



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

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

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

The reporting format was agreed by the Standing Committee at its 40th Meeting (Bonn, November 2012) for mandatory use by Parties, for reports submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11). The 45th meeting of the Standing Committee recommended the use of the same format for reports submitted to COP12, with necessary adjustments to take into account relevant COP11 decisions, in particular amendments to the Appendices and resolutions.

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

Please enter here the name of your country
> 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
> 2014-2017

Territories to which the Convention applies
> Whole territory of Georgia

Designated National Focal Point

Full name of the institution
> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Name and title of designated Focal Point
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Appointment to the Scientific Council

Full name of the institution
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Submission

Name and Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report

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Implementation

Competent Authority:

> Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Relevant implemented legislation:

> Law of Georgia on Red List and Red Book; Law of Georgia on Biodiversity; Law of Georgia on Fauna.

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

> Convention on Biodiversity

AEWA

EUROBATS

ACCOBAMS

Ramsar Convention

CITES

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

> National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020

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

Name

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AEWA (1999)

AEWA (1999)

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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-lechkhumi), 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, Department of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy

2- Aquatic Mammals

› Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Department of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy; National Environmental Agency of Georgia (responsible for monitoring).

3- Reptiles

› Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Department of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy

4- Terrestrial Mammals

› Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Department of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy

5- Fish

› Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Department of Biodiversity and Forestry Policy

II. Appendix I species

1. BIRDS

1.1 General questions on Appendix I bird species

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> Some of the Appendix I bird species are included in the Red List of Georgia. Some of the others are not protected by the Red List, but according to Georgian legislation, none of them are subject to any kind of exploitation. In particular, hunting is prohibited, if a species is not included in the list of hunting species. Other kinds of exploitation, such as taking from the wild for other different purposes (possessing, keeping, etc.), is also prohibited.

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

No

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

Habitat destruction

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

> 1. Electrocution. As EIAs for relevant projects contain information on migration routes, the final permit to start a project contains special conditions for mitigation of the impact of electric transmission facilities. Violation of such conditions are subject to relevant fines and compensations.

2. Habitat destruction is less essential, though the most important areas for birds are encircled within protected areas.

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

> Scientific studies would be highly appreciated to define and update existing data and to develop relevant recommendations.

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

Poaching

Other

> 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 ponticus* 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

> 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. Though, increased number of stranded cetaceans (due to improved level of monitoring) indicates the necessity of conducting of relevant studies to develop recommendations on safe methods of fishing and fishing gears, as well as other possible threats.

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

> Scientific studies to develop relevant recommendations and sharing experience of other countries.

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

Pollution

By-catch

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?

> National Action Plan for the Conservation of small cetaceans in territorial waters of Georgia has been developed with consultation of relevant international experts.

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

> The National Action Plan for the Conservation of small cetaceans is under consideration in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection for approval.

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

> Implementation of the developed Action Plan for the Conservation of small cetaceans is connected to the lack of financial resources, as well as to the management and human resources. These issues should be solved as soon as possible.

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

> Implementation of the developed National Action Plan for Conservation of small cetaceans, which concerns also *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*. The Plan is not adopted by the Ministry yet. It is under consideration within the ministry. Assistance is needed for its implementation. Trainings and workshops for rescue centers or for the centers responsible to respond to oil splits, could be very useful.

2.2 Questions on specific Appendix I aquatic mammals

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

Species name: *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*

1. Please provide published distribution reference:

> Biodiversity of the Black Sea, Tbilisi, 2012 (Monitoring report with support of GIZ)

Monitoring Report, Tbilisi, 2014

Monitoring Report, Tbilisi, 2015

These studies have been conducted by Ilia State University

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

increasing

stable

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

stable

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

Research

Identification and establishment of protected areas

> Kolkheti National Park contains a marine area which is recognized as an important area for all three cetaceans species of the Black Sea.

Monitoring

> Annual monitoring on distribution and population

Species protection

> All three species, including *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* are prohibited for hunting or disturbing.

Control hunting / poaching

> All three species, including *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* are prohibited for hunting or disturbing.

Habitat protection

> Kolkheti National Park contains a marine area which is recognized as an important area for all three cetaceans species of the Black Sea.

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

> Lack of financial resources and lack of relevant specialists involved in the field of marine mammals. For instance, the Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of small cetaceans contains provisions on creation of rescue centers, activities in case of oil spill, etc. To undertake all these activities, there is a need to have properly educated and staff.

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

> Conservation Plan for small cetaceans of Georgian territorial waters of the Black Sea has been developed by the Iliia State University scientists and researchers. It is under consideration in the Ministry of Environment for approval.

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

> Unreported illegal poaching, construction of hidropower stations, that create obstacles for the sturgeon species to migrate to their natural spawning places.

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

> There are a number of options considered by some scientists as compensation mechanisms, though none of them were approved as feasible.

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?

> Scientific investigations and recommendations, sharing experience with different countries who had similar problems in the past.

