

# 2019 CMS National Report

**Deadline for submission of the National Reports: 17 August 2019**

**Reporting period: from April 2017 to August 2019**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## High-level summary of key messages

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

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

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

> Single Species Action Plans are a great tool for focusing attention and prioritising activities that need to be implemented to facilitate the conservation of migratory species. Benefits of SSAPs include the relatively short timeframe required for development and adoption, the ability to include non-Party range states, and the ability to target specific conservation requirements.

The ability to include non-Party range states in the development and implementation of subsidiary agreements and MoUs is also a significant successful aspect of the Convention. However, these subsidiary instruments take significantly longer to negotiate and can suffer from a lack of support (particularly in the case of non-legally binding MoUs).

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

> Given the legally-binding obligations for Parties that result from the addition of species to Appendix I in particular, it is unfortunate that there has been an inconsistent application and/or understanding of the definition of migratory under the Convention. The fact that a species is widely distributed, or that its home range happens to incorporate jurisdictional boundaries, does not mean that the species meets the definition of migratory. The Scientific Council should endeavour to address this issue rigorously in future.

There can also be issues in implementing obligations related to species listings when the listing does not

adequately recognise population or regional differences that occur within the species range. Greater use of regional or sub-population listings may help to alleviate this difficulty.

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

> Develop a common understanding of the eligibility requirements associated with listing proposals. While guidance approved at COP11 has been useful, there are still areas that require further attention. Promotion of prior consultation with relevant range states should also be given higher priority.

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of Contracting Party

> Australia

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

> 01.09.1991

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>

### **Report compiler**

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## II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

No, updates or corrections are required, as follows:

Updates or corrections:

>

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

*Please select only one per line*

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

### III. Species on the Convention Appendices

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

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

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

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes the file is correct and up to date (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments you may wish in respect of individual species)

No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix I Australia.xlsx](#) - Appendix I species for which Australia is a range state

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

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

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes the file is correct and up to date (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments you may wish in respect of individual species)

No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Australia.xlsx](#) - Appendix II species for which Australia is a range state

## 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

> Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (s209-223). The EPBC Act is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance. Within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 prohibit the take of many CMS listed species notably Dugong, Whales and Dolphins, and several species of sharks, sea snakes, and all bird species (s30).

States and Territories within Australia also have legislation that covers migratory species:

Implementing legislation (New South Wales):

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009

Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

Fisheries Management Act 1994

Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2010

Marine Estate Management Act 2014

Implementing legislation (Victoria):

National Parks Act 1975

Wildlife Act 1975

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2011

Wildlife (Marine Mammal) Regulations 2009 (Statutory Rule No. 152/1998)

Fisheries Act 1995

Implementing legislation (Queensland):

Marine Parks Act 2004

Nature Conservation Act 2002

Fisheries Regulations 2008

Implementing legislation (South Australia):

Natural Resources Management Act 2004

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

Fisheries Management Act 2007

Marine Parks Act 2007

Environment Protection Act 1993

Implementing legislation (Western Australia):

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018

Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (to be replaced by the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016)

Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Implementing legislation (Tasmania):

Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995

Nature Conservation Act 2002 and National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002

Whales Protection Act 1988

Threatened Species Protection Act 1995

Natural Resources Management Act 2002

Implementing legislation (Northern Territory):

Fisheries Act 1988

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2007

Implementing legislation (Australian Capital Territory):

Nature Conservation Act 1980

Implementing legislation (External Territories):

Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act 1980

Australian Antarctic Territory Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980

Antarctic Marine Living Resources Conservation Act 1981

Christmas Island Act 1958

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Wild Animals and Birds Ordinance 1980

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980

Coral Sea Islands Territory Endangered Species Ordinance 1980

Coral Sea Islands Territory Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980  
Norfolk Island Endangered Species Act 1980  
Norfolk Island Migratory Birds Act 1980  
Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Endangered Species Ordinance 1980  
Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980  
Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980  
Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Environment Protection and Management Ordinance 1987

**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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section\\_IV\\_exceptions\\_Australia.xlsx](#) - Notifications by Australia regarding exceptions

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

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

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

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

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

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

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

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

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

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

species?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies

*Please select only one option*

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

>

Other

>

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

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

Please identify the legal statute(s) concerned

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

*Please select only one option*

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

>

Other

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please indicate which of the following stages of development applies:

*Please select only one option*

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

>

Other

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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



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## V. Awareness

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

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

(Select all that apply).

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

> With regards to engagement, the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) liaises with commercial and recreational fishers, non-governmental organizations and produces special publications. This also includes national and international scientific presentations and conferences, such as:

Braccini, J.M. & B. Molony. 2018. Abundance and size trends for northwestern Australian sharks: cause for optimism for global shark conservation. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 57, Perth, Australia (oral presentation).

2. Braccini, J.M., DeLestang, S & R. McAuley. 2018. Dusky sharks undertake large-scale migrations between tropical and temperate ecosystems. *Sharks International*, Joao Pessoa, Brazil (oral presentation).

