



**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):

>>> Adoption of new national nature targets (2025): The Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted new nature targets in May 2025. These targets will serve as the foundation for the preparation of the new Biodiversity Strategy.

Designation of new marine protected areas (2025): With the adoption of the Regulation on Amendments to the Regulation on the Ecological Network and the Responsibilities of Public Institutions for Managing Ecological Network Areas (Official Gazette: 87/2025; correction 123/2025), Croatia has legally protected 32.4% of its marine area, a significant increase from the previous 9.8%. This demonstrates Croatia’s strong commitment to the global and EU targets for marine protection.

New marine habitat map (2023): marine habitat map covering 51% of marine habitats under national jurisdiction was completed as part of the project “Mapping of Coastal and Seabed Habitats in Waters under National Jurisdiction”. The map is available through the GIS viewer on Bioportal – the Nature Protection Information System web portal.

Development of sensitivity maps for solar and wind power (2024): The maps of the sensitivity of the Croatian territory to the development of solar and wind power plants were developed using advanced machine learning models and expert analyses. The maps enable precise risk assessments and informed decision-making on possible locations of solar and wind power plants with minimal impact on nature. The maps enable precise risk assessments and informed decision-making on potential locations for solar and wind power plants with minimal impact on nature.

Adoption of Regulation on nature restoration (2024) whose main objective is to restore ecosystems in the European Union. The Regulation requires Member States to put in place measures for ecosystems not in good condition and to prevent the deterioration of the condition of areas that have already been restored or that are in good condition. Restoration priorities will be addressed by preparing national restoration plans in upcoming period.

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

[Sensitivity maps for solar and wind power](#) - layer Karte osjetljivosti RH za VE i SE

[Marine habitat map](#) - layer Karta morskih staništa 2023

[Ecological network Natura 2000](#) - layer Ekološka mreža Natura 2000

[National nature targets](#)

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

>>> Detecting the scope and intensity of the impact of global climate change.

Reducing all manageable anthropogenic pressures to levels not detrimental to the species.

Insufficient capacities for long-term continuous monitoring of migratory species status (including status of the habitat for the species), and especially conservation trends.

Insufficient capacities for surveillance of illegal activities (poaching, poisoning etc.) and further prosecution.

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

>>> 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

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.

Target 6: 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.

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.

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.

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of the Party

>>> Croatia

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

>>> 01102000

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> /

### **Report compiler**

Name and title

>>> /

Full name of institution

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

Name and title of designated Focal Point

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### **Representative on the Scientific Council**

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## II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

Please confirm the status of your country's participation in the following Agreements/MOUs, and indicate any updates or corrections required:

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

*Please select only one per line*

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

### III. Species on the Convention Appendices

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

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

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

#### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

No, amendments are needed for the following species:

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Croatia.xlsx](#)

#### **Common Eider / Somateria mollissima**

Select occurrence of Common Eider / Somateria mollissima

Present

Provide evidence (optional)

>>> Tomik A.,S. Barišić (2024): RARE BIRDS IN CROATIA, THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE CROATIAN BIRDS RARITIES COMMITTEE. Larus Vol. 59. (<https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/467399>)

## 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.

>>> Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19, 155/23); Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG No. 144/13 and 73/16)

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

No

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
- Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
- Press and media coverage
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites
- Other (please specify)

### **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.

>>> As part of the project "Development of management framework for Natura 2000 ecological network", implementation of the national campaign "Voice of Nature" focused on raising the awareness of general public on the importance of nature conservation, with extensive TV campaign, billboards and dedicated webpage (<https://glasprirode.hr/>).

Within the projects focused on improvement and increase of the capacity of the rescue centers for wild animals various communication, awareness raising and education activities have been implemented. Marine Educational Centre Pula raises public awareness on sea turtle conservation through organized visits of the Centre and sea turtle release events. These events are held in June, marking the World sea turtle day and are promoted through media, educational material and directly, by informing participants. In the centre there is a permanent exhibition about sea turtles and lectures for stakeholders are held (school children, students, adults etc.).

Lošinj Marine Education Centre features permanent and temporary exhibitions as well as interactive multimedia presentations. It regularly hosts workshops and lectures for visitors addressing different interests and catering for various age groups. It is the focal point for presentation of the Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation work, a tourist attraction, and an education hub for the region. Various public awareness and educational activities are carried out: The Dolphins Day is celebrated every year in Veli Lošinj since 1992 and Open Door Day was organised on June 30th 2023 and July 2, 2024. Moreover, during the entire week from June 26th to July 2nd, 2023, a Bioblitz campaign was organized, inviting all interested citizens to join the mission called 'Discover Lošinj dolphins!' via the mobile application 'Marine Ranger' by sharing photos and videos of dolphins that they had observed in the wider area of the Lošinj Natura 2000 site.

Also Blue World Institute has produced posters, t-shirts, leaflets, workbook for children about sea turtles and dolphins. Two workshops for fishermen were held in Mali Lošinj in 2023 and 2024 within the scope of the project LIFE Delfi - Lowering fishing interactions to promote dolphin watching as an activity that can replace or supplement the traditional activity of fishermen. The workshops were aimed at sharing the knowledge needed to start the activity of dolphin watching, while respecting the rules of conduct and applying good practice, i.e. to ensure the sustainable development of this activity. On July 9, 2025, in Dubrovnik, the acoustic-artistic performance "Different Waves" was held within the scope of the UNDERSEA project, using

sound and light to explore marine species and life in the noisy underwater world.

On January 15, 2025, at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, a round table “Monitoring and conservation of sentinel species – bottlenose dolphins and sea turtles in the Adriatic Sea” was held within the scope of the SAMESEA project.

In 2023, the Directorate of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture published the “Guide for Identifying and Dealing with Sensitive Species in Sea Fishing”, for the purpose of educating and familiarizing fishermen with the list of sensitive species, as well as with the obligation to report and record incidentally caught and/or killed, or injured or sick individuals of a sensitive species. It also includes a description of the procedures that must be carried out in the case of incidental catches of strictly protected marine animals. Also, Directorate of Fisheries organised several workshops on handling with sensitive species for fishermen, national observers and other stakeholders.

Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (CSO) has prepared unofficial code of conduct during the encounter with cetaceans. This code has been published on the web page of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition - Institute for Environment and Nature and disseminated to various news outlets and media platforms in the summer of 2024.

