

2019 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: 17 August 2019

Reporting period: from April 2017 to August 2019

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

COP Resolution 9.4 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 CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Decision 12.4 requested the Secretariat, taking account of advice from the informal advisory group, to develop a proposal to be submitted for the approval of the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee (StC48) for a revision of the format for the national reports to be submitted to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently. The new format was adopted by StC48 in October 2018 and made available as an offline version downloadable from the CMS website in December 2018. The revised format aims inter alia at collecting data and information relevant to eight indicators adopted by COP12 for the purpose of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by StC48. In addition, as requested by StC48, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat. This includes customized species lists by Party. Please note that the lists include taxa at the species level originating from the disaggregation of taxa listed on Appendix II at a level higher than species. Please review the information and update or amend it, when necessary.

The Secretariat was also requested to develop and produce a guidance document to accompany any revised National Report Format. Please note that guidance has been provided for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact Ms. María José Ortiz, Programme Management Officer, at maria-jose.ortiz@cms.int

High-level summary of key messages

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

Guidance: This section invites you to summarise briefly the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only. Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into some very brief and simple "high level" messages for decision-makers and for wider audiences. Although keeping it brief, please try also to be specific where you can, e.g. "New wildlife legislation enacted in 2018 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds" is more informative than "stronger laws"; "50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles" is more informative than "lack of funding".

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

> Restoration of habitats and species - however still at too local levels.

Awareness of importance of migratory species and the protection of their habitats needing international cooperation.

Tackling fragmentation to enhance ecological connectivity.

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

> Reaching environmental quality requirements for realising good conservation status of the habitats of species.

Continuing fragmentation due to land use changes.

Enforcement of legal obligations and requirements

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

> Integrated approaches for area based management

International cooperation and technical/financial support for implementation of protection measures alongside with enforcement of protection requirements along migratory routes

I. Administrative Information

Name of Contracting Party

> Belgium

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

> 01101990

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>

Report compiler

Name and title

>

Full name of institution

>

Telephone

>

Email

>

Designated CMS National Focal Point

Name and title of designated Focal Point

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Full name of institution

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Name and title

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II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

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

Please select only one option

- Yes, the lists are correct and up to date
 No, updates or corrections are required, as follows:

Updates or corrections:

>

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

Please select only one per line

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

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

Please confirm that the Excel file linked to below correctly identifies the Appendix I species for which the country is a Range State.

Please download the Appendix I species occurrence list for your country here.

Guidance: Article I(1)(h) of the Convention defines when a country is a Range State for a species, by reference also to the definition of “range” in Article I(1)(f). The latter refers to all the areas that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route. In adopting the current format for national reports, the Standing Committee was aware that there are occasional cases where it may be difficult to determine what is a “normal” migration route, and for example to distinguish this from aberrant or vagrant occurrences. This issue has been identified for possible examination in the future by the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council. In the meantime, if in doubt, please make the interpretation that you think will best serve the wider aims of the Convention. A note on the application of the Convention to Overseas Territories/Autonomous Regions of Parties can be found at https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/instrument/territories_reservations%202015.pdf.

References throughout this report format to “species” should be taken to include subspecies where an Appendix to the Convention so provides, or where the context otherwise requires.

Please select only one option

- Yes the file is correct and up to date (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments you may wish in respect of individual species)
- No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

Please confirm that the Excel file linked to below correctly identifies the Appendix II species for which the country is a Range State.

Please download the Appendix II species occurrence list for your country here.

Guidance: See the guidance note in question III.1 concerning the interpretation of “Range State”.

Please select only one option

- Yes the file is correct and up to date (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments you may wish in respect of individual species)
- No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

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

Please select only one option

- Yes for all Appendix I species
 Yes for some species
 Yes for part of the country, or a particular territory or territories
 No

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

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

Region of Flanders: Species protection executive act of 2009. Derogations only accepted under strict conditions and only after advice by the Agency for Nature & Forests.

