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

The reporting period is 15 June 2014 to 1 May 2017.

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

Malta

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

Environment and Resources Authorty (ERA)

Please list any other agencies that have provided input

Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change

I(a). General Information

0	Please enter the required infor	mation in the table below:				
0	0					
Period covere	d:	June 2014-May 2017				
Territories to which the Convention applies: Malta						
Designated National Focal Point						
Full name of the institution:Environment and Resources Authority(ERA)						
Name and title of designated Focal Point: Mr. Darrin T. Stevens, Deputy Director – Environment and Resources						
Mailing address:						
Biodiversity U Marsa, MRS 1		es Authority, Hexagon House, Spencer Hill,				
Telephone:		+ 356 2292 3500				
Fax:		N/A				
E-mail :		cms.malta@era.org.mt				

Appointment to the Scientific Council

Full name of the institution:	N/A
Name and title of contact officer:	N/A
Mailing address:	N/A
Telephone:	N/A
Fax	N/A
E-mail:	N/A

Submission

 Name and Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report

 Name:
 Mr. Darrin T. Stevens, Deputy Director – Environment and

Resources Address:

Biodiversity Unit, Environment and Resources Authority, Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa, MRS 1441

Tel.:	+ 356 2292 3500
Fax:	N/A
E-mail:	cms.malta@era.org.mt

Date of submission:	05 May 2017
Membership of the Standing	g Committee (if applicable):

Name:	N/A
Address:	N/A
Tel :	N/A
Fax :	N/A
E-mail :	N/A

Implementation

Competent Authority:

ERA is the relevant authority on all biodiversity issues, excluding avifauna, which is addressed by the Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU), within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change

Relevant implemented legislation:

- Reptiles (Protection) Regulation, 1992 (Legal Notice 76 of 1992)
- Capture and Killing Methods (Prohibition) Regulations, 2002 (Legal Notice 167 of 2002)
- Marine Mammals Protection Regulations, 2003 (Legal Notice 203 of 2003)
- Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations, 2004 (Legal Notice 236 of 2004)
- Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 79 of 2006), as amended [SL549.42]
- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended)

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

- International Plant Protection Convention [IPPC]
- Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution [Barcelona Convention]
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage [World Heritage Convention]
- Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, 1982 [SPA Protocol]
- Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, 1995 [SPA & Biodiversity Protocol]
- The Convention on Wetland of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats [Ramsar Convention]
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna [CITES]
- Amended International Plant Protection Convention [FAO-Amended IPPC]
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [UNCLOS]
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats [Bern Convention]
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCC]
- United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those Countries experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean [Amended Barcelona Convention]
- Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, 1995 [SPA & Biodiversity Protocol]
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD]
- Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe [EuroBats]
- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area [ACCOBAMS]
- Agreement on the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
- European Landscape Convention [Florence Convention]
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

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

Note: All texts are available on internet, mostly on the Laws of Malta web-site, available at http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/

Main Relevant Acts:

• Environment Protection Act [Cap.549]

- Filfla Nature Reserve Act [Cap.356]
- Fisheries Conservation and Management Act [Cap. 425]
- Malta Resources Authority Act [Cap.423]
- Authority for transport in Malta Act [Cap. 499]
- Code of Police Laws [Cap. 10]
- Criminal Code [Cap. 9]
- Fertile Soils Preservation Act [Cap. 236]
- Sand Preservation Act. [Cap. 127]

Main Relevant Regulations:

- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations [Legal Notice 311/06, as amended]
- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection (Declaration of SACs) Regulations [Government Notice 112/07]
- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Declaration of Wied Moqbol to Il-Ponta ta' Benghisa Special Protection Area), 2006 [Government Notice 812/2008]
- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Declaration of Ta' Ċenċ Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation), 2006 [Government Notice 859/2008]
- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006- Special Areas of Conservation of International Importance [Government Notice 851/10]
- Conservation of Wild Birds Regualtions [Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended]
- Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations [Legal Notice 236/04]
- Marine Mammals Protection Regulations [Legal Notice203/03]
- Reptiles Protection Regulations [Legal Notice 76/92]
- Selmunett Islands (St. Paul's Islands) Nature Reserve Regulations [Legal Notice 25/93]
- Fungus Rock (il-Ġebla tal-Ġeneral) Natural Reserve Regulations [Legal Notice 22/92]
- Rubble Walls and Rural Structures Conservation and Maintenance Regulations [LN 160 of 1997, as amended]
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations [Legal Notice 340/01]
- Waste Management Permit and Control Regulations [Legal Notice 337/01]
- Deposit of Waste and Rubble (Fees) Regulations [Legal Notice 128/97]
- Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations [Legal Notice 200/11]
- Antiquarian Trees Regulations [Government Notice 269/33]

Other Regulations:

- Water Policy Framework Regulations [Legal Notice 194/04, as amended]
- Convention on Biological Diversity Incorporation Regulations [Legal Notice 160/02] ٠
- Importation of Skins of Certain Seal Pups and Derived Products Regulations [Legal Notice 335/01]
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations [Legal Notice 418/05, as amended] •
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2007 Arrangement of Regulations (Legal Notice 114 of 2007, as amended)

Other Policies:

- Malta's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012-2020) •
- Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development
- Dossier on the Capture, Killing of Wild Terrestrial Fauna in the Maltese Islands (Draft for consultation)
- Guideline and Designation Framework for Marine Protected Areas •

CMS Agreements/MoU

0 Please indicate whether your country is part of the following Agreements/MoU. If so, please indicate the competent national institution 0

Wadden Sea Seals (1991)

Party

E-mail: N/A

Non-party Range State

Non Range State

Signed but not yet entered force

National Focal Point

0 Membership of the Trilateral Seal Expert Group 0 Name: N/A Name: N/A Address: N/A Address: N/A Tel: N/A Tel: N/A Fax: N/A Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

0		
0 EUROBATS (1994)		
Party		
Non-party Range State		
Non Range State		
Signed but not yet entered force		
National Focal Point		0
	Administra	tive Focal Point
	0	0
Name: Mr. Darrin T. Stevens	Name:	
Address: Biodiversity Unit, Environment and Resources Authority, Hexagon House, Spencer	Address:	
Hill, Marsa, MRS 1441	Tel:	
,,,	Fax:	
Tel: +356 2292 3500	E-mail:	
Fax: N/A E-mail: <u>cms.malta@era.org.mt</u>		
E-man. <u>cms.mana@era.org.mt</u>		
ASCOBANS (1994)		

AS	CO	BA	NS	(1994	

Party

Non-party Range State

Non Range State

Signed but not yet entered force

	0	Appointed		
member of the Advisory Committee				
0	0			
Name: N/A	<u> </u>			

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

AEWA (1999)

Party

Non-party Range State

Non Range State

Signed but not yet entered force

National Focal Point

National Focal Point	Appointed		
	member of the Technical Committee		
	0 0		
Name: N/A	Name: N/A		
Address: N/A	Address: N/A		
Tel: N/A Fax: N/A	Tel: N/A Fax: N/A		

E-mail: N/A

ACAP (2001)

E-mail: N/A

Party

Non-party Range State

Non Range State

Signed but not yet entered force

member of th	0 e Adv		Appointed mmittee
0	0	J	
Name: N/A			

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Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Address: N/A

Name: N/A

Focal Point

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Address: N/A

Tel: <mark>N/A</mark> Fax: <mark>N/A</mark> E-mail: <mark>N/A</mark>

Gorilla Agreement (2008)

0

Party

Non-party Range State

Non Range State

Signed but not yet entered force

National Focal Point Image: N/A Name: N/A Address: N/A Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Image: N/A <t

ACCOBAMS (2001)

Party

Non-party Range State

Non Range State

Signed but not yet entered force

	0	Appointed	
Member of the Scientific Committee			
0	0		

Name: Ms. Carmen Mifsud (Since 2017, focal point has been updated to Mr. Christopher **Cousin**)

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

Address: Biodiversity Unit, Environment and Resources Authority, Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa, MRS 1441

Tel: +356 2292 3500 Fax: N/A E-mail: accobams.malta@era.org.mt

Siberian Crane MoU (1993/1999)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Address: N/A

Point

Name: N/A

0

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Contact

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

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Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	0	Contact
	Point)
Name: N/A	Name: N/A	
Address: N/A	Address: N/A	
Tel: N/A	Tel: N/A	

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

AoU (1999)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

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Name: N/A

Address: N/A

0 Point Name: N/A

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Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Address: N/A

Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

Non-signatory Range State

Contact

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	0	Contact
	Point	0
Name: N/A	Name: N/A	
Address: N/A	Address: N/A	

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

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Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	0	Contact
Name: N/A	Point O Name: N/A]
Address: N/A	Address: N/A	

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)

Non-signatory Range State

ddress:

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	Conta	ct
	Point 0	
Name: N/A	Name: N/A	
Address: N/A	Address: N/A	
Tel: N/A	Tel: N/A	
Fax: N/A	Fax: r	
E-mail: N/A	E-mail: N/A	

Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

0

Competent Authority

	0		Contact
Point 0		e 0	
Name: N/A			

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel:	N/A		
Fax:	N	I/A	
E-ma	il:	N/A	

Tel:	N/A
Fax:	N/A

E-mail: N/A

Address: N/A

West African Elephants MoU (2005)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

		0		Contact
Point	0		0	
Name:	N/A			

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU (2006)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

		0		Contact
Point	0		e 0	
Name:	N/A			

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Saiga Antelope MoU (2006)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	0 Contact
	Point
Name: N/A	Name: N/A
Address: N/A	Address: N/A
Tel: N/A	Tel: N/A

Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

	0		Contact
Point 0		0	
Name: N/A			

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	Contact
	Point 0
Name: N/A	Name: N/A
Address: N/A	Address: N/A
Tel: N/A	Tel: N/A
Fax: N/A	Fax: N/A
E-mail: N/A	E-mail: N/A

Southern South American Grassland Birds MoU (2007)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

		0		Contact
Point	0		0	
Name:				

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Dugong MoU (2007)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Point 0 Contact Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A	Tel: N/A
Fax: N/A	Fax: N/A
E-mail: N/A	E-mail: N/A

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Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU (2008)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

	0		Contact
Point 0		0	

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	⁰ Conta	ct
	Point 0	
Name: N/A	Name: N/A	
Address: N/A	Address: N/A	
Tel: N/A	Tel: N/A	
Fax: N/A	Fax: N/A	
E-mail: N/A	E-mail: N/A	

High Andean Flamingos MoU (2008)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

0

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

		e 0		eContact
Point	0		0	

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

Tel:	N/A	
Fax:	N/A	
E-ma	il: N/	4

Sharks MoU (2010)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Address: N/A

Name: N/A

Point

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Contact

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

South Andean Huemul MoU (2010)

Non-signatory Range State

Non Range State

Signatory

Competent Authority	

		0		eContact
Point	0		0	
Name:	N/A			

Name: N/A

Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A Address: N/A

Tel: N/A Fax: N/A E-mail: N/A

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.)

Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU)

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture DFA

Malta Police Force

Armed Forces of Malta

Transport Authority (Malta) (TM)

Civil Protection Department (CPD)

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

The relationship between the entities/governmental departments mentioned above is one of strong collaboration and co-operation, with each entity having its own particular remit and responsibility.

For instance, the DFA is responsible for the regulation, surveillance and control of fisheries and aquaculture, so as to ensure the sustainability of Malta's marine resources.

The Wild Birds Regulation Unit is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of all issues related to the conservation of wild birds, excluding CITES. WBRU coordinates the work of relevant institutional structures such as the Malta Ornis Committee and works in close collaboration with the Malta Police Force, the Armed Forces of Malta, and the Customs Department, ERA and other entities to ensure adequate implementation and enforcement of applicable legislation on the ground. Apart from the Police and AFM, the

Specialist Enforcement Branch of WBRU also liaises with foreign enforcement entities such as Europol, IMPEL and the Italian Corpo Forestale.

The Malta Police Force is responsible for the enforcement of legislation and is supported by the Armed Forces of Malta. TM, on the other hand, is responsible to supervise the organisation of the primary maritime services. Through its functions the latter Authority allows for the efficient operation of ports, merchant shipping and yachting centres, whilst enforcing safety measures and the prevention and control of pollution of ports.

Meetings are held, as necessary, between the Ministry responsible for the environment and the related agency with the respective entities, with each highlighting one's legal obligations and reaching consensus in view of any conservation measures which may be required.

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



Yes

Please provide contact information:

The Malta Ornis Committee is established by virtue of regulation 10 of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations for the purpose of advising the Minister on a range of matters concerning conservation of wild birds, including, inter alia, regarding parameters of any bird hunting seasons, authorization of derogations and monitoring of their implementation, policies related to conservation of wild birds, scientific studies and similar matters. The Ornis Committee is composed of eleven members appointed by the Minister for a period of one year. The Committee consists of a Chairman, Secretary, two representatives of hunting organisations (FKNK), two representatives in the bird conservation sector (Birdlife Malta), three independent experts appointed by the government, an expert on the conservation of birds and an expert on hunting and trapping.

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:

BICREF (Biological Conservation Research Foundation) – The principal activities of this foundation is the undertaking of scientific research so as to acquire additional data on local fauna which could aideffective species and habitat conservation.

BirdLife Malta - The mission of this NGO is for the protection of wild birds and their habitats. Activities carried out by the organisation include the managing of two bird sanctuaries (Ghadira and is-Simar), an afforestation project, the carrying out of research, the collection of data (including through bird ringing), the running of conservation projects (e.g. the EU LIFE Seasbirds Project) and the carrying out information campaigns. Birdlife Malta is also represented on the Malta Ornis Committee.

Hunting organizations are actively involved in habitat conservation, dissemination of information and act as field marshals during hunting seasons. Malta's main hunting Federation, FKNK, is also represented on the Malta Ornis Committee.

Nature Trust (Malta) - This NGO helps to protect local natural heritage through the rescue of stranded dolphins/turtles, nature walks and clean-ups, educational campaigns, courses and publications.. The organization has been entrusted with the management a number of sites in Malta which include the salt marsh at Marsaxlokk and the Nature Reserves of Wied Ghollieq and Xrobb l-Għagin.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Since 2013 most of the responsibilities pertaining to the protection of avifauna, with the exception of responsibilities related to CITES, shifted to the Wild Birds Regulation Unit within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC).

2- Aquatic Mammals ERA

3- Reptiles ERA

4- Terrestrial Mammals ERA

5- Fish

ERA and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, within MSDEC

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)?



If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

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



If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

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

Electrocution
By-catch
 Pollution
Habitat destruction
Wind turbines
Other (please provide details):

N/A

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

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

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?

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

Poaching
Illegal trade
Other (please specify)

The main pressures stem from illegal targeting of protected species mainly for the purpose of illegal taxidermy and trade.

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?

The actions undertaken by Maltese authorities during the reporting period to prevent, reduce and control such factors were centered around four pillars:

- 1. <u>Strengthening of legislation concerning conservation of wild birds</u>
- 2. <u>Improving enforcement in the field</u>
- 3. Improving effectiveness of judiciary processes concerning bird-related crime
- 4. Improving awareness

These actions are decribed in further detail below.

Strengthening legislation

Building further on the success of the major legal reforms implemented in 2013, during the reporting period Malta has further consolidated progress in strengthening national legislation on the conservation of wild birds. On 28 March 2014, the Government further increased legal deterrent against the most serious bird-related crime which involves the targeting of protected species listed in Schedule I and Schedule IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42). Through the publication of LN 110/14 which amends these Regulations, any hunting or taking, or attempting to hunt and or take protected bird species listed in Schedules I and IX, even in the case of a first time offence, will automatically incur a penalty comprising of a fine of €5,000 and / or imprisonment for one year, as well as permanent revocation or ban on obtaining a licence, and the confiscation of the corpus delicti. In case of a second or subsequent offence, the applicable penalty comprises an automatic fine of €10,000 and / or imprisonment for two years as well as permanent confiscation of the corpus delicti. These measures represent a ten-fold increase in the previously applicable minimum fine for a first time offence and for subsequent offences. Permanent revocation of licence, and imprisonment, which previously, only applied to repeat offenders, will also apply in the case of a first time offence in such cases.

To further consolidate the progress of legal reforms implemented in 2013 and in 2014 to strengthen the fight against bird-related crime, in August 2015, the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42) was amended by means of Legal Notice 281 of 2015. The amendments, amongst other, resulted in the following changes:

a) A list of 8 gravity factors, drawn up on the basis of the recommendations of the Tunis Action Plan on the Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds under the Bern Convention, has now been firmly embedded within Regulation 27(2) of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, which provides the highest penalties for serious bird-related offences;

b) A high level of general legal protection that was previously afforded to all species of wild birds naturally occurring in the wild state in Europe was extended to all other birds that do not naturally occur in the wild state in the territory of the European Union and that were, until this amendment came into force, with the exception of CITES-listed species, not explicitly protected under Maltese legislation. Offences in respect to such birds that were previously not covered by the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations are now subject to the same level of penalty as that applicable to European territory birds;

c) The enforcement powers of the competent authority were clarified and strengthened to become on par with the powers granted to environment inspectors under the Environment and Development Planning Act;

d) The powers of the Malta Ornis Committee were expanded to enable making of recommendations concerning alternation of any parameter of any hunting season (including closure of any season) on the basis of latest scientific data;

e) The number of bird species listed in Schedule IX of the Regulations was increased from 10 to 21, which, together with the 142 species listed in Schedule I of these Regulations, benefit from the highest level of protection possible under the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations. Any offence against that involves the targeting of such species automatically incurs the highest penalty under these Regulations, i.e. on first conviction an automatic fine of \notin 5,000, permanent revocation of all licenses, confiscation and imprisonment for one year; further increasing to an automatic \notin 10,000 fine, imprisonment for up to two years and a lifetime license ban in the case of a second offence;

f) Several further categories of offences under these Regulations have been included to qualify for maximum penalties under Regulation 27(2). Prior to this amendment only those offences that related to illegal shooting or taking of protected birds qualified for the highest penalty; however in August 2015 the list of offences was expanded to encompass all other offences concerning protected birds, including their illegal possession, importation, transport, sale, taxidermy, as well as breaches of the parameters of hunting seasons and related temporal and spatial restrictions. In the case of some offences (e.g. illegal importation, sale or taxidermy) this effectively implied the doubling of the penalty in comparison with that which applied prior to this amendment.

In addition to the amendments published in August 2015, further amendments to the above Regulations came into force in the first quarter of 2016, to further build upon and consolidate the progress reached under previous legal reforms. Amongst other enacted amendments there has been a provision for the setting up of the national Conservation of Wild Birds Fund, which will support activities and projects directly contributing to conservation of wild birds. Moreover, the amenedments repealed the old hunting licensing system with the modern system that involves the use of latest technologies for mandatory game reporting. Other amendments introduced in 2016 included declaration of a moratorium on the application of spring hunting derogation for Turtle Dove, the removal of Red Breasted Merganser from the huntable species list, the shortening of the autumn hunting season for Turtle Dove to the month of September only, and the introduction of a national quota for hunting of this species in the autumn.

