

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please enter here the name of your country

> GEORGIA

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

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Please list any other agencies that have provided input

> Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia; NGO Campester, Batumi Raptor Count (Batumi Raptor Count, or BRC, is a nature conservation NGO that works to monitor and conserve the 850,000+ birds of prey that migrate every autumn through the Batumi Bottleneck.)

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
> June, 2001

Period covered
> 2011-2014

Territories to which the Convention applies
> Whole territory of Georgia

Designated National Focal Point

Full name of the institution
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Appointment to the Scientific Council

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Submission

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Date of submission
> 28.07.14

CMS Agreements/MoU

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

EUROBATS (1994)

EUROBATS (1994)

Party

Appointed member of the Advisory Committee

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AEWA (1999)

AEWA (1999)

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ACCOBAMS (2001)

ACCOBAMS (2001)

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Involvement of other government departments/NGOs/private sector

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

> National Environmental Agency of Georgia

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

No

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

> NACRES (Noah's Ark for the Conservation and Reintroduction of Endangered Species) was founded in 1989. Its mission is to safeguard the biodiversity of Georgia and the South Caucasus, through conservation activities at national and local levels, based on sound science, sustainability principles and local participation. NACRES is active in most regions of Georgia. To date, NACRES projects have been supported by 19 different private foundations and international donors. NACRES successfully co-operates with the environmental organizations and experts from different countries.

NACRES species conservation and research activities have focused on rare and endangered large mammals and birds. Studies into the behaviour, ecology and conservation of ungulates and carnivores have been carried out in various ecosystems (species include tur, chamois, wild goat, deer, gazelle, wolf, bear, striped hyena, leopard, and otter). Bird research has focused on vultures, wetland birds and sparrows. Research has also been carried out in almost every major ecosystem in Georgia: arid and semi-arid (Dedoplistskaro region and Gareji), mountain ecosystems of the Lesser Caucasus (Borjomi gorge), high montane ecosystems of the Greater Caucasus (Lagodekhi region, Racha-Ichkhumi), high alpine lakes (Javakheti plateau) and wetlands (Kolkheti). NACRES have developed management plans for several of these ecosystems, and species, that have been subsequently been adopted by the Government.

Over the years, NACRES has had successful collaborations with the legislative, executive and business sectors.

With the support and initiative of NACRES, the Georgian Government has ratified various international environmental conventions. NACRES has also supported the preparation of various national environmental policy documents and the implementation of public awareness programs.

NACRES places a special emphasis on the development of protected areas in Georgia.

CAMPESTER - Field Researchers Union - was established on February 23, 1995. Its mission is conservation of biological diversity and historical monuments.

During its 11 years of existence, Campester and its members have carried out 8 research/ conservation

projects

and 22 expertise works in Georgia. 192 scientific articles and 4 books have been published by staff members. Up to date, Campester projects have been supported by 7 different foundations.

Conservation and research activities have focused on mammals and birds. Organization has successful collaborations with the legislative, executive, business and NGO sectors within country and Caucasus.

The main activities include:

- Support studies for assessing human impact on the environment.
- Carry out environmental evaluations and coordinates the activities of scientists representing different scientific schools.
- Offer environmental trainings for youth organizations.
- Carry out Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Provide consulting works in establishment of protected areas and development of Management plans.
- Implement public awareness and environmental educational activities targeted at the general public and users of biological resources;
- Prepare and publish environmental educational materials.
- Conduct basic and applied researches of species and ecosystems;
- Prepare and publish scientific publications.

CAMPESTER has developed the draft Regional Action Plan for Caucasian Bat Conservation

I(b). Information about involved Authorities

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

1- Birds

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Biodiversity Protection Service

2- Aquatic Mammals

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Biodiversity Protection Service

3- Reptiles

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Biodiversity Protection Service

4- Terrestrial Mammals

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Biodiversity Protection Service

5- Fish

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Biodiversity Protection Service

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

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

Poaching

Other (please specify)

> Control on poaching is not as strong as it should be.