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

Exceptions: Where the taking of Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

If yes, please indicate in the Excel file linked to below which species, which reasons among those in CMS Article III(5) (a)-(d) justify the exception, any temporal or spatial limitations applying to the exception, and the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” that make the exception necessary.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Guidance: According to Article III(5) of the Convention, exceptions to a legal prohibition against taking of Appendix I species can only be made for one (or more) of the reasons specified in sub-paragraphs (a)-(d) of that Article. For any species you list in this table, therefore, you must identify (in the second column of the table in the Excel file) at least one of the reasons that justify the exception relating to that species. In any case where you identify reason (d) as applying, please explain (in the third column) the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” involved. According to Article III(5), exceptions granted for any of the four reasons must also be “precise as to content and limited in space and time”. Please therefore state what the specific mandatory space and time limitations are, in each case, using the third column; and indicate the date on which each exception was notified to the Secretariat in accordance with Article III(7).

Please indicate in the Excel file linked to below the species for which taking is prohibited.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>

Exceptions: Where the taking of Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

If yes, please indicate in the Excel file linked to below which species, which reasons among those in CMS Article III(5) (a)-(d) justify the exception, any temporal or spatial limitations applying to the exception, and the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” that make the exception necessary.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Guidance: According to Article III(5) of the Convention, exceptions to a legal prohibition against taking of Appendix I species can only be made for one (or more) of the reasons specified in sub-paragraphs (a)-(d) of that Article. For any species you list in this table, therefore, you must identify (in the second column of the table in the Excel file) at least one of the reasons that justify the exception relating to that species. In any case where you identify reason (d) as applying, please explain (in the third column) the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” involved. According to Article III(5), exceptions granted for any of the four reasons must also be “precise as to content and limited in space

and time". Please therefore state what the specific mandatory space and time limitations are, in each case, using the third column; and indicate the date on which each exception was notified to the Secretariat in accordance with Article III(7).

Where the taking of all Appendix I species is not prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies

Please select only one option

- Legislation being considered
- Legislation in draft
- Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in (specify year)

>

Other

>

Please indicate in the Excel file linked to below the species for which taking is prohibited.

Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>

Where the taking of all Appendix I species is not prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

Please select only one option

- Legislation being considered
- Legislation in draft
- Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in (specify year)

>

Other

>

Where the taking of all Appendix I species is not prohibited and the reasons for exceptions in Article III(5) do not apply, are steps being taken to develop new legislation to prohibit the taking of all relevant species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

Please select only one option

- Legislation being considered
- Legislation in draft
- Legislation fully drafted and being considered for adoption in (specify year)

>

Other

>

Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged outside national jurisdictional limits in intentionally taking Appendix I species?

Please select only one option

- Yes

- No
- Don't know

Please provide more information on the circumstances of the take, including any future plans in respect of such take.

>

V. Awareness

(SPMS Target 1: People are aware of the multiple values of migratory species and their habitats and migration systems, and the steps they can take to conserve them and ensure the sustainability of any use.)

During the reporting period, please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII on SPMS Target 15 may also be relevant).

(Select all that apply).

- Campaigns on specific topics
- Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
- Press and media publicity, including social media
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites
- Other (please specify)

>

- No actions taken

Impact of actions

Please indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions 11.8 (Rev. COP12) (Communication, Information and Outreach Plan) and 11.9 (World Migratory Bird Day) which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

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

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

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

Yearly monitoring outcomes are provided by the Research Institute INBO: <https://www.inbo.be/en>

More technical information is provided through: <https://www.ecopedia.be/> (in Dutch)

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

Tick one box

Please select only one option

- 1. Very little impact
- 2. Small impact
- 3. Good impact
- 4. Large positive impact
- Not known

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

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

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

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

(SPMS Target 2: Multiple values of migratory species and their habitats have been integrated into international, national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, including on livelihoods, and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.)

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> Reference to protection of species, including migratory species, and their living habitats in environmental impact assessments of planning processes for development projects, eg infrastructure, Industrial development, wind mills,....

