







# 2017 - NATIONAL REPORT OF PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

**The deadline for submission of the reports is 24 April 2017. The reporting period is from May 2014 to April 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.

The reporting format was 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). The 45th meeting of the Standing Committee recommended the use of the same format for reports submitted to COP12, with necessary adjustments to take into account relevant COP11 decisions, in particular amendments to the Appendices and resolutions.

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

> United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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

> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Please list any other agencies that have provided input

> Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), [www.jncc.defra.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk)

Natural Resources Wales <http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/>

Natural England (NE), <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Northern Ireland Environment Agency, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-environment-agency>

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), <http://www.snh.org.uk/>

Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside [www.cncni.gov.uk](http://www.cncni.gov.uk)

Ascension Island - Conservation Department, Ascension Island Government

Saint Helena - Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, Saint Helena Government

Tristan da Cunha - Conservation Department

Bermuda - Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Bermuda

British Indian Ocean Territory Administration

British Virgin Islands - Department of Conservation and Fisheries

Cayman Islands - Department of Environment, Cayman Islands Government

Cyprus - Sovereign Base Area Administration

Falkland Islands - Environment Planning Department, Falkland Islands Government

Gibraltar - Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. HM Government of Gibraltar

Guernsey - Environment, a States of Guernsey Government Department

Isle of Man - Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, Government of the Isle of Man

Jersey - States of Jersey, Department of the Environment

Montserrat - Department of Environment, Government of Montserrat

Pitcairn Islands - Natural Resources Division

South Georgia - Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Turks and Caicos Islands - Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs

## I(a). General Information

Please enter the required information in the table below:

### Party

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country

> 1 October 1985

Period covered

> 2014-2016

Territories to which the Convention applies

> United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

Crown Dependencies:

Bailiwick of Jersey

Bailiwick of Guernsey

Isle of Man

Overseas Territories:

Ascension Island, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha

Bermuda

British Indian Ocean Territory

British Virgin Islands

Cayman Islands

Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs)

Falkland Islands

Gibraltar

Montserrat

Pitcairn

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Turks and Caicos Islands

Overseas Territories not acceded to CMS

Anguilla

British Antarctic Territory

### Designated National Focal Point

Full name of the institution

> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Name and title of designated Focal Point

> Mrs Elaine Kendall

Mailing address

> Mrs Elaine Kendall

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### Appointment to the Scientific Council

Full name of the institution

> Joint Nature Conservation Committee

#### Name and title of contact officer

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Biodiversity Indicators Manager

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### **Submission**

#### **Name and Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report**

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#### **Date of submission**

> 21 April 2017

### **Implementation**

#### Competent Authority:

> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

#### Relevant implemented legislation:

> Primary legislation in England is made by the UK Parliament, in Wales by the Welsh Assembly, in Scotland by the Scottish Parliament, and in Northern Ireland by the making of Orders in Council in the nature of an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Laws may be amended through successive legislation or specific Amendment Acts. As a result, laws relating to specific subjects are often found in more than one piece of legislation. Although previous Acts of Parliament include provisions for nature conservation, the main piece of legislation relating to nature conservation in Great Britain is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This Act is supplemented, inter alia, by provision in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (in England and Wales), the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (in Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (in Scotland).

The Scotland Act 1998; the Government of Wales Act 1998 followed by the passage of the Government of Wales Acts of 2006 and 2011, and the Northern Ireland Act 1998, introduced schemes of devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Relations with the European Union (EU) and obligations arising out of Treaties and Conventions remain the responsibility of the UK Government, but the devolved administrations are responsible for implementing obligations that concern devolved matters. Powers on environmental regulation are among the policy areas devolved.

Relevant legislation includes:

Whaling Industry (Regulations) Act 1934.

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1946.

Fishery Limits Acts 1964 and 1976.

Countryside Act 1968 Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973.

Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976.

Fisheries Act 1981.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedules) Order 1988.

Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (implements the Habitats Directive).

The Environmental Regulations (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1999.

Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

EC Regulation 812/2004 on Bycatch.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007.

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (implements the Habitats Directive).

Scotland:

Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967.

Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

The Environmental Regulations (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Wildlife and Natural Environments (Scotland) Act (2011).

Wales:

The Environmental Regulations (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Northern Ireland:

Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended).

Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

Conservation (Nature Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on the use of Lead Shot) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009.

Wildlife and Natural Environment (Northern Ireland) Act (2011).

Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000 (as amended).

Endangered Species (CITES) (Jersey) Law 2012

Planning & Building (Jersey) Law 2002

Water Pollution (Jersey) Law 2000

Sea Fisheries (Jersey) Law 1994

Isle of Man:

Endangered Species Act 2010.

Wildlife Act 1990.

Bermuda:

Protected Species Act 2003.

Protected Species Amendment Order 2016.

Fisheries Act 1972.

Fisheries (Protected Species) Order 1978.

Protection of Birds Act 1975.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Protection and Preservation of Wild Life Ordinance 1970.

Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance 1994.

Diego Garcia Conservation (Restricted Area) Ordinance 1994.

Prevention of Oil Pollution Ordinance 1994.

Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 1998.

Trade in Endangered Species (Control) Ordinance 2001.

Protection and Preservation of Wild Life (Amendment) Ordinance 2002.  
 The Trade in Endangered Species (Control) Ordinance 2007.  
 The Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2007.  
 The Fishing Regulations 2007.  
 Commissioner's Proclamation No.1 of 2010 (Marine Protected Area).  
 Cayman Islands:  
 National Conservation Law (2013).  
 Endangered Species Trade and Transport Law (2004).  
 SBA Cyprus:  
 The Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008 (which implements the provisions of the EU Birds Directive) protects wild birds.  
 Falkland Islands:  
 Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999.  
 Marine Mammals Ordinance 1992.  
 Gibraltar:  
 The Nature Protection Act 1991.  
 Marine Protection Regulations 2014  
 Tuna Preservation Regulation 2014  
 Endangered Species Act 1991  
 Control of Trade in Endangered Species 1998  
 Environment Act 2005  
 Marine Strategy Regulations 2011  
 Town Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) 2000  
 St Helena:  
 Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016  
 South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:  
 Wildlife and Protected Area Ordinance 2011.  
 Marine Protected Area Order 2013.

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

> Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 ("Ramsar Convention").  
 Convention on Marine Pollution 1972.  
 World Heritage Convention 1972 (WHC).  
 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships 1973 ("MARPOL Convention").  
 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1973 (CITES).  
 Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1979 ("Bern Convention").  
 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources 1980 (CCAMLR).  
 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS).  
 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena de Indias, 24 March 1983).  
 Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer 1985 ("Vienna Convention").  
 Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific (SPREP) and Final Act of the High Level Conference on the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea, New Caledonia, 17-25 November 1986) (for Pitcairn). NB. Although the Agreement was signed by HMA Suva, Fiji, in respect of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands on 16/7/87, ratification has not taken place.  
 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 1987.  
 Council Directive of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) (the "Habitats Directive").  
 Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992.  
 Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (CBD).  
 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic 1992 ("OSPAR Convention").  
 Implementation Agreement (of 4 August 1995) relating to Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.  
 Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy ('Water Framework Directive').  
 Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive).  
 Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

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

> The Environment Departments of all four governments in the UK work together through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group. Together they have agreed, and Ministers have signed, a framework of priorities for UK-

level work for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Published on 17 July 2012, the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' covers the period from 2011 to 2020. A copy of the Report can be found at: [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UK\\_Post2010\\_Bio-Fwork.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UK_Post2010_Bio-Fwork.pdf).

The country strategies for biodiversity and the environment in each of the four countries of the UK underpin the overarching UK level document. The country strategies include further priorities and are supported by additional measures and indicators, reflecting the countries' different responsibilities, needs and views. The objectives of the strategies are generally to:

- Halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted actions for species and habitats.
- Increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity, and engage more people in conservation and enhancement.
- Restore and enhance biodiversity in urban, rural and marine environments through better planning, design and practice.
- Develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in wider decision making.
- Ensure knowledge on biodiversity is available to all policy makers and practitioners.

The most recent strategy for each of the four countries can be found at:

England – published in 2011: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/>.

Scotland – published in 2013: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/5538>.

Wales – published in 2006: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/060517environmentstrategyen.pdf>.

In Wales the inter-action between the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 is explained at :

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160610-three-bills-diagram-en.pdf>

Northern Ireland – published in 2015: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/natural-policy-biodiversity-strategy-to-2020-2015.pdf> .

A report on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy to December 2016 can be found at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/report-on-the-implementation-of-the-2015-northern-ireland-biodiversity-strategy-valuing-nature.pdf> .

Jersey – A Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey -

<https://www.gov.je/planningbuilding/lawsregs/islandplan/background/pages/biodiversitystrategy.aspx>

Isle of Man published in 2015: Managing our Natural Wealth, The Isle of Man's First Biodiversity Strategy, 2015-2025, available at: <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/biodiversity-strategy-and-delivery-plan/>

Bermuda Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2003:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/501134e9c4aa430673203999/t/58a324d1be6594d7b430cf61/1487086802106/Biodiversity+Action+Plan+2003.pdf>

Falkland Islands Government published in 2016: Falkland Islands Bioiversity Framework, 2016-2013, available at:

<http://www.fig.gov.fk/epd/index.php/environment/biodiversity-framework>

## **CMS Agreements/MoU**

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

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

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

Non Range State

### **EUROBATS (1994)**

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

Party

## **Appointed member of the Advisory Committee**

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### **ASCOBANS (1994)**

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

Party

### **National Coordinator**

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### **Appointed member of the Advisory Committee**

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### **AEWA (1999)**

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

Party

### **National Focal Point**

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### **Appointed member of the Technical Committee**

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### **ACAP (2001)**

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

Party

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

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

Non Range State

### **ACCOBAMS (2001)**

#### **ACCOBAMS (2001)**

Non-party Range State

### **National Focal Point**

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## **Appointed member of the Scientific Committee**

Name

> N/A

### **Siberian Crane MoU (1993/1999)**

Siberian Crane MoU (1993/1999)

Non Range State

### **Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)**

Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)

Non Range State

### **Atlantic Turtles MoU (1999)**

Atlantic Turtles MoU (1999)

Non-signatory Range State

## **Contact point**

Name

> As Competent Authority

## **Competent authority**

Name

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### **Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)**

Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)

Non Range State

## **Competent authority**

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### **IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)**

IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)  
 Signatory

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### **Contact point**

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### **Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)**

Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)  
 Non Range State

### **Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)**

Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)  
 Signatory

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## **Contact point**

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## **West African Elephants MoU (2005)**

West African Elephants MoU (2005)

Non Range State

## **Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU (2006)**

Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU (2006)

Signatory

## **Competent authority**

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## **Saiga Antelope MoU (2006)**

Saiga Antelope MoU (2006)

Non Range State

## **Southern South American Grassland Birds MoU (2007)**

Southern South American Grassland Birds MoU (2007)

Non Range State

## **Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)**

Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)

Non-signatory Range State

## **Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)**

Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)

Non-signatory Range State

## **Competent authority**

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## Dugong MoU (2007)

Dugong MoU (2007)

Non Range State

## Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU (2008)

Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU (2008)

Non Range State

## Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Birds of Prey (Raptors) MoU (2008)

Signatory

## Competent authority

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> As Competent Authority

## High Andean Flamingos MoU (2008)

High Andean Flamingos MoU (2008)

Non Range State

## Sharks MoU (2010)

## Sharks MoU (2010)

Signatory

### Competent authority

#### Name

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### Contact point

#### Name

> As Competent Authority

## South Andean Huemul MoU (2010)

South Andean Huemul MoU (2010)

Non Range State

### 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.)

> Government Departments and Devolved Administrations

Scottish Government, Environment Department,  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats>.

Welsh Government (WG), Sustainable Futures Department,  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/?lang=en>.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>. (Northern Ireland)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS),  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-culture-media-sport>

Department for International Development (DFID), <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>

Ministry of Defence (MoD), <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

Government Agencies:

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), <http://www.cefas.co.uk/>.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), [www.jncc.defra.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk).

Natural England (NE), <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) <http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/>.

Department of Agriculture Northern Ireland Environment Agency, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-environment-agency> and Marine and Fisheries Division

<http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/environment-marine-and-fisheries/marine-and-fisheries-division>.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), <http://www.snh.org.uk/>.

Crown Dependencies Government Departments and Agencies

States of Alderney Government, <http://www.alderney.gov.gg/> (Alderney).

Environment Department, <http://www3.gov.gg/ccm/navigation/environment/> (States of Guernsey).

Sark Island Legislature (Court of Chief Pleas), <http://www.gov.sark.gg/> (Sark).

Planning and Environment Department of the Environment, <http://www.gov.je/government/departments/planningenvironment/pages/index.aspx> (States of Jersey).  
 Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), <http://www.gov.im/daff/> (Isle of Man).  
 Manx National Heritage (MNH), <http://www.gov.im/mnh/> (Isle of Man).  
 Overseas Territories – Government Departments/Administrations  
 Ascension Island Conservation Department, [www.ascensionconservation.org.ac](http://www.ascensionconservation.org.ac) (Ascension Island).  
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([www.environment.bm](http://www.environment.bm)) (Bermuda)  
 British Indian Ocean Territory Administrator (contact via [BIOTAdmin@fco.gov.uk](mailto:BIOTAdmin@fco.gov.uk)) (British Indian Ocean Territory).  
 Department of Environment and Fisheries (part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour), <http://www.bvidef.org/main/> (British Virgin Islands).  
 Department of the Environment (DoE), <http://www.doe.ky/> (Cayman Islands).  
 Environment Department of the Sovereign Base Areas Administrator, [www.sba.mod.uk/](http://www.sba.mod.uk/) (contact via [hqsbaa@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:hqsbaa@cytanet.com.cy)). The Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus are the joint responsibility of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defense (Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas).  
 Falkland Islands Government, Environmental Planning Department, <http://www.fig.gov.fk/epd/> (Falkland Islands).  
 HM Government of Gibraltar, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change, <http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/environment/environment> (Gibraltar).  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and The Environment, <http://www.malhe.gov.ms/default.htm> (Montserrat).  
 Administered by the Governor's Office at the British High Commission in Wellington together with a Commissioner based in Auckland and a locally elected Island Council. Enquiries should be referred to the Governor's Office in the first instance, <http://www.government.pn/index.html> (Pitcairn).  
 Environmental Management Division (EMD), <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/environmental-management/> (Saint Helena).  
 The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (<http://www.gov.gs>) NOTE: although previously a dependency of the Falkland Islands, since 1985 GSGSSI has been a separate Government and has its own laws and regulations; the Governor of the Falkland Islands is also the Commissioner of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.  
 Department of Natural Resources (contact via [tristanrd@uuplus.com](mailto:tristanrd@uuplus.com)) <http://www.tristandc.com/> (Tristan da Cunha).  
 Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, <http://www.environment.tc/> (Turks & Caicos Islands).

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

> The Scotland Act 1998; the Government of Wales Act 1998 followed by the passage of the Government of Wales Acts of 2006 and 2011, and the Northern Ireland Act 1998 introduced schemes of devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Relations with the European Union (EU) and obligations arising out of Treaties and Conventions remain the responsibility of the UK government, but the devolved administrations are responsible for implementing obligations that concern devolved matters. Powers on environmental regulation are among the policy areas devolved.

Defra and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee participate in regular meetings with other government departments on international biodiversity issues to help ensure a coordinated approach to issues occurs. Where necessary co-ordination amongst UK Overseas Territories / Crown Dependencies (OTs / CDs) and with other States, is facilitated via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for OTs and the Ministry of Justice for CDs.

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

Yes

> The Four Countries Group (senior officials from the four UK administrations) will discuss issues relating to the Convention on Migratory Species as necessary, in addition to its work on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant MEAs. At a technical level the Network of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Experts helps to undertake the practicalities of internal Government coordination.

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:

> Metropolitan UK

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), <http://www.bats.org.uk/> – monitoring, research and conservation advocacy for bat species and regular contributor to EUROBATS.

Birdlife International, <http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/index.html> – a global partnership of bird conservation organizations and participant in CMS activities and meetings worldwide.

British Association for Shooting and Conservation, [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk) – promotes and protects sports shooting and the well-being of the countryside throughout the UK and overseas, through habitat conservation, training and undertaking appropriate research.

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), <http://www.bto.org/> – principal organisation involved in the monitoring of

bird species abundance and distribution with the UK.

European Cetacean Monitoring Coalition <http://www.ecmcweb.org/portal/> – provides pan-European monitoring data on the distribution and abundance of cetaceans and seabirds.

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, <http://www.whaledolphintrust.co.uk/> – dedicated to enhancing knowledge and understanding of Scotland's whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) and the Hebridean marine environment through education and research.

Institute of Zoology (IoZ), Zoological Society of London, <https://www.zsl.org/science> – Undertakes a range of conservation activities, including research and education programmes that benefit migratory species.

Marine Conservation Society, [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org) – a UK conservation charity dedicated to the cause of marine wildlife protection, and provider of monitoring information for marine species including sharks, turtles and cetaceans.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), <http://www.rspb.org.uk/> – involvement in research, conservation, protected area management and species reintroductions.

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland [www.rzss.org.uk](http://www.rzss.org.uk) – Undertakes a range of conservation activities, including research and education programmes that benefit migratory species.

Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), University of St Andrews, <http://www.smrु.st-andrews.ac.uk/> Undertakes a range of research projects investigating the numbers, distribution and ecology of migratory sea mammals.

Seawatch Foundation, [www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk) – a national marine conservation research charity dedicated to the protection of cetaceans around the UK.

Shark Trust, <http://www.sharktrust.org/> – UK charity for shark conservation and provider of research and monitoring information to advance the worldwide conservation of sharks.

Sustainable Eel Group <http://www.sustainableeelgroup.org/> – a Europe wide conservation and science led organisation working with partner bodies and individuals to accelerate the eels recovery.

Some UK University Departments undertake research on migratory species.

UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP, [www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) – UK consortium that investigates stranded cetaceans, seals, marine turtles and basking sharks at post-mortem under contract to Defra and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation, <http://uk.whales.org/> – a global charity dedicated to defending whales and dolphins from the threats they face.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, <http://www.wwt.org.uk/> – research and conservation activity for wildfowl species including lead monitoring responsibility for ducks, geese and swans.

The Wildlife Trusts <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/> – a network of 47 individual Wildlife Trusts covering the whole of the UK and the Isle of Man and Alderney.

WWF-UK, <http://www.wwf.org.uk/> – the UK arm of the WWF Network, a leading global environmental organisation dedicated the conservation of animal species worldwide.

#### Crown Dependencies

Alderney Wildlife Trust, <http://www.alderneywildlife.org/>.

La Société Guernesaise, <http://www.societe.org.gg/>.

Jersey Bat Group, <http://www.jerseybatgroup.org/>

Jersey SeaSearch - <http://www.jerseyseasearch.org/>

Littlefeetenvironment - <http://www.littlefeet.org.uk/about-us/>

National Trust for Jersey, <http://www.nationaltrustjersey.org.je/general/home.asp>.

Société Jersiaise, <http://www.societe-jersiaise.org/>.

Manx Bat Group, <http://www.manxbatgroup.org/> – research and advocacy for bats on the Isle of Man.

Manx Basking Shark Watch, <http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.org/> – an independent charity undertaking research on basking sharks including DNA, tagging and identification, in collaboration with other organisations.

Manx BirdLife, <http://www.manxbirdatlas.org.uk/index.shtml> – research, monitoring and advocacy, providing species trends on contract to the government.

Manx Wildlife Trust, <http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/manxwt/> – reserve owner and advocate for nature conservation.

Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch <http://www.mwdw.net/> – research and monitoring of Cetacea in Manx waters including transects and point counts.

#### Overseas Territories

Ascension Heritage Society, <http://www.heritage.org.ac/>.

Bermuda Audubon Society, <http://www.audubon.bm/>.

Bermuda National Trust, <http://www.bnt.bm/>.

Bermuda Zoological Society, <http://www.bamz.org>.

Chagos Conservation Trust, <http://www.chagos-trust.org/>.

National Parks Trust of the British Virgin Islands, <http://www.bvnationalparkstrust.org/>.

National Trust for the Cayman Islands, <http://www.nationaltrust.org.ky/>.

Falklands Conservation, <http://www.falklandsconservation.com/>.

Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, <http://www.gonhs.org/>.

Montserrat National Trust, <http://www.ukotcf.org/territories/montserrat.htm>.

St Helena National Trust, <http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/>.

St. Helena Nature Conservation Group <http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/shnt-member-organisations/st-helena->

nature-conservation-group/

National Trust of the Turks and Caicos Islands, <http://www.tcinationaltrust.org/>.

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, <http://www.ukotcf.org/>.

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

> See Questions 1 and 2.

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

> The private sector play an important role in the conservation of migratory species. For example, a number of energy production and supply companies are involved in the regular survey of birds and cetaceans as part of their developments. Data and information from these surveys, and associated research and development, is becoming increasingly available.

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

> Multi-stakeholder working groups and steering committees are in place for most conservation and research projects that are undertaken collaboratively between government departments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. This provides for interaction and integration of activities and results in efficiencies in the use of resources to further the conservation of migratory species.

## **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**

> In the terrestrial and inshore marine environment, policy responsibility for England lies with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), in Scotland with the Scottish Government, in Wales with the Welsh Government and in Northern Ireland with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. Executive actions for species conservation are undertaken respectively by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

In the offshore environment, the lead responsibility lies with the Defra and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Marine Management Organisation works to license, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas around England so that they're carried out in a sustainable way. In Scottish waters, the lead lies with Marine Scotland, although the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy still have responsibility for oil and gas licensing, and hence assessment of impacts on marine organisms. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has an advisory role to government and to the Statutory nature conservation bodies.

Each Overseas Territory or Crown Dependency has its own arrangements for the management of these issues.

### **2- Aquatic Mammals**

> As for section on Birds

### **3- Reptiles**

> As for section on Birds

### **4- Terrestrial Mammals**

> As for section on Birds

### **5- Fish**

> As for section on Birds

## II. Appendix I species

### 1. BIRDS

#### 1.1 General questions on Appendix I bird species

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

Yes

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

No

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

Wind turbines

Other

> Jersey: Proposed offshore wind turbines site in Bay of St Malo may impact on migratory species in the future.

Bermuda: It has been reported that light pollution can be a fatal attractant to the nocturnal Bermuda petrel *Pterodroma cahow*, especially for newly fledging chicks and prospecting birds, and that this has inhibited new pair formation in the past. For action to enhance the conservation status of this species please see the species account below.

Falkland Islands: Small risk of confusion of Ruddy Headed Goose with similar species, Upland Goose (female) which is not protected.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

A number of land management schemes and policies such as agri- environment programmes; control of pollution through legislation and environmental impact assessment practices are helping to maintain and where possible to enhance the habitats of a wide range of migratory species.

Jersey: Government has responded to the EIA with its concerns.

Gibraltar: No identified obstacles. Salient management measures carried out to protect habitats and species in Gibraltar are elaborated in the following documents:

Upper Rock Nature Reserve Management Plan

<http://www.gonhs.org/documents/UpperRockNatureReserveManagementActionPlan.pdf>

Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan: Planning for Nature

<http://www.gonhs.org/documents/BiodiversityActionPlan2006web.pdf>

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/images/stories/PDF/environment/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/images/stories/PDF/environment/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf)

Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan 2016. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/Gibraltar\\_Nature\\_Reserve\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2016\\_%E2%80%93\\_Consultation\\_Draft.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/Gibraltar_Nature_Reserve_Management_Plan_2016_%E2%80%93_Consultation_Draft.pdf)

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf)

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf)

Falkland Islands: Awareness raising.

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

> Continued international cooperation and a sharing of experiences of dealing with these issues would be useful.

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

Other

> Metropolitan UK: Two threats, common across many Parties, are worth mentioning here. Firstly, the deliberate persecution of birds of prey, and secondly the common threat from climate change.

In addition, previous Reports to CMS have included details of actions to control ruddy duck in the UK and provided an update on the reintroduction of the great bustard to England. Updates on both these projects are provided below.

British Indian Ocean Territory: BIOT's avifauna remains subject to pressure from historic habitat modification (namely felling and replacement of native hardwoods with coconut palms) and invasive species (especially black rats) on a number of islands. Reversing these threats remains a priority for the BIOT Administration (see below).

SBA Cyprus: For the SBA Administration on Cyprus combating illegal trapping and killing of birds is a top priority. Efforts are concentrated on anti-poaching campaigns (field action to arrest poachers and to confiscate trapping paraphernalia) and on educating people who live in the SBAs as well as children who visit the Environmental Centre at Akrotiri.

Falkland Islands: Small risk of confusion of Ruddy Headed Goose with similar species, Upland Goose (female) which is not protected.

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?

> Metropolitan UK:

Persecution of birds of prey

Various actions are underway to help eliminate the deliberate persecution of birds of prey in Metropolitan UK. These are detailed below in the update report in relation to Resolution 11.15 "Poisoning Migratory Birds".

Climate change adaptation

Within Metropolitan UK actions are underway to facilitate species adaptation to climate change including a major programme of peatland restoration: an important habitat for many migratory species; expansion of native woodlands, and a number of coastal management programmes are aiding migratory wader species in particular.

Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* eradication

The UK-wide eradication programme for the North American ruddy duck commenced in September 2005 as this species posed a threat to the globally threatened white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).

The UK's ruddy duck eradication programme has been the largest eradication programme of its kind in Europe. Following the completion of an EU LIFE-Nature project involving the EU, Defra and the Spanish Ministry of the Environment, the UK Government has continued to devote significant sums of money to removing this species. The eradication programme is due to run until March 2018 at least, and so far there has been no evidence of breeding in 2016. The UK, and Parties to the Bern Convention, have committed to continuing action to achieve eradication in the Western Palearctic by the end of 2020.

Great bustard *Otis tarda* reintroduction

The Great Bustard Group trial re-introduction project started in the UK in 2004. Originally juvenile birds have been sourced from eggs collected from non-viable nests in the Saratov region of Russia. However sourcing of birds from this area ceased in 2012, and was replaced with eggs sourced from wild populations in Spain. The trial re-introduction was originally licensed by the UK government for a period of 10 years with releases of juveniles in each year up to 2013, but was extended until 2016. A further application for a formal re-introduction is currently under consideration. The long-term aim of the project is to establish a self-sustaining population of around 200 individuals in the release area.

Jersey: habitat improvements and engagement of agricultural community intend to assist climate change adaptation

British Indian Ocean Territory:

The BIOT Administration is working closely with national and international NGOs, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to protect BIOT's avifauna and prevent disruption to migrating behaviour. Habitat restoration, including the replacement of invasive flora (especially coconut palms) with native hardwoods, is underway in a number of sites. A pilot rat eradication programme has been launched on Île Vache Marine, which is due for completion in July 2014.