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?

> A new Law on Wildlife is under development for the time being.

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

> Control can still be weak.

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

> -

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

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> *Tursiops truncatus* is included in the Red List of Georgia.

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

No

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

By-catch

Pollution

Other threats to migration (please provide details)

> According to the data available, by-catch is quite rare in Georgian waters, as the fishing gears used by fishing vessels are safe enough for the marine mammals.

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

Pollution

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?

> -

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

> -

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

> -

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

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> *Acipenser sturio* included in the Appendix I of CMS, is included also in the Red List of Georgia and it is protected from all forms of use, except scientific research.

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

No

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

Other threats to migration (please provide details)

> Unreported illegal poaching

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

> -

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

> -

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

> -

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?

> -

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

> -

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

> -

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

> -

5.2 Questions on specific Appendix I fish species

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

Species name: *Acipenser sturio*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> -

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

unclear

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

not known

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

Monitoring

> Monitoring on this species will be provided by the National Monitoring.

Control hunting / poaching

> Taking into account the the species is under protection of the Red List of Georgia, fishing is prohibited, though control is weak due to limited resources.

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

> Lack of resources, including financial.

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

> National Monitoring System will start operating this year, which will cover all Red List species, including *Acipenser sturio*.

6. LISTING OF OTHER ENDANGERED MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX I

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

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> *Acipenser sturio*, *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Anser erythropus*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila clanga*, *Falco naumanni*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Otis tarda*, *Calidris canutus*, *Numenius tenuirostris*.

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

No

III. Appendix II Species

1. INFORMATION ON APPENDIX II SPECIES

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

EUROBATS (1994)

Date of last report:
> July, 2014

Period covered:
> 2010-2014

ACCOBAMS (2001)

Date of last report:
> 2013

Period covered:
> 2010-2013

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
4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bird Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?
 No

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

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?
 No
2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?
 No
4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Mammal Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?
 No

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

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?
 No
2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS

Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Fish

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

No

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

No

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

No

3. LISTING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX II

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

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

No

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

No

IV. National and Regional Priorities

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

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

> According to Georgian Legislation hunting on all species except migratory birds is allowed in hunting farms. Hunting on migratory birds is allowed all over Georgia, but there is elaborated List of Hunting Species, which indicates also quantities allowed for hunting per species. This list is subject to revision and updating yearly on the basis of monitoring and other relevant scientific data. There is a separate objective in the NBSAP considering update of the list basing on wide scientific investigations

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

> Conservation, sustainable use and restoration of habitats, including protected areas, are defined as one of the main directions in the NBSAP.

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)

> Monitoring and development of effective controlling measures to regulate invasive and alien species is defined in the NBSAP as a separate target.

Research and monitoring of migratory species

> No separate targets related to migratory species are defined in the revised NBSAP, though the migratory species are included in the list subject to monitoring at national level.

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:

> Second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) for 2012-2016 is developed and being implemented. Pasture Management Plans are being developed for 3 protected areas, such as Javakheti, Vashlovani and Lagodekhi.

There are developed conservation plans for different species, though not implemented. For instance, conservation plan for different animals, including some migratory species. For instance, bat species, leopard, etc.

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

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> To ensure a long term goal of protection and rehabilitation of unique eco-systems, diversity of species and genetic resources, NEAP defines a number of short term targets, one of which is the improvement of effectiveness of hunting and fishery management to ensure sustainable use of fauna resources.

Economic development

No

Land-use planning

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Georgia has developed and adopted a legal framework for regulating land use and protection of land resources. This framework addresses not only management but also land-ownership and land-use matters. The long-term goal for this sector is to achieve the best possible land-use through optimal sustainable management of land resources.