Strengthening field enforcement

During peak autumn and spring bird migration periods (September – January and April) in 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Maltese authorities fielded a composite enforcement complement comprising between 60 and 100 personnel consisting of enforcement officers from the

Administrative Law Enforcement Unit of the Malta Police Force, detachments of the Armed Forces of Malta, patrols by Mounted Police as well as officers from District Police units and personnel of the Specialist Enforcement Branch of the Wild Birds Regulation Unit. The officers received specialised training during 8 training sessions (2 sessions in 2014, 2 sessions in 2015 and 4 sessions in 2016) on enforcement priorities and techniques, organised by the Wild Birds Regulation Unit. The objectives of enforcement deployment were:

- 1. To ensure continuous deployment presence in the countryside to deter any potential abuse from occurring in the first place;
- 2. To ensure that no illegal targeting of protected species occurs, and that any detected incidents of abuse are dealt with swiftly and effectively;
- 3. To ensure that the general prohibitions and parameters related to the open season are enforced.

The officers utilised a mixture of techniques, including vehicular patrols, covert observation, stationary observation posts, foot patrols, physical inspections and spot-checks on individual hunters, and road-blocks. The number of inspections and spot checks in the field conducted by these officers has doubled in 2014 in comparison with 2013, and increased further in 2015 and 2016. Detailed statistics on enforcement deployment has been published on the Wild Birds Regulation Unit's website. Officers were on field duty on shift basis between 0530 hours and 2130 hours. Night patrols were held on specific dates around locations where sightings of protected birds were reported.

Statistics of offences disclosed during the reporting period, with the exception of autumn 2016 which has seen a spike in the number of incidents of illegal targeting of protected birds due to particularly intense bird migration, indicated a clear and sustained trend for the decline in crime levels across virtually all categories of bird-related crime, particularly in relation to major offences. Improvement was particularly pronounced with regards to the number of offences related to hunting within prohibited distances, illegal trapping of protected birds, killing or taking using illegal means, during the closed season, without a valid license, and breaches of license conditions.

In order to consolidate further the progress attained, in March 2016 the Maltese authorities have developed a set of national enforcement priorities in the field of bird-related crime. The priorities are broadly divided into two categories: (a) the national policing and enforcement priorities, which are established by administrative means and (b) legal priorities. Administratively, the list of policing and enforcement priorities was discussed at the Malta Ornis Committee, which includes representatives of the Environment Agency, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, representatives of the hunting community, Birdlife Malta as well as independent experts on bird conservation. The priorities were also discussed with the Malta Police Force. These priorities were developed with the primary aim of improving the coordination and prioritisation of physical enforcement measures on the ground.

In February 2017, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit embarked on an exercise to draw up a formal national enforcement strategy to eradicate illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild birds. This strategy will be subject to stakeholder consultation and is envisaged to be adopted later in 2017.

Improving the effectiveness of judicial processes

Further to the reform of the judicial processes concerning bird-related crime undertaken in 2013, in 2015 Malta became the first country to have legislated to introduce a set of gravity factors transposing Bern Convention Standing Committee Recommendation N 17(2015) into national law. A set of sentencing guidelines was also disseminated to the Ministry responsible for Justice, and amongst those members of the Judiciary who are involved in the hearing of cases concerning bird-related crime. The sentencing guidelines were also brought to the attention of the Office of the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Police.

Stakeholder engagement, awareness raising and education

During the reporting period, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit has focused its attention on raising regulatory awareness amongst the mebers of the hunting community through dissemination of a number of information materials, and through intensive engagement with the hunting organisations and other NGOs. Several projects formed part of this effort, including a project with Malta's main hunting federation – FKNK – to reintroduce the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*); the setting up of a rehabilitation centre for injured wild birds together with Birdlife Malta, organisation of joint training in the handling of injured wild birds and the introduction of a national procedure concerning recovery and rehabilitation of such birds. In parallel, during the reporting period, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit implemented major changes to hunting examinations procedures that emphasize preparation and regulatory knowledge and awareness amongst hunting license applicants.

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

Statistics of disclosed offences during the current review period indicate a continuing trend for the decline in virtually all categories of bird-related crime, particularly in relation to major offences. Improvement is particularly pronounced with regards to the number of offences related to hunting withing prohibited distances, illegal trapping of protected birds, killing or taking using illegal means, during the closed season, without a valid license, and in breaches of license conditions. The 2015-16 autumn season was characterised by the lowest ever number of offences concerning illegal targeting (killing or trapping) of protected birds (one case of illegal shooting of protected bird and two cases of illegal trapping of protected birds). The vast majority of all breaches detected (102 cases) pertained to illicit use of pre-recorded bird calls (69 cases), firearms irregularities (7 cases), reporting irregularities (2 cases) and other breaches of license conditions (24 cases).

Offences disclosed during autumn hunting / trapping seasons (1st September - 31st January of the following year)	2012	2013	2014	2015
Hunting within prohibited distances / prohibited areas	17	12	1	6
	1/	12		0
Hunting / trapping without license	76	21	4	8
Illegal trapping of protected birds	137	29	1	2
Illegal shooting of protected birds	2	6	4	1
Hunting / trapping using illegal means / firearms irregularities / other breaches of license				
conditions	236	89	78	102
Hunting / trapping during closed season / outside of permitted hours	16	1	2	5
Possession of dead protected birds	4	16	5	3
Possession of live protected birds	137	30	3	3
Illegal sale of protected birds	0	0	7	1
Smuggling of protected birds	1	3	1	0
Total offences disclosed	391	125	106	131
Persons against whom legal action is taken	226	87	83	128

The above statistics points to the continuation of the overall trend towards reduction in the incidence of most categories of bird-related crime, with only a slight increase registered in the relatively minor breaches category, which increase is largely attributed to higher crime disclosure rate resulting from increased intensity of inspections and surveillance.

At the time of compilation of this report, statistics for 2016 was still in the process of being compiled; however there is an indication that there has been a spike in the number of reported offences concerning illegal targeting of protected birds during 2016 autumn season, when compared to the lowest ever number of illegalities detected in 2015. The factors that have lead to this spike in incidents are still being analysed; however when the overall situation during the present reporting period is compared to previous reporting period, significant overall progress has been made, in particular through:

- The doubling of the penalties for all forms of bird-related crime and a ten-fold increase in the penalties against illegal targeting of birds
- Introduction of administrative fines system for minor offences
- Inclusion of several additional bird species on the list of species with the highest legal protection
- Affording full legal protection to birds not naturally occurring in Europe on par with the protection enjoyed by European territory birds
- Strengthening the legal remit of the Ornis committee
- Complete revamp and major strengthening of regulatory controls over hunting and taking activities
- Modernisation of sustainable hunting governance systems, including introduction of technology-based licensing and game reporting systems
- Establishment of Conservation of Wild Birds Fund
- Doubling of enforcement strength deployed in the field during bird migration seasons
- Six-fold increase in inspections and spot checks
- Systematic compilation of scientific and enforcement data and statistics
- Publication of detailed scientific and technical reports for public scrutiny
- Reform of hunting examinations system

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard: File attachments

Notwithstanding the considerable and visible improvement in the enforcement situation during the review period, which is also explicitly recognised by a number of stakeholders including environmental NGOs and hunting organizations; a number of challenges remain to be addressed in the future. These challenges can be summed up as follows:

• The need for greater collaboration amongst stakeholders: experience has shown that only concerted effort involving close collaboration between the public, environmental NGOs, hunting organisations and the authorities can lead to marked and sustainable improvement in the overall enforcement situation, with the ultimate objective being total eradication of bird-related crime. Despite considerable progress achieved on this front over the past few months, further effort to build bridges between the hunting organisations on the one hand, and bird conservation NGOs on the other, is required. As a symbolic measure aimed at reconciling the differences that exist amongst various organisations, on 28 March 2014, the Government appealed to all NGOs active within this sector to publically endorse a Joint Communiqué "on our common resolve to eradicate illegal taking and trade in wild birds in Malta". This Communiqué has been published in the local media and is available for download from:

http://www.gov.mt/en/Government/Press%20Releases/Pages/2014/March/28/pr14 0638.aspx.

- The need for greater strategic coordination amongst all stakeholders in a common drive to eradicate illegal killing, trapping and trade in wild birds. Despite considerable strengthening of the appropriate governance structures, most notably the setting up of the Wild Birds Regulation Unit with a dedicated Specialist Enforcement Branch, there is a pressing need for a national strategy that would channel all enforcement efforts proactively towards attainment of common enforcement objectives.
- The need for greater public awareness of zero-tolerance policy towards birdrelated crime. Despite overall marked improvement and strengthening of enforcement structures, isolated sporadic incidents of illegal targeting of protected birds still occur and it is felt that there is a need for much greater awareness of the zero-tolerance policy amongst the hunting community in order to prevent and deter any rogue individuals from committing such criminal acts in the future.

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors? Greater collaboration at international level.

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: Anas formosa

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Not a range state. "Recorded only once in April 1912". Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p201.

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

stable

increasing				
decreasing				
unclear				
not known				
2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):				
stable				
increasing				
decreasing				

unclear

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):

Species protection
Species restoration
Control hunting / poaching
Education/awareness rising
Research
Monitoring
Habitat protection
Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Aythya nyroca

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

This species is very scarce in Malta occurring only during migration. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Għasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp.

"Scarce but regular annual visitor which has been recorded in all months of the year, with peaks being March and October. During peak migration, the highest counts tend to be recorded over a number of consecutive days with sightings suddenly tailing off soon after the main passage has taken place". Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, 205p.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🛛 not known

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🛛 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):

\boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (SL 549.42) and hence afforded maximum protection.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

The data collection of avifauna observations is regularly carried out by NGOs and local independent ornithologists. Local authorities also assist in the publication of such records. The observation records of such species during the reporting period are currently in the process of being published in the 33rd issue of the scientific bulletin, *il-Merill* by BirdLife Malta.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

ERA has prepared management plans/conservation orders for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and these are currently in the process of being formally adopted. These plans include a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of habitats and species found within these sites; the development of conservation objectives; and the establishment of conservation measures. Habitat restoration and management which may indirectly be beneficial to the specieare addressed in these plans.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Haliaeetus albicilla

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Malta not a range state.

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

stable
unclear
not known
2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):
stable
stable
<pre>stable increasing </pre>
<pre>stable increasing </pre>
stable increasing decreasing

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):

Species protection

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Education/awareness rising

Research

Monitoring

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Neophron percnopterus

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Although Malta is considered as part of the geographic range for this species, its occurrence is very scarce and irregular. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Għasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp.

"Until quite recently it was a very scarce visitor which used to be recorded only up to five times each year. Now rare and absent entirely in some years". Fenech, N. (2010) *A complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p237.

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

stable

] increasing decreasing unclear not known 2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known): stable increasing decreasing

unclear

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, and hence has been afforded maximum protection.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

The data collection of avifauna observations is regularly carried out by NGOs and local independent ornithologists. Local authorities also assist in the publication of such records. The observation records of such species during the reporting period are currently in the process of being published in the 33rd issue of the scientific bulletin, *il-Merill* by BirdLife Malta.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Falco naumanni

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

This species is a frequent visitor in Malta and occurs only during migration periods. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Għasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp. This species can be seen on migration in both spring and autumn. Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p251.

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

not known

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, and hence has been afforded maximum protection.

\boxtimes Species restoration

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), published as part of Malta's obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity, provides policy guidance and objectives for the period leading up to 2020. Although not specifically targeting the conservation of Lesser Kestrel, the NBSAP adopts an integrated approach towards biodiversity conservation and aims at contributing towards halting or reversing the trend of global biodiversitv loss. More information may be found on: http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/NBSAP.aspx.

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

The data collection of avifauna observations is regularly carried out by NGOs and local independent ornithologists. Local authorities also assist in the publication of such records. The observation records of such species during the reporting period are currently in the process of being published in the 33rd issue of the scientific bulletin, *il-Merill* by BirdLife Malta.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

ERA has prepared management plans for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and these are currently in the process of being formally adopted. These plans include a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of habitats and species found within these sites; the development of conservation objectives; and the establishment of conservation measures. Habitat restoration and management which may indirectly be beneficial to the species are addressed in these plans.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: *Falco cherrug* (except Mongolian populations)

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Although Malta is considered as part of the geographic range for this species, its occurrence is rare and irregular. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Għasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp.

This species is rare but is an annual autumn visitor mostly in October and November and happens to be very rare in spring. Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p258.

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🗌 not known

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations 2006, and hence afforded maximum protection.

\boxtimes Species restoration

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), published as part of Malta's obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity, provides policy guidance and objectives for the period leading up to 2020. Although not specifically targeting the conservation of Saker Falcon, the NBSAP adopts an integrated approach towards biodiversity conservation and aims at contributing towards halting or reversing the trend of global biodiversity loss. More information may be found on: http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/NBSAP.aspx.

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

The data collection of avifauna observations is regularly carried out by NGOs and local independent ornithologists. Local authorities also assist in the publication of such records. The observation records of such species during the reporting period are currently in the process of being published in the 33rd issue of the scientific bulletin, *il-Merill* by BirdLife Malta.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

ERA has prepared management plans for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and these are currently in the process of being formally adopted. These plans include a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of habitats and species found within these sites; the development of conservation objectives; and the establishment of conservation measures. Habitat restoration and management which may indirectly be beneficial to the species are addressed in these plans.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: *Falco vespertinus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

This species is a frequent visitor in Malta and occurs only during spring migration periods. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Ghasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp.

"It is common in spring between April and May, although it may appear in very small numbers in some years, but very rare and irregular in autumn, when it is then seen in September and October. It is sometimes seen in June and July and it was also recorded once in August". Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p253.

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

not known

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, and hence afforded maximum protection.

\boxtimes Species restoration

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), published as part of Malta's obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity, provides policy guidance and objectives for the period leading up to 2020. Although not specifically targeting the conservation of Red-footed Falcon, the NBSAP adopts an integrated approach towards biodiversity conservation and aims at contributing towards halting or reversing the trend of global biodiversity loss. More information may be found on: http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/NBSAP.aspx.

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves

collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

The data collection of avifauna observations is regularly carried out by NGOs and local independent ornithologists . Local authorities also assist in the publication of such records. The observation records of such species during the reporting period are currently in the process of being published in the 33rd issue of the scientific bulletin, *il-Merill* by BirdLife Malta.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

ERA has prepared management plans for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and these are currently in the process of being formally adopted. These plans include a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of habitats and species found within these sites; the development of conservation objectives; and the establishment of conservation measures. Habitat restoration and management which may indirectly be beneficial to the species are addressed in these plans.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Numenius tenuirostris

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

This species is very rare and irregular in Malta. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Għasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp.

This species is described as a vagrant for the Maltese Islands. Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p284.

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🗌 not known

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

increasing		
mercusnig		
decreasing		
unclear		
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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, and hence afforded maximum protection.

Species restoration

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), published as part of Malta's obligations under Convention for Biological Diversity, provides policy guidance and objectives for the period leading up to 2020. Although not specifically targeting the conservation of Slender-billed Curlew, the NBSAP adopts an integrated approach towards

biodiversity conservation and aims at contributing towards halting or reversing the trend of global biodiversity loss. More information may be found on: http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/NBSAP.aspx.

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Larus audouinii

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

This species is a scarce occurrence in Malta and only during migration periods. Sultana, J. (2001) *L-Għasafar ta' Malta*, PIN Publications, 182pp.
"In the past considered as a vagrant, but it is now recorded annually in increasing numbers. It has occurred in all months of the year, with highest frequency in August". Fenech, N. (2010) *A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta*, Editorial Midsea Books, p292.

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

increasing

decreasing
unclear
not known

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

This species is included in Schedule I of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, and hence afforded maximum protection.

\boxtimes Species restoration

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), published as part of Malta's obligations under Convention for Biological Diversity, provides policy guidance and objectives for the period leading up to 2020. Although not specifically targeting the conservation of Audouin's Gull, the NBSAP adopts an integrated approach towards biodiversity conservation and aims at contributing towards halting or reversing the trend found of global biodiversity loss. More information may be on: http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/NBSAP.aspx.

Control hunting / poaching

In 2013 and 2014 legislation was amended, so that offences relating to species listed under Schedule I and IX of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, would incur higher fines. This also served as an increased deterrent to control illegal hunting. Improved enforcement in the field, especially during open season for hunting, further reduced the illegal targeting of the species.

Education/awareness rising

Birdlife Malta runs a national education and awareness raising programme concerning concervation of wild birds. The programme entitled "Dinja Waħda" involves collaboration between parents, teachers, school students and the authorities in promoting knowledge, appreciation and awareness of wild birds and their habitats.

Research

Monitoring

The data collection of avifauna observations is regularly carried out by NGOs and local independent ornithologists. Local authorities also assist in the publication of such records. The observation records of such species during the reporting period are currently in the process of being published in the 33rd issue of the scientific bulletin, *il-Merill* by BirdLife Malta.

Habitat protection

ERA has prepared management plans for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites in the Maltese Islands and these are currently in the process of being formally adopted. These plans include a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of habitats and species found within these sites; the development of conservation objectives; and the establishment of conservation measures. Habitat restoration and management which may indirectly be beneficial to the species are addressed in these plans.

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: *Emberiza aureola*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Not a range state.

This species was described as a vagrant in Malta. Fenech, N. (2010) A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta, Editorial Midsea Books, p292.

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

increasing	
unclear	
not known	
2b. Summarise information on distribution (if known):	
increasing	
unclear	

not known

Г

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):

Species protection

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Education/awareness rising

Research

Monitoring

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I birds in general:

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)?



If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

National legislation affords strict protection to all cetacean species.

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



If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

During the reporting interim the following exceptions to handle marine mammals were authorised:

In 2015 an exception was granted allowing the carrying out of a necropsy, the taking of measurements and samples from a deceased stranded *Stennella coeruleoabla* specimen.

In 2016, an exception was granted for the taking and keeping of samples on dead stranded specimens of cetacean species found in the wild in Malta. Reports on the activities and whether any handling of cetacean specimens has taken place are still pending.

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

	Collision with fishing traffic
	Illegal hunting
	By-catch
	Pollution
\times	Other threats to migration (please provide details)

Possible threats include disturbance generated by maritime traffic, impulsive noise generated by seismic studies, dredging and drilling; the depletion/ modification of fish

stocks which serve as prey and habitat modification in view of marine/ coastal development and/or bad fishing practices.

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

All cetacean species are legally protected through a variety of local legislations, which in addition to directly protecting cetaceans also protect their habitat and lay down measures which prohibit the use of indiscriminate means and forms of capture capable of causing the local dissappearance of, or serious disturbance to, populations of mammals and fish.