Do the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' referred to in SPMS Target 2 currently feature in any other national reporting processes in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> Implementation of restoration of habitats and species using Species Protection Programmes, site specific management plans, monitoring activities and status of habitats and species are reported in the 2019 EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive reports, including migratory species listed under the directives. Summary reports will be published soon on the EU Nature Directives website.

Describe the main involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

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

list of organizations involved is given in 2017 report.

Describe the main involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

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

list of private sectors and their projects is given in 2017 report

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

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

Have any governance arrangements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, improved during the reporting period?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No, but there is scope to do so
 No, because existing arrangements already satisfy all the points in Target 3

Please provide a short summary:

>

To what extent have these improvements helped to achieve Target 3 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (see text above)? Tick one box.

Please select only one option

1. Minimal contribution
 2. Partial contribution
 3. Good contribution
 4. Major contribution
 Not known

Please describe briefly how this assessment was made

>

Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different sectors or groups been established at national or other territorial level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

Guidance: There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism. These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc. The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments (https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/Internet_english_09012014.pdf) may be helpful in giving further context for this.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

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

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

Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 23-25 of CMS COP Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP12) (Synergies and partnerships)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> Through the coordination committee reported above.

Has your country or any jurisdictional subdivision within your country adopted legislation, policies or action plans that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please identify the legislation, policies or action plans concerned:

>

VIII. Incentives

(SPMS Target 4: Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to migratory species, and/or their habitats are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats are developed and applied, consistent with engagements under the CMS and other relevant international and regional obligations and commitments.)

Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No, but there is scope to do so
- No, because no such incentives have existed

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

>

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

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

Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No, but there is scope to do so
- No, because there is no scope to do so

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

>

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

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

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

(SPMS Target 5: Governments, key sectors and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption, keeping the impacts of use of natural resources, including habitats, on migratory species well within safe ecological limits to promote the favourable conservation status of migratory species and maintain the quality, integrity, resilience, and ecological connectivity of their habitats and migration routes.)

During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are contributing to the achievement of the results defined in SPMS Target 5?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- In development / planned
- No

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

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

What is preventing progress?

> No new action

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

(SPMS Targets 6+7: Fisheries and hunting have no significant direct or indirect adverse impacts on migratory species, their habitats or their migration routes, and impacts of fisheries and hunting are within safe ecological limits; Multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation of migratory species or to the functioning, integrity, ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.)

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

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

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

Direct killing and taking

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

Bycatch

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

Collisions and electrocution

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

Other mortality

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

Predation		
Disease		
Accidental/indirect poisoning		
Unexplained stranding events		

Alien and/or invasive species

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

Disturbance and disruption

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

Habitat destruction/degradation

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)		1
Habitat degradation		1
Mineral exploration/extraction		3
Unsustainable land/resource use		1
Urbanization		1
Marine debris (including plastics)		
Other pollution		1
Too much/too little water		1
Fire		3
Physical barriers		2

Climate change

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

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

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

Other (please specify)

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering any of the pressures identified above? (Identify the pressures concerned).

- > Restoration of habitats - but still at too low local levels
- Measures to improve water quality - but impact from nitrogen deposition still too high from agriculture and transport and from other Industrial pollution sources.
- Defragmentation through construction of ecoducts and other connectivity infrastructures.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning the pressures identified above? (Identify the pressures concerned).

- > Continuing habitat destruction and fragmentation by land use changes for various developments.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

>

Please add any further comments on the implementation of specific provisions in relevant CMS COP Resolutions, including for example:

- Resolution 12.22 on by-catch.
- Resolution 12.14 on underwater noise.
- Resolution 12.20 on marine debris.
- Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) on oil pollution

Resolution 11.22 (Rev. COP12) on live captures of cetaceans (and Decision 12.48).
Resolutions 7.5 (Rev. COP12) and 11.27 (Rev. COP12) on renewable energy.
Resolutions 7.4 and 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds.
Resolution 11.15 (Rev. COP12) on poisoning of migratory birds.
Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (and Decision 12.26).
Resolution 11.31 on wildlife crime.
Resolution 12.21 on climate change (and Decision 12.72).
Resolution 11.28 on invasive alien species.
Resolution 12.6 on wildlife disease.
Resolution 12.25 on conservation of intertidal and coastal habitats.
Resolution 10.2 on conservation emergencies
Resolution 7.2 (Rev. COP12) on impact assessment.

