



**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):

>>> 1) All important habitats for migratory species are covered by (1) Natura 2000 Special protected areas (SPA) and (2) protected territories. The entire Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria includes a total of 341 protected areas under the EU Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. It covers 34.9% of the national territory. Marine Natura 2000 SPAs were designated during the current reporting period.

Optimization of the Natura 2000 network management in Bulgaria, in order to fully achieve the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directive, as well as effective management of the protected territories (national parks, nature parks, reserves, maintained reserves, natural monuments, protected sites), including developing of management plans.

2) Tagging and satellite tracking of CMS listed species such as birds of prey (*Gyps fulvus*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*), waterfowl (*Branta ruficollis*), pelicans etc.

3) Reducing mortality of endangered migratory birds, caused by power lines, which is done via changes and securing safe electrical grids by the electricity distribution companies and non-governmental organisations.

4) Reintroduction programmes regarding CMS listed raptors in Bulgaria such as *Falco cherrug*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Falco naumanni*, which succeed to different degrees. Restocking of sturgeons species in Danube River together with a prolonged sturgeons fishing ban are main activities in the country for protection and recovery of sturgeon stock in Danube River and Black Sea.

5) Assessment of cetaceans in the Black Sea through plane and ship observations for the first time in Bulgaria – within two projects. Projects for usage of Acoustic Deterrent Devices (pingers) from fishermen to prevent cetaceans bycatch. Evaluation of cause of mortalities on cetaceans by autopsies conducted. Studies on the accumulation of heavy metals in stranded dead specimens.

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

>>> 1) Lack of transnational cooperation in protection of migratory species, especially on state level, incl. protection of all habitats during their migration routes.

2) Lost or changes of breeding habitats and wintering grounds, obstacles during migration, disturbance in stopover sites; species behaviour of aggregation makes these sites very sensitive and species vulnerable.

3) Control of short-term events such as illegal poisoning, illegal hunting, illegal taking of birds and eggs.

4) Lack of adequate investigation, prosecution and perception of importance in the court practice the cases listed in p. 3.

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

>>> 1) Mapping the Natura 2000 network, assessment of the conservation status of the species, threats, limiting factors, creation and improvement of the conservation of fauna, incl. migratory species.

2) Improvement of the whole national management approach of Natura 2000 SPAs.

3) Increasing of international cooperation with the countries along the main migratory routes passing through Bulgaria.

4) Developing of species' action plans and management plans of the SPAs.

5) To reflect conservation activities and priorities of migratory species in sectoral policies.

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of the Party

>>> Bulgaria

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

>>> 1. 11. 1999

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> No

### **Report compiler**

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

Name and title of designated Focal Point

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

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

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

*Please select only one per line*

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

### III. Species on the Convention Appendices

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

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

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes, the list is correct

## 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.

>> All Appendix I CMS species, which are native for the country, are listed in Appendix 3 of the Biological Diversity Act and the following is prohibited (Art. 38):

1. all forms of deliberate capture or killing of specimens by whatever devices, means, or methods;
2. hunting and disturbance, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, wintering and migration;
3. destruction or taking of eggs, even where abandoned; destruction of, damage to, or removal of nests;
4. damage to, or destruction of, breeding, resting or staging places;
5. taking of found dead specimens;
6. possession, keeping, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of specimens taken in the wild;
7. stuffing, possession, exhibition to the public, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of stuffed specimens.

The prohibitions referred to in Items 1, 2, 6 and 7 shall apply to all stages of life of the animals.

For the World and European threatened species the Penalty Code is also applicable.

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[IV Appendix I species exception taking.docx](#)

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

Unknown

## V. Awareness

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and 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
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[V\\_Awareness\\_BG\\_general\\_info.docx](#)

### **Impact of actions**

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

>>> The regularly (annually) held events & campaigns such as the World Migratory Bird Day, the International Bird Day, the International Bat Night in Europe, International Vulture Day etc. draw attention of the public in Bulgaria.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[V\\_Awareness\\_BG\\_links.docx](#)

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.