In 2023, 24 students participated in the Blue World Institute internship program. The duration of the internship ranged from 1 to 5 months. During the internship, large marine vertebrates research methods, data collection and analysis, and ways of presenting and communicating results to target groups were demonstrated to all students. As part of the internship program, 2 diploma thesis have been prepared. In 2024, 22 students participated in the Blue World Institute internship program. During the internship, large marine vertebrates research methods, data collection and analysis, and ways of presenting and communicating results to target groups were demonstrated to all students. As part of the internship program, 3 diploma thesis have been prepared.

Through LIFE Artina project “Seabird Conservation Network in the Adriatic” (started in September 2018 and ended in August 2023), the Association Sunce and the Public Institution Nature Park Lastovo Islands designed and implemented an educational program called “The Seabirds” in cooperation with kindergartens and schools from Lastovo, Vis and Korcula islands. Based on the experience, the Association Sunce decided to organize the workshop “Cooperation of the civil sector, public institutions for the management of protected areas and educational institutions based on the example of the educational activities of the LIFE Artina project” in order to answer the question how to achieve cooperation between the local community, educational institutions and civil sector through an educational program. In addition, several project publications are available: light pollution leaflets (English version), poster and magnets about the marine litter problem and 3D seabird models (Audouin’s gull, Scopoli’s shearwater, Yelkouan shearwater).

In order to preserve and improve the current state of the Griffon vulture population in Croatia, the five-year LIFE SUPport project has started in 2023. By promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and increasing the capacity of competent institutions to combat the poisoning of wild animals, cases of vulture poisoning will be prevented. An important reason why herdsmen are giving up livestock farming is the damage caused to their herds by jackals, which is also the reason for setting up poisonous baits that often kill Griffon vultures as well. The project aims to significantly reduce threats by using methods such as different types of fences, the use of dogs and cooperation with hunters.

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

[Voice of Nature](#)

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.

>>> Through the project "Development of management framework for Natura 2000 ecological network" in two waves of public opinion research on nature conservation and the ecological network during 2022 and 2023, 1,600 people were surveyed. One of the most important results of the 2023 survey compared to the survey conducted in 2022 is a significant increase in respondents' familiarity with the term "biodiversity" and its meaning. Almost two-thirds of them (63.5%) have heard of the term biodiversity and know what it means, which represents an increase of almost 12% compared to the survey conducted in 2022.

## 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.

>>> In 2021 National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia has been adopted (OG No. 13/21). One of the Strategic goals of the strategy is "Environmental and Energy Transition for Climate Neutrality", within which one of the two priority areas is "Protection of natural resources and the fight against climate change". Within this priority area public policies focused on the conservation of species and habitats within the Natura 2000 ecological network and the restoration of damaged ecosystems will be implemented, and pressures on biodiversity, especially from invasive alien species, will be removed. Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of integrated protection and management of the marine environment and coastal area will be improved.

In 2021 Croatia has declared the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Adriatic Sea (EEZ) (Official Gazette 10/21) with a obligation to develop marine Spatial plan for EEZ in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2014/89/EU. Preparation of the Spatial Plan of the EEZ has been initiated and will include different features including protected marine areas and conservation of species. New Natura 2000 sites (2025) have been designated for protection of sea turtles, dolphins and sea birds, both in the exclusive economic zone and territorial waters and will be integrated in the Plan.

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:

>>> Croatia regularly reports to IWC if the reporting topic is applicable to Croatia, and if not we provide explanation why the report does not apply to Croatia. As regards CITES, Croatia regularly provides annual trade reports and biannual implementation reports to CITES Secretariat, as well as illegal trade reports and data on illegal wildlife trade, including ETIS data collection report, data for the WCO CEN database and EUTWIX Network. For reporting period 2022-2023 Croatia has updated UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Reporting including Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).

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.

>>> In Croatia, many non-governmental organizations are involved in the conservation of migratory species by implementing conservation and restoration activities, research, monitoring, education, involvement of local community and stakeholders and raising of public awareness. Some of them are listed below:

Association for Animal protection, Ruščica

Association- BIOM - research, monitoring, conservation of birds and their habitats

Association for Bat Conservation Tragus (ABC Tragus) - research, monitoring, conservation of bats and their habitats

AWAP- Association for wild animal protection, Zagreb

Biology Students Association BIUS, Bird Group, Bat Group - research, monitoring, conservation of birds, bats and their habitats

Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation, Veli Lošinj (BWI) - research, monitoring, conservation of cetaceans, marine turtles and other endangered large marine vertebrates and their habitats

Centre for Nature Research and Conservation Fokus - research, monitoring, conservation of bats and their habitats

Croatian Biospeleological Society (CBSS) - research, monitoring, conservation of bats and their habitats

Croatian Society for the Conservation of Birds and Nature, Zagreb Osijek - research, monitoring, conservation of birds and their habitats

Grifon - Birds of Prey Conservation Centre - research, monitoring, conservation of the Griffon Vulture  
Marine Educational Centre Pula (MEC Pula) (<http://www.aquarium.hr/>) - conservation (primarily rehabilitation) of marine turtles  
WWF Adria- conservation of Angelshark *Squatina squatina*, monitoring activities and awareness raising programs  
Raptor Rescue Croatia - Falconry, conservation of birds of prey, wildlife hospital, education and research, Dubrava - Šibenik  
The Association of Environmental Protection "Val", Zagreb (<http://val-nature.hr/>)- scientific research, popularization and education of marine mammals

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

>>> Small scale grant schemes not specifically targeted, but may include migratory species.

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.

>>> Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) is carried out for strategies, plans, programs and projects that might have significant impact on ecological network. When it comes to strategies, plans and programmes, ENIA is performed within the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In such a manner, already in the early planning stages, favourable solutions are chosen in order to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts on the environment and nature. When it comes to projects, ENIA is performed either as an independent procedure, or within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These procedures are being harmonized with the obligations stemming from international agreements, among other CMS, and with the obligations stemming from the EU legislation. If the ENIA concludes that the negative impact can not be excluded, mitigation measures are prescribed in relation to conservation objectives for the areas of the ecological network.

