity?

Yes

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

>>> Updated Belgian National Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 | Convention on Biological Diversity

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

[Updated Belgian National Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 | Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> Objective 2: study, monitor and address key direct drivers of biodiversity loss

Target 3: Protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in Belgium to a favourable conservation status

Target 11: Ensure coherent implementation of biodiversity-related commitments and agreements, and between them

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

>>> The updated strategy has been prepared for a 6-year period (2025-2030). Monitoring of progress and obstacles to implementation of the NBS will be included in national reports to the CBD. Information on the implementation of the NBS is also published on the website of the Belgian Clearing House Mechanism for the CBD ([www.biodiv.be](http://www.biodiv.be)). Many different actors need to play an active role in implementing the strategy: ministries and governments, advisory bodies, research institutes, NGOs, information centres, individuals and communities, etc. A variety of activities will have to be carried out simultaneously in different sectors and - after further consultation and coordination - at different administrative levels.

With respect to migratory species, (birds and bats, but also insects and marine animals), the action plan specifically mentions light pollution as having a significant impact on biodiversity by disrupting the rhythms and delicate behaviour of many species, including the potential of this leading to changing migration patterns. To mitigate these effects, it is highlighted that a light pollution action plan, with objectives such as reducing unnecessary light sources and incorporating up-to-date maps of darkness requirements into government departments' planning processes, could significantly accelerate the implementation of effective measures to protect nocturnal biodiversity. Linking the street lighting master plan to environmental and wildlife legislation is crucial to ensure consistency in protection efforts.

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

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

>>> FED : Contribution to the initiative of the Netherlands to develop a SSAP for the NE Atlantic population of tope shark. Cooperation in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EC) and the OSPAR Commission.

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

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

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

Not applicable

XVII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Not applicable

## **XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building**

XVIII.1 During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in the area of knowledge, data and capacity building? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP**

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

### **Public awareness campaigns**

>>> See 2017 report.

### **Capacity building**

>>> Capacity building through Natura 2000 projects.

### **Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives**

>>> Information sessions and data-sharing activities through Natura 2000 projects.

### **Capacity assessments/gap analyses**

>>> Gap analyses for species are known via the N2000 report.

XVIII.3 What assistance (if any) does your country require in order to build sufficient capacity to implement its obligations under the CMS and relevant Resolutions of the COP?

(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation
- Mobilizing volunteer effort (e.g. citizen science)

## **XIX. Resource Mobilization**

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes, made available for activities within the country

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

The same

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

Yes

Please select the source(s) concerned (select all that apply):

Other

>>> EU financial instruments (LIFE, INTERREG)

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

Decreased

XIX.3. Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please consider answers provided in HLS.3 when answering this question where appropriate, as they may be of relevance.

>>> Area based management, tackling pollution, climate change.