3. Braccini, J.M., Hesp, A & B. Molony. 2018. Weight-of-evidence framework for assessing shark stocks in Western Australia. *Sharks International*, Joao Pessoa, Brazil (poster presentation).

4. Braccini, J.M. 2017. Acoustic monitoring reveals the broad-scale movements of commercially-important sharks. 4th International Conference on Fish Telemetry, Cairns, Australia (oral presentation).

No actions taken

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[WA Parks and Wildlife marine wildlife information](#) - Information on the marine wildlife of WA

## 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.

> Internet and social media relating to tracking of migratory bird within Australia and along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

WetlandLink e-newsletters by Conservation Volunteers Australia, which included articles about their projects on migratory bird habitat and other relevant projects.

Migratory-bird focused events for World Wetlands Day.

Various publications regarding migratory birds and their habitats (see links).

In Australia, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is responsible for regulating the offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage industries. NOPSEMA prepares and publishes information and guidance materials that support interpretation of national legislation relevant to environmental management in the offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage sectors.

In December 2018 NOPSEMA published an information paper on Acoustic Impact Evaluation and Management. The paper does not provide 'how to' guidance on technical aspects of acoustic emissions EIA, monitoring and management. It does however promote other resources for some of these more technical aspects, including the following CMS document:

- CMS (2017) Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities', Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn. The NOPSEMA guidance document can be found at the link provided below.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority operates the Reef Guardian schools program. The program began in 2003 and aims to create awareness, understanding and appreciation for the Reef and its connected ecosystems.

During the whale migration season, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority publishes on its website and through social media - the need for reef users to slow down and not approach whales too closely. This is to decrease likelihood of whale strike.

Sensitive bird exclusion areas are specified in the Great Barrier Reef spatial planning documents and enforced on permits with restricted access for permittees during important nesting and migration periods.

The Queensland Government has recently updated shark identification guides that includes information on all no take species. This information was distributed to all commercial net and line fishers as part of a broader reform package focusing on the management of shark species in Queensland waters.

Two identification guides have been published by the Western Australian Government, one for the northwest and one in the southwest. These guides describe marine wildlife including migratory whale and marine turtle species and provide information on their life history and protection in WA waters (links provided below).

The WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) website contains information on marine and threatened fauna along with information on protection measures such as minimum approach distances to whales, responsible whale watching and whale shark management program (further information see link provided above).

DBCA recently hosted the 5th international whale shark conference in Exmouth May 2019. DBCA sponsors and supports a community whale shark festival every year. DBCA conducts training programs for commercial whale shark operators at Ningaloo Marine Park for whale shark and humpback whale in-water interaction. WA DPIRD has also produced the following publications:

1. I. Junge, C., Donnellan, S.C., Huvneers, C., Bradshaw, C.J.A., Simon, A., Drew, M., Rogers, P., Johnson, G., Cliff, G., Braccini, M., McAuley, R., Duffy, C., Peddemors, V., Butcher, P., Cutmore, S.C., & B.M. Gillanders. 2019. Comparative population genomics confirms little population structure in two commercially targeted carcharhinid sharks. *Marine Biology* 166: 16.

2. Braccini, M. & D. Waltrick. 2019. Species-specific at-vessel mortality of sharks and rays captured by demersal longlines. *Marine Policy*: 99: 94-98.

3. Braccini, M., S. de Lestang & R. McAuley. 2018. Dusky sharks (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) undertake large-scale migrations between tropical and temperate ecosystems. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 75: 1525-1533.

4. Taylor, S.M., Braccini, J.M., Bruce, B.D. & R. McAuley. 2018. Reconstructing Western Australian white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) bycatch based on interviews with fishers. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 69: 366-375.

5. Braccini, J.M., Taylor, S., McAuley, R., & B. Bruce. 2017. Modelling the population trajectory of West Australian white sharks. *Ecological Modelling* 360: 363-377.

6. Braccini, M., Rensing, K., T. Langlois & R. McAuley. 2017. Acoustic monitoring reveals the broad-scale movements of commercially-important sharks. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 577: 121-129.

7. Braccini, M. 2017. Temporal patterns in the size of the main commercial shark species of Western Australia. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 68: 1112-1117.

8. Jaiteh, V., Hordyk, A.R., Braccini, M., Warren, C., & N.R. Loneragan. 2017. Shark finning in eastern Indonesia: Assessing the sustainability of a data-poor fishery. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 74:242-253.

9. Braccini, M., McAuley R. & A. Harry. 2017. Spatial and temporal dynamics of Western Australia's commercially important sharks. FRDC Project No 2010/003, Fisheries Research Report No. 282 Department of Fisheries, Western Australia.

10. Braccini, J.M. & J.O. O'Malley. 2017. Temperate Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fisheries Status Report. In W. J. Fletcher editor. Status reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources of Western Australia 2015/16: State of the Fisheries. Department of Fisheries, Western Australia.