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

Other

> Habitat destruction and obstacles on migration routs, such as hydropower stations.

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:

> Lack of scientific knowledge, as well economic interest of the country, namely construction of hydropower stations.

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:

> Single specimens can be noticed along the coastal line of Georgia. According to the published material (Sturgeons of Georgia, N. Ninua, A. Guchmanidze, 2013), most of them were found in areas adjacent to Rioni and Chorokhi deltas.

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

unclear

> Published data are available only until 2007. After that there are some communications of witnesses.

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

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 should have been started operating in 2015, though it still has not.

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.

Wadden Sea Seals (1991)

Date of last report:
> 2014.07.28

Period covered:
> 2014-2017

EUROBATS (1994)

Date of last report:
> July, 2014

Period covered:
> 2010-2014

AEWA (1999)

Date of last report:
> 14.05.2012

Period covered
> 2009-2012

ACCOBAMS (2001)

Date of last report:
> 2016

Period covered:
> 2013-2016

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

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

> -

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.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan contains goals and targets related to the conservation of bird species of birds.

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.

A new draft Law on Biodiversity, as well as the new draft Law on Hunting also contain provisions which support rational use of resources.

Economic development

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> In 2016 two areas of high importance for migratory birds were proposed for designation of Emerald Sites. Those are: Chorokhi River delta and Javakheti Lakes. Both areas are the most important for the migratory birds, but also are potentially very suitable for different economic developments. In this regard, we can note, that conservation of migratory species is taken into account in economic development of the country.

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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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.

By 2016 the total territory of PAs is 8, 57%.

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

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Migration routes are taken into account while planning power lines. Special requirements to make them as much safe as possible for the migrations are considered in Environmental Expertise procedures during approval of the relevant EIAs.

Planning of fences

No

Planning of dams

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> Migration routes are taken into account while planning and constructing dams. Special requirements to make them as much safe as possible for the migrations are considered in Environmental Expertise procedures during approval of the relevant EIAs.

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. Chorokhi River delta is an important bottleneck on migration rout for many species. It is now submitted as a candidate to become an Emerald Site.

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.

Detailed information the PAs of Georgia can be found at the web site of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection

Aquatic

Yes

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

> Javakheti Protected Areas was established in 2011. It includes Javakheti National Park, Kartsakhi Managed Reserve, Sulda Managed Reserve, Khanchali Managed Reserve, Bugdasheni Managed Reserve and Madatapa Managed Reserve. There are lots of lakes on Javakheti Plateau, including the biggest one - Lake Paravani.

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.

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

> Establishment of protected areas is a guarantee that habitats of the relevant species are not disturbed.

These

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.

The project "Transboundary Initiative for Restoration of Eastern Imperial Eagle's Population in the Southern Caucasus" was implemented in 2013-2016 with support of Birdlife International. To achieve the main goal - to increase the Georgian population of the species - the GPS satellite tagging of first years chicks was carried out.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

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

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

[Aegypius monachus.pdf](#)

[Gypaetus barbatus.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.

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

> Main achievement of the project Transboundary Initiative for Restoration of Eastern Imperial Eagle's Population in the Southern Caucasus is the updated data on Imperial Eagle in Georgia. The awareness of population has been raised during the implementation of the project. Electrocutation has been recognised by as one of the acute problem for the species and it was decided to elaborate relevant recommendations. One of the chicks has been stolen from the nest and due to satellite tag helped to find him timely and enable the project team to return him back to the nature with support of the Environmental Supervision Department. Recommendations have been elaborated within the framework of the project.

The project can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1LSVpsFpG4xdEpuUTdsS0xXTjQ/view>

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:

Strategic and Institutional Matters

Capacity Building Strategy (Res. 9.12 / Res. 10.6)

> -

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Res. 11.2)

> Main goals and activities of the Strategic Plan for migratory Species are envisaged to be implemented in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020.

Financial and Administrative Matters and Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund (Res. 11.1)

> -

Relationship between the CMS Family and the Civil Society (Res. 11.11)

> The NGOs and other different scientific organizations are actively involved in the projects related to some of the CMS species, such as scientific research on *Acipenser sturio*, *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*, etc.

World Migratory Bird Day (Res. 11.9)

> -

Outreach and Communication Issues (Res. 11.8)

> -

Development of CMS Agreements (Res. 11.12)

> -

Concerted and Cooperative Actions (Res. 11.13)

> All of the species listed as candidates for concerted and cooperative actions are fully protected at national level, while there are not undertaken any substantial steps towards implementation of the main goal of this Resolution.

Synergies and Partnerships / Cooperation with other Conventions (Res. 11.10)

> All national focal points of all relevant MEAs are in close collaboration at the national level in order to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts to coordinate the work of focal points of relevant MEAs and other stakeholders, inter alia, through relevant measures in NBSAPs, harmonized national reporting and adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA.

