

2014 NATIONAL REPORT OF PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

The deadline for submission of the reports is 1 May 2014. The reporting period is 15 June 2011 to 1 May 2014.

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions. Parties are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, including, where appropriate, a summary of activities, information on factors limiting action and details of any assistance required.

Reporting format agreed by the Standing Committee at its 40th Meeting (Bonn, November 2012) for mandatory use by Parties, for reports submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) 2014.

The questions below combine elements of Resolution 4.1 (Party Reports) adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Nairobi, June 1994) and Resolution 6.4 (Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species 2000-2005), adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cape Town, November 1999), the COP8 Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and Resolution 8.24 adopted by the Conference of the Parties (Nairobi 2005), as well as commitments arising from other operational Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

COP Resolution 9.4 adopted at Rome called upon the Secretariats and Parties of CMS Agreements to collaborate in the implementation and harmonization of online reporting implementation. The CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) has been successfully implemented and used by AEWA in their last Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5, 2012) reporting cycle. CMS now offers the Convention's Parties to use the ORS for submitting their national reports for the COP11 (2014) reporting cycle.

Please enter here the name of your country

> ROMANIA

Which agency has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?

> MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Please list any other agencies that have provided input

> National Environmental Protection Agency

42 Local Environmental Protection Agencies

The National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Constanța

The "Danube Delta" National Institute for Research and Development, Tulcea

The "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve Authority

The Romanian Bat Protection Association

Romanian Ornithological Society

Milvus Group -Bird and Nature Protection Association

I(a). General Information

Please enter the required information in the table below:

Party

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country

> 8 January 1998

Period covered

> 2011-2014

Territories to which the Convention applies

> The whole territory of Romania

Designated National Focal Point

Full name of the institution

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Name and title of designated Focal Point

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Submission

Name and Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report

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Date of submission

> 16 May 2014

Implementation

Competent Authority:

> Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Relevant implemented legislation:

> Law No. 13/1998 for the ratification of the Convention regarding the Conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals.

Law No. 58/1994 for the ratification of the Convention regarding Biological Diversity, signed in Rio de Janeiro.

Law No. 90/2000 for the ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe.

Law No. 265/2006 on environmental protection, modified and completed

Law No. 407/2006 on hunting, modified and completed.

Government Decision No. 1081/2013 regarding the National Strategy and the National Action Plan for the conservation of biodiversity in the period 2014-2020.

Emergency Governmental Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of natural protected areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, modified and approved by Law No. 49/2011, completed.

Minister Order No. 2387/2011 which modify the Minister Order No. 1964/2007 regarding the declaration of Sites of Community Importance as an integrated part of the ecological network Nature 2000 in Romania.

Minister Order No. 19/2010 on the approval of the Methodological Guide regarding the appropriate assessment of the potential effects of the plans and projects on the natural protected areas of community interest.

Other relevant Conventions/ Agreements (apart from CMS) to which your country is a Party:

> Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat ("Ramsar Convention")

Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)

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

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean, Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU)

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Middle-European Populations of the Great Bustard

National policy instruments (e.g. national biodiversity conservation strategy, etc.):

> The National Strategy and the National Action Plan for the conservation of biodiversity in the period 2014-2020 was approved in 2013.

Romania is an active participant in the regional environmental initiatives such as the Danube Environmental Programme, the Black Sea Environment Programme etc.

CMS Agreements/MoU

Please indicate whether your country is part of the following Agreements/MoU. If so, please indicate the competent national institution

Wadden Sea Seals (1991)**Wadden Sea Seals (1991)**

Non Range State

EUROBATS (1994)**EUROBATS (1994)**

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ASCOBANS (1994)**ASCOBANS (1994)**

Non Range State

AEWA (1999)**AEWA (1999)**

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ACAP (2001)**ACAP (2001)**

Non Range State

Gorilla Agreement (2008)**Gorilla Agreement (2008)**

Non Range State

ACCOBAMS (2001)**ACCOBAMS (2001)** Party**National Focal Point**

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Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

 Signatory**Competent authority**

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Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Signatory

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Sharks MoU (2010)

Sharks MoU (2010)

Signatory

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Involvement of other government departments/NGOs/private sector

1. Which other government departments are involved in activities/initiatives for the conservation of migratory species in your country? (Please list.)

> National Institute for Research and Development for Environment Protection

“Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology – Romanian Academy

Local Environmental Protection Agencies

National Environment Protection Agency

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority

National Environment Guard

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development

National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Ministry of National Education

Preservation of Natural Monuments Commission

Romsilva National Forest Authority.

Universities

2. If more than one government department is involved, describe the interaction/relationship between these government departments:

> For the conservation of migratory species Local Environmental Protection Agencies are involving the Romsilva National Forest Authority, the custodians/administrators of natural protected areas, the National Environment Guard, the private sector in different activities: monitoring, research on environment protection, control of hunting in the Special Protected Areas, public awareness for preventing the poaching etc.

In the period 2010-2013 the Local Environmental Protection Agency Bihor, has implemented the LIFE+ project “Bat conservation in Craiului Forest, Bihor County and Trascău Mountains”.

The beneficiary of the project was the Environmental Protection Agency Bihor in association with Romanian Bat Protection Association and “Emil Racoviță” Institute of Speleology – Romanian Academy.

Seven bat species were included in the project: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis oxignanthus*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Miniopterus schreibersii* to ensure the long-term conservation of bat populations in the project area, to raising awareness among the general public on the ecological importance of bats, to creating a network of specialists and organizations that can contribute to long-term monitoring of bat species.

The authorities involved in the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on Raptors have a good collaboration with managers of protected areas, universities, research institutes, with NGO's and other stakeholders involved in nature protection.

In Cluj County was implemented the project " Sustainable management of the Natura 2000 site ROSCI0238 Suatu - Cojocna - Crairât", for maintaining favorable conservation status of habitats and species of Community Interest and sustainable development of the area by achieving the integrated management plan of the site and involving the stakeholders. Inventory, assessment and mapping of habitats and species of Community Interest in the site was the starting point for achieving the management plan based on the current scientific data.

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

Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development

3. Has a national liaison system or committee been established in your country?

No

4. List the main non-governmental organizations actively involved in activities/initiatives for the conservation of migratory species in your country, and describe their involvement:

> Romanian Ornithological Society
 Association for the Conservation of Biological Diversity
 Milvus Group - Bird and Nature Protection Association
 Romanian Bat Protection Association
 UNESCO Pro Nature Ecological Club
 Association for the Protection Natural Habitats
 Archos Entertainment Association
 Remedio Association

In September 2013, in Vrancea county, the Association for the Conservation of Biological Diversity made the first step to assess the level of awareness of the population regarding the Natura 2000 network, for obtaining useful information regarding the communication with the local community about the migratory species. Participation at the Common Bird Monitoring Program as part of „Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring”, coordinated in Romania by the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania. The field monitoring action was implemented in the Olt river basin, an important feeding and breeding area for some migratory water bird species.

Local Environment Protection Agency Harghita collaborate with the Romanian Bat Protection Association in monitoring the most important bat wintering sites situated in Harghita county: Varghis gorge, Sugo cave, etc. Educational events for students focused specially on the importance migratory birds were organized.

The project "Integrated management plan and the campaign of information, education and awareness for Natura 2000 Site of Scroviştea " co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund, through the Sectoral Operational Program Environment, priority axis 4 "Implementation of the Appropriate Management Systems for Nature Protection", was implemented in the period 16 August 2012 - 15 August 2014 by the Environmental Protection Agency Ilfov, in partnership with UNESCO Pro Nature Ecological Club and the Association for Protection of the Natural Habitats.

The project aimed was to improve the conservation status of the Nature 2000 site ROSCI0224 and ROSPA014 Scroviştea, the species and habitats of Community Interest.

Three partnerships have been established for implementing in the period 2013-2015 the projects "Development of durable management in 7 natural areas under protection in Plain Româna" - project leader the Archos Entertainment Association, the "European management and biodiversity protection along Ialomiţa river's corridor" - project leader Remedio Association and the "Partnership for management plan elaboration for protected areas belonging to complex ecosystems of the Low Danube and the tributary rivers Vedea, Ialomiţa and Călmăţui - project leader Environmental Protection Agency Ilfov.

The objectives of the projects are: the elaboration of management plans for 10 protected areas, inventorying, evaluation and mapping the biodiversity in the protected natural areas targeted by the projects, evaluation of the anthropogenic factors' impact on biodiversity, establishing the databases, establishment the methods and the plans for monitoring the habitats and species, evaluation of potential impact of management measures taken for owners and administrators within the natural areas targeted by the projects, organizing campaigns for public awareness related to the importance of preserving biodiversity, organizing training courses for local authorities to insure a favorable state of conservation of migratory species.

The most active NGO`s in Sibiu county are Romanian Ornithological Society and „Milvus Group - Bird and Nature Protection Association which participate to the International Waterbird Count and with volunteers and experts collect data on species.

4a. Please provide detail on any devolved government/overseas territory authorities involved.

> Within the project "Green Siret - creating integrated management system for SPA Natura 2000 ROSPA0071 Lower Siret Meadow and overlapping areas" was created the website

<http://luncasiretului.biodiversitate.ro/asociatia-pentru-conservarea-diversitatii-biologice-2/> that contains information about the socio-economic, cultural aspects, ecotourism but also the management plan and pictures taken in the Lower Siret Valley. In the same project implemented by the Local Environmental Agency Galați, was organized a drawing competition entitled "Siret in the eyes of children". In this competition were involved 43 schools from 28 villages belonging to 4 counties: Bacău, Brăila, Galați and Vrancea.

