



CMS

2022 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: 26 April 2023

Reporting period: from February 2020 to April 2023

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

COP Resolution 9.4 called upon the Secretariats and Parties of CMS Agreements to collaborate in the implementation and harmonization of online reporting implementation. The CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Decision 13.14 requested the Secretariat to develop a proposal to be submitted for the approval of the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (StC52) for a revision of the format for the national reports to be submitted to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently. The new format was adopted by StC52 in October 2021 and made available as an offline version downloadable from the CMS website also in October 2021. The format aims inter alia at collecting data and information relevant to eight indicators adopted by COP12 for the purpose of assessing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by StC52. In addition, as requested by StC52, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat. This includes customized species lists by Party. Please note that the lists include taxa at the species level originating from the disaggregation of taxa listed on Appendix II at a level higher than species. Please review the information and update or amend it, when necessary.

The Secretariat was also requested to develop and produce several guidance documents to accompany any revised National Report Format. Please note that guidance has been provided for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon). As requested by different COP13 Decisions, additional guidance is also provided in separate documents on how to report on the implementation of actions to address the impact of climate change and infrastructure development on migratory species, actions to address connectivity in the conservation of migratory species, and actions concerning flyways.

For any question, please contact Mr. Aydin Bahramlouian, Public Information Officer, aydin.bahramlouian@un.org

NOTICE: Before clicking on the hyperlinks in this questionnaire, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

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

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

Note: These reporting processes of other relevant intergovernmental frameworks are examples of information resources to be used when filling out this national report, which may assist in identification and strengthening of synergies among these processes. This list is **not** exhaustive. There are many other sources of information that may also be of relevance for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems.

High-level summary of key messages

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

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2018 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds” rather than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles” rather than just “lack of funding”.

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

>>> Restoration of habitats and species: high expectations under the new EU legislation 'Nature Restoration Law'.

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

Addressing habitat fragmentation to enhance ecological connectivity.

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

>>> Continuing fragmentation due to land use changes.

Actual implementation, enforcement and follow-up of legal obligations and requirements.

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

>>> Integrated multidisciplinary approach for ecosystem based management of areas.

Technical and financial support for the implementation of conservation measures alongside with enforcement of protection requirements along migratory routes.

I. Administrative Information

Name of Contracting Party

>>> Belgium

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

>>> 01101990

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>>

Report compiler

Name and title

>>> Dr Janine van Vesseem, Head International Relations

Full name of institution

>>> Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), Flemish Government

Telephone

>>> +32 473 917712

Email

>>> janine.vanvessem@inbo.be

Designated CMS National Focal Point

Name and title of designated Focal Point

>>> Dr. Janine van Vesseem

Full name of institution

>>> Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), Flemish Government

Mailing address

>>> Herman Teirlinckgebouw, Havenlaan 88 bus 75
B 1000 Brussels

Telephone

>>> +32 473 917712

Email

>>> janine.vanvessem@inbo.be

Representative on the Scientific Council

Name and title

>>> Dr. Roseline C. Beudels-Jamar de Bolsee

Full name of institution

>>> Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)

Mailing address

>>> 29, Rue Vautier
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

Telephone

>>> +32 495 230938

Email

>>> roseline.beudels@skynet.be

II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

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

Please select only one option

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

Updates or corrections:

>>> Belgium is signatory to the Raptors MOU since 21 November 2011 and also signatory to the Aquatic Warbler MOU since 2005.

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

Please select only one per line

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

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

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

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

Guidance:

Article I(1)(h) of the Convention defines when a country is a Range State for a species, by reference also to the definition of “range” in Article I(1)(f). The latter refers to all the areas that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route.

There are cases where it may be difficult to determine what a “normal” migration route is, and for example to distinguish this from aberrant or vagrant occurrences. As per **Decision 13.140**, the Scientific Council has been requested to develop a practical guidance and interpretations of the terms ‘Range State’ and ‘vagrant’. In the meantime, if in doubt, please make the interpretation that you think will best serve the wider aims of the Convention. Feel free to consult the Secretariat in this regard.

A note on the application of the Convention to Overseas Territories/Autonomous Regions of Parties is found **here**. References to “species” should be taken to include subspecies where an Appendix to the Convention so provides, or where the context otherwise requires.

Please select only one option

- Yes, the list is correct (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments regarding individual species)
- No, amendments are needed, and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (in the file, please select all the species that apply, including the source of information supporting the change, and upload the amended file using the attachment button):

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix I Belgium 2022 Final.xlsx](#) - Amended Appendix I List Belgium (Report 2022)

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

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

Guidance: Please consider the guidance tip in question III.1 concerning the interpretation of “Range State”.

Please select only one option

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Belgium 2022 Final.xlsx](#) - Amended Appendix II List for Belgium (Report 2022)

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

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

Please select only one option

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

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

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

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

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

Walloon region: all species are protected under the Nature Conservation Law.