WWF-AU has engaged news and social media with regard to a number of campaigns and projects, including relating to Shy Albatross, Net-Free North campaign, marine turtles and cetaceans. Specific details are provided below.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Taylor et al 2018 S.PDF](#)

[Taylor et al 2018.pdf](#)

[Jaiteh et al 2016.pdf](#)

[Braccini et al 2018.pdf](#)

[Braccini et al 2017b.pdf](#)

[Braccini et al 2017.pdf](#)

[Braccini Waltrick 2019.pdf](#)

[Whale Shark management - Ningaloo FINAL.pdf](#) - Whale shark management program 2013

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[NOPSEMA Acoustic Impact Evaluation and Management](#)

[NSW Coastal Management engagement](#)

[NSW Saving our Species Program](#)

[The Reef Guardian schools program](#)

[Marine Wildlife of Southern WA Identification Guide](#)

[Marine Wildlife of WA's North-West Identification Guide](#)

[Queensland Shark Identification Guide](#)

[WetlandLink e-newsletter](#) - WetlandLink is a free bimonthly e-newsletter which covers wetland news, topical issues, media, events, research and resources nationwide.

Celebrating Australia's Migratory Waterbirds and their habitats

Celebrating Australia's wetland science: World class research for wetlands

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

Tick one box

*Please select only one option*

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

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

> Greater coverage of migratory bird issues in the media, including on World Migratory Bird Day.

Engagement of the public in wetland restoration activities (example project report attached).

Engagement by 500 people in a protest at Moreton Bay Ramsar site (May 2019) to protect Eastern Curlew habitat.

Educational activities at Ramsar and other wetlands relating to migratory birds eg Jerrabomberra wetlands (Latham's Snipe), and Eastern Curlew at Towra Point and Moreton Bay Ramsar sites.

Shy Albatross

In October 2017, WWF-AU engaged news media and its supporters on a project to help increase shy albatross breeding success. The project received national-wide coverage. Featuring in over 50 publications, with a cumulative reach of 8 million. The story also featured in WWF-AU's & WWF-US's email newsletters, social channels and website.

Net-Free North

In March 2018, WWF-AU launched its Net-Free North campaign with the aim to create the largest Net-Free zone on the Great Barrier Reef and a haven for dugongs. Thanks to the generous donations of over 3,000 supporters, WWF-AU was able to retire and remove the last full-time commercial gill net from Princess Charlotte Bay. The next step of the campaign is to create a 385km<sup>2</sup> haven for the dugongs living there by permanently banning the use of commercial gill nets from Cape Flattery to Torres Strait, to help protect one of the world's largest dugong populations. Over 14,000 WWF supporters have called for this ban.

Marine Turtles

Hawksbill turtles

Over the last 24 months WWF-AU has developed numerous pieces of content to drive awareness of the threats hawksbill turtles face and what can be done to protect them. The content pieces have been shared with WWF-Australia's one million supporters via its website, social media channels and emails. The projects received global coverage, featuring in over 27 publications, with a cumulative reach of 1.3 million. WWF-AU also partnered with Royal Caribbean Cruises to raise awareness of the illegal tortoiseshell trade to its 500,000+ customers that cruise with them each year.

Whales – Humpback, Minke, and Antarctic blue whales

From April 2017 working with our science partners, WWF-AU has been sharing stories from the field in Antarctica and raising awareness of the importance of protecting this vital whale feeding habitat to the public and policymakers. Our joint conservation projects have received global coverage, through news media and WWF channels, including the US, France, Netherlands, UK & Australia. Stories have been featured in over 32 global publications, with a cumulative reach of over 70 million including a recent national television news feature in the United States.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[CVA Eastern Curlew Update May 2019.pdf](#) - Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Eastern Curlew

## 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

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Threatened Species Strategy](#) - Use this link to access the Threatened Species Strategy and its associated yearly progress reports.

[Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 - 2030](#)

[Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2017](#) - The Guidelines describe how people can observe and interact with whales and dolphins in a way that ensures animals are not harmed or disturbed.

[EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 - Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales: Industry guidelines](#)

[Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds - 2015](#) - The Plan outlines national activities to support migratory shorebird conservation initiatives and provides a strategic framework to ensure these activities plus future research and management actions are integrated and remain focused on the long-term survival of migratory shorebird populations and their habitats.

[EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21 - Industry guidelines for avoiding, assessing and mitigating impacts on EPBC Act listed migratory shorebird species](#) - This policy statement is intended to provide a guide for stakeholders in assessing the likelihood of a proposed action having a significant impact on one or more migratory shorebird species in Australia.

[EPBC Act 1999](#) - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act - protecting migratory species

Please provide a short summary:

> The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places —defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance.

The nine matters of national environmental significance to which the EPBC Act applies are:

- migratory species
- world heritage properties
- national heritage places
- wetlands of international importance (often called 'Ramsar' wetlands after the international treaty under which such wetlands are listed)
- nationally threatened species and ecological communities
- Commonwealth marine areas
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining)
- a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

The EPBC Act comes into play when a proposal has the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. Once listed as a migratory species under the EPBC Act, irrespective of whether it is listed on Appendix I or II, it becomes an offence to kill, injure, take or move the species in Commonwealth waters.