- 3. Good impact

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

>>> Events and information campaigns regularly (annually) taking place:

- World Migratory Bird Day
- International Bird Day
- International Bat Night in Europe

## 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.

>>> • Both the regulations and requirements regarding conservation of migratory species are under the Biodiversity Act. The following text concerns NATURA 2000 areas (art. 31, para 1): „Any plans, programmes, projects and building-development proposals that are not directly related or necessary for the management of the special areas of conservation and that, either individually or in interaction with other plans, programmes, projects or building-development proposals, are likely to have a significant negative impact on the special areas of conservation, shall be assessed as to the compatibility thereof with the protection purposes of the relevant special area of conservation.”

- Compliance Assessment Ordinance regulates the procedure for performing compliance assessment.
- Regulation for conditions and the method for performing of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Regulations in place do not consider migrating species as a separate group. Assessment is made concerning protected territories, protected zones (NATURA 2000), protected species. Migratory species are protected under the Biodiversity Act and the important sites and territories for them as well.
- CMS objectives are incorporated in the Strategy for the biodiversity in Bulgaria (draft since December 2022, adoption still pending: <https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/proekt-na-strategiya-za-biologichnoto-raznoobrazie-v-republika-bulgariya/> )

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:

>>> Reporting under art. 12 of the Birds Directive and art. 17 of the Habitats Directive:

- The Birds Directive Reporting (Art. 12; 2019-2024) is available at the following link:

<https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/1438>

- The Habitats Directive Reporting (Art. 17; 2019-2024) will be available later on in 2025 at the following link:

<https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/1525>

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

>>> NGOs are working to protect migratory species mainly through projects. They also carry out specific conservation actions. NGOs and the civil society are participants in the Environmental Impact Assessments, Compliance Assessment, Ecological Assessment due the procedures of public consultations. NGOs and representatives of the civil society may also appeal against decisions of administrative bodies, which they deem to have a negative impact on nature, biodiversity, incl. and migratory species.

NGOs and especially the civil society are the major contributor to the so called „citizen science“ by entering biodiversity data (incl. migratory species) into specialized web-based portals, apps etc. One of the biggest examples for such „citizen science“ is the participation of numerous volunteers in bird ringing activities (in ringing camps, stations etc.), thus contributing to the knowledge of many poorly-known migratory species (passerines, waders etc.).

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

>>> • Private sector could be beneficiary for small grants, conducting usually small projects sometimes in collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

- Reducing mortality of endangered migrating birds, caused by power lines, which is done via changes and securing safe electrical grids by the electricity distribution companies and non-governmental organisations.

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.

>>> In many cases the big infrastructure projects are being pushed forward without considering the need for a thorough monitoring activities (usually time-consuming) when it comes to migratory species.

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.

>>> In general, biodiversity and migratory species considerations are integrated into the national energy and climate policy and legislation.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> CMS objectives are incorporated in the Integrated Energy and Climate Plan of Bulgaria (updated draft in 2024: <https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/proekt-na-aktualiziran-integriran-plan-v-oblastta-na-energetikata-i-klimata-na-bulgariya-aktualizaciya-ot-2024-g/> )

## 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:

>>> Bulgarian legislation in the field of habitat and biodiversity protection is written within the Biodiversity Act and the Protected Areas Act, as well as the Environmental Protection Act. The Bulgarian legislation transposes the European legislation (relevant regulations and directives) in the field. A better management approach for the Natura 2000 network (additional Natura 2000 areas designated etc.) took place during the reporting period.

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

>>> Assessment is done under national reporting of art. 12 of Birds Directive and art. 17 of Habitats Directive.

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:

>>> > Partly.

1) Mid-winter count of waterbirds in the most important wetlands in Bulgaria. It has been conducted since 1967 in almost all European countries, coordinated by Wetlands International. The purpose of the census is to determine the size of European waterfowl populations and to assess the status of the wetlands they inhabit. Such monitoring schemes contribute to the monitoring of more general environmental changes and their effects on humans and biodiversity. In Bulgaria it is done jointly by the Executive Environment Agency (ExEA), Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, ornithological non-governmental organizations, institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Executive Forests Agency etc.

2) Interagency Expert Group (governmental, non-governmental, civil and scientific representatives) with the aim of implementation of Bulgarian obligations under Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), established in 2015. Part of the work overlap with CMS.

3) National Council on Biodiversity, which is consultative to the Minister of Environment and Water in the field of biodiversity, including representatives from governmental, non-governmental, civil and scientific representatives.

4) Council of Scientists was established, advising Minister of Environment and Water regarding counseling in the area of environmental protection, including biodiversity.