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XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

(SPMS Target 8: The conservation status of all migratory species, especially threatened species, has considerably improved throughout their range.)

What (if any) major changes in the conservation status of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices (for example national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country in the current reporting period?

If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file (using the attachment button below) detailing a longer list of species.

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

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” in the current reporting period. Information is therefore expected here only where particularly notable shifts in status have occurred, such as those that might be represented by a re-categorisation of national Red List threat status for a given species (or subspecies, where relevant).

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

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

Aquatic mammals

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

Bats

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

Birds

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[red_list_breeding_birds_2016_versus2004.xlsx](#) - status red list breeding birds

Reptiles

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

Fish

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

Insects

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

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

(SPMS Target 9: International and regional action and cooperation between States for the conservation and effective management of migratory species fully reflects a migration systems approach, in which all States sharing responsibility for the species concerned engage in such actions in a concerted way.)

In the current reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species (following the advice in COP Resolution 12.8)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> African Cats initiative
African Elephants

In the current reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please specify which countries have been approached:

- Azerbaijan
 Bahamas
 Bahrain
 Barbados
 Belize
 Bhutan
 Botswana
 Brunei Darussalam
 Cambodia
 Canada
 Central African Republic
 China
 Colombia
 Comoros
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 Dominica
 El Salvador
 Grenada
 Guatemala
 Guyana
 Haiti
 Iceland
 Indonesia
 Jamaica
 Japan
 Kiribati
 Kuwait
 Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Andorra
 Lebanon
 Lesotho
 Malawi
 Malaysia
 Maldives
 Marshall Islands
 Mexico
 Micronesia
 Myanmar
 Namibia
 Nauru
 Nepal
 Nicaragua
 Niue

- Oman
- Papua New Guinea
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- San Marino
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- United States of America
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City State
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Zambia

In the current reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of concerted actions under CMS (as detailed in COP Resolution 12.28) to address the needs of relevant migratory species? (See the species list in Annex 3 to Resolution 12.28 www.cms.int/en/document/concerted-actions-1)

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

> Actions planned under the African cats initiative
 For other: see 2017 report

Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (all relevant States engaging in cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach), including for example (but not limited to) measures to implement Resolution 12.11 (and Decision 12.34) on flyways and Resolution 12.17 (and Decision 12.54) on South Atlantic whales?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

(SPMS Target 10: All critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures so as to maintain their quality, integrity, resilience and functioning in accordance with the implementation of Aichi Target 11, supported where necessary by environmentally sensitive land-use planning and landscape management on a wider scale.)

Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified (for example by an inventory) in your country?

Guidance: The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species, and in this context it is left to report compilers to work to any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement. The Scientific Council Sessional Committee is likely to give this issue further consideration at a future date. In the meantime some helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the “Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species” presented to COP11 (<https://www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-review-aspects-ecological-networks-relating-migratory-species>) and the “Critical Site Network Tool” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention (<http://wow.wetlands.org/informationflyway/criticalsiteworktool/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

Please select only one option

- Yes, fully
- Partially - to a large extent
- Partially - to a small or moderate extent
- No

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites as required to achieve SPMS target 10?

> In all regions: the Natura 2000 migratory species and their habitats are protected by the Law on Nature conservation;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / for some areas
- In development
- No

Please provide a short summary:

>

Please provide a short summary:

>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 Partly / for some areas
 In development
 No

Please provide a reference and/or summarise what is covered:

>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please describe:

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

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

Please add any particular information about key steps taken to implement specific provisions in relevant CMS COP Resolutions, including for example:

Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks.