As part of the project "Development of management framework for Natura 2000 ecological network", monitoring was carried out on the effectiveness of measures for the preservation of freshwater ecosystems and a Manual for the application of measures to preserve freshwater ecosystems (2022) was created, which is also accompanied by the Field Manual (2022). These Manuals are based on analysis of individual experts (biologists, hydrotechnicians, experts for individual taxonomic groups), results of research on plant and animal taxonomic groups for typical works of mowing, felling and debris removal, and previous experiences of all stakeholders in the implementation of ENIA, the program of maintenance work in the area of protection against the harmful effects of water and application of the nature protection requirements. Measures listed in the Manual are also based on the results of interdisciplinary working meetings with all stakeholders, i.e. expert institutions, authorities responsible for the evaluation, implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the water maintenance program, as well as on the analysis of expert opinions and solutions as well as experiences from other EU Member States.

Guidelines for assessing and mitigating the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals and sea turtles in procedures Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment for strategies, plans and programs and Ecological Network Impact Assessment (2022) has been developed. These guidelines refer to the UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.11 Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc38/Annex15/Res.7.13 - Anthropogenic noise. Guidelines (Croatian only) can be found at the following link:

[https://www.haop.hr/sites/default/files/uploads/uploads/specifichni-dokumenti/dokumenti/Smjernice\\_buka\\_MINGOR\\_2022.pdf](https://www.haop.hr/sites/default/files/uploads/uploads/specifichni-dokumenti/dokumenti/Smjernice_buka_MINGOR_2022.pdf)

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

[Anthropogenic noise Guidelines](#) - Croatian language

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.

>>> Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Republic of Croatia for the period up to 2040 with a view to

2070 was adopted in 2020 (OG No. 46/20). It is the first strategic document that provides an assessment of climate change for Croatia by the end of 2040 and 2070, possible impacts and vulnerability assessments. The goal of the Strategy is to raise awareness of the importance and threats of climate change for society and the necessity of integrating the concept of adaptation to climate change into existing and new policies, in order to reduce the vulnerability of the environment, economy and society caused by climate change. In addition, the goal is to stimulate scientific research in order to better understand the complexity of the impacts of climate change and reduce the degree of uncertainty related to the effects of climate change. The strategy contains climate projections in Croatia for the year 2040 with a view to the year 2070, taking into account the following climate parameters: precipitation, snow cover, surface runoff, air temperature, extreme weather conditions, wind, evapotranspiration, air humidity, soil humidity, solar radiation and mean sea level. The Strategy also shows the sector's vulnerability to climate change, among which eight key sectors (water resources; agriculture; forestry; fisheries; biodiversity; energy; tourism and health) and two cross-sectoral thematic areas (spatial planning and development and risk management) were selected. For them, 83 adaptation measures to climate change are listed, which are divided into five groups and for which estimates of the necessary amounts and sources of financing by sector are highlighted. The priority measures related to biodiversity amongst others include improving knowledge and creating databases to assess the vulnerability of (pre)natural ecosystems, habitats, wild species, protected areas and ecological network areas for the purpose of improving predictive models, establishment of a system for monitoring climate factors and early warning for protected areas and ecological network areas and for monitoring ecosystems, habitats and wild species and development and implementation of measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems, habitats and species.

The Revised Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2021-2030 (NECP) from March 2025 provides an overview of the current energy system and the energy and climate policy. It also provides an overview of the national targets for each of the five key dimensions of the Energy Union and the appropriate policies and measures to achieve those targets. Particular attention is paid to the targets to be achieved by 2030, which include the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, energy from renewable sources (RES), energy efficiency and electricity interconnection. The NECP was revised to enable the implementation of the new energy and climate EU legislative package "Fit for 55" and Croatia to make a proportionate contribution to the common EU goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by -55% by 2030 compared to 1990. Croatia's long-term goal, as well as the EU's goal, is to set itself on the path to achieving climate net neutrality by 2050. As a part of the measure "Analysis of the existing state of spatial capacities, defining guidelines and criteria for specific spatial planning elements for RES planning at the state, county and local level." identification and mapping of spatial, environmental (bio-ecological, landscape, geological) and social (use of space) and infrastructural constraints, and the sensitivity of space for plant construction and operation is envisaged to be carried out, given the characteristics of existing and advanced RES utilization technologies, which should produce the map of sensitivity areas for various species, including migratory ones. New measure in the revised NECP is development of sensitivity maps for RES accommodation and systems for energy storage, with a focus on wind and solar power plants, for the entire Republic of Croatia, i.e. defining the so-called Renewable acceleration areas (RAA) areas according to the Communication from the European Commission "REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy". In addition, professional education and encouragement of cross-sectoral cooperation of experts in the field of spatial planning, nature and environment protection, energy and other experts relevant to the spatial planning and development of RES projects is also planned. More information on the Revised NECP is available on the MEPGT webpage (Croatian only), where English version of the Plan is also available.

The maps of the sensitivity of the Croatian territory to the development of solar and wind power plants (December 2024) are the result of cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition (MEPGT), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Hrvoje Požar Energy Institute. They were developed using advanced machine learning models and expert analyses, and during their creation, about a million animal observations and modelled distribution predictions for more than 350 species were processed, after which the input models were validated and selected by experts for vulnerable groups such as birds, bats and large carnivores. The maps enable precise risk assessments and informed decision-making on possible locations of solar and wind power plants with minimal impact on nature. The maps reflect the relative sensitivity of selected elements of nature to non-integrated solar photovoltaic power plants larger than 1 MW and to wind power plants and are designed as a quick and pragmatic way to assess the described sensitivity. They were created to answer the question: "In which area within the Republic of Croatia can we expect the highest or lowest conflicts with nature when planning the location of wind and solar power plants?" More information on the sensitivity maps, guidelines for their use and layers is available on the MEPGT webpage (Croatian only) and <https://bioportal.hr/gis/> (layer group Karte osjetljivosti RH za VE i SE).

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

[Sensitivity maps for solar and wind power](#) - layer: Karte osjetljivosti RH za VE i SE

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> Measures and guidelines against electrocution, such as bird-safe insulation of electricity pylons, bird exclusion device, artificial bird safe perch, medium voltage lines placed underground, are integrated in the internal working documents of HEP Group - national energy company (HEP-ODS). In 2024, HEP ODS signed a contract for the allocation of grants under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Modernization of

the Croatian Distribution Network project (“Modernization of the Network within the Natura 2000 Area”). One of the key activities of this project is the modernization of the network in Natura 2000 areas. The total eligible cost of this activity amounts to EUR 49.1 million, of which 93.7% is covered by grants. The modernization work includes the design, construction, and reconstruction/modification of the overhead power network, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Republic of Croatia.