In the project the strategy for creating a visiting infrastructure detailing the current situation in ROSPA0071 site was developed.

The project "For nature and local communities – the bases for a Natura 2000 integrated management in Hârtibaciu – Târnava Mare area" which is implementing in the period March 2011 – February 2015, a series of educational activities regarding waterbirds and raptors species were developed.

During the period January 2010 - December 2013, Local Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu, Milvus Group - Association for Bird and Nature Protection and Romanian Ornithological Society, implemented the project „Conservation of Aquila pomarina in Romania.”

5. Describe any involvement of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country:

> For the conservation of biodiversity the Environmental Protection Agencies collaborate with schools, custodians /administrators, local authorities and the private sector in the awareness activities, communication sessions.

6. Note any interactions between these sectors in the conservation of migratory species in your country:

> The National Environmental Protection Agency has organized works-shops involving NGOs, experts from the Water Management Authority, agriculture departments, counties Councils, forest departments, institutions in organizing educational activities for environmental protection.

I(b). Information about involved Authorities

Identify the ministry, agency/department or organization that is responsible for leading actions relating to Appendix I species

1- Birds

- > Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority
- National Environmental Protection Agency
- Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development Tulcea
- Romanian Ornithological Society
- "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History

2- Aquatic Mammals

- > National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa"

3- Reptiles

- > "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History
- Herpetological Society

4- Terrestrial Mammals

- > "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History
- Association for Conservation of Biological Diversity

5- Fish

- > Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development Tulcea
- Institute of Research and Development for Aquatic Ecology, Fishing and Aquaculture Galați
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority

II. Appendix I species

1. BIRDS

1.1 General questions on Appendix I bird species

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I bird species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna approved by Law No. 49/2011 sets out the protection and conservation of natural habitats and wild species of community interest.

1a. If the taking of Appendix I bird species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I bird species:

Electrocutation

Habitat destruction

Wind turbines

Pollution

Other (please provide details):

> The Ferruginous Ducks (*Aythya nyroca*) and Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) are protected in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve but the populations along the Danube, both in Romania and in Bulgaria are under continuous threat due to the human activities. Storing waste along the river, the excessive use of fertilizers in fisheries, practicing large-scale tourism, affect the both species which are present along the Danube.

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> The Integrated Monitoring Programme for the Danube Delta supports the monitoring of the biosphere reserves, especially concerning biological diversity, ecosystems management, human impact and sustainable development.

Electricity Companies voluntarily undertake bird-friendly construction of newly built and renovated power lines as well as cooperate in projects to insulate power lines - primarily important regarding migratory birds species.

2b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> Management plans and regulations were elaborated and implemented for protection of bird species. The main principles guiding environmental responsibility are the following: the liability for damages shall be treated pursuant to the 'polluter pays' principle; the polluters shall have joint responsibility in the case of multiple polluters; and the polluter shall bear all costs necessary for cleaning up and environmental recovery. National Environmental Protection Agency attended the editions of the National Eco Camp - Know - Life, promoted wetland "Stânca Costești Lake" which is important wintering grounds for migratory birds in the Prut Basin.

Natura 2000 sites are subject to co-financing between the local environmental authority and the European Commission in respect of conservation of species and habitats of community interest.

Taking into consideration the conservation of natural protected areas, any project having a potential negative environmental impact is subject to an environmental impact assessment where such project is indirectly connected to or mandatory for specific uses of a site.

An environmental impact assessment is a prerequisite to obtaining development approval relating to projects having a significant impact on the environment or may be a prerequisite to obtaining development approval relating to projects that might have significant impact on the environment. In the latter case, the final decision on whether to perform an environmental impact assessment or not is made after a prior analysis of the respective project.

Activities having a potentially negative environmental impact that are carried out in protected natural areas are subject to special regulatory provisions.

In the case of administrative offences set out in the environmental regulations, the investigation is made by the commissioners or representatives of the National Environmental Guard or the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority,

Preventive and compensatory measures are ordered and taken by the counties agencies for environmental protection.

The World Wide Fund for Nature, Olt Environmental Protection Agency and Teleorman Environmental Protection Agency organized at the Olt-Danube confluence (Islaz village, Teleorman County) an event, where more than 3 hectares with white poplar and white willow were planted.

The purpose of the activity was to create peaceful nesting areas for these species, to raise awareness on the ecological importance of these water birds and on their threats.

The event was part of the LIFE Nature project "Cross-border conservation of Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) and Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) in key sites in Romania and Bulgaria" - Green Borders", launched by WWF Danube - Carpathian Programme Romania, in partnership with Olt Environmental Protection Agency, Teleorman Environmental Protection Agency, the Romanian Ornithological Society, WWF Danube - Carpathian Programme Bulgaria, the Persina Natural Reserve in Bulgaria and the Rotunda Farm, a fishery in Mehedinți County.

The Green Borders project, implemented in Romania and in Bulgaria was to ensure a favorable conservation status of the both water bird species. This involved the conservation and reconstruction of wetlands along the Danube, used as feeding and nesting areas, the reduction of damage caused to fisheries by pygmy cormorants, as well as training local stakeholders (mostly involved in fishing and hunting activities) on the conservation status of the two species and on their ecological needs.

The result was a good coordination of the conservation efforts for the Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and the Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), the improvement of Nature 2000 transboundary sites management using the best fisheries practices.

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I bird species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Poaching

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger bird species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> education activities, presentations, contests regarding the bird species and their habitats were organized for celebrating the "National Bird Day", the "World Migratory Bird Day", the "International Day for Biological Diversity", the "World Wetlands Day", the "Land Day".

- Training courses for the custodians and the administrators of the Special Protected Areas for a better implementation of the Management Plans;

- Bird watching tours in the Special Protected Areas;

- Exhibitions and visit to the Natural Science Museums.

- Press release, painting competitions, related to water birds and the documentary "Save the birds in Europe" about the bird species of Community Interest;

- Seminar "Wetlands and water management";

- During the 5th edition of the National Eco Camp - Know Life, the wetland "Stânca Costești Lake" was promoted as one of the most important wintering area, for understanding the functioning of ecosystem, following by the identification of the effects of human activities on the environment;

- Flyers, posters, leaflets, publications, annual calendars, brochures, practical guides editing and disseminating for public awareness regarding the importance of wetlands as habitats for migratory waterbirds were distributed;

- Organizing meetings with local authorities, informing the stakeholders and institutions;

- Workshops with the Local Environmental Protection

Agencies involving NGOs and the experts from the Romanian Waters Management Authority;

In June 2013 an international workshop was organized for discussing the conservation measures of waterbirds with the experts from Romania, UK, Germany, Hungary, Finland, Slovenia and Turkey.

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> Monitoring of various activities inside Natura 2000 sites;

Elaborating the Management Plans for the natural protected areas;

Elaborating the National Action Plan for the conservation of Pygmy

- Participation to the Common Bird Monitoring Program coordinated by the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania;

Inventory and assessment of the current state of conservation of waterbirds species: *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Mergus albellus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Egretta alba*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Aythya ferina*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Bucephala clangula*, in the natural protected areas Lower Meadow of Siret River, Stânca - Costești Lake, The ponds of Ibănești - Bașeului - Podrigăi Valley, Acumulările Rogojești - Bucecea, Blahnița, Baziaș - Iron Gates, Homoroadelor Hills, Olt River Basin important feeding and breeding areas for the migratory waterbirds species;

- Identification and location of the habitats types, mapping the sites;
 - Elaborating a database and also the maps with the distribution of waterbirds species during the migration;
 - Elaborating the conservation measures for the waterbirds species;
 - Elaborating the Management Plans of Special Protected Areas.
 - Elaborating the National Action Plan for the conservation of the Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*);
 - Elaborating the National Action Plan for the conservation of the Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*);
 - Scientific research and monitoring activities were done through implementing the projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013, priority axis 4 - implementation of the adequate management systems for nature's protection:
 - "The Management Plan for the Natura 2000 Siret Middle Meadow";
 - "Cross-border conservation of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and *Aythya nyroca* in the key sites in Romania and Bulgaria";
 - "The Management Plan of Natura 2000 site Blahnița - Mehedinți";
 - "Measures to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites in the Iron Gates Natural Park";
- The projects were implemented by the administrator and the custodians of the natural protected areas: the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania, WWF Danube - Carpathian Programme Romania, the Association for Biodiversity Conservation, the Echo -Transilvania Association and the Echo-choice Association.
- Eleven Ramsar sites were designated: Bistreț, Lake Calarași, Olt - Danube Confluence, Suhaia, Blahnița, Borcea Branch, Calafat - Ciuperceni - Danube, Canaralele de la Hârșova, Danube Islands Bugeac - Iortmac, Jiu-Danube Confluence, Old Danube - Măcin Branch with Special importance for the migratory waterbirds;
- Increase the efforts for an appropriate management in the natural protected areas applying the conservation principles of biodiversity and for sustainable tourism;
 - Apply the appropriate measures to maintain the natural regeneration potential of the natural resources;
 - supporting the civic society for recovery the biological diversity.

1.2 Questions on specific Appendix I bird species

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I bird species for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Pelecanus crispus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

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

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/ro/eu/art12/envuzndka/> - Implementation Report Article 12 Birds Directive

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

stable

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

stable

> Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife is strictly protected from hunting by Romanian legislation. The Committee for Nature Monuments Protection designated the Dalmatian Pelican as having a Nature Monument status.

Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is one of the two European Pelican species that can be observed in Romania, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve which is the most important nesting territory for Pelicans at the European level.

In Romania, the Dalmatian Pelican breeds in five colonies, all located within the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> The species' requirements with regard to water quality and the risk of their contamination with heavy metals were studied.

Monitoring

> A comprehensive monitoring programme provided information on breeding requirements, population size, movements of the Dalmatian Pelican, and to monitor the effects of the implemented conservation measures.

 Education/awareness rising

> During the period January 2011 - December 2013 the project „ Improvement of biodiversity conservation status in the pontic sector of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve through awareness, information, visits" was implemented by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority.

The goal was the improvement of biodiversity conservation status in the pontic sector of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve by creating optimum conditions for information and visits, to meet the need of residents and visitors both in terms of education and recreation and to help minimize their negative impact on nature.

The specific objectives were:

- Increase information and awareness level among residents and visitors about the biodiversity of the pontic sector of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

- Strengthening Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority's institutional capacity for public awareness and information.

Project activities:

Development / revision of management plans, strategies and measures for protected areas and other related activities (preliminary activities for investments or conservation measures);

- Technical project and execution details for the Visitor Center in Sulina;

- Investments in infrastructure for public use, oriented towards environmental protection and management in protected natural areas: Construction of Sulina Visitor Center, Visiting space planning for Sulina Visitor Center and information points in Tulcea and Crişan, Creating four thematic trails;

- Consultancy, awareness and information activities: Producing the Visitor's Guide for the pontic sector of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, information and public awareness sessions, producing the guide for species and habitats of community interest in the pontic and fluvio-marine area of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, producing 12 types of individual leaflets for different pontic species and habitats in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, producing a small album with species and habitats of community interest in the pontic sector of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve;

- Impact evaluation for information and awareness activities;

- Press conferences

- Posting information on the website, printing press releases

- Producing stickers, plates and permanent panels to ensure the visual identity of the project;

- Training and institutional capacity building activities for the management of protected area network;

Visitor Center in Sulina built and equipped, according to PT, DE, PUZ, technical documentation and product specification, offering visitors an experience connected with the unique natural and cultural character of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's pontic sector.

- Two information points organized in DDBRA headquarters, Tulcea and in the Information Center, Crisan, offering visitors an experience connected with the unique natural and cultural character of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's pontic sector;

- Four thematic routes provided with 13 information panels on field accompanied by a visitor's guide made in 10,000 copies in Romanian / English and the related maps;

- Information materials on the biodiversity of the pontic sector of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, printed;

- Two information seminars for information multipliers, with approx. 40 participants;

- Dissemination of results in the media (two press conferences, 6 press releases);

Personnel trained for public information and awareness, during two seminars, approximately 60 people;

- More than 6000 information materials distributed during the project period;

- A study/report regarding the impact evaluation of awareness-information activities;

- 12 reports on project implementation progress and the achievement of objectives.

 Species protection

> The main threats to the species at its breeding sites are disturbances and degradation of its habitats.

- Control hunting / poaching

- Species restoration

- Habitat protection

> Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority is associated with the project HABIT-CHANGE. The protected area selected for this project is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, site UNESCO, RAMSAR and Natura 2000. This wetland is one of the largest biodiversity conservation areas in Europe, one of the most important in terms of bird species.

HABIT-CHANGE project aims to support the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority in selecting the most appropriate management measures capable of reducing climate change impacts on flora, vegetation and habitats.

The Danube Delta National Research and Development Institute is contributing to the implementation of this project as partner.

HABIT-CHANGE assesses, enrich and adapt the conservation and management strategies currently existing in

protected areas. In this way, managers can prevent the effects of climate change that threatens the integrity and diversity of habitats.

HABIT-CHANGE not only analyzes habitat changes caused by climate change but focuses on the adaptation of conservative management and the use of land in protected areas. It is developed based on dialogue with users, highlighting the problems they have in terms of climate change and promote awareness of the need to apply an adaptive management in protected areas.

- Habitat restoration
- Other

> Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority protect the breeding population of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) in the Danube Delta. Specific conservation measures were taken to improve the breeding conditions by ensuring an adequate protection of the breeding sites and eliminating human disturbances and mortality caused by anglers and hunters.

Foreseen activities that address this aim included clear delineation of breeding sites, the use of warning signs and the training of wardens to deal with illegal intruders.

Authorities were urged to regulate fishing and hunting in order to prevent unintentional killings.

Power lines were marked to eliminate mortality due to collision. With the aim of securing the habitats and creating larger breeding areas, the shoreline of the natural islands were consolidated and artificial structures were planned.

Ground predation were reduced by limiting the access of predators to the sites.

The conservation actions contributed directly to the protection of Dalmatian Pelican colonies. Constructing additional nests and increasing breeding success have improved the long-term prospects of the bird species. The consolidation of natural islands (Ceaplace), increased area for breeding (Ceaplace), management of reed to ensure larger surface areas (Ceaplace), additional roosting areas (Ceaplace), permanent patrolling and monitoring and the denial of access to colonies (Rosca-Buhiova, Ceaplace and Lejai).

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> Scientific research activities to improve the management of the key sites;

Monitoring the special protected areas with high density of Dalmatian Pelican;

Take coordinated measures for maintaining the Dalmatian Pelican population in a favourable conservation status;

International cooperation in monitoring the species;

Species name: *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (only Palearctic populations)

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

- stable

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

- stable

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

- Research

> From the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, several institutions with scientific and monitoring activities extract data and information, cooperation being necessary due to the complexity of this work.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority beneficiates from this database and uses the information as support in the decision making process concerning the natural heritage of the area.

- Monitoring

> The Integrated Monitoring Program of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserves has 3 well defined purposes: to provide information for the scientific community, administration and politics, as a result of the research activity in physics, biology and social sciences; to support for systematic exchanges of scientific information; to support for the integrated monitoring of the biosphere Reserves, especially concerning the global changes, biological diversity, ecosystems management, human impact and sustainable development.

The monitoring activity complies with the Integrated Monitoring System for the Environment in Romania and the objectives of the Management Plan for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

The monitoring system in the DDBR identifies and measures the state variables of the structure and functions of the Danube Delta ecosystems and the command factors that affect their ecological integrity, in order to prevent their effects through corresponding management measures.

- Education/awareness rising

> The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Day, celebrated on September 1, was marked by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA), by organizing the International Danube Festival in Tulcea, in the framework of DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0 - Anchoring the Danube River Network of Protected Areas Danube as

Platform for Preservation of Natural Heritage, a project implemented by DDBRA as partner, funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

The Danube Environment Forum was held in Tulcea during the period 27-29 June, 2013. This international event initiated by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, the Romanian Academy and the Council of Danube Cities and Regions, under the patronage of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, organized in partnership with Apa Nova Bucharest, a Veolia Water Company, with the full support of the European Commission, brought together representatives of local, central and regional authorities, scientists and researchers, members of the business sector and non-governmental organizations from national and international level, and served as a platform for discussions among stakeholders, in order to establish solid partnerships and identify sustainable solutions to our common environmental challenges.

Every year the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority in partnership with "George Georgescu" Arts High School, organize the Poster Competition on ecological theme called "A Chance for the Blue Danube."

The objective of the competition is that through exhibitions of posters dedicated to nature protection, through art, to raise and maintain the constant interest of public opinion and of the younger generation in particular, on the need for conservation of natural ecosystems. Thus, the artistic message becomes a signal, a warning contributing to sensitize decision-makers, but in the same time represents an environmental education factor, an instrument trying to attract and involve the public in conservation and protection of Danube and Danube Delta waters.

The competition increased in value from one year to another and beginning with 2010 it became international and a selection of the best artworks was displayed in different locations along the Danube: in Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany.

- Species protection
- Species restoration
- Habitat protection
- Habitat restoration

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> To know the condition of the natural patrimony, including the evolution of the environment parameters;

To implement the Management Plan of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation, which is the official document which regulates all the activities carried out all over this protected natural area and in its surroundings;

Sustainable use of renewable natural resources;

Supervision of the natural capital's evolution;

To develop regional and international cooperation;

Accelerate the preparation of new programs for the new financial framework, without neglecting the essential role that environment plays in achieving the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region within Europe 2020, which will be the development engine of new integrated projects;

Ensures that the economical and social activities will be carried out according to the rules of protecting the environment and without having an anthropic impact on the natural ecosystems of the delta;

Conservation of the Danube Delta biological diversity and genetic resources;

Prevention of the deterioration of the natural capital of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve;

Species name: *Branta ruficollis*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

- stable

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

- stable

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

- Research

> - 26 inventory protocols, mapping and assessment of populations of Community Interest of bird species in the Black Sea SPA;

- 26 maps in GIS on the distribution of bird species in the Black Sea SPA;

- Identification and establishment of protected areas

- Monitoring

- Education/awareness rising

> Increase the public awareness about the importance of biodiversity through construction of three information points, organizing promotional campaigns that provide citizens with information about the impact of human activity on the environment and measures to prevent its degradation by promoting environmental education.

- Increase the institutional capacity of the custodian of the Natura 2000 Black Sea site, to implement an

integrated management effectively.

Species protection

> The Project "The Management of Natural Capital in ROSPA0076 Black Sea – SPA co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the Sectorial Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013 is ongoing since December 2015.