5) Interdepartmental Working Group dealing with the renewable energy resources (experts on migratory birds

and bats from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS are included)

6) Interdepartmental Working Group dealing with the highly pathogenic avian influenza (experts on migratory birds from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS are included)

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:

>>> The focal points of all biodiversity related Conventions and Agreements are in the same department. NFPs collaborate according to the national legislation and the strategic documents/vision.

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?

Partly / in some areas

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

>>> 1) An integrated bird protection system has been developed in the SPA "Kaliakra" and adjacent areas under the Bird Directive during 2018 and it is still under operation.

The Early Warning System allows management and minimization of the risk of collision of birds with rotating wind turbines by stopping single or clustered turbines or entire wind farms, as well as monitoring at risk periods for species of conservation importance.

The integrated system is implemented by all wind power plants on the territory of the Kaliakra SPA.

Period of application: All year round, including during spring and autumn migration and recorded food migrations leading to high concentrations of birds.

A combination of existing high-tech radar observations, meteorological data integrated with field-based visual observations by experienced ornithologists is used to achieve the objectives.

2) After Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Compatibility assessment (CA) or Ecological Assessment (EA), the Ministry of Environment and Water or the respective Regional Inspection of Environment and Water could bring in monitoring scheme and mitigation measures.

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.

>>> Reintroduction programmes for birds of prey (vultures, Lesser Kestrel), protection of wintering habitats of species (e.g. *Branta ruficollis*), restocking programmes for sturgeons, satellite tracking of a number of bird species.

## 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?

Yes

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

>>> The measures are within the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). Biodiversity and habitat preservation have been addressed through measures applied under CAP, including direct payments. Habitat Directive, Birds Directive, The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive are the legal base for integrating conservation of migratory species in different sectors.

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved.

>>> Reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive gives

- general information about the implementation of the Directive,
- the bird species' status and trends.

Reporting under Article 17 of Habitats Directive gives information regarding the progress made with the implementation of the Habitats Directive. Information includes non-avian species information, status and trends.

Additional information could be obtained by the Bulgarian reporting under both directives.

## 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<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Legal hunting             | Anser albifrons, Anas acuta, Aythya fuligula, Anas platyrhynchos, Coturnix coturnix, Streptopelia turtur                         | 2  |
| Illegal hunting           | Branta ruficollis, Anser erythropus, Aythya nyroca, Aythya ferina, Crex crex, Gallinago media                                    | 2  |
| Other harvesting and take | No recent evidence for reporting period - birds of prey  | 3  |
| Illegal trade             | No recent evidence for reporting period - birds of prey  | 3  |
| Deliberate poisoning      | all vultures, Aquila heliaca, Haliaeetus albicilla, Accipiter gentilis & Falco peregrinus (using pigeons as baits)               | 1  |

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

- >>> • Continuous information campaigns - related to both species of high conservation concern and game species
- A National action plan to combat illegal poisoning has been adopted (2021-2030)
  - In-person guarding of diurnal raptors' nests
  - Use of trained “anti-poison” dog

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).

>>> Deliberate poisoning and sometimes illegal hunting of birds of prey still taking place irregularly.

## Unintentional Taking

|  | Overall relative severity of impact<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low | Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details |
|--|--|--|
| Bycatch  | 2  | cetaceans  |
| Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) | no data  | 3  |
| Other forms of unintentional taking                                  | no data  | 3  |

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.

>>> Testing and use of active acoustic devices, commonly known as pingers - to deter cetaceans, particularly small cetaceans like harbor porpoises, from interacting with fishing gear, thereby reducing bycatch and entanglement in nets like gillnets.

From 2024 it is obligatory to use pingers in 5 NATURA 2000 zones when using fishing gears (Kamchia, Aladzha banka, Emona, Otmanli, Strandzha):

<https://iara.government.bg/wps/portal/iara-web/press-center/notifications/burgas-20032024-1>

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).

>>> Bycatch of cetaceans still taking place.

## Collisions and electrocution

|                  | Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details    | Overall relative severity of impact<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low |
|------------------|---|--|
| Wind turbines    | Buteo spp., Pelecanus spp.  | 2  |
| Other collisions | light houses, large glass buildings - impact towards (mainly) passerine birds   | 3  |
| Electrocution    | Aquila heliaca, Neophron percnopterus, Gyps fulvus, Ciconia ciconia, Pelecanus crispus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Haliaeetus albicilla | 2  |
| Vessel strikes   | no data   | 3  |

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

>>> • More powerlines have been made safe for the raptors and other large birds: reducing mortality of endangered migratory birds, which is done via changes and securing safe electrical grids by the electricity distribution companies and non-governmental organisations.