The international LIFE Danube Free Sky project (cofinanced by LIFE Programme) primary objective is to contribute to the EU’s strategic biodiversity goals. By reducing bird mortality caused by power lines in 22 Natura 2000 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), the project aims to ensure a safer migration route along the Danube and improve the survival rates of 19 priority bird species. HEP ODS participates in the project by implementing measures to reduce bird electrocution and collisions with power lines in the Elektroslavonija Osijek area, within Kopački Rit Nature Park. This is achieved by installing insulation equipment on pole-mounted transformer stations, adding optical diverters to 35 kV overhead lines, and replacing bare conductors with insulated ones on 10(20) kV overhead lines.

The LIFE SUPport project, with a total value of EUR 2.2 million (cofinanced by LIFE Programme)—aims to enhance the protection of griffon vultures and improve their nesting conditions in Croatia. HEP ODS is participating as one of the project’s beneficiary partners, with the goal of implementing mitigation measures to prevent bird electrocution. HEP ODS activities are being carried out in the Elektroprimorje Rijeka area and involve installing bird protection measures on 200 poles of the overhead medium-voltage network.

## VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

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

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> In order to ensure synergies between biodiversity conservation and forest management, amendments to forestry and nature protection legislation prescribe that forest management plans covering sites within the ecological network are also recognized as ecological network management plans. By August 2025, a total of 360 such plans have been developed through close cooperation between the forestry and nature conservation sectors, particularly concerning the planned activities needed to achieve the conservation objectives of forest ecosystems. The plans prepared so far cover 70.08% of the terrestrial area of the Natura 2000 ecological network.

In order to contribute to the EU target of protecting at least 30% of EU seas and the global “30 by 30” target under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 3), Croatia launched a national process in 2021 to identify new areas for marine spatial protection. This process involved broad stakeholder engagement, including experts from the nature conservation sector, NGOs, scientists, and scientific institutions. In 2025, through the adoption of the Regulation on Amending the Regulation on the Ecological Network and the Competencies of Public Institutions for the Management of Ecological Network Areas (Official Gazette, No. 87/2025), the ecological network was expanded to include areas important for species and habitat types such as *Posidonia oceanica* meadows (habitat type 1120\*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), and Cory’s shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). As a result, Croatia has legally protected 32.4% of its marine area, up from 9.8%, clearly demonstrating its strong commitment to achieving EU and global biodiversity protection targets.

Within project “Development of management framework for Natura 2000 ecological network”, management plans for Natura 2000 ecological network sites were developed. In total, management plans for ecological network Natura 2000 sites are in place for 65% of the total area of the ecological network. These Plans are available on the MEPGT website. <https://mingo.gov.hr/o-ministarstvu-1065/djelokrug-4925/zastita-prirode/ekoloska-mreza-natura-2000/projekt-razvoj-okvira-za-upravljanje-ekoloskom-mrezom-natura-2000/5990>

In 2021, the Jabuka/Pomo Pit was permanently protected as an area of limited fishing FRA (Fisheries Restricted Area) through GFCM, which is an important step for the restoration of the entire ecosystem, as well as for the increase of biomass species whose life cycle is linked to that area. It is being recognized across the region as a model for cooperation and efficient spatial management.

In 2025, as contribution to the implementation of single species action plan for the angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea, Croatia has prepared brief report on the implementation of activities conducted and plans to support and undertake scientific studies, including data collection and liaison with the fishing sector, to improve scientific knowledge of Angelsharks *Squatina squatina*.

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

3. Good contribution

Please describe how this assessment was made

>>> Best expert judgement.

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:

>>> National working group (2025) for preparation on new Biodiversity Strategy (2025) has been established.

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:

>>> In Croatia, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, Nature Protection Directorate, is competent national authority for nature protection. For that reason focal points of the CMS and other relevant Conventions (CBD, CITES, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, etc.) are within the Nature Protection Directorate or the Institute for Environment and Natura (ACCOBAMS) of the Ministry.

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

No

## VIII. Incentives

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

No, but there is scope to do so

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

Partly / in some areas

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

>>> In order to enable sustainable development of the fisheries sector, various support models are available on an annual basis through state grants. Compensations for damages caused by mammals are granted as compensation for damage on catches of sole fish, bogue, red mullet, mackerel, gilthead, muzzle, saddled seabream and cuttlefish, which are caused by dolphins on single and triple gillnets or bottom trawls. The compensation is granted on the basis of the Ordinance on the conditions, criteria and method of granting support under the support program for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems and for compensation schemes under sustainable fishing activities - compensation for damage caused by protected marine mammals (OG No. 101/2024).

Compensation for damage and/or lost profit caused by various types of birds and other animals on carpfish ponds. The compensation is granted on the basis of the Ordinance on the conditions, criteria and method of granting state aid for damage from various species of birds and other animals on carpfish ponds (OG No. 46/2021)

Under the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020 Measure 10 "Payment for Agri-environment-climate commitments" comprises 16 types of operations. The aim of the type of operation 10.1.3 "Preservation of high nature value grasslands" is to maintain high nature value grasslands, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and prevent further loss of habitats. This Program will be implemented until the end of 2025.

Under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2023-2027, the type of operation 10.1.3. has continued as the interventions 31.02. Extensive pasture management and 31.07 Preservation of high nature value grassland.

## IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

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

In development / planned

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

>>> Croatia reported on SDG 12.1 (to implement the 10-Year Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programs) in 2022. The results of this reporting are available at the One Planet network platform at the following link: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/countries/europe-and-central-asia/croatia>

## 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	/ Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	2
Illegal hunting	/ Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	2
Other harvesting and take	/	/
Illegal trade	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	2
Deliberate poisoning	Appendix II Bird species	3

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

>>> The Socioeconomic analysis of illegal killing and capturing of birds in Croatia ( URL:<https://www.biom.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Hendal-istrazivanje-stavova-lovaca-o-krivolovu-2024.-1.pdf> ) was conducted in 2024 for the Biom Association by the market and public opinion research agency. The analysis consisted of two parts – a survey of hunters’ perceptions and a desktop study. The study pointed out the causes of poaching, which should make it easier to combat poaching.