Marine species in the lists are protected by federal legislation, with the exception of commercial species (Appendix II) for which European legislation is valid (Common Fisheries Policy).

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Parties are requested to provide specific information on cases wherein an exception has been granted during the reporting period. This would not include information on what exceptions might be theoretically possible or exceptions that occurred before the reporting period. According to Article III(5) of the Convention, exceptions to a legal prohibition against taking of Appendix I species can only be made for one (or more) of the reasons specified in sub-paragraphs (a)-(d) of that Article.

For any species you list in the table, you must identify (in the second column of the table in the Excel file) at least one of the reasons that justify the exception relating to that species. In any case where you identify reason (d) as applying, please explain (in the third column) the nature of the “extraordinary circumstances” involved.

According to Article III(5), exceptions granted for any of the four reasons must also be “precise as to content and limited in space and time”. Therefore, please state what the specific mandatory space and time limitations are, in each case, using the third column; and indicate the date on which each exception was notified to the Secretariat in accordance with Article III(7).

Please consider consulting reports submitted to CITES that may be relevant when answering this question.

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

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

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

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

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies

Please select only one option

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

>>>

- Other

>>>

Please provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

Please indicate in the Excel file linked to below the species for which taking is prohibited. Please download the list of species here, select all that apply and upload the amended file using the attachment button below.

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

Please select only one option

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

>>>

- Other

>>>

Please provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

Please select only one option

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

>>>

Other

>>>

Please provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

Please provide information on the circumstances of the taking(s), including where possible any future plans in respect of such taking(s)

>>>

V. Awareness

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

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

(select all that apply)

GUIDANCE TIP:

Awareness raising that demonstrates work towards achieving Target 1 may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolutions **11.8 (Rev.COP12)** (Communication, information and outreach plan), **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions **13.6** (Insect Decline), **12.6** (Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **12.21** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), **11.16 (Rev.COP13)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), **11.31** (Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences within and beyond Borders), **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog) and Decision **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species).

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

>>>

- No actions taken

Impact of actions

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

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

In Flanders and Wallonia most actions on migratory species are also included under the EU Nature directives activities. Information is published on the website of the ministry (ANB Agency), as well as the yearly information note on World Migratory Bird Day (in Dutch) <https://natuurenbos.be/vergunningen/beschermde-soorten>

<https://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>

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

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

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

Tick one box

GUIDANCE TIP:

If the impact of awareness actions has been assessed by (for example) project evaluation studies or follow-up audience attitude surveys during the reporting period, those provide a basis for answering this question. If the assessment has involved any type of quantitative measure of the impact, please specify. It is recognized that such assessment studies may not always be available, in which case it is acceptable to base your answer on an informed subjective judgement. Alternatively, if there is genuinely no basis for forming such a judgement, please select "Unknown".

Question V.4 gives you the opportunity to explain the basis on which you have answered question V.3.

Please select only one option

- 1. Very little impact
- 2. Small impact
- 3. Good impact
- 4. Large positive impact

Unknown

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

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

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

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

Note that these strategies/planning processes may be relevant for objectives, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), and **13.116** (Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species). Please make reference to any relevant CMS documents in your response as appropriate.

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

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

E.g. Agenda 2030, reporting for International Whaling Commission, CBD, EU Nature Directives, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Responses to this question should be focused on the reporting processes of the country rather than on plans and regulations within the country. This question intends to understand if the values of migratory species and habitats are featured in other national reporting that your country participates in, such as reporting to other biodiversity MEAs, the International Whaling Commission, European Commission etc.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide details:

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

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

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

A list of organisations involved was provided in the national report of 2017.

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

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

A list of private sectors and their projects is provided in the national report of 2017.

Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP12)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species) and Decision **13.130** (Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species) for more information on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please describe any hindrances and challenges to the application of EIA and SEAs with respect to migratory species, lessons learned, and needs for further capacity development.

>>>

To what extent have biodiversity and migratory species considerations been specifically integrated into national energy and climate policy and legislation?

GUIDANCE TIP

Please refer to Resolutions **12.21**(Climate Change and Migratory Species), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)**(Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **10.11 (Rev.COP13)**(Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **13.108**(Support to the Energy Taskforce) for more information.

>>> More and more actions are taken to implement measures for the conservation of migratory species, eg in Environmental Impact Assessments, which is a legal obligation. In relation to energy, EIAs are mandatory for the building of wind turbines, both at land and sea. These EIA's will always take into consideration the conservation of bats and birds.

Walloon region: EIAs are included in the Nature Conservation Law, in the Spatial Planning Code. Impact Assessments of plans and programs are also included in the Environment Code.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> All windturbine parks have been developed after approval of EIAs, taking into account migratory species.