• The Early Warning System allowing management and minimization of the risk of collision of birds with rotating wind turbines in the "Kaliakra" SPA and adjacent areas is still functioning.

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.

>>> • Collisions of (mostly passerine) birds with large/tall buildings increasingly taking place in the big cities due to modern glass & steel constructions often used for office and business centres. Numerous anecdotal cases are present but specialized research is still lacking, and such is highly needed.

• Numerous projects for wind-mill parks are under (various stages of) development, mostly in NE Bulgaria. Although in most cases preliminary monitoring studies have been performed, a sophisticated Early Warning System like the one operating in “Kaliakra” SPA is lacking.

### **Other mortality**

|   | <b>Overall relative severity of impact</b><br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>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) | 3   | Ciconia ciconia, Circus aeruginosus   |
| Unexplained stranding events                                | 3   | cetaceans: in Bulgaria there are almost no cases of live specimens stranding  |
| Accidental/indirect poisoning                               | 2   | Buteo spp.: legal poisoning for voles (Microtus arvalis)  |
| Disease   | 3   | Pelecanus crispus   |

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

>>> • The Bird Flu Radar has been developed for EFSA as part of the project named 'Implementation of an Early Warning System for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza' (NP/EFSA/BIOHAW/2022/01). It is a prototype early warning system for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds. Developed through a collaboration between EURING (the European Union for Ringing Schemes), EuroBirdPortal, and Ausvet Europe, it combines models of bird distribution and movement with HPAI outbreak data to estimate the spatiotemporal risk of HPAI introduction in Europe. Users can access the system via the EURING Migration Mapping Tool and can subscribe to receive automated alerts for specific geographic areas.

[https://app.bto.org/mmt/avian\\_influenza\\_map/avian\\_influenza\\_map.jsp](https://app.bto.org/mmt/avian_influenza_map/avian_influenza_map.jsp)

• Before 2019, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been detected in wild birds in Bulgaria in Buteo buteo, Pelecanus crispus, Larus ridibundus, Cygnus sp. etc. Among the species where HPAI has been detected after 2023 are Ciconia ciconia, Circus aeruginosus etc. Current lists of target bird species and those of high risk have been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 2022 based on the HPAI data in Europe:

[https://www.mzh.government.bg/media/filer\\_public/2022/03/02/list\\_target\\_wild\\_birds\\_hpai\\_revdp\\_dpp\\_3.pdf](https://www.mzh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2022/03/02/list_target_wild_birds_hpai_revdp_dpp_3.pdf)

• Interdepartmental Working Group dealing with the highly pathogenic avian influenza (experts on migratory birds from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS are included) has been created.

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 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).

>>> Although some protocols for monitoring and field sampling of suspected HPAI cases in wild birds have been developed, there is still much room for improvement regarding the field activities and overall organization of the process.

### **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<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Alien and/or invasive species | No data.   | 3  |

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

>>> An Atlas of Invasive Alien Species of Importance for the European Union has been developed and is freely available online since 2017: [https://esenias.org/files/ESENIAS\\_Atlas\\_WEB.pdf](https://esenias.org/files/ESENIAS_Atlas_WEB.pdf)

The official reporting on Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 (on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species) has been done in 2025 by experts from (mainly) the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In addition, risk assessments have been done in 2023 of species potentially invasive for the country, which still have not been recorded in Bulgaria yet.

In the reporting period Bulgaria has adopted 3 no. national action plans for IAS, which are available from the website of the Ministry:

<https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/priroda/biologichno-raznoobrazie/nemestni-i-invazivni-chujdi-vidove/planove-za-dejstvie-za-invazivni-vidove/>

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).

>>> not relevant

**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<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low |
|-------------|--|--|
| Disturbance | no data  | 3  |

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

>>> No data.

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**.

>>> Specialized research is still lacking on this topic but it is highly needed.