The legislations include the *Flora*, *Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations*, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006 as amended) and the *Marine Mammals Protection Regulations*, 2003 (Legal Notice 203 of 2003).

Additionally, during the reporting period a number of information initiatives were in place which aimed to increase the public's and sea-users awareness on cetacean protection.

• In March 2015, a five-day training course on cetacean conservation was organised by ACCOBAMS at the University of Malta. The course was particularly relevant for people working on species conservation, science students and marine enthusiasts. The training course, which was delivered by local marine biologists, covered topics such as species of cetaceans, threats to cetaceans, study skills and the legislative framework on conservation.

• Through an EU funded LIFE project (LIFE MIGRATE) a public talk was also held in August 2015, which gave an overview on on the identification of cetaceans and sea turtles and the correct handling procedures.

• Other education and public awareness initiatives undertaken through the abovementioned LIFE project also included the publication of e-newsletters, brochures, posters and other publications.

•As part of the LIFE MIGRATE Project, volunteers were also invited to support the intial collection of data on cetacean and turtle sightings. Such volunteers, received training on how to collect data and how to identify the species when out at sea. In total twenty-five training workshops were carried out and more than 250 persons were trained.

The LIFE MIGRATE Project's identification of potential hotspots for the species (such as potential feeding areas or important migratory routes), assessment of the conservation status of the species and analysis of adequate sites for protection with the aim of designating relevant SCIs for the the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) also contributed towards overcoming these obstacles. In April 2016, three new proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were designated due to their importance for the conservation of turtles and cetaceans.

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

Reference can be made to the progress reports made on the LIFE MIGRATE project website: <u>http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/;</u> as well as reports and newsletters available on ERA's website: <u>era.org.mt.</u>

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?

Assistance to overcome such obstacles may include

- an increased collaboration with national and regional fisheries;

- support from other countries and Conventions through the sharing of experiences (eg. on how to address obstacles, enhancing public awareness and attracting public support for conservation);

-financial support for the carrying out of research and monitoring studies;

-technical assistance for the monitoring of populations in the Maltese territorial waters and

- training for the local judiciary and enforcement

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

Pollution By-catch Other (please specify)

Pressures arise from those issues linked with interaction between the species and other activities. Reference to these is made in Question 2.

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

Various legal instruments issued prior to this reporting period address actions which could endanger cetaceans, such as *Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations,* 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006 as amended) and the *Marine Mammals Protection Regulations, 2003* (Legal Notice 203 of 2003). The former Regulations protect all cetacean species and establish a series of processes related to the establishment of protected areas, including marine protected areas to be designated for cetacean species

In 2016 Malta designated an additional 9 marine protected sites which brings the total coverage of marine protected areas to 3,487 Km². The new sites include three proposed sites for Community Importance (pSCIs) and eight Special Protection Areas (SPAs), with

two of the sites bearing both designations. The pSCIs in particular would ensure adequare protection to the population of bottlenose dolphins in Malta in line with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Malta has also ratified a number of regional and/ or international multilateral environment agreements which address noise as a pressure on the marine biota as well as agreements on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of waste.

The agreements which refer to the amelioration of antrhopogenic noise include the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS),

With regard to the dumping of waste, one can consider the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, also known as the Barcelona Convention. Two protocols under the Barcelona Convention are relevant to marine litter: the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution e,

It should be noted that Malta is also a party to most of the major IMO and ILO International Maritime Conventions, with the International Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 also being relevant in this regard.

Malta has also singed the MARPOL 73/78 (Annex V) which relates to the prevention of dumping of garbage from ships.

In line with the requirements of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), following the compilation of the Initial Assessment of the status of marine waters, the initial definition of Good Environmental Status (GES) and the establishment of environmental targets, Malta developed a monitoring programme for marine reptiles and mammals (available from:

<u>https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MonitoringFactsheet D1 D4 MarineReptilesMammals.</u> <u>pdf</u>). The programme is geared towards assessing environmental status (which covers features, activities and pressures relevant for GES) and progress towards achieving GES. The programme shall focus on the assessment of the species': distributional range and abundance; the population size and demography; as well as data obtained from strandings. The monitoring programme shall also assess the interactions of selected species with anthropogenic activities.

Other monitoring programmes developed as part of the MSFD requirements would also contribute towards the planning and implementation of effective management and conservation actions for the protection of both marine reptiles and mammals. Reference is made to the eleven monitoring factsheets incorporating the thirteen monitoring programmes in accordance with the MSFD GES descriptors developed by Malta. Additional information may be downloaded through the following link: <u>https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD.aspx</u>.

The LIFE MIGRATE Project, continued with its activities which aimed at enabling studies to be carried out on the status of the population of the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Maltese Islands; identify potential hotspots for the species (such as potential feeding areas or important migratory routes); and analysing adequate sites for protection with the aim of designating relevant SCIs for these two species. Further to the project's end in April 2016, 3 new proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were designated (see above).

The availability of such information would contribute towards the planning and implementation of effective management and consertaion actions for the protection of both marine reptiles and mammals.

During the reporting interim public awareness, communication and educative campaigns also highlighted the current threats to cetaceans. In addition, training on the identification of cetaceans was also given to the Armed Forces of Malta, NGOs (like BirdLife Malta) and other individuals who may encounter such marine species. As indicated in a previous section, through the LIFE MIGRATE, a number of public awareness activities were carried out as part of the the project.

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

Reference is made to the Initial Assessment carried out under MSFD, such an assessment is available at: https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD-IAs-GES-Targets.aspx. The relevant monitoring factsheet on the other hand may be downloaded from: https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MonitoringFactsheet_D1_D4_MarineReptilesMammals.pdf.

Further information on the LIFE MIGRATE project website is available at: <u>http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/.</u>

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

The need to streamline policies with conservation actions; and the need for additional financial and human resources.

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors?

The shared experiences on how other Contracting Parties have managed to address factors endangering marine species would be warmly welcomed.

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: *Physeter macrocephalus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Baldacchino, A.E. & Schembri, P.J. (2002): Amfibji, Rettili, u Mammiferi. Malta: Publikazzjonijiet Indipendenza, 258pp.

Lanfranco, G.G. (1969): Maltese mammals (Central Mediterranean). Malta: Progress Press, 28pp. + 8 plates.

MEPA. (2013): Habitats Directive: Report on Implementation Measures. Malta. Available at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

Notarbartolo di Sciara, G. & Demma, M. (2004): Guida dei Mammiferi Marini del Mediterraneo, Terza Edizione Aggiornata. Padova : Franco Muzzio Editore, 264pp.

Vella, A. (2007) "A Desk top study on cetaceans in the Maltese Islands, with reference to ongoing field research and data on cetaceans distribution towards assessing the impacts of the proposed development of a marine and tourist village (PA 37982/02) at Hondoq ir-Rummien".

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

stable

_ increasing

decreasing

\boxtimes not known

Due to the limited data on marine habitats and species, the population trends of this species in the Maltese waters is not known. The species is probably occasional in Maltese waters.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

not known

Due to the limited data on marine habitats and species, the population trends of this species in the Maltese waters is 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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection of all cetacean species. In addition, a Code of Practice for the stranding of cetacean species was introduced in 1999, this protocol set out

the various procedures which are to be followed in the case of such an event. It aims at providing effective and timely assistance to any live animal, the collection of scientific data and the acceptable method for the disposal of a carcass. The leading entity in such events would be ERA, who may request assistance from local or international organisations.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education / awareness rising

During the reporting interim various communication, education and public awareness on cetacean species in general was carried out. In addition, training on the identification of marine mammals was also given to the Armed Forces of Malta, NGOs (like BirdLife Malta) and other individuals who may encounter such marine species.

Research

Although the LIFE MIGRATE Project mainly aimed at gathering information on the populations of the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphins, any other important species encountered through the study were also recorded (including migratory dolphins and/or whales).

Monitoring

Records on stranded cetaceans are kept by ERA as well as other entities involved in the local cetacean standings network. Such entities require specific permits in terms of the *Marine Mammal Protection Regulations*, 2003 (Legal Notice 203 of 2003) and the *Flora*, *Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulation*, 2006s (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and regularly submit reports on stranding episodes.

Also, the MSFD monitoring programme for marine mammals mentioned above, shall aim at monitoring all marine mammals encountered, including *Physeter macrocephalus*.

Habitat protection

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Through the EU LIFE MIGRATE co-funded project, which was on-going during the reporting interim, three proposed sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were declared under the Habitats Directive in 2016 due to their potential importance for turtles and cetaceans. The project indicated that the areas chosen also had a high incidence of cetacean presence.

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

N/A

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species: No activities are currently being planned which directly involves this species.

Species name: *Delphinus delphis* (Mediterranean population)

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Baldacchino, A.E. & Schembri, P.J. (2002): Amfibji, Rettili, u Mammiferi. Malta: Publikazzjonijiet Indipendenza, 258pp.

Lanfranco, G.G. (1969): Maltese mammals (Central Mediterranean). Malta: Progress Press, 28pp. + 8 plates.

MEPA. (2013): Habitats Directive: Report on Implementation Measures. Malta. Available at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

Notarbartolo di Sciara, G. & Demma, M. (2004): Guida dei Mammiferi Marini del Mediterraneo, Terza Edizione Aggiornata. Padova : Franco Muzzio Editore, 264pp.

Vella, A. (2005) Common dolphins (Delphinus delphis) status in the central and southern Mediterranean around the Maltese Islands, in Common dolphins: Current Research, threats and issues. Eds: K. Stockin, A. Vella, & P. Evans. ECS newsletter no. 45 - special issue July 2005.

Vella, A. (2007) "A Desk top study on cetaceans in the Maltese Islands, with reference to ongoing field research and data on cetaceans distribution towards assessing the impacts of the proposed development of a marine and tourist village (PA 37982/02) at Hondoq ir-Rummien".

(Note: most of the data is available through stranding reports)

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🛛 not known

Owing to the limited data on marine habitats and species, the population trends of this species in the Maltese waters is not known. However, this species has been observed in various locations off the three main islands, normally close to the shore. According to a study by Vella A. (1997-98) this cetacean is one of the more common dolphin species found in the Maltese waters.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🛛 not known

Owing to the limited data on marine habitats and species the population trends of this species in the Maltese waters is 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):

\boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to all cetacean species. In addition, a Code of Practice for the stranding of cetacean species was introduced in 1999, this protocol set out the various procedures to be followed in the case of such an event. It aimed at the providing effective and timely assistance to any live animal, the collection of scientific data and the acceptable method for the disposal of a carcass. The leading entity in such events is ERA, who may request assistance from local or international organisations.

] Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education / awareness rising

During the reporting interim various communication, education and public awareness on cetacean species in general was carried out. Moreover, training on the identification of species was also given to the Armed Forces of Malta, NGOs (like BirdLife Malta) and other individuals who may encounter such marine species

Research

Although the LIFE MIGRATE Project aimed at gathering information on the populations of the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphins, any other important species encountered through the study were also recorded (including migratory dolphins and whales).

Monitoring

Records on stranded cetaceans are kept by ERA as well as other entities involved in the local cetacean standings network. Such entities require specific permits in terms of the *Marine Mammal Protection Regulations, 2003* (Legal Notice 203 of 2003) and the *Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulation, 2006s* (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and regularly submit reports on stranding episodes.

Also, the MSFD monitoring programme for marine mammals mentioned above, shall aim at monitoring all marine mammals encountered, including *Delphinus delphis*.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Through the EU LIFE MIGRATE co-funded project, which was on-going during the reporting interim, three proposed sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were declared under the Habitats Directive in 2016 due to their potential importance for turtles and cetaceans. The project indicated that the areas chosen also had a high incidence of cetacean presence.

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

N/A

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species: No activities are currently being planned which directly involves this species.

Species name: Balaenoptera borealis

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🔀 not known

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

increasing

decreasing

unclear	
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):

Species protection
Species restoration
Control hunting / poaching
Education/awareness rising
Research
Monitoring
Habitat protection
Habitat restoration
Identification and establishment of protected areas
Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Balaenoptera physalus

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Baldacchino, A.E. & Schembri, P.J. (2002): Amfibji, Rettili, u Mammiferi. Malta: Publikazzjonijiet Indipendenza, 258pp.

MEPA. (2013): Habitats Directive: Report on Implementation Measures. Malta. Available at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

Vella, A. (2007) "A Desk top study on cetaceans in the Maltese Islands, with reference to ongoing field research and data on cetaceans distribution towards assessing the impacts of the proposed development of a marine and tourist village (PA 37982/02) at Hondoq ir-Rummien".

Vella, A. (2007): First Research Sightings Of Fin Whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in Coastal Waters of The Maltese Islands, Central-Southern Mediterranean.

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

] increasing

decreasing

unclear

 \square not known

Due to the limited data on marine habitats and species the population trends of this species in the Maltese waters is not known.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

not known

Due to the limited data on marine habitats and species the population trends of this species in the Maltese waters is 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):

\boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to all cetacean species. In addition, a Code of Practice for the stranding of cetacean species was introduced in 1999, this protocol set out the various procedures which are to be followed in the case of such an event. It aims at providing effective and timely assistance to any live animal, the collection of scientific data and the acceptable method for the disposal of a carcass. The leading entity in such events is ERA, who may request assistance from local or international organisations.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education / awareness rising

During this reporting interim various communication, education and public awareness on cetacean species in general was carried out. Moreover, training on the identification of species was also given to the Armed Forces of Malta, NGOs (like BirdLife Malta) and other individuals who may encounter such marine species. (Such initiatives have been mentioned in previous sections).

Research

Although the LIFE MIGRATE Project mainly aimed at gathering information on the populations of the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphins, any other important species encountered through the study were also be recorded (including migratory dolphins and whales).

Monitoring

Records on stranded cetaceans are kept by ERA as well as other entities involved in the local cetacean standings network. Such entities require specific permits in terms of the *Marine Mammal Protection Regulations*, 2003 (Legal Notice 203 of 2003) and the *Flora*, *Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulation*, 2006s (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended) and regularly submit reports on stranding episodes.

The MSFD monitoring programme for marine mammals mentioned above, shall aim at, monitoring all marine mammals encountered, including *Balaenoptera physalus*.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Through the EU LIFE MIGRATE co-funded project, which was on-going during the reporting interim, three proposed sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were declared under the Habitats Directive in 2016 due to their potential importance for turtles and

cetaceans. The project indicated that the areas chosen also had a high incidence of cetacean presence.

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

N/A

5. Describe any future activities that are planned for this species: No activities are currently being planned which directly involves this species.

Species name: Megaptera novaeangliae

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

🛛 not known

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

stable

increasing	
decreasing	
unclear	
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):

Species protection
Species restoration
Control hunting / poaching
Education/awareness rising
Research
Monitoring
Habitat protection
Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I marine mammals in general:

3. REPTILES 3.1 General questions on Appendix I reptiles

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

Yes Yes

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

With the exception of the *Lepidochelys olivacea*, which has never been recorded in the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean, national legislation affords strict protection to all marine reptile species.

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

□ No ⊠ Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

During the reporting interim the following exceptions on marine turtles were authorised:

In 2015 eighteen (18) exceptions were granted for the disturbance of stranded *Caretta caretta* in order to administer first-aid and take measurements. Stranded specimens were

transported from the site of stranding to the rehabilitation centre at San Lucjan and then turtles released back into the wild following treatment.

In 2015 one (1) exception was granted for the disturbance of stranded *Dermochelys coriacea* in order to administer first-aid and take measurements. Stranded specimens were transported from the site of stranding to the rehabilitation centre at San Lucjan and then turtles released back into the wild following treatment.

In 2014 three (3) exceptions were granted for the taking of tissue samples, as well as the capture and measuring of *Caretta caretta* specimens from the wild for research purposes. All specimens were released immediately back into the wild further to the sampling exercises.

In 2015 three (3) exceptions were granted for the taking of tissue samples, as well as the capture and measuring of *Caretta caretta* specimens from the wild for research purposes. All specimens were released immediately back into the wild further to the sampling exercises.

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

- By-catch
- **Pollution**
- Other threats to migration (please provide details)

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

Marine reptiles are legally protected through a variety of local legislations, which in addition to directly protecting the species also protect their habitat. These legislations are specified in the reply to question 3a below.

During the reporting interim various information initiatives were undertaken which aimed at increasing the public's and sea users awareness on turtle protection:

• A 'Sea Turtle Handling Guidebook for Fishermen' was also produced in collaboration with RAC/SPA and translated into Maltese. This guidebook, which was distributed to local fishers and sea users, delivers clear and easy direction to fishers on how to handle turtles which accidentally get entangled in the fishing gear.

• Through an EU funded LIFE project (LIFE MIGRATE) a public talk was also held in August 2015, which gave an overview on the identification of cetaceans and sea turtles and the correct handling procedures.

• Other education and public awareness initiatives undertaken through the abovementioned LIFE project also included the publication of e-newsletters, brochures, posters and other publications. •As part of the LIFE MIGRATE Project, volunteers were also invited to support the intial collection of data on cetacean and turtle sightings. Such volunteers, received training on how to collect data and how to identify the species when out at sea. In total, twenty-five training workshops were carried out and more than 250 persons were trained.

The LIFE MIGRATE Project's identification of potential hotspots for the species (such as potential feeding areas or important migratory routes), assessment of the conservation status of the species and analysis of adequate sites for protection with the aim of designating relevant SCIs for the the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) also contributed towards overcoming these obstacles. In April 2016, three new proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were designated due to their importance for the conservation of turtles and cetaceans.

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

An increased level of communication between the fishers and the Competent Authority has been noted on the landing of such species and this has resulted in a more adequte response to stranding events.

Reference can be made to the progress reports made on the LIFE MIGRATE project website: <u>http://lifeprojectmigrate.com/</u>; as well as reports and newsletters available on ERA's website: <u>era.org.mt.</u>

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?

Assistance to overcome such obstacles may include

- an increased collaboration with national and regional fisheries;

- support from other countries and Conventions through the sharing of experiences (eg. on how to address obstacles, enhancing public awareness and attracting public support for conservation);

-financial support for the carrying out of research and monitoring studies;

-technical assistance for the monitoring of populations in the Maltese territorial waters and

- training for the local judiciary and enforcement.

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

Collection of eggs

Destruction of nesting beaches
 Predation of eggs
 Other (please specify)

N/A

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

Various legal instruments issued prior to this reporting period address actions which could endanger marine turtles, such as *Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006* (Legal Notice 311 of 2006 as amended) and the *Reptiles (Protection) Regulations, 1992* (Legal Notice 76 of 1992). The former Regulations protects all marine turtles found locally and establish a series of processes related to the establishment of protected areas, including marine protected areas to be designated for such species.

In 2016 Malta designated an additional 9 marine protected sites which brings the total coverage of marine protected areas to 3,487 Km². The new sites include three proposed sites for Community Importance (pSCIs) and eight Special Protection Areas (SPAs), with two of the sites bearing both designations. The pSCIs in particular would ensure adequate protection to the population of the Loggerhead Turtle in Malta in line with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Malta also ratified a number of multilateral environment agreements which adress noise as a pressure on the marine biota as well as agreements on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of waste.