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to understand improvements in governance arrangements in your country, which may potentially include improvements in policy, legislation, governance processes, plans etc. Please also consider the guidance below in VII.2.

Please select only one option

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

Please provide details:

>>>

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

Please select only one option

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

Please describe how this assessment was made

>>>

Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different government agencies/ministries, sectors or groups been established at a national and/or subnational level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

GUIDANCE TIP:

There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism.

These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.

The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments may be helpful in giving further context.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

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

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

Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 25-27 of **Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP13)** (Synergies and partnerships)?

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the post-2020 global biodiversity

framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Resolution 13.1**(Gandhinagar Declaration on CMS and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Resolution 8.18 (Rev.COP12)**(Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD).

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>> Through the coordination committee reported above.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please identify the legislation, policies, initiatives, or action plans concerned:

>>>

VIII. Incentives

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

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

Please select only one option

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

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

>>>

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

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

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time periods concerned:

>>>

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

Please select only one option

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

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

>>>

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

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

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- In development / planned
- No

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

>>>

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

>>>

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

>>>

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

>>>

What is preventing progress?

>>> No new action

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

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

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

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

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

Intentional Taking

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please note that as per Article 1(i) of the Convention, “Taking” means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in such conduct.

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning intentional taking?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **12.10** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.12 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plans for Birds), **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **11.15 (Rev.COP13)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **11.16 (Rev.COP13)** (The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), **11.31** (Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offenses within and beyond Borders), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.27-28** (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), **13.74** ((Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes) and **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>>

Unintentional Taking

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Other forms of unintentional taking		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Bycatch	2	Lagenorhynchus albirostris (App II), Acipenser sturio (App I) & Galeorhinus galeus (App II)

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing bycatch or catch in ALDFG?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.22**(Bycatch), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **10.15 (Rev.COP12)** (Global Programme of Work for the Cetaceans) and **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species).

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning bycatch?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).

>>>

Collisions and electrocution

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing collisions and electrocution?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds, **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10**(Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures).

>>>

Other mortality

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

Disease		
Accidental/indirect poisoning		
Unexplained stranding events		
Predation		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering other mortality?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning other mortality?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **11.15 (Rev.COP13)** (Preventing Poisoning of of Migratory Species), **12.6**(Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures) and **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>>

Alien and/or invasive species

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing alien and/or invasive species?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning alien and/or invasive species?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **11.28** (Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species).

>>>

Disturbance and disruption

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing disturbance & disruption?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning disturbance and disruption?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.16** (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and Decision **13.66**(Marine Wildlife Watching).

>>> Development of large windturbine parks at sea. This causes disruption of, and has an impact on the behaviour of migratory seabirds.

Pollution

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing pollution?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning pollution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.5** (Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife), **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **13.122** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>>

Habitat destruction/degradation

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing habitat destruction/degradation?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning habitat destruction/degradation?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), **13.6** (Insect Decline), **12.7 (Rev.COP13)** (The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.12 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plans for Birds), **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), **12.17** (Conservation and Management

of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **12.24** (Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), **12.26 (Rev.COP13)** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>>

Climate change

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report concerning climate change?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning climate change?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Decision **13.126** (Climate change and Migratory Species).

>>>

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc?

>>>

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.?

>>>

Other (please specify)

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

--	--	--

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in other pressures?

>>> Restoration of habitats, but still too much at a local level.

Measures to improve the water quality, however the impact from nitrogen deposition is still far too high, as a result of agriculture, transport and industrial pollution sources.

Defragmentation through construction of ecoducts and other connectivity infrastructures.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning other pressures?

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

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?

CMS Article III(4)(b) states 'Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor...to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species.'

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to specifically report on any new legislation or domestic measures **addressing obstacles to migration**. Relevant information would not include general conservation measures.

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

>>>

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

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

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

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

If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file detailing a longer list of species.

GUIDANCE TIP:

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” during the reporting period. Information is expected to be provided here only where particularly notable shifts in status have occurred, such as those that might be represented by a re-categorisation of national Red List threat status for a given species (or subspecies, where relevant). Please record if any CMS listed species has become extinct or extirpated from your country - or reintroduced/re-established/established - during the reporting period (or before if not previously reported to CMS).

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

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

Aquatic mammals

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

Bats

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

Birds

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Reptiles

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

Fish

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

Insects

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

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

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

During the reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species?

E.g. Developments following the advice in Resolutions **12.8** and **13.7**.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide details:

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please specify which countries have been approached:

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

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

During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolutions **12.28 (Rev.COP13)** to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

GUIDANCE TIP:

If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)

>>>

Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (all relevant States engaging in cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach)?

E.g., steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways) and **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions **13.36** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), **13.41** (Flyways), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog) and **13.108** (Support to the Energy Task Force).