**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<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Marine debris (including plastics) | no data   | 2  |
| Light pollution                    | migratory birds and possibly bats   | 2  |

|                                 |                         |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Underwater noise                | cetaceans               | 2 |
| Other pollution                 | birds of prey, dolphins | 2 |
| Fish aggregating devices (FADs) | no data                 | 3 |

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

X\_Pollution.docx - Other pollution cases

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

>>> • Microplastics: at least several studies exist (pollution of marine sediments, beaches):

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/15/9/4751>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X24011275>

- In oil and gas exploration and production, including conventional and seismic, the relevant EIA and OS decisions include mitigation measures and a noise pollution monitoring program.
- Biopsy samples collected from dead dolphin species found on the shore (derogation under Bulgarian Biodiversity Act) – study on the concentration of priority substances (like heavy metals) in the trophic chains (performed by experts from the Faculty of Biology at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2023-2024)

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).

>>> • Although several studies on the microplastics pollution in Black Sea exist, specific data about its impact on various species of animals are still lacking.

- Underwater noise – no specific research has been done but it is highly needed.

**Habitat destruction/degradation**

|  | <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<br/>1 = severe<br/>2 = moderate<br/>3 = low</b> |
|--|---|--|
| Landscape fragmentation/loss of ecological connectivity, physical barriers | lots of bird species occupying forest, wetland (incl. riverine) habitats – diurnal raptors, gull, terns, waders, Coracias garrulus, some passerines   | 2  |
| Habitat degradation  | numerous species of birds: reduction of insects and other invertebrates as a result of chemical use in agriculture and forestry   | 2  |
| Mineral exploration/extraction   | waterbirds: waste water artificial reservoirs can be deadly being attractive  | 2  |
| Unsustainable land/resource use  | mainly passerines: overgrazing due to wrongly applied agro-ecological measures affects many grassland and shrub-nesting species   | 2  |
| Urbanization   | various bird species: modern architecture and green areas maintenance are often not bird-friendly in terms of providing suitable nesting sites and food supply                                | 2  |
| Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation     | no data   | 3  |
| Fire   | numerous forest-dwelling, open-landscape (Stone Curlew, larks, Tawny Pipit) & reedbed species (herons & bittern sp., Marsh Harrier, Bearded Reedling, Acrocephalus & Locustella spp., crakes) | 2  |
| Physical barriers  | no data   | 3  |

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

- >>> • FSC certification of increasing number of forest enterprises leading to more sustainable forest management (WWF-Bulgaria is largely responsible for running this activity)  
<https://www.wwf.bg/kakvo-pravim/gori/ustoychivo-upravlenie-na-gorite-i-fsc/fsc/#>
- Nature conservation projects for managing wetlands and their adjacent territories (Atanasovsko Lake, Poda, Kalimok-Brushlen, Persina marshes etc.)
  - Continuous information campaigns contributing to higher awareness on various research & conservation topics
  - New Natura 2000 SPAs have been designated, incl. general and specific environmental protection objectives for some Natura 2000 SPAs have been outlined etc.

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).

- >>> • Some of the big infrastructure projects are taking place at a high environmental price locally.
- Wildfires are quickly becoming a major factor, acting throughout most of the year and negatively impacting variety of habitats.

**Climate change**

|                | Overall relative severity of impact<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>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  | No data. It is still rather difficult to relate any observed trends/ changes to climate change.                                  |

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

>>> No data.

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).

>>> Long-term series of data, where possible, should be analyzed in order to get possible correlations with climate change. Wildfires are quickly becoming a major factor, acting throughout most of the year and negatively impacting variety of habitats.

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

|                                     | Overall relative severity of impact<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low | Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Inadequate transboundary management | 2  | no data  |
| Inadequate legislation              | 3  | no data  |

|                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Lack of knowledge                     | 2 | This is general estimate for the whole situation. For some species much knowledge has been gathered so far (vultures, Aquila heliaca etc.), while others are still rather unstudied (Bonasa bonasia, Porzana/ Zapornia spp. etc.) |
| Inadequate enforcement of legislation | 2 | no data   |

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

>>> Additional amount of scientific data on a number of species has been gathered, information campaigns contributed to higher awareness on some of the research & conservation topics, new Natura 2000 SPAs have been designated, general and specific environmental protection objectives for some Natura 2000 SPAs have been outlined, amendment of the Biodiversity Act is planned etc.

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

>>> There is still big discrepancy in the level of knowledge gathered for different species, as well as there is still room for improvement in the field of environmental legislation.