In Australia, the environmental management of the offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas industries is regulated under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009. Under the Regulations, a document called an Environment Plan (EP) must be accepted by the regulator before an activity can commence. The Regulations require that the EP includes evaluations of all environmental impacts and risks of activities and demonstration that these impacts and risks are of an acceptable level and reduced to as low as reasonably practicable. The Regulations specifically require that consideration be given in an EP to the presence of listed migratory species under Australia's EPBC Act and that the EP demonstrates impacts and risks are of an acceptable level.

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 prioritises building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate, with a specific focus upon protecting diversity, maintaining ecosystem services and re-establishing ecosystem functions, and reducing threats to biodiversity.

Building structural and functional connectivity at multiple scales is an important consideration in many land and seascapes, creating opportunities for migratory species to move between areas as they locate and utilise resources. Reducing fragmentation and facilitating species movement, as well as providing refuge, is essential to enable migratory species to persist throughout their migratory range.

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 is currently being revised, based upon a review of

the first five years of the Strategy's operation.

The Australian Government established a new national approach to threatened species. The Threatened Species Strategy is a plan for how we will prioritise effort and work in partnership with the community and state and territory governments over the next five years.

The Strategy sets out a road map and highlights how the approach of science, action and partnership can be used to achieve the long-term goal of reversing species declines and supporting species recovery. The Strategy contains a number of species that are also recognised as migratory, such as the Christmas Island Frigatebird and the Eastern Curlew. Progress reports have been released annually since the Plan's inception, and now Year Three progress report is available at the link provided above. The Year Three report includes progress against the year three targets under the Threatened Species Strategy.

The Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program is currently funding an Australian Bird Index, which will develop transparent and repeatable methods for quantifying population trends of Australia's waterbird populations through population indices, to track the overall health of these bird groups at a national and regional and local scales, and for use as indicators of wetland and coastal environments. This project is ongoing and results will be reported in Australia's next National Report.

Migratory species matters also factor in various State and Territory planning programs. For example, the NSW Government has developed a Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028 which supports a range of projects to better understand and mitigate threats to marine species. The first two years of the strategy will focus on strategic framework development, governance and cooperative arrangements, review of the NSW Marine Wildlife Management Manual (addressing response to marine wildlife incidents), education campaigns, and working with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and commercial fishers on bycatch reduction and the marine observer program.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has a Saving our Species program, under which several CMS Appendix I and II species (seabirds, shorebirds and sea turtles) have been prioritised under partnership or site-managed-management streams.

Under the program, draft conservation strategies for green and loggerhead turtles in NSW have been prepared. The strategy outlines the critical threats and management actions needed to secure the species in NSW. Two marine turtle species (*Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas*) have received funding under the program:

1. NSW TurtleWatch, which aims to enhance understanding of occurrence and threats to marine turtles in NSW through a citizen science and community engagement program; and
2. a program to better understand and plan for climate impacts on sea turtles in NSW considering the effect of present day temperatures on turtle hatchlings across the latitudinal gradient of current and potential future nesting beaches.

The new NSW coastal management framework incorporates migratory species, their breeding and foraging coastal habitats and migratory processes. One of the main management objectives of the NSW Coastal Management Act 2016 is to improve the resilience of coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests to the impacts of climate change, including opportunities for migration.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[NSW Coastal Management Framework](#)

[NSW Saving our Species Program](#)

[NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018 - 2028](#)

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> All commercial fisheries with an export component are assessed under the EPBC Act. The assessments consider the impacts of the fishery on target and non-target species caught, and on the impacts of fishing on the broader marine environment, including on migratory species. Additionally, commercial fisheries operating in Commonwealth waters may also be assessed to determine the impacts of fishing operations on EPBC Act listed species, including migratory species. Conditions and/or recommendations may be placed on fisheries accreditations requiring actions to be taken within a specified period of time to improve the management of particular issues within the fishery, for example in relation to interactions with migratory species. Fisheries management agencies also monitor protected species interactions, including with EPBC Act listed migratory species, and report these to the Department of the Environment and Energy.

Since the first fisheries assessments were completed in 2002 most fisheries have been assessed several times, and there have been significant improvements in the ecological sustainable management of these fisheries.

State and Territory-managed fisheries are also required to report interactions with protected species. For example, South Australia publishes fishery interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species (TEPS) annually. Similar processes are in place in Queensland where all commercial operators are required to

report interactions with TEP species through a dedicated Species of Conservation Interest (SOCI) logbook. This information is used in a range of reporting systems including those linked to Wildlife Trade Operation approvals. NSW commercial fishers are also required to report interactions with TEP species via logbooks, and interactions are reported to the Commonwealth with respect to Wildlife Trade Operations. In addition to reporting threatened species interactions, Western Australia has specific whale entanglement mitigation measures in place for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (WCRLMF) and Octopus Interim Managed Fishery (OIMF); and bycatch reduction devices for turtles and dolphins are used in trawl fisheries. Fishery operations in the Northern Territory operate under agreed management arrangements that cover areas such as access, bycatch, reporting and monitoring. An example is provided at the link below. Catches in the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program are also made publicly available via annual performance reports (link below).