SBA Cyprus - Trapping birds on the SBA Cyprus

The SBA works closely with the Republic of Cyprus Game Fund, Birdlife Cyprus and other national and international NGOs. The SBAA currently participates in the drawing up of a Strategic Action Plan for tackling illegal bird trapping in Cyprus. Birdlife Cyprus has the lead on this action but all key stakeholders who are working against illegal trapping contribute to the drafting (and subsequently to the implementation) of the Action Plan. The Action Plan will include short, medium and long-term actions in relation to the following elements: (1) enforcement, (2) courts, (3) policy, (4) awareness raising, (5) habitat management, (6) economic consequences, (7) monitoring and co-ordination.

Falkland Islands: Awareness raising.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

Ruddy duck eradication

The UK population of ruddy ducks is now estimated to be around 20 birds, compared to a peak of almost 6,000.

Great Bustard reintroduction

Over the period 2004-2012, 168 Russian sourced juvenile birds have been released into the wild in the UK at a single site on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. The project suffered high mortality and low residency of the 168

released birds, and 9 birds remained alive in early 2016. The releases of Spanish sourced birds has been much more successful, with 28 birds remaining alive from 126 eggs taken and 61 birds released in a 2 year period from 2014 to 2015. In 2007, the first breeding attempt took place, but the single clutch was infertile. Nesting attempts in the following years produced the first two chicks to successfully fledge in the UK for over 177 years in 2009 and a single bird fledged in 2010, however none of these chicks successfully overwintered. In 2015 a single wild bred chick survived over winter and in 2016 two wild bred chicks survived over winter. Released juveniles are monitored closely, with many individuals fitted with radio-transmitters to assist with tracking movements and establishing survival estimates.

The LIFE+ project "Reintroducing the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) to Southern England" was originally a partnership between the RSPB, Great Bustard Group, University of Bath and Natural England. It ran for five years from September 2010 until August 2015, with a grant from the EU of €2.2 million providing the resources to enable a wide range of new work. However prior to the end of the project period all partners withdrew from the project leaving the Great Bustard Group the sole partner in the project. The fundamental aim of the project was to contribute to the reversal of the ongoing decline in the conservation status of the great bustard at EU level.

The trial phase answered many questions regarding the best source of birds and their husbandry in captivity, leading to improvements as well as basic ecology and behaviour of the birds, their habitat preferences and causes of mortality. More information is at: <http://greatbustard.org/about-us/life>.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

The initial pilots for habitat restoration have shown some success, resulting in the protection of surviving hardwood trees and new hardwood growth, albeit in small areas. One such pilot, the Barton Point Atoll Restoration Project, is situated within a Strict Nature Reserve and Important Bird Area. The dependence of BIOT's avifauna on these hardwoods for food and nesting site availability is well documented.

SBA Cyprus - Trapping birds on the SBA Cyprus

Mist netting activity at the Eastern SBA on Cyprus for winter 2012-2013 showed a decrease of more than 30% compared to winter 2011-2012. Nevertheless the problem is still prominent and Cape Pyla is a hotspot for bird trapping. The hope is that the co-ordinated and integrated actions arising from the Strategic Action Plan will yield more positive results.

Falkland Islands: No records/reports of destruction of Ruddy-Headed Geese.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

Ruddy Duck

Eradication of Ruddy Duck by neighbouring EU Member States is still urgently needed to ensure that UK's success in controlling (and hopefully eradicating) this species is not to be negated.

Climate change

Developing a wider approach, across global flyways would assist in the adaptation of species to climate change.

SBA Cyprus - Trapping of birds on the SBA Cyprus

Although illegal, the trapping of birds is still considered by some to be a traditional activity, hence wide collaboration with other administrations in Cyprus will be required to ensure that trapping ceases.

Falkland Islands: Difficulty in policing/enforcing legislation.

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

> Continued exchange of information between countries and administrations.

## 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: *Acrocephalus paludicola*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, and Jersey.

Baker, H., Stroud, D.A., Aebischer, N.J., Cranswick, P.A., Gregory, R.D., McSorley, C.A., Noble, D.G. & Rehfisch, M.M. 2006. Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. *British Birds* 99: 25-44.

Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS): [http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/plans/national\\_plan.asp?SAP={7FFFDC0-2402-4064-878C-116571D239C0}](http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/plans/national_plan.asp?SAP={7FFFDC0-2402-4064-878C-116571D239C0}).

Davies, M. 2012. Monitoring of aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* in southern England in 2011. RSPB and Natural England unpublished report. 28 pp.

Flade, M. & Lachmann, L. 2008. International Species Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. European Commission. 33 pp. Available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/docs/acrocephalus\\_paludicola.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/acrocephalus_paludicola.pdf).

Stroud, D.A., Chambers, D., Cook, S., Buxton, N., Fraser, B., Clement, P., Lewis, P., McLean, I., Baker, H. & Whitehead, S. (eds.) 2001. The UK SPA network: its scope and content. JNCC, Peterborough. Three volumes (90 pp; 438 pp; 392 pp). <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/UKSPA/UKSPA-A6-100.pdf>.  
UK Biodiversity Action Plan: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=76>.  
Jersey: Annual bird reports produced by Société Jersiaise.

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

not known

> The UK became a signatory for the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) in 2003.

During the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priorities Review, which concluded in 2007, population size was assessed as 16 individuals (mean 1998-2002). A population assessment published by Baker et al. (2006) was 33 individuals (mean 1996-2000). Davies 2011 reported on the status of the species at sites in southern England. Some decrease in numbers was recorded, however, the total number of birds seen each year over recent decades has been small, making interpretation of these results difficult.

Jersey – not recorded.

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

not known

> Despite their eastern European breeding distribution, *A. paludicola* migrates west or south-west in autumn en route to wintering areas in western Africa. This brings them into north-west Europe before they head south through France and Iberia. Observations in Great Britain show that they are virtually restricted to reedbed habitats during their migration through Europe. Small numbers of birds occur in southern England every autumn. The UK passage population is very small and at the edge of the species' range, although several sites have a long history of occurrence. All regular passage sites are in England, concentrated on the south coast. The three most important have been classified as Special Protection Areas (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UKSPA/UKSPA-A6-100.pdf>).

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Three UK Special Protection Areas are important for this species and already receive protection (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/UKSPA/UKSPA-A6-100.pdf>).

Monitoring

> Irregular occurrence limits the potential for systematic survey. Sites regularly used are well watched and observations from those areas and elsewhere are annually published in country bird reports, and collated nationally and published periodically by the journal *British Birds*.

Annual totals of ringed birds are reported to British Trust for Ornithology each year (<http://btoweb01.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/ringing-migration>).

Statutory sites classified for *A. paludicola* in the UK are all subject to the Common Standards Monitoring programme which aims to regularly assess the features for which the sites have been classified (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2217>).

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: Aquatic warbler is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7 list and Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (for England) which places a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats.

Habitat protection

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:

> The conservation of this species is undertaken within the framework of two key Action Plans, one focussing on the wider international population and one on the birds and their habitats when in the UK. Further details for each plan can be found at:

Flade, M. & Lachmann, L. 2008. International Species Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. European Commission. 33 pp. Available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/docs/acrocephalus\\_paludicola.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/acrocephalus_paludicola.pdf).

Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2010. *Acrocephalus paludicola*. UK priority species pages – Version 2. 17pp. Available at: [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/\\_speciespages/76.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/_speciespages/76.pdf).

**Species name: *Aythya nyroca***

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from SBA Cyprus.

BirdLife International. 2004. Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.

BirdLife International (2017) Species factsheet: *Aythya nyroca*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 17/03/2017. <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/ferruginous-duck-aythya-nyroca/text>.

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

not known

> In Europe the breeding population is estimated at 17,400-30,100 pairs with the largest population in Romania (11,761-18,018 breeding pairs, concentrated in the Danube Delta).

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

not known

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Monitoring

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Habitat protection

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

> Close monitoring of the nesting site within the Western SBA on Cyprus will continue.

**Species name: *Chloephaga rubidiceps***

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Falkland Islands.

Woods, R. & Woods, A. 1997. Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Falkland Islands. Anthony Nelson.

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

increasing

> Quoted population size of 14,000-27,000 (Woods and Woods, 1997) but may be larger than this. Population almost certainly stable or increasing. Widely distributed but entirely non-migratory in the Falkland Islands. It is understood that Ruddy-Headed Goose numbers in Patagonia in South America are declining due to predation by invasive species. This may change/increase status of Falkland Islands population which may now be the world stronghold.

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

stable

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

Species protection

Habitat restoration

> Falklands Conservation Habitat Restoration Project. Rat eradication programme has covered larger islands with suitable habitat for Ruddy-headed geese. It is possible there are indirect benefits for this species here.

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:

> Species Action Plan to be formalised under the 'Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework 2016-30'.

**Species name: *Falco naumanni***

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from SBA Cyprus, and Gibraltar.

BirdLife International 2014. Species factsheet: *Falco naumanni*. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/lesser-kestrel-falco-naumanni> on 03/01/2014.

## Gibraltar:

Perez, C. Biodiversity Action Plan, Gibraltar: Planning for Nature. Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. Available from <http://www.gonhs.org/documents/BiodiversityActionPlan2006web.pdf> [Accessed 12/02/14].

Finlayson, J.C. 1992. Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar. Academic Press, London.

Bensusan, K. & Cortes, J.E. 2007. Decline of the Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* in Gibraltar: possible causes, conservation and action plan. *Almoraima* 35: 185-190.

Garcia E.F.J. Gibraltar Bird Report (2006-2016). Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society.

Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan 2016. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/Gibraltar\\_Nature\\_Reserve\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2016\\_%E2%80%93\\_Consultation\\_Draft.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/Gibraltar_Nature_Reserve_Management_Plan_2016_%E2%80%93_Consultation_Draft.pdf).

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

decreasing

> SBA Cyprus: Not known.

Gibraltar: Population decreasing.

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

stable

> SBA Cyprus: Not known.

Gibraltar: Distribution stable.

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Gibraltar: Designation of the Rock of Gibraltar SPA/SAC.

Monitoring

> Gibraltar: Yearly bird reports produced by the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society.

Education/awareness rising

> Gibraltar: Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Gibraltar: Legal Protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991.

Control hunting / poaching

Species restoration

> Gibraltar: Captive breeding and release programme carried out by the GONHS.

Habitat protection

> Gibraltar : Designation of the Rock of Gibraltar SPA/SAC.

### 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:

> SBA Cyprus: Monitoring of the passage migrant birds on Cyprus will continue.

Gibraltar: Continued research and bolstering of the breeding population with a dedicated release programme spearheaded by the GONHS Raptor Unit.

## Species name: *Haliaeetus albicilla*

### 1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK.

Bainbridge, I.P., Evans, R.J., Broad, R.A., Crooke, C.H., Duffy, K., Green, R.E., Love, J.A. & Mudge, G.P. 2003. Reintroduction of White-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) to Scotland. pp. 393-406. In: Thompson, D.B.A., Redpath, S.M., Fielding, A.H., Marquiss, M. & Galbraith, C.A. (eds.) *Birds of prey in a changing environment*. The Stationary Office, Edinburgh.

Evans, R.J., Wilson, J.D., Amar, A., Douse, A., Maclennan, A., Ratcliffe, N. & Whitfield, D.P. 2009. Growth and demography of a re-introduced population of White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla*. *Ibis* 151: 244-254.

Whitfield, D.P., Douse, A., Evans, R.J., Grant, J., Love, J., Mcleod, D.R.A., Reid, R & Wilson, J.D. 2009. Natal and breeding dispersal in a reintroduced population of White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla*. *Bird Study* 56: 177-187.

Balmer, D.E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B.J., Swann, R.L., Downie, I.S., & Fuller, R.J. 2013. Bird Atlas 2007-11: the breeding and wintering birds of Britain & Ireland, pp 296 -297. BTO Books, Thetford.

Challis, A., Wilson, M.W., Holling, M., Roos, S., Stevenson, A. & Stirling-Aird, P. (2016). Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme Report 2015. BTO Scotland, Stirling. [http://raptormonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SRMS\\_Report15.pdf](http://raptormonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SRMS_Report15.pdf).

Sansom, A., Evans, R. & Roos, S. 2016. Population and future range modelling of reintroduced Scottish white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 898. [http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned\\_reports/898.pdf](http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/898.pdf).

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

increasing

> *H. albicilla* became extinct in Britain in 1918 following a prolonged period of human persecution. Due to a decrease in raptor persecution and changes in legislation, conditions were deemed suitable for the species to be reintroduced by the 1950s. A large-scale release programme was initiated in 1975. Between 1975 and 1985, 82 young birds from Norway were released on the island of Rum off the West coast of Scotland. The first clutch of eggs was laid in the wild in 1983 and the first successful breeding occurred in 1985.

By 1992, eight territories were occupied, but overall breeding performance was not high and the likelihood of chance effects leading to eventual extinction was considered high enough to justify a second series of releases. Between 1993 and 1998 a further 58 young eagles from Norway were released on the Scottish mainland. This bolstered the population and by 2000, 22 territories were occupied.

By 2010, 52 territories were occupied by pairs, covering 40 10 km national grid squares with 46 young fledged. The strong growth of the population continues and the overall population is considered to be over 100 pairs, with around 5 pairs currently in eastern Scotland.

The population in West Scotland is considered self-sustaining, without recourse to further reintroductions.

To help recover former range in Scotland more quickly a release programme in the east of Scotland ran from 2007-2012. A total of 85 eaglets sourced from Norway were released. These birds are now reaching maturity and becoming territorial with 2013 seeing the first successful breeding in the east of Scotland for 200 years. The species is not migratory in the UK although there have been some records of birds being seen in southern England that were not from the re-introduction programme in Scotland.

In Northern Ireland *H. albicilla* was previously a resident breeder but were persecuted to extinction by the early 1900s. Recently reintroduced (2007) to the Republic of Ireland (Co. Kerry) where the species is now breeding. 100 Norwegian White-tailed eagles were released between 2007 and 2011 in Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry. The species is expected to breed again in Northern Ireland in the coming years. Conservation threats include illegal persecution such as shooting and poisoning (Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group. 2017. White Tailed Eagle. [Online]. [Accessed: 9 January 2016]. Available at: <http://www.nirsg.com/white-tailed-eagle>).

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

increasing

> In the West of Scotland there are core concentrations of breeding birds on Mull, Skye and the Outer Hebrides and these continue to increase. Expansion of the West coast breeding range continues with birds now breeding over most of the Inner Hebrides and on the adjacent West coast mainland from Wester Ross south to mainland Argyll. Birds from the East Scotland release are mainly ranging from Aberdeenshire south to Perthshire and Fife with the prospect of additional pairs settling. One east coast breeding pair indicates that the lowland habitats of Eastern Scotland are still suitable for breeding white-tailed eagles and the most northerly pair is now on Orkney.

Providing deliberate persecution / egg-collecting does not limit breeding success and survival, the prospects for a continued recovery look good. The productivity of the west coast population, now largely comprising wild-bred Scottish birds suggests recent faster population growth will be sustained, although range recovery is still relatively slow but there is scope for the species to be quite widespread.

On the island of Ireland the species frequents large inland water bodies and coastal areas (habitat which might be occupied in Northern Ireland) and are monitored by the Golden Eagle Trust. GPS tracking has shown that released eagles have dispersed widely and have been recorded in almost all Irish counties (The Golden Eagle Trust. 2017. Satellite tagged WTE Blog. [Online]. [Accessed: 9 January 2016]. Available at: [http://www.goldeneagletrust.info/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=50&Itemid=294](http://www.goldeneagletrust.info/index.php?option=com_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=50&Itemid=294)).

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

Research

> SNH Commissioned report 898 linked above remodelled the potential population growth and spread and assessed the robustness of the population to additional mortality. It will be used to inform a national Action Plan for the Species in Scotland which is being developed in conjunction with a range of stakeholders including agricultural and forestry interests.

Research has continued into white-tailed eagle and lamb predation with a Scottish Natural Heritage-funded

study at Gairloch Wester Ross in 2010 - see Simms, I.C., Ormston, C.M., Somerwill, K.E., Cairns C.L., Tobin, F.R., Judge, J. & Tomlinson, A. 2010. A pilot study into sea eagle predation on lambs in the Gairloch area - Final Report. SNH Commissioned Report No. 370 reported that losses of lambs to white-tailed eagles during the study were minimal. Available at:  
[http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned\\_reports/370finalreport.pdf](http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/370finalreport.pdf).

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> The latest review of the UK SPA network is ongoing and white-tailed eagle is addressed in that review as a priority species for further consideration under the Birds Directive.

Monitoring

> The annual monitoring programme joint funded and coordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds continues. With a continuing increase in the West coast population the monitoring has been widened to include more Scottish Raptor Study Group members and other key volunteers, with RSPB sampling the 'core' population. The East coast birds will continue to be closely monitored to ensure they become properly established.

Education/awareness rising

> Successful public viewing takes place on Isles of Mull and Skye, and the species is an important part of wildlife tourism on Scotland's West coast islands. On Mull an RSPB report indicated that up to £5M of tourism spend annually was due to white-tailed eagles (see Molloy, D, 2011. Wildlife at work: The economic impact of white-tailed eagles on the Isle of Mull, [http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/wildlifeatwork\\_tcm9-282134.pdf](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/wildlifeatwork_tcm9-282134.pdf)). . Additionally educational and public engagement work has been an integral part the east Scotland release as it has developed. This work has been bolstered by the RSPB obtaining significant funds from LEADER and the Heritage Lottery Fund to resource education and awareness raising.

Species protection

> The white-tailed eagle is afforded legal protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally take, injure or kill a white-tailed eagle or to take, damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season. Violation of the law can attract fines up to £5,000 per offence and/or a prison sentence of up to six months.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 have widened this protection and provide additional protection for white-tailed eagles and their nests. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 introduced protection of white-tailed eagle nests all of the year in England and Wales under Schedule Z1A. White-tailed eagle is listed on Schedules A1 (where it is an offence to, at any time, intentionally or recklessly take, damage, destroy or otherwise interfere with a nest habitually used by that species) and 1A (where it is an offence, at any time, to intentionally or recklessly harass a bird of that species) in Scotland.

Species restoration

> Release programmes started in earnest in 1975 in West Scotland (Rum 1975-1983 and Wester Ross 1993-1998) and in East Scotland (2007-2012). This work is overseen by the White-tailed Eagle Project Team which includes representatives from the UK statutory country conservation agencies, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and independent experts. It also supplies support to the ongoing reintroduction in the Republic of Ireland. Scottish Natural Heritage also manages a Sea Eagle Management Scheme to alleviate conflict re agricultural interests.

Habitat protection

> Revised guidance for forestry management around white-tailed eagle nests and roosts has been published by FCS and private forestry operators in Scotland.

([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcpn101.pdf/\\$FILE/fcpn101.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcpn101.pdf/$FILE/fcpn101.pdf)).

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:

> Continued implementation of re-establishment programme as indicated above.

## Species name: *Larus audouinii*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Gibraltar.

Finlayson, J.C. 1992. Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar. Academic Press, London.

Garcia E.F.J. Gibraltar Bird Report (2006-2016). Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society.

Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan 2016. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/Gibraltar\\_Nature\\_Reserve\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2016\\_%E2%80%93\\_Consultation\\_Draft.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/Gibraltar_Nature_Reserve_Management_Plan_2016_%E2%80%93_Consultation_Draft.pdf).

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:  
[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).  
Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:  
[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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

stable

> Population & Distribution as per latest BirdLife 'Birds in Europe' assessments. BirdLife International (2017) Species factsheet: *Larus audouinii*. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/audouins-gull-larus-audouinii/details> on 17/03/2017.

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

stable

> Population & Distribution as per latest BirdLife 'Birds in Europe' assessments. BirdLife International (2017) Species factsheet: *Larus audouinii*. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/audouins-gull-larus-audouinii/details> on 17/03/2017.

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

Monitoring

> Yearly bird reports produced the GONHS.

Education/awareness rising

> Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Legal Protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991.

Habitat protection

> Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

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: **Pterodroma cahow**

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Bermuda.

Madeiras, J. 2015. Cahow Recovery Program Breeding Season Report 2014-2015. Department of Conservation Services. Available online at: <http://environment.bm/s/2015-REPORT-ON-CAHOW-RECOVERY-PROGRAM.pdf>

Madeiras, J. 2016. Cahow Recovery Program Breeding Season Report 2015-2016. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Will be available online at: <http://environment.bm/cahow-recovery-programme>.

Madeiras, J., Carlile, N., and Priddel, D. 2012. Breeding biology and population increase of the endangered Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow*. Bird Conservation International, Available on Cambridge Journals Online 2012 doi: 10.1017/S0959270911000396.

Carlile, N., Priddel, D., and Madeiros J. 2012. Establishment of a new, secure colony of endangered Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow* by translocation of near-fledged nestlings. Bird Conservation International, Available on Cambridge Journals Online 2012 doi: 10.1017/S0959270911000372.

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

increasing

> 115 breeding pairs in 2015-2016 breeding season, with 56 successfully fledged chicks in spring 2016.

decreasing

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

increasing

> A new nesting colony has been established on Nonsuch Island, with efforts to establish a second colony at a different location on Nonsuch now underway. In addition, in 2013 nesting activity was confirmed at a sixth island (Southampton Island) in the Castle Harbour Islands Nature Reserve, about 1 km from Nonsuch island. At sea distribution was previously unknown, but geolocator tags have been deployed and birders in other localities have been asked to look out for cahows at sea.

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

Research

> The Cahow Recovery Programme continues; latest updates can be found in annual reports online at <http://environment.bm/cahow-recovery-programme>. Contact is the Bermuda Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Cooper's Island Nature Reserve was established adjacent to breeding areas in 2008.

Monitoring

> Monitoring of birds continues through a banding project and developmental measurements taken from chicks. Contact is Jeremy Madeiros at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Education/awareness rising

> Tours of Nonsuch Island for school children and adults, including seeing a cahow chick in the nesting season. A burrow-mounted camera known as the 'CahowCam' streams live footage from a nest on Nonsuch Island to the internet at: <http://www.nonsuchisland.com/live-cahow-cam/>.

Species protection

> The cahow is given the highest level of protection (level 1) on the Protected Species Amendment Order 2016. The species and its habitats are protected under the Protected Species Act 2003. The Protection of Birds Act 1975 protects all migrant, vagrant and locally resident birds.

Control hunting / poaching

> No local hunting/poaching. The Protection of Birds Act 1975 protects all migrant, vagrant and locally resident birds. The Protected Species Act 2003 protects the cahow.

Species restoration

> Cahow chicks in need of care are treated at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo or hand fed by the Terrestrial Conservation Officer at Nonsuch Island.

Habitat protection

> The Cahow nesting islands are limited-access nature reserves under the Bermuda National Parks Act 1986.

Habitat restoration

> Nonsuch Island has been restored to a pre-colonial forest habitat, and invasive species are strictly controlled. Artificial nest burrows are still being constructed at two locations on Nonsuch and on two of the original nesting islands to encourage new nesting pairs. A new prefabricated plastic burrow design is being tested. New management plans for the cahow nesting islands are in preparation. Bermuda has been struck directly by 4 hurricanes in the last 3 years, which have caused serious erosion and flooding on the nesting islands. An extensive rat baiting programme is ongoing to control nest-site predation.

Other

> The following paragraphs summarise the conservation efforts for the cahow. The projects are an innovative mix of habitat management and active population management measures: Mitigation measures have been undertaken to stop nest-site competition with the white-tailed tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus catsbyii* by fitting baffles with specially sized holes at nest entrances which exclude tropicbirds but allow entry by the petrels. A baiting program is carried out annually to combat the risk of re-colonization of the nesting islands by rats. A banding project and study of the breeding biology of *P. cahow* was carried out, and a paper produced, to better understand aspects of this and the increase of the species. A successful translocation project was undertaken by moving *P. cahow* chicks from low lying nesting islands to establish a new nesting colony on the larger and more elevated Nonsuch Island. This project has been successful in establishing a new nesting colony which is already up to sixteen nesting pairs in 2016. The establishment of a second colony in a different location on Nonsuch Island was initiated in 2013. So far 55 fledglings have been released from the second colony on Nonsuch Island; to provide added security should a catastrophic event affect the first colony. New artificial concrete nest burrows are being constructed on Nonsuch and the original nesting islands, to provide new nesting habitat and maximise the carrying capacity of the smaller nesting islands, which lack enough soil for the petrels to easily dig their burrows. There has been only one case of a tropicbird forcing its way in through a baffled entrance to injure a Bermuda petrel chick since all nest burrow entrances were fitted with baffles by the late 1960s. Prior to this, up to 75% of all petrel chicks were killed each year by tropicbirds that entered and took over the nests. In the case of

rats, although there have been at least six cases of rats swimming out to one or more of the Bermuda petrel nesting islands since the late 1990s, there has only been one case of petrel chicks being killed by rats during these episodes; in all other cases, the rats were killed by rodenticide use before they could cause any harm.

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:

> Tracking of oceanic ranges through the use of geolocator tags continued until 2015. More accurate geolocator tags will be acquired and deployed in the coming years to add to the existing dataset. A project to establish a second nesting colony on Nonsuch Island is now underway using proven translocation methods.

## Species name: *Puffinus mauretanicus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Jersey, and Gibraltar.

Arcos, J. M. 2011. ¿Cuántas pardelas baleares hay? Discrepancias entre los censos en colonias y en el mar. In: Valeiras, X., Muoz, G., Bermejo, A., Arcos, J.M. y Paterson, A.M. (ed.), Actas del 6 Congreso del GIAM y el Taller internacional sobre la Ecología de Païos y Pardelas en el sur de Europa, pp. 117-121. Boletín del Grupo Ibárico de Aves Marinas.

Arroyo, G.M., Mateos, M., Munoz, A.R., de la Cruz, A., Cuenca, A.D. y Onrubia, A. 2011. New population estimates of the critically endangered Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*. Poster at 13th MEDMARAVIS Pan-Mediterranean Symposium, Alghero, Sardinia. 14 - 17 October de 2011. Published in 2016 in Bird Conservation International 26, pp 87-99. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S095927091400032X>.

Brooke, M.W. 2004. Albatrosses and petrels across the world. Oxford University Press. 505 pp.

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=30026>.

Jones, H.P., Tershy, B.R., Zavaleta, E.S., Croll, D.A., Keitt, B.S., Finkelstein, M.E. and Howald, G.R. 2008. Severity of the effects of invasive rats on seabirds: a global review. *Conservation Biology* 22(1): 16-26.

Jones, A.R., Wynn, R.B., Laurent Thébault, P.Y., Collins, P., Suberg, L., Lewis, K.M., Breerton, T.M., (2014) Using integrated land- and boat-based surveys to inform conservation of the Critically Endangered Balearic shearwater. *Endangered Species Research* 25:1-18 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00611> <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/esr/v25/n1/p1-18/>

Parsons, M., Bingham, C., Allcock, Z. and Kuepfer, A. In press. Summary of evidence of aggregations of Balearic shearwaters in the UK. JNCC Report.