**Other (please specify)**

|  | Overall relative severity of impact<br>1 = severe<br>2 = moderate<br>3 = low | Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details |
|--|--|--|
|  | 3  | not relevant   |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

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

>>> The most significant advances are the large scale projects regarding mapping of habitats, surveying of birds, other species and habitats, regarding Bulgarian reporting under Birds/Habitat Directives, which are conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Water and Executive Environmental Agency. NGOs via mainly LIFE projects performed concrete conservation activities such as retrofitting of hazardous overhead powerlines, restoration and sustainable management of Imperial Eagle's foraging habitats in key Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria, preservation key forest habitats of the Lesser Spotted Eagle; also breeding and reintroduction programmes. There are independent projects for Branta ruficollis, including preservation of its wintering grounds in Bulgaria.

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

>>> Preservation of all migrating species (much more data on birds compared to bats) which use the "Via Pontica" migratory route provides challenges.

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?

CMS Article III(4)(b) states 'Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor...to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species.'

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

No

## XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[III Appendix II Bulgaria final 2025.xlsx](#) - Appendix II species Bulgaria

[III Appendix I Bulgaria final 2025.xlsx](#) - Appendix I species Bulgaria

Aquatic mammals

|  | Change in status (including time period concerned) | Comments | Source reference | Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable) |
|--|--|----------|------------------|---|
|  | See attached files.                                |          |                  |   |
|  |  |          |                  |   |
|  |  |          |                  |   |
|  |  |          |                  |   |

Bats

|  | Change in status (including time period concerned) | Comments | Source reference | Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable) |
|--|--|----------|------------------|---|
|  | See attached files.                                |          |                  |   |
|  |  |          |                  |   |
|  |  |          |                  |   |
|  |  |          |                  |   |

Birds

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

|  |                     |  |  |  |
|--|---------------------|--|--|--|
|  | See attached files. |  |  |  |
|  |                     |  |  |  |
|  |                     |  |  |  |
|  |                     |  |  |  |

### Reptiles

|  | <b>Change in status (including time period concerned)</b> | <b>Comments</b> | <b>Source reference</b> | <b>Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)</b> |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
|  | not relevant  |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |

### Fish

|  | <b>Change in status (including time period concerned)</b> | <b>Comments</b> | <b>Source reference</b> | <b>Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)</b> |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
|  | See attached files.                                       |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |

### Insects

|  | <b>Change in status (including time period concerned)</b> | <b>Comments</b> | <b>Source reference</b> | <b>Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)</b> |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
|  | not relevant  |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |
|  |   |                 |                         |  |

## 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?

Yes

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)

>>> Improvement of knowledge about migratory species, reintroduction programs for birds of prey, restocking programs for sturgeon, habitat conservation, NATURA 2000 mapping, mitigation measures regarding investment proposals, educational and awareness activities, other studies.

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

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

No

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

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Most of the Ministry's of Environment and Water in Bulgaria work milestones fall into the scope of the Kunming-Montreal GBF targets related to biodiversity conservation. The latter have been strongly advertised during various information campaigns, like the annually held World Environment Day (5 June).

### 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?

>>> Natura 2000 SPA network has been developed under the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, which involve migratory species as well (for Bulgaria the migratory species involve mainly birds, bats and cetaceans), the network covers about 34.9 % of the territory of the country. Beside this, in Bulgaria there are six categories of protected territories, which cover 5.27 % of the territory of the country (all of them overlap with NATURA 2000)-reserves, maintained reserves, nature landmark, nature park, national park, protected sites. Natura 2000 SPA has identified all important bird areas, as the network in its part for birds was proposed by the Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds (BSPB) and it is based on Bulgarian list of Important Birds Areas (developed by BSPB/BirdLife International). Until recently a major gap was the lack of marine SPAs, but since 2023 the marine network of NATURA 2000 has been extended, adding three more SPAs – “Aladzha banka”, “Emona”, “Otmanli”, which better address the needs of cetacean species.