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>>

Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Post-2020 framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision **13.113 a)**

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Please provide details:

>>> Through the Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE).

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species. It is left to report compilers to work with any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement.

Helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the “**Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species**” presented to COP11 and the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention.

Please select only one option

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “contribution” may relate to habitat types, and/or geographical coverage/distribution factors, and/or coverage of particular priority species or species groups, and/or factors concerning functional connectivity, and/or any other factor considered relevant to the achievement of SPMS Target 10.

(If you have information on assessments of management effectiveness, please do not include that here, but provide it instead in your response to question XIII.4).

Please select only one option

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

Please provide details:

>>>

Please provide details:

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 Partly / for some areas
 In development
 No

Please provide a reference and details on what is covered:

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide details:

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

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

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

Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13) on Ecological Networks.

Resolution 12.13 on Important Marine Mammal Areas.

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

Resolution 12.25 on Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats.

Resolution 13.3 on Chondrichthyan Species

Decision 13.116 on Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species

>>>

XIV. Ecosystem Services

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

The phrase “associated with” migratory species allows you to report on any assessments that cover ecosystem services of systems, habitats or species assemblages that include migratory species. The question is therefore not expecting you to limit this to assessments focused solely on one or more migratory species.

For a broader biodiversity assessment to be relevant here, the migratory species involved must be making some identifiable contribution to the ecosystem services concerned.

Note also the particular aspects to be taken into account that are specified in the wording of the SPMS target. For the CMS definition of “favourable conservation status”, see Article I(1)(c) of the Convention text.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- Partly / in progress
- No

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>>

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>>

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Strategies to be considered under this section do not necessarily have to specifically address migratory species but be of sufficient relevance in relation to the objective of safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild populations.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

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

>>>

Please describe the Captive breeding strategy:

>>>

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>>

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>>

Please describe the reproductive material archives/repositories strategy:

>>>

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

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

Does your country's National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan (NBSAP), or other relevant plans or strategies used in your country, explicitly address obligations under CMS, priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and ecological connectivity?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, etc.

>>> For the marine environment: cooperation in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EC) and the OSPAR Commission.

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant international agreements.

GUIDANCE TIP:

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>>

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

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

Note that progress in achieving Target 13 of the Strategic Plan considers indigenous and local communities.

In the absence of a national definition of 'indigenous and local communities', please refer to the Convention of Biodiversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"** for helpful guidance on these terms.

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

Please select only one option

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

During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Please select only one option

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

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

(select all that apply)

- Research & documentation
- Engagement initiatives (e.g. as part of development projects)
- Formal recognition of rights
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms (legislation, policies, etc.)
- Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests
- Other

>>>

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

GUIDANCE TIP

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as those described in Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), and **13.116** (Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species).

>>>

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

Please select only one option

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

Please provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>>

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

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

During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Capacity assessments/gap analyses
- Agreements at policy level on research priorities
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders
- Other (please specify):

>>>

- No steps have been taken

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

GUIDANCE TIP

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **13.35** (Light Pollution), **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions **13.37** (AEM LAP), **13.39** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.90** (Conservation and Management of the African Lion), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), **13.106** (Support to the Energy Task Force), **13.110** (Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat), and **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species).

Education campaigns in schools

>>>

Public awareness campaigns

>>> See 2017 report.

Capacity building

>>> Capacity building through Natura 2000 projects.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Information sessions and data-sharing activities through Natura 2000 projects.

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

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

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>>>

Other

>>>

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>>

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

(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance

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

>>>

- No assistance required

XIX. Resource Mobilization

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

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “resources” that are relevant here can be financial, human or technical. In addition to funding, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure could be relevant, as could the loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities, technology transfer, training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building.

Further comments on resource mobilization issues in the CMS context can be found in the **Strategic Plan for Migratory Species**, Chapter 4.

Further examples could include providing resources to actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **13.4** (Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative, and Decisions **13.23** (Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme, **13.25** (Conservation Status of Migratory Species, **13.32** (Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the EAAF), **13.36** and **13.37** (AEMLAP), **13.39** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **13.41** (Flyways), **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.69** (Marine Turtles), **13.76** (European Eel), **13.80** (Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans), **13.90** (Conservation and Management of the African Lion), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), **13.102** (Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity), **13.106** (Support to the Energy Task Force), **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **13.120** (Community Participation and Livelihoods), **13.122** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution), and **13.134** (Infrastructure Development).

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

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

>>> Area based management, research and monitoring, capacity building.

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Unknown

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

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

>>>

- Other

>>> EU financial instruments (LIFE, INTERREG)

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

>>> Area based management, research and monitoring, capacity building.

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

>>> Migratory bird species and bats.

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Unknown

Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please consider answers provided in HLS.3 when answering this question where appropriate, as they may be of relevance.

>>> Area based management, tackling pollution, climate change.