Rodríguez, A.; McMinn, M. 2007. Gestión de un endemismo en peligro: la Pardela Balear, *Puffinus mauretanicus*. *Anuari Ornitológic de les Balears* 22: 77-80.

Jersey: Jersey Bird report (2015) Société Jersiaise.

Gibraltar:

Finlayson, J.C. 1992. *Birds of the Strait of Gibraltar*. Academic Press, London.

García E.F.J. Gibraltar Bird Reports (2006-2016). Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society.

Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan 2016. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/Gibraltar\\_Nature\\_Reserve\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2016\\_%E2%80%933\\_Consultation\\_Draft.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/Gibraltar_Nature_Reserve_Management_Plan_2016_%E2%80%933_Consultation_Draft.pdf).

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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

not known

> In 2009, the total breeding population of the Balearic shearwater was last estimated in 2009 at 3,193 breeding pairs (Arcos 2011). This figure is significantly larger than previous estimates of 2,000-2,400 pairs recorded in 2005 (Jones et al. 2008) but this is primarily due to increased survey effort (better prospecting of known breeding sites plus discovery of new sites) and does not reflect a genuine increase of the population. "Rodríguez & McMinn (2007) estimated 2,000-2,400 breeding pairs and 8,000-10,000 individuals in total, however winter at-sea surveys along the Iberian Shelf as part of the LIFE project to identify marine IBAs produced an estimate of 25,000-30,000 individuals (J. M. Arcos in litt. 2008), and counts of >18,000 birds past Gibraltar in May-July 2008 were extrapolated to a total of 20,000-25,000 individuals by Gonzalo Muñoz/Fundación Migres. A precautionary estimate of 6,000-10,000 mature individuals is considered appropriate (J.M. Arcos, D. Oro & I. Ramírez in litt. 2009)." From

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=30026>.

Metropolitan UK: The population size has been stated as unknown due to difficulties in determining the population for the United Kingdom of the total population, and whether that part is changing or not. However, the most recent population model suggests the species is declining fast:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.12622/abstract;jsessionid=46AA82F51DDF846B13DF65A0D6557A37.f02t03>. It would seem at least possible that the UK component of the wider population is experiencing the same pressures and perhaps long-term outlook (i.e. if fewer breeding birds from Iberia survive, there will be less birds in the UK).

Jersey: scarce migrant.

Gibraltar: Both population size and distribution are stable.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK: "Puffinus mauretanicus breeds in the Balearic Islands, Spain. In winter, it occurs in the Balearic Sea and off the north-east Spanish coast with most of the population traditionally concentrated between Valencia and Catalonia from November to February. Some birds migrate north in summer to seas off the British Isles and the south of the Scandinavian Peninsula. Numbers recorded in the traditional post-breeding quarters have declined since the mid-1990, with a corresponding increase in numbers along the coasts of northern France and south-west U.K." From

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=30026>.

Distribution data is being collected by MarineLife (in the last two years in conjunction with Natural England and CEFAS). RSPB and NE have funded tagging work delivered through the OxNav group at Oxford University. This is to understand movements of Balearic shearwaters and to test the hypothesis that the birds seen in UK waters tend to be from the juvenile age classes.

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

Research

> Surveys have been undertaken in the SW Approaches and Lyme Bay by the NGO Marinelife and others to better establish the status and distribution of the species

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SPA/SAC.

Monitoring

> As well as surveys at sea (above) Seawatch SW co-ordinates volunteer based observations from appropriate coastal locations including at Porthgwarra in Cornwall. More information is at <http://www.seawatch-sw.org/>. A report of the surveys undertaken, including sightings of this species can be found at: [http://www.seawatch-sw.org/downloads/SWSW\\_AR2009\\_short.pdf](http://www.seawatch-sw.org/downloads/SWSW_AR2009_short.pdf).

Jersey: Yearly bird reports produced by Société Jersiaise

Gibraltar: Yearly bird reports produced by the GONHS.

Education/awareness rising

> Gibraltar: Environmental Education Programmes.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: Balearic shearwater is listed on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 41, the Scottish Biodiversity List and the Northern Ireland Priority Species list, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance those species and habitats.

Gibraltar: Legal protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991.

Habitat protection

> Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SPA/SAC.

Other

> An international Action Plan has been developed for the species: Arcos, J.M. (compiler) 2011. International species action plan for the Balearic shearwater, Puffinus mauretanicus. SEO/BirdLife & BirdLife International.

## 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:

> As noted above, an international single species action plan has been developed by the European Union for this species (Arcos 2011,

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/docs/puffinus\\_puffinus\\_mauretanicus.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/puffinus_puffinus_mauretanicus.pdf)). Relevant objectives are as follows:

- “Promote the designation of Marine Protected Areas (SPAs and others) for the species.”
- “Design and implement management plans for the MPAs (SPAs and others), and also promote appropriate conservation measures at a wider scale, regarding the Balearic shearwater.”

It is relevant to note here that the EU developed a Plan of Action (PoA) for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-12-1222\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1222_en.htm?locale=en). The PoA is consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and all applicable rules of EU and international environmental law and Conventions. It follows the FAO Best Practice Technical Guidelines.

Gibraltar: Continued monitoring.

### **Species name: Falco vespertinus**

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from SBA Cyprus.

BirdLife International 2014. Species factsheet: Falco vespertinus. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 03/01/2014.

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

not known

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

not known

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

Research

> Link to the SBAA report on Red-footed falcon Survey:

[http://www.sbaadministration.org/images/AEEIC/publications/20090304\\_RFFreport.pdf](http://www.sbaadministration.org/images/AEEIC/publications/20090304_RFFreport.pdf).

Identification and establishment of protected areas

Monitoring

Education/awareness rising

Species protection

Control hunting / poaching

Habitat protection

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:

> Monitoring during migration seasons will continue.

### **Species name: Falco cherrug**

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from SBA Cyprus.

Cyprus Bird Report 2012. ISSN 1450 – 300.

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

decreasing

> Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Generally more common in autumn than spring but numbers appear to be decreasing.

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

not known

> Recorded sightings in the SBAs seem to be around the same locations: One Akrotiri Gravel Pits March 2012. One Bishops Pool (various sightings) October 2012. One Salt Lake November 2012. One Agios Nikolaos Nov 2012. This seems to be the general trend over the past few years.

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Akrotiri SPA would provide favourable conditions for this species.

Species protection

> The species is strictly protected under the provisions of the SBA Laws ‘The Game and Wild Bird Ordinance

2008' (GWBO).

Control hunting / poaching

> The SBAA has designated hunting areas in both the Eastern and Western SBA, these are seasonal and controlled under the provisions of the GWBO.

Habitat protection

> Apart from Agios Nikolaos; the other recorded sightings within the SBAs are within a designated Ramsar, SPA and cSAC.

Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I birds in general:

> Metropolitan UK:

2013 saw the publication of the most recent UK Bird Atlas 2007-11: The Breeding and Wintering Birds of Britain and Ireland (British Trust for Ornithology).

Balmer, D.E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B.J., Swann, R.L., Downie, I.S., & Fuller, R.J. 2013. Bird Atlas 2007-11: the breeding and wintering birds of Britain & Ireland, pp 296 -297. BTO Books, Thetford.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.bto.org/shop/bird-atlas> and all the maps have been made freely available at <https://www.bto.org/mapstore>.

This publication gives the present distribution and abundance for all migratory bird species, including Appendix 1 species, found in the UK. It is the result of four years fieldwork by a large number of volunteer ornithologists surveying birds across the UK.

Vagrants

A number of species of birds listed on Appendix 1 have been recorded as vagrants, occurring infrequently at various times of the year in Metropolitan UK and in a range of Overseas Territories. For example, *Tryngites subruficollis*, the buff-breasted sandpiper; *Dendroica caerulea* the cerulean warbler, *Calidris canutus rufa* Red Knot, *Calidris pusilla* Semipalmated Sandpiper and *Dendroica kirtlandii* Kirtland's warbler, have occurred in Bermuda as vagrants, and *Acrocephalus paludicola* the aquatic warbler, has occurred in the Isle of Man. Additionally, the lesser kestrel, *Falco naumanni*, and Far-Eastern curlew, *Numenius madagascariensis*, have occurred in the British Indian Ocean Territory. The occurrence of these vagrant species is carefully logged. Albeit that their presence is transitory, they are protected under wider bird protection legislation.

Semi palmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Bermuda: Recorded by Amos (1991) as an 'often abundant transient', and by Dobson (2002) as a 'migrant' which is abundant in the autumn. Historic records indicate 130 birds were at Spittal Pond in August 1976, 517 in a day on September 13 1973, 165 in a day on May 24th 1981 and 18 on June 10 1975. The most recent record of this species on Bermuda was 3 specimens photographed on October 26th 2016 (<http://ebird.org/ebird/country/BM?yr=all>).

## 2. AQUATIC MAMMALS

### 2.1 General questions on Appendix I aquatic mammals

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

Yes

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

No

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

By-catch

Collision with fishing traffic

Pollution

Other

> Bermuda: Risk of collisions with cruise ship traffic.

Jersey Post Mortem studies of cetaceans living within Jersey waters indicate high levels of pollutants such as PCB's. These POP's are not known to originate from Jersey and are more likely to originate from Mainland Europe. No other local threats are considered to be impacting local populations.

Gibraltar: Collision with ships due to proximity to major shipping channel and bycatch resulting from illegal commercial fisheries carried out by foreign vessels. No cases of mortality due to pollution, nevertheless a possible threat.

Falkland Islands: Lack of census information/data on cetaceans in Falkland Islands waters

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

> Metropolitan UK:

The major overview report Charting Progress 2 published in 2010

(<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141203181034/http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/>) provides a

comprehensive assessment of the state of the UK seas. It was published by the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment community which has over 40 member organisations. The report is based on a robust, peer-reviewed evidence base and describes progress made since the publication of Charting Progress 1 in 2005. It provides key findings from UK marine research and monitoring for use by policy makers and others, which will be used as progress is made towards the UK vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

Marine Management Organisation 2013 Collaborative pinger project: By-catch is the incidental capture of cetaceans during fishing activities is thought to be a major threat to the conservation of small cetaceans (dolphins and porpoises) that are protected by the EU Habitats Directive. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has funded the Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews to work with the fishing industry (mainly in the South West) to address concerns raised by the UK fishing fleet about health and safety and the use of such devices allowed under the Regulation 812/2004.

During 2015, monitoring of vessels using acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs), or 'pingers' has continued. The bass pair trawl fishery, which in the past has been a source of concern with respect to common dolphin bycatch, was effectively ended in 2014 due to concerns over bass stocks and no further monitoring of pinger effectiveness in that fishery has been possible. Monitoring of pingers has since been restricted to the offshore gillnet fleet operating in ICES Subarea 7 from the South West UK and to the Spanish owned UK registered fleet when they operate in Subareas 4 and 7 where pingers are required. This monitoring is designed to help assess the longer-term effects of pingers on cetacean bycatch rates and other potentially associated effects (such as seal depredation levels) in these fisheries.

All UK vessels identified as needing pingers in line with Reg. 812/2004 are now doing so and an enforcement strategy is in place.

Bycatch monitoring is undertaken to meet the requirements of EU Council Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). Defra fund the Sea Mammal Research Unit to monitor fisheries to estimate the total mortality of cetaceans in relevant UK fishing operations and identify any fisheries posing a risk to cetaceans. Details of measures taken to protect cetaceans can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment/supporting-pages/protecting-the-most-threatened-marine-species>.

The UK is committed to and focused on reducing the bycatch of all cetaceans; to do this identification of the fisheries and areas of most concern is needed. It is clear that cetacean bycatch rates in a range of fisheries in the southwest of the UK could be of higher concern, while bycatch in gillnet fisheries in the North Sea, for which monitoring is not strictly required under Regulation 812, is also thought to be of concern (particularly with regard to the harbour porpoise).

Since January 2010 the UK has therefore devoted more monitoring resources into studying gear types and areas such as these. Work has focused on investigating the static net fisheries in both the North Sea and the South West. Monitoring levels in some pelagic trawl fisheries that were consistently showing zero cetacean bycatch have been reduced to allow these changes to be made.

Since 1990, the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP, [www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) has been funded by UK Governments to collate, analyse and report data for all cetacean strandings around the coast of the UK (see [www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)). The CSIP holds data on more than 13,000 cetaceans which were found stranded around the UK between 1990 and 2015. In addition, detailed pathological data is also held on over 3,600 UK stranded cetaceans which were examined at post-mortem by the CSIP during the same period. Data collected on strandings and during post-mortems are now routinely recorded in a web-accessible relational database (<http://data.ukstrandings.org>).

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that are known to bio-accumulate in cetaceans are either banned for usage or strictly regulated in their discharge. Collaborative research by the CSIP and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS, [www.cefas.co.uk/](http://www.cefas.co.uk/)) determines concentrations of POPs in UK-stranded cetacean blubber samples, using an internationally standardised methodology. Analysis is undertaken in batches to meet scientific and policy requirements, via funding by Defra and also via the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS). There is strong evidence that excessively high levels of long-lived contaminants, specifically polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are still present in cetacean apex predators such as bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). Population-level effects are likely to be severe in industrialised regions. The CSIP-CEFAS also provides surveillance capacity for the presence of novel contaminants.

Ascension Island:

Ascension Island has recently added humpback whales to its Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016, as a protected species. As part of the UK Government Blue Belt commitment Ascension Island closed half of its 200nm EFZ to commercial fishing in early 2016 and is currently carrying out the necessary research prior to any formal MPA designation. The other 50% of the zone is open to commercial fishing – however with new stricter licensing criteria which includes observer coverage to collect data on the above..

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Commercial fishing within BIOT ceased in November 2010, following the implementation of the Marine Protected Area, the ecosystem faces continuing threats from illegal fishing. The area is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) activities. All

available assets are used – including the BIOT patrol vessel, military vessels / aircraft, and yachts which are issued permits – to develop this picture. Collaboration with neighbours in the Indian Ocean enhances protection of its ecosystem, ensures compliance with its regulations, and develops enforcement capability.

Cayman Islands:

The National Conservation Law (2013) is now fully implemented and all marine mammals are protected within Cayman Islands EEZ..

Gibraltar:

Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and implementation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme. Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, no fishing and no anchoring zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. These Regulations are primarily enforced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change's Environment Research and Protection Unit.

SBA Cyprus:

There is a close monitoring of fishing activities occurring near the sea caves where Monk Seals can be found.

Falkland Islands:

Twenty cetacean species reside in or migrate through Falkland Islands waters. JNCC surveys and Marine Mammal Observations supporting hydrocarbons exploration have informed on cetaceans present over the last 15 years.

The Falkland Islands Cetaceans Strandings Database is maintained by the Falkland Islands Government and records all cetaceans strandings.

Recent 'Marine Spatial Planning' work including; paper 'Use of local ecological knowledge to investigate endangered baleen whale recovery in the Falkland Islands', Frans, V.F., and Augé, A.A. 2016, Biological Conservation.

Two cetaceans projects started in 2016:

Inshore Dolphins of the Kelp Project – led by South Atlantic Environmental research institute (SAERI).

Developing a site-based conservation approach for Sei whales *Balaenoptera borealis* at Berkeley Sound, Falkland Islands – led by Falklands Conservation.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Historically, South Georgia was a key feeding ground for many species of cetacean. During the first half of the twentieth century tens of thousands of whales were hunted for their oil. Today, strict legislation protects all of South Georgia's wildlife and one of the worlds largest Marine Protected Areas helps safeguard whale food supplies and migration routes. A dedicated fishery patrol vessel ensures compliance with conservation measures as well as deterring IUU. Populations of most cetacean species are slowly recovering, although they remain far below levels during the pre-whaling era. There is no systematic cetacean monitoring programme in place but periodic Government funded surveys and scientific research cruises have recorded cetacean distributions in the waters around South Georgia. Cetacean sightings from fishing vessels are also reported by the scientific observers which are onboard each vessel as part of licence conditions. Sightings from cruise ships are also logged at the South Georgia museum. In an attempt to better track changes in cetacean populations, funding is now in place to bring together cetacean sighting information into a single online database. There is a spatial overlap between the commercial fishing fleet and baleen and toothed cetaceans during times of fishing. Currently there is no suggestion that the fishing fleet restricts cetacean migration; any detrimental interaction between vessels and cetacean species would be detected and reported through 100% scientific observer coverage on all vessels with daily reporting enforced through licence conditions and legislation.

St Helena:

St Helena's 200nm maritime zone was designated a Category VI Marine Protected Area in September 2016. A Marine Management Plan is in place.

Four cetacean species reside in or migrate through St. Helena's waters. All four species are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

A local marine sighting scheme supports information present over the last 18 years.

The St. Helena marine sighting scheme database is maintained by the St. Helena Government and records all cetaceans strandings.

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

> Metropolitan UK: Extrapolated total bycatches for 2015 suggest somewhere around 1,200-1,500 porpoises might have been taken in UK gillnet fisheries, though it is recognised that these estimates are likely to be biased high due to some of the assumptions that had to be made for estimation across all gillnet types and areas. Assuming pingers are being used as required by the Regulation, at least 200 fewer porpoises should have been caught in 2015 than would have been in absence of pingers. Several important caveats apply to these estimates. However, the UK is committed to reducing this uncertainty in future reports and will continue to make all efforts to bring cetacean by-catch down to the lowest possible levels.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Notwithstanding ongoing success in deterring and prosecuting IUU activity, there are challenges in policing the world's largest no-take MPA. Further data collection is underway, in order to guide investment in patrol and interdiction capability. In 2016, nearly \$1 million was invested in assessing the capabilities of other technologies, in particular the potential for remote monitoring (via satellites) to assist with countering IUU activity.

Falkland Islands: Fuller understanding of inshore migratory whales movements (Frans and Auge, 2016).  
Gibraltar: Cetacean & marine reptile monitoring programme established and sightings/stranded individuals' database compiled by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change's Environment Research and Protection Unit. A thorough water quality monitoring programme established under the WFD and marine litter monitoring programme launched in 2016.  
St. Helena: The marine sighting scheme involves citizen science efforts on monitoring cetacean abundance and seasonality.

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?  
> None, however, information exchange and co-operation on these issues from other Parties would be useful.

Falkland Islands: External funding for baseline cetaceans work.  
St. Helena: External funding for baseline cetaceans work.

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

- By-catch
- Other

> Gibraltar: Intense shipping in the Straits of Gibraltar.  
St. Helena: Marine tourism.

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

> See previous sections dealing with by-catch mitigation measures.

Falkland Islands: Upholding the legislation.

Gibraltar: Establishment of a Cetacean Protocol and seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

St Helena: Implementing the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016 and Marine Management Plan. Marine tour operator environmental accreditation scheme.

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

> See section 2a.

Gibraltar: Limited success due to transboundary nature of threats.

St Helena: All local marine tour operators have undertaken training and subsequent assessment on the application of environmental best practise whilst interacting with cetaceans.

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

> Falkland Islands: No reports of collisions or adverse impact on cetacean species in Falkland Islands waters.

Gibraltar: Illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels. International shipping lanes.

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

> Gibraltar Improved coordination and cooperation with regional authorities.

## 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: *Balaenoptera musculus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, British Indian Ocean Territory, and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Metropolitan UK:

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2000. Acoustic monitoring of large whales off north and west Britain and Ireland: a two year study, October 1996-September 1998. JNCC Report No. 313.

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2009. Acoustic monitoring of large whales in the deep waters north and west of the British Isles: 1996-2005. Preliminary Report. UK Department of Energy and Climate Change. 40pp.

Clapham, P.J., Young, S.B. & Brownell, R.Jr. 1999. Baleen whales: conservation issues and the status of the most endangered populations. Mammal Review 29: 35-60.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Gunnlaugsson, T. and Sigurjónsson, J. 1989. NASS-87: Estimation of whale abundance based on observations made on-board Icelandic and Faroese survey vessels ship-board. Rep. Int. Whal. Commn. 40: 571-580.

Nowak, R. 2003. Walker's Marine Mammals of the World. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Perry, S. L., Demaster, D. P. and Silber, G. K. 1999. The great whales: history and status of six species listed as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. Marine Fisheries Review 61(1): 1-74.

Pollock, C.M., Mavor, R., Weir, C.R., Reid, A., White, R.W., Tasker, M.L., Webb, A. & Reid, J.B. 2000. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in the Atlantic Frontier, north and west of Scotland. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Aberdeen.

Reid, J.B., Evans, P.G.H. & Northridge, S.P. 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Sears, R., J. M. Williamson, F. W. Wenzel, M. Berube, D. Gendron and P. Jones 1990. Photographic identification of the blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada. International Whaling Commission Special Issue Report (SC/A88/ID23).

Sigurjónsson, J. and Gunnlaugsson, T. 1990. Recent trends in abundance of blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) off west and southwest Iceland, with a note on occurrence of other cetacean species. Rep. Int. Whal. Comm. 40: 537-551.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Anderson, R.C., Branch, A.B., Alagiyawadu, A., Baldwin, R., & Marsac, F. 2012. 'Seasonal distribution, movements and taxonomic status of blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) in the northern Indian Ocean'. Journal of Cetacean Resources and Management 12, 2: 203-218.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

Moore, M.J., Berrow, S.D., Jensen, B.A., Carr, P., Sears, R., Rowntree, V.J., Payne, R. and Hamilton, P.K. (1999) Relative abundance of large whales around South Georgia (1979-1998). Marine Mammal Science. 15, 1287-1302

Richardson, J., Wood A.G., Neil, A., Nowacek, D. & Moore, M. 2012. Changes in distribution, relative abundance, and species composition of large whales around South Georgia from opportunistic sightings: 1992 to 2011. Endangered Species research, 19: 149-156.

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

not known

> Currently there are no population size estimates for this species in the North Atlantic, although the population is thought to be small (Clapham et al., 1999; Perry et al., 1999; Reid et al., 2003). 203 individuals have been identified in the western North Atlantic (Sears et al., 1990) and 442 in Icelandic waters (Gunnlaugsson & Sigurjónsson 1990; Sigurjónsson & Gunnlaugsson 1990).

This species is a rare visitor to UK waters (Reid et al. 2003) with the population thought to be small (Clapham et al. 1999; Reid et al. 2003), and is believed to have declined by 98% in the North Atlantic over 60 years in the first part of the twentieth century as a result of commercial whaling (Nowak, 2003).

No blue whales were reported stranded in the UK during the period of this report (2014-2016) (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. No strandings have been recorded in the UK since 1923).

British Indian Ocean Territory:

No blue whale catches, sightings or strandings have been recorded. Acoustic monitoring data, however, demonstrated that this species was present year-round in Chagos waters, with a major peak in calls detected during April-May and a lesser peak in December-January.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

This species appears to be an infrequent visitor to South Georgian waters, occasionally recorded on research cruises or from cruise ships. The South Georgia Museum whale sightings database (1991-2015) contains 28 records of blue whale sightings, with an estimated 69 individuals being recorded. The data base has not been updated in 2016 and records will be transferred to a central environmental data portal. This species has been seen by scientific observer on krill fishing vessels in recent years.

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

not known

> *B. musculus* has most recently been recorded in deep waters in the Faroe-Shetland Channel and the Rockall Trough (Charif & Clark, 2000, 2009; Pollock et al. 2000). Acoustic monitoring to the west of the European continental shelf has indicated a peak occurrence during November and December (Charif & Clark 2000, 2009).

British Indian Ocean Territory: See 2a.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Distribution is unclear. Sightings have been recorded all around the island, with an apparent peak around Shag Rocks.

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> British Indian Ocean Territory: Establishment of a 'no take' Marine Protected Area in 2010.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: The UK has been a major supporter of cetacean monitoring and the coordination of such work. Monitoring of cetacean species in the UK is a collaboration between several organisations. The data collection for SCANS III was undertaken in 2016. The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded cetaceans, conducting systematic necropsies on a proportion, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: All baleen whales are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Legislation has been reviewed in order to provide cetaceans with extra protection from disturbance. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has developed guidelines aimed at minimising the risk of acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys, which were updated in 2010; guidelines for use for explosives and piling were published in 2010 ([http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc\\_guidelines\\_piling%20protocol\\_august%202010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_guidelines_piling%20protocol_august%202010.pdf)). All cetaceans are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law. Additionally, amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (England and Wales) and the Offshore Marine Regulations (OMR) which came into force in 2007 have necessitated the development of guidance to help users understand the legal requirements under the Habitats Directive in relation to disturbance of cetaceans.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 including a specific offence to use a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a way that disturbs any marine mammal of the order Cetacea.

Control hunting / poaching

> Metropolitan UK: Whaling is illegal in UK waters (Fisheries Act 1981).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Whaling is illegal in BIOT waters.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Hunting is prohibited under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 and the Maritime Zone is patrolled by a dedicated patrol vessel.

Habitat protection

> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. Rigorous fisheries management includes CCAMLR conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and MSC certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from pollution or poaching.

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:

> *B. musculus* was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an Action plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued implementation is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

## Species name: *Megaptera novaeangliae*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Ascension Island, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, St Helena, and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2000. Acoustic monitoring of large whales off north and west Britain and Ireland: a two year study, October 1996-September 1998. JNCC Report No. 313.

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2009. Acoustic monitoring of large whales in the deep waters north and west of the British Isles: 1996-2005. Preliminary Report. UK Department of Energy and Climate Change. 40pp.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Evans, P.G.H. 1996. Humpback whales in Shetland. Shetland Cetacean Report 1995: 7-8.

Evans, P.G.H. 1996. Sightings frequency and distribution of cetaceans in Shetland waters. The Shetland Cetacean Group Report 1995: 9-18.

Jepson, P.D. (Ed.). 2006. Trends in cetacean strandings around the UK coastline and cetacean and marine turtle post-mortem investigations, 2000 to 2004 inclusive. Defra Contract CRO 238.

Pollock, C.M., Mavor, R., Weir, C.R., Reid, A., White, R.W., Tasker, M.L., Webb, A. & Reid, J.B. 2000. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in the Atlantic Frontier, north and west of Scotland. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Aberdeen.

Reid, J.B., Evans, P.G.H. & Northridge, S.P. 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

**Bermuda**

Stone, G. S., S. K. Katona. 1986. Migration studies of Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) at Bermuda - Final report. Submitted as final report to the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration. Grant #3052-85. BAMZ publication #1367.

Stevenson, A. 2011. Whale Song: journeys into the secret lives of the North Atlantic humpbacks. Constable and Robinson Ltd. UK. Published by the Bermuda Humpback Whale Research Project. p.165.

**Cayman Islands:**

Sightings recorded in Department of Environment sightings database.