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

In development

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

No

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

Partly / for some areas

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

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> According to the National prioritised action framework (NPAF) for NATURA 2000 Bulgaria, the most numerous threats to the species are related to wildfires, the intensification of agricultural practices, transport infrastructure, the use of biocidal products, hormones and another practices in forestry, also afforestation of open spaces with non-native species. Bulgaria developed national framework for ecological activities for the period 2017-2021 in agriculture, in which at the beginning 10 % of the expenditures should cover ecological activities, subsequently they rose up to 20 %. Part of the scheme includes activities, oriented towards preservation of habitats and biodiversity. Examples of such are implementation of alternative methods and procedures for chemical plant protection and other activities for the implementation of integrated pest management practices in. Executive Forest Agency implements the policy of conservation and sustainable use of forests. The EAG maintains a modular internet based information system with data on the state of the forest territories at national, regional and local level. Information modules on forest fires, forest pathology monitoring, and projects in the forest sector have been prepared and maintained.

## 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):

>>> At least several projects dealing with mapping of ecosystem services and being to some extent in relation to migratory species in Bulgaria have been implemented so far.

Those mentioned in 2019 reporting are:

1) Wetland Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (WEMA), which objective is improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation.

2) Fresh water ecosystem services mapping and assessment in Bulgaria (FEMA). The project is aiming at assessment and mapping of ecosystem goods and services provided by the freshwater ecosystems as situated outside the NATURA 2000 Network.

3) Assessment and mapping of GRASSLAND ecosystems condition and their services in Bulgaria. The project aims to ensure an opportunity to explore various issues related to the availability of grassland ecosystems, combined with the long-term preservation of their potential.

4) Methodological Support for Ecosystem Services Mapping and Biophysical Valuation (MetEcoSMap). Project objective is improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation.

Newer projects:

5) Project “Urgent Measures to Restore and Secure Long-term Preservation of the Atanasovsko Lake Coastal Lagoon (Salt of Life)”:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE11-NAT-BG-000362/urgent-measures-to-restore-and-secure-long-term-preservation-of-the-atanasovsko-lake-coastal-lagoon>

6) Project “Maintain the Man-Lake Symbiosis for the Benefit of Species and Habitats of EU conservation concern (The Lagoon of Life)”: until 2024

Main objectives of the project: (1) To ensure full-scale restoration of the ecological processes supporting the unique biodiversity of Atanasovsko Lake (including numerous migratory bird species); (2) To establish a self-sustaining and financially viable mechanism to allow for the long-term conservation management of Atanasovsko Lake; (3) To promote the benefits generated by Natura 2000 site Atanasovsko Lake.

<https://lagoon.biodiversity.bg/the-project>

7) Project “Incentivising future forest ecosystem services and incomes in Europe (INTERCEDE)”: numerous European partners, Bulgarian-based participant is WWF-Bulgaria.

<https://intercede-project.eu/>

8) Ferdinandova, V. (comp.) 2023. Project’s Impact on Ecosystem Functions. Activity D2 within Monitoring of the impact of the project actions. Report for Project LIFE16/NAT/BG/000847 “Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose along the Global Flyway”.

The last report in the list only provides specific information regarding ecosystem services associated with migratory species.

There is no specific information regarding ecosystem services associated with migratory species.

## XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

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

Yes

Please select the relevant strategies (select all that apply):

Captive breeding and release

Other

>>> Reintroduction programmes of migratory species, including importing of juveniles or breeding in Bulgaria and releasing in nature. Activities to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity include species' reintroduction programmes.

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>> In the case of Egyptian Vulture, the restocking programme includes (1) delayed release, (2) hacking (artificial nest) and (3) fostering (adoption of captive-bred juveniles by adults in the wild).

In case of sturgeons are used international scientific breeding centers, to guarantee the origin. Also genetic tests are deployed.

## XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

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

Yes

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

>>> The links includes National Strategy for Protection of Biodiversity and National action plan for protection of biological diversity. The new strategy is not adopted yet, but the draft one is provided through the link.

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

<https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/proekt-na-strategiya-za-biologichnoto-raznoobrazie-v-republika-bulgariya/>  
<https://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=386> - National Strategy for Protection of Biodiversity

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.