To achieve this long-term goal, it is necessary to promote transition from current approaches to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources to support the country's spatial-territorial planning and zoning that provides the best use of land resources and will ensure allocation of land resources of Georgia in a way

that enables the country to reach the greatest sustainable benefits through balancing environmental, social and economic objectives. Conservation of territories, private property rights, the rights of local communities should also be taken into account. The long-term goal for this sector is to achieve the best possible land-use through optimal sustainable management of land resources.

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To achieve this long-term goal, it is necessary to promote transition from current approaches to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources to support the country's spatial-territorial planning and zoning that provides the best use of land resources and will ensure allocation of land resources of Georgia in a way that enables the country to reach the greatest sustainable benefits through balancing environmental, social and economic objectives. Conservation of territories, private property rights, the rights of local communities should also be taken into account. The short-term goals for the next five years for land resource management and protection can be formulated as follows:

Target 1 - Reduce degraded land areas, improve the soil quality and minimize soil contamination.

Reaching this target will ensure attaining and maintaining a level of land use (including protected landscapes) that provides for environmental sustainability and implementation of commitments outlined in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Target 2- Enhance the existing capacity of the spatial-land information system to ensure improved management of land resources through application of modern tools and technologies (such as remote sensing, Geographical Information Systems, etc).

Pollution control

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> The long-term goal is to ensure safe water quality and adequate water quantity for human health and aquatic ecosystems. To achieve this goal it is necessary to reach certain short-term targets and respective measures, such as:

Target 1 - Establishment of an effective water management system

Target 2 - Establishment of effective pollution prevention and water abstraction control mechanisms

Target 3 - Reduction of water pollution from untreated municipal wastewater

Target 4 - Reduction of pollution from diffuse sources in agriculture

Designation and development of protected areas

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Establishment of protected areas (PAs) is one of the most important instruments for effective biodiversity conservation. Georgia's first nature reserve was established in 1912 in Lagodekhi. Currently there are 56 protected areas covering 7.3% of the territory of Georgia. Although the primary function of protected areas is to ensure biodiversity conservation, they also have a great scientific research and socio-economic value for the country, especially for development of national and international tourism. Development of a unified PA network is one of the main challenges of the PAs system.

Some sensitive areas in the country have still not been designated as PAs. Development of management plans for protected areas is one of the important mechanisms for their effective management. Upgrading the monitoring systems, completing databases and improving shortcomings in legislation is also very important. The total area of protected areas has significantly increased during the recent years. By 2011, 7.3% of all of Georgia's territory was protected by law (511,122.5 hectares). In addition, it is planned, and some progress has already been made to further increase the total area of protected territories.

Development of ecological networks

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> There are habitats and ecosystems of global importance in Georgia. For instance, 17 sites of special importance for biodiversity conservation purposes are already included into the Emerald Network¹¹ and 31 important sites for birds have been identified in Georgia. Apart from these, two wetlands in the Kolkheti lowland are included on the Ramsar Convention list of Wetlands of International Importance. Georgia is biologically very rich country: 4,130 species of vascular plants are found in Georgia; as many as 600 species (14.2% of the total number of species) are Caucasian endemic and about 300 species (9.0% of the total number of species) are Georgian endemics. 16,054 faunal species have been described in Georgia, 758 of

which are vertebrates.

Planning of power lines

No

Planning of fences

No

Planning of dams

No

Other

No

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:

> Javakheti Plateau and its lakes are recognized as an important area for migratory bird species. Migratory species was main reason for designation of Javakheti Protected Area. Javakheti National Park has been established in 2011. It consists of Javakheti National Park and wetlands of Madatapa, Bugdasheni, Khanchali, Kartsakhi and Sulda lakes.

Another important area for migratory bird species is Kolkheti wetlands. There were different significant reasons to designate this protected area, among which the migratory birds took an important place.

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

> 1. Javakheti Protected Areas (Javakheti National Park Wetlands of Madatapa, Bugdasheni, Khanchali, Kartsakhi and Sulda lakes.)

2. Protected Areas (Kolkheti National Park includes also 5 miles of marine area)

3. Kobuleti Protected Areas (Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve (331 ha) and Kobuleti Managed Nature Reserve (439 ha), which are located along the Black Sea coast in the eastern part of Kobuleti.)