The site is important during the migration and wintering for species: *Pelecanus crispus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Larus minutus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Larus melanocephalus*, *Mergus albellus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Gavia arctica*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Gavia stellata*, *Larus genei*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Mergus merganser*, *Larus ridibundus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Aythya ferina*, *Fulica atra*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Larus fuscus*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Mergus serrator*.

The overall objective is to streamline the conservation of biodiversity in the Black Sea Natura 2000 site by providing appropriate effective management.

study on the conservation status of the bird species of Community Interest in the Black Sea SPA;

- specific management measures for each bird species of Community Interest in the Black Sea SPA.

Control hunting / poaching

Species restoration

Habitat protection

> Improve the management of natural protected areas in the Black Sea SPA, sustainable development of the entire area by developing the Management Plan and the Monitoring Plan in order to protect and maintain the biodiversity conservation.

Habitat restoration

Other

> A comprehensive Management Plan for all the activities in the Black Sea is elaborated.

Species name: *Aythya nyroca*

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

> Monitoring of Ferruginous Duck and the Pygmy Cormorant in the key-sites Blahnița, Gruia – Gârla, Great Bistreț, Danube River Confluence, Suhaia and the Danube Delta.

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Species restoration

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Approve and implement the National Action Plan for the conservation of species;

- Awareness campaign on the species facing hunters;

- Effective legislation to protect the species and its habitat from hunting, disturbance and anthropogenic pressure.

Species name: *Oxyura leucocephala*

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

Education/awareness rising

> - Public awareness among the local community, stakeholders on the negative impact of human activity on biodiversity' conservation.

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Species restoration

Habitat protection

> Maintaining vegetation by avoiding burning and harvesting of reeds in the special protected areas.

Habitat restoration

Species name: *Haliaeetus albicilla*

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

- Research
- Monitoring

> Monitoring actions in Homoroadelor Hills Natura 2000 site, designated for the conservation of 39 bird species, including 8 migratory water bird species, listed in the Annex of Bird Directive.

- Education/awareness rising

Species name: *Neophron percnopterus*

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

- Education/awareness rising

Species name: *Aquila clanga*

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

- unclear

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

- unclear

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

- Education/awareness rising
- Species protection

> Romanian Electricity Companies accepted to insulate the dangerous pylons of medium-voltage power lines and are ready to help the projects team in this activity.

The Management Plans for the Natura 2000 sites provide conservations measures for raptors species as well as conservation measures for the habitats of Community Interest.

An Environmental Impact Assessment for any project potentially adversely impacting sites on raptors and their habitats is undertaken.

Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned significant infrastructure developments within major flyways identified the key risk areas.

- Habitat protection

> An working group with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change was organized in order to introduce raptors specific measures into the agri - environment scheme until the end of 2014.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

- > - Elaborate the database of priority power lines and bird casualties;
- Collecting information on the raptors populations and the migration routes;
- Monitoring the special protected areas with high density of raptors;
- Develop the existing microchipping schemes to monitoring the raptors populations;
- Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at national and regional level through the creation of synergies.

Species name: *Aquila heliaca*

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

- Research
- Monitoring

> - Annually species monitoring conducted in the Special Protected Areas.

- Education/awareness rising
- Species protection
- Control hunting / poaching
- Habitat protection
- Habitat restoration

Species name: Falco naumanni

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> - Work field for the collection data regarding the birds of prey and their habitats;

- Identification of the most endangered habitats and raptors species;

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> - Identification of the most endangered habitats and raptors species;

Monitoring

> Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania and Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association participated to the International Waterbird Count - IWC for collecting data on raptors species.

Education/awareness rising

> - •Develop the Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism which is the basis for the Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System;

- Elaborate the Carpathian Red List of species and habitats;

Species protection

> Collaborate with the relevant utility companies to decrease the impact of electricity transmission lines in causing injury and death to the birds of prey and to minimize the risk in the long term;

The conservation measures for the birds of prey were included into the Management Plan of the Special Protected Areas;

Habitat protection

> -

Other

> - Establish of the geo-web reference interactive Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System which develop the Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism;

- Collecting the information about the power lines network and create a basic national potential conflict hotspot map using the information about the Critical Site Network Tool and the Important Bird Areas.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Habitats restoration;

- Training courses for custodians and the administrators of the natural protected areas for a better implementation of the Management Plans.

- Education and raise awareness of the local communities regarding the importance of birds of prey and the need to protect these species;

- Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at national and regional level through the creation of synergies.

- International cooperation for monitoring the most vulnerable birds of prey species;

Species name: Falco cherrug (except Mongolian populations)

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

unclear

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> Work field for data collection regarding the Saker Falcon and their habitats;

Identification of the most endangered habitats of this species;

The project "Conservation of Saker Falcon in Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia" was implemented;

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> The assessment of the effects of the agricultural subsidies and related habitat management practices on Saker Falcon habitat started in January 2011 and will be end in June 2014.

 Monitoring

> Large scale survey was conducted in Dobrudja region, in the Special Protected Areas Măcin - Niculițel, Casimcea Steppe and Old Danube – Măcin Branch, Babadag Forest, Măcin Mountains and in the western part of the country, in Mureș Lower Meadow, White Criș Plain, Black Criș Plain.

 Education/awareness rising

> A press release was sent and a press conference was organized jointly by Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association and ENEL Company, in April 2012, concerning the newly placed nest-boxes. An article about the project's achievements has been prepared for the BirdLife Romania publication "Alcedo". Four TV channels broadcasted information about the Saker Falcon conservation and 31 online newsletters were published the main issues about this species. 400 copies of Guideline about the effect of wind farms on Saker Falcon population were prepared for local authorities in Romanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian and Slovak languages. 4000 copies of leaflets and 1000 copies of DVD were produced for public. BirdLife Romania is working with the public through media in order to support the conservation efforts of Falco cherrug.

Educate and raise awareness of local communities to the importance of Saker Falcon and the need to monitor and protect this species.

Establish of the geo-web reference interactive Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System which develop the Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism - the basis for the Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System;

 Species protection

> One of the most successful methods to stabilize and increase the population of the Saker Falcons is the installation of artificial nests on the electric pylons. An agreement was made with the Romanian Electricity Companies (ENEL, Electrica and Transelectrica) regarding the nest boxes installation. In the West part of the country, aluminium nest boxes were installed in four counties: Satu Mare, Bihor, Arad and Timiș and other wooden nest boxes were installed in Bihor and Satu-Mare counties.

In Dobrudja region, the nest boxes were installed in the bordering area of Măcin - Niculițel, Babadag Forest, Casimcea Steppe and Old Danube – Măcin Branch.

The decision makers of the Romanian Electricity Companies accepted to insulate the dangerous pylons of medium-voltage power lines and helped the project team in this activity.

The Agri-Environmental Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was contacted by the experts from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in order to introduce Saker Falcon specific measures into the agri-environmental scheme for 2014.

Undertake Environmental Impact Assessment for any project potentially adversely impacting sites on raptors and their habitats.

Medium voltage pylons were checked in the Western part of the country and the collected data was introduced in a GIS database.

 Habitat protection

> For scientific research and monitoring the implemented projects were the following:

□□ "For nature and local communities - the bases for a Natura 2000 integrated management in Hârtibaciu – Târnavă Mare area";

"Conservation of Saker Falcon (Falco cherrug) in Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia";

"Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians" - BioREGIO Carpathians, funded by the European Regional Development Fund within the South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme.

 Habitat restoration Other

> Collecting the information about the power lines network and creating the basic national potential conflict hotspot map using the information about the Critical Site Network Tool and the Important Bird Areas.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Colect information on the national power line network and create a basic national potential conflict hotspot map.

- Conduct Strategic Environmental Assessments of planned significant infrastructure developments within major flyways to identify key risk areas.

- Decrease the impact of electricity transmission lines, conductors and towers in causing injury and death to Saker Falcon and to minimize the risk in the long term.

- Collaborate with the relevant utility companies.

- Elaborate the database of priority power lines and bird casualties.

- Develop existing microchipping schemes to monitoring the raptors populations;

Species name: Falco vespertinus

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

Monitoring

> Domogled - Cerna Valley National Park administration developed monitoring actions on waterbirds and raptors.

The results of monitoring actions of the waterbirds are included in a study that covers their distribution, conservation status and the management measures.

The monitoring of species is carried out by implementing the project „Conservation management of biodiversity in the Domogled - Cerna Valley National Park, as Natura 2000 site.”

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

> The methodology and GIS data of Community Interest bird species, were elaborated according to the phenological and ecological characteristics of the species: nesting/resident diurnal birds of prey (Aquila sp., Falco sp.), nesting/resident nocturnal birds of prey (Bubo bubo and Strix uralensis), nesting/resident birds of open, half-open and/or forest areas (Bonasa bonasia, Caprimulgus europaeus, Dendrocopos leucotos, Dendrocopos medius, Dendrocopos syriacus, Dryocopus martius, Ficedula albicollis, Ficedula parva, Picus canus, Sylvia nisoria, Lullula arborea, Lanius collurio and Emberiza hortulana).

Control hunting / poaching

Habitat protection

Other

> The project Measures for the Community interest bird species management in Natural Park Vânători – Neamț has as objective to set up the conditions for the favourable state of conservation for the Community interest birds within the Natural Park Vânători Neamț, involving the local communities.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Organize training workshop to improve skills in the monitoring of species.

- Take coordinated measures for maintaining the migratory species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status.