>>> Species action plans already adopted are given below (migratory species listed in the CMS appendices); some of them have expired during this reporting period:

- Action plan for protection of *Pelecanus crispus* in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022
  - Action plan for protection of *Aquila heliaca* in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022
  - Action plan for protection of *Falco cherrug* in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022
  - Action plan for protection of *Aythya nyroca* in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
  - Action plan for protection of *Botaurus stellaris* in Bulgaria 2014 -2023
  - Action plan for protection of *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* (*Microcarbo pygmaeus*) in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
  - Action plan for protection of *Oxyura leucocephala* in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
  - Action plan for protection of *Anser erythropus* in Bulgaria 2018 - 2027
  - Action plan for protection of *Branta ruficollis* in Bulgaria for the period 2018 - 2027
  - Action plan for protection of *Aegypius monachus* in Bulgaria for the period 2019 - 2028
  - Action plan for protection of *Clanga pomarina* in Bulgaria for the period 2019 - 2028
  - Action plan for protection of *Falco naumanni* in Bulgaria for the period 2021 - 2030
  - Action plan for protection of *Neophron percnopterus* in Bulgaria for the period 2023 - 2032
  - Action plan for protection of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*, *Phocoena phocoena relicta* and *Delphinus delphis ponticus* in Bulgaria for the period 2023 - 2032
  - Action plan for protection of cave-dwelling bats (*Rhinolophus mehelyi*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Rhinolophus blasii*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *Myotis emarginatus*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*) in Bulgaria for the period 2024 - 2033
- Other action plans regarding migratory species are in process of preparation (*Falco vespertinus*).

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

>>> Species action plans are implemented on a project base.

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.

>>> AEMLAP (African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan) - experts from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) are currently taking part in the COST Action CA22117 (EUFLYNET), thus contributing to developing a strategic framework for the protection of endangered short- and long-distance migratory species.

<https://www.euflynet.eu/>

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.

>>> AEMLAP (African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan) is ongoing since 2021. COST Action CA22117 (A European flyway research network for the effective conservation of migrant landbirds, EUFLYNET) is scheduled to span from 2023 to 2027.

## **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

>>> Bulgaria has no indigenous or local communities.

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).

>>> Bulgaria has no indigenous or local communities.

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).

>>> Bulgaria has no indigenous or local communities.

## **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
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- 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**

>>> Educational campaigns in schools are conducted on a regular basis, mainly by non-governmental organizations, but also by single governmental-based researchers, which provide lectures on ornithology and nature conservation, bat conservation, cetacean conservation, i.e. they cover the main migratory groups of species. There are "green clubs" in schools, where migratory species are also studied.

#### **Public awareness campaigns**

>>> Public awareness campaigns are conducted mainly by non-governmental organizations, government agencies and research institutes. In many cases, they are carried out on projects' base as the projects have publicity and information sharing activities. Independent public awareness projects have been implemented or are in process of implementation.

#### **Capacity building**

>>> It is usually possible only within some projects, both in the case of non-governmental and governmental/research organizations.

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

>>> Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives can be through the publication of information, the provision of information on request (the law on access to public information). For example, the Red Data Book of Bulgaria is freely available (free of charge) online. The MOEW website contains legislation, guidelines, action plans, e.g. Disaster Management Guide prior to species placement at the Rescue Center, Instruction for interaction with stranded cetaceans found etc.

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

>>> No data in MoEW.

#### **Agreements at policy level on research priorities**

>>> No.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> Research conducted by academia & research organizations is of vital importance in providing expertise on a national level regarding migratory species. The largest research centres in Bulgaria regarding study of biological diversity and its conservation are the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), National Nature History Museum (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Institute of Oceanology (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Sofia, Plovdiv and Shumen Universities etc.

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)

- Technical assistance
- Education/training/mentoring
- Provision of equipment or materials
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation

## 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:

Increased

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 intergovernmental programme

Private sector

Individual country governments/government agencies (please specify)

>>> 1) Norwegian Financial Mechanism

2) Small grants from private companies

3) Small grants from ACCOBAMS

4) The Enterprise for management of environmental protection activities /EMEPA/, part of MoEW

Other

>>> 1) Operational Programme Environment 2021-2027

2) LIFE program

3) INTERREG

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

[Enterprise for management of environmental protection activities /EMEPA/](https://www.life-bulgaria.bg/en/)

<https://www.life-bulgaria.bg/en/> - LIFE programme

<https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/ministerstvo/programi-i-proekti/programa-okolna-sreda-2021-2027-q/> - Operational Programme Environment 2021-2027

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

Increased

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.

>>> Similarly to the previous reporting from 2019, it is still of major importance to assess the importance of migratory birds in NATURA 2000 SPA and to create successful plans for the management of all relevant sites.