**South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:**

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

Moore, M.J., Berrow, S.D., Jensen, B.A., Carr, P., Sears, R., Rowntree, V.J., Payne, R. and Hamilton, P.K. 1999. Relative abundance of large whales around South Georgia (1979-1998). *Marine Mammal Science*. 15, 1287-1302

Richardson, J., Wood A.G., Neil, A., Nowacek, D. & Moore, M. 2012. Changes in distribution, relative abundance, and species composition of large whales around South Georgia from opportunistic sightings: 1992 to 2011. *Endangered Species research*, 19: 149-156.

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

not known

### > Metropolitan UK:

Populations of *M. novaeangliae* in the North Atlantic (and elsewhere) were severely depleted by whaling, with the largest numbers taken during the 19th century. There are now signs that populations are recovering in the northwest Atlantic and around Iceland. Numbers of sightings in UK inshore waters have been increasing. Humpback sightings, although few, are now reported annually in UK waters.

The CSIP database contains 17 records of *M. novaeangliae* strandings around the UK coast (1990-2013). Six humpback whales were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016), of which two were examined at post-mortem (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional- validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP annual report for 2016).

Records of humpback whales in UK waters are too few to allow estimation of abundance but the limited data available suggest use throughout the year, probably during migration and for feeding.

### Bermuda:

Regularly seen in winter and spring. No population estimate available.

### Gibraltar:

Few records with one individual spending over 1 month feeding in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in 2016.

### St Helena:

Cetacean report 2003-2012 available at [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/marine-division](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/marine-division).

### South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Humpback whales were formerly found in large numbers around South Georgia but were heavily hunted in the early twentieth century with approximately 18,000 animals killed from 1909 to 1915. Now, humpback whales are sighted around South Georgia throughout the year but are more numerous in the summer months, although the population is far lower than the pre-whaling era. Humpback whales are also numerous around the South Sandwich Islands in the summer months. The South Georgia Museum whale sightings database (1991-2015) contains 110 records of humpback whale sightings, with an estimated 294 individuals being

recorded. The data base has not been updated in 2016 and records will be transferred to a central environmental data portal.

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

stable

> Metropolitan UK:

This species is regularly recorded by acoustic monitoring between November and March, mostly north of Scotland (Charif & Clark, 2000, 2009; Pollock et al. 2000). In the Northern Isles, up to three individuals have been seen annually since 1992, with sightings also in the northern Irish Sea and Firth of Clyde, and the southern Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and western Channel (where one or two individuals have been reported in most years since 1990) (Evans, 1996). A few are observed in British shelf waters in spring and summer, particularly around the Northern Isles and western areas (Pollock et al. 2000; Reid et al. 2003) and in the North Sea. Deep waters beyond the continental shelf to the west of Britain probably form part of the migration route of *M. novaeangliae*.

St. Helena

Sightings indicate no change in seasonal patterns of Humpback Whales (June – December).

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Sightings indicate that humpback whales spend much of their time in inshore waters. Inter-annual fluctuations in krill abundance influence the distribution of this species. Photo identification suggests that the animals around SGSSI come from the Brazilian breeding population.

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

Research

> Bermuda: behaviour and numbers were recorded by the Bermuda Humpback Whale Project, beginning in 2007. A large number of fluke identification photos continue to be collected and matched to Humpback catalogues from North America. An episode of the Ocean Vet TV series focused on collecting blubber samples from humpbacks to test for toxins.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: The UK has been a major supporter of cetacean monitoring and the coordination of such work. Monitoring of cetacean species in the UK is a collaboration between several organisations. The data collection for SCANS III was undertaken in 2016. The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded cetaceans, conducting systematic necropsies on a proportion, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters.

St. Helena: Marine sighting scheme and photo ID.

Education / awareness rising

> Bermuda: The Bermuda Humpback Whale Project visited schools on the island to give presentations on humpbacks. A 60 minute documentary film was created which has won international awards, and continues to be shown locally. New footage of humpbacks taken using drones is shown in the arrivals hall of the Bermuda International airport. A protected species datasheet for the humpback whale was published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2016. <http://environment.bm/s/Level-1-Humpback-whale.pdf>.

St Helena: Each year the Marine Section of the Environmental Management Division hosts a marine awareness week which includes presentations and marine themed events and activities for the local population. The marine sightings scheme is promoted monthly.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: All baleen whales are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Legislation has been reviewed in order to provide cetaceans with extra protection from disturbance. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has developed guidelines aimed at minimising the risk of acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys, which were updated in 2010; guidelines for use for explosives and piling were published in 2010

([http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc\\_guidelines\\_piling%20protocol\\_august%202010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_guidelines_piling%20protocol_august%202010.pdf)). All cetaceans are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law. Additionally, amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (England and Wales) and the Offshore Marine Regulations (OMR) which came into force in 2007 have necessitated the development of guidance to help users understand the legal requirements under the Habitats Directive in relation to disturbance of cetaceans.

Humpback whale is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, the Scottish Biodiversity List, and the Northern Ireland Priority list, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats.

Ascension: Legal protection under the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016,.

Bermuda: The humpback whale was protected under the Bermuda Protected Species Act in 2012. Humpback whales are listed as level 1 species – the highest level of protection on the Protected Species Amendment Order 2016.

Gibraltar: Legal protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991. Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, no fishing and no anchoring-take zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. These Regulations 2014 are primarily enforced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change's Environment Research and Protection Unit.

St Helena: The humpback whale is listed as a protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 including a specific offence to use a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a way that disturbs any marine mammal of the order Cetacea.

Control hunting / poaching

> Metropolitan UK: Whaling is illegal in UK waters (Fisheries Act 1981).

St Helena: The humpback whale is listed as a protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Hunting is prohibited under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 and the Maritime Zone is patrolled by a dedicated patrol vessel.

Habitat protection

> Bermuda: A sister sanctuary MOU was signed in 2012 between the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) in the United States and the Bermuda Government, recognising that the Bermuda Marine Mammal Sanctuary (Bermuda's EEZ) falls along the migratory route of humpback whales moving from the SBNMS to their winter breeding grounds in the Caribbean. In 2016 the Bermuda Government has been represented at workshops with European and Caribbean collaborators on managing MPAs for whales.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. Rigorous fisheries management includes CCAMLR conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and MSC certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from pollution or poaching.

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:

> Metropolitan UK:

*M. novaeangliae* was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an Action Plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued action is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Ascension Island:

Around Ascension Island it is hoped that further observations and photo ID of the flukes will help understand more about the few individuals that regularly use Ascension's waters as their calving grounds.

Bermuda:

The sister sanctuary agreement will be reviewed and probably renewed in 2017. The Humpback Whale Research Project ([www.whalesbermuda.com](http://www.whalesbermuda.com)) is ongoing.

St Helena:

As for Ascension - around St Helena Island it is hoped that further observations and photo ID of the flukes will help understand more about the few individuals that regularly use St Helena's waters as their calving grounds.

## Species name: *Monachus monachus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from SBA Cyprus.

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

not known

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

not known

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

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

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

> Closer monitoring and actions on species protection will be carried out. In the past two years there has been an a lot of interest in visiting the sea caves by diving clubs and individuals and if not properly managed this could eventually become a threat factor. Actions will comprise awareness campaigns (and clarification to various stakeholders on what is prohibited by legislation) as well as enforcement actions.

### **Species name: *Balaenoptera borealis***

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Falkland Islands, and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Cattanach, K.L., Sigurjonsson, J., Buckland, S.T. & Gunnlaugsson, TH. 1993. Sei whale abundance, estimated from Icelandic and Faroese NASS-87 and NASS-89 data. Report of the International Whaling commission 43: 315-321.

CODA. 2009. Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance in the European Atlantic (CODA). See:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253874697\\_Cetacean\\_Offshore\\_Distribution\\_and\\_Abundance\\_in\\_the\\_European\\_Atlantic\\_CODA](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253874697_Cetacean_Offshore_Distribution_and_Abundance_in_the_European_Atlantic_CODA).

Macleod, K., Burt, M.L., Cañadas, A., Rogan, E., Santos, B., Uriarte, A., Van Canneyt, O., Vázquez J.A., & Hammond P.S. 2009. Appendix I: Design-based estimates of cetacean abundance in offshore European Atlantic waters.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Jepson, P.D. (Ed). 2006. Trends in cetacean strandings around the UK coastline and cetacean and marine turtle post-mortem investigations, 2000 to 2004 inclusive. Defra Contract CRO 238.

Macleod, K., Simmonds, M. P. and Murray, L. 2006. Abundance of fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and sei whales (*B. borealis*) amid oil exploration and development off northwest Scotland. *J. Cetacean Res. Man.* 8(3):247-254.

NAMMCO/IWC. 2007. Report of the Joint NAMMCO/IWC Scientific Workshop on the Catch History, Stock Structure and Abundance of North Atlantic Fin Whales. *J. Cetacean Research and Management.* 9 (suppl.).

Pollock, C.M., Mavor, R., Weir, C.R., Reid, A., White, R.W., Tasker, M.L., Webb, A. & Reid, J.B. 2001. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in the Atlantic Frontier, north and west of Scotland. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Aberdeen.

Reid, J.B., Evans, P.G.H. & Northridge, S.P. 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Falkland Islands:

Falkland Islands Species Action Plan for Cetaceans (2008-18), 2008. Environmental Planning Dept, Falkland Islands Government.

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

Frans, V.F., and Augé, A.A. 2016. Use of local ecological knowledge to investigate endangered baleen whale recovery in the Falkland Islands', *Biological Conservation.*

White, R.W., Reid, J.B., Black, A.D. & Gillon, K.W., 1999. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands, 1998-1999. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 93pp.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W., Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2001. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in Falkland Islands waters. JNCC, Peterborough.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W. Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2002. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 106pp.

Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database, Falkland Islands Government.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003.

Falklands Conservation.

Richardson, J., Wood A.G., Neil, A., Nowacek, D. & Moore, M. 2012. Changes in distribution, relative abundance, and species composition of large whales around South Georgia from opportunistic sightings: 1992 to 2011. *Endangered Species research*, 19: 149-156.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

No precise population estimates exist for *B. borealis* in the North Atlantic. Sightings surveys undertaken in late 1987 and 1989 indicate a possible abundance of 13,500 individuals (Cattanach et al. 1993). For the European Atlantic, CODA estimated the offshore abundance to be 370 (95% CI: 180 – 760) in July 2007 (CODA, 2009). The CSIP database contains six records of *B. borealis* strandings around the UK coast (1990-2013). No sei whales were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016) (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press,).

Falkland Islands:

The Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database lists 8 strandings of Sei whales in the Falkland Islands, between 2002 and 2016, the most recent being in May 2016.

Frans and Auge (2016) note the increased observation of Sei whales in several hotspots inshore Falkland Islands which reflects increased sightings of Sei whale inshore FI over the last 10 years.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Population size unclear. Occasionally seen from cruise ships or research vessels. The South Georgia Museum whale sightings database (1991-2015) contains 20 records of sei whale sightings, with an estimated 96 individuals being recorded. The data base has not been updated in 2016 and records will be transferred to a central environmental data portal. A knowledge exchange has been set up between South Georgia and a current Falkland Islands Sei whale project.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

In UK waters, this species is most frequently recorded in the Faroe-Shetland Channel where the abundance of sei whales was estimated at 1,011 (CV=0.35) during July-August 1998 (Macleod et al. 2006). During the July 2007 CODA survey which covered offshore waters to the west of the UK, France and Spain, 12 sightings of sei whale were recorded off northwest Spain resulting in an abundance estimate of about 400 individuals (Macleod et al. 2009). However, the sei whale is often difficult to distinguish from the more numerous fin whale at sea, so could be under-recorded. The animals occurring in UK waters are only a small part of a much larger northeast Atlantic population.

The migration route is thought to pass along the edge of the continental shelf west of Britain and Ireland and *B. borealis* is a rare visitor to UK waters (Reid et al. 2003). All data sources indicate that there are high inter-year variations in occurrence of this species. In UK waters, *B. borealis* is most frequently recorded in the Faroe-Shetland Channel and adjacent waters, also occasionally in deep waters west of Scotland, but only rarely in shelf waters of western Britain. Sightings, although rare, have also been made in the south western approaches, between Ireland and south west England (Pollock et al. 2001).

Falkland Islands:

Frans and Auge (2016) note the increased observation of Sei whales in several hotspots inshore Falkland Islands which indicates their distribution is increasing.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Distribution is unclear. The majority of reported sightings are to the south and west of South Georgia Island.

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

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: The UK has been a major supporter of cetacean monitoring and the coordination of such work. Monitoring of cetacean species in the UK is a collaboration between several organisations. Systematic European Surveys have been undertaken through the SCANS I (1994), SCANS II (Small Cetacean Abundance in the North Sea and Adjacent waters, 2005; <http://biology.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans2/>) and SCANS III (2016, <http://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans3/>) and Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance in the European Atlantic (CODA, 2007; <http://biology.st-andrews.ac.uk/coda/>). The data collection for SCANS III was undertaken in 2016 and abundance estimates are expected early 2017.

The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded cetaceans, conducting systematic necropsies on a proportion, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: All baleen whales are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Legislation has been reviewed in order to provide cetaceans with extra protection from disturbance. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has developed guidelines aimed at minimising the risk of acoustic

disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys, which were updated in 2010; guidelines for use for explosives and piling were published in 2010 ([http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc\\_guidelines\\_piling%20protocol\\_august%202010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_guidelines_piling%20protocol_august%202010.pdf)). All cetaceans are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law. Additionally, amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (England and Wales) and the Offshore Marine Regulations (OMR) which came into force in 2007 have necessitated the development of guidance to help users understand the legal requirements under the Habitats Directive in relation to disturbance of cetaceans.

Sei whale is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, Northern Ireland Priority species list, Scottish Biodiversity List, and Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011.

Control hunting / poaching

> Metropolitan UK: Whaling is illegal in UK waters (Fisheries Act 1981).

Habitat protection

> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. Rigorous fisheries management includes CCAMLR conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and MSC certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from pollution or poaching.

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:

> Metropolitan UK:

*B. borealis* was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an Action Plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued implementation is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Falkland Islands:

Developing a site-based conservation approach for Sei whales *Balaenoptera borealis* at Berkeley Sound, Falkland Islands - led by Falklands Conservation. This project will start the assessment of numbers of Sei Whales in Berkeley Sound, one of the Sei whale hotspots identified in Frans and Auge 2016.

## Species name: *Balaenoptera physalus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Buckland, S. T., Cattanach, K. L. and Lens, S. 1992. Fin whale abundance in the eastern North Atlantic, estimated from Spanish NASS-89 data. Reports of the International Whaling Commission 42: 457-460.

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2000. Acoustic monitoring of large whales off north and west Britain and Ireland: a two year study, October 1996-September 1998. JNCC Report No. 313.

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2009. Acoustic monitoring of large whales in the deep waters north and west of the British Isles: 1996-2005. Preliminary Report. UK Department of Energy and Climate Change. 40pp.

CODA. 2009. Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance in the European Atlantic (CODA). See: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253874697\\_Cetacean\\_Offshore\\_Distribution\\_and\\_Abundance\\_in\\_the\\_European\\_Atantic\\_CODA](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253874697_Cetacean_Offshore_Distribution_and_Abundance_in_the_European_Atantic_CODA).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Evans, P.G.H., Anderwald, P. & Baines, M.E. 2003. UK Cetacean Status Review. Report to English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales. 159 pp.

IWC. 2009. Report of the First Intersessional RMP Workshop on North Atlantic Fin Whales. J. Cetacean Res. Manage. 11 (Suppl.).

Macleod, K., Simmonds, M. P. and Murray, L. 2006. Abundance of fin (Balaenoptera physalus) and sei whales (B. borealis) amid oil exploration and development off northwest Scotland. J. Cetacean Res. Man. 8(3):247-254.

NAMMCO/IWC. 2007. Report of the Joint NAMMCO/IWC Scientific Workshop on the Catch History, Stock Structure and Abundance of North Atlantic Fin Whales. J. Cetacean Research and Management. 9 (suppl.).

Reid, J.B., Evans, P.G.H. & Northridge, S.P. 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Weir, C.R., Pollock, C., Cronin, C. & Taylor, S. 2001. Cetaceans of the Atlantic Frontier, north and west of Scotland. Continental Shelf Science 21: 1047-1071.

Gibraltar:

de Stephanis, R., Cornulier, T., Verborgh, P., Salazar Sierra, J., Pérez Gimeno, N, & Guinet, C. 2008. Summer spatial distribution of cetaceans in the Strait of Gibraltar in relation to the oceanographic context. Marine Ecology Progress Series , vol. 353 , pp. 275-288.

Reeves R., Notarbartolo di Sciarra G. (compilers and editors). 2006. The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain. 137 pp.

Ruiz-Girádez, F., Montero, A., Gálvez, R., & García-Gómez, J.C. (2003) Resultados preliminares del estudio de las poblaciones de cetaceos en la Bahía de Gibraltar. Almoraima, 31: 325-330.

Vazquez-Torres, C., Munoz-Ferrera de Castro, J.L. (2003) Varamientos de mamíferos marinos y tortugas marinas en el Campo de Gibraltar. Almoraima, 31: 331-339.

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at: [https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at: [https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

Falkland Islands:

Falkland Islands Species Action Plan for Cetaceans (2008-18), 2008, Environmental Planning Dept, Falkland Islands Government

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

Frans, V.F., and Augé, A.A. 2016, Use of local ecological knowledge to investigate endangered baleen whale recovery in the Falkland Islands', Biological Conservation.

White, R.W., Reid, J.B., Black, A.D. & Gillon, K.W., 1999. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands, 1998-1999. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 93pp.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W., Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2001. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in Falkland Islands waters. JNCC, Peterborough.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W. Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2002. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 106pp.

Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database, Falkland Islands Government.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

Richardson, J., Wood A.G., Neil, A., Nowacek, D. & Moore, M. 2012. Changes in distribution, relative abundance, and species composition of large whales around South Georgia from opportunistic sightings: 1992 to 2011. Endangered Species research, 19: 149-156.

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

not known

### > Metropolitan UK:

The current best estimate of abundance in the UK EEZ based on the SCANS-II (2005) and CODA (2007) estimates is 741 animals (CV=0.19). The number of fin whales utilising UK waters varies annually and the only other estimate of fin whale abundance within part of the UK EEZ comes from a survey of the west of the Outer Hebrides and Faroe-Shetland Channel in August 1998 (Macleod et al. 2006). Abundance of fin whales in the survey area was 933 animals (CV=0.38) and density was estimated to be 0.021 animals/sq km; this is at the upper end of the confidence intervals for CODA block 1 surveys in July 2007.

For management purposes, UK fin whales were grouped into the British Isles-Spain-Portugal stock by the International Whaling Commission in the mid-1970s (IWC, 2009); it was one of seven stocks. However, it is now apparent that there are 2-4 breeding stocks which use the seven management areas in different

proportions (NAMMCO/IWC, 2007). The accepted abundance estimate for the Spain-Portugal-British Isles area comes from a 1989 survey of 17,355 animals (CV 0.27) in (Buckland et al. 1992). The Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance survey (CODA, 2009) area covered offshore waters (beyond the continental shelf edge) from the Faroe-Shetland Channel, south into the Bay of Biscay in July 2007; the total abundance was 13,966 (0.27) but the area of CODA was smaller than the IWC management unit. New estimates of abundance are expected early 2017 from the SCANS-III survey undertaken in summer 2016.

Fin whales are most abundant in UK waters during the summer, when feeding. The North Atlantic fin whales have more recently been divided into feeding 'sub-units', with fin whales to the west of Scotland (and Ireland) belonging to the east Iceland and Faroes subunit; southwest UK sits within the Spanish sub-unit; and the northern North Sea (including Northern Isles) are with the North and West Norway subunit (IWC, 2009).

Therefore, during the summer it is likely that fin whales from different sub-units are present in UK waters. The CSIP database contains 40 records of *B. physalus* strandings around the UK coast (1990-2013). Eight fin whales were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016), of which four were examined at post-mortem (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional- validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP annual report for 2016).

Falkland Islands:

Population unknown. The Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database lists 7 strandings of fin whales at separate locations in the Falkland Islands, between 1955 and 2008.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The South Georgia Museum whale sightings database (1991-2014) contains 81 records of fin whale sightings, with an estimated 417 individuals being recorded.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

Based on expert judgement, the current range for fin whales in UK waters has all significant ecological variations for the given biogeographical region, and is sufficiently large to be considered suitable for the survival of the species for the foreseeable future. However, the range in UK waters is only a proportion of the total range of this species. It should also be noted, that the range of this species changes seasonally. In spring/summer months fin whales are probably most numerous and widespread in UK waters as they are migrating off the shelf edge and utilising UK waters for feeding. The range of over wintering animals in UK waters is probably somewhat smaller.

Around the UK, *B. physalus* is mostly seen in deep waters beyond the edge of the continental shelf and during the summer and autumn (Weir et al. 2001; Reid et al. 2003). However there are also winter records from shelf waters southwest of Britain, including juveniles (Evans et al. 2003). Acoustic data show *B. physalus* to be present year round in UK waters (Charif & Clark 2000, 2009).

Gibraltar:

The distribution is currently classified as unclear although data on outgoing migratory routes through British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) are available. BGTW, especially the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC, encompasses a significant area of the migratory routes for Fin whales into and out of the Mediterranean.

Falkland Islands:

Population unknown. Taken from White et al. (1999, 2002): 57 sightings of fin whales were made in Falkland Islands waters.

The Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database lists 7 strandings of fin whales at separate locations in the Falkland Islands, between 1955 and 2008.

Marine mammal observers recorded 122 sightings of fin whales during seismic and site survey works to support hydrocarbons exploration offshore Falklands in the North Falkland Basin and South Falkland Basin (Q1 2007, Q4 2007, Q1 2008, Q1 2009, and Q1 and Q2 2011).

Frans and Auge (2016) note the increased observation of Sei and Fin whales in several hotspots inshore Falkland Islands which reflects increased sightings of Sei and Fin whales inshore FI over the last 10 years.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

The distribution is 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):

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Gibraltar: Designation of Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: The UK has been a major supporter of cetacean monitoring and the coordination of such work. Monitoring of cetacean species in the UK is a collaboration between several organisations. Systematic European Surveys have been undertaken through the SCANS I (1994), SCANS II (Small Cetacean Abundance in the North Sea and Adjacent waters, 2005; <http://biology.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans2/>) and SCANS III (2016, <http://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans3/>) and Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance in the European Atlantic (CODA, 2007; <http://biology.st-andrews.ac.uk/coda/>). New estimates of abundance are expected early 2017 from the SCANS-III survey undertaken in summer 2016.

The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded cetaceans, conducting systematic necropsies on a proportion, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters.

Gibraltar: Cetacean monitoring programme.

Education / awareness rising

> Gibraltar: Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: All baleen whales are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Legislation has been reviewed in order to provide cetaceans with extra protection from disturbance. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has developed guidelines aimed at minimising the risk of acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys, which were updated in 2010; guidelines for use for explosives and piling were published in 2010

([http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc\\_guidelines\\_piling%20protocol\\_august%202010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_guidelines_piling%20protocol_august%202010.pdf)). All cetaceans are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law. Additionally, amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (England and Wales) and the Offshore Marine Regulations (OMR) which came into force in 2007 have necessitated the development of guidance to help users understand the legal requirements under the Habitats Directive in relation to disturbance of cetaceans.

Fin whale is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, Scottish Biodiversity List, and Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats.

Gibraltar: Legal protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991. Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, no fishing and no anchoring-take zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. These Regulations 2014 are primarily enforced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change's Environment Research and Protection Unit.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 including a specific offence to use a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a way that disturbs any marine mammal of the order Cetacea.

Control hunting / poaching

> Metropolitan UK: Whaling is illegal in UK waters (Fisheries Act 1981).

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Hunting is prohibited under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 and the Maritime Zone is patrolled by a dedicated patrol vessel.

Habitat protection

> Gibraltar: Designation of Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. Rigorous fisheries management includes CCAMLR conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and MSC certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from pollution or poaching.

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:

> Metropolitan UK:

B. physalus was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an Action Plan(<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued implementation is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Gibraltar:

Continued monitoring as part of the cetacean monitoring programme.

## **Species name: Eubalaena glacialis (North Atlantic)**

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK.

Clapham, P.J., Young, S.B. & Brownell, R. Jr. 1999. Baleen whales: conservation issues and the status of the

most endangered populations. Mammal Review 29: 35-60.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

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Evans, P.G.H. 1992. Status Review of Cetaceans in British and Irish Waters. Sea Watch Foundation report to the UK Department of the Environment.

Evans, P.G.H., Anderwald, P. and Baines, M.E., 2003. UK Cetacean Status Review. Report to English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales. 159pp.

Evans, P.G.H. 2008. Whales, Porpoises and Dolphins. In: Harris, S. & Yalden, D.W. (Eds). Mammals of the British Isles. Chapter 12, pp 655-779. The Mammal Society.

Evans, P.G.H., Anderwald, P. & Baines, M.E. 2003. UK Cetacean Status Review. Report to English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales. 159 pp.

Knowlton, A.R., Kraus, S.D. & Denney, R.D. 1994. Reproduction in North Atlantic right whales, *Eubalaena glacialis*. Canadian Journal of Zoology 72: 1297-1305.

Perry, S. L., Demaster, D. P. and Silber, G. K. 1999. The great whales: history and status of six species listed as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. Marine Fisheries Review. 61(1): 1-74.

Pettis, H. 2009. North Atlantic right whale consortium annual report card (01 November 2007 - 30 April 2009). Paper SC/61/BRG11 presented to the IWC Scientific Committee, June 2009, Madeira, Portugal (unpublished). 7pp.

Reid, J.B., Evans, P.G.H. & Northridge, S.P. 2003. Atlas of cetacean distribution in north-west European waters. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

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

not known

> A small proportion of around 400 animals persist in the northwest Atlantic (Knowlton et al. 1994; Perry et al. 1999). The population status in the eastern North Atlantic is unknown (Reid et al. 2003). Those seen in UK waters are likely to be wanderers from the western North Atlantic (Reid et al. 2003; Evans, 2008). There is no UK population.

No Northern right whales were reported stranded in the UK during the period of this report (2014-2016) (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. No strandings have been reported in the UK since formal recording of stranding events by the Natural History Museum began in 1913).

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

not known

> The northwest Atlantic population consists of about 400 whales (Pettis, 2009). The population status in the eastern North Atlantic is unknown (Reid et al., 2003). Rare sightings are made in European waters from Norway to Spain and the Canaries, and particularly to the west of Britain.