Every 5 years, the Australian Government commissions an independent review of the state of the environment. The purpose of national state of the environment reporting is to:

- provide all Australians with authoritative information on the state of the environment that sustains our economy and wellbeing; and
- provide the Australian public, the Australian Government and other decision-makers responsible for managing our environment with an assessment of how effectively the Australian environment is being managed and what the key national environmental issues are.

The State of the Environment Report is grouped into themes. The Biodiversity theme summarises the condition of Australia's living resources and highlights the challenges of management in the context of human dependence on biodiversity for ecosystem services. A link to the 2016 report is provided below.

Every 5 years the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority also prepares an Outlook Report. This report provides an overview of the Great Barrier Reef: the current condition, use, factors influencing the condition, management effectiveness, resilience, risks to its future and likely outlook. A link to the 2014 report is provided below.

NSW also releases a NSW State of the Environment report every three years. The report outlines the status of key environmental issues facing NSW. Access the 2018 report below. The NSW OEH also has many other reporting functions online. For example, the Saving our Species database includes the conservation strategies for green and loggerhead turtles in NSW and is reported online. The aims of the Marine Estate Management Strategy are reported online and the objectives of the NSW coastal management framework are reported online.

Australia undertakes national reporting on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets every four years, under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes reporting on safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; promoting sustainable use of biodiversity; enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and enhancing planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Northern Territory management arrangements for the offshore net and line fishery](#)

[NSW Saving our Species Database](#)

[NSW State of the Environment Report - 2018](#)

[NSW Shark Meshing \(Bather Protection\) Program](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#)

[State of the Environment Report 2016](#)

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

> The Raine Island Recovery Project is a five year, \$7.95 million collaboration between BHP, the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Wuthathi and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Raine Island supports the world's largest remaining green turtle population and the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. For further information relating to Raine Island's recovery, see link provided below.

BirdLife Australia is Australia's largest bird conservation organisation. BirdLife Australia aims to make a real and positive difference for Australia's birds. Its experience and specialised knowledge combined with its ability to unite and inspire the bird-loving community means that it can act quickly and decisively at local, state and national levels. For a comprehensive overview of BirdLife Australia's activities, see its attached report.

Conservation Volunteers Australia has partnered with individuals, businesses and governments in the conservation of the Australian environment since 1982. In that time, hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around Australia and across the world have participated in a diversity of important projects to protect and enhance the environment. See Eastern Curlew Project report attached in Section V as an example.

A number of wetlands (including Ramsar sites) are managed by non-government bodies, including the Hunter Estuary Ramsar site which is run by the Hunter Wetlands Centre and provides essential habitat for migratory birds and promotes various educational activities (see link below).

In NSW, the OEH coordinates conservation programs in partnership with non-government organisations such as BirdLife Australia, the Australasian Wader Study Group, Hunter Bird Observers Club, and Conservation Volunteers Australia. Involvement includes site management, monitoring, community engagement and

awareness.

Under the Saving our Species program, NSW TurtleWatch will engage volunteers from local communities in northern NSW to gather observational information on the presence of nesting green and loggerhead turtles. The project will be delivered in a partnership between the NSW Government and Australian Seabird Rescue. Wild Migration aims to build the participation capacity of wildlife scientists, wildlife policy experts, NGOs and CSOs around the world to secure international wildlife conservation. Wild Migration has maintained contact with Australia's National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) relating to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities (CMS Noise EIA Guidelines) and NOPSEMA's guidance to proponents in the preparation of Environment Plans for assessment and approval. Specifically, Wild Migration has focused on the detail of independent, scientific modelling and the impact to cetaceans and pinnipeds, and their prey in the Australian jurisdiction. Wild Migration has also raised awareness and general capacity about the detail within the CMS Noise EIA Guidelines with stakeholders focused on CMS-listed species and their prey, including fisheries associations and the conservation community.

The Northern Territory Seafood Council (NTSC) is an incorporated association that represents the NT seafood industry's interests in a diverse range of forums at the Northern Territory level including regional Aboriginal fishery consultative committees, fishery management advisory committees, conferences and workshops on specific issues such as the environment and native title, formal parliamentary committees, individual government and non-government bodies and the media. The NT Seafood Council has developed a number of protected species factsheets that aim to provide fishers with information on the species and ways in which to mitigate bycatch and release safely if caught. A sample of relevant protected species factsheets are attached for information.

The NTSC is also involved in the development of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) which are used for addressing issues or risks with potential to affect the environmental sustainability of a fishery. These documents outline where there are risks of interacting with protected species, and how to mitigate these risks. Two sample EMS are attached - the Barramundi Fishery includes sections on Sawfish and the Offshore Net and Line Fishery EMS also includes reference to Sawfish and other shark species.