Species name: Numenius tenuirostris

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Monitoring

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Monitoring the special protected areas with high density of migratory waterbirds;

- Approve and implement the Management Plans for the Special Protected Areas for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats;

- International cooperation in monitoring of species.

Species name: Acrocephalus paludicola

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Monitoring

Education/awareness rising

Habitat protection

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Monitoring the Special Protected Areas with high density of migratory waterbirds;

- Wetlands restoration;

Species name: Otis tarda (Middle-European population)

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

stable

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> The Great Bustards are coming from Hungary, Dévaványa Landscape Protected Area within the Körös - Maros National Park.

During the period 2012-2013, 14-35 individuals of Great Bustard were observed during the winter time by the ornithologists from Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> International cooperation with Hungary to improve the conservation status of the Great Bustard population and to facilitate exchange of information and experience with Hungarian experts;

Cross-border conservation measures in the Western part of the country;

Monitoring

> Monitoring activities have been carried out through a project financed by the Romania - Hungary Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, in the Special Protection Area ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa - Rădvani Forest and Cefa Natural Park.

The partners were Apuseni National Park Administration from Romania and Körös-Maros National Park Administration from Hungary.

Education/awareness rising

> Public awareness campaigns of threats to the Great Bustard population and its habitats and enhance public participation in the conservation activities.

Contacts with the stakeholders of land-users, local and governmental authorities.

Species protection

> Strict legal protection of the Great Bustard in the country.

The collection of Great Bustard eggs or chicks, the possession of and trade of birds and their eggs are prohibited.

Control hunting / poaching

Other

> The conservation status of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) was investigated in the Western part of the country, in Bihor County. According to the national law there are a Special Protection Area designated for the Great Bustards, ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa - Rădvani Forest and Cefa Natural Park with relevant habitats for Great Bustard.

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> - Coordinated census to elaborating a detailed map of the "Important Great Bustard Areas;"

- Elaboration and the implementation of the Management Plan for ROSPA0097 Cefa Fishpond - Rădvani Forest;

- Intensive collaboration with farmers and the hunters associations;

- Power line marking to reduce collision risk;

- Develop the cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries by reviewing and coordinating monitoring

programme and protection of species.

2. AQUATIC MAMMALS

2.1 General questions on Appendix I aquatic mammals

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I aquatic mammals species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

1a. If the taking of Appendix I aquatic mammals species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I aquatic mammals:

By-catch

Pollution

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> Intensification of the control and survey activities.

A project for reducing the impact of marine bio-resources exploitation by elaborating ecological efficient solutions was implemented.

2b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> The research programme of the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa" was focused on the following topics:

- Assessments of incidental catching dolphins
- Analysis of the current fishing practices
- Assessment of the fishing effort and the risk
- Elaborate recommendations supporting dolphins' protection.

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I aquatic mammals species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Pollution

Other (please specify)

> Over-exploitation of marine resources.

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger aquatic mammals species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> "Grigore Antipa" National Institute for Marine Research and Development is the leading marine research institution in Romania, as well as national coordinator and the focal point with respect to international research tasks

and responsibilities, in the field of marine science.

The Institute is mainly oriented towards supporting adequate marine and coastal environmental management and protection. "Grigore Antipa" National Institute for Marine Research and Development undertakes fundamental, applied and technological development research in oceanography, marine and coastal engineering, ecology, environmental protection and management of living resources in the Black Sea. Being the technical operator of the marine monitoring network (physical, chemical and biological) and for coastal erosion survey, "Grigore Antipa" National Institute for Marine Research and Development hold a comprehensive volume of marine data and information which are exchanged in the framework of several international projects.

"Grigore Antipa" National Institute for Marine Research and Development supports adequate marine environmental management and protection through research activities, as well as the marine monitoring programme, the assessment of coastal erosion issues and biodiversity studies of the Romanian Black Sea coastal and transitional waters.

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> - Studies to carry out the Common Fisheries Policy: the adverse fisheries impacts on cetacean populations in the Black Sea.

Projects which were implemented:

- Improving the conservation status of marine biodiversity in the Romanian coastal zone, particularly dolphins, funded by the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment, carried out in the marine area of the Danube Delta, coordinated by the NGO "Mare Nostrum" in partnership with the National Institute for Marine Research

and Development „Grigore Antipa“;

- “Photo-identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters”, funded by the ACCOBAMS, coordinated by the NGO “Mare Nostrum” in partnership with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa”.

Activities for reducing the human impact on the conservation status of dolphins have been taken by the NGO “Mare Nostrum” in collaboration with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”.

The goal of the project was to improve the research of dolphins ecology, introducing the photo-identification method.

During the project, “Photo-identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters” the NGO “Mare Nostrum” collected new data about the cetacean species: stranded alive, found dead on the coast, entangled in fishing gears and outline measures for preventing cases of increased mortality.

The project’s activities were focused on:

- the organization and development of photo-identification sessions for data collection;
- organizing a photo-identification training;
- data collection concerning dolphin occurrence in Romanian coastal waters, accidental catches and strandings in the area between Năvodari (Cape Midia) and Vama Veche;
- development of the volunteer’s network strandings and sightings surveys at the Romanian Black Sea coast, named “Volunteers for saving dolphins”.
- Celebrate the “Dolphin Week;”
- National consultation workshop with the local stakeholders for the implementation of the National Action Plan for dolphins’ conservation;
- Events, posters, scientific papers presented in different national and international workshops, itinerary exhibition and the website (www.delfini.cier.ro);
- The Green Phone Line – 0800 800 078, setting by the NGO Mare Nostrum, for announcing so-called the sighting of a dead or alive dolphins.
- Three training courses for Romanian experts related to dolphins photo-identification;
- Establish the national/international partnerships.
- Cooperation between the Black Sea riparian countries for rationally managing the marine ecosystem and its resources;
- Advisory Group on Environmental Aspects of Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (Black Sea Commission) related to environment management;
- Regional meetings on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS resolutions in the Black Sea region with the participation of the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points;
- Black Sea Ad-Hoc Working Group on Fisheries.

The main activities of the project “Reducing the impact of marine bio-resources exploitation by elaborating ecological efficient solutions” carried out by the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa”, were the following:

- Experimentation of technical solution to reduce the mortality induced by the fishing activities;
- Assessing the current status of dolphin populations threatened by the industrial fishing;
- Use a new type of fishing gear after an environmental impact assessment;
- Use the turbot fishing nets with mesh side equal to or greater than 200 mm and the fineness of the yarn equal or less than 0.50 mm;
- Prohibiting the use of gill nets without marking their position with buoys and identification marks;
- Equipping with devices hidro-acoustic turbot gillnets for preventing the intersection of these tools with dolphins;
- Protect the spawning areas, feeding and wintering fishery.

2.2 Questions on specific Appendix I aquatic mammals

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I aquatic mammals species for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Research

> - Assessing the current status of dolphin population .

Monitoring

Education / awareness rising

> • Cooperation between the Black Sea riparian countries for rationally managing the marine ecosystem and its resources;

• Advisory Group on Environmental Aspects of Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (Black Sea Commission) related to environment management;

• Regional meetings on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS resolutions in the Black Sea region with the participation of the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points;

• Black Sea Ad-Hoc Working Group on Fisheries.

- Three training courses for Romanian experts related to dolphins photo-identification;

- Establish the national/international partnerships.

- Events, posters, scientific papers presented in different national and international workshops, itinerary exhibition and website (www.delfini.cier.ro)

- Celebrate the "Dolphin Week;"

Species protection

> - Use a new type of fishing gear after an environmental impact assessment;

- Use the turbot fishing nets with mesh side equal to or greater than 200 mm and the fineness of the yarn equal or less than 0.50 mm;

- Prohibiting the use of gill nets without marking their position with buoys and identification marks;

- Equipping with devices hydro-acoustic turbot gillnets for preventing the intersection of these tools with dolphins;

- Protect the spawning areas, feeding and wintering fishery

Habitat protection

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> Monitoring the strandings to reduced the mortality induced by fishing activity;

Special protection of spawning areas, feeding and wintering fishery resources and marine mammals;

Promote the research for the purpose of improving gear, equipment and fishing techniques;

Exchange of scientific research data between ACCOBAMS Parties;

Developing the inter-institutional partnerships;

Development of research methodology, public awareness and scientific partnerships in the fields of monitoring, control, protection and management of the Black Sea ecosystem and its living resources.

5. FISH

5.1 General questions on Appendix I fish species

1. Is the taking of all Appendix I fish species prohibited by the national legislation listed as being implementing legislation in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

1a. If the taking of Appendix I fish species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I fish species:

Other threats to migration (please provide details)

> pollution, overfishing

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> - Administrative, institutional, legislative measures.

- Strengthening the implementation and enforcement of fishery legislation and inspection controls at national level;

3. What are the major threats to Appendix I fish species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Other (please specify)

> pollution, overfishing

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger fish species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> - eliminate illegal national trade in sturgeon products

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> The project "Joint actions to raise awareness on overexploitation of Danube sturgeons in Romania and Bulgaria" is implemented by WWF in Austria, Bulgaria and Romania from July 2012 until September 2015. The project is financed one half each by the European Union and by WWF.

The 'Saving Danube Sturgeons' project aims to stop the overexploitation of the "critically endangered" Danube sturgeons in Romania and Bulgaria and thus to ensure the long-term survival of these species with their high natural and economic value.