Resolution 12.13 on Important Marine Mammal Areas.

Resolution 12.24 on Marine Protected Area networks in the ASEAN region.

Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats.

>

XIV. Ecosystem Services

(SPMS Target 11: Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.)

Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species (contributing to the achievement of SPMS Target 11) been undertaken in your country since the adoption of the SPMS in 2014?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in progress
- No

Please provide a short summary (including source references where applicable):

>

Please provide a short summary (including source references where applicable):

>

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

(SPMS Target 12: The genetic diversity of wild populations of migratory species is safeguarded, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion.)

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

- Captive breeding
- Captive breeding and release
- Gene typing research
- Reproductive material archives/repositories
- Other

>

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

(SPMS Target 13: Priorities for effective conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems have been included in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with reference where relevant to CMS agreements and action plans and their implementation bodies.)

Are priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems explicitly addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

> <http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/strategy-be>

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

> Objective 3: Maintain or restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in Belgium to a favourable conservation status

Objective 4: Ensure and promote the sustainable use of components of biodiversity

Objective 5: Improve the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectoral policies

Appendix 2: Main international agreements and instruments directly relevant for biodiversity

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

> The Belgian NBSAPS gives a general overview of the objectives. Concrete implementation is covered in the regional and federal action plans or operational programmes, which can be consulted on the respective websites of the regional administrations (see also 2017 report).

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

(SPMS Target 14: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and their customary sustainable use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, thereby contributing to the favourable conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.)

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No
- Not applicable

Have actions been taken in your country to foster effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in some areas
- No
- Not applicable

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

(select all that apply)

- Research & documentation
- Engagement initiatives
- Formal recognition of rights
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms
- Management strategies & programmes that integrate traditional and indigenous interests
- Other

>

Please add comments on the implementation of the actions concerned.

>

How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country to achieving Target 14 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (see text above)?

Please select one option:

Please select only one option

- 1. Little or no progress
- 2. Some progress but more work is needed
- 3. Positive advances have been made
- 4. Target substantially achieved (traditional knowledge is fully respected and there is effective participation from communities)

Please add comments on the progress made (where applicable).

>

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

(SPMS Target 15: The science base, information, training, awareness, understanding and technologies relating to migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, their value, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of their loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and effectively applied.)

In the current reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species? (see text above, and the answers given in Section V concerning SPMS Target 1 on awareness)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- Other (please specify):

>

- No steps have been taken

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

Education campaigns in schools

>

Public awareness campaigns

> see 2017 report

Capacity building

> capacity building through Natura 2000 projects

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

> information sessions and data-sharing activities through Natura 2000 projects

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

> In Belgium, the capacity assessment has been done via the regional Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs) under the Nature Directives.

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>

Other

>

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

(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance
- Education/training/mentoring
- Other skills development
- Provision of equipment or materials
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation
- Mobilizing volunteer effort (e.g. citizen science)
- Other

>

XIX. Resource Mobilization

(SPMS Target 16: The mobilization of adequate resources from all sources to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species effectively has increased substantially.)

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

- Yes, made available for activities within the country
- Yes, made available for activities in one or more other countries
- No

To which particular targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

(SPMS, including targets: www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4)
> area based management, research and monitoring, capacity building

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

- Multilateral investment bank
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Other intergovernmental programme
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organization(s)
- Individual country governments/government agencies (please specify)

>

- Other

> EU financial instruments (LIFE, INTERREG)

To which particular targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

(SPMS, including targets: www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4)
> area based management, research and monitoring, capacity building

Which migratory species have benefited as a result of this support?

> migratory bird species, bats

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring future support in your country? (Name up to three specific types of activity).

> area based management, tackling pollution, climate change

Please add any further comments you may wish on the implementation of specific provisions in COP Resolution 10.25 (Rev. COP12) on Enhancing Engagement with the Global Environment Facility.

>