The NSW Game Fishing Association was established to govern and co-ordinate the sport of game fishing in New South Wales. It aims to conserve game fish and food fish resources of NSW waters for the recreational and economic use of present and future generations. The Association also encourages the study of game fish angling, the related species and the habitat requirements of such species and assists in the maintenance of the ecological balance of the waters. The Association encourages the tag and release of all pelagic migratory fish, and provides data to the NSW Fisheries Tag Program, which is recognised as one of the largest and best in the world. Since the program was started in 1973, over 460,000 pelagic game fish, including sharks, have been tagged and over 8,000 have been recaptured in Australian waters. CMS-listed species that have been tagged and released during the reporting period include white shark, makos, porbeagles and thresher sharks. WWF-Australia is part of the WWF International Network, whose mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF-AU has been involved in a number of relevant projects during the reporting period. For further details, see its attached report.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[WWF contributions to National Report May 2019.docx](#) - WWF-AU contributions to migratory species activities  
[NT Seafood Council Environmental Management System Offshore Net and Line Fishery.pdf](#) - NT Seafood Council Environmental Management Systems - Offshore Net and Line Fishery  
[NT Seafood Council Environmental Management System Barramundi Fishery.pdf](#) - NT Seafood Council Environmental Management Systems - Barramundi Fishery  
[NT Seafood Council Sawfish Factsheet.pdf](#) - NT Seafood Council Protected Species Factsheet - Sawfish  
[NT Seafood Council Marine Turtles Factsheet.pdf](#) - NT Seafood Council Protected Species Factsheet - Marine Turtles  
[NT Seafood Council Dugong Factsheet.pdf](#) - NT Seafood Council Protected Species Factsheet - Dugong  
[NT Seafood Council Crocodile Factsheet.pdf](#) - NT Seafood Council Protected Species Factsheet - Saltwater Crocodiles  
[BirdLife Australia input for National Report.pdf](#) - BirdLife Australia: contribution to the conservation of migratory species

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Raine Island Recovery Project](#)  
[Hunter Wetlands Centre](#)

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

> The Australian Government has mobilised over \$210 million in support of threatened species since 2014, but we all have a role to play. The Threatened Species Prospectus invites the business, industry and philanthropic sectors to join us in the battle to prevent further extinctions. It includes more than 50 projects that have been scientifically assessed by the Threatened Species Commissioner, in consultation with Australian's who are saving species on the ground across the country. See link below for further information.



The Australian Government, through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, has partnered with BHP, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and others to restore and improve Green Turtle nesting habitat on Raine Island. Melbourne Water manages the Port Phillip Bay Ramsar site and the Edithvale-Seafood Ramsar site to benefit migratory waterbirds. The organisation also undertakes education and training activities. Links provided below for further information.

In NSW, corporate organisations such as Port Waratah Coal Services and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group are involved in the conservation of migratory shorebirds in the Hunter and Port Stephens estuaries through site-management, including fencing, pest control and rehabilitation, and community awareness programs. In Western Australia, DPIRD liaises with universities, environmental consultancies and the resource sector (oil and gas) regarding species conservation.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Raine Island Recovery Project](#) - Partnerships to restore and improve habitat for Green Turtles on Raine Island

[Edithvale-Seafood Wetland](#)

[Port Phillip Bay Ramsar site](#)

[Threatened Species Prospectus](#)

## VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

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

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

*Please select only one option*

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

Please provide a short summary:

> The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is currently reviewing its governance arrangements, and will consider a plan to implement governance reforms at its next meeting in September 2020. Australia is actively participating in this process. In the longer term, a more efficient organisation will benefit the management and conservation of cetaceans.

With regards to white shark, the Western Australian Government has committed to conduct a scientific trial of non-lethal SMART drumlines and has deployed three additional satellite-linked (VR4G) acoustic receivers in the South West of WA.

Ten SMART drumlines will be deployed evenly across 11.5 kilometres of coastline in the State's South West, about 500 metres offshore from Hangmans surfbreak north of Gracetown to Ellensbrook in the south.

The final scientific framework of the trial was decided following community consultation.

The trial commenced on 21 February 2019 and is expected to run for 15 months. The intent of the trial is not to kill sharks, but to catch, tag, relocate and release white sharks one kilometre from shore.

Twelve months into the trial the Chief Scientist, Professor Peter Klinken AC, will undertake an independent assessment on the effectiveness of SMART drumlines in reducing the risk of shark attacks. The Chief Scientist's report will assist government in making a science-based assessment of the potential application of SMART drumlines in Western Australia. For further information, see the link below.

Western Australia DPIRD has also undertaken a Weight-of-Evidence (WoE) assessment and published papers mentioned under Section V relating to dusky sharks. It has also implemented a requirement for species identification for hammerheads in commercial fishing logbooks.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Western Australia's Smart Drumline Trial](#)

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

*Please select only one option*

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

Please describe briefly how this assessment was made

> The process is ongoing.

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

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

([https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/basic\\_page\\_documents/Internet\\_english\\_09012014.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/Internet_english_09012014.pdf)) may be helpful in giving further context for this.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes

No

Please provide a short summary:

> The Department of the Environment and Energy consults with key stakeholders, including relevant Commonwealth departments, State and Territory environment and primary industries counterpart agencies, environmental non-government organisations (NGOs) and commercial and recreational fishing stakeholders, on CMS issues. This consultation occurs regularly in the period leading up to a Conference of Parties and following decisions of the COP to consult and advise on government implementation. Consultation takes the form of email communications, meetings and teleconferences with interested organisations.