Fishermen received targeted information about the impact of overexploitation of sturgeons;

Increase the knowledge about sturgeons and the effects of overfishing, as well as a commitment to stop illegal fishing amongst targeted fishing communities in Romania and Bulgaria;

Increase the levels of awareness, information and coordination amongst targeted enforcement officials;

The decennial moratorium continue in Romania until 2016;

A media campaign generated at least 20 press releases, five press conferences, four press trips and 100 press clippings, in addition to the impact of the project website;

Information boards at attractive sites in key- fishing villages communicated the content and aims of the project to the public;The beneficiary shared its knowledge and experiences with three relevant EC projects and presented the 'Saving Danube Sturgeons' project at three related events;

The project facilitated a stakeholder agreement for a long-term strategy to ensure the sustainability of its actions.

The close of the project will be in 2015.

5.2 Questions on specific Appendix I fish species

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I fish species, for which your country is considered to be a Range State. Please complete each table as appropriate, providing information in summary form. Where appropriate, please cross-reference to information already provided in national reports that have been submitted under other conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES). (Attach annexes as necessary.)

Species name: *Acipenser sturio*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Captures of *Acipenser sturio* and *Acipenser nudiiventris* have not been reported in Romania for the past more than 50 years (Bacalbasa-Dobrovici and Patriche, 1999).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Bacalbasa-1999-Environmental studies and recovery actions for sturgeon.pdf](#) - Bacalbasa and Patriche 1999

2a. Summarise information on population size (if known):

not known

2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):

not known

> Not the case

3. Indicate and briefly describe any activities that have been carried out in favour of this species in the reporting period. (Please provide the title of the project and contact details, where available):

Other

> Not the case

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species:

> Not the case

6. LISTING OF OTHER ENDANGERED MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX I

1. Is your country a Range State for any other endangered migratory species currently listed in Appendix I?

(according to the latest IUCN red data list). N.B.: States in which a species occurs as a vagrant (i.e. not "on its normal migration route") should not be treated as Range States. Please refer to Article 1 of the Convention for clarification.

Yes

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

Sturgeon species of the Danube River - Danube Sturgeon Task Force

If Yes, please provide details:

> Danube Delta National Institute established in June 1994 the Sturgeon Research Group (SRG). Since year 2003 DDNI was appointed CITES Scientific Authority for Sturgeons / Acipenseriformes of Romania and became responsible for annual monitoring the status of sturgeon stocks in the NW Black Sea and LDR (2001 - 2013). The results of the monitoring studies confirm the existence of natural spawning in the Lower Danube River of the migratory sturgeon species beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*), Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedti*) and stellate sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*). However, all these three migratory fish species are critically endangered, included in IUCN Red List.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Danube News 28 2013.pdf - Danube News 28 2013

1a. Is your country taking any steps to propose listing any of these species?

Yes

If yes, please provide details:

> In January 2012, a group of sturgeon experts, NGO delegates and representatives of the ICPDR, the Danube Strategy and national governments established the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF). Its aim is to coordinate and foster the conservation of native sturgeon species in the Danube River Basin and the adjacent Black Sea by the implementation of the Sturgeon Action Plan adopted under the Bern Convention in 2005.

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

Sturgeon Action Plan - Sturgeon Action Plan

III. Appendix II Species

1. INFORMATION ON APPENDIX II SPECIES

Information pertaining to the conservation of Appendix II species that are the object of CMS Agreements will have been provided in periodic Party reports to those instruments. It will suffice therefore to reference (below), and preferably append, a copy of the latest report that has been submitted to the Secretariat of each of the Agreement/MoUs to which your country is a Party.

EUROBATS (1994)

Date of last report:
> 2014

Period covered:
> 2011-2014

AEWA (1999)

Date of last report:
> 14 May 2012

Period covered
> 2009-2012

ACCOBAMS (2001)

Date of last report:
> 2013

Period covered:
> 2011-2013

Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

Date of last report:
> 2013

Period covered:
> 2012-2013

Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Date of last report:
> 2013

Period covered:
> 2012-2013

Sharks MoU (2010)

Date of last report:
> 2012

Period covered:
> 2010-2012

2. QUESTIONS ON CMS AGREEMENTS

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Bird Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Bird Species ?

Yes

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

> Romania signed the Raptors MoU during the CMS COP10 in Norway.

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Bird Species ?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> MoS1 on Raptors MoU in Abu Dhabi.

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bird Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Marine Mammal Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Mammal Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Marine Turtle Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Turtle Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Bat Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements,

including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Bat Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Bat Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bat Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Fish

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Fish ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Fish ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Fish, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

3. LISTING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX II

1. Is your country a Range State for any migratory species that has an unfavourable conservation status, but is not currently listed in Appendix II and could benefit from the conclusion of an Agreement for its conservation?

N.B.: States in which a species occurs as a vagrant (i.e. not "on its normal migration route") should not be treated as Range States. Please refer to Article 1 of the Convention for clarification.

No

1a. Is your country taking any steps to propose the listing of this/these species in Appendix II?

No

IV. National and Regional Priorities

1. What priority does your country assign to the conservation and, where applicable, sustainable use of migratory species in comparison to other biodiversity-related issues

High

2. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

Yes

2.1. If Yes, please indicate and briefly describe the extent to which it addresses the following issues:

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species

> Migratory birds, mammals and fish.

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of the habitats of migratory species, including protected areas

> Migratory birds, mammals and fish.

Actions to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger migratory species (e.g. alien invasive species or by-catch)

> Migratory birds, mammals and fish.

Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration

> Migratory birds, mammals and fish.

Research and monitoring of migratory species

> Migratory birds, mammals and fish.

Transboundary co-operation

> Migratory birds, mammals and fish.

3. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any other national or regional policies/plans (apart from CMS Agreements)

Yes

3.1. If Yes, please provide details:

> Agricultural, economic and fisheries policies

3a. Do these policies/plans cover the following areas?

Exploitation of natural resources (e.g. fisheries, hunting, etc.)

Yes

Economic development

Yes

Land-use planning

Yes

Pollution control

Yes

Designation and development of protected areas

Yes

Development of ecological networks

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Natura 2000 sites designation for all the species listed in Annex 3 and Annex 4 of Emergency Governmental Ordinance No. 57/2007 modified and completed.

Planning of power lines

Yes

Planning of fences

No

Planning of dams

Yes

Other

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> All the species listed in Annex 3 and Annex 4 of the Emergency Governmental Ordinance No. 57/2007 modified and completed and Law No.90/2000 regarding bat habitats;

4. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> Maintain the habitats of migratory species;

Protect the flyways;

Conserve the migratory species in the natural protected areas.

V. Protected Areas

1. Are migratory species taken into account in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> Government Decision No. 971/2011 amending and supplementing the Government Decision No. 1.284/2007 declaring the Special Protection Areas as part of the European ecological network Natura 2000 in Romania.

1a. Please identify the most important national sites for migratory species and their protection status:

> Danube Delta and Razim-Sinoie Complex (Special Protected Area)

Călimani-Gurghiu (SCI)

Danube Delta-the marine area (SCI)

Prut River (SCI)

Cluj East Hills (SCI)

Bârnova-Repedea (SCI)

Vama Veche/2 Mai (SCI)

Marine Area Tuzla Cape (SCI)

Apuseni (SCI)

Cheile Nerei-Beusnita (SCI)

Domogled-Valea Cernei(SCI)

Goşman Mountains (SCI)

Platoul Mehedinti (SCI)

Recifii Jurasici Cheia (SCI)

Ceahlău (SCI)

Scroviştea (SCI)

Iron Gates Nature Park (SPA)

Lower Siret Meadow (SPA)

Lake Techirghiol (Special Protected Area)

Old Danube - Măcin Branch (SPA)

Small Island of Brăila (SPA)

Black Sea (SPA)

Apuseni Natural Park

Padurea Craiului Mountains

Stanca Costeşti Lake (SPA)

Black Sea - SPA

Blahniţa (SPA)

Beibugeac Lake (SPA)

Grădiştea-Căldăruşani-Dridu (SPA)

Comana Natural Park (Ramsar, SPA, SCI)

Bucegi Natural Park

Suhaia Vităneşti Răsmireşti (SPA)

Danube River Confluence (SPA)

Vaduri and Pângăraţi Lake (SPA)

Beştepe - Mahmudia (SPA)

Vânători-Neamţ Natural Park (SCI)

Vităneşti-Răzmireşti (SPA)

Domogled-Cerna Valley National Park

Rarău-Giumalău Mountains (SPA)

Fălticeni Lakes (SPA)

Lower Olt Valley (SPA)

Câlniştei Valley (SPA)

1b. Do these protected areas cover the following areas?

Terrestrial

Yes

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

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>

If Yes, please provide details and include the amount of protected areas coverage and the number of

protected areas

>

- 44 natural protected areas included in category I;
- 13 natural protected areas included in category II;
- 206 natural protected areas included in category III;
- 699 natural protected areas included in category IV;
- 15 natural protected areas included in category V.