In line with the requirements of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), following the compilation of the Initial Assessment of the status of marine waters, the initial definition of Good Environmental Status (GES) and the establishment of environmental targets, Malta developed a monitoring programme for marine reptiles and mammals (available from:

https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/MonitoringFactsheet_D1_D4_MarineReptilesMammals.pdf).

The programme is geared towards assessing environmental status (which covers features, activities and pressures relevant for GES) and progress towards achieving GES. The programme shall focus on the assessment of the species' distributional range and abundance; the population size and demography; as well as data obtained from strandings.

The monitoring programme shall also assess the interactions of selected species with anthropogenic activities.

Other monitoring programmes developed as part of the MSFD requirements would also contribute towards the planning and implementation of effective management and conservation actions for the protection of both marine reptiles and mammals. Reference is made to the eleven monitoring factsheets incorporating the thirteen monitoring programmes in accordance with the MSFD GES descriptors developed by Malta. Additional information may be downloaded through the following link: https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD.aspx.

The LIFE MIGRATE Project, continued with its activities which aimed at enabling studies to be carried out on the status of the population of the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Maltese Islands; identifying any potential hotspots for the species, and analysing adequate sites for protection with the aim of designating relevant SCIs for these two species. Further to the project's end in April 2016, 3 new proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) were designated (see above).

Public awareness, communication and educative campaigns undertaken during the reporting interim also highlighted the current threats to turtles. As indicated in a previous section, through the LIFE MIGRATE, a number of public awareness activities were carried out as part of the the project

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

An increased level of communication between the fishers and the Competent Authority has been noted on the landing of such species and this has resulted in a more adequte response to stranding events.

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

Factors which limit the action taken included the requirement to streamline fisheries policies with conservation actions and the lack of financial and human resources.

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors? The shared experiences on how other Contracting Parties have managed to address factors endangering marine species would be warmly welcomed.

3.2 Questions on specific Appendix I reptiles

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I reptiles 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: Chelonia mydas

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

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

stable

] increasing

decreasing

unclear

not knownThe species is occasional in Maltese waters.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to all marine reptile species, with the exception of *Lepidochelys olivacea* which has never been recorded in the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education/awareness rising

Research

Monitoring

Habitat protection

] Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Species name: Caretta caretta

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Baldacchino A.E. & Schembri P.J. (1993): Ir-Rettili u l-Amfibji tal-Gzejjer Maltin. Valletta, Malta: Socjeta' ghall-Istudju u l-Harsien tan-Natura – SSCN.

Baldacchino A.E. & Schembri P.J. (2002): Amfibji, Rettili, u Mammiferi. Malta: Publikazzjonijiet Indipendenza, 258pp.

Despott G. (1913): I nostri rettili. Malta: Archivium Malitense.

Despott, G. (1915): The Reptiles of the Maltese Islands. The Zoologist. ser. 4 19 (891).

Gulia, G. (1890): Erpetologia Maltese Il Naturalista Maltese. Anno 1 No. 2.

Lanfranco G. & Schembri P.J. (1989): Vertebrates other than birds. In: Schembri, P.J. & Sultana, J. (eds.): Red ata Book for the Maltese Islands, pp: 129-142. Malta: Department of information.

MEPA. (2013): Habitats Directive: Report on Implementation Measures. Malta. Available at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

Mifsud, C.R.; Baldacchino, A.E.; Gruppetta, A. & Stevens, D.T. (2005a): Analysis of Tagging and Recovering of Marine Turtles in Malta. In: Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, pp. 31. Turkey: Lebib Yalkin Yayimlari ve Basim isleri Anonim Sirketi.

Mifsud, C.R.; Baldacchino, A.E.; Gruppetta, A. & Stevens, D.T. (2005b): Preliminary Data on Stranded and on landed accidentally caught Loggerhead Turtles in Malta. In: Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, pp. 31. Turkey: Lebib Yalkin Yayimlari ve Basim isleri Anonim Sirketi.

Mifsud, C.R.; Baldacchino, A.E.; Stevens, D.T. & Gruppetta, A. (2006): Status and Conservation of Marine Turtles in Malta. In: Proceedings of the 26th Annual symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Greece: Archelon, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece.

Mifsud, C.R.; Schembri, P.J.; Rizzo, M.; Baldacchino, A.E.; Stevens, D.T. & Gruppetta, A. (2005): Preliminary Data on the Epibionts of Caretta caretta from Maltese Waters. In: Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, pp. 19. Turkey: Lebib Yalkin Yayimlari ve Basim isleri Anonim Sirketi.

Mifsud C.R., Baldacchino A.E., Stevens D.T., Borg J. & Gruppetta A. (2005): Marine Turtles in Malta: Legal framework, conservation efforts and a status update. In: Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, p.32. Turkey: Lebib Yalkin Yayimlari ve Basim isleri Anonim Sirketi.

Yésou P. & Sultana J. (eds.) (2000): Monitoring and Conservation of Birds, Mammals and Sea Turtles of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Malta: Environment Protection Department, 320pp.

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

Stable

Reference to the *Caretta caretta* Article 17 datasheet is made. This is available at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

increasing

decreasing

unclear

not known

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

stable	
Refer to 2a.	
increasing	
decreasing	
unclear	
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):

\boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to all marine reptile species, with the exception of *Lepidochelys olivacea* which has never been recorded in the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean.

In August 2016 a loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) laid a number of eggs at Ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa (Għajn Tuffieħa / Golden Bay) on mainland Malta, the second confirmed sea turtle nesting in Malta in almost a century, further to the previous turtle nesting back in June 2012 at Ġnejna Bay. In this regard, Malta took additional actions, including the issuance of an Emergency Conservation Order, the cordoning of the nesting-site, 24-hour surveillance. Sixty-six (around 85%) eggs successfully hatched in September, with the remaining eggs having died in the earlier stages of development.

 \boxtimes Species restoration

ERA and the Veterinary Regulation Directorate, in collaboration with local nongovernment organisations regularly rescue injured stranded turtles which are then taken to San Lucjan rehabilitation centre for treatment. Following a rehabilitation programme these turtles are then released back into the wild.

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior official permit from the competent authority or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education/awareness rising

During the reporting interim communication, education and public awareness on marine turtles were carried out, as indicated above.

Research

The LIFE MIGRATE Project, which commenced in 2012, aimed at enabling studies to be carried out on the status of the population of the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the Maltese Islands. In addition, the project also identified any potential hotspots for the species (such as potential feeding areas or important migratory routes), assessed its conservation status, and analysed adequate sites for protection, with the aim of designating relevant SCIs for these two species.

Studies on biometries in connection with stranded and landed individuals is also currently on-going.

Monitoring

Records on stranded turtles are kept by ERA as well as other entities involved in the local cetacean standings network. Such partners, which require specific permits in terms of the *Reptiles (Protection) Regulations, 1992* (Legal Notice 76 of 1992) and the *Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006* (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended), also submit reports in accordance with permit conditions and report the relevant stranding episodes.

The FAD also collated statistics on turtle by-catch through surface and bottom long-lining, as reported by fishers. The MSFD monitoring programme for marine reptiles mentioned above, shall aim at monitoring all marine reptiles encountered, including *Caretta caretta*.

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

\square Identification and establishment of protected areas

Through the EU LIFE MIGRATE co-funded project, potential hotspots for the *Caretta caretta* and adequate sites for protection were identified, and three pSCIs were designated for the species.

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

N/A

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

Additional communication and public awareness campaigns shall be carried out.

The LIFE MIGRATE project produced an "After-LIFE Conservation Plan" which sets out the strategy for the continuation and development of the actions to be undertaken once the project has ended to ensure the protection of this species within the identified protected areas and other areas, as necessary.

Species name: Dermochelys coriacea

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

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

stable

] increasing

decreasing

unclear

 \square not known

The species is occasional in Maltese waters.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

not known Refer to 2a.

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to all marine reptile species, with the exception of *Lepidochelys olivacea* which has never been recorded in the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education/awareness rising

Research

Monitoring

Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

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

Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I marine turtles in general:

Only single and/ or limited records are known of the *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea* in the Maltese waters. In this regard Malta is not considered to be a range state.

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)?



If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

Such a prohibition only covers those Appendix fish species which are naturally found within Maltese territorial waters.

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

Yes Xes

If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

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

 \bigcirc Other threats to migration (please provide details)

Although sharks are not target fishery species in Malta, such threats to migration may include the incidental capture and killing by fishing activities.

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

Local legislation prohibits the use of indiscriminate means and forms of capture (eg. the use of explosives and the use of driftnets) capable of causing the local disappearance of, or serious disturbance to, populations of mammals and fish. Moreover, the capture and killing of *Cetorhinus maximus* and *Carcharadon carcharias* is also prohibited except in cases of defence and national secutriy, public safety and health, salvage operations and the investigations of offences.

During the reporting interim a number of information initiatives were undertaken to increase the public's and sea-users' awareness on the protection status of marine species, such as through radio programmes and news articles.

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

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?

Assistance to overcome such obstacles may include:

- An increased collaboration with national and regional fisheries;

- Support from other countries and Conventions through the sharing of experiences (eg. on how to address obstacles, enhancing public awareness and attracting public support for conservation);

-Financial support for the carrying out of research and monitoring studies;

-Technical assistance for the monitoring of populations in the Maltese territorial waters and

- Training for the local judiciary and enforcement.

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

Other (please specify)

Pressures arise from those issues linked with the interaction between the species and other activities. Reference to these is made in Question 2.

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?

Various legal instruments issued prior to this reporting period address actions which could endanger such fish species, such as the *Flora*, *Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations*, 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006 as amended) and the *Trade in Species of Fauna & Flora Regulations*, 2004 (Legal Notice 236 of 2004). The former regulation, asides from protecting certain endangered fish also establishes a series of processes related to the establishment of protected areas, including marine protected areas to be designated for such species.

Malta has also undertaken measures to control and abate marine pollution and waste, such as through the ratification of a number of multilateral environmental agreements on the prevention of marine pollution by the dumping of waste. In line with the requirements of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), following the compilation of the Initial Assessment of the status of marine waters, the initial definition of Good Environmental Status (GES) and the establishment of environmental targets, Malta developed a number of monitoring programmes, some of which focus on the issue of contaminants and pollution. The programmes are geared towards assessing environmental status (which covers features, activities and pressures relevant for GES), and progress towards achieving GES. Some of the monitoring programmes shall also assess the interactions of selected species with anthropogenic activities. The eleven monitoring factsheets incorporating the thirteen monitoring programmes in accordance with the MSFD GES descriptors may downloaded through the following link https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD.aspx.

In addition, during the reporting interim, work was carried out on the drafting of Malta's Second Water Catchment Management Plan (WCMP) for 2015-2021. The aims of the Plan are to build upon the outcomes of the first plan and are to protect, improve and restore the water environment of Malta. The second WCMP reviews the Programme of Measures set in the First WCMP, establishes Environmental Objectives and identifies additional measures required for the improvement and protection of Maltese waters. The Second WCMP puts forward a number of measures targeting the removal of marine litter, which includes lost fishing gear, from coastal waters; the lack of public awareness on the impacts of marine litter, as well as knowledge improvement on sources, including transboundary sources, of marine litter.

In 2016, Malta designated an additional 9 marine protected sites which brings the total coverage of marine protected areas to 3,487 Km². The new sites include three proposed sites for Community Importance (pSCIs) and eight Special Protection Areas (SPAs), with two of the sites bearing both designations. Although these sites have not been designated for the protection of endangered fish the measures still aid with the conservation of such species.

The Maltese fisheries also implement the European Commission's Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, as well as the International Action Plan for the Conservation & Management of Sharks (IPQA) which had been adopted by FAO.

During the reporting interim public awareness, communication and educative campaigns were also undertaken so as to highlight the current threats to marine species.

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

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

The need to increase the capacity in relation to effective monitoring and enforcement.

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors?

Assistance is required for capacity building in order to enhance research and/or monitoring programmes.

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: Cetorhinus maximus

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Attard, V. & Muscat, S. [eds]. (1999). The most common sharks found around the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean Sea. Guide Book. Marine Life Care Group (Malta), Valletta, Malta. 21pp.

Despott G. (1919). The Ichthyology of Malta. Critien's Press, Malta. Xi + 60pp.

Fergusson, I.K., Campagno, L.J.V. and Fowler S.L. (1999). Formal Submission to the Maltese Department of the Environment: Proposal to Conserve the Great White Shark Carcharodon carcharias in Maltese Waters. [Available on the internet at

http://www.zoo.co.uk/~z9015043/malta_ws.html; accessed 23 March 2005.]

Lanfranco, G. (2009). The Fish Around Malta (Central Mediterranean). Progress Press, Malta..

Schembri, T., Fergusson, I.K. and Schembri, P.J. (2003). Revision of the Records of Shark and Ray Species from the Maltese Islands (Chordata: Chondrichthyes). The Central Mediterranean Naturalist 4(1):71-104.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

\square not known

According to Lanfranco G. (2009) and Schembri et al. (2003) this species is very rare in the Maltese waters.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to this species.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Education/awareness rising

Through the reporting interim various communication, education and public awareness campaigns were carried out on marine species in general.

Research

Monitoring

The DFA collates statistics on shark by-catch, as reported by fishers.

] Habitat protection

Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

N/A

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

N/A

Species name: Carcharodon carcharias

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

Attard, V. & Muscat, S. [eds]. (1999). The most common sharks found around the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean Sea. Guide Book. Marine Life Care Group (Malta), Valletta, Malta. 21pp.

Despott G. (1919). The Ichthyology of Malta. Critien's Press, Malta. Xi + 60pp.

Fergusson, I.K., Campagno, L.J.V. and Fowler S.L. (1999). Formal Submission to the Maltese Department of the Environment: Proposal to Conserve the Great White Shark Carcharodon carcharias in Maltese Waters. [Available on the internet at http://www.zoo.co.uk/~z9015043/malta_ws.html; accessed 23 March 2005.]

Lanfranco, G. (2009). The Fish Around Malta (Central Mediterranean). Progress Press, Malta. .

Schembri, T., Fergusson, I.K. and Schembri, P.J. (2003). Revision of the Records of Shark and Ray Species from the Maltese Islands (Chordata: Chondrichthyes). The Central Mediterranean Naturalist 4(1):71-104.

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

🛛 unclear

According to Lanfranco G. (2009) and Schembri et al. (2003) this species is considered to be rare in the Maltese waters.

not known

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

stable

increasing

decreasing

unclear

Favoured microsites of this species seem to include the islet of Filfla and the environs, the nearshore reef complex of Il-Munxar (St. Thomas) and offshore at Hurds Bank (north-northeast of Marsascala (Fergusson, 1998).

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):

 \boxtimes Species protection

National legislation affords strict protection to this species.

Species restoration

Control hunting / poaching

Under national legislation the killing and taking of this species from the wild is prohibited unless, if in possession of a prior permit from the competent authority, or Director of Environment. Such a permit is granted when there is no satisfactory alternative and an authorization is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Education/awareness rising

Throughout the reporting interim various communication, education and public awareness campaigns were carried out on marine species in generalt.

Research

Monitoring

The DFA collates statistics on shark by-catch, as reported by fishers.

] Habitat protection

] Habitat restoration

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Other

4. If no activities have been carried out for this species in the reporting period, what has prevented such action being taken?

N/A

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

N/A

6. Bats

Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I bats in general:

The species of bats listed in Appendix I of the Convention are not known to occur on the Maltese Islands.

II. Appendix I species

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

No No

If Yes, please provide details:

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

Yes

No No

If yes, please provide details:

1b. What assistance/measures, if any, does your country require to initiate the listing of these species?

N/A

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.

Wadden Sea Seals (1991)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
0 Siberian	
Crane MoU (1993/1999)	
Date of last report : N/A	Period covered: N/A
EURO BATS (1994)	
Date of last report: 17 th August 2010	Period covered: 2001-2010
ASCOBANS (1994)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)	

Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Atlantic Turtles MoU	
0	
(1999)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
AEWA (1999)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
ACCOBAMS (2001)	
Date of last report: 25 th October 2013	Period covered: 2011-2013
Middle-European Great Bustard MoU	
(2001)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)	
0	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
ACAP (2001)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered N/A
West African Elephants MoU (2005)	
0	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU (2006)	
	Period covered: N/A
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Saiga Antelope MoU (2006)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)	
0	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Southern South American Grassland	
Birds MoU (2007)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Dugong MoU (2007)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Gorilla Agreement (2008)	

Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Western African Aquatic Mammals	
MoU (2008)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)	
0	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
High Andean Flamingos	
MoU (2008)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
Sharks MoU (2010)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A
South Andean Huemul MoU (2010)	
Date of last report: N/A	Period covered: N/A

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

No No

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

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
\ge	No

If Yes, please provide details:

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instruments development?

N/A

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

	Yes
\boxtimes	No

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

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?

	Yes
\ge	No

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

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?

☐ Yes

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instruments development?

N/A

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

Yes

No No

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

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?

	Yes
$\overline{\lambda}$	No

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

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?

Yes

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instruments development?

N/A

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

Yes

No No

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

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?



If Yes, what is the current state of development?

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?

	Yes
\square	No

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instruments development?

N/A

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?

☐ Yes

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

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?

Yes

No No

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

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?

□ Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instruments development?

N/A

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

Yes

🛛 No

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

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?

Yes

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

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?

	Yes
\square	No

If Yes, please provide details:

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instruments development?

N/A

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

	Yes
\ge	No

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

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.



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

Yes

🗌 No

If Yes, please provide details:

N/A

1b. What assistance, if any, does your country require to initiate the listing of this/these species?

N/A

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

Low

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



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

Transboundary co-operation

There are diverse measures set out in the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) which directly or indirectly address transboundary co-operation. Such as:

- Measure IE3: (regarding the continued bilateral and multilateral co-operation with parties of the Convention of the Biological Diversity (CBD) and members of the European Union to advance global and regional progress in biodiversity conservation);

- Measure SH2: (concerning the maintenance of Species and Habitats of European Community across their natural range via the implementation of adequate conservation measures, which support the existing legal protection regime); and

- Measure RD3: (regarding co-operation (e.g. by participating in research projects) with other Mediterranean Countries to help identify marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction eligible for designation as protected areas).