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

##### GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> /

#### Unintentional Taking

	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>
Bycatch	2	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic Mammals; Reptiles; Fish species
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	3	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic Mammals; Reptiles; Fish species
Other forms of unintentional taking	2	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic Mammals; Reptiles; Fish species

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.

>>> At national level, sporadic data on bycatch is collected through the National Stranding Network (non-systematic data). From 2019 fishing sector has the obligation to record and to report bycatch of endangered species, through Croatian national data collection programme conducted by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (systematic data). Data collection in fisheries in Croatia is formally carried out by the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries. Authorized scientific observers are monitoring the incidental catch of vulnerable and protected species (turtles, cetaceans, birds, elasmobranchs). Monitoring is carried out on-board fishing vessels and at landing places, while additional methodologies such as questionnaires and video recordings are implemented to increase sampling coverage (self-sampling by fishers during hauling operations on trawlers). In 2021 implementation of regular monitoring of accidental catches of sensitive species (including cetaceans) started in commercial fishing and during the big game fishing competition, as part of the national plan for collecting data in the fisheries.

Improvements of the National Work Plan for Data Collection in Fisheries have been implemented and adopted by COM in December 2024. Methodology and coverage of bycatch monitoring for gears having higher potential risk of bycatch, has been significantly improved and is in line with the recommended coverage according to the FAO methodology agreed at level of GFCM and EU Member States, but until now it has not resulted in an adequate level of data for assessment purposes. There are many activities ongoing to strengthen the capacities of scientific observers and to educate fishermen on the identification and handling of protected species.

Dedicated training for scientific observers for species identification and handling should be reinforced (first regional training course for scientific observers was held in February 2022) and continued regularly.

<https://www.fao.org/gfcm/news/detail/en/c/1468852/>

Directorate of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery published a Guide for identifying and dealing with sensitive species in sea fishing (2023)

([https://ribarstvo.mps.hr/UserDocsImages/publikacije/publikacije/VODI%C4%8C%20OSJETLJIVE%20VRSTE\\_eng.pdf](https://ribarstvo.mps.hr/UserDocsImages/publikacije/publikacije/VODI%C4%8C%20OSJETLJIVE%20VRSTE_eng.pdf)) in 2023. The Guide was created for the purpose of educating and familiarizing fishermen with the list of sensitive species, as well as with the obligation to report and record incidentally caught and/or killed, or injured or sick individuals of a sensitive species. It also includes a description of the procedures that must be carried out in the case of incidental catches of strictly protected marine animals. Also, Directorate of Fisheries organised several workshops on handling with sensitive species for fishermen, national observers and other stakeholders.

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).

>>> /

**Collisions and electrocution**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Wind turbines	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	3
Other collisions	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	3
Electrocution	Appendix I and Appendix II Birds species/ Appendix II Bat species	3
Vessel strikes		

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

>>> In 2024 and 2025, a project procurement plan for the project “Modernization of the Network within the Natura 2000 Area” was developed and procurement procedures were initiated. During this period, several network modernization projects were implemented (30 pole-mounted transformer stations were insulated, 10 km of existing overhead line was replaced by underground cable), with a total value of EUR 1.54 million (covering the cost of materials and works by external contractors). Within LIFE Danube Free Sky Project, in 2024 and 2025, insulation equipment was installed at 91 pole-mounted transformer stations, and 41 km of 10(20) kV overhead lines with bare conductors were replaced with insulated conductors. Within LIFE SUPport Project in 2024, activities were carried out to survey the medium-voltage overhead network and determine the technical characteristics of each pole location where mitigation measures will be implemented (more than 200 poles). The preparation of documentation for public procurement is currently underway.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans) and Decision 14.48.

>>> /

**Other mortality**

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

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

>>> /

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of of Migratory Species), Res. **12.6** (Rev.COP14) (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. 14.18 Avian influenza and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

>>> In 2023, at least two *Sterna hirundo* colonies were affected by the HPAI, including 90-100 breeding pairs. Both colonies were abandoned, and while mortality rate was not known, in 2024 one was not active, and in the other number of pairs decreased to 40% of the number in the previous year.

### 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	Appendix II Bird species	3

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

>>> Two projects related to the management of invasive alien species have been implemented by the Ministry. Project "Establishment of the National Monitoring System for Invasive Alien Species" (implementation time: 2017-2021), had the objective to establish monitoring and citizen science programs. Mobile application has been developed and all relevant stakeholders are informed on the importance of reporting IAS observations as well as educated on the use of application. Also, a web page "Invasive species in Croatia" (<https://invazivnevrste.haop.hr/>), with information on invasive alien species, risk assessments, legal framework, ongoing activities and educational materials has been developed through this project. Project "Development of the Management and Control system for Invasive Alien Species" (implementation time: 2017-2022) had the objective to contribute to the development of IAS management and control systems through the development of planning acts for IAS management. In accordance with Art. 13 of Regulation (EU) no. 1143/14 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, two action plans were established: Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species by transport and Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species by spontaneous spread. The aim of this action plans was to address the priority pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species of Union concern in Croatia and focus on activities that will prevent the spread. Also, three management plans for widely spread invasive animals in Croatia (sliders *Trachemys scripta*, signal crayfish and small Indian mongoose), two management plans for widely spread invasive plants in Croatia (Himalayan balsam and common milkweed) and manual on the recognition and management of invasive alien species were developed through this project. Additionally number of individual projects have been implemented, particularly with the financial support of EU funds (LIFE programme, Interreg) and the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund for the implementation of eradication measures at priority sites, and the strengthening of capacities of experts for control and monitoring activities. Detailed overview of the implemented projects, their objectives, and results is available <https://invazivnevrste.haop.hr/ias-projekti>.

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).

>>> /

### 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	Appendix II Bat species	3

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

>>> Activities initiated by Ministry to regulate visiting of under and overground bat roosts by researchers and experts, especially in internationally important sites. Public institutions in charge of management of MPAs and Natura 2000 sites are responsible for implementation of conservation measures for important bat roosts in those areas including regulation of disturbance/disruption.