Aquatic

 Yes

If Yes, please provide details and include the amount of protected areas coverage and the number of protected areas

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

http://www.anpm.ro/upload/116008_RSM-2012.pdf

Marine

 Yes

1c. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Sustainable Development and Nature Protection Directorate

2. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

- > The implementation of the project "Strengthening the regional capacity to support the sustainable management of the Black Sea".
- Harmonization of methods and tools to assess the present state of fish stocks by scientific surveys, holistic models;
 - Management Plan for Black Sea Fisheries
 - Awareness of the fishery organizations and decision-makers from national fisheries regarding the need to use in the management strategies of the advice from research and joint-regional stock assessment.
 - Working visits and trainings of specialists;
 - International cooperation of the National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" with the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the Institute of Fishing Resources, Varna, Bulgaria, the Institute of Oceanography of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the Southern Research Institute of Sea Fisheries and Oceanography, Kerch, the Central Fisheries Research Institute, Trabzon, the Black Sea Technical University, Marine Science Faculty, Trabzon, China Agricultural University, Beijing, "Alexander" Technological Environmental Association, Thessaloniki, Greece and other international organizations.
 - National consultation workshop with the local stakeholders for the implementation of the National Action Plan for dolphins' conservation
 - Cooperation between the Black Sea riparian countries for rationally managing the marine ecosystem and its resources;
 - Advisory Group on Environmental Aspects of Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (Black Sea Commission) related to environment management;
 - Regional meetings on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS resolutions in the Black Sea region with the participation of the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points;
 - Black Sea Ad-Hoc Working Group on Fisheries.
 - During the period 2012- 2013, scientific research and monitoring activities were done through implementing the projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013, priority axis 4 - implementation of adequate management systems for nature's protection:
 - "The Management Plan for the Natura 2000 Siret Middle Meadow";
 - Transfrontier conservation of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and *Aythya nyroca* in the key sites in Romania and Bulgaria";
 - "The Management Plan for the Natura 2000 site Blahnița - Mehedinți";
 - "Measures to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites in the Iron Gates Natural Park";
 - Participation to the Common Bird Monitoring Program coordinated by the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania;
 - Identification and location of the habitats types, mapping the sites;
 - Elaborating a database and also the map with the distribution of waterbirds species during the migration;
 - Elaborating the Management Plans of the special protected areas.
 - At the national level, the Management Plans for the natural protected areas provide conservation measures for waterbirds species as well as for their habitats.
 - Eleven Ramsar sites were designated: Bistreț, Lake Calarași, Olt - Danube Confluence, Suhaia, Blahnița, Borcea Branch, Calafat-Ciuperceeni-Danube, Canaralele de la Hârșova, Danube Islands Bugeac - Iortmac, Jiu-

- Danube Confluence, Old Danube - Măcin Branch with special importance for migratory waterbirds;
- The interest in better knowing the status and trends of bat populations increased. Studies and researches were conducted during the hibernation period in the caves and in underground roosts during summer. An important data was recorded about the actual Romanian distribution and status of the bats species;
 - The "Emil Racoviță" Speleological Institute has been cooperating with non-governmental organizations involving in the exploration, the investigation and the inventory of the Romanian karst, achieving thus a national coordination of these specific activities. These investigations are complemented by ecological and ethological studies upon subterranean terrestrial and aquatic data, organization and function of trophic chains in karst system, dynamics of underground populations and other related topics.
 - The project "Bat conservation in Craiului Forest, Bihor County and Trascău Mountains", co-financed by the Life Programme, ensured the long term conservation of the bat populations in the project area, increased the public awareness on the ecological importance of bats species and the need to protect them. As results of this project:
 - Management plans of 7 bat species and a guideline for the elaboration of management plans of underground bat roosts and surrounding habitats were prepared;
 - 5 caves were closed in a bat-friendly way, to minimize the disturbance of bat colonies;
 - Measures were taken to avoiding the disturbance of bats;
 - Lighting conditions were modified in three caves;
 - Warning sign were placed in 40 caves, to strictly prohibit the access to the bat colonies located in the cave;
 - 9 important underground habitats were cleaned up from waste;
 - A book for children was published in Romanian and Hungarian languages about bats species and their habitats;
 - A training course regarding the methods for bats species monitoring was organized for 45 persons (rangers from the national and natural parks, speleologists, custodians of natural protected areas, volunteers from NGOs in Bihor county, within the project "Bat conservation in Craiului Forest, Bihor and Trascău Mountains" LIFE08 NAT/RO/000504;
 - During the period 23-27 May, in Bihor county, the "Program bat detector field Course - Oradea, 2011" was organized by the Natuurpunt (Belgia) and the Romanian Bat Protection Association. The objectives of the training were the identification of the echolocation calls and monitoring of four Nature 2000 sites from Moldova with the aid of professional equipment.
 - A guide for the management of bats habitats was elaborated. It is a guide for land managers and land owners.
 - Monitoring activities of the Great Bustards have been carried out through a project financed by the Romania-Hungary Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, in the Special Protection Area ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa -Rădvani Forest and Cefa Natural Park. The partners were Apuseni National Park from Romania and Körös-Maros National Park from Hungary.
 - Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania and Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association participated to the International Waterbird Count - IWC for collecting data on raptors species during the projects "For nature and local communities - the bases for a Natura 2000 integrated management in Hârtibaciu - Târnava Mare area", "Conservation of Saker Falcon (Falco cherrug) in Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia", "Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians Mountains."
 - Environmental Protection Agencies together with national and local authorities, NGOs and the scientific institutions joined forces to contribute to the protection and development of the Carpathian Mountain region;
 - Training courses for custodians and the administrators of the natural protected areas were organized for a better implementation of the Management Plans.

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

<http://www.blacksea-commission.org>

VI. Policies on Satellite Telemetry

1. In the current reporting period, has your country undertaken conservation/research projects that use satellite telemetry?

Yes

If yes what is the state of those projects

completed

Please provide details

> Arlie, the Lesser Spotted Eagle which the Conservation of the Lesser Spotted Eagle LIFE project team have been tracking by satellite transmitter since last year, has arrived back in Romania after a long migration through Africa. His journey took him through three continents and 17 countries. From the 1106 transmissions we received from him, his journey could be charted down through the Bosphorus bottleneck and along the east coast of Africa, before veering west to Namibia where he spent the winter.

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

<http://milvus.ro/en/tag/satellite-transmitter>

2. Are any future conservation/research projects planned that will use satellite telemetry?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (including the expected timeframe for these projects):

> For monitoring of migratory birds.

3. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> International Conference for updating the International Action Plan on the conservation of Aquila Pomarina was organized in Sibiu county, in 2013.

For the LIFE Project „Conservation of Aquila Pomarina in Romania” the members of the Milvus Group Association for the Protection of Birds and Nature managed to capture three adult and three juvenile A. pomarina in SPA Podisul Hartibaciului in 2010. The birds were equipped with satellite transmitters (Microwave 45 g Solar Argos/GPS PTT-100s) which monitor their movements with the help of the Argos system. For one year, the transmitters have sent data about their nesting area, the use of the habitat, their migration route and their wintering site. Two of the six transmitters are still sending the data which are very important for our species conservation effort. This year the Milvus Group Association team has managed to capture eight lesser spotted eagles (five juvenile and 3 adults) which they equipped with new satellite transmitters.

The birds were captured in two of the key project Natura 2000 sites: SPA Dealurile Târnavelor Valea Nirajului and SPA Podișul Hârtibaciului. They were also marked with aluminium rings and with colour-coded rings.

In July 2011 a mixed team of specialists from the Romanian Ornithological Society, the Milvus Group Association and the Sibiu Environmental Protection Agency have captured, ringed and equipped with satellite transmitters five lesser spotted eagles in SPA Piemontul Făgăraș. The satellite transmitters were mounted on two adults (named Bunget and Narcis) and three juveniles named Lisa, Negură and Gură de Aur)

The GPS PTTs mounted on the 13 birds in 2011 reported the birds’ location with 18 meters accuracy and registered data every two hours between 6.00 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day.

The transmitters also send us data about altitude, speed and flight direction.

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

http://www.pomarina.ro/pomarina/index_1200_768.php

VII. Membership

1. Have actions been taken by your country to encourage non- Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

No

1a. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Sustainable Development and Nature Protection Directorate

2. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> Thanks to renewed funding from The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa and the Association for Cultural Exchange, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is working with our partners to develop the first protected area capacity building programme in Romania. We have made substantial progress over the last two years to establish this long-term programme which aims to improve capacity, skills and knowledge for 'protected area' conservation management in Romania. The project is developing a much-needed capacity building and training programme for protected area staff - the custodians of Romania's natural protected areas.

The project "Building capacity for protected area management in Romania" has helped establish a completely new Romanian institution, ProPark - Foundation for Protected Areas - to deliver the programme. It has already developed interesting new training modules and has held 'start up' training workshops involving protected area practitioners on key conservation topics relevant to Romania's protected areas. These practitioners shared their new skills and learning with colleagues and partners on the ground - multiplying the impact of the original training and spreading skills, knowledge and expertise. over 150 people have been trained in topics including "Visitor Management in and around Protected Areas" and "Management of Protected Areas - an introductory course for custodians". The response to the training has been positive with over 80 per cent of participants finding the sessions helpful in their current work. The project is now in its second phase, focusing on "training the trainers" to teach the various modules and securing accreditation of the modules.

VIII. Global and National Importance of CMS

1. Have actions been taken by your country to increase national, regional and/or global awareness of the relevance of CMS and its global importance in the context of biodiversity conservation?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> On Romanian initiative, it was developed "STURGEON 2020"- a program and a strategy for the protection and rehabilitation of Danube sturgeons - in order to coordinate and foster the conservation of highly endangered native sturgeon species in the Danube River Basin and the Black Sea. 'Sturgeon 2020' has the support of International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and environmental pillar of EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Awareness raising is important and in this respect the LIFE project "Joint actions to raise awareness on overexploitation of Danube sturgeons in Romania and Bulgaria" conducted by WWF is making a vital contribution.