Research and monitoring of migratory species

The national strategy also includes a number of measures on research and monitoring such;

- Measure CB4: (Gaps in taxonomic knowledge would be addressed by strenghtening expertise and urge the uptake of taxonomic research);

- Measure CC3: (Existing data limitations would be addressed through biodiversity research and monitoring, in order to provide quantitative data on vulnerability analyses based on climate projections and national impact scenarios which factor in Malta's small island state characteristics. This would allow for the prioritisation of measures to safeguard those species and habitats most at risk or most vulnerable to climate change);

- Measure CB5: (Scientific capacity in conservation biology tools for the recovery of endangered species would be strengthened);

- Measure RD1: (Working partnerships with research institutions would be developed or strengthened in order to undertake targeted interdisciplinary research which would improve the understanding of biodiversity in ecological, social and economic aspects, and in line with policy demand);

- Measure BM1: (A national biodiversity monitoring strategy would be formulated taking into account established indicators such as the EU 2010 Biodiversity Baseline and relevant updated Streamling European 2010 Biodiversity (SEBI) Indicators, as well as other national environment monitoring activities undertaken in line with the requirements of EU Directives (such as Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive) in order to avoid duplication of effort, while maximising best use of resources. The implementation of such as strategy would help Malta fulfill its monitoring obligations under the EC Nature Directives and biodiversity related Multilateral Environment Agreements in a co-ordinated and coherent manner); and

- Measure BM2: (A national volunteer network which carries out biological recording on selected taxonomic groups throughout the Maltese Islands would be set up and supported via training).

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)

The NBSAP also holds a number of measures which address activities which may endanger migratory species such include:

- Measure SH5: (A strict protection regime is in place, in line with the requirements of the EC Nature Directives, and incorporates measures to address the illegal and the incidental capture and killing of protected species, including those which are migratory);

.- Measure BR5: (The regulation of the capture and killing of protected species is built on sustainability principles and is in line with the provisions of national law and the EC Nature Directives. This would be ensured via a better regulation initiative and conservation status assessments);

- Measure EF4: (Environmental illegalities such as, but not limited to, the illegal capture and illegal killing of species, would be addressed through strengthened enforcement and corrective action);

- Measure BR4: (Exploitation of wildlife for trade would be based on sustainable practices in line with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulations and would be supported by continued provision of information on biodiversity trade and protection regulations by the CITES Management Authority to importers, exporters and other stakeholders. Where required, the provision of information would be enhanced through the development and dissemination of guidance/ awareness material, which would contribute towards adequate implementation of national legislation on wildlife trade);

-Measure BI1: (A national information and early warning system (e.g. species black list, existing border controls and permitting procedures) would be in place to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species via priority pathways. Accidental introductions would also be addressed by way of contingency planning thereby avoiding/ minimising any socio-economic and environmental aspects);

- Measure BI2: (A systematic and coherent national strategy on invasive non-native species would be in place and would be based on the CBD's three stage hierarchical approach, which includes prevention, early detection of the species, and rapid action by eradication, containment and control (where feasible). This strategy would be supported by other policy guidance on the removal of invasive species);

-Measure BI3: (Endemic species and areas of conservation value at risk by invasive species would be identified, and prioritised for targeted, well-planned, ecologically and financially feasible remedial action, with the goal of reinstating self-sustaining native communities and healthy ecosystems);

-Measure BI4: (Key stakeholder groups, such as traders (pet shops, breeders and nurseries), as well as land and sea users would co-operate to prevent the unwanted release/escape and spread of non-native and invasive species into the environment. To assist this, national codes of best practices would be established in consultation with key stakeholders and adopted for those sectors that can aid the introduction and spread of invasive species. The drawing up of such codes would build on the European Codes of Conduct as adopted under the Bern Convention);

- Measure BI5: (Measures would be in place to implement the recommendations made in the National Biosafety Framework, and strengthen the legislation describing rules and procedures to further safeguard the environment from potential damage resulting from genetically modified organisms (GMOs); and

- Measure CC1: (The interlinkages of climate change and biodiversity would be taken into account when designing adaptation and mitigation activities, so as to ensure that such activities would be both compatible with the policies for the protection of biodiversity in Malta and the goals of creating a climate resilient and low-carbon economy).

Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration

Asides from the measures mentioned above, additional measures which help minimize or eliminate barriers to migration include:

- Measure EA1: (Carrying out of environment impact assessments (EIAs), strategic environmental assessments (SEA) and appropriate assessments (AA) ensures that potential adverse and significant effects of projects, plans or programmes, and activities (including those with EU funding) on biodiversity (flora, fauna, habitats, ecosystems, protected areas etc.) are prevented/ mitigated); and

- Measure SI7: (Proposals for the development of renewable energy facilities would be evaluated against obligations stemming from the EU Nature Directives, through appropriate assessments and EIAs. Through site planning, mitigation and monitoring in line with guidance issued by the EU and MEAs, any impacts on wildlife (such as bats, birds and marine mammals) would be minimised.

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species

The NBSAP also holds measures relating to the conservation and restoration of species (including migratory ones) such as Measure SH2 (see above) and:

- Measure SH4: (Priority species, especially endemic species are covered by species action plans. These plans of action would recommend tailored conservation measures and where required, management/ restoration); and

- Measure BR2: (Malta would co-operate and restore fish stocks to levels that could produce maximum sustainable yield in line with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and in support of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

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

The conservation and restoration of habitats is also addressed in the NBSAP such as through Measure SH2 (see above) and:

- Measure SH4: (Rare specialised habitats would be covered by habitat action plans. These plans of action would recommend tailored conservation measures and where required, management/ restoration);

- Measure SH6: (Guidelines on habitat management and restoration would be adopted and provide information on best practices for managing the different terrestrial and aquatic habitat types in Malta bearing in mind the guidelines established by multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the Ramsar Convention in the case of wetlands);

- Measure EN1: (Efforts would continue to ensure that Malta's National Ecological Network constitutes a comprehensive and ecologically representative national system of protected areas, with improved sufficiency in affording protection to Maltese habitats and species);

- Measure EN2: (Conservation objectives and management plans would be defined and implemented, in a timely manner for Natura 2000 sites, which would be supported by sectoral policies and planning instruments which would allow for a fully integrated ecosystem approach);

- Measure EN5: (A zoning system (which in the case of terrestrial areas would build on adapted principles of the scheduling process) would be in place for protected areas and applies temporal and spatial restrictions so as to direct anthropogenic pressures away from particularly sensitive habitats and species);

- Measure EN6: (A range of governance types for long term management of protected areas would be in place, based on good governance principles);

- Measure EN7: (Standard, criteria and indicators would be established to evaluate the effectiveness of protected area management);

- Measure EN4: (Components for building a green infrastructure (as a holistic framework for resource planning and conservation) would be strengthened to improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000, via integration into the broader landscape, and hence to curb habitat fragmentation, improve adaptation to climate change and aid in integrated flood management); and

- Measure SI6: (The role and importance of spatial planning as an instrument for biodiversity conservation would be reflected in new policy on spatial planning. The latter would build on the principles of integrated land use planning and devices measures to safeguard the wider countryside from urban sprawl, to support urban biodiversity and to contribute towards the EU priorities on a Green Infrastructure).

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

\bowtie Yes

No No

3.1. If Yes, please provide details:

On a regional scale, the conservation of migratory species currently features in the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention, the EU Nature Directives and the Common Fisheries Policy.

In addition, the conservation of migratory species also feature in the following national/ regional legislation, plans or policies:

- Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Legal Notice 311 of 2006, as amended)

- Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (Legal Notice 79 of 2006, as amended)

- Marine Mammals Protection Regulations (Legal Notice 203 of 2003)

- Reptiles Protection Regulations (Legal Notice 76/92)

- National Environmental Policy for the Maltese Islands

- Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations SL549.42

- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) - For quotas on the capture of bluefin tuna, and fishing effort controls on swordfish.

- The Mediterranean Regulation EC1967/2006) lays down technical measures for the conservation of certain stocks of highly migratory species.

- the Malta National Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

- the draft Dossier on the capture and killing of wild terrestrial fauna in the Maltese Islands

- Subsidiary Legislation 425.09 on the Implementation and Enforcement of certain fisheries management plans order.

- Subsidiary Legislation 425.08 Enforcement of Sea Fishing Conventions Order

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Article 64)

The above cover the main policies relating to migratory species, however, there are additional policies/ plans such as the Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations, 2011 and the Sand Preservations Act which indirectly also cover aspects for the conservation of migratory species.

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

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

Yes Yes

No

If Yes, please provide details

Amongst the policies which cover the exploitation of nature resources are the:

i) drafted Dossier on the capture and killing of wild terrestrial fauna in the Maltese Islands. The dossier addresses animal species (excluding avifauna) that are considered, or may likely to be, threatened by deliberate and/or incidental capture and killing as well as animal species whose exploitation should be managed, with a focus on those species included in the Habitats Directive and various subsidiary national legislation.

ii) the Common Fisheries Policy which is the fisheries policy of the European Union, including the Bluefin tuna recovery plan, the Mediterranean Regulation, the Control Regulation), the IUU Regulation, and the ICCAT Regulation 1605/2016(swordfish regulation. These policies are in place to regulate the exploitation of fisheries resources in line with stipulated measures agreed at the regional level.

iii) Malta's National Strategic Plan for Fisheries (2007-2013) which establishes the objectives for the development of the Maltese fisheries sector for the period: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/body/malta_en.pdf

iv) the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations SL549.42 which transposes the Birds Directive into local legislation. This legislation establishes special conservation measures, sets out prohibitions on activities involving wild birds, imposes hunting restrictions and sets out penalties for any offences againt its regulations.

v) the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 as amended, allows the Authority to make management measures to ensure that the taking in the wild as well as the exploitation for certain species is compatible with their maintenance at a favourable conservation status. Such measures could include but not only; the regulation of the period of taking, hunting and fishing rules, the establishment of licenses or quotas etc. The regulation also prohibits the use of indiscriminate means and forms of capture capable of causing the local disappearance of, or serious disturbance to, certain populations of mammals and fish.

Economic development

Yes

Land-use planning

Xes Yes

No

If Yes, please provide details

The Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 and the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006, which fully transpose the EU Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and lay down provisions for the designation of protected sites, including special areas of conservation (SACs) and special protected areas (SPAs). Such sites are to be covered by management plans which shall include the planning, management, supervision and monitoring measures for the sites in line with the protection category or categories assigned.

As mentioned in a previous section management plans for all the terrestrial SACs and SPAs have been prepared. These are currently in the process of being formally adopted.

Moreover, ERA is also able to issue guidelines for the management and conservation of the protected sites as well as designate zones within and around the sites in such a way as to have different categories of protected areas according to the management requirements set by the Authority.

Pollution control

Yes

No No

If Yes, please provide details

Designation and development of protected areas

Xes Yes

On the basis of the criteria set out in the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 and in line with the Habitats and Birds Directive ERA has also designated a number of sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation of National Importance and Special Protection Areas.

Also, through the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations SL549.42, areas deemed to be essential for the conservation of birds have been protected and declared as bird sanctuaries or protected beaches and no hunting or live-capturing is allowed within such sites.

Malta has also designated two sites as Wetlands of International Importance in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Ramsar Convention and four sites as Specially Protected Areas under the Barcelona Convention, specifically the Protocol for the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity.

Development of ecological networks



If Yes, please provide details

Asides from the National Ecological Network set up in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 which comprises of a coherent ecological network of protected areas, Malta also contributes to the European ecological network of special areas of conservation, as established under the title of Natura 2000 through the Habitats Directive.

Two of these Maltese protected sites also form part of Ramsar's network of wetlands of International Importance.

Planning of power lines



If Yes, please provide details

Planning of fences



If Yes, please provide details

Planning of dams



If Yes, please provide details

Other



If Yes, please provide details

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

V. Protected Areas

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



If Yes, please provide details:

The Birds Directive which was transposed through the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, (SL 549.42) as amended requires Malta to identify Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable bird species (as listed in Annex I of the Directive) and regularly occuring migratory bird species with regards to breeding, moulting, wintering areas and staging posts along their migratory routes.

The latter Regulation moreover, also designates bird sanctuaries and protected beaches; areas where no hunting or live-capturing is allowed.

Moreover, the Habitats Directive which is transposed nationally through the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 as amended requires Malta to identify special areas of conservation hosting the natural habitat types listed under Annex I and habitats of species listed under Annex II of the Directive. Such areas enable the natural habitat types and the species concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Prior to the establishment of such protected areas studies are carried out to determine which habitats and species are found therein. In addition, the related management plans also consider migratory species found (or are staging) in the site in question.

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

- Iċ-Ċittadella
- L-Għar tal-Iburdan u inħawi tad-Madwar
- Xlendi u tal-Wied tal-Kantra
- Wied il-Miżieb
- Buskett Girgenti Area;
- Filfla;
- Is-Simar (l/o San Pawl il-Baħar);
- Kemmuna, Kemmunett, il-Hagriet ta' Bejn il-Kmiemen u l-Iskoll ta' Taħt il-Mazz ;
- L-Għadira Area;
- Ramla tat-Torri /Rdum tal-Madonna Area;

- Rdumijiet ta' Għawdex: Ta' Ċenċ;
- Rdumijiet ta' Għawdex: Id-Dawra tas-Sanap sa tal-Ħajt;
- Rdumijiet ta' Għawdex: Il-Ponta ta' Ħarrux sa Il-Bajja tax-Xlendi;
- Rdumijiet ta' Għawdex: Il-Ponta ta' San Dimitri sa Il-Ponta ta' Harrux;
- Rdumijiet ta'Malta: Ix-Xaqqa sa Wied Moqbol;
- Rdumijiet ta'Malta: Ras il-Pellegrin sa ix-Xaqqa;
- Rdumijiet ta'Malta: Wied Moqbol sal-Ponta ta' Benghisa
- Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ir-Ramla taċ-Ċirkewwa sal-ponta ta' Bengħisa
- Il-Baħar bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raħeb
- Il-Baħar fl-Inħawi ta' Għar Lapsi u ta' Filfla
- Il-Baħar fl-Inħawi ta' Mġarr ix-Xini (Għawdex)
- Il-Baħar fl-Inħawi tad-Dwejra (Għawdex)
- Il-Baħar fil-grigal ta' Malta
- Il-Baħar tal-Punent
- Il-Baħar tat-Tramuntana
- Il-Baħar tan-Nofsnhar
- Il-Baħar tal-Grigal
- Il-Baħar tal-Lvant
- Il-Baħar tax-Xlokk
- Il-Baħar tal-Lbiċ
- Il-Baħar ta' madwar Għawdex
- Il-Baħar tal-Majjistral

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

Terrestrial



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

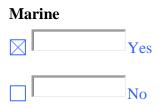
A total of eighteen terrestrial sites provide a coverage of 43.527 Km².

Aquatic



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

The total aquatic coverage of these protected sites is 0.097 sq km.



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

A total of fourteen marine sites provide a total coverage of 3,487 Km².

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

ERA

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

The designation of protected areas supports the existing legal protection regime and helps maintain or improve the status of migratory species. In accordance to the assessment carried out in 2013 under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive almost half of the bat species found on the Islands have a favourable conservation status. The conservation status of most marine species is still under study and in this respect, Malta has commission studies and attained funds to gain additional information in relation to selected marine species (particularly through the EU LIFE+ Programme). Other initiatives to collect data regarding other marine species are also to be considered.

Management plans have been prepared for all terrestrial SPAs and SACs forming part of the Natura 2000 network and these are currently in the process of being formally adopted. The management plans were developed by a project entitled 'Natura 2000 Management Planning for Malta and Gozo'.

This project was co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under Measure 323 of the Rural Development Program for Malta.

In 2011, Malta launched for public consultation a Dossier on the Capture and Killing of Wild Terrestrial Fauna in the Maltese Islands. This document addresses protected fauna which are, or are likely to be, threatened by deliberate and/or incidental capture and killing, as well as animal species whose exploitation should be managed and devises strategic recovery plans for each species or group addressed in the Dossier.

VI. Policies on Satellite Telemetry

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



If yes what is the state of those projects



Please provide details

The EU LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project (September 2011-June 2016) employed a variety of standardised research protocols and the latest tracking technology to gain a comprehensive picture of key areas of importance to the study species. Seabird colonies were monitored using a mark-recapture method, and samples are collected of regurgitates for dietary analyses.

Between 2012 and 2013 transect counts were carried out from a boat, up to the 25 nautical mile limit of Maltese waters, to record the distribution and behaviour of the study species at sea. The data was collected following the European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) methodology, and will contribute to global knowledge about seabirds at sea. Observers have also collected information on the habitat use of other species of birds, as well as cetaceans and turtles.

The Project used different tracking devices to gain information about the birds' distribution out at sea. GPS loggers were attached to the back of Yelkouan and Scopoli's shearwaters, for a few days at a time, to record where the birds have been

on their foraging trips out at sea. Small geolocators that stay with the birds for an entire year were used to find out where the birds go during their breeding season, but also during the winter and migration periods. The Project had also, for the first time in the Mediterranean, successfully radio-tracked European Storm Petrels. Small radio-transmitters were attached to these small seabirds, which were then tracked utilising antennae and receiver units onboard boats and small aircraft.

The project also aimed to increase awareness about seabirds in Malta amongst the general public, as well as researchers and seabird experts around the world. This will be achieved by various media outputs, as well as workshops and conferences organised throughout the duration of the project (Source: BirdLife Malta).

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



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

Although it is envisaged that such tracking methodology could be used during future projects or research, a priori data/ information gaps need to be assessed further so as to determine where best to direct research efforts and which, if any, tracking devices should be required.

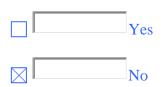
If No, please explain any impediments or requirements in this regard:

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

The EU LIFE + Malta Seabird Project aimed to locate the main foraging and rafting sites of the *Calonectris diomedea*, *Hydrobates pelagicus* and *Puffinus yelkouan* during the breeding season, as well as track their movements in their annual cycle. The results, moreover helped identify sites falling under the categories utilised to select Important Bird Areas. They also led to the destination of eight marine Special Protected Areas (SPAs), which form part of the Natura 2000 network.

VII. Membership

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



If Yes, please provide details. (In particular, describe actions taken to recruit the non-Parties that have been identified by the Standing Committee as high priorities for recruitment.)

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?



If Yes, please provide details:

Malta has undertaken diverse information/ education initiatives, such as articles in local newspapers and information panels. ERA's website, also provides information on species, habitats, nature protection policies, legislation, protected areas and biodiversity permitting. An example of this is made available through issues of 'BioSnippets', which are available

at http://era.org.mt/en/Pages/BioSnippet.aspx. ERA also publishes regular State of the Environment Reports and updates on the key environment indicators used therein.

Malta also carried out monthly Biodiversity Tours to Protected Areas, whereby ERA officials provide free guided tours to selected areas. These tours are carried out on a monthly basis from October to April. In parallel, ERA started participating in the popular Sunday show 'Malta u lil Hinn Minnha', an award-winning television show during which ERA provides weekly guided visits to a protected area, with information snippets on Maltese heritage. Posters on protected species were also distributed to interested parties, as well as a series of bookmarks and coasters depicting important Maltese species.

In addition, information campaigns are also undertaken by various environmental NGOs, research entities, relevant government departments, ministries and authorities.