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**.

>>> /

**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	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Reptile species	3
Underwater noise	Appendix II Bat species, Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Reptile species, Fish, Bird Species	2
Other pollution	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Reptile, Fish; Bird species	2
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

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

>>> SOUNDSCAPE project was implemented until 2021, with the overall aim to create a cross-border (IT-HR) technical, scientific and institutional cooperation to face together the challenge of assessing the impact of underwater environmental noise on the marine fauna. It was pursued in three ways: implementing a shared monitoring network for a coordinated regional and transnational assessment of the underwater noise, evaluating the noise impact on marine biological resources, developing and implementing a planning tool for straightforward management

Guidelines for assessing and mitigating the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals and sea turtles in procedures Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment for strategies, plans and programs and Ecological Network Impact Assessment (2022) has been developed. These guidelines refer to the UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.11 Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc38/Annex15/Res.7.13 - Anthropogenic noise.

The MEPGT is currently collecting Lighting Plans and Action Plans for the construction and/or reconstruction of outdoor lighting. The local governments and the City of Zagreb are obliged to develop a lighting plan for their area, and the local government, the City of Zagreb, or the outdoor lighting operator is obliged to adopt an action plan. After collecting all Lighting Plans, we will have a zero state, or a picture of how much light pollution there really is in the Republic of Croatia.

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).

>>> /

**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	Appendix II Birds, Bat species	3
Habitat degradation	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	3
Mineral exploration/extraction	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	2
Unsustainable land/resource use	Appendix II Bat species	3
Urbanization	Appendix II Bird, Bat species	3
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation	Appendix II Bat species	3
Fire	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species, Appendix II Bat Species	2
Physical barriers	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species/ Appendix II Bat species	2

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

>>> Through the management plans for Natura 2000 ecological network sites, which cover 65% of the total area of the ecological network, measures aimed at the conservation of habitats and species have been established.

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> /

**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	2	Appendix II Bird, Bat species

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

>>> Strategic and legislative framework related to climate change adaptation and mitigation has been established and the relevant information is available at the following link: <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/countries-regions/countries/croatia>

Increasing the information network for monitoring climate changes in different ecosystems (e.g. through climate adaptation projects financed from EU funds - open call "Scheme for strengthening applied research for climate change adaptation measures" for projects that carry out applied research for adaptation measures to climate change.

Participation of Croatian MPAs in the MedAdapt project through which an online platform was developed to help MPAs adapt to climate change <https://mpa-adapt.interreg-med.eu/news-events/news/detail/actualites/climate-change-platform-for-mediterranean-mpas-launched/>

Implementation of projects, i.e. activities of developing a system for monitoring the state of species conservation, which also includes monitoring of pressures and threats such as climate change and their impact on the state of species.

Establishing and strengthening the monitoring of the introduction of alien species as a consequence of climate change as a pressure or threat to migratory species, among others development of an Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species by transport and Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species by spontaneous spread, Monitoring the appearance of alien species that cause damage to forest ecosystems, which automatically affects the weakening of habitats for species, including migratory ones.

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Decision **14.211** (Climate change and Migratory Species).

>>> /

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

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

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

>>> Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration was adopted in June 2024 and entered into force for all EU Member States, including Croatia, on 19 August 2024. The aim of the regulation is to restore ecosystems in the European Union, namely to restore at least 20% of the degraded land and 20 % of degraded sea of the EU by 2030, and by 2050 all degraded ecosystems in the EU. The core of the Regulation are Articles 4 and 5, which state that Member States must take measures to restore habitats listed in Annexes I and II to the Regulation that are in not in good condition, on land and at sea. A certain percentage of restoration must be achieved in a given period (30% by 2030, 50% by 2040 and 90% by 2050). At the same time, Member States must take measures to prevent the deterioration of the condition of areas that have already been restored or that are in good condition. In addition to these habitat-specific targets, which should focus on ecological network areas by 2030, the Regulation further defines specific requirements for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in agricultural, forest and urban ecosystems, rivers and floodplains as well as wild pollinators.

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

>>> /

**Other (please specify)**

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

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

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

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes

Please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

>>> According to Article 9 of Regulation on nature restoration, Member States shall make an inventory of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters, identify the barriers that need to be removed by 2030 and remove the artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters identified in the inventory while primarily addressing obsolete barriers, namely those that are no longer needed for renewable energy generation, inland navigation, water supply, flood protection or other uses. Member States shall complement the removal of artificial barriers by the measures necessary to improve the natural functions of the related floodplains and ensure that the natural connectivity of restored rivers and related floodplains are maintained. In order to contribute to river connectivity, in 2023 "Improve River LIFE - Improving degree of conservation of Natura 2000 target species and habitat types through improvement of river connectivity" has started which will provide the list of the priority barriers on the rivers in Croatia that need to be removed/adjusted. The database is available on <https://bioportal.hr/gis/> (layer Baza prepreka RH).

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

[Database of barriers](#) - layer Baza prepreka RH

## XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			
	RE	There are no confirmed specimens since 2014.	Antolović, J., Frković, A., Grubešić, M., Holcer, D., Vuković, M., Flajšman, E., Grgurev, M., Hamidović, D., Pavlinić, I. i Tvrković, N. (2006): 'Crvena knjiga sisavaca Hrvatske', Ministarstvo kulture, Državni zavod za zaštitu prirode, Zagreb. <a href="http://www.haop.hr/hr/publikacije/crvena-knjiga-sisavaca-hrvatske">http://www.haop.hr/hr/publikacije/crvena-knjiga-sisavaca-hrvatske</a> Rako, N. (2011): Izvještaj o opažanju jedinke sredozemne medvjedice (Monachus monachus) uz zapadnu obalu otoka Cres, Plavi svijet Institut za istraživanje i zaštitu mora Gomerčić, M. D., Gomerčić, T., Huber, D., & Gomerčić, H. (2005, December). Recent sightings of the monk seal in Croatian areas of the Adriatic. The Monachus Guardian, 8. <a href="http://www.monachus-guardian.org/mguard16/1621feature.htm">www.monachus-guardian.org/mguard16/1621feature.htm</a> . Bundone et al. (2019) On sightings of (vagrant?) monk seals, Monachus monachus, in the Mediterranean Basin and their importance for the conservation of the species. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems DOI: 10.1002/aqc.3005.	Monachus monachus

Bats

	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)
	/			/

Reptiles

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

Fish

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

Insects

	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).