UK records include sightings in September 1974, approximately 600km west of Scotland (Evans 1992), May 1979 in the northern Irish Sea (Evans 1992), August 1980 Outer Hebrides, Scotland (Evans 1992), June 2000 Hatton Bank, north-west of Rockall (Evans et al., 2003) and July 2000 north of Shetland (Evans et al., 2003). There are no records of this species in the Joint Cetacean Protocol for this reporting period; the Joint Cetacean Protocol is a facility for combining and analysing effort-related survey data from a wide variety of survey platforms (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5657>). However, in May 2012, there was an unconfirmed sighting of this species off Lizard Point, Cornwall in the UK (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-18173772>) and a further confirmed sighting, also off Cornwall, in 2015.

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

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: The UK has been a major supporter of cetacean monitoring and the coordination of such work. Monitoring of cetacean species in the UK is a collaboration between several organisations. The data collection for SCANS III was undertaken in 2016. The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded cetaceans, conducting systematic necropsies on a proportion, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: All baleen whales are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Legislation has been reviewed in order to provide cetaceans with extra protection from disturbance. The Joint

Nature Conservation Committee has developed guidelines aimed at minimising the risk of acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys, which were updated in 2010; guidelines for use for explosives and piling were published in 2010 ([http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc\\_guidelines\\_piling%20protocol\\_august%202010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_guidelines_piling%20protocol_august%202010.pdf)). All cetaceans are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law. Additionally, amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (England and Wales) and the Offshore Marine Regulations (OMR) which came into force in 2007 have necessitated the development of guidance to help users understand the legal requirements under the Habitats Directive in relation to disturbance of cetaceans.

Control hunting / poaching

> Metropolitan UK: Whaling is illegal in UK waters (Fisheries Act 1981).

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:

> E. glaucalis was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an Action Plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued action is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

## Species name: *Physeter macrocephalus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Charif, R.A. & Clark, C.W. 2000. Acoustic monitoring of large whales off north and west Britain and Ireland: a two-year study, October 1996-September 1998. JNCC Report No. 313.

CODA. 2009. Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance in the European Atlantic (CODA). See: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253874697\\_Cetacean\\_Offshore\\_Distribution\\_and\\_Abundance\\_in\\_the\\_European\\_Atlantic\\_CODA](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253874697_Cetacean_Offshore_Distribution_and_Abundance_in_the_European_Atlantic_CODA).

Macleod, K., Burt, M.L., Cañadas, A., Rogan, E., Santos, B., Uriarte, A., Van Canneyt, O., Vázquez J.A., & Hammond P.S. 2009. Appendix I: Design-based estimates of cetacean abundance in offshore European Atlantic waters.

Swift, R.J., Gillespie D., Vázquez J.A., Macleod K., & Hammond P.S. 2009. Appendix IV: Abundance of sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) estimated from acoustic data for Blocks 2, 3 and 4 (French and Spanish sectors).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011.

[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012,

[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013,

[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014,

[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015.

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Evans, P.G.H., Anderwald, P. & Baines, M.E. 2003. UK Cetacean Status Review. Report to English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales. 159 pp.

Forney, K.A. 2000. Environmental models of cetacean abundance: reducing uncertainty in population trends. *Conservation Biology*, 14, 1271-1286.

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Santos, M.B., Pierce, G.J., Boyle, P.R., Reid, R.J., Ross, H.M., Paterson, A., Kinze, C.C., Tougaard, S., Lick, R., Piatkowski, U. and Hernandez Garcia, V. 1999. Stomach contents of sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) stranded in the North Sea 1990-1996. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 183, 281-294.

Sherwin, T., Allen, J., Bicknell, J., Corbel, G., Embling, C., Evans, J., Ezzi, I., Fones, G., Lamont, P., Mendes, S.,

Mountfield, D., Nielsdottir, M., Provost, P., Singhruck, P. & Stinchcombe, M. 2005. CD176 Cruise Report. Internal Report n. 248. Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban.

Weir, C.R., Pollack, C., Cronin, C. & Taylor, S. 2001. Cetaceans of the Atlantic Frontier, north and west of Scotland. *Continental Shelf Science* 21: 1047-1071.

Whitehead, H. 2002. Estimates of the current global population size and historical trajectory for sperm whales. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 242: 295-304.

Bermuda:

Occasional sightings in local EEZ and 4 stranded individuals between 1974 and 2002 (Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo marine mammal stranding records). A pair was photographed near St. Davids in February 2016.

Cayman Islands:

Sightings and strandings recorded in Department of Environment sightings database.

Brunt, M.A. and Davies, J.E. (Eds) (1994): *The Cayman Islands: Natural History and Biogeography*, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Falkland Islands:

Falkland Islands Species Action Plan for Cetaceans (2008-18), 2008. Environmental Planning Dept, Falkland Islands Government.

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003.

Falklands Conservation.

White, R.W., Reid, J.B., Black, A.D. & Gillon, K.W., 1999. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands, 1998-1999. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 93pp.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W., Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2001. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in Falkland Islands waters. JNCC, Peterborough.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W. Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2002. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 106pp.

Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database, Falkland Islands Government.

Gibraltar:

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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Reeves R., Notarbartolo di Sciara G. (compilers and editors). 2006. *The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea*. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain. 137 pp.

Ruiz-Girádez, F., Montero, A., Gálvez, R., & García-Gómez, J.C. 2003. Resultados preliminares del estudio de las poblaciones de cetáceos en la Bahía de Gibraltar. *Almoraima*, 31: 325-330.

Vazquez-Torres, C., Munoz-Ferrera de Castro, J.L. 2003. Varamientos de mamíferos marinos y tortugas marinas en el Campo de Gibraltar. *Almoraima*, 31: 331-339.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003.

Falklands Conservation.

Richardson, J., Wood A.G., Neil, A., Nowacek, D. & Moore, M. 2012. Changes in distribution, relative abundance, and species composition of large whales around South Georgia from opportunistic sightings: 1992 to 2011. *Endangered Species research*, 19: 149-156.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

The Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance survey (CODA, 2009) estimated the abundance of sperm whales in the offshore European Atlantic as 2,091 (CV = 0.34) (Macleod et al., 2009) using visual data and 2,239 (CV = 0.14) using acoustic data (Swift et al. 2009). The best estimate of abundance for this species in the UK EEZ has been derived from the CODA estimates (July, 2007) and is 673 individuals (CV=0.36); this estimate has made the strong assumption that the density of sperm whales on the shelf are comparable to the lower 95% centile density estimates in their main habitat offshore. Sperm whales in UK waters are only a component of a much wider North Atlantic population but population structuring, globally, is not well understood. The population was, however, almost certainly reduced by whaling (Reid et al. 2003) and it is not known if recovery has occurred or not, although this seems likely (Evans, 1997).

The CSIP database contains 147 records of *P. macrocephalus* strandings around the UK coast (1990-2013). Twenty-two sperm whales were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016), of which nine were examined at post-mortem (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional; validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP annual report for 2016). The largest ever sperm whale mortality event reported in the North Sea was recorded in January and February 2016 when 30 sperm whale stranded in five countries over a period of two months. Six of these sperm whales stranded in England.

Gibraltar:

Population size is estimated to be around 8-10 in the wider Straits of Gibraltar. These individuals frequent British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW), especially the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC, which

encompasses a significant area of the migratory route into and out of the Mediterranean as well as being a prime feeding area for Sperm whales resident in the Straits.

Falkland Islands:

Taken from White et al. (1999, 2002): 28 sightings of sperm whales were made in the extreme north and extreme south of the Falkland Islands with group size ranging from 1 to 4 animals.

Marine mammal observers recorded 39 sightings of sperm whales during seismic and site survey works to support hydrocarbons exploration offshore Falklands to the North East of the Falklands (Q1 2007, Q4 2007, Q1 2008, Q1 2009, and Q1 and Q2 2011).

The Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database lists 16 confirmed strandings of sperm whales at 18 locations in the Falkland Islands, between 1898 and 2011.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Population size unclear. Toothed whales are often sighted near longline fishing vessels and a photo-identification catalogue has been partially developed, which will help to determine animal numbers and movements as they relate fisheries management. Groups of up to 15 individuals of sperm whales can be observed around a single vessel during line hauling. It is thought that a sizable population is present in the winter months. The South Georgia Museum whale sightings database (1991-2015) contains 38 records of sperm whale sightings from cruise ships, with an estimated 69 individuals being recorded. The database has not been updated in 2016 and records will be transferred to a central environmental data portal.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

*P. macrocephalus* occurs to the north and west of the British Isles and Ireland mainly in waters deeper than 500m such as the Faroe-Shetland Channel and Rockhall Trough (Reid et al. 2003; Weir et al. 2001). Very occasionally they occur on the continental shelf, particularly in winter (Evans et al. 2003). They have been recorded in UK waters in all months of the year, with a peak in mid-summer (Charif & Clark 2000, 2009; Weir et al. 2001).

The UK range is primarily used for feeding and as a migration route to more northerly waters and at least parts of it is occupied by sperm whales year-round. Habitats are used preferentially depending on, in particular, the distribution and abundance of prey which, in turn, changes spatially and temporally in response to environmental variability (Forney, 2000). The sperm whale diet is variable, although stranded animals in the North Sea have showed a preference for the squid, *Gonatus fabricii* (Santos et al., 1999). Therefore, the area of habitat utilised will vary seasonally depending on its activity (i.e. migration versus foraging) and spatially depending on prey availability.

Gibraltar:

Distribution is unclear but data are now being collected as part of the Cetacean Monitoring Programme..

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Distribution is unclear. Although difficult to detect during visual surveys, sperm whales appear to be present in South Georgia waters throughout the year. The assessment of distribution of these animals is influenced by the presence of longline fishing vessels during the winter months and animals are known to take toothfish from lines during hauling. Reported sightings are most common around areas with the highest fishing effort i.e. Shag Rocks. Research to investigate the relationship between sperm whales and fishing vessels is ongoing.

Falkland Islands: Distribution unknown.

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: The UK has been a major supporter of cetacean monitoring and the coordination of such work. Monitoring of cetacean species in the UK is a collaboration between several organisations. The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded cetaceans, conducting systematic necropsies on a proportion, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters. The UK was the major contributor to the SCANS-III project which completed surveys of the entire European shelf and offshore waters to generate precise estimates of abundance for cetacean species (<http://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans3/>). This project will report in 2017.

Bermuda: Strandings are recorded by the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo (BAMZ) and if possible samples/measurements are collected from dead animals. Members of the public can report sightings to the Natural History Museum at BAMZ.

Gibraltar: Cetacean monitoring programme currently in operation.

Education / awareness rising

> Bermuda: Protected species information sheet published in 2016: <http://environment.bm/s/Level-1-Sperm-whale.pdf>.

Gibraltar: Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: *P. macrocephalus* is included in the grouped Species Action Plan for toothed whales within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan with implementation now devolved to individual countries (see below). All cetaceans are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law.

Bermuda: The sperm whale was protected under the Bermuda Protected Species Act in 2012. Sperm whales are listed as level 1 species – the highest level of protection on the 2016 Protected Species Amendment Order.

Gibraltar: Legal protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991. Marine Protected Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, no fishing and no anchoring zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 including a specific offence to use a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a way that disturbs any marine mammal of the order Cetacea.

Control hunting / poaching

> Metropolitan UK: Whaling is illegal in UK waters (Fisheries Act 1981).

Bermuda: Hunting is prohibited by both the Fisheries and Protected Species Acts.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Hunting is prohibited under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 and the Maritime Zone is patrolled by a dedicated patrol vessel.

Habitat protection

> Bermuda: Bermuda's Protected Species Act 2003 prohibits the taking, injuring or disturbing of sperm whales within the entire EEZ.

Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. Rigorous fisheries management includes Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from pollution or poaching.

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:

> Metropolitan UK:

*P. macrocephalus* was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an Action Plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued implementation is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Gibraltar:

Continued monitoring as part of the cetacean monitoring programme.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

A programme of research; including deployment of satellite tags, biopsy samples and photo ID has been started and consideration is being given to how to continue this work.

## **Species name: *Delphinus delphis* (Mediterranean population)**

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Gibraltar.

Shaw, E. 1998. Dolphins in the Bay of Gibraltar. *Almoriama*, 19: 161-171.

Perez, C. Biodiversity Action Plan, Gibraltar: Planning for Nature. Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. Available from <http://www.gonhs.org/documents/BiodiversityActionPlan2006web.pdf> [Accessed 12/02/14].

Reeves R., Notarbartolo di Sciara G. 2006. The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain. 137 pp.

Ruiz-Girádez, F., Montero, A., Gálvez, R., & García-Gómez, J.C. 2003. Resultados preliminares del estudio de las poblaciones de cetáceos en la Bahía de Gibraltar. *Almoriama*, 31: 325-330.

Vazquez-Torres, C., Munoz-Ferrera de Castro, J.L. 2003. Varamientos de mamíferos marinos y tortugas marinas

en el Campo de Gibraltar. Almoraima, 31: 331-339.

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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

unclear

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

unclear

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

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC.

Monitoring

> Cetacean monitoring programme.

Education / awareness rising

> Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Legal Protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991. Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, no fishing and no anchoring-take zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. These Regulations 2014 are primarily enforced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change's Environment Research and Protection Unit.

Habitat protection

> Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC.

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:

> Continued cetacean surveillance monitoring. Proposed toxicological assessments of prey species.

### **Species name: *Eubalaena australis***

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Falkland Islands, and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Falkland Islands:

Falkland Islands Species Action Plan for Cetaceans (2008-18), 2008. Environmental Planning Dept, Falkland Islands Government.

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

White, R.W., Reid, J.B., Black, A.D. & Gillon, K.W., 1999. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands, 1998-1999. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 93pp.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W., Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2001. The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in Falkland Islands waters. JNCC, Peterborough.

White, R.W., Gillon, K.W. Black, A.D. & Reid, J.B., 2002. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around the Falkland Islands. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 106pp.

Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database, Falkland Islands Government.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Black, A.D. 2005. Seabird and marine mammal dispersion in the waters around South Georgia 2002-2003. Falklands Conservation.

Moore, M.J., Berrow, S.D., Jensen, B.A., Carr, P., Sears, R., Rowntree, V.J., Payne, R. and Hamilton, P.K. 1999. Relative abundance of large whales around South Georgia (1979-1998). Marine Mammal Science. 15, 1287-1302

Nijs, G., Rowntree, V. J. 2016. Rare sightings of southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*) on a feeding ground off the South Sandwich Islands, including a known individual from Peninsula Valdes, Argentina. Marine

Mammal Science. DOI: 10.1111/mms.12354

Rowntree, V.J., Payne, R. and Schell, D.M. (2001) Changing patterns of habitat use by southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*) on their nursery ground at Peninsula Valdes, Argentina, and in their long-range movements. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, (special issue) 2, 133-143.

Richardson, J., Wood A.G., Neil, A., Nowacek, D. & Moore, M. 2012. Changes in distribution, relative abundance, and species composition of large whales around South Georgia from opportunistic sightings: 1992 to 2011. *Endangered Species research*, 19: 149-156.

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

not known

> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Population size unclear. The South Georgia Museum whale sightings database (1991-2015) contains 187 records of southern-right whale sightings, with an estimated 396 individuals being recorded. The data base has not been updated in 2016 and records will be transferred to a central environmental data portal.

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

not known

> Falkland Islands:

The JNCC surveys recorded southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*) on four occasions over the three-year survey period (White et al., 2002).

Marine mammal observers recorded nine sightings of Southern right whales during seismic and site survey works to support hydrocarbons exploration offshore Falklands in the North Falkland Basin and South Falkland Basin (Q1 2007, Q4 2007, Q1 2008, Q1 2009, and Q1 and Q2 2011).

The Falkland Islands Cetaceans Stranding Database lists two confirmed strandings of Southern right whales at two separate locations in the Falkland islands, both in 1990.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Southern right whales are one of the most frequently sighted species of cetacean around South Georgia during the summer months. The distribution of these animals is linked with that of krill, which can show considerable inter-annual variations. Many of the southern right whales encountered around South Georgia migrate from breeding grounds off the coast of Argentina.

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

Monitoring

> Falkland Islands: Marine mammal observations were undertaken by seismic survey operations in the North Falkland Basin (2007-11) and in the North Falkland Basin and South Falkland Basin (2012-14).

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Collection of historic bone samples for use in genetic and molecular analysis to better understand trophic interactions and pre-whaling population levels.

Species protection

> Falkland Islands: Marine Mammals Ordinance.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 including a specific offence to use a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a way that disturbs any marine mammal of the order Cetacea.

Control hunting / poaching

> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Hunting is prohibited under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 and the Maritime Zone is patrolled by a dedicated patrol vessel.

Habitat protection

> South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. Rigorous fisheries management includes CCAMLR conservation measures, employment of scientific observers and MSC certification of fisheries safeguards food supplies and protects habitats e.g. from pollution or poaching.

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

> Falkland Islands: Population is too erratically recorded and in offshore marine waters to undertake systematic

work other than recording sightings.

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

> Falkland Islands: Implementation of the Falkland Islands Species Action Plan for Cetaceans (2008-18) is ongoing.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands: Funding has been received to carry a baseline survey of South Georgia southern right whale feeding grounds following whaling in order to characterise distribution, diversity, habitat use, health and calving ground connections.

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

> None.

### 3. REPTILES

#### 3.1 General questions on Appendix I reptiles

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> The Marine Management Organisation website provides detail of the possible offences in Metropolitan UK waters <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-marine-species/marine-turtles>.

Some of the UK Overseas Territories specifically prohibit take, but not all.

Bermuda:

The Fisheries (Protected Species) Order 1978 prohibits the taking of any species of marine turtle in Bermuda's EEZ. Five species of marine turtle are protected under the Protected Species Act 2003 (Protected Species Amendment Order 2016).

British Indian Ocean Territory:

The Protection and Preservation of Wild Life Ordinance 1970, together with the regulations issued pursuant to this ordinance protects turtles, as per the below:

- The Green Turtles Protection Regulations 1968:

Prohibition to harpoon, kill, destroy or take possession of turtles or to purchase or sell turtles and turtle products.

- The Wild Life Protection Regulations 2003:

It is an offence for any person to do any of the following:

(a) intentionally to kill, injure or attempt to kill or injure any live animal;

(b) to take or be in possession of any live animal;

(c) to take or be in possession of any dead animal.

Cayman Islands:

National Conservation Law (2013).

Montserrat:

CAP. 12.05 Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Act. Act 2 of 1985. Amended by S.R.O.40 1998.

Revised 2002 is the relevant legislation.

The Trade in Endangered Species Act of 2016 updates CITES requirements for Montserrat. See

<http://agc.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Act-No.-10-of-2016-Trade-in-Endangered-Species-Act-2016.pdf>.

The Conservation and Environmental Management Act 2014 (soon to be amended to cater for the passage of the CITES legislation above) also incorporates a permitting regime that extends to 3nm seaward. The allows for the monitoring of activities, and hopefully the submission of reports by researchers that will be deposited into a clearing house mechanism (yet to be designed). See <http://agc.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/No.-17-of-2014-Conservation-and-Environmental-Management-Act-2014.pdf>.

St Helena:

The hawksbill and green turtle are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

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

> Exceptions may have been made by some Overseas Territories on a case by case basis.

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

Other

> Bermuda:

Collisions with boats, entanglement in marine debris (in discarded fishing line, rope and netting).

Cayman Islands:

Entanglement in discarded fishing line.

Gibraltar:

Collisions with ships due to proximity to major shipping channel and commercial fishing carried out illegally by foreign registered vessels.

Montserrat:

Extreme weather conditions / wave action erode the coast and affects nesting sites of marine turtle. Sea level

rise and retreating beaches. Coastal development.

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

> Bermuda:

By-catch from off shore pelagic (long-line) fishing was documented during the 2007 exploratory fishing project (6 loggerheads). Long lining by foreign flagged vessels in Bermuda waters ceased in 1994; however turtles are probably still being caught by fishing vessels which are illegally fishing in the EEZ. In the autumn of 2016 a new study using 3 years of satellite ship tracking data to attempt to quantify illegal fishing in Bermuda's EEZ was begun.

Turtle alert signs and public awareness campaigns have been used to make boat operators aware that they should move slowly in turtle habitats. Turtles that are injured by boats are rehabilitated at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo animal hospital. Containers were erected at a popular shore side fishing spots by the Bermuda National Trust to collect used fishing line to prevent turtles becoming entangled. The intentional release of helium balloons has been banned to reduce the threat of ingestion of this plastic waste.

Cayman Islands:

A fishing line recycling programme has been established (<http://doe.ky/marine/fishing-line-disposal/fishingline/>).

Gibraltar:

Enforcement of the Nature Protection Act 1991 and the Marine Protection Regulations 2014.

Montserrat:

The planning system prevents development on the beach. Persons are cautioned from using bright lights on the beach.

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

> Bermuda:

Many turtles are successfully treated at the animal hospital and released each year. Turtles that arrive dead or succumb to their injuries undergo necropsies by the Bermuda Turtle Project and Bermuda Aquarium staff.

Gibraltar:

Cetacean & marine reptile monitoring programme established and sightings/stranding database compiled by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change's Environment Research and Protection Unit. A thorough water quality monitoring programme established under the WFD and a marine litter monitoring programme launched in 2016.

Turks and Caicos Islands:

The Turks and Caicos Islands Turtle Project (TCITP) was initiated in 2008 as a partnership between the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA), Marine Conservation Society (MCS), the Centre of Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus and Duke University in the USA. The TCITP initiated a satellite tracking programme, which has, to date, tracked 17 turtles including 4 adult hawksbills, 2 adult green turtles, and 11 sub-adult green turtles - See [http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project\\_id=398&dyn=1394445008](http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=398&dyn=1394445008).

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

> Bermuda:

There is a need for regional marine plastics clean up, and assistance with enforcement in relation to illegal fishing in the offshore EEZ.

Montserrat:

Marine resources management training in Marine Spatial Planning and Habitat mapping and benthic surveys.

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

Other

> British Indian Ocean Territory:

Coastal erosion may affect several turtle nesting beaches, whilst several islands would benefit from the eradication of feral cats and rats. Dense marine litter presents an obstacle to access on some nesting beaches.

Cayman Islands:

Illegal taking of turtles and eggs for consumption, artificial lighting on nesting beaches.

St Helena:

Marine litter and marine tourism.

## 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?

> Bermuda:

Actions to address the loss of sea grass foraging habitat are ongoing. Bermuda's EEZ is a de-facto sea turtle sanctuary, as all species recorded locally are protected from capture or disturbance under the Protected Species Act 2003 and taking any marine turtle is prohibited by the Fisheries Act 1972.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

The area is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a

combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) activities. Work is underway to determine the scale of coastal erosion across the Territory, to inform management actions. An assessment of coastal movement of Diego Garcia was completed in 2016 and concluded for the majority of the island of Diego Garcia assessed, overall land area decreased by a net value of only 0.92% between 1963 and 2013. However, patterns of accretion and aggradation vary according to lagoonside or Oceanside location.

Cayman Islands:

Ongoing monitoring, research (e.g. Darwin Initiative project "Socioeconomic Aspects of Turtle Conservation in the Cayman Islands), distribution of educational materials (<http://www.doe.ky/marine/turtles>), conservation enforcement, and drafting of Sea Turtle Species Conservation Plan under the National Conservation Law (2013) with provisions to address specific threats.

Gibraltar:

Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

Montserrat:

Establishment of ex-situ hatchery by the Department of Agriculture. Outreach programmes to NGOs and Schools.

St Helena:

Ongoing awareness raising and production of education materials.

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

> British Indian Ocean Territory:

Notwithstanding ongoing success in deterring and prosecuting IUU activity, there are challenges in policing the world's largest no-take MPA. Further data collection is underway, in order to guide investment in patrol and interdiction capability. Regular beach clean-ups are undertaken by personnel working in Diego Garcia, so that obstructions to nesting may be removed, although this is on a relatively small-scale.

Gibraltar:

Limited success due to trans-boundary nature of threats.

Montserrat:

Since 2011 when the hatchery was established approximately 5000 young hatchlings (green, leatherback and hawksbill turtles) have been released into the wild.

St. Helena:

Coastal clean up initiatives organised by NGO's, school groups and St Helena Government.

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

> Bermuda:

Five locally occurring sea grasses were added to the Protected Species Order 2012.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Marine litter is a challenge which cannot be addressed by Territory-based actions, as all debris on the beaches does not originate from BIOT. Continually removing litter around an extensive coastline at a rate to keep the beaches free of rubbish is not possible.

Gibraltar:

Illegal commercial fishing by foreign registered vessels. International shipping lanes.

Montserrat:

When released the young hatchlings are vulnerable to near-shore predators.

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

> Montserrat: It is recommended that the hatchlings be held in a holding pond next to the beach for a few months, in order to gain strength before they are released.

## **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: *Caretta caretta***

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, and SBA Cyprus.

Metropolitan UK:

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2012. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2011. <http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2011%20Turtle%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2013. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2012. <http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2012%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2014. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2013 <http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2013%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2015. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2014 <http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2014%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2016. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2015 <http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2015%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Mortimer, J.A., Day, M. 1999. Sea turtle populations and habitats in the Chagos Archipelago. In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), *Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago*, Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 159-175.

Cayman Islands:

Aiken JJ, Godley BJ, Broderick AC, Austin TJ, Ebanks-Petrie G, and Hays GC (2001) Two hundred years after a commercial marine turtle fishery: the current status of marine turtles nesting in the Cayman Islands. *Oryx*, 35(2), 145-151.

Gibraltar:

Rojo-Nieto, E., Álvarez-Díaz, P. D., Morote, E., Burgos-Martín, M., Montoto-Martínez, T., Sáez-Jiménez, J. & Toledano, F., 2011. Strandings of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Alboran Sea and Strait of Gibraltar: a long-time glimpse of the north coast (Spain) and the south coast (Morocco). *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation*, 34.1: 151-163.

Vazquez-Torres, C., Munoz-Ferrera de Castro, J.L. 2003. Varamientos de mamíferos marinos y tortugas marinas en el Campo de Gibraltar. *Almoraima*, 31: 331-339.

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at: [https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at: [https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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

not known

### > Metropolitan UK:

The primary source of information in the UK is the database 'TURTLE' which contains all records of strandings and sightings since the 18th century; it is collated and regularly updated by Marine Environmental Monitoring ([www.strandings.com](http://www.strandings.com)) as part of the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)). Data in the 'TURTLE' database are from opportunistic sightings with no associated measure of effort and therefore cannot be used to estimate population size. The "TURTLE" database contains 149 records of *C. caretta* for UK waters (1748-2013). Stranded animals make up the largest proportion, with the remainder being records at sea (e.g. Penrose and Gander 2013). Twenty two loggerhead turtles were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016), 11 of which were examined at post-mortem (Penrose and Gander 2015, 2016 and in press; Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional- validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP and MEM annual reports for 2016). *C. caretta* is therefore regarded as a vagrant for Metropolitan UK.