27 IBAs have been identified and delineated in Georgia within the frame of BirdLife International initiative. Please, find attachment.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[IBAs_Georgia_for_WWF.doc](#)

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

> There are 14 Strict nature Reserves in Georgia with a total area of 140.672 thousand ha.

Kintrishi Strict Nature Reserve,
Liakhvi Strict Nature Reserve,
Sataplia Strict Nature Reserve,
Mariamjvari Strict Nature Reserve, Tusheti Strict Nature Reserve,
Batsara Strict Nature Reserve,
Babaneuri Strict Nature Reserve,
Lagodekhi Strict Nature Reserve,
Vashlovani Strict Nature Reserve,
Borjomi Strict Nature Reserve,
Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve,
Bichvinta-Miuseri Strict Nature Reserve,
Ritsa Strict Nature Reserve,
Pskhu-Gumisti Strict Nature Reserve.

Currently Georgia has 10 National Parks with a total area of 276723,7 ha. These are:

Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park
Kolkheti National Park
Tusheti National Park
Vashlovani National Park
Mtirala National Park
Algeti National Park
Kazbegi National Park
Tbilisi National Park
Javakheti National Park
Machakhela National Park.

At the moment, there are 18 managed nature reserves in Georgia, the total area of which is 66.665 thousand hectares:

Lagodekhi Managed Reserve
Ilto Managed Reserve
Korugi Managed Reserve
Gardabani Managed Reserve
Iori Managed Reserve
Chachuna Managed Reserve

Katsoburi Managed Reserve
Kobuleti Managed Reserve
Nedzvi Managed Reserve
Ktsia-Tabatskuri Managed Reserve
Tetrobi Managed Reserve
Ajameti Managed Reserve
Kartsakhi Managed Reserve
Sulda Managed Reserve
Khanchali Managed Reserve
Bugdasheni Managed Reserve
Madatapa Managed Reserve
Sataplia Managed Reserve.

There are also protected areas of category natural monuments, protected landscape, and multi-purpose use territory. According to 2013 the total area of natural monuments is 2257.74 ha. Total area of protected landscapes in Georgia amount to 37.708 thousand ha.

Aquatic

Yes

Marine

Yes

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

> Kolkheti Protected Areas includes 5 nautical miles wide area initially designated for the protection of marine mammals.

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

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and its LEPL Protected Areas Agency.

VI. Policies on Satellite Telemetry

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

Yes

If yes what is the state of those projects

completed

Please provide details

> Satellite telemetry research has been conducting in Georgia since 2000. First satellite transmitter was attached to a *Gypaetus barbatus* by Dr. Alexander Gavashelishvili (this project started in NGO GCCW and continued in Ilia State University). Please, find the attached articles. For the time being only one specimen of *Aegypius monachus* is supplied with a transmitter and the battery most probably will be discharged soon. To continue research some additional financial resources are needed.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Gypaetus barbatus.pdf](#)

[Aegypius monachus.pdf](#)

[Tracking Vultures from the Caucasus into Iran.pdf](#)

[Vulture movements in the Caucasus.pdf](#)

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

No

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

> Lack of financial resources

VII. Membership

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

No

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 revised NBSAP for 2014-2020 defines certain objectives and activities to rise awareness of the relevance of biodiversity in common, including migratory species.

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

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia; National Environmental Agency of Georgia.

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):

> 1. Re-introduction program for *Gazella subgutturosa* initiated for the first time in 1990, was financed by WB with co-financing from the State budget. This program is still underway, because the first attempts were not successful. For the time being a new attempt is being undertaken with financial support from different funds and co-financing from the State budget.

2. Financial resources are allocated from the State budget for monitoring on small cetaceans in the Black Sea territorial waters.

3. Financial resources are allocated from the State budget for the monitoring of migratory water birds in Javakheti Protected Areas.