Australia's focal contacts for CMS and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, such as the International Whaling Commission, engage as required to coordinate approaches to issues concerning the conservation of migratory species.

The Steering Committee for the implementation of the National Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan has been developed by a broad range of stakeholders that are working in shorebird conservation and management across Australia and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The Steering Committee oversees the action plan and has representation from Commonwealth and state environment agencies, including NSW OEH, research institutions and conservation organisations.

The Australian Government also organises an annual meeting on marine turtles (Marine Turtle Round Table) and cetaceans (Cetacean Round Table). These meetings actively engage relevant State and Territory management agencies, such as NSW OEH, in discussions on domestic issues related to the conservation of marine turtles and cetaceans in Australia.

A Shark-Plan Representative Group (SRG) was established in 2013 to oversee and report on the implementation of Australia's National Plan of Action for the Management and Conservation of Sharks (Shark-Plan 2). The SRG meets annually and includes representatives from the Northern Territory and state fisheries agencies, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, the Department of the Environment and Energy, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Fisheries Research Development Corporation, commercial and recreational fishing sectors and environmental non-government organisations. In Western Australia, an industry peak body has been established that represents commercial fishers on the south coast of WA, namely the Temperate Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fisheries (TDGDLMF, which includes the Southern Demersal, and West Coast, Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fisheries) which take dusky, hammerhead and other Appendix II listed species. WA DPIRD and DBCA also undertake whale entanglement mitigation work with the Western Rock Lobster Council.

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

Please provide a short summary:

> The Department of the Environment and Energy has regular meetings that comprises focal points from CMS, CITES and CBD to share knowledge, facilitate synergies and coordinate work streams.

The Departmental Migratory Birds National Focal Point attends meetings of the Ramsar National Committee (Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub-committee). This sub-committee facilitates cooperative action relating to the development of policy and guidelines, as well as community engagement activities, including publications.

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

Please identify the legislation, policies or action plans concerned:

> The Australian Government has released a number of policies that encourage community involvement in the conservation of migratory species. Many of these policies are provided (either through attachment or links) in other sections of this report.

The Raine Island Recovery Project is a five year, \$7.95 million collaboration between BHP, the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Wuthathi and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Raine Island supports the world's largest remaining green turtle population and the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. See Section VI for link.

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) has provisions to involve communities, including Indigenous people, in research and monitoring, including of migratory species.

Indigenous ranger projects were first funded in 2007 through the former Working on Country Program and create meaningful employment, training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and sea management. The Australian Government has provided \$30 million funding to further build technical skills and employ over 2600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country, through to June 2020. Indigenous ranger funding has created more than 2200 full-time, part-time and casual jobs for First Australians around the country.

Indigenous ranger projects support Indigenous people to combine traditional knowledge with conservation training to protect and manage their land, sea and culture. Indigenous ranger groups also develop partnerships with research, education, philanthropic and commercial organisations to share skills and knowledge, engage with schools, and generate additional income and jobs in the environmental, biosecurity, heritage and other sectors.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government has prepared an ACT Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species. The plan aims to protect, restore and enhance important wetland, wildlife corridors and breeding habitat in the ACT. The plan recognises the importance of information transfer and contains a specific goal to raise community awareness and engagement in initiatives to survey and conserve listed migratory species (see link below).

In NSW, the new Coastal Management Act 2016 gives local councils a central role in managing the coast by preparing coastal management programs that set out the long-term strategy for coastal zone management in its area. One of the objects of the Coastal Management Act 2016 is to support public participation in coastal management and planning and greater public awareness, education and understanding of coastal processes and management actions.

Local communities may also be involved in the program's implementation through participation in council advisory groups, on-ground works, monitoring, or providing feedback on performance satisfaction.

NSW OEH recommends that members of the community proposing development in the coastal zone consider the requirements of the Coastal Management Act 2016, the State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018, the relevant coastal management program and any associated coastal zone emergency action subplan.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[ACT Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species](#)

[National Environmental Science Program](#)

[INDIGENOUS RANGERS - WORKING ON COUNTRY](#)

## VIII. Incentives

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

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

*Please select only one option*

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

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

> The Western Australian Government is phasing out/non-use of lethal drum lines and implementing non-lethal drum lines (see previous section for further detail).

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

>

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

*Please select only one option*

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

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

> In NSW, OEH is working on habitat mapping for the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. The mapped areas were based on Shorebirds 2020 survey data and whether counts of species met international, national or state importance under International Union for Conservation of Nature guidelines.

Under the scheme, some CMS species such as shorebirds are credit species. Credits are generated by landowners who commit to enhance and protect the biodiversity values on their land through a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement. Biodiversity credits represent the expected improvement in biodiversity that will result from the protection and management of the site. Biodiversity credits can then be sold to developers or the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, a statutory not-for-profit body established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, to offset the impacts of development occurring elsewhere. The credits could also be sold to those seeking to invest in conservation outcomes, including philanthropic organisations or government. The sale of biodiversity credits generates ongoing permanent funding for the management of the site.