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

[Sturgeon 2020](#)

[WWF Life Project](#)

2. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Sustainable Development and Nature Protection Directorate

3. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> The most important actions that were taken in the context of biodiversity conservation are the following:

- Extension of existing and creation of new natural protected areas
- Monitoring of the migratory species based on evidence and surveying
- Implementation of practical measures to conserve nature and to protect
- International cooperation in nature conservation
- A number of institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations are actively involved in informative materials, conducting seminars and educational campaigns to raise the public awareness regarding the biological diversity conservation.
- In order to ensure proper conservation measures, strong cooperation and collaboration between NGOs, national institutions and the involvement of local stakeholders was promoted.

IX. Mobilization of Resources

1. Has your country made financial resources available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> Support for the projects elaborated by environment authorities, institutes, universities, NGOs.

2. Has your country made voluntary contributions to the CMS Trust Fund to support requests from developing countries and countries with economies in transition?

No

3. Has your country made other voluntary financial contributions to support conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in other countries (particularly developing countries)?

No

4. Has your country provided technical and/or scientific assistance to developing countries to facilitate initiatives for the benefit of migratory species?

No

5. Has your country received financial assistance/support from the CMS Trust Fund, via the CMS Secretariat, for national conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

No

6. Has your country received financial assistance/support from sources other than the CMS Secretariat for conservation activities having direct benefit for migratory species in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> Life Nature Programme

X. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

Please provide information about measures undertaken by your country relating to recent Resolutions and Recommendations since the last Report. For your convenience please refer to the list of COP Resolutions and Recommendations listed below:

Resolutions

Bycatch (incl. Recommendation) (6.2 / 7.2 / 8.14 / 9.18 / 10.14)

- > - Practical know-how and financial support available for fishermen pertaining to best available techniques in order to prevent by-catch and reduce it.
- Decreasing by-catch in fishing nets within Romanian coastal waters as the main step to attain sustainable dolphin conservation in the Black Sea.

Oil Pollution and Migratory Species (7.3)

- > The Convention on conservation of migratory species of wild animals was ratified by Law 13/1998, Pollution is controlled by a variety of means, including legislation, regulations and public awareness.

Electrocution of Migratory Birds (7.4 / 10.11)

- > Emergency Government Ordinance No. 57/2007 stipulate the measures for conservation and protection of the species.

Wind Turbines and Migratory Species (7.5)

- > All offshore and onshore wind turbine proposals are subject to full environmental assessment.

Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (8.27 / 10.22)

- > Romania improved biosecurity at all levels, organized tight controls, backed up by better enforcement, on the movements of all poultry products, including fertiliser and feed made from poultry waste. It was a full involvement, collaboration and rapid sharing of information among those with relevant veterinary, medical, agricultural and ecological expertise.

Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species (8.13 / 9.7 / 10.19)

- > - The development of scientific research for the vulnerability study of water management systems to the climate change.

Marine Debris (10.4)

- > Intensification of the control and survey activities in the Black Sea.

Poisoning Migratory Birds (10.26)

- > Poisoning migratory birds is forbidden by the national legislation.

Adverse Anthropogenic Impacts on Cetaceans and other Biota (8.22 / 9.19 / 10.24)

- > Law No. 91/2000 ratified the ACCOBAMS.

Impact Assessment and Migratory Species (7.2)

- > In Romania the Reports on Environmental Impact Assessment take into account the impact on migration routes (destruction and disconnection of communication corridors), assessment of losses of foraging habitats (sites with a great abundance of species, evaluation of the heightened risk of collision during flight (mandatory during operation of wind turbines and construction of roads), assessment of the degree of disorientation of bats resulting from emissions of ultra sound noise, assessment of measures that would reduce the risk of increased species fatalities specifically in relation to migration corridors, areas of intensive activity of migrating species, important foraging habitats of resident and migrating species, affected summer and winter roosts, the assessment of the cumulative effect of the facilities.

Sustainable Use (8.1)

- > Romania allocated substantial funding for the national biodiversity, including co-financing for GEF projects, and biodiversity research. A Fund for the Environment was created, using the taxes for pollution and the exploitation of biological resources by economic agents, with more than 10 % allocated to biodiversity conservation. The National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Diversity Conservation has been established, cover the sustainable use of natural resources.

Implementation of Existing Agreements and Development of Future Agreements (8.5)

- > The Environmental Protection Agencies have responsibility for environmental monitoring and nature

conservation.

Concerted Actions for Appendix I Species (8.29)

› International seminars, workshops and working groups were organized.

Concerted and Cooperative Actions (9.1 / 10.23)

› Cooperative actions for Appendix II species were implemented.

Priorities for CMS Agreements (9.2 / 10.16)

› International cooperation on migratory shark Spiny dogfish (*Squallus acanthias*) for conservation of population.

Migratory Marine Species (9.9 / 10.15)

› Protection of migratory marine species.

Saker Falcon (9.20 / 10.28)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Report-Falco.pdf](#)

Ecological Networks (10.3)

› Increase the Nature 2000 Network with new natural protected areas.

Global Flyway Conservation (10.10)

› Conserve the global flyway involving Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania

Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes (7.9)

› Strengthen institutional linkages with partner organizations for implementing the CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme

CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (8.2)

› Romania reviewed the National Biodiversity Strategy and the National Action Plan appropriate, in light of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011 for the Convention on Migratory Species.

Contribution of CMS in Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target (8.7)

› Conservation measures for migratory species and their habitats were implemented.

National Reports for the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the Conference of the Parties (8.24)

› The National Report provided information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures.

CMS Information Priorities (9.3)

› Promote the priorities in the appropriate forums of other MEAs such moves towards harmonisation of reporting procedure.

Outreach and Communication Issues (9.5 / 10.7)

› Enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors.

Capacity Building Strategy (9.12 / 10.6)

› Training courses were organized for custodians and administrators of natural protected areas and for the Environmental Protection Agencies staff.

Financial and Administrative Matters and Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund (10.1)

› Romania contributed to the budget adopted at the scale agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties.

Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

1. The drop-down lists below contain the list of all species listed in Appendix II. New Parties which have acceded since COP10 in 2011 and Parties which did not submit a National Report in time in 2011 are requested to complete the entire form.

Parties that did submit a timely report in 2011 are requested to review and update the data (e.g. new published distribution references and details concerning species added to Appendix II at COP9 and COP10).

Chiroptera

Rhinolophidae spp (European populations)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Vespertilionidae spp (European populations)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Miniopterus schreibersii (African populations)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Miniopterus majori

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Cetacea

Phocoena phocoena (Black Sea population)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Tursiops truncatus (Black Sea population)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Delphinus delphis (Black Sea population)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Ciconiiformes

Ardea purpurea purpurea (Populations breeding in the W Palaearctic)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Ciconia nigra

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Ciconia ciconia

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Plegadis falcinellus

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Platalea alba (excluding Malagasy population)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Platalea leucorodia

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Anseriformes**Anatidae spp**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Falconiformes**Pandion haliaetus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Accipitridae spp

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Falconidae spp

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Galliformes**Coturnix coturnix coturnix**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Gruiformes**Porzana porzana (Populations breeding in the W Palearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Fulica atra atra (Mediterranean and Black Sea populations)

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Crex crex

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Grus spp

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Otis tarda

Please choose the one that applies.

Extinct at National level

Columbiformes**Streptopelia turtur turtur**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Coraciiformes**Merops apiaster**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Squaliformes**Squalus acanthias (Northern hemisphere populations)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Acipenseriformes**Huso huso**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

2. All species of each of the Families below are listed in Appendix II. If your country is a Range State for any of the species in these Families, please indicate whether your country is a Range State or the species is extinct and, where appropriate, please provide published distribution references.

Order FALCONIFORMES, Family ACCIPITRIDAE**Accipiter nisus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Aegypius monachus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Aquila chrysaetos

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Aquila clanga

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Buteo buteo

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Gypaetus barbatus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Haliaeetus albicilla

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Milvus migrans

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Milvus milvus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Neophron percnopterus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Order FALCONIFORMES, Family FALCONIDAE

Falco cherrug

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Falco naumanni

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Falco peregrinus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Falco tinnunculus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Falco vespertinus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Order PASSERIFORMES, Family MUSCICAPIDAE

Acrocephalus palustris

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Order ANSERIFORMES, Family ANATIDAE

Anas anser

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Anas cygnus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Anas erythropus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Anas ferruginea

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Anas fuligula

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Order CHARADRIIFORMES, Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE**Himantopus himantopus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Himantopus leucocephalus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Recurvirostra avosetta

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Order CHIROPTERA, Family RHINOLOPHIDAE (European populations)**Rhinolophus blasii**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Rhinolophus euryale

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Rhinolophus hipposideros

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Rhinolophus mehelyi

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Order CHIROPTERA, Family VESPERTILIONIDAE (European populations)**Barbastella barbastellus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Eptesicus nilssonii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Miniopterus schreibersii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis bechsteini

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis blythii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis brandti

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis brandtii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis dasycneme

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis daubentonii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis emarginatus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis mystacinus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Myotis nattereri

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Nyctalus lasiopterus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Nyctalus leisleri

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Nyctalus noctula

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Pipistrellus kuhlii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Pipistrellus nathusii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Pipistrellus pipistrellus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Pipistrellus pygmaeus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Pipistrellus savii

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Plecotus auritus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Plecotus austriacus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Vespertilio murinus

Choose the one that applies.

Range State