4. Financial resources are allocated from the State Budget for monitoring of all bats species.

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

Yes

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

> 1. European Union and Council of Europe made available financial support for the Development of Emerald Network in Georgia. This project covers also migratory bird species and their habitats.

2. KfW provided financial support for the Project 'Establishment of Javakheti National in Georgia', which is one of the most important areas for migratory water bird species.

3. Government of Norway provided financial support for the Pilot Project 'Development of Sustainable Hydro-power in South Caucasus'. One of the project's component Fresh Water Biodiversity covers study on migratory bird species.

4. BP made available financial resources for the projects on bats scientific researches.

5. Kolkheti National Park Development Fund made available resources for the projects on bats researches.

6. In 2010 ACCOBAMS Secretariat made financial support for a small project "Development of cetacean stranding and by-catch network in Georgia, elaboration of measures for mitigation of adverse impact of fisheries on Black Sea cetaceans".

7. With support of GIZ, the Georgian NGO 'Psovi' mid-winter (January) counts of waterbird species were conducted in almost all important areas, where considerable concentrations of wintering birds can be found. Counts have been conducted under the auspices International Waterbird Census of Wetlands International. Counts have been conducted in 13 important areas.

8. GIZ also supported training on identification and research on waterbird species conducted by German and Georgian scientists. Relevant representatives from different National Park Administrations, Ilia State University students and Agency of Protected Areas took part in the training.

9. The publication Wintering Waterbird Censuses in the Azov- Black Sea Coastal Wetlands of Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey supported by Wetlands International through a grant from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands (BBI-Matra Fund / Management Programme for International Biodiversity. The publication is prepared by Mr. Alexander Abuladze, Ilia State University, and published in 2011 within the frame of Wetlands International Black Sea programme, Kiev.

X. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

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

Resolutions

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

> By catch data still remain one of the biggest gaps in Georgia. From one hand, nets mostly used in Georgian waters, are safe for marine mammals and quite low number of by caught specimens can be reported. From the other hand, data on by catch of other species are very poor, as the control is very week.

Oil Pollution and Migratory Species (7.3)

> NBSAP developed for 2014-2020 envisages special research on pollution in the Black Sea, including contamination related to oil spill.

Electrocution of Migratory Birds (7.4 / 10.11)

> No data on electrocution of migratory birds are available.

Wind Turbines and Migratory Species (7.5)

> No wind turbines are operational in Georgia.

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

> Although a special head-quarter has been established since the problem appear, no cases infected wild birds were identified.

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

> There is a special chapter in the NBSAP for 2014-2020, defining activities for identifying impact of climate change on biodiversity in general. They first of all cover the most vulnerable eco-systems and species, including migratory birds.

Marine Debris (10.4)

> NBSAP developed for 2014-2020 envisages special research on pollution in the Black Sea, including debris.

Poisoning Migratory Birds (10.26)

> No data available.

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

> NBSAP developed for 2014-2020 defines special targets aiming at studying of anthropogenic impact, such as eutrophication, unsustainable fishery, introduction of alien and invasive species, modification of natural habitats, etc.

Southern Hemisphere Albatross Conservation (6.3)

> -

Impact Assessment and Migratory Species (7.2)

> Defining possible impact of the activities subject to EIA on all species, including migratory species, is obligatory according to Georgian legislation.

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

> -

Sustainable Use (8.1)

> -

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

> -

Concerted Actions for Appendix I Species (8.29)

> -

Concerted and Cooperative Actions (9.1 / 10.23)

> -

Priorities for CMS Agreements (9.2 / 10.16)

> -

Migratory Marine Species (9.9 / 10.15)

> Black Sea Tursiops truncatus is under special protection in Georgian waters, as it is included into the Red List. Monitoring is conducted on all three mammal species, though comprehensive data are not still available.

Saker Falcon (9.20 / 10.28)

> A new Law on Wildlife is under development, which will cover also falcon species and all connected issues should be given special attention.