### British Indian Ocean Territory:

The population size is not known. *C. caretta* is presently regarded as a vagrant in BIOT waters.

### Cayman Islands:

Historically abundant nesting populations critically reduced by overharvesting: now recovering (currently

>200 nests per year for the three islands).

SBA Cyprus:

The population status is not known.

Gibraltar:

The population size is considered stable. However, records of sightings have increased in the last 4 years. The Loggerhead turtle is now a priority species for Gibraltar thus reflecting its regular presence in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

C. caretta is regarded as a vagrant.

Bermuda:

Not resident on the Bermuda reef platform, but occurs within the Bermuda EEZ, including juveniles in their epi-pelagic life history stage.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

C.caretta is regarded as a vagrant.

Cayman Islands: nesting has been recorded on the three islands (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman). Very infrequent sightings of juveniles.

SBA Cyprus:

The distribution is not known.

Gibraltar:

Species is predominantly found in the Southern Waters of Gibraltar particularly during migration.

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

Research

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> British Indian Ocean Territory: a 'no take' Marine Protected Area was designated in BIOT in 2010. Areas of particular environmental value or vulnerability are subject to further protections (e.g. as Strict Nature Reserves).

Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: Strandings and sightings are recorded by Marine Environmental Monitoring ([www.strandings.org](http://www.strandings.org)). Since 2001, marine turtles have also been included in the remit of the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)), funded by Defra and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Bermuda: Strandings within the Bermuda Platform (Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo). Opportunistic monitoring of nesting when it sporadically occurs on beaches (last event was 2005).

Cayman Islands: Nesting beach monitoring.

Gibraltar: Marine reptile monitoring programme.

Education/awareness rising

> Bermuda: A large loggerhead nicknamed Daisy was brought to the Bermuda Aquarium where a large hook was removed from her throat. Her rehabilitation over many months was widely covered in the local and overseas media. In July 2016 she was released with a satellite tag and by September had made her way to Florida (<http://environment.bm/news-hot-topics//daisy-goes-to-florida>). An online protected species data sheet for the loggerhead turtle was published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2016.

Cayman Islands: School visits, user group visits, TV shows and other general PR.

Gibraltar: Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: Loggerhead turtle is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Scottish Biodiversity List, and the Northern Ireland Priority species list, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats.

Bermuda: C. caretta is protected under the Fisheries Act 1972 and Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003. A new protected species order was issued in 2016 giving sea turtles the highest level of protection (level 1).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Comprehensive legal protections are in place (inc. The Wild Life Protection regulations (1984); The Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (2003); The Prohibited Imports and Export Order, 1984).

Cayman Islands: Protected under the National Conservation Law (2013).

Gibraltar: Legal protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation

Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

Control hunting / poaching

> British Indian Ocean Territory: BIOT is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on IUU activities.

Habitat protection

> British Indian Ocean Territory: Turtle habitats are protected under a variety of Ordinances and, in places, through designation under the Ramsar Convention or as Strict Nature Reserves.

Gibraltar: Establishment of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

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:

> SBA Cyprus:

Intend to continue conservation activities on the nesting areas as well as research surveys in cooperation with relevant expert organisations.

Gibraltar:

Continued monitoring and toxicological analyses where possible.

## **Species name: Chelonia mydas**

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Ascension Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, Saint Helena, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, and SBA Cyprus.

Metropolitan UK:

Broderick et al. (2006) Are green turtles globally endangered? *Global Ecology and Biogeography*.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2012. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2011.

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2011%20Turtle%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2013. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2012.

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2012%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2014. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2013

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2013%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2015. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2014

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2014%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2016. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2015

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2015%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Bermuda:

The ecology and migrations of sea turtles: Tests of the developmental habitat hypothesis. P.A. Meylan, A.B. Meylan, J.A. Gray. 2011. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* No. 357: 70 pp.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Esteban, N., Laloe, J.-O., Mortimer, J.A, Guzman, A.N., & Hays, G.C. 2016. Male hatchling production in sea turtles from one of the world's largest marine protected areas, the Chagos Archipelago. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 20339; doi: 10.1038/srep20339.

Hays GC, Mortimer JA, Ierodiaconou D, Esteban N 2014. Use of long-distance migration patterns of an endangered species to inform conservation planning for the world's largest marine protected area.

Conservation Biology (in press).

Mortimer, J.A., Day, M. 1999. Sea turtle populations and habitats in the Chagos Archipelago. In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago, Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 159-175.

Mortimer, J.A & Broderick, D 1999. Population genetic structure and developmental migrations of sea turtles in the Chagos Archipelago and adjacent regions inferred from mtDNA sequence variation. In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago, Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 185-194.

Mortimer, J.A. 2000. Diego Garcia Marine Turtle Conservation Assessment (British Indian Ocean Territory). Final Report: on the Fieldwork to the British Indian Ocean Territory Department, Environment Science & Energy Department, and Foreign & Commonwealth Office. 69 pages.

Mortimer, J.A. 2000. Sea turtle conservation programmes: Factors determining success or failure. In: Salm, R.V., Clark, J.R., Siirila, E. (Eds.), Marine and Coastal Protected Areas: A guide for planners and managers. IUCN, Washington D.C. 1-371.

Cayman Islands:

Aiken JJ, Godley BJ, Broderick AC, Austin TJ, Ebanks-Petrie G, and Hays GC (2001) Two hundred years after a commercial marine turtle fishery: the current status of marine turtles nesting in the Cayman Islands. *Oryx*, 35(2), 145-151.

SBA Cyprus:

Cyprus turtle survey report: [http://www.sbaadministration.org/images/AEEIC/publications/20120206-Marine-turtle\\_survey\\_Akrotiri-Episkopi.pdf](http://www.sbaadministration.org/images/AEEIC/publications/20120206-Marine-turtle_survey_Akrotiri-Episkopi.pdf).

Gibraltar:

Rojo-Nieto, E., Álvarez-Díaz, P. D., Morote, E., Burgos-Martín, M., Montoto-Martínez, T., Sáez-Jiménez, J. & Toledano, F., 2011. Strandings of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Alboran Sea and Strait of Gibraltar: a long-time glimpse of the north coast (Spain) and the south coast (Morocco). *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation*, 34.1: 151-163.

Vazquez-Torres, C., Munoz-Ferrera de Castro, J.L. 2003. Varamientos de mamíferos marinos y tortugas marinas en el Campo de Gibraltar. *Almoraima*, 31: 331-339.

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK

The primary source of information in the UK is the database 'TURTLE' which contains all records of strandings and sightings since the 18th century; it is collated and regularly updated by Marine Environmental Monitoring ([www.strandings.com](http://www.strandings.com)) as part of the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)). Data in the 'TURTLE' database are from opportunistic sightings with no associated measure of effort and therefore cannot be used to estimate population size.

The "TURTLE" database contains nine records of *C. mydas* for UK waters (1748-2013). Stranded animals make up the largest proportion, with the remainder being records at sea (e.g. Penrose and Gander 2013). Three green turtles were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014- 2016) and two were examined at post-mortem (Penrose and Gander 2015, 2016 and in press; Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional - validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP and MEM annual reports for 2016). *C. mydas* is therefore regarded as a vagrant for Metropolitan UK.

Ascension Island: the population is considered to be increasing.

British Indian Ocean Territory: not known.

Cayman Islands: Historically abundant nesting populations critically reduced by overharvesting: now recovering (currently >200 nests per year for the three islands). Juvenile abundance unknown but considered to be stable.

Gibraltar: Species is considered vagrant and uncommon in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

St Helena: Seasonal and occasional nesting attempts on the windward side of the Island.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK: *C. mydas* is regarded as a vagrant.

Ascension Island: the distribution is considered to be stable.

Bermuda:

Bermuda has experienced a large-scale decline in near shore and off shore *Thalassia testudinum* meadows

(Murdoch TJT et al. 2007 Mar. Eco. Prog. Ser. Vol. 339: 123-130, <http://www.int-res.com/articles/meps2007/339/m339p123.pdf>) which has affected green turtle distribution in the last decade. The results of a long-term tagging study indicate that the catch per unit effort in five of the near shore and off shore sea grass meadow study sites (where depth of water is less than 20 feet) dropped significantly throughout the period of the sea grass decline (unpub. data). It is not clear where the turtles using those foraging grounds have moved to. Several green turtles have been satellite tagged in Bermuda as older juveniles in the last 3 years, and tracked to their adult habitats in the Florida, the Caribbean and Central America.

British Indian Ocean Territory: For green turtles, the most important areas (in descending order) are Egmont Islands, Diego Garcia, Chagos Bank, Peros Banhos and Salomon (Mortimer and Day 1999). The potential feeding habitats available for green turtle feeding grounds (seagrass) are few.

Cayman Islands: nesting and foraging around the three islands (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman).

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

Research

> Ascension Island: Continued reproduction and development studies (e.g. sex ratios and hatching success), nesting behaviours, nesting population monitoring.

Bermuda: Continued tagging and recapture studies on juveniles in the developmental habitat (Bermuda Turtle Project). In 2015 the Bermuda Turtle Project captured 289 turtles, including one tagged individual which was a 15 year recapture

(<http://www.bamz.org/files/ckimages/files/BDA%20Annual%20Report%20for%202015%20final.pdf>).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Satellite telemetry studies, reproduction and development studies (e.g. sex ratios, size classes, growth rates, movement studies), genetic and developmental migration studies.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Ascension Island: All three major turtle nesting beaches now protected under the National Protected Areas Ordinance 2014. A no-take closed area has been established including all waters within 50nm of Ascension Island, and all waters inside 200nm south of 8 degrees, with formal MPA designation to occur once further scientific research has been conducted.

British Indian Ocean Territory: a 'no take' Marine Protected Area was designated in BIOT in 2010. Areas of particular environmental value or vulnerability are subject to further protections (e.g. as Strict Nature Reserves).

Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

St Helena: Green turtles listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: Strandings and sightings are recorded by Marine Environmental Monitoring ([www.strandings.org](http://www.strandings.org)). Since 2001, marine turtles have also been included in the remit of the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)), funded by Defra and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Ascension Island: Numbers of nesting females are monitored annually.

Bermuda: Strandings within the Bermuda Platform (Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo), effects of grazing on selected sea grass meadows (Dept. Environment and Natural Resources).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Monitoring has been ongoing since 1996 to determine the species, sex ratios, size classes, growth rates, and movements of turtle populations within areas of Diego Garcia. There is ongoing monitoring of sand temperatures, so that the risk of feminisation of populations through rising incubation temperatures can be objectively identified.

Cayman Islands: Regular monitoring takes place, including nesting beach monitoring and tagging and transect surveys to assess abundance and distribution of juveniles.

Gibraltar: Marine reptile monitoring programme.

St. Helena: Nesting attempts are monitored and beach closures are enacted when necessary.

Education/awareness rising

> Ascension Island, and Cayman Islands: School visits and bringing the children to watch nesting turtles or release hatchlings during the breeding season and general PR and awareness raising occurs both on Ascension Island and on the Cayman Islands. Ascension Island hosts Turtle tours twice weekly during the nesting season to raise awareness of the turtles in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Migration tracks to form part of an interactive web-GIS Marine Spatial Planning tool to be established as part of the research work to inform MPA designation.

Bermuda: Public presentations for Bermuda residents and articles in local media. The Bermuda Turtle Project conducts an intensive two week course taught in Bermuda on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. This annual in-water course has the objective of building capacity in the Western Atlantic region by providing training to university students, biologists, conservation officers and resource managers from countries

throughout the Atlantic basin. A protected species datasheet for the green turtle was published by the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources in 2016.

British Indian Ocean Territory: The Territory has no permanent population. Non-resident military personnel are given an educational introduction to wildlife conservation when they are posted to the island. Visiting yachts are made aware of the strict no-take laws. Information is made available on BIOT's turtle populations, including via leaflets, signs and notice boards.

Gibraltar: Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

St. Helena: Annual Marine Awareness and seasonal education material produced. Media coverage during nesting attempts.

Species protection

> Ascension Island: Protected by the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013.

Bermuda: Fisheries Act 1972 and Protected Species Act 2003

British Indian Ocean Territory: comprehensive legal protections are in place (inc. The Wild Life Protection regulations (1984); The Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (2003); Green Turtles Protection regulations 1968; The Prohibited Imports and Export Order, 1984).

Cayman Islands: protected under the National Conservation Law (2013).

Saint Helena: Legislation is currently being drafted to include marine protected areas. Green turtles listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

Control hunting / poaching

> Ascension Island: Poaching was stopped in the 1930s on Ascension. Beaches are regularly patrolled during the nesting season for monitoring purposes.

British Indian Ocean Territory: BIOT is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on IUU activities.

Cayman Islands: levels of illegal take assessed through a Darwin Initiative project "Socioeconomic Aspects of Turtle Conservation in the Cayman Islands" and controlled through conservation enforcement and specific provisions in the draft Sea Turtle Species Conservation Law (2013).

St Helena: Green turtles listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

Species restoration

> Bermuda: A management plan for Bermuda's resident green and hawksbill sea turtles was published by the Bermuda Government in September 2014. [http://environment.bm/s/Resident-Sea-Turtle-Management-Plan\\_2014.pdf](http://environment.bm/s/Resident-Sea-Turtle-Management-Plan_2014.pdf).

Montserrat: A Marine Turtle Conservation Project that includes a range of species management and recovery activities is being implemented.

Habitat protection

> Bermuda: sea grasses were protected under the Protected Species Order 2012. Seagrass habitat monitoring is ongoing.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Turtle habitats and species are protected under a variety of Ordinances and, in places, through designation under the Ramsar Convention or as Strict Nature Reserves.

Gibraltar: Establishment of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two no land-based fishing zones and one marine no-take zone.

Habitat restoration

> Ascension Island: Invasive vegetation is prevented from encroaching on the nesting beaches.

Other

> Ascension Island: Stranding hot spots are checked daily during the nesting season and turtles returned to the sea.

Bermuda: In August 2015 a green turtle nest was found on a beach at the east end of Bermuda. This is the first record of a green turtle nesting on Bermuda since 1937. The beach was closed to the public and nearby street lighting was turned off. A public awareness campaign was undertaken in 2015 and 2016 to advise the public what turtle tracks and turtle nests look like – as Bermuda has no regularly breeding turtles, the public are not familiar with turtle tracks.

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:

> Ascension Island:

To continue and advance the activities above. An international internship programme was set-up for the 2013/14 nesting season to ensure that there are sufficient staff to successfully carry out all of the activities on Ascension Island and this has been continued annually since then.

Bermuda:

The tagging, monitoring and education activities of the Bermuda Turtle Project will continue. A research paper on green turtle diet is in preparation by the Ecology section of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Further studies on foraging and migratory behaviours are planned. Tagging, monitoring and education activities in the Territory will continue.

SBA Cyprus:

SBAA Cyprus intend to continue conservation activities on the nesting areas as well as research surveys in co-operation with relevant expert organisations.

Gibraltar:

Continued monitoring.

## Species name: *Dermochelys coriacea*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Jersey, Ascension Island, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and Gibraltar.

Metropolitan UK:

Brongersma, J. D. 1972. European Atlantic turtles. Zoologische Verhandelingen (Leiden) 12: 1-318.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Gaywood, M.J. 1997. Marine turtles in British and Irish waters. British Wildlife 9: 69-78.

Godley, B.J., Gaywood, M.J., Law, R.J., McCarthy, C.J., McKenzie, C., Patterson, I.A.P., Penrose R.S., Reid R.J. & Ross, H.M. 1998. Patterns of marine turtle mortality in British Waters (1992-1996) with reference to tissue contaminant levels. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the U. K. 78: 973-984.

Houghton, J.D.R., Doyle, T.K., Wilson, M.W., Davenport J. & Hays, G.C. 2006. Jellyfish aggregations and leatherback turtle foraging patterns in a temperate coastal environment. Ecology 87: 1967-1972.

McMahon C.R., Hays G.C. 2006. Thermal niche, large-scale movements and implications of climate change for a critically endangered marine vertebrate. Global Change Biology, 12, 1330-1338.

Witt, M. J., Broderick, A.C., Johns, D.J., Martin, C., Penrose, R., Hoogmoed, M.S. & Godley, B.J. 2007. Prey landscapes help identify potential foraging habitats for leatherback turtles in the northeast Atlantic. Mar. Ecol. Progr. Ser. 337: 231-244.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2012. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2011.

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2011%20Turtle%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2013. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2012.

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2012%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2014. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2013

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2013%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2015. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2014

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2014%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Penrose, R.S. and Gander, L.R. 2016. UK & Republic of Ireland Marine Turtle Strandings & Sightings Annual Report 2015

<http://www.strandings.com/Graphics%20active/2015%20Turtle%20Annual%20Strandings%20Report.pdf>.

Witt, M.J., Bonguno, E.A., Broderick, A.C., Coyne, M.S., Formia, A., Gibudi, A., Gil Avery Mounquengui Mounquengui, G.A., Carine Moussounda, C., Monique NSafou, M., Solange Nougessono, S., Richard J. Parnell, R.J., Guy-Philippe Sounguet, G-P., Sebastian Verhage, S., Brendan J. Godley, B.J. 2011. Tracking leatherback turtles from the world's largest rookery: assessing threats across the South Atlantic. Proceedings of the Royal Society B. DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2010.2467

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/early/2011/01/05/rspb.2010.2467.full>.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

Mortimer, J.A., Day, M. 1999. Sea turtle populations and habitats in the Chagos Archipelago. In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago. Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 159-175.

## Gibraltar:

Rojo-Nieto, E., Álvarez-Díaz, P. D., Morote, E., Burgos-Martín, M., Montoto-Martínez, T., Sáez-Jiménez, J. & Toledano, F., 2011. Strandings of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Alboran Sea and Strait of Gibraltar: a long-time glimpse of the north coast (Spain) and the south coast (Morocco). *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation*, 34.1: 151-163.

Vazquez-Torres, C., Munoz-Ferrera de Castro, J.L. 2003. Varamientos de mamíferos marinos y tortugas marinas en el Campo de Gibraltar. *Almoraima*, 31: 331-339.

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern\\_Waters\\_of\\_Gibraltar\\_Management\\_Scheme\\_2012.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/1/15/Southern_Waters_of_Gibraltar_Management_Scheme_2012.pdf).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2015. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. Available at:

[https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG\\_Documents/MSFD\\_Marine\\_Monitoring\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/MSFD_Marine_Monitoring_Programme.pdf).

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

not known

### > Metropolitan UK:

Leatherback turtles are a rare but nevertheless regular visitor around the British Isles (Brongersma 1972) during the summer months. Recent studies have suggested that the waters of the UK represent the northerly limit of routine seasonal leatherback foraging migrations (McMahon and Hays 2006, Witt et al. 2007).

The primary source of information in the UK is the database 'TURTLE' which contains all records of strandings and sightings since the 18th century; it is collated and regularly updated by Marine Environmental Monitoring ([www.strandings.com](http://www.strandings.com)) as part of the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP)

([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)). Data in the 'TURTLE' database are from opportunistic sightings with no associated measure of effort and therefore cannot be used to estimate population size.

The "TURTLE" database contains 880 records of *D. coriacea* for UK waters (1748-2013). Records at sea make up the largest proportion with the remainder being stranded animals; the majority of individuals are recorded alive (e.g. Penrose and Gander 2013). Twelve leatherback turtles were reported stranded or dead at sea during the period of the report (2014- 2016), four of which were examined at post-mortem (Penrose and Gander 2015, 2016 and in press; Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional- validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP and MEM annual reports for 2016).

Jersey - rare migrant to Jersey waters.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

The population size and distribution is unclear. *D. coriacea* is currently regarded as a vagrant in BIOT waters.

Gibraltar:

The population size and distribution is unclear.

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

not known

### > Metropolitan UK:

Leatherback turtles have been recorded from all around the UK but large differences in concentrations between areas are also evident. (Brongersma 1972; Gaywood 1972; Godley et al. 1998). The greatest concentrations of sightings and strandings are off Cornwall, Wales, and in the Solway Firth while the least are off the Channel and North Sea. Tens of sightings and a few strandings are recorded each year and sightings tend to peak in August-September.

Ascension Island:

Leatherback turtles are regularly sighted in Ascension's deeper waters but do not nest on the island.

Bermuda:

Not resident on the Bermuda reef platform, but occurs within Bermuda's EEZ, including migrating individuals.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

*D. coriacea* is currently regarded as a vagrant in BIOT waters.

British Virgin Islands:

Data from the only leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) to have been satellite tracked from the UK Overseas Territories were published in Richardson et al. 2013

([http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/RichardsonPB\\_2013\\_MarPolicy.pdf](http://www.seaturtle.org/PDF/RichardsonPB_2013_MarPolicy.pdf)).

The turtles were tracked in 2003 and 2005 as part of the Defra-funded Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories Project, with the work carried out by the Conservation and Fisheries Department, BVI, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Anguilla, the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and the Centre of Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus. Two leatherbacks tracked after nesting in BVI used US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rican waters during inter-nesting periods, while one leatherback tracked after nesting in Anguilla migrated northwards to Canadian waters, where it stayed during the late summer, before returning south.

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

Research

> Metropolitan UK: Associations between *D. coriacea* and jellyfish concentrations have been reported and are the focus of continued research interest (Houghton et al. 2006; Witt et al. 2007).

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> British Indian Ocean Territory: A 'no take' Marine Protected Area was designated in BIOT in 2010. Areas of particular environmental value or vulnerability are subject to further protections (e.g. as Strict Nature Reserves).

Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: Strandings and sightings are recorded by Marine Environmental Monitoring ([www.strandings.org](http://www.strandings.org)). Since 2001, marine turtles have also been included in the remit of the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)), funded by Defra and the Devolved Administration in Scotland and Wales.

Bermuda: Strandings within the Bermuda Platform (Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo).

Gibraltar: Marine reptile monitoring programme.

Education/awareness rising

> Bermuda: An online protected species data sheet was published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2016.

Gibraltar: Environmental education programmes coordinated by the Department of the Environment for schools and the wider public.

Species protection

> Metropolitan UK: Protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994.

Leatherback turtle is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Scottish Biodiversity List, and the Northern Ireland Priority species list, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats.

Bermuda: *D. coriacea* is protected under the Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003. A new protected species order was issued in 2016 giving sea turtles the highest level of protection (level 1).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Comprehensive legal protections are in place (inc. The Wild Life Protection regulations (1984); The Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (2003); Green Turtles Protection regulations 1968; The Prohibited Imports and Export Order, 1984).

Gibraltar: Legal protection under the Nature Protection Act 1991. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

Control hunting / poaching

> British Indian Ocean Territory: BIOT is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on IUU activities.

Species restoration

> Montserrat: A Marine Turtle Conservation Project that includes a range of species management and recovery activities is being implemented.

Habitat protection

> British Indian Ocean Territory: turtle habitats are protected under a variety of Ordinances and, in places, through designation under the Ramsar Convention or as Strict Nature Reserves.

Gibraltar: Establishment of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA. . Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

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:

> Metropolitan UK:

*D. coriacea* was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an action plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued implementation is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Gibraltar:

Continued monitoring and toxicological analyses where possible.

## Species name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*

### 1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Ascension Island, Saint Helena, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Islands, and Montserrat.

Bermuda:

P.A. Meylan, A.B. Meylan, J.A. Gray. 2011. The ecology and migrations of sea turtles: Tests of the developmental habitat hypothesis. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History No. 357: 70 pp  
British Indian Ocean Territory:

Esteban, N., Laloe, J.-O., Mortimer, J.A., Guzman, A.N., & Hays, G.C. Male hatchling production in sea turtles from one of the world's largest marine protected areas, the Chagos Archipelago. Sci. Rep. 6, 20339; doi: 10.1038/srep20339 (2016).

Hays GC, Mortimer JA, Ierodiaconou D, Esteban N 2014. Use of long-distance migration patterns of an endangered species to inform conservation planning for the world's largest marine protected area. Conservation Biology (in press).

Mortimer, J.A., Day, M. 1999. Sea turtle populations and habitats in the Chagos Archipelago. In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago. Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 159-175.

Mortimer, J.A & Broderick, D 1999. Population genetic structure and developmental migrations of sea turtles in the Chagos Archipelago and adjacent regions inferred from mtDNA sequence variation. In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago, Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 185-194.

Mortimer, J.A. 2000. Diego Garcia Marine Turtle Conservation Assessment (British Indian Ocean Territory). Final Report: on the Fieldwork to the British Indian Ocean Territory Department, Environment Science & Energy Department, and Foreign & Commonwealth Office. 69 pages.

Mortimer, J.A. 2000. Sea turtle conservation programmes: Factors determining success or failure. In: Salm, R.V., Clark, J.R., Siirila, E. (Eds.), Marine and Coastal Protected Areas: A guide for planners and managers. IUCN, Washington D.C. 1-371.

Cayman Islands:

Aiken JJ, Godley BJ, Broderick AC, Austin TJ, Ebanks-Petrie G, and Hays GC (2001) Two hundred years after a commercial marine turtle fishery: the current status of marine turtles nesting in the Cayman Islands. Oryx, 35(2), 145-151.

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

not known

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

not known

> Bermuda:

This species is resident, and regularly seen on reefs around Bermuda, but no population estimate has been made.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

The species is known to be resident to several islands within the Territory. The most important nesting sites (in descending order) for the hawksbill turtle are Peros Banhos, Diego Garcia, Salomon, Egmont and Chagos Bank (Mortimer and Day 1999). Turtle Cove, Diego Garcia is an important foraging area for immature hawksbill turtles (Mortimer and Day 1999).

Cayman Islands:

Nesting was historically abundant but is now very infrequent. Juvenile turtles are common on Cayman reefs but their population is unknown.

St Helena:

Small resident population.

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

Research

> Ascension Island: No current research projects however historical projects include: Flipper tagging to collect data on growth rates and residence times, satellite tracking studies and genetic studies were undertaken between 2003 and 2009. Thirty turtles were tagged and four turtles were recaptured (average time between tagging and recapture: over four years). These were likely juveniles and Ascension may serve as developmental habitat for juvenile hawksbills until they move on to their adult foraging and/or nesting sites, likely to be in Brazil or West Africa.

Bermuda: Continued tagging and recapture studies on juveniles in the developmental habitat (Bermuda Turtle Project).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Satellite telemetry studies, reproduction and development studies (e.g. sex ratios, size classes, growth rates, movement studies), genetic and developmental migration studies.

St. Helena : Marine sighting scheme.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> British Indian Ocean Territory: a 'no take' Marine Protected Area was designated in BIOT in 2010. Areas of particular environmental value or vulnerability are subject to further protections (e.g. as Strict Nature Reserves).

St Helena: St Helena's entire 200nm maritime zone was designated as a Category VI Marine Protected Area in September 2016.

Monitoring

> Ascension Island: Database of sightings.