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

> -

Avian Species and Issues

Electrocution of Migratory Birds (Res. 7.04 / Res. 10.11)

> No separate or special research has been conducted in Georgia. Georgia does not apply the SEAs. Though it should be noted that each EIA (in case of threat of electrocution for migratory birds) should contain mitigation measures. Without them the EIA would not be approved by the Ecological Expertise and the interested company would not be allowed to start construction works.

The EIA should also address the proper design, route and direction of power lines. The constructions should avoid, wherever possible, major migration flyways and habitats of conservation importance, such as Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, etc.

Southern Hemisphere Albatross Conservation (Res. 6.3)

> -

Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region (Res. 11.17)

> -

Global Flyway Conservation (Res. 10.10 / Res. 11.14)

> -

Saker Falcon (Res. 11.18)

> Saker falcon in Georgia is included in the Red List and protected at the highest national level. It is prohibited to take this species from the wild.

Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds (Res. 11.16)

> All migratory species of birds protected by the CMS appendices are protected at national level also. There is a game species list and according Georgian legislation it is prohibited to hunt any other species all over the year. There are some difficulties in controlling the illegal hunting due to the limited resources, though some progress in revealing of such cases can be noticed.

As regards the international trade, CITES management authorities perform their duties at high level.

Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Res. 8.27 / Res. 9.8 / Res. 10.22)

> Project Avian Influenza in Wild Birds started in 2010 is continuing till now and is supported by different international organizations. Over 30 000 specimens were checked in the frame of the project. About 2% of them were infected with lower pathogenic influenza. Highly pathogenic influenza was detected in a lower percentage of birds. Mostly the infected species belonged to Anseriformes and Charadriiformes.

Poisoning Migratory Birds (Res. 11.15)

> -

Aquatic Species and Issues

Migratory Marine Species (Res. 9.9 / Res. 10.15)

> All three species of cetaceans of the Black Sea are protected by national legislation of Georgia. Two of them, *Tursiops truncatus* and *Phocoena phocoena* are listed in the Red List of Georgia, while Common dolphin is considered to be included into the Red List in nearest future. Anyway, it is prohibited by acting legislation to take it from the wild.

Regular monitoring is conducted on abundance and distribution of marine mammals in territorial waters of Georgia.

All sturgeon species are also included into the Red List.

Conservation of Migratory Sharks and Rays (Res. 11.20)

> The only shark species of the Black Sea - *Squalus accantia* - is prohibited for fishing, because according to the monitoring data, the population size was defined as dramatically decreasing.

Live capture of Cetacean from the Wild (Res. 11.22)

> Live capture of cetaceans is prohibited according to the Law of Georgia on Red List and Red Book and the Law on Fauna.

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

> -

Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean (Res. 11.21)

> -

Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture (Res. 11.23)

> -

Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) (Rec. 7.6)

> -

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

> -

Migratory Freshwater Fish (Res. 10.12)

> -

Terrestrial Species and Issues

Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna (Rec. 9.2)

> -

Tigers and other Asian Big Cats (Rec. 9.3)

> -

Conservation of the African Lion (Res. 11.32)

> -

Cross-cutting Issues

Marine Debris (Res. 10.4 / Res. 11.30)

> -

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

> By catch remains a problem, as collected relevant information is still not reliable.

Wildlife Crime (Res. 11.31)

> -

Ecological Networks (Res. 10.3 / Res. 11.25)

> Georgia is implementing a program to designate Emerald Sites. There are 33 sites nominated for designation all over the country.

Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species (Res. 7.5 / Res. 11.26)

> -

Modus Operandi for Conservation Emergencies (Res. 10.2)

> -

Marine Wildlife Watching (Res. 11.29)

> Marine wildlife watching is not developed in Georgia.

Oil Pollution and Migratory Species (Res. 7.3)

> Different versions of Oil Spill Contingency Plans were developed, but non of them were adopted.

Impact Assessment and Migratory Species (Res. 7.2)

> Strategic Impact Assessment is not applicable in Georgia, though the EIAs according to Georgian Legislation contain the issues related to the interests of migratory species. If there is envisaged an impact on migratory animals or their habitats or routs, there should be defined the relevant compensaton mechanisms. Otherwise, the interested companies will not be able to pass the ecological expertize in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and will not be able to start their activities.

Invasive Alien Species and Migratory Species (Res. 11.28)

> Introduction of invasive alien species is prohibited according to Georgian legislation. As regards the already introduced species, different relevant measures are tried to be carried out in accordance with revent recommendation of scientific organizations. Although any efficient measures have not been revealed. Sharing experiences of other more successful cases from other countries would be highly appreciated.

Renewable Energy and Migratory Species (Res. 7.5 / Res. 11.27)

> -

Annex: Updating Data on Appendix II Species

1. The drop-down lists below contain the list of all species listed in Appendix II. Parties which did not submit a National Report in 2014 are requested to complete the entire form. Parties that did submit a report in 2014 are requested to review and update the data (e.g. new published distribution references and details concerning species added to Appendix II at COP11).

References cited in the Annex:

> -