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> In the period 2020 -2023 Croatia joined the international winter counts of Red and Black Kites (*Milvus milvus* & *M. migrans*) organized as a part of LIFE EUROKITE+ project.

Croatia joined international summer counts of the Mediterranean Shag (*Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii*) (listed on AEWA species list and Bird Directive Annex I, but not CMS) organized between Italy, Slovenia and Croatia in 2020-2022.

Croatian scientists are active members of Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group (ESIEG), and, among other activities, organized Xth ESIEG workshop in Croatia in October 2022.

LIFE EUROTURTLES - The aim of the project was to improve the conservation status of the EU populations of two sea turtle priority species, the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* and the green turtle *Chelonia mydas*.

The project recognized that this aim can only be achieved through wider, EU-level approach considering the multinational distribution of these populations, which have breeding and foraging grounds in different and distant EU countries.

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:

>>> In the framework of EU strategy for the Danube region (EUSDR), Croatia together with the Land Bavaria (Germany) is coordinating Priority Area 06 (PA6) "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils". PA6 deals in particular with nature conservation issues on transnational level within 14 Danube States. In order to continuously improve the management and implementation process, EUSDR priority area coordinators, in cooperation with the Steering group, established Task Forces which are the backbone for the implementation of PA 06 and which gather, among other things, representatives of networks and platforms of non-governmental organizations and the scientific sector, public authorities and other interest groups that are stakeholders in the implementation of the objectives of PA 06.

One of the topics that PA6 is addressing is ecological connectivity, EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators with support of INTERACT held the Meeting of macro-regional coordinators (December 2019). The aim of the meeting was to promote the exchange of experience and to explore potential for further cooperation between the currently four Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) in the field of ecological connectivity.

Additionally, the activities regarding the topic of ecological connectivity are implemented within Task Force DANUBE PARKS and their members through various projects.

LIFE WILDIsland - Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor (September 2021 - August 2027) - one of the objective

is strengthen ecological connectivity and preserve the natural wilderness in the heart of Europe, improving the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. The project represents an amazing example of cross-sector trans-border cooperation, involving 15 partners from 8 countries united to restore and conserve a total of 34 islands all the way from Germany to Romania.

LIFE Danube Free Sky - Transnational conservation of birds along Danube river - (01/09/2020 - 28/02/2026) project represents a unique example of wide transnational cooperation. Strong collaboration is presented of beneficiaries from 7 countries and one non-beneficiary country including the private commercial sector, nature conservation authorities, municipality, and private non-commercial entities. The project presents a solution to one of the biggest threats for the wild living species of birds today - interaction with the power line. Moreover, this problem will be solved along with one of the most important migration corridor, stopover site, and wintering place for many bird species in Europe - the Danube river.

Croatian ornithologists supported the production of African-Eurasian Bird Migration Atlas by providing ringing recoveries and tracking data, and by reviewing the species accounts.

### 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?

>>> With identifying important bird areas in Croatia, critical habitats and sites for bird migratory species are identified and will be considered for area-based conservation measures. Additional areas important for turtles, dolphins, seabirds, Posidonia have been identified in Adriatic Sea. In 2025, through the adoption of the Regulation on Amending the Regulation on the Ecological Network and the Competencies of Public Institutions for the Management of Ecological Network Areas (Official Gazette, No. 87/2025), the ecological network was expanded to include areas important for species and habitat types such as Posidonia oceanica meadows (habitat type 1120\*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), and Cory’s shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). As a result, Croatia has legally protected 32.4% of its marine area, up from 9.8%, clearly demonstrating its strong commitment to achieving EU and global biodiversity protection targets.

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

Yes

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).

>>> As described in XIII.2.

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

Yes

Please give the title or other reference (and date) for the measure concerned:

>>> In addition to the lack of suitable habitats where it can hunt, the fundamental problem of Croatian population of European roller (*Coracias garrulous*) is the lack of cavities in which to nest. Sufficiently large hollows are found only on poplar trees, in which, due to the soft wood, hollows necessary for the nesting of various birds are often formed. Rows of poplars were planted in order to create windbreaks to prevent soil erosion by wind. Today, the biggest threat to their survival, and consequently to the European roller, are fires caused by the burning of marginal vegetation along tree rows, careless burning of plant residues on arable land and infestation by citrus long-horned beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*). Due to the drastically reduced number of poplars, it is necessary to urgently restore the wind protection tree rows in order to protect the fertile soil from wind erosion, and to enable European roller and other burrowing birds to nest in natural cavities. Although, it takes decades to form hollows in newly planted poplars, European roller accepts nesting

boxes, so placing boxes in suitable foraging habitats (the activity that is envisaged to be finished by the end of April 2023) will help them through the transition period. Under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2023-2027, type of investment 73.01.11. supports establishing and restoring tree rows and setting up nesting houses for the European roller (*Coracias garrulus*).

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

No

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

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> In 2017 (by way of national Ordinance on particular management regime in the part of Jabuka Pit area published on 8 September 2017 in OG No 90/17) Croatia enforced a particular management regime in the area of Jabuka/Pomo Pit area, as Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA), which implied a complete prohibition of using trawling gears, bottom set longlines, hooks and lines, pots and gillnets as well as sport and recreational fisheries over the area under the national jurisdiction and beyond it for the period of more than 3 years - until 31 December 2020.

In 2021, Jabuka/Pomo Pit area was permanently protected as FRA, which is an important step for the restoration of the entire ecosystem, as well as for increasing the biomass of species whose life cycle is linked to that area.

## XIV. Ecosystem Services

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

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

Partly / in progress

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> In 2022, through EUROSTAT project, initial activities for identification of changes in ecosystem extent were implemented whose results will serve as an input to compilation of ecosystem condition and development of system of monitoring of ecosystems and their services. In this reporting period no specific assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species has been implemented.