Bermuda: Strandings within the Bermuda Platform (Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo).

British Indian Ocean Territory: Monitoring has been ongoing since 1996 to determine the species, sex ratios, size classes, growth rates, and movements of turtle populations within areas of Diego Garcia. There is ongoing monitoring of sand temperatures, so that the risk of feminisation of populations through rising incubation temperatures can be objectively identified.

Education/awareness rising

> Ascension Island: Research (e.g. tracks from the satellite telemetry devices) displayed on social network sites and on island awareness raising e.g. through the local newspaper. Tracks to form part of an interactive web-GIS Marine Spatial Planning tool to be established as part of the research work to inform MPA designation. Bermuda: Public presentations and articles in local media. an online protected species data sheet was published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2016.

British Indian Ocean Territory: The Territory has no permanent population. Non-resident military personnel are given an educational introduction to wildlife conservation when they are posted to the island. Visiting yachts are made aware of the strict no-take laws. Information is made available on BIOT's turtle populations, including via leaflets, signs and notice boards.

St Helena: General awareness raising is done during the annual Marine Awareness Week.

Species protection

> Ascension Island: Protected by the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013.

Bermuda: Protected under the Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003. A new protected species order was issued in 2016 giving sea turtles the highest level of protection (level 1).

British Indian Ocean Territory: comprehensive legal protections are in place (inc. The Wild Life Protection regulations (1984); The Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (2003); The Prohibited Imports and Export Order, 1984).

Saint Helena: Legislation is currently being drafted on Saint Helena to include Marine Protection Areas Hawksbill turtles are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

Control hunting / poaching

> British Indian Ocean Territory: BIOT is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on IUU activities.

Saint Helena: Hawksbill turtles are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016.

Species restoration

> Bermuda: A management plan for Bermuda's resident green and hawksbill sea turtles was published by the Bermuda Government in September 2014. See [http://environment.bm/s/Resident-Sea-Turtle-Management-Plan\\_2014.pdf](http://environment.bm/s/Resident-Sea-Turtle-Management-Plan_2014.pdf).

Montserrat: A Marine Turtle Conservation Project that includes a range of species management and recovery activities is being implemented.

Habitat protection

> British Indian Ocean Territory: turtle habitats are protected under a variety of Ordinances and, in places, through designation under the Ramsar Convention or as Strict Nature Reserves.

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:

> Ascension Island: Continue to develop the actions above.

British Indian Ocean Territory: further studies on foraging and migratory behaviours are planned. Tagging, monitoring and education activities in the Territory will continue.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

The "TURTLE" database contains 53 records of *Lepidochelys kempii* for UK waters (1748-2016). Stranded animals make up the largest proportion, with the remainder being records at sea (e.g. Penrose and Gander

2013). Eighteen Kemp's ridley turtles were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016), eight of which were examined at post-mortem (Deaville (compiler) 2014, 2015 and in press, please note that the numbers relating to 2016 are taken from the quarterly report, which has not been validated. The official numbers for 2016 will be available in the CSIP annual report for 2016). *L.kempii* is regarded as a vagrant for Metropolitan UK.

The first ever record of an olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in UK waters was live-stranded in November 2016.

Bermuda:

*Lepidochelys kempii* Kemp's ridley turtle occurs on occasion in Bermuda. The occurrence of this species is recorded and occasional individuals are seen as strandings. The Kemp's Ridley turtle was added to the Protected Species Order 2016.

The Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003 protects *Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Caretta caretta*, *Lepidochelys kempii* and *Dermochelys coriacea*. Amendments to the Act in 2011 and 2012 increased the fines for offences. The Protected Species Order 2012 divided species into 3 levels with sea turtles being given the highest level of protection. The Bermuda Fisheries Act (Protected Species Order 1978) protects all marine turtles within Bermuda's EEZ.

## 4. TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS

### 4.1 General questions on Appendix I terrestrial mammals

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

Yes

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> Montserrat:

CAP. 12.05 Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Act. Act 2 of 1985. Amended by S.R.O.40 1998. Revised 2002 is the relevant legislation.

The Trade in Endangered Species Act of 2016 updates CITES requirements for Montserrat. See <http://agc.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Act-No.-10-of-2016-Trade-in-Endangered-Species-Act-2016.pdf>. The Conservation and Environmental Management Act 2014 (soon to be amended to cater for the passage of the CITES legislation above) also incorporates a permitting regime that extends to 3nm seaward. The allows for the monitoring of activities, and hopefully the submission of reports by researchers that will be deposited into a clearing house mechanism (yet to be designed). See <http://agc.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/No.-17-of-2014-Conservation-and-Environmental-Management-Act-2014.pdf>

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

No

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

Other

> Cayman Islands:

There is no evidence that bats in the Cayman Islands, a remote Caribbean island, engage in regular migrations.

Montserrat:

Habitat devastation due to volcanic eruptions and ensuing pyroclastic activity. Tropical storms have been shown to transport bats between islands (Fleming & Murray, 2009. *Biotropica* 41: 250-256.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230086013\\_Population\\_and\\_Genetic\\_Consequences\\_of\\_Hurricanes\\_or\\_Three\\_Species\\_of\\_West\\_Indian\\_Phylostomid\\_Bats](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230086013_Population_and_Genetic_Consequences_of_Hurricanes_or_Three_Species_of_West_Indian_Phylostomid_Bats)).

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

> Public education to raise the profile of bats, by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands.

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

> Minimal.

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

> N/A.

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

Habitat fragmentation

Other

> Montserrat:

Damage / destruction of natural roosts by volcanic activity / pyroclastic flows and severe sediment build up as a result.

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

> Cayman Islands:

An education and 'bat house' production programme by a local NGO, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands.

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

> Cayman Islands:

19 humane exclusions of bats from house roof spaces, etc., and two bat houses erected in 2012. Bat house plans are freely available online and exclusions can be undertaken by non-Trust personnel so these results are a minimum for 2012.

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

> Montserrat:

Continuing volcanic activity. General public environmental disregard – especially regarding protection of privately owned habitat.

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

> Montserrat:

Local surveillance and monitoring capacity to be enhanced. Public education and outreach programme for the general public so that they can help protect new roosts when discovered. This will be more important as Montserratians begin to repopulate/rebuild villages that are currently off-limits.

## 4.2 Questions on specific Appendix I terrestrial mammals

In the following section, using the table format below, please fill in each Appendix I terrestrial mammal 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: *Tadarida brasiliensis*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Bermuda, Cayman Islands, and Montserrat.

For Montserrat the report refers to: Brazilian free-tailed bat: *Tadarida brasiliensis antillarum*

Barquez R, Diaz M, Gonzalez E, Rodriguez A, Incháustegui S, & Arroyo-Cabrales J. 2008. *Tadarida brasiliensis*.

In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.1. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>. Downloaded on 14 November 2013.

Larsen RJ, Boegler KA, Genoways HH, Masefield WP, Kirsch RA, & Pedersen SC. 2007. Mist netting bias, species accumulation curves, & rediscovery of two bats on MNI. *Acta Chiropt.*, 9:423-435.

Pedersen SC, Genoways HH, Kwiecinski GG, Larsen PA, & Larsen RJ. 2013. Biodiversity, biogeography, and conservation of bats in the Lesser Antilles. Pp. 62-73, 330, in *Biodiversité insulaire: la flore, la faune et l'homme dans les Petites Antilles*, eds. J.-L. Vernier and M. Burac. France: Schoelchers, Martinique, Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement de Martinique et Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, 335 pp.

Pedersen SC, Kwiecinski GG, Larsen PA, Morton MN, Adams RA, Genoways HH, & Swier VJ. 2010. Population fluctuation in response to hurricanes & volcanoes, pp. 302-340 in: *Island bats: Ecology, Evolution & Conservation*. (eds) Fleming & Racey. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 549 pp.

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

not known

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

not known

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

Research

> Montserrat: A multi-institutional team have conducted 15 bat inventories on Montserrat since 1993. *Tadarida* in the Lesser Antilles occupy a wide range of roost types (trees, rock faces, abandoned buildings) but always

where there is little human disturbance. As such, roost sites for *Tadarida* are difficult to find. The more abundant, commensal species of *Molossus* seek out buildings, abandoned or otherwise. Presently, the only *Tadarida* roost on record (2009+) is a maternity colony located in an abandoned house in a severely damaged village. Its population would appear to be stable.

Monitoring

> Montserrat: Biennial surveys.

Education/awareness rising

> Bermuda: A single *T. brasiliensis* was discovered in Bermuda in October 2016 as a vagrant. This was a first record for this species in Bermuda, which was widely covered in the media.

Cayman Islands: General bat education / awareness.

Montserrat: 10+ years of educational outreach by MAHLE, Darwin Initiative, & Pedersen.

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

> Cayman Islands:

This bat has not been recorded using bat houses in the Cayman Islands; therefore the primary habitat replacement method available is not applicable to this species in the Cayman Islands.

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

> Montserrat:

Continued inventory work on a biannual basis.

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

> None.

## 5. FISH

### 5.1 General questions on Appendix I fish species

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

Yes

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

No

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

Other

> British Indian Ocean Territory: Illegal fishing.

Cayman Islands: Incidental artisanal fishery by-catch.

Gibraltar: Illegal fishing activities and shipping.

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

> British Indian Ocean Territory: BIOT is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) activities.

Cayman Islands. Educational campaign under Darwin Plus funding. Development of Species Conservation Plans under the National Conservation Law.

Gibraltar: Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and implementation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Additional protection enacted via the Marine Protection Regulations 2014. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

St Helena: Species and habitat protection provided for under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016 and the Marine Protected Area and its adopted Marine Management Plan. Fisheries legislation is being reviewed (pursine, longline and tangle nets) and trawling is prohibited.

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

> British Indian Ocean Territory: Notwithstanding ongoing success in deterring and prosecuting IUU activity, there are challenges in policing the world's largest no-take MPA. Further data collection is underway, in order to guide investment in patrol and interdiction capability.

Gibraltar: Cetacean & marine reptile monitoring programme established and sightings/stranded individuals' database compiled by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change. A comprehensive

water quality monitoring programme established under the Water Framework Directive and a marine litter monitoring programme launched in 2016.

St Helena: Proposed World's first one by one fishery, lowering by-catch risk.

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

> N/A.

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

Other

> At the global level capture and by-catch fisheries remain as potential threats to at least some populations of sharks. Shark meat is consumed in many countries in Europe and worldwide. There is also huge demand for shark fins for shark fin soup from Asia, as well as heavy demand for cartilage from sharks for use in some forms of herbal medicine. Additional threats include boat collisions from leisure and commercial craft, and the potential impacts of offshore developments, including renewable energy installations.

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?

> Metropolitan UK:

The European Community's Plan of Action for Sharks, Skates, Rays and Chimaeras was released on the 6 February 2009. The Plan is not a Regulation; it is a framework document that sets out a range of potential measures (both mandatory and voluntary) to be implemented at Member State or European Community level and within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. The European Commission has committed to introducing a number of the measures through new legislative proposals, or by amending existing legislation. The Endangered (on the IUCN red list of threatened species) spurdog *Squalus acanthias* and Critically Endangered porbeagle *Lamna nasus* (listed on CMS Appendix II), along with other elasmobranchs of conservation concern, have been protected Europe-wide through prohibitions on their retention and landing. In January 2011, a Shark, Skate and Ray Conservation Plan was released by Defra, outlining the work that Defra have undertaken, and will continue to undertake, for all elasmobranch species (See:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130505040140/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/interim2/shark-conservation-plan.pdf>). This Plan was reviewed in 2013. Details can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/224294/pb14006-shark-plan-review-20130719.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224294/pb14006-shark-plan-review-20130719.pdf). This has now also been adopted in Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Elasmobranch Protection Order (2011).

There has also been a tightening of the EU Shark Finning Regulation. All sharks captured are now required to be landed with their fins naturally attached. This was implemented across the EU fleet in July 2013.

Bermuda:

The fisheries regulations 2010 made the finning of sharks at sea an offense.

Bermuda follows the recommendations set by ICCAT regarding sharks. Shark landings data provided by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources indicate that the only CMS-listed shark species occasionally landed by local fishermen is the shortfin mako shark *Isurus oxyrinchus* which is Appendix II listed. No Appendix I listed species have been landed in Bermuda.

Cayman Islands: All sharks and rays are protected in Cayman Waters (to extent of EEZ) under the National Conservation Law (2013).

St Helena: Sharks and rays found in St Helena's waters are listed as protected species under the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016. Fisheries legislative review - require mandatory by-catch reports. Requirements under Marine Tour Operator Environmental Accreditation scheme assessment and spot checks.

Gibraltar:

Sharks and Rays are protected in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters under the Nature Protection Act 1991.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

Since the publication of the Shark, Skate and Ray Conservation Plan there have been a number of notable successes. The most important successes are listed in the 2013 review publication cited above and include:

- Securing the listing of five species of shark, two species of manta ray, and one species of sawfish on the appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Securing an ambitious Conservation Plan, a UK expert on the expert panel, and co-chair of the Intersessional Working Group of the Signatories with the USA, under the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) Shark MoU.
- Securing mandatory data reporting for shark species in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) i.e. no data, no fish.
- Securing an amendment to the EU Finning Ban to require all sharks caught by the EU fleet to be landed with their fins still naturally attached to their body.
- Launching a collaborative project with South-west fishermen to establish a scientific bycatch fishery for elasmobranchs in order to collect important fisheries data (NEPTUNE).
- Increasing the use of species codes in landings data and the introduction of electronic logbooks.
- Provision of financial and policy support to the Shark Trust for the production of the annual Commercial

Fisheries Advisories and for the production of best practice guidelines by the Marine Management Organisation and Cefas.

Bermuda:

The great white shark *Carcharodon carcharias* and giant manta ray *Manta birostris*, both listed on Appendix I, are found on occasion around the island. Observations of both species are recorded, so that a wider assessment of the presence of these species can be developed in due course. Similarly, the great white shark occurs from time to time as a transient visitor or vagrant in marine areas around a number of other Overseas Territories. These rare sightings of the species are recorded where possible.

St Helena:

Through encouraging stakeholder and public participation in the creation of the Marine Management Plan and designation of St Helena's Category VI Marine Protected Area, there has been local buy in and support.

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

> N/A.

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

> N/A.

## 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:

> Report from Metropolitan UK, Isle of Man, and Gibraltar.

Bloomfield, A. & Solandt, J-L. 2007. The Marine Conservation Society Basking Shark Watch: 20-year report (1987-2006). MCS, Ross-on-Wye.

Clarke, M., Farrell, E.D., Roche, W., Murray, T.E., Foster, S. and Marnell, F. (2016) Ireland Red List No. 11: Cartilaginous fish [sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras]. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Dublin, Ireland.

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Red%20List%2011%20Sharks%20et%20al.pdf> Cotton, P.A., Sims, D.W., Fanshawe, S. & Chadwick, M. 2005. The effects of climate variability on zooplankton and basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) relative abundance off southwest Britain. *Fisheries Oceanography* 14: 151-155.

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2012. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2011, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011\(2\).pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11149_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2011(2).pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2013. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2012, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=11840_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2012.pdf).

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2014. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2013, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306\\_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013\\_Final.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12306_UKCSIPAnnualReport2013_Final.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2015. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2014, [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562\\_Final\\_UK\\_CSIP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=12562_Final_UK_CSIP_Annual_Report_2014.pdf)

Deaville, R. (compiler) 2016. UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2015. [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001\\_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf)

Doherty, J. M. Baxter , F. R. Gell, B. J. Godley, R. T. Graham, G. Hall, J. Hall, L. A. Hawkes, S. M. Henderson, L. Johnson, C. Speedie & M. J. Witt (2017). Long-term satellite tracking reveals variable seasonal migration strategies of basking sharks in the north-east Atlantic. *Scientific Reports* 7, Article number: 42837. <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep42837>.

Doherty, J. M. Baxter , F. R. Gell, B. J. Godley, R. T. Graham, G. Hall, J. Hall, L. A. Hawkes, S. M. Henderson, L. Johnson, C. Speedie & M. J. Witt (2017). Testing the boundaries: Seasonal residency and inter-annual site fidelity of basking sharks in a proposed Marine Protected Area. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2017.01.018>.

Gore, M.A., Rowat, D., Hall, J., Gell, F.R. & Ormond, R.F. 2008. Transatlantic migration and deep mid-ocean diving by basking shark. *Biol. Lett.* doi 10.1098/rsbl.2008.0147.

Mancusi, C., Clo, S., Affronte, M., Bradai, M.N., Hemida, F., Serena, F., Soldo, A. & Vacchi, M. 2005. On the presence of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Cybium* 29: 399-405.

Miller, Peter I., Scales, Kylie L., Ingram, Simon N., Southall, Emily J., Sims, David W. and Costa, Daniel (2015) Basking sharks and oceanographic fronts: quantifying associations in the north-east Atlantic. *Functional Ecology*, 29, (8), 1099-1109. (doi:10.1111/1365-2435.12423).

Sims, D.W., Southall, E.J., Richardson, A.J., Reid, P.C. & Metcalfe, J.D. 2003. Seasonal movements and behaviour of basking sharks from archival tagging: no evidence of winter hibernation. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 248: 187-196.

Skomal, G.B., Zeeman, S.I., Chisholm, J.H., Summers, E.L., Walsh, H.J., McMahon, K.W. & Thorrold, S.R. 2009.

Transequatorial migrations by basking sharks in the Western Atlantic Ocean. *Current Biology*  
doi:10.1016/j.cub.2009.04.019.

Southhall, E.J., Sims, D.W., Metcalfe, J.D., Doyle, J.I., Fanshawe, S., Lacey, C., Shrimpton, J., Solandt, J.L. & Speedie, C.D. 2005. Spatial distribution patterns of basking sharks on the European shelf: preliminary comparison of satellite-tag geolocation, survey and public sightings data. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 85: 1083-1088.

Speedie, C.D., Johnson, L. A., Witt, M.J. 2009. Report title. Basking Shark Hotspots on the West Coast of Scotland: Key sites, threats and implications for conservation of the species. SNH Commissioned Report No.339.

Witt, M.J., Doherty, P.D., Godley, B.J. Graham, R.T. Hawkes, L.A. & Henderson, S.M. 2016. Basking shark satellite tagging project: insights into basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) movement, distribution and behaviour using satellite telemetry. Final Report. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 908.

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

not known

> Metropolitan UK:

The UK signed the CMS Sharks MoU on 18th June 2012 and has played its full part in the development and ongoing implementation of the MoU.

Detailed records for basking sharks are only available for a few areas and whilst localised surveys have provided minimum estimates for specific sites, not enough is known about movements and site fidelity to obtain an accurate and realistic population estimate. Furthermore, it is difficult to relate surface sightings to actual population size.

Available evidence over longer time periods suggests fluctuations in summer incursions and numbers of basking sharks are unpredictable, probably on account of inter-annual variations in observer effort, weather and other factors determining the probability of sightings in addition to population trends themselves.

During a 20 year monitoring programme (1987-2006), the number of basking shark sightings reported to the Marine Conservation Society has varied between years, but the trend is one of increasing numbers, with the highest ever number reported in 2006: 2,275 sightings (Bloomfield & Solandt 2007).

Basking shark strandings are recorded as part of the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)). The CSIP database contains 62 records of *C. maximus* strandings around the UK coast (1990-2013). Nine basking sharks were reported stranded during the period of the report (2014-2016), of which one was examined at post-mortem (Deaville (compiler) 2015, 2016 and in press. Please note that the data relating to 2016 are provisional- validated records for 2016 will be available in the CSIP annual report for 2016).

National Marine Planning interaction website (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/nmpihome>) hosts collated data on basking sharks in Scotland: sightings per unit effort collected via boat surveys (Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, Wave Action, and The Wildlife Trusts), satellite tagging project data (2012-2014) and modelled persistence of above mean densities (summers 2001-2012).

Isle of Man:

A Basking Shark Photo Identification Catalogue has been collated by Manx Basking Shark Watch (MBSW) since 2009, and has recorded a minimum of 126 sharks up to the end of 2013. The frequent repetitive sightings suggest site fidelity to Manx waters by basking sharks. Based on these photographic data a minimum population estimate of 'well marked' sharks is 75, while extrapolation has estimated the total population at around 185. MBSW have collected 143 DNA (skin slime samples) from basking sharks in Manx waters since 2009. Most of these are complete with the basking shark's gender, size and dorsal fin ID pictures. MBSW are thought to be the only scientific team to do this when collecting all samples for DNA analysis.

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

unclear

> Metropolitan UK:

Basking sharks appear to be most regularly recorded in the coastal areas of the UK with seasonally persistent tidal fronts, Speedie et al. 2009, (e.g. western Scotland, Clyde area, central Irish Sea and the western approaches to the English Channel).

Basking sharks are mainly recorded in surface waters from April to September, when mostly immature females are seen. In late summer, they are thought to disperse offshore. The winter distribution and the location of pregnant females year-round remains unknown, but is thought to be in deep water.

Public sightings of the species and reports from effort-based watches (e.g. Marine Conservation Society, Seawatch SW and The Wildlife Trusts Basking Shark Survey 1987-2008) appear to show large numbers of sharks in known seasonal hotspots – the Southwest coast of England from the Isles of Scilly to Dorset; the Southwest coast of the Isle of Man; and Western Scotland. Changes to the average size of sharks reported may be indicative of a population recovery following systematic harvesting in the 20th century.

National Marine Planning interaction website (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/nmpihome>) hosts collated data on basking sharks in Scotland: sightings per unit effort collected via boat surveys (HWDT, Wave Action and The Wildlife Trusts), satellite tagging project data (2012-2014) and modelled persistence of above mean densities (summers 2001-2012).

A recent research project (2012-2014) by SNH and the University of Exeter provides results from 62 satellite tagged basking sharks off the west coast of Scotland. Real-time tags provided detailed information on area use in Scottish waters during summer months and the return to the same waters in subsequent years after winter migration (Doherty et al. 2017b). Tags also indicated 3 possible migration strategies, with the furthers migration to north coast of Africa (Doherty et al. 2017a).

Isle of Man:

Around the Isle of Man Manx Basking Shark Watch recorded what was very likely to be a newborn basking shark in 2005, and report heavily biased male populations in summer, with probable courtship behaviour exhibited when females appear. A large male basking shark, SPOT tagged in 2015, became the first ever satellite tagged basking shark to migrate to Morocco two seasons running. MBSW SPOT tagged the shark in August 2015 and he appeared off Morocco in January 2016.

Gibraltar:

Basking shark sightings are also being recorded in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters notably during the Spring months.

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

Research

> Metropolitan UK: Scientific telemetry studies have shown the UK population to be highly migratory, with individual sharks undertaking movements which take them from English - French - EC - international - Irish - Scottish waters within 2 months (e.g. Sims et al. 2003). As noted above, recent studies (2012-2014) have added considerably to the detailed understanding of these movements. Doherty et al., 2017a and Doherty et al. 2017b). The final project report is available at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=2403>.

A scoping aerial survey was completed in Scotland during 2016 to assess the potential for using this method for abundance estimates (SNH Commissioned Research (in prep 2017).

Visual records are contributed to the European Basking Shark Photo-identification Project (EBSPiP) which uses photographs to trace basking shark movements

([http://www.sharktrust.org/en/basking\\_shark\\_project/content.asp?did=26584](http://www.sharktrust.org/en/basking_shark_project/content.asp?did=26584)).

Genetic studies by the University of Aberdeen are expected to provide new insights into the population structure of basking sharks in the Irish Sea <http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com/index.aspx>.

Isle of Man: A tagging study based around the Isle of Man recoded transatlantic movement by this species - published in Gore et al. (2008) – see <http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com/index.aspx> for references and summaries, including work published in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Genetic studies, in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen, have continued through 2012-2013, with significant numbers of individual samples being added to the existing database.

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> SNH provided advice to Scottish Ministers on the selection of a Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NC MPA) for basking sharks (and minke whale) as part of the Scottish MPA project (Sea of the Hebrides NC MPA proposal) in 2014 (see [http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned\\_reports/780.pdf](http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/780.pdf)).

Monitoring

> Metropolitan UK: Basking shark sightings from a range of sources are routinely collated for presentation on sites such as the the basking shark project site

([http://www.sharktrust.org/en/basking\\_shark\\_project/content.asp?did=26782](http://www.sharktrust.org/en/basking_shark_project/content.asp?did=26782)).

The CSIP ([www.ukstrandings.org](http://www.ukstrandings.org)) records information on all UK stranded basking sharks, conducting systematic necropsies on any in appropriate condition, to establish cause/s of death and investigate threats in UK waters.

Isle of Man: A variety of local and regional monitoring schemes focused on this species continue including the Manx Wildlife Trust's 'Basking Shark Watch', which commenced in 2006, following the earlier work of the Manx Basking Shark Society from 1987, and covering distribution and identification, but also research on courtship behaviour, migration and population structure.

Education/awareness rising

> Metropolitan UK: Several basking shark codes of conduct have been made available (e.g.

[http://www.sharktrust.org/en/basking\\_shark\\_resources](http://www.sharktrust.org/en/basking_shark_resources)), targeted at boat handlers and others and designed to reduce the risk of killing, injury or harassment. Greater awareness of the basking shark amongst the general public has been achieved through the production of posters and educational booklets.

Isle of Man: The Isle of Man Government has issued an Isle of Man Coastal Code and make active use of the Basking Shark Code. They have supported WiSe accreditation courses for boat operators to help minimise disturbance.

Species protection

> The basking shark is protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Listing of the species makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, take, possess, or trade in this species. It is protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1990, from 1990, in the Isle of Man. It is protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended) from 2011.

The basking shark is included on the Environment Act Wales 2016 Section 7, Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Scottish Biodiversity List, and the Northern Ireland Priority species list, which place a duty on public authorities to maintain and enhance listed species and habitats. The basking shark is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that any trade is carefully monitored to prevent the threat of extinction.

Control hunting / poaching

> European shark fisheries are managed under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Following many years of overexploitation, the Commission has also afforded the highest level of protection to some species, including the basking shark, prohibiting them from being targeted, retained on board or landed.

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:

> *C. maximus* was maintained as a priority species following the Species and Habitats Review in 2007 and had an action plan (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>). Continued action is devolved to individual countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

### Species name: *Manta birostris*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Report from Bermuda, and British Indian Ocean Territory.

Camhi, M. D.; S. V. Valenti; S. V. Fordham; S. L. Fowler & C. Gibson 2009. The Conservation Status of Pelagic Sharks and Rays: Report of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group Pelagic Shark Red List Workshop, 78pp, IUCN Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group, I. S. S. C. S. S., Newbury, UK

Dulvy, N.K., Baum, J.K., Clarke, S., Compagno, L.J.V., Cortes, E., Domingo, A., Fordham, S., Fowler, S., Francis, M.P., Gibson, C., Martinez, J., Musick, J.A., Soldo, A., Stevens, J.D., and Valenti, S. 2008. You can swim but you can't hide: the global status and conservation of oceanic pelagic sharks and rays. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, 18, 459-482p.