The Trust also manages all Private Land Conservation under the Act which allows landholders to enter into agreements to protect biodiversity on private land. Landholders can enter into Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements which generate credits, Conservation Agreements which conserve and manage biodiversity on an area of land, and Wildlife Refuge Agreements which allows landholders to protect and manage habitat for wildlife without entering into a permanent agreement.

Western Australia has adopted incentives in the past (prior to reporting period) to reduce the catch of large whaler sharks, prohibit the retention of threatened species such as white sharks and manta rays. It also implements whale mitigation measures for the WCRLMF and OIMF.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme](#)

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

>

## 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

> Traditional use of marine resources agreements (TUMRAs) under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 aim to set sustainable harvest of species.

As mentioned in Section VII, Western Australia has undertaken a WoE Assessment Report (soon to be available publicly) for the TDGDLMF indicator species dusky shark. Also, WA requires species specific hammerhead identification in commercial fishery logbooks.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Traditional use of marine resources agreements](#) - Sustainable agreements with Traditional Owners

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?

>

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

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

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

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

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

#### Direct killing and taking

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

#### Bycatch

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

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#) - Chapters 5 details impacts from fishing and Chapter 9 specifies the risk of this in the Great Barrier Reef

[Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch \(or bycatch\) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations \(2018\)](#) - This threat abatement plan has been developed to address the key threatening process of the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations

#### 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		N/A
Wind turbines		N/A
Other collisions	cetaceans, marine turtles, dugong, whale shark	Ship strike - 3

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[National Strategy for Reducing Vessel Strike on Cetaceans and other Marine Megafauna](#)

#### Other mortality

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Predation	turtles	unquantified
Disease		3
Accidental/indirect poisoning		N/A
Unexplained stranding events	dugong, turtles, cetaceans, pristidae	2

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#) - Details the condition of diseases in Chapter 3 and Strandings risks for several migratory species

#### Alien and/or invasive species

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

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#) - Chapter 3 - and soon to be released 2019 report

#### Disturbance and disruption

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

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 - Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales: Industry guidelines](#)  
[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report](#) - Chapters 2, 5 and 9

#### Habitat destruction/degradation

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	birds, marine turtles, dugong	2
Habitat degradation	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3



Mineral exploration/extraction	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Unsustainable land/resource use	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Urbanization	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Marine debris (including plastics)	All species for which Australia is a range state	2
Other pollution	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Too much/too little water	birds	3
Fire		N/A
Physical barriers		N/A

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#) - And soon to be released 2019 report

[Intergovernmental agreement on the National Plan to combat pollution of the sea by oil and other noxious and hazardous substances](#) - The Plan sets out the role and responsibilities for government and industry in the event of an oil spill. The Plan identifies the potential effects on wildlife and the operations and procedures that should be put into place in the event of an oil spill.

[Threat abatement plan for the impacts of marine debris on the vertebrate wildlife of Australia's coasts and oceans \(2018\)](#)

#### Climate change

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Climate change	All species for which Australia is a range state	2

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#) - And soon to be released 2019 Outlook Report - climate change is the highest threat

#### Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

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

#### Other (please specify)

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


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

> The Australian Government has progressed a number of important domestic policies relating to the conservation of migratory species, including the adoption and/or revision of a number of relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans. Links to relevant documents have been provided throughout this report. Also note that in 2018, the Queensland Government released a Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy that outlines the overarching strategy for managing turtles species within Queensland. See the attached Strategy for further information.

Australia utilises a variety of management mechanisms including marine parks and environmental offsets. Since the last reporting, four new marine parks have been established in northern Western Australia and multiple Commonwealth Marine Parks have been established around Australia. Several environment offsets in operation in Western Australia also include marine megafauna, with the largest offset spanning 60 years from 2009 to 2069.

Since 2014, the Australian Government has provided funding of more than \$38 million for a variety of projects that provide direct and indirect benefits for many migratory species. Many of these projects are delivered by local community groups and non-government organisations.

Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) continued to be developed during the reporting period, with the Gunggandji TUMRA being the most recently accredited in June 2016 for a five-year period.

The Gunggandji TUMRA covers three key areas: Green Island, Michaelmas Cay, Fitzroy Island, and the surrounding waters. Michaelmas Cay and the adjoining reef is a shared resource for Gunggandji and Yirrganydji peoples, which is managed under joint partnerships. Under this agreement, no hunting of turtle or dugong is allowed in these areas.

The Department of the Environment and Energy is developing light pollution guidelines for marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds. The guidelines will identify problematic light for these animals and provide a suite of mitigation options to minimise the impacts of light. It is anticipated that the guidelines, when finalised, will be presented to the CMS for information.

A significant project that is currently underway focuses on migratory shorebirds: Recovering Australia's migratory shorebirds. Undertaken by the Fuller Lab at the University of