## **XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity**

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

No

## XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

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

Yes

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

>>> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/hr/hr-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> Under the specific objective 1.3 Standardize management in nature protection and establish a performance monitoring system, activities:

1.3.1 Prepare management plans for strictly protected species with action plans for those species determined as priorities; revise the existing management plans;

1.3.2 Ensure the implementation of measures defined by management plans for strictly protected species with action plans for priority strictly protected species, are particularly relevant for the migratory species.;

1.3.3 Establish a comprehensive care system for priority animal species

1.3.4 Establish a comprehensive alert system on fatalities among strictly protected animal species

Specific objective 2.5 Conserve unfragmented natural areas and restore the most threatened degraded habitats activities:

2.5.2 Prepare a map of habitat corridors important for the migrations of the fauna threatened by fragmentation, with impact mitigation measures

2.5.4 Improve the existing monitoring of fatalities among strictly protected animal species due to road and railway transport and due to power lines, primarily through intensified intersectoral cooperation

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

>>> Several activities have been implemented. These include preparation and implementation of Protocols within the National Alert and Rescue system for strictly protected species groups, establishment of informal task group on illegal killing of birds (comprising representatives of the Ministry, NGOs, scientists), several actions lead by NGO BIOM aimed at combating illegal killing; cooperation between NGO BIOM and national electrical company (HEP) on identification of priority areas (bird electrocution hotspots) and implementation of mitigation measures such as insulation and diverters; preparation of guidelines for reporting findings of critically endangered plant species.

The National Alert System for strictly protected species is coordinated by MEPGT. Since March 2023 a new online reporting form has been available for reporting findings of dead wild strictly protected species, as the part of System for reporting and monitoring caught, killed, injured and sick strictly protected animals (at link <https://arcg.is/1CbK98>). The form is adapted for use and data entry via smartphones.

Specimens of strictly protected species that have been found sick, death, exhausted, injured, disoriented or wounded are pursuant to Article 67 of the Nature Protection Act collected and settled in the Rescue Centres (RC).

So far, protocols for several species groups are established and implemented. The Protocol for strictly protected marine mammals, marine turtles and chondrichthyes is operational and the Protocol for the collection of samples for monitoring of the appearance of the fungus *Geomyces destructans* has been developed for bat experts.

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

[National Alert System for strictly protected species – reporting form](#)

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.

>>> /

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant

international agreements.

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>> /

## **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

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

(select all that apply)

Other

>>> not applicable for Croatia

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

### **GUIDANCE TIP**

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans).

>>> /

XVII.3. How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country in the area of traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species?

1. Little or no progress

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

>>> Target is not applicable for Croatia

## 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)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

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

#### GUIDANCE TIP

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

#### Education campaigns in schools

>>> The Diverterra mobile exhibition covers the topics of nature and environmental protection with an additional focus on one of the biggest threats - climate change. It is designed as a portable exhibition with multimedia content in augmented reality on tablets and panels, with the use of didactic aids and through an accompanying workshop brings the topics and content of the exhibition closer to users. The contents of the exhibition are intended for preschool and early school age (lower grades of elementary school).

#### Public awareness campaigns

>>> Implementation of the national campaign "Listen to the voice of Nature" focused on raising the awareness of general public on the importance of nature conservation, with extensive TV campaign, billboards and dedicated webpage (<https://glasprirode.hr/>).

Celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day in Croatia every year from 2006, in the second week of May. The main goals of these events are raising public awareness of the need to protect the migratory birds and their habitats, water it is for resting, breeding or a flyway. These events are organized by civil organizations that work in nature protection, public institutions that manage protected areas and IENP.

Since 1993 Dolphin Day has been traditionally celebrated by BWI. The programme of the Dolphin Day varies each year, but usually includes lectures, exhibitions, workshops, games and sports competitions. World Sea Turtle Day is also celebrated in Croatia, mostly by the Aquarium Pula and Marine Educational center Pula.

Also, since 2014 World Migratory Freshwater Fish Day is being celebrated in Croatia, mostly by the NGO (Croatian Institute for Biodiversity, ECO PAN).

International Bat Night events are organized each year by a number of public institutions that govern national parks, nature parks and protected areas on county or local level, as well as zoological gardens and natural history museums, in cooperation with bat organisations (Croatian Biospeleological Society, Association for Bat Conservation Tragus) and individual bat experts.

BalkanDetox LIFE project, co-financed in Croatia by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, is implemented in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, to tackle illegal wildlife poisoning by raising awareness and strengthening national capacities.

#### Capacity building

>>> Within the project "Development of management framework for Natura 2000 ecological network", implemented by MEPGT (2017-2023), a series of educational activities have been undertaken, and the equipment necessary for implementation of management plans and the management itself was acquired.

#### Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Within the project "Development of management framework for Natura 2000" the existing information and communication technologies, a tool within the Nature Protection Information System (Bioportal), was improved by integrating Natura 2000 area management planning module. In July 2021, representatives of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, the Center for

Forensic Research "Ivan Vučetić" and the Biom Association participated in the first in Europe training "Wildlife Crime Academy", prepared and organized by the Spanish government of the Andalusian region with the

support of the international non-governmental organization for carnivores - Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF). The course was organized for representatives of 9 countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Spain. Participants were trained how to investigate crimes against the wild animals - from the rules of investigation (CSI - Crime Scene Investigation) and forensic analysis to the final procedure before the court.

The LIFE SWiPE project ("Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe") will provide an overall picture of wildlife crime at the European scale, focusing on the 11 target countries of the project with an emphasis on Central and South-Eastern European countries, and will make special reference to cross-border aspects. It will identify the scale and commonality of problems arising along the enforcement chain, gaps in current practices, reasons for successfully investigated cases leading to prosecution and common issues along the enforcement chain leading to failed prosecution. It will profile solutions and best practice approaches from relevant countries, and provide national and EU-level policy recommendations. There will be pilot cases in Spain, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Croatia, with best practice examples regarding monitoring birds, demonstrating sniffer dogs and training existing dog units to detect wildlife crime, using applications for reporting crimes, fostering better inter-agency cooperation, developing a criminalistics education module, and establishing a wildlife crime hub.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> The east African migration route of Common Terns from Croatia and Hungary was described using light-level geolocators. Postbreeding dispersion of European Rollers in Italy and Croatia was described.

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

## **XIX. Resource Mobilization**

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes, made available for activities within the country

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 LIFE program, EU Cohesion policy

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

The same

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.

>>> Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status

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.

International and regional action and cooperation between States for the conservation and effective management of migratory species.