Fowler, S.L., Cavanagh, R.D., Camhi, M., Burgess, G.H., Cailliet, G.M., Fordham, S.V., Simpfendorfer, C.A. and Musick, J.A. (comp. and ed.). 2005. *Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras: The Status of the Chondrichthyan Fishes. Status Survey*. IUCN/SSC Shark Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. x + 461 pp.

Winterbottom, R., Anderson, R.C., 1999. 'Fishes of the Indian Ocean', In: Sheppard, C.R.C., Seaward, M.R.D. (Eds.), *Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago*, Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2, 101-117

Winterbottom R., Emery AR, Holm E, 1989. 'An annotated checklist of the fishes of the Chagos Archipelago, Central Indian Ocean, Royal Ontario Museum, Life Sciences Contributions 145:1-226

Bermuda:  
No published reference, but anecdotal records - e.g. two individuals encountered by a submersible on the seamount in summer 2016.

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

not known

> Although regularly seen, the population size and distribution of *M. birostris* is unknown

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

not known

> Although regularly seen, the population size and distribution of *M. birostris* is unknown

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

Research

> A tagging study of foraging and migratory behaviours is underway

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> A 'no take' Marine Protected Area was designated in BIOT in 2010. Areas of particular environmental value or vulnerability are subject to further protections (e.g. as Strict Nature Reserves)

Monitoring

> A tagging study of foraging and migratory behaviours is underway.

Species protection

> Comprehensive legal protections are in place (inc. The Wild Life Protection regulations (1984); The Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (2003); The Prohibited Imports and Export Order, 1984).

Control hunting / poaching

> BIOT is monitored year-round by the BIOT Patrol vessel, the surveillance strategy of which is based on a combination of ecological risk assessment, historical fisheries data and intelligence on IUU activities.

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:

> Monitoring and research programmes will continue.

Miscellaneous information or comments on Appendix I bats in general:

> None.

## **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.

No

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

No

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

#### **Siberian Crane MoU (1993/1999)**

Date of last report  
> N/A

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

Date of last report:  
> 2012

Period covered:  
> Period covered: 2010 - 2012  
[http://www.eurobats.org/about\\_eurobats/parties\\_and\\_range\\_states/united\\_kingdom](http://www.eurobats.org/about_eurobats/parties_and_range_states/united_kingdom).

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

Date of last report:  
> 23 July 2013

Period covered:  
> Up to 2012

#### **Slender-billed Curlew MoU (1994)**

Date of last report:  
> N/A

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

Date of last report:  
> 2012

Period covered  
> Period covered: 2009 - 2011 See [http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop5\\_docs/nr/uk\\_national\\_report\\_2009\\_2011.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop5_docs/nr/uk_national_report_2009_2011.pdf).

#### **Middle-European Great Bustard MoU (2001)**

Date of last report:  
> N/A

#### **IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU (2001)**

Date of last report:  
> 2014

Period covered:  
> Period covered: Report last updated on 29 May 2014: See [http://iosea-reporting.org/test/reporting/NatRepts/UK\\_19\\_09\\_2014.pdf](http://iosea-reporting.org/test/reporting/NatRepts/UK_19_09_2014.pdf).

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

Date of last report:

> Feb 2016

Period covered:

> 2015-2016.

### **Bukhara Deer MoU (2002)**

Date of last report:

> N/A

### **Aquatic Warbler MoU (2003)**

Date of last report:

> May 2010

### **West African Elephants MoU (2005)**

Date of last report:

> N/A

### **Ruddy-headed Goose MoU (2006)**

Date of last report:

> N/A.

### **Monk Seal in the Atlantic MoU (2007)**

Date of last report:

> 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 ?

No

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

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 instrument's 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?

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

instrument's 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?

No

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

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

No

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

No

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 instrument's 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?

No

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

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

No

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

No

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 instrument's 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?

No

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

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

No

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

No

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 instrument's 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?

No

### **Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Fish**

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

No

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

No

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 instrument's 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?

No

### **3. LISTING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX II**

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

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

No

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

No

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

Medium

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

Yes

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

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species

> The conservation and sustainable use of species underpins all the legislation highlighted in the earlier section of this Report. Where appropriate, particular restoration projects are detailed in each of the sections dealing with individual species.

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

> As noted earlier, these issues are effectively dealt with through a combination of legislation and policy delivery.

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)

> Developments are subject to effective planning control that has Environmental Impact Assessment at its heart. Developments that may have an impact on migratory species are fully assessed before implementation.

Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration

> Please see the previous answers in this section that cover this point.

Research and monitoring of migratory species

> The UK has a long history of funding research into migratory species. There is presently an extensive research effort ranging across species and related issues. This work is undertaken by universities, research institutes and voluntary organisations.

Transboundary co-operation

> The UK is a partner in many international research and conservation programmes. It provides significant funding for many international projects, for example via the Darwin Initiative ([www.darwin.gov.uk](http://www.darwin.gov.uk)).

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

Yes

3.1. If Yes, please provide details:

> See individual species accounts.

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

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> These aspects are covered by a range of legislation and policy. For example the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covers many of these issues.

Economic development

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> All of the above policy and advisory materials are aimed at facilitating economic development whilst having due regard to biodiversity interests.

Land-use planning

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> All of the above policy and advisory materials address issues surrounding infrastructure and buildings development and the management of land with due regard to biodiversity.

#### Pollution control

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> The UK has effective legislation and policies in relation to pollution control.

#### Designation and development of protected areas

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> Policy and guidance covers the management of lands by local authorities and others and highlights the importance of designated sites and protected and priority species.

#### Development of ecological networks

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> The importance of maintaining viable ecological networks is emphasised for regional spatial strategies and for individual project proposals.

#### Planning of power lines

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> This is covered as part of guidance for infrastructure development.

#### Planning of fences

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> This is covered as part of guidance for infrastructure development and buildings control.

#### Planning of dams

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> This is covered as part of guidance for infrastructure development.

#### Other

Yes

#### If Yes, please provide details

> Other aspects covered include species protection; education, advice and awareness raising; financial resources, skills and training; and measuring progress.

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

> The UK's fifth National Report under CBD (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gb/gb-nr-05-en.pdf>) presents a useful overview of progress to-date in achievement of biodiversity policy across the UK.

A small set of biodiversity indicators are used to review progress in the UK towards the targets and the global goals and targets agreed by the CBD. See <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4233> for more details.

## V. Protected Areas

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> Metropolitan UK:

Two international site designations are enacted that include sites designated specifically for migratory species: Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162>) under the EC Birds Directive; and Ramsar site designation (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1369>).

Article 4 of the Birds Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the species identified in the Directive. The listed species include migratory species.

National level site designations are also enacted and include Sites/Areas of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs/ASSIs; <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1527>), which are the fundamental statutory mechanism for protecting sites of ecological interest in the UK. Amongst the reasons for designation of these sites are important concentrations of migratory species.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) established under the EC Habitats Directive make a contribution too. Although many sites are not specifically designated for migratory species, the sites' conservation measures are likely to benefit some migratory species (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-23>)

Nature Conservation MPAs for mobile species are considered as part of the MPA selection process in Scotland (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/mpaguidelines>). SNH gave formal advice to Scottish Ministers in 2014 as part of the Scottish MPA project on the Sea of the Hebrides NC MPA proposal for basking sharks (and minke whale) (see

[http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned\\_reports/780.pdf](http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/780.pdf)).

Isle of Man:

The whole of the Isle of Man and its territorial waters was accepted by UNESCO as Biosphere Isle of Man in 2016, the first whole jurisdiction to become a Biosphere reserve <https://www.biosphere.im/>.

In November 2016 four new Marine Conservation Zones were established protecting important coastal sites, including the Calf of Man, from dredging and trawling. More than 50% of Manx inshore waters (within 3 miles) are now protected from mobile fishing.

Areas of Special Scientific Interest, Marine Nature Reserves, Bird Sanctuaries and Areas of Special Protection have been added to the UNEP-WCMC world database on protected areas (WDPA).

Gibraltar:

Designation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and implementation of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme 2012. Additional protection enacted via the Marine Protection Regulations 2014. Establishment of seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone.

St Helena: In September 2016, St Helena's entire 200nm maritime zone was declared a Category VI Marine Protected Area and its Marine Management Plan was adopted.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the the largest sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the world. The MPA encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km<sup>2</sup> to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine predators including marine mammals (Appendix I) and birds (Appendix II). Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems. A revised MPA Order came into force on June 13th 2013. See <http://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/environment/>.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

SSSI details for mainland Britain, and ASSI details for Northern Ireland, are not collated centrally but are available from the web sites of Natural England: (<https://www.gov.uk/check-your-business-protected-area>); Scottish Natural Heritage: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-areas/national-designations/sssisi/>);

Natural Resources Wales: (<http://naturalresources.wales/conservation-biodiversity-and-wildlife/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/designated-sites-search/?lang=en>);

and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: (<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/land-and-landscapes/areas-special-scientific-interest>).

Details for UK SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites can be found on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website: see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1400>, <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458> and

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1389>, respectively. Many of these sites support a wide range of dependent migratory species, either in the breeding season or in the non-breeding period. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee web site provides access to downloadable spreadsheets that detail all UK SPAs (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1409>) and UK SACs (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1461>). Filtering of these by species enables the identification of the species that are qualifying features, and those which are noted as a 'non-significant presence'. In this way, the most important SPAs for migratory species can be readily identified.

A review of the UK network of SPAs is currently being undertaken by government, the devolved administration and the statutory conservation agencies. The first phase reported in October 2016 (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7309>). Response options will be developed through further phases of the review.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has provided advice via a number of projects to help the UK Overseas Territories consider appropriate approaches to the mapping and establishment of Marine Protected Areas – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5605> for details.

Isle of Man:

Details for ASSIs on the Isle of Man can be found on the maps and linked pages of <http://www.gov.im/>.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

A 'no take' Marine Protected Area was declared in 2010, covering approx. 640,000 sq km, which supports a wide range of dependent migratory species, in both breeding and non-breeding periods.

Gibraltar:

Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and the Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

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

Terrestrial

Yes

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

> As at 15 September 2016 there were a total 653 designated Special Areas of Conservation(SACs) / Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Candidate SACs in the United Kingdom (excluding Gibraltar). Collectively these SACs cover over 9.3 million hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1456> for details.

As at 24 May 2016, there were a total of 270 SPAs including aquatic habitats, some with marine or freshwater components. Collectively these SPAs cover over 2.8 million hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1399> for details.

As of 7 September 2015 there were 149 sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance, covering a total of over 780,000 hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1388> for details.

Many of these sites overlap. An evaluation of the total area protected is given in the UK biodiversity indicator on protected areas – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4241>.

Aquatic

Yes

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

> As at 15 September 2016 there were a total 653 designated Special Areas of Conservation(SACs) / Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Candidate SACs in the United Kingdom (excluding Gibraltar). Collectively these SACs cover over 9.3 million hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1456> for details.

As at 24 May 2016, there were a total of 270 SPAs including aquatic habitats, some with marine or freshwater components. Collectively these SPAs cover over 2.8 million hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1399> for details.

As of 7 September 2015 there were 149 sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance, covering a total of over 780,000 hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1388> for details.

Many of these sites overlap. An evaluation of the total area protected is given in the UK biodiversity indicator on protected areas – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4241>.

Marine

Yes

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

> As at 15 September 2016 there were a total 653 designated Special Areas of Conservation(SACs) / Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Candidate SACs in the United Kingdom (excluding Gibraltar). Collectively these SACs cover over 9.3 million hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1456> for details.

As at 24 May 2016, there were a total of 270 SPAs including aquatic habitats, some with marine or freshwater components. Collectively these SPAs cover over 2.8 million hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1399> for details.

As of 7 September 2015 there were 149 sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance, covering a total of over 780,000 hectares – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1388> for details.

Many of these sites overlap. An evaluation of the total area protected is given in the UK biodiversity indicator on protected areas – see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4241>.

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

> Defra / Devolved Administrations / Country Conservation Bodies.

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

> Metropolitan UK:

Protected areas are embedded in the planning system in the UK which requires assessment of developments; consequently giving them (and the species they host) a high level of protection.

In the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, 25 Ramsar sites have been established (as at 21 October 2015), many of which hold a wide range of wetland dependent migratory species. More information on the migratory species occurring on these sites can be found on the relevant Ramsar Information Sheets, linked from: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1394>.

## VI. Policies on Satellite Telemetry

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

Yes

If yes what is the state of those projects

on-going

Please provide details

> The UK continues to apply this technique across a range of species - see below for details.

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

Yes

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

> There are numerous examples of telemetry being used in the UK at present. For example, satellite telemetry has been used to help reveal the migratory patterns of the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), mentioned above in the species section of this report; and in a second example, satellite tracking has been used by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to establish the migratory routes and wintering areas of the cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* moving between the United Kingdom and Western Africa. Details of this project can be found at: <https://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking>.

RSPB Scotland, working in collaboration with the Swiss Ornithological Institute and the Shetland Ringing Group has shown that red-necked phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* that nest in Shetland migrate westwards across the Atlantic and then south to winter along the Pacific shores of Peru and Ecuador. This is the first time this migration route and wintering area has been established for any British bird. Further details can be found at: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/360162-tiny-tag-reveals-recordbreaking-bird-migration>.

The use of GPS-GSM collars by WWT in collaboration with the Bean Goose Action Group, as part of the AEWA single species action plan, has revealed the previously unknown migratory route, stopover sites and breeding area of the declining taiga bean goose *Anser fabalis fabalis* for the small remnant population wintering in Scotland: Mitchell, C., Griffin, L., Maciver, A., Minshull, B. & Makan, N. (2016). Use of GPS tags to describe the home ranges, migration routes, stop-over locations and breeding area of Taiga Bean Geese *Anser fabalis fabalis* wintering in central Scotland, *Bird Study*, 63:4, 437-446, DOI: 10.1080/00063657.2016.1236779. <http://www.birdguides.com/webzine/article.asp?print=1&a=3789>

Continued use of GPS-GSM collars by WWT on the globally threatened Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* on Islay, Scotland, has revealed their responses to the lethal goose management aimed at the sympatric Greenland barnacle geese wintering on the island. The use of accelerometer-GPS collars over the next two years will also help elucidate how many females are making breeding attempts in western Greenland and how many are deferring breeding in relation to the snow cover present, and the effects of past and present severe weather events on the migratory journeys of these geese:

[http://www.birdwatch.co.uk/channel/newsitem.asp?cate=\\_\\_16511](http://www.birdwatch.co.uk/channel/newsitem.asp?cate=__16511)

Leg-mounted GPS-GSM tags in conjunction with backpack accelerometer loggers have allowed WWT in collaboration with RSPB and Exeter University to reveal the fortunes of the introduced crane *Grus grus* population in the Somerset Levels, and for example the response of this population to severe flooding events: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-36638145>

Breeding females from one of the largest remaining subpopulations of common scoter *Melanitta nigra* in the UK were tracked using geolocators, giving the first indication of the wintering grounds used by the extremely small British breeding population.

Finally in a collaborative project between WWT, RSPB, BTO and Nanjing Normal University and SBS in China tiny sub-2g solar ARGOS satellite PTTs were developed in collaboration with Microwave Telemetry and deployed on three spoon-billed sandpipers *Calidris pygmaea* caught on Jiangsu coast of China in October 2016. Glued to the backs of the birds these tags have already revealed the more southerly wintering staging sites of these birds and it is hoped the birds will retain these tags into the spring to reveal further staging and possible breeding areas: <http://www.saving-spoon-billed-sandpiper.com/satellite-tracking/>.

Isle of Man:

There are active tracking projects for both hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* and basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus*.

Bermuda:

At sea tracking of Bermuda Petrels *Pterodroma cahow* with updated geolocators will begin in 2017 to add to the existing 3-years of data collected up to 2015.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

There are numerous examples of telemetry being used in BIOT at present. For example, satellite telemetry has been used to help reveal the migratory and foraging patterns of green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, and the great manta ray *Manta birostris*.

Gibraltar:

GPS data loggers with GSM capability will be used to from 2017-2018 to monitor the movements of the

yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*) and griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*). Other species are also being assessed including the lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*, crag martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* and pallid swift *Apus pallidus*.

St. Helena:

Whale sharks *Rhincodon typus* and yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares* have been satellite tagged.

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands:

Satellite telemetry has been attempted for sperm whales *Physeter macrocephalus* and may in the future be attempted for Southern right whales *Eubalaena australis* but the difficulties of attaching the loggers in Southern Ocean conditions means that sample sizes are likely to remain small. A full ethical assessment is made prior to loggers being deployed.

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

> Satellite telemetry is helping to reveal the detail of the migration behaviour for a wide range of species.

Innovative techniques are being used, involving international partnerships, linking the UK to others in Europe and Africa in particular.

Metropolitan UK:

Satellite tagging has helped to progress the Sea of the Hebrides Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NC MPA) proposal in Scotland. It provided the first evidence that basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus* show site fidelity to the waters off the west coast of Scotland, with basking sharks returning in consecutive years. Summer residency for up to 3 months for numerous sharks was established with 84% of daily locations from tagged basking sharks occurring within the NC MPA proposal boundaries - highlighting the importance of the area. Clear areas of higher use were also identified within the NC MPA proposal, including depth preferences. Depth information collected from satellite tags is being used to assess availability bias in abundance estimates for the area from pilot aerial surveys. There have also been some investigations using satellite tags in combination with accelerometry tagging to investigate basking shark movement and behaviour.

Isle of Man:

Hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* - 5 birds were radio tracked on the Isle of Man as part of a PhD (yet to be published). These remained on the Isle of Man, but 4 of the 5 tags were active for less than a month. The fifth tag was active for almost a year, within the Isle of Man. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hen-harrier-satellite-tracking-programme-results-published>. In addition, a bird has been tagged in each of 2015 and 2016, coordinated by Manx BirdLife in association with the RSPB's Hen Harrier LIFE+ Project and the Manx Ringing Group. The 2015 bird did not survive long but the 2016 tag is still active and was recently reported from England.

Basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* - the Isle of Man Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture and Manx Basking Shark Watch are working to establish a Basking Shark Marine Protected Area in Isle of Man waters, and some funding has been made available to MBSW to support work for this project. This is based on many years of sightings and tagging work (<http://www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.org/>). Manx Basking Shark Watch (MBSW) deployed two SPOT tags on basking sharks in 2016. See

[http://www.wildlifetracking.org/index.shtml?project\\_id=1208](http://www.wildlifetracking.org/index.shtml?project_id=1208). One, a 6m male, was recorded in the Faroe Islands 2 months after tagging. See [http://www.wildlifetracking.org/index.shtml?tag\\_id=161266](http://www.wildlifetracking.org/index.shtml?tag_id=161266).

Although other researchers working in Ireland and Scotland had had tagged basking shark travel to the waters offshore of Morocco, 'Flowrider' was the first Manx-tagged basking shark to do so. His migration route proved to be very interesting as he travelled back to Europe, feeding off the French coast near La Rochelle for 2 weeks before popping up near Brest. He then travelled up to the Southern Irish coast, feeding near Waterford. His school became the subject of a wonderful piece of Drone film footage that went viral on the BBC news website. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36333770>. After he had spent some of the summer of 2016 off North of Ireland he returned to Moroccan waters, becoming the first satellite tagged basking shark to repeatedly migrate from British to Moroccan waters. See [http://www.wildlifetracking.org/index.shtml?tag\\_id=138610&dyn=1483285314](http://www.wildlifetracking.org/index.shtml?tag_id=138610&dyn=1483285314).

Bermuda:

A great white shark *Carcharodon carcharias* nicknamed Lydia, satellite tagged in Florida in 2013 by OCEANARCH has passed through Bermuda's EEZ several times. Several green turtles *Chelonia mydas* have been satellite tagged in Bermuda as older juveniles in the last 3 years, and tracked to their adult habitats in the Florida, the Caribbean and Central America. A loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* tagged in Bermuda in 2016 traveled to the east coast of Florida.

British Indian Ocean Territory:

In the British Indian Ocean Territory, tags fitted to nesting green turtles *Chelonia mydas* in 2012 (some of which remained working in May 2014) have identified long-term migrations, with individuals travelling to mainland Africa, the Seychelles and the Maldives. In addition, travel to local foraging grounds locally on the Great Chagos Bank was identified, showing the existence of hitherto unknown sea grass beds.

St Helena:

Whale shark *Rhincodon typus* tagging has revealed they use local waters, however sharks have been diving deeper than the crush depths of tags and tags have been coming off prematurely. Yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares* tagging has just started, so no definitive data yet.

## VII. Membership

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

Yes

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.)

> Work is underway to extend ASCOBANS to the Isle of Man.

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

> Defra

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

> Work is underway to extend ASCOBANS to the Isle of Man.

## VIII. Global and National Importance of CMS

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> The UK Darwin initiative (<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>) has adopted a clear priority for projects involving migratory species that are of particular relevance to CMS. Funding practical conservation projects and specifically funding capacity building in developing countries is progressively enhancing the profile of CMS as well as of the Darwin initiative itself.

Guernsey, and Jersey: taking part in pan-Channel Islands meetings which are promoted widely in local media.

Gibraltar: Importance of CMS highlighted in annual biodiversity awareness campaign and school education programmes.

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

> Defra.

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

> Funding from the Darwin Initiative can be allocated to the conservation of migratory species. For further information please see Darwin Initiative website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>.

## IX. Mobilization of Resources

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

Yes

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

> The Flagship Species Fund supported the following project during the reporting period:

Sea turtle conservation through applied research in Anguilla, British West Indies

Defra funding: £14,760

Project dates: July 2014 - December 2015.

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

No

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

Yes

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

> The Flagship Species Fund supported the following projects during the reporting period:

(i) Conservation of the Cross River gorilla, Cameroon; Defra funding: £8,000

Project dates: July 2014 - May 2015;

(ii) Determining incidence of mortality caused by anthropogenic impacts on the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Galapagos Islands; Defra funding: £15,000;

Project dates: March 2013 - March 2014.

The UK made a financial contribution to the First African Range States meeting led by CITES and CMS which achieved constructive outcomes on the conservation, management and restoration of the African lion *Panthera leo* and its habitat in Africa. The meeting was held in Entebbe, Uganda on 30 and 31 May 2016.

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

Yes

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

> See the examples cited above in relation to the Darwin Initiative.

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

No

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

No

## **X. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations**

Other remarks:

> Sustainable Use (Res. 8.1)

Sustainable use underpins the UK approach to the conservation and management of species. This is implemented via legislation and policy delivery. Recent work (updated in November 2013) has seen the development of this approach in the marine environment. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>. The approach for the UK's Overseas Territories is outlined in the overarching strategy for the conservation of Biodiversity in these areas. Further details can be found at: Overseas Territories 2011 publication:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69204/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69204/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf).

In relation to the particular case of hunting, the information outlined in the previous UK report to CMS remains relevant, namely that the European Commission launched its Sustainable Hunting Initiative in 2001, aimed at improving understanding of the legal and technical aspects of the EC Wild Birds Directive on hunting, as well as developing a programme of scientific, conservation and awareness raising measures to promote sustainable hunting under the Directive. A guide to sustainable hunting was published in 2004 and updated in 2008 ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/index_en.htm)).

## Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

1. The drop-down lists below contain the list of all species listed in Appendix II. Parties which did not submit a National Report in 2014 are requested to complete the entire form. Parties that did submit a report in 2014 are requested to review and update the data (e.g. new published distribution references and details concerning species added to Appendix II at COP11).

### Cetacea

#### **Hyperoodon ampullatus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); UK CSIP (2009).

#### **Globicephala melas (North and Baltic Sea populations)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); SCANS-II (2006); UK CSIP (2009).

#### **Lagenorhynchus acutus (North and Baltic Sea populations)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); SCANS-II (2006); UK CSIP (2009).

#### **Lagenorhynchus albirostris (North and Baltic Sea populations)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); SCANS-II (2006); UK CSIP (2009).

#### **Orcinus orca**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); UK CSIP (2008); Hammond et al. (2009); Foote et al. (2010).

#### **Balaenoptera borealis**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); CODA (2009).

#### **Balaenoptera physalus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Reid et al. (2003); CODA (2009); UK CSIP (2009).

### Gaviiformes

## **Gavia arctica arctica**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

## **Gavia immer immer (NW Europe)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

## **Gavia stellata (W. Palaearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

## **Podicipediformes**

### **Podiceps auritus (W. Palaearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Podiceps grisegena grisegena**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

## **Ciconiiformes**

### **Ardea purpurea purpurea (Populations breeding in the W Palaearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Botaurus stellaris stellaris (W. Palaearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

## **Platalea leucorodia**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

## **Falconiformes**

### **Pandion haliaetus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

## **Galliformes**

### **Coturnix coturnix coturnix**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

## **Gruiformes**

### **Crex crex**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> O'Brien et al. (2006); Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Porzana porzana (Populations breeding in the W Palaearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

## **Charadriiformes**

### **Burhinus oedicnemus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Larus melanocephalus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Sterna albifrons**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Sterna dougallii (Atlantic population)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Sterna hirundo hirundo (Populations breeding in the W Palaearctic)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Sterna paradisaea (Atlantic population)**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

### **Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Calbrade et al. (2010).

## **Columbiformes**

### **Streptopelia turtur turtur**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010).

## **Orectolobiformes**

### **Rhincodon typus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Compagno (2001).

## **Lamniformes**

### **Lamna nasus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Barnes (2008a); Loveridge & Loveridge (2007).

## **Cetorhinus maximus**

Please choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> UK CSIP (2009); Wilding, & Pizzolla (2009).

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

## **Order FALCONIFORMES, Family ACCIPITRIDAE**

### **Accipiter gentilis**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Accipiter nisus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010).

### **Aquila chrysaetos**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Buteo buteo**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010).

### **Buteo lagopus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Eaton et al. (2009)

### **Circus aeruginosus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Evans et al. (2009) ; Holling et al. (2010).

### **Circus cyaneus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Circus pygargus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Haliaeetus albicilla**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Evans et al. (2009) ; Holling et al. (2010).

### **Milvus migrans**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

### **Milvus milvus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Pernis apivorus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

## **Order FALCONIFORMES, Family FALCONIDAE**

### **Falco columbarius**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Falco peregrinus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Falco subbuteo**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010); Holling et al. (2010).

### **Falco tinnunculus**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010).

### **Order PASSERIFORMES, Family MUSCICAPIDAE**

#### **Ficedula hypoleuca**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010).

#### **Muscicapa striata**

Choose the one that applies.

Range State

Published distribution reference

> Baker et al. (2006); Eaton et al. (2009); British Ornithologists' Union (2010).