Modus Operandi for Conservation Emergencies (10.2)

> -

Ecological Networks (10.3)

> Emerald Network Program is underway in Georgia. As for 2014, the Sites Database for 20 potential Emerald sites with all respective ecological data is elaborated. Digital boundaries for all Emerald sites in GIS are defined. Population estimate and distribution per bio-geographical region for all species and habitats of Resolutions of Bern Convention and Annex I of Habitats Directive is implemented. New potential sites are being defined.

Global Flyway Conservation (10.10)

> -

Migratory Freshwater Fish (10.12)

> No special actions undertaken, except, for instance, that all acipenser species are protected by the Red List and national monitoring program is about to starting.

Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region (10.27)

> Batumi Raptor Count, or BRC, is a nature conservation NGO that works to monitor and protect the 850,000+ birds of prey that migrate every autumn through the Batumi Bottleneck at the Black Sea City of Batumi, in the Republic of Georgia.

The results of BRC 2008 and 2009 are further discussed in an international context of breeding populations and bottleneck areas in the Black Sea basin in an upcoming publication. A link to this article will be submitted upon publication. In summary the Batumi bottleneck is a key component in the flyways of many of the Eurasian migratory raptor species. Average recorded numbers for 10 of these exceed 1% of the estimated world population.

Taking into account the difficulty to conduct large-scale monitoring on these species' breeding grounds, the Batumi bottleneck provides a unique opportunity to detect trends in raptor populations originating from the huge landmass of East-Europe and West Siberia.

The Black Sea coast near Batumi forms one of the world's most important hotspots for migrating raptors - over 1 million eagles, buzzards, vultures, falcons and kites are counted every autumn. The reason for this concentration is that the Black Sea coast and the Lesser Caucasus Mountains create a so-called 'bottleneck', which forces migrants originating from a large area into a narrow corridor.

In contrast to monitoring schemes at other bottlenecks, the BRC explicitly chooses to monitor only a selection of species. In this way we aim to increase the quality of data obtained through ground-based counts, to reduce the necessary count effort and to make it more realistic that the monitoring will be continued in the future.

Assessment of hunting pressure on migrating raptors through the Lesser Caucasus has been conducted.

There has been investigated the magnitude of the raptor shooting throughout the eastern Black Sea bottleneck in autumn 2011. The survey covered both the Adjara Autonomous republic and the Guria province in Georgia. This project builds on the expertise and data collected during the previous editions of the BRC and was conducted in close cooperation with the Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife.

Based on geographical features of the landscape and migration patterns, a map of high mortality risk from shooting was be constructed in GIS, and the magnitude of this risk was be examined in the field during September 2011. It included hunter counts, a questionnaire and counting and measuring of casualties.

Montagu's harrier, Pallid harrier and Lesser spotted eagle have been selected as species of special interest.

The main goal was to obtain a global image of the impact of raptor shooting on migrating populations and to designate priority areas for conservation.

A peer-reviewed publication is in preparation, but you can already find lots of interesting findings in this interview.

Thanks to the Ornithological Society of the Middle East who has granted 500 GBP to the project.

Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes (7.9)

> -

CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (8.2)

> No special actions have been undertaken, though separate issues of the Strategic Plan are being discussed.

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

> A number of CMS related issues are integrated into the NBSAP.

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

> Cooperation with Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention and CBD.

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

> National Reports are sent.

CMS Information Priorities (9.3)

> -

Outreach and Communication Issues (9.5 / 10.7)

> -

Capacity Building Strategy (9.12 / 10.6)

> -

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

> -

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

> -

Recommendations

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

> -

Recommendation 8.17 - Marine Turtles

> -

Recommendation 9.1 - Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals

> -

Recommendation 9.2 - Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna

> -

Recommendation 9.3 - Tigers and other Asian Big Cats

> -

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

> -

Other resolutions/recommendations:

> -

Other remarks:

> -

Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

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

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

References cited in the Annex:

> -