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

ERA

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

Such activities have increased public awareness on the conservation of biodiversity and the activities being carried out. According to last year's EU Flash Eurobarometer "Attitudes of Europeans towards Biodiversity" 29% of Maltese have heard of the term 'biodiversity' and know what the term means, an increase of eleven percent from the 2010 survey. Such education campaigns have moreover, also increased local knowledge on Natura 2000 (the Europe-wide network of protected areas).

IX. Mobilization of Resources

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



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

Malta boasts of a local network for the strandings of turtles and cetaceans, which offers a 24/7 service led by ERA, the Veterinary Services Department, Nature Trust (Malta), the University of Malta and the Armed Forces of Malta, amongst others. Sea-turtle rehabilitation and release programs are also undertaken on a regular basis. For this purpose various tools have been purchased such as basic first aid rescue kits and equipment, identification guides, data sheets and measuring tapes. In addition, injured protected avifauna and bats are also cared for by local NGOs.

Initiatives have also been taken in connection with a loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) nesting event which happened in 2014, such as the issuance of an emergency conservation order, the cordoning of the nesting-site, and 24-hour surveillance.

The Wild Birds Regulation Unit also offers a 24/7 service for the public to report any injured or stranded wild birds. These birds are immediately retrieved and taken to a government appointed veterinarian who provides medical assistance and professional advice for rehabilitation. Through this service, a wide range of bird species including seabirds and birds of prey have been rescued and successfully released. This exercise, is carried out in collaboration with the Administrative Law Enforcement Section of the Police, a government appointed veterinarian, and BirdLife Malta. WBRU also coordinates conservation efforts between different NGOs, such as establishing feeding regimes for weak migratory birds wintering in the Maltese islands. Such conservation effort has been carried out in January 2017 with a bevy of mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) seeking refuge during winter in Gozo. With professional advice from the government appointed veterinarian, WBRU coordinated a feeding regime with hunting NGOs and BirdLife Malta.

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

	Yes
\boxtimes	No

If Yes, please provide details:

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)?



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

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



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

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?



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

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?



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

Malta has managed to secure diverse funding through EU projects,

EU LIFE Projects

Malta Seabird Project

This EU funded project was in operation between September 2011 and June 2016. This project aimed at creating a catalogue of marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for three seabirds: *Puffinus yelkouan, Calonectris diomedea* and *Hydrobates pelagicus* and employed various bird tracking methodologies to gain further knowledge on key areas. These sites were then recommended as marine Special Protection Areas.

Life Arcipelagu Garnija

BirdLife Malta's LIFE Project Arcipelagu Garnija aims at securing the Maltese Islands for the Yelkouan Shearwater, of where approximately 10% of the species' global population can be found. Arcipelagu Garnija's duration is five years (1st September 2015 – 31st August 2020). Protection of this local population is important on the global scale, especially with the drastic declines Yelkouan Shearwaters have been facing over the last decades. The species has been recently listed as 'vulnerable' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species and is protected by several international conservation agreements, as well as local legislation. It is listed under Annex I of the EU <u>Birds Directive</u>.

LIFE MIGRATE

On the 1st October 2012, a LIFE MIGRATE Project commenced which ran until April 2016. This project aimed at enabling studies on the status of the population of the loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and of the bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Maltese Islands. This project, sought to identify potential hotspots for the species (such as potential feeding areas or important migratory routes), assess the conservation status of the species, and to analyse adequate sites for protection, with the aim of designating relevant SCIs for these two species. Although the main target species of the project were loggerhead turtles and bottlenose dolphins, other important species encountered through the study were also recorded. The project also included an awareness-raising campaign.

LIFE BaĦAR

The main aim of the on-going LIFE Baħar for Natura 2000 project is to extend existing marine Sites of Community importance (SCIs), if necessary, and to designate new areas as SCIs to form part of the Natura 2000 network. The project will gather existing and new data on the location, range and conservation status of Annex I marine habitats as listed in the EU Habitats Directive.

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)

Fish by-catch

-

In terms of incidental capture or by-catch, it should be noted that discards in Maltese fishery are generally not significant. Information on the catch and landing by local fishing vessels is recorded through the Catch Log book and satellite monitoring in the form of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) also aid in the tracking of the fishing vessels and thus indicating the areas fished.

The most relevant data for assessing fish populations is generated through the scientific surveys carried out as part of the EC Data Collection Multi Annual Programme (DC-MAP) namely the Mediterranean International bottom trawl survey (MEDITS) and the Pan-Mediterranean pelagic survey (MEDIAS). MEDITS surveys target benthic and demersal assemblages while MEDIAS targets small pelagics.

Further fisheries bycatch data is collected through onboard fishing observations which are also conducted as part of the EC Data Collection Multi Annual Programme (DC-MAP).

Malta is currently planning on implementing a project on the reduction of discards which will be potentially funded by the European and Fisheries Fund. The project is still at a very early stage and further details will be available at a later date.

Turtle/Marine Mammals By-Catch

In accordance with national legislation, when loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) or marine mammals are accidentally caught during fishing activities these are to be released back into the sea, should this be possible and are only landed for rehabilitation purposes.

Oil Pollution and Migratory Species (7.3)

Through the obligations laid down under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Malta carried out an initial assessment on the environment status of the marine environment, which included an analysis on contamination by hazardous substances and significant pollution events. Based on this initial assessment Malta shall establish and implement coordinated monitoring programs for the ongoing assessment of the environment status.

Malta also implements and enforces various legislation, including international conventions to which Malta is a Party and EU Regulations and Directives, having as their scope the prevention of operational and accidental pollution by ships and also deliberate and negligent discharges and which are all aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the such discharges of chemicals into the aquatic environment.

Electrocution of Migratory Birds (7.4 / 10.11)

Malta is not aware of any documented instances of significant bird collision with electric power lines on the Islands.

Wind Turbines and Migratory Species (7.5)

The relevant provisions for this are taken into account when Environment Impact Assessments are carried out.

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

Malta has undertaken various active and passive surveillance on wild birds to determine, or otherwise the presence of strains of Avian Influenza in Malta. Details on the programme may be downloaded through the EU website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/programme2012/AI_MT.pdf.

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

No measures have been taken.

Marine Debris (10.4)

In line with the requirements of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), following the compilation of the Initial Assessment of the status of marine waters, the initial definition of Good Environmental Status (GES) and the establishment of environmental targets, Malta developed a number of monitoring programmes, one of which focuses on the issue of marine litter. The programmes are geared towards assessing environmental status (which covers features, activities and pressures relevant for GES), and progress towards achieving GES. Some of the monitoring programmes shall also assess the interactions of selected species with anthropogenic activities. The eleven monitoring

factsheets incorporating the thirteen monitoring programmes in accordance with the MSFD GES descriptors may downloaded through the following link <u>https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD.aspx</u>.

Malta is also party to various international conventions for the prevention of marine pollution through the dumping of waste, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matters (Land Convention), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, all of which are part of Maltese law and enforced accordingly; as well as transposing the provisions of EU Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues (Legal Notice 278 of 2004), as amended.

Other initiatives include the Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas which is run by FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education) and whose criteria include standards for water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety. In accordance, to the Blue Flag Guidelines, litter within such beaches is not to accumulate and such sites are to comply with national guidelines and legislation concerning litter and waste management.

Poisoning Migratory Birds (10.26)

No measures taken. The poisoning of migratory birds is not considered to be an issue in Malta.

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

Resolution 10.24 (*Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans & other migratory species*) and Resolution 9.19 (*Adverse anthropogenic Marine/Ocean Noise Impacts on Cetaceans and Other Biota*): Malta has ratified a number of regional and/ or international multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) addressing noise as a pressure on the marine biota. In addition, in line with the requirements of the MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive), Malta developed a monitoring programme. The monitoring programme shall assess the interactions of selected species with anthropogenic activities. In this regard, Malta has developed eleven monitoring factsheets incorporating the thirteen monitoring programmes in accordance with the MSFD GES descriptors (Additional information may be downloadedthrough the following link https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/MSFD.aspx).

In addition, any Environmental Impact Assessments undertaken for developments/operations would also consider the effects of any underwater noise created by that particular activity.

Resolution 8.22 (*Adverse human induced impacts of Cetaceans*): As indicated above, the evaluations carried out through environment impact assessments would also highlight the possible impacts on cetaceans of certain activities..

Southern Hemisphere Albatross Conservation (6.3)

N/A

Impact Assessment and Migratory Species (7.2)

According to local legislation any operation or activity not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Special Area of Conservation, or which is likely to have a significant impact thereon, would be subject to an impact assessment. The possible impacts to the migration of migratory species would be highlighted in the Impact Assessment and mitigation measures to counteract such impacts suggested therein.

Antarctic Minke, Bryde's and Pygmy Right Whales (7.15)

N/A

Sustainable Use (8.1)

No measures have been taken.

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

No measures have been taken.

Concerted Actions for Appendix I Species (8.29)

Under national legislation, marine mammals, sharks and marine turtles listed under Appendix I of the Convention are protected and the killing or taking of such specimens from the wild is prohibited. Disturbance during essential stages of their life (such as breeding, rearing and migration) is moreover, also prohibited as is the destruction and/ or deterioration of essential sites.

Concerted and Cooperative Actions (9.1 / 10.23)

No measures have been taken.

Priorities for CMS Agreements (9.2 / 10.16)

No measures have been taken.

Migratory Marine Species (9.9 / 10.15)

As mentioned in previous sections the LIFE MIGRATE Project aimed at enabling studies to be carried out on the status of the population of the loggerhead turtles and the bottlenose dolphin, as well as identifying any potential hotspots for the species, assessing the conservation status and analysing adequate sites for protection.

The project included an "After-LIFE Conservation Plan" which set out the strategy for the continuation and development of the actions to be undertaken once the project has ended to ensure the protection of these species within the identified protected areas and other areas, as necessary.

Saker Falcon (9.20 / 10.28)

The penalties for contraventions concerning Annex I species, including the Saker Falcon, have increased as follows: on a first conviction to an automatic fine of \notin 5,000 and/or imprisonment for one year, permanent revocation of all licenses under the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations SL549.42 and Schedule XV of the Code of Police Laws as well as the confiscation of the *corpus delicti*. On a second or subsequent conviction the penalties consist of \notin 10,000 fine and/or imprisonment for two years and confiscation of the *corpus delicti*. Moreover, the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan questionnaire has been duly compiled and submitted by Malta.

Modus Operandi for Conservation Emergencies (10.2)

As indicated in previous sections a 24/7 service is offered by ERA which enables members of the public to report cetacean strandings. The Armed Forces of Malta, Transport Malta or the Administrative Law Enforcement Section of the Police also collaborate through the provision of a sea-craft, when required. This network also involves veterinarians, biologists, as well as NGOs and volunteers

A Code of Practice for the stranding of cetacean species was introduced in 1999, this protocol set out the various procedures which are to be followed in the case of such an event. It aimed at the provision of effective and timely assistance to any live animal, the collection of scientific data and the acceptable method for the disposal of a carcass.

As indicated in the previous sections, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit also offers a 24/7 service for the public to report any injured or stranded wild birds. These birds are immediately retrieved and taken to a government appointed veterinarian who provides medical assistance and professional advice for rehabilitation. This excercise, is carried out in collaboration with the Administrative Law Enforcement Section of the Police, a government appointed veterinarian, and BirdLife Malta.

Ecological Networks (10.3)

Asides from the setting up of a National Ecological Network, which comprises of a coherent ecological network of protected areas, Malta also contributes to the European

ecological network of special areas of conservation under the Habitats Directive- the Natura 2000 network through the Habitats Directive.

Protected areas such as Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation are selected in such a way so as to address the needs of migratory species as far as possible throughout their life cycles, such as the inclusion of breeding, moulting, wintering areas and staging posts along their migratory routes

Moreover, two Maltese wetlands form part of the Ramsar's network of wetlands of International Importance.

Global Flyway Conservation (10.10)

No measures taken.

Migratory Freshwater Fish (10.12)

N/A

Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region (10.27)

Amongst the measures taken to protect avifauna are the increased penalties and enforcement efforts in the field to further eliminate the illegal exploitation of the protected species listed in Resolution 10.27 which fall within Malta's range state.

Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes (7.9)

Malta welcomes the interest in having close collaborations with all the bodies concerned and supports such initiatives.

CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (8.2)

No measures have been taken.

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

No measures have been taken.

Synergies and Partnerships / Cooperation with other Conventions (8.11 / 9.11 / 10.21)

In view that the majority of the nature conventions are implemented locally by the same Authority (ERA) this ensures close collaboration at national level between the focal points of the Convention of Migratory Species and the focal points of other relevant conventions. This system moreover, allows for the development of coherent and synergistic approach across the different conventions.

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

No measures have been taken.

CMS Information Priorities (9.3)

No measures have been taken.

Outreach and Communication Issues (9.5 / 10.7)

Asides, from the awareness initiatives mentioned under Section VIII, Malta has undertaken activities to mark World Environment Day where clean-up activities, appreciation field trails, information campaigns and competitions were organized for the World Turtle Day where various local Authorities joined forces to organise a Turtle release event. In the latter event loggerhead turtles were released back into their natural environment following a rehabilitation process which saw them recover from various injuries and ailments. In 2015, two bat awareness events were also undertaken; such included informative presentations on bats, a hearing exercise (during which participants could hear the different species through a bat detector) and a bat trivia exhibition.

Malta also actively promotes dialogue between decision makers and conservation bodies such as through the Malta Ornis Committee (established by virtue of the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations, 2006 and composed of members of organisations representing hunters, as well as members of organisations working for the protection of avifauna, and independent experts) which fulfils the important role of making recommendations to the Government on a wide array of issues ranging from conservation status of a particular species to conditions of hunting seasons, as well as recommendations on enforcement or legislative proposals. Stakeholders were also involved throughout the preparation of the management plans and conservation orders for the terrestrial Natura 2000 sites, such as when collecting data (pre-drafting stage) and during the drafting of management objectives and measures.

Capacity Building Strategy (9.12 / 10.6)

No measures have been taken.

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

Malta has paid its contributions up to 2014.

Future strategies of the CMS Family / "Future Shape" (10.9)

Recommendations

Recommendation 7.6 - Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

The harvesting of the *Dermochelys coriacea*, a vagrant species in Malta known locally from a few old historic records, is illegal. The actual recommendation is mostly targeted to the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Recommendation 8.17 - Marine Turtles

N/A

Recommendation 9.1 - Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals

N/A

Recommendation 9.2 - Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna

N/A

Recommendation 9.3 - Tigers and other Asian Big Cats

N/A

Recommendation 9.5 - Cooperative Action for the Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in Central Africa

N/A

Other resolutions/recommendations:

Other remarks:

Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

1. The lists below contain all the 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).	0	
rependix if at COI) and COI 10).		

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Summarised information on the species for which Malta is a Range State can be found in the EU Habitats Directive Article 17 Report found at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/:

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
<i>Rhinolophus</i> sp. (only European populations)					As above
<i>Vespertilionidae spp.</i> (European populations)					As above
Miniopterus schreibersii (African populations)					
Miniopterus majori			\square		
Miniopterus natalensis (African populations)			\square		
Acipenser queldenstaedtii			\square		
Tadarida insignis			\square		
Tadarida latouchei			\square		
Tadarida teniotis	\square				As above
Eidolon helvum (African Populations)			\square		
Otomops martiensseni (African Populations)			\square		
Otomops madagascariensis			\square		

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Summarised information on the species for which Malta is a Range State can be found in the EU Habitats Directive Article 17 Report found at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Physeter macrocephalus	\square				As above
Platanista gangetica gangetica					
Pontoporia blainvillei					
Inia geoffrensis					
Delphinapterus leucas					
Monodon monoceros					
Phocoena phocoena (North and Baltic Sea populations)					
Phocoena phocoena (western North Atlantic population)			\boxtimes		
Phocoena phocoena (Black Sea population)					
Phocoena phocoena (NW African popuolation)					
Neophocaena phocaenoides					
Phocoenoides dalli					
Phocoena spinipinnis					
Phocoena dioptrica					
Sousa chinensis					
Sousa teuszii					
Sotalia fluviatilis					
Sotalia guiansensis					
Lagenorhynchus albirostris (only North and Baltic Sea populations)					
Lagenorhynchus acutus (only North and Baltic Sea populations)					
Lagenorhynchus australis					

Lagenorhynchus obscurus			
Grampus griseus (only North and Baltic Sea populations)			
Grampus griseus (only Mediterranean populations)			As above
<i>Tursiops aduncus</i> (Arafura/Timor Sea populations)			
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (North and Baltic Sea populations)			
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Mediterranean population)			As above
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Black Sea population)			
Stenella attenuata (eastern tropical Pacific population)			
Stenella attenuata (Southeast Asian populations)			
<i>Stenella clymene</i> (West African population)			
Stenella longirostris (eastern tropical Pacific populations)			
Stenella longirostris (Southeast Asian populations)			
Stenella coeruleoalba (eastern tropical Pacific population)			
Stenella coeruleoalba (Mediterranean population)			As above
<i>Delphinus delphis</i> (North and Baltic Sea populations)			
<i>Delphinus delphis</i> (Mediterranean population)			As above
Delphinus delphis (Black Sea population)			
<i>Delphinus delphis</i> (eastern tropical Pacific population)			
<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i> (Southeast Asian populations)			
Orcaella brevirostris		\square	
Orcaella heinsohni		\boxtimes	
<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i> (South American population)			
Cephalorhynchus eutropia		\square	
Cephalorhynchus heavisidii			
Orcinus orca			
Globicephala melas (only North and Baltic Sea populations)			
Berardius bairdii			
Hyperoodon ampullatus			
Balaenoptera bonaerensis			

Balaenoptera edeni			
Balaenoptera borealis			
Balaenoptera physalus	\square		As above
Caperea marginata		\square	
Neophocaena asiaeorientalis		\square	
Phocoenoides dalli		\square	
Balaenoptera omurai		\square	

Carnivora

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Arctocephalus australis					
Otaria flavescens					
<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (only Baltic and Wadden Sea populations)					
Halichoerus grypus (only Baltic Sea populations)					
Monachus monachus					
Lycaon pictus					

Proboscidea

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Loxodonta africana					
Loxodonta cyclotis					

Sirenia

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
<i>Trichechus manatus</i> (Honduras and Panama)					
Trichechus senegalensis			\square		
Trichechus inunguis			\square		

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PERISSODACTYLA

Equus hemionus (includes Equus onage)			
Equus kiang		\boxtimes	

ARTIODACTYLA

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Vicugna vicugna					
<i>Cervus elaphus yarkendensis</i> (Populations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan & Afghanistan)					
Oryx dammah					
Gazella gazella (only asian populations)					
Gazella subgutturosa					
Procapra gutturosa					
Ammotragus lervia					
Saiga tatarica					
Saiga borealis					
Ovis ammon					

GAVIIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Gavia stellata (Western Palearctic populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Gavia arctica arctica					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Gavia arctica suschkini					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Gavia immer immer (Northwest European population)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta-

			BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Gavia adamsii</i> (Western Palearctic population)			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

PODICIPEDIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Podiceps grisegena grisegena					<i>Checklist of the</i> <i>Birds of Malta</i> - BirdLife Malta 2004
Podiceps auritus (Western Palearctic populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

PELECANIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Phalacrocorax nigrogularis					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Phalacrocorax pygmeus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Pelecanus onocrotalus (Western Palearctic populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Pelecanus crispus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

CICONIIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Botaurus stellaris stellaris (Western Palearctic populations)					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i> (Western Palearctic populations)					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ixobrychus sturmii					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ardeola rufiventris					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ardeola idae					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Egretta vinaceigula					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ardea purpurea purpurea (populations breeding in the Western Palearctic)					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Mycteria ibis					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ciconia nigra					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ciconia episcopus microscelis					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Ciconia ciconia					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Plegadis falcinellus					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Geronticus eremita					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Platalea alba (excluding Malagasy population)					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Platalea leucorodia					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Phoenicopterus sp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

ANSERIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Anatidae spp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

FALCONIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Pandion haliaetus					<i>Checklist of the</i> <i>Birds of Malta</i> - BirdLife Malta 2004
Cathartidae spp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Accipitridae spp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Falconidae spp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

GALLIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Coturnix coturnix coturnix					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

SPHENISCIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Spehniscus demersus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

PROCELLARIIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Diomedea exulans					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Diomedea epomophora					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Diomedea irrorata					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Diomedea dabbenena					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Diomedea antipodensis					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Diomedea sanfordi					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Diomedea chrysostoma					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Phoebetria fusca					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Phoebetria palpebrata					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Phoebastria nigripes					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Phoebastria immutabilis					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Macronectes giganteus					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Macronectes halli					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Procellaria cinerea					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Procellaria aequinoctialis					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Procellaria conspicillata					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Procellaria parkinsoni					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Procellaria westlandica					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche melanophris					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche impavida					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche bulleri					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche cauta					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche steadi					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche salvini					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche eremita					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Thalassarche chlororhynchos					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Thalassarche carteri					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004

GRUIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
<i>Porzana porzana</i> (populations breeding in the Western Palearctic)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Porzana parva parva					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Porzana pusilla intermedia					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Fulica atra atra</i> (Mediterranean and Black Sea populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Aenigmatolimnas marginalis					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Sarothrura boehmi					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sarothrura ayresi					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Crex crex					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Grus sp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i> (only Asian populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Otis tarda					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004

CHARADRIIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Recurvirostridae sp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Charadriidae sp.					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Dromas ardeola					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Burhinus oedicnemus					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Glareola practincola					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Glareola nordmanni					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Glareola nuchalis					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Scolopacidae sp.					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Larus hemprichii					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Larus leucophthalmus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i> (West Eurasian and African population)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Larus melanocephalus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Larus genei					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Larus audouinii					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Larus armenicus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna nilotica nilotica (West Eurasian and African populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna caspia (West Eurasian and African populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Sterna maxima albidorsalis					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Sterna bergii</i> (African and Southwest Asian populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Sterna bengalensis</i> (African and Southwest Asian populations)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna dougallii (Atlantic population)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> (populations breeding in the Western Palearctic)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna paradisaea (Atlantic populations)					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna albifrons			\boxtimes		<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta</i> - BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna saundersi					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna balaenarum					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta</i> - BirdLife Malta 2004
Sterna repressa					<i>Checklist of the Birds of</i> <i>Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Chlidonias niger niger					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> (West Eurasian and African population)					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Rynchops flavirostris					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

COLUMBIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Streptopelia turtur turtur					Checklist of the Birds of Malta-

		BirdLife Malta
		2004

CORACIIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Merops apiaster					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Coracias garrulus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

Psittaciformes

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Amazona tucumana					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

PASSERIFORMES

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Hirundo atrocaerulea					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Alectrurus risora					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Alectrurus tricolor					<i>Checklist of the</i> <i>Birds of Malta</i> - BirdLife Malta 2004
Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus					Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Muscicapidae (s.l.) spp.					Checklist of the Birds of Malta-

			BirdLife Malta 2004
Sporophila ruficollis			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sporophila zelichi			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sporophila cinnamomea			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sporophila hypochroma			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Sporophila palustris			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Agelaius flavus			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Dolichonyx oryzivorus			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004

Testudinata

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Lanfranco G. & Schembri P.J. (1989): Vertebrates other than birds. In: Schembri, P.J. & Sultana, J. (eds.):

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Mifsud, C.R.; Baldacchino, A.E.; Gruppetta, A. & Stevens, D.T. (2005b): Preliminary Data on Stranded and on landed accidentally caught Loggerhead Turtles in Malta. In: Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, pp. 31. Turkey: Lebib Yalkin Yayimlari ve Basim isleri Anonim Sirketi.

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Mifsud, C.R.; Schembri, P.J.; Rizzo, M.; Baldacchino, A.E.; Stevens, D.T. & Gruppetta, A. (2005): Preliminary Data on the Epibionts of Caretta caretta from Maltese Waters. In: Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles, pp. 19. Turkey: Lebib Yalkin Yayimlari ve Basim isleri Anonim Sirketi.

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Yésou P. & Sultana J. (eds.) (2000): Monitoring and Conservation of Birds, Mammals and Sea Turtles of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Malta: Environment Protection Department, 320pp.

Summarised information on the species for which Malta is a Range State can be found in the EU Habitats Directive Article 17 Report found at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/.

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Cheloniidae spp.					As above
Dermochelyidae spp.			\square		
Podocnemis expansa			\square		

Crocodylia

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Crocodylus porosus					

Orectolobiformes

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Rhincodon typus					

Lamniformes

Attard, V. & Muscat, S. [eds]. (1999). The most common sharks found around the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean Sea. Guide Book. Marine Life Care Group (Malta), Valletta, Malta. 21pp.

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Schembri, T., Fergusson, I.K. and Schembri, P.J. (2003). Revision of the Records of Shark and Ray Species from the Maltese Islands (Chordata: Chondrichthyes). The Central Mediterranean Naturalist 4(1):71-104.

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Cetorhinus maximus					As above
Carcharodon carcharias	\square				As above
Isurus oxyrinchus					As above
Isurus paucus			\square		
Lamna nasus	\square				As above

Squaliformes

Attard, V. & Muscat, S. [eds]. (1999). The most common sharks found around the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean Sea. Guide Book. Marine Life Care Group (Malta), Valletta, Malta. 21pp.

Despott G. (1919). The Ichthyology of Malta. Critien's Press, Malta. Xi + 60pp.

Fergusson, I.K., Campagno, L.J.V. and Fowler S.L. (1999). Formal Submission to the Maltese Department of the Environment: Proposal to Conserve the Great White Shark Carcharodon carcharias in Maltese Waters. [Available on the internet at http://www.zoo.co.uk/~z9015043/malta_ws.html; accessed 23 March 2005.]

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Schembri, T., Fergusson, I.K. and Schembri, P.J. (2003). Revision of the Records of Shark and Ray Species from the Maltese Islands (Chordata: Chondrichthyes). The Central Mediterranean Naturalist 4(1):71-104.

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
<i>Squalus acanthias</i> (Northern hemisphere populations)					

Rajiformes

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Manta birostris					

Acipenseriformes

Lanfranco, G. (2009) The Fish Around Malta (Central Mediterranean). Progress Press, Malta.

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Huso huso					
Huso dauricus			\square		
Acipenser baerii baicalensis					
Acipenser fulvescens					
Acipenser medirostris			\square		
Acipenser mikadoi			\square		
Acipenser naccarii			\square		
Acipenser nudiventris			\square		
Acipenser persicus					
Acipenser ruthenus (Danube population)					

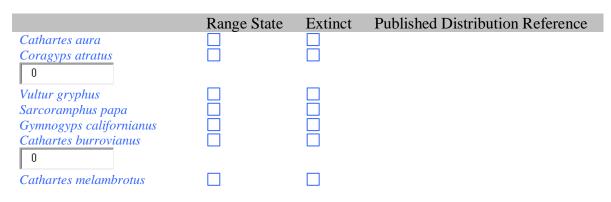
Acipenser schrenckii		\square	
Acipenser sinensis		\square	
Acipenser stellatus		\square	
Acipenser sturio		\square	As above
Pseudoscaphirhynchus kaufmanni		\square	
Pseudoscaphirhynchus hermanni		\square	
Pseudoscaphirhynchus fedtschenkoi		\square	
Psephurus gladius		\square	

Lepidoptera

Species	Range State	Extinct at National level	Not a Range State	No information available	Published distribution reference
Danus plexippus					

2. All of the species listed 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

Order FALCONIFORMES, Family CATHARTIDAE



References cited in the Annex:

Order Falconiformes, Family Accipitridae

Accipiter brevipes		Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Accipiter (asciatus	·			
Accipiter gentilis				
Accipiter guilaris	· · ·			
Accipiter gularis Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Accipiter nisus Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Accipiter nisus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Accipiter virgatus Accipiter virgatus Accipiter virgatus Accipiter virgatus Aquila dadberti Aquila clanga Aquila clanga Aquila clanga Aquila pomarina A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Aquila pomarina A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Aviceda ierdoni Aviceda ierdoni Aviceda leuphotes Aviceda leuphotes Buteo auguralis A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo auguralis A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circas aeruginosus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circas aeruginosus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circas approximans A Complete G				
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Accipiter virgatus		H	H	
Aegypius monachus	·	H	H	
Aquila adalberti		H	H	
Aquila chrysaetos		H	H	
Aquila clanga		H	H	
Aquila heliaca		H	H	
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Buteo auguralis Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo buteo Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo hemilasius Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo jamaicensis Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo lagopus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo lagopus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo lineatus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo regalis Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo swainsoni Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Circus aeruginosus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Circus assimilis Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Circus cyaneus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Circus macrourus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta.	Butastur indicus			
Buteo buteo A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Buteo hemilasius Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Buteo jamaicensis Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo lineatus Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo ruginus Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Buteo swainsoni Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circus aeruginosus Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circus approximans Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circus assimilis Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circus assimilis Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Circus anarourus Image: Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.	Buteo albonotatus			
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Buteo jamaicensis		_	_	Natalino Fenech 2010
Buteo lagopus				
Buteo lineatus Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo polysoma Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo regalis Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Buteo swainsoni Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Chelictinia riocourii Image: Constraint of the Birds of Malta. Circus aeruginosus Image: Circus aeruginosus Circus approximans Image: Circus assimilis Circus cyaneus Image: Circus macrourus Image: Circus macrourus Image: Circus of the Birds of Malta.		L L		
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Buteo rufinus Image: Chelictinia riocourii Buteo swainsoni Image: Chelictinia riocourii Chelictinia riocourii Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circaetus gallicus Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circus aeruginosus Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circus aeruginosus Image: Circus aeruginosus Circus approximans Image: Circus assimilis Circus cyaneus Image: Circus macrourus Circus macrourus Image: Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife	A - F		H	
Buteo swainsoni Image: Chelictinia riocourii Chelictinia riocourii Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circaetus gallicus Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circus aeruginosus Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circus aeruginosus Image: Chelictinia riocourii Circus approximans Image: Circus assimilis Circus cyaneus Image: Circus macrourus Circus macrourus Image: Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife		H	H	
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Circaetus gallicus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus aeruginosus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus approximans A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus assimilis A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus cyaneus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus macrourus Circus macrourus		H	H	
Circus aeruginosus Image: State of the state of th			H	A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta
Circus aeruginosus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus approximans I Circus assimilis I Circus cyaneus A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Circus macrourus I Circus macrourus I	Circueius guineus			
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Circus approximans Image: Circus assimilis Circus assimilis Image: Circus cyaneus Circus cyaneus Image: Circus macrourus Circus macrourus Image: Circus macrourus	ci cus acraginostas			
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Circus cyaneusImage: A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010Circus macrourusImage: A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta-BirdLife		П	П	
Circus macrourusNatalino Fenech 2010Circus macrourusChecklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife		$\overline{\boxtimes}$		A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Circus macrourus 🛛 Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife				
	Circus macrourus	\boxtimes		
				Malta 2004

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Circus melanoleucos			
Circus pygargus	\square		<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta</i> -BirdLife Malta 2004
Circus spilonotus			
Elanoides forficatus			
Elanus caerulus			
Elanus scriptus			
Gypaetus barbatus			
Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis			
Gyps coprotheres			
Gypes fulvus			
Gypes himalayensis			
Gypes rueppelii			
Haliaettus albicilla			
Haliaeetus albicilla groenlandicus			
Haliaeetus leucocephalus			
Haliaeetus leucoryphys			
Haliaeetus pelagicus			
Hieraaetus pennatus			
Ictina missippiensis			
Ictina plumbea			
Lophoictinia isura			
Milvus migrans			
Milvus milvus	\boxtimes		A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Neophron percnopterus			
Pernis apivorus	\boxtimes		A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Pernis ptilorhynchus			Autamio i chech 2010
Spizaetus nipalensis			
Terathopius ecaudatus			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Falco amurensis			
Falco biamicus			
0			
Falco cenchroides			
Falco cherrug			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Falco columbarius			
Falco concolor			
0			

Order Falconiformes, Family Falconidae

Falco eleonorae	\boxtimes	Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Falco longipennis Falco mexicanus Falco naumanni		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>		BirdLife Malta 2004
Falco pelegrinoides		
babylonicus Falco peregrinus	\boxtimes	<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Falco peregrinus anatum Falco peregrinus peregrinus Falco peregrinus tundrius 0		
Falco rusticolus Falco sparverius Falco subbuteo		<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Falco tinnunculus	\boxtimes	<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Falco vespertinus	\boxtimes	<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Milvago chimango		Diddio mara 2004

Order Passeriformes, Family Muscicapidae

	- ~		
	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Acrocephalus aedon			
Acrocephalus agricola			
Acrocephalus arundinaceus		H	Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004
0			
			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
	_	_	Natalino Fenech 2010
Acrocephalus australis			
Acrocephalus bistrigiceps			
Acrocephalus concinens			
Acrocephalus dumetroum		Ē	
0			
Acrocephalus griseldis			
0			
0			
Acrocephalus melanopogon			
Acrocephalus orientalis			
Acrocephalus paludicola		Ē	
nerocephanas panaacota			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Acrocephalus palustris			
0			
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004
			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta Natalino Fenech 2010
Acrocephalus scirpaceus			Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
terocephanas sempaceus			BirdLife Malta 2004
			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta
	_	_	Natalino Fenech 2010
Acrocephalus sorghophilus			
Acrocephalus stentoreus Acrocephalus tangorum	H	H	
acrocepnatus tangorum			
-			
Brachypteryx stellata Brachypterus luteovenentris	H	H	
Bradypterus tacsanowskius	H	H	
0			
Bradypterus thoracicus			
Catharus fuscescens	H	H	
Catharus guttatus			
Catharus minimus			
0			
Catharus mustelinus			
0			
Catharus ustilatus			
Cercotriachas galactotes			
Cettia brunnifrons			
Cettia canturians			
0			
Cettia cetti	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004
			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta Natalino Fenech 2010
			Automotic Percent 2010
Cettia fortipes			
Cettia major			
Cettia pallidipes			
Chaimarrornis leucocephalus			
0	_	_	
Cinclidium leucurum	Ц		
Culicicapa ceylonensis	H	H	
Cyanoptila cyanomelana 0			
	_		
Cyornis concretus		H	
Cyornis rubeculoides Erithacus akahige	H	H	
Erithacus akanige Erithacus rubecula		Н	Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution ReferenceA Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Eumyias thalassina Ficedula albicollis			Natalino Fenech 2010 Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Ficedula hodgsonii			Natalino Fenech 2010
Ficedula hypoleuca	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Ficedula mugimaki Ficedula narcissina Ficedula parva 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Ficedula sapphira Ficedula semitorquata Ficedula strophiata 0			
Ficedula subrubra Ficedula superciliaris Ficedula tricolor Ficedula zanthopygia Hippolais caligata			
Hippolais icterina 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta
Hippolais languida Hippolais olivetorum Hippolais pallida Hippolais polyglotta			Natalino Fenech 2010
Hippolais rama			
Hodgsonius phaenicuroides Irania gutturalis Locustella certhiola Locustella fasciolata			
Locustella fluviatillis Locustella lanseolata Locustella luscinoides			A Complete Guide to the Birds of
Locustella naevia			<i>Malta</i> . Natalino Fenech 2010
Locustella ochotensis			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Locustella pleskei Luscinia brunnea Luscinia calliope			
Luscinia cyane Luscinia megarhynchos 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Luscina obscura Luscinia pectardens			Natalino Fenech 2010
Luscinia pectoralis Luscinia ruficeps			
Luscinia sibilans			
Luscinia svecica	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
Megalurus pryeri Monarcha melanopsis Monarcha trivirgatus			BirdLife Malta 2004
Monticola cinclorhynchus Monticola gularis Monticola rufiventris			
Monticola saxatilis	\square		<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Monticola solitarius			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010 Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Muscicapa dauurica Muscicapa ferruginea Muscicapa griseisticta Muscicapa muttui 0			Natalino Fenech 2010
<i>Muscicapa ruficauda Muscicapa siberica Muscicapa striata</i>			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Muscicapa hodgsoni Myadestes townsendi Myiagra cyanoleuca			Natalino Fenech 2010

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Myiagra rubecula			
0		_	
Niltava davidi			
Niltava grandis			
Niltava macgrigoriae Oenanthe cypriaca		H	
Oenanthe deserti			
0			
Oenanthe finschii			
0			
Oenanthe hispanica	\square		Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Oenanthe isabellina	\square		Fenech 2010 A Complete Guide to the Birds of
Genunine isabellina			<i>A Complete Guide to the Birds of</i> <i>Malta</i> . Natalino Fenech 2010
Oenanthe leucopyga			
Oenanthe oenanthe			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
	_	_	Fenech 2010
<i>Oenanthe picata</i>			
_		_	
Oenanthe pleschanka Oenanthe xanthoprymna		H	
Panurus biarmicus			
0			
Petroica phoenicea			
Phoenicurus alaschanicus Phoenicurus auroreus		H	
Phoenicurus erythrogaster			
0			
Phoenicurus erythronota			
0			
Phoenicurus frontalis			
Phoenicurus hodgsoni			
Phoenicurus moussieri Phoenicurus ochruros		H	Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	\boxtimes		Fenech 2010 Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Phoenicurus schisticeps			Fenech 2010
Phylloscopus affinis			
Phylloscopus armandii			
Phylloscopus bonelli			
U			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Phylloscopus borealis			
Phylloscopus borealoides			
Phylloscopus cantator			
Phylloscopus chloronotus			
Phylloscopus collybita			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Phylloscopus coronatus			
Phylloscopus davisoni			
Phylloscopus emeiensis			
Phylloscopus fuligiventer			
Phylloscopus fuscatus			
0			
Phylloscopus griseolus			
Phylloscopus humei			
Phylloscopus ibericus		Ц	
Phylloscopus ijimae			
0	_	_	
Phylloscopus inornatus			
Phylloscopus lorenzii			
Phylloscopus maculipennis			
Phylloscopus magnirostris			
Phylloscopus neglectus			
0	_	_	
Phylloscopus nitidus			
Phylloscopus occipitalis			
Phylloscopus orientalis			
0	_	_	
Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus		Ц	
Phylloscopus proregulus			
Phylloscopus pulcher Phylloscopus reguloides		H	
0			
	_	_	
Phylloscopus ricketti			
0			
Phylloscopus schwarzi			
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	\square		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			<i>Guide to the Birds of Malta</i> . Natalino Fenech 2010
Phylloscopus sichuanensis			
Phylloscopus sindianus			
0			
Phylloscopus subaffinis			
0			
Phylloscopus subvirdis		H	
Phylloscopus tenellipes Phylloscopus trochiloides	H	H	
1 nyuoscopus irocnitotaes			

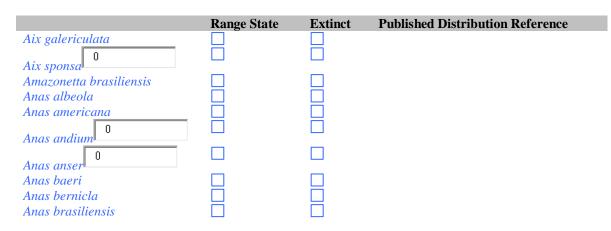
	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Phylloscopus trochilus 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Phyllosceopus tytleri			
Regulus calnedula			
<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Regulus regulus			Fenech 2010 Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Regulus satrapa Rhinomyias brunneata Rhyacornis fulginosus 0			Fenech 2010
Saxicola caprata			
Ssaxicola ferrea Saxicola insignis Saxicola rubertra			<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
<i>Saxicola torquata</i> 0			Guide to the Birds of Malta. NatalinoFenech 2010Checklist of the Birds of Malta-BirdLife Malta 2004A CompleteGuide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Seicercus affinis 0			Fenech 2010
Seicercus burkii Seicercus castaniceps Seicercus poliogenys Seicercus soror 0			
Seicercus tephrocephalus Seicerus valentini Seicerus whistleri 0			
Seicercus xanthoschistos Sialia currcoides Stenostira scita Sylvia althaea Sylvia atricapilla			<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
Sylvia borin			Guide to the Birds of Malta. NatalinoFenech 2010Checklist of the Birds of Malta-BirdLife Malta 2004A Complete

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
	_	_	Fenech 2010
<u>Sylvia cantillans</u>	\square		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
		_	Fenech 2010
Sylvia communis	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
~		_	Fenech 2010
Sylvia conspicillata	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			<i>Guide to the Birds of Malta</i> . Natalino
a 1 ·			Fenech 2010
Sylvia curruca			
Sylvia deserticola	H	H	
Sylvia hortensis			Charlier of the D' L CM L
Sylvia melanocephala			Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			<i>Guide to the Birds of Malta.</i> Natalino
Sulvia malanothoner			Fenech 2010
Sylvia melanothorax Sylvia minula	H	H	
Sylvia mystacea		H	
		H	
Sylvia nana			
0			
Sylvia nisoria			
Sylvia rueppelli			
Sylvia sarda			
Tarsiger chrysaeus		Ц	
Tarsiger cyanurus			
0			
Terpsiphone atrocaudata			
0	_		
	_	_	
Tersiphone paradisi	H	H	
<i>Furdus albocinctus</i>	H	H	
Turdus amaurochalinus	H	H	
Turdus boulboul			
0			
Turdus cardis			
Turdus chrysolaus			
0			
Turdus feae		_	
Turdus hortulorum		H	
Turdus iliacus	\bowtie		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
			Fenech 2010
Turdus kessleri Turdus morula		H	Chapter of the Dirds CM 1
Turdus merula			Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			<i>Guide to the Birds of Malta</i> . Natalino
			Fenech 2010

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Turdus migratorius			
Turdus naumanni Turdus obscurus Turdus pallidus Turdus philomelos			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Turdus pilaris			Fenech 2010 Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Turdus rubrocanus Turdus ruficollis Turdus torquatus Turdus unicolor			Fenech 2010
Urosphena squameiceps Zoothera dauma Zoothera dixoni 0			
Zoothera guttata Zoothera mollissima Zoothera monticola Zoothera naevia Zoothera sibirica Zoothera wardii			

A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010

Order Aseriformes, Family Anatidae



	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Anas caerulescens			
0	_		
Anas cana			
Anas canagica			
Anas clangula			
Anas collaris			
Anas columbianus			
Anas cyamoptera			
0			
Anas cygnus			
Anas diazi			
Anas discors			
Anas erythrophthalma	H	H	
Anas erythropus Anas erythrorhyncha	H	H	
Anas fabalis	H	H	
		H	
Anas falcata			
Anas ferina	\boxtimes		A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Anas ferruginea			
Anas flavirostris			
0			
Anas formosa			
Anas fuligula	H	H	
	H	H	
Anas fusca			
Anas galericulata			
Anas gracilis			
Anas histrionicus			
Anas hottentota			
0			
0			
Anas hybrida			
Anas hyemalis			
Anas indica Anas islandica	H	H	
0	_	_	
Anas jamaicensis			
Anas leucopsis			
0			
Anas marila			
Anas mollissima			
Ange nigra			
Anas nigra Anas obscura			
Anas olor	H	H	
Anas perspicillata	Н	Н	
0			
Anas picta	—	_	

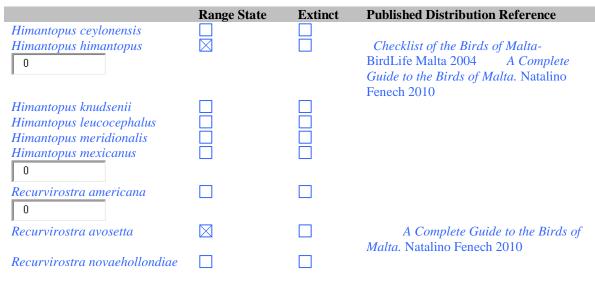
Anas platyrhynchos	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution ReferenceChecklist of the Birds of Malta-BirdLife Malta 2004A CompleteGuide to the Birds of Malta. NatalinoFenech 2010
Anas poecilorhyncha Anas punctata			
Anas rubripes Anas rufina Anas sibilatrix			
Anas smithii			
Anas spectabilis Anas specularioides Anas specularis			
0			
Anas sponsa Anas stelleri Anas strepera			
Anas tadorna Anas undulata Anas valisineria			
Anser albifrons Anser anser			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Anser brachyrhynchus			
Anser caerulescens Anser canagica Anser cygnoides			
Anser erythropus Anser fabalis Anser indicus			
Anser rossii			
Aythya affinis Aythya americana Aythya australis			
Aythya baeri Aythya collaris			
Aythya ferina Aythya fuligula Aythya marila Aythya nyroca			A Complete Guide to the Birds of
Aythya valisineria			Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Branta albifrons			
0			
Branta bernicla			
Branta canadensis	П	П	
0			
Branta hrota	_	_	
Branta leucopsis			
Branta nigricans	Ц		
Branta ruficollis	Ц		
Bucephala albeola			
Bucephala clangula			
Bucephala islandica			
0			
Chloephaga hybrida			
Chloephaga picta			
Chloephaga poliocephala			
Chloephaga rubidiceps			
0			
Clangula hyemalis			
	_		
Cygnus bewickii			
Cygnus buccinator			
0			
Cygnus columbianus			
Cygnus cygnus			
0	\square		A Complete Guide to the Birds of
Cygnus olor			Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Histrionicus histrionicus			
Lophodytes cucullatus			
Marmaronetta augustirostris	Ц		
Melanitta americana			
0			
Melanitta deglandi			
0			
Melanitta fusca			
Melanitta nigra	H	H	
Melanitta perspicillata	H	H	
Mergellus albellus			
Mergus albellus	H	H	
Mergus cucullatus		H	
Mergus merganser			
	_	_	
Mergus serrator		Ц	
Mergus squamatus	H		
Netta erythrophthalma			
0			
Netta rufina			
Oxyura jamaicensis			
Oxyura leucocephala			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Oxyura maccoa			
0			
Oxyura vittata			
Polysticta stelleri			
0			
Somateria fischeri			
Somateria mollissima			
Somateria spectabilis			
0	_	_	
Tadorna cana			
Tadorna ferruginea Tadorna tadorna			Charlingt of the Pinds of Malta
Taoma taoma			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			<i>Guide to the Birds of Malta</i> . Natalino
	_	_	Fenech 2010
Thalassornis leuconotus			
0			

A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010

Order Charadriformes, Family Recurvirostridae



References cited in the Annex:

A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010

Order Charadriformes, Family Charadriidae

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Anarhynchus frontalis			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Charadrius aegyptius			
0			
Charadrius alexandrinus			
Charadrius apricarius			
0			
Charadrius asiaticus			
Charadrius bicinctus		H	
Charadrius coronatus		H	
Charadrius dominicus		H	
_		_	
Charadrius dubius	\square		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			<i>Guide to the Birds of Malta</i> . Natalino Fenech 2010
Charadrius falklandicus			
Charadrius forbesi	H	H	
Charadrius fulvus	Н	Н	
Charadrius gregarius	П	П	
0			
Charadrius hiaticula	\square		Charling of the Dinds of Malta
			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
0			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
			Fenech 2010
Charadrius himantopus			
Charadrius leschenaultii			
Charadrius leucurus			
Charadrius legubris			
Charadrius marginatus			
0			
Charadrius melanoptreus			
Charadrius melodus	П	П	
Charadrius mexicanus			
0			
Charadrius modestus			
Charadrius mongolus		H	
Charadrius montanus		H	
Charadrius morinellus		H	Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
	_	_	Fenech 2010
Charadrius oedicnemus			
0			
Charadrius pallidus			
0	_	_	
Charadrius pecuarius	H	H	
Charadrius peronii			
0			
Charadrius placidus			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Charadrius resplendens			
<i>Charadrius ruficollis</i> 0			
Charadrius semipalmatus Charadrius spinosus Charadrius tricollaris Charadrius tricolor			
<i>Charadrius venustus</i>			
Charadrius veredus Charadrius vociferus Charadrius wilsona			
Erythrogonys cinctus Eudromias morinellus Eudromias ruficollis Oreopholus ruficollis			
Pluvialis apricaria			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Pluvialis dominica Pluvialis fulva Pluvialis squatarola 0			Fenech 2010 Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
Vanellus albiceps			Fenech 2010
Vanellus chilensis Vanellus cinereus Vanellus coronatus Vanellus gregarius			
Vanellus indicus			
Vanellus leucurus Vanellus lugubris Vanellus melanopterus Vanellus miles			
Vanellus resplendens			
0 Vanellus senegallus Vanellus spinosus Vanellus superciliosus			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Vanellus tricolor			
Vanellus vanellus	\boxtimes		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
			Fenech 2010

Order Charadriformes, Family Scolopacidae

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Aphriza virgata			
Arenaria interpres			
0			
Arenaria melanocephala			
Bartramia longicauda			
Calidris acuminata			
Calidris alba			
Calidris alpina			Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
0			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
			Fenech 2010
Calidris bairdii			Tencen 2010
Calidris canutus Calidris ferruginea		H	Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
			BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete
U			Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino
			Fenech 2010
Calidris fuscicollis			
Calidris himantopus			
0			
Calidris maritima			
0			
Calidris mauri			
Calidris melanotous		H	
Calidris minuta		H	Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
Cataris minuta			BirdLife Malta 2004
Calidris minutilla			
0			
Calidris ptilocnemis			
	_	_	
Calidris pusilla			
Calidris pygmea		H	
Calidris ruficollis			
0	_	_	
Calidris subminuta			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Calidris temminckii	\boxtimes		<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Calidris tenuirostris Catoptrophorus semipalmatus			
Eurynorhynchus pygmeus Gallinago gallinago 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Gallinago hardwickii Gallinago media			Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
Gallinago megala Gallinago nemoricola			BirdLife Malta 2004
<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>			
Gallinago paraguaiae Gallinago solitaria Gallinago stenura Limicola falcinellus 0			
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>			
Limnodromus scolopaceus Limnodromus semipalmatus Limosa fedoa Limosa haemastica Limosa lapponica			
Limosa limosa			<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Limosa scolopacea Lymnocryptes minimus 0			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004
Micropalama himantopus Numenius americanus Numenius arquata			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta.
Numenius borealis Numenius madagascariensis 0			Natalino Fenech 2010
Numenius minutus			
Numenius phaeopus			<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta-</i> BirdLife Malta 2004
Numenius tahitensis			
Numenius tenuirostris			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Phalaropus fulicaria			
0	_	_	
Phalaropus fulicarius			
0			
Phalaropus lobatus			
Phalaropus tricolor		Ц	
Philomachus pugnax			Checklist of the Birds of Malta- BirdLife Malta 2004 A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Scolopax arquata			reliecti 2010
0	_		
Scolopax cinerea			
0			
Scolopax delicata Scolopax erythropus	H	H	
Scolopax falcinellus			
0		_	
Scolopax fedoa			
Scolopax flavipes			
0			
Scolopax gallinago			
Scolopax grisea			
Scolopax haemastica			
0			
Scolopax hardwickii			
Scolopax incana		H	
Scolopax lapponica Scolopax limosa			
0			
Scolopax madagascariensis			
0			
Scolopax media			
Scolopax media Scolopax melanoleuca	H	H	
0	_		
Scolopax minima			
Scolopax minor			
Scolopax nebularia			
Scolopax paraguaiae			
0			
Scolopax phaeopus			
0			
Scolopax rusticola	\square		Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
G 1 1 1 .			BirdLife Malta 2004
Scolopax semipalmata Scolopax stenura			
Scolopax tahitiensis	H	Н	
	_		

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Scolopax testacea			
Scolopax totanus Steganopus tricolor			
0	_	_	
Tringa alba			
Tringa aplina			
Tringa brevipes			
0	_	_	
Tringa canutus Tringa cinerea	H		
Tringa erythropus			Checklist of the Birds of Malta-
Tring a flavings			BirdLife Malta 2004
Tringa flavipes			
Tringa fulicaria			
0	_	—	
Tringa fuscicollis			
Tringa glareola	\bowtie		A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Tringa guttifer			mana. Natalino i chech 2010
0			
Tringa himantopus			
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>			
Tringa incana			
Tringa indica			
Tringa interpres			
Tringa lobata			
Tringa longicauda			
Tringa macularia Tringa maritima			
<i>Tringa maritima</i>			
Tringa melanoleuca			
0			
Tringa melanotos			
Tringa miles Tringa minuta			
Tringa minutilla	Image: Description of the second seco		
0			
Tringa nebularia	\boxtimes		A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Tringa ochropus			A Complete Guide to the Birds of Malta. Natalino Fenech 2010
Tringa ptilocnemis			
Tringa pugnax			

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Tringa pusilla Tringa ruficollis 0			
Tringa solitaria Tringa squatarola Tringa stagnatilis 0			
Tringa subminuta Tringa subruficollis Tringa temminckii Tringa terek Tringa totanus			<i>Checklist of the Birds of Malta</i> -BirdLife Malta 2004
Tringa vanellus 0			
Tringa virgata Tryngites subruficollis 0			

Order Chiroptera, Family Rhinolophidae (European Populations)

Rhinolophus blasii	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Rhinolophus euryale Rhinolophus ferrumequinum			As cited in previous section on
Rhinolophus hipposideros			Chiroptera As cited in previous section on
Rhinolophus mehelyi			Chiroptera

References cited in the Annex:

Order Chiroptera, Family Vespertilionidae (European Populations)

	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
Barbastalla barbastellus			
Barbastella darjelingensis			
Barbastella leucomelas			

Eptesicus anatolicus Eptesicus bottae Eptesicus isabellius Eptesicus nilssonii 0			
<i>Eptesicus ognevi</i> 0			
Eptesicus serotinus		\square	As cited in previous section on Chiroptera
<i>Eptesicus sodalis</i>			
Hypsugo savii			As cited in previous section on Chiroptera
Miniopterus haradai			
<i>Miniopterus majori</i> 0			
Miniopterus natalensis			
Miniopterus oceanensis			
Miniopterus schreibersii			As cited in previous section on Chiroptera
Myotis alcathoe			
<i>Myotis aurascens</i> 0			
Myotis bechsteini			
Myotis bechsteinii			
Myotis blythii		\square	As cited in previous section on Chiroptera
Myotis brandti			
Myotis brantii			
Myotis capaccinii Myotis dasycneme	H		
Myotis daubentonii	H	H	
Myotis emarginatus			
Myotis hajastanicus			
0			
Myotis myotis Myotis mystacinus 0			
Myotis nathalinae Myotis nattereri 0			
Myotis nipalensis			
Myotis petax Myotis punicus			As cited in previous section on Chiroptera
Myotis schaubi			

	_	_	
Myotis surinamensis			
Nyctalus lasiopterus			
Nyctalus leisleri			
0			
Nyctalus noctula	\square		As cited in previous section on
0			Chiroptera
Nyctalus verrucosus	H	H	
Otonycteris hemprichi			
Otonycteris hemprichii			
0			
Diminiatu allera herblii			As sited in manipus spatian an
Pipistrellus kuhlii			As cited in previous section on
			Chiroptera
Pipistrellus nathusii			
0			
Pipistrellus pipistellus **	\bowtie		As cited in previous section on
Tipisireitus pipisieitus			Chiroptera
Dimintu allera mucana a arra			
Pipistrellus pygmaeus	\boxtimes		As cited in previous section on
	_	_	Chiroptera
Pipistrellus savii			
Plecotus ariel			
Plecotus auritus			
Plecotus austriacus		\bowtie	As cited in previous section on
	_	_	Chiroptera
Plecotus christiei			
Plecotus christii			
0			
Plecotus homochronus			
0			
Plecotus kolombatovici	\square		As cited in previous section on
Tiecolus kolombalovici			
Placetus korleui			Chiroptera
Plecotus kozlovi			
Plecotus macrobullaris	H		
Plecotus ognevi			
0			
Plecotus sacrimontis			
0			
Plecotus sardus			
Plecotus turkmenicus	П	П	
Plecotus wardi	П	Н	
Vespertilio murinus	H	H	
0			

Order Phoenicopteriformes, Family Phoenicopteridae

istribution Reference	Published Distribution	Extinct	Range State	
				Phoenicopterus andinus Phoenicopterus jamesi
				Phoenicopterus jamesi

Order Testudinata, Family Cheloniidae

Caretta caretta Chelonia mydas	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
0 Eretmochelys imbricata Lepidochelys kempii Lepidochelys olivacea Natator depressus			

References cited in the Annex:

Order Testudinata, Family Dermochelyidae

Dermochelys coriacea	Range State	Extinct	Published Distribution Reference
References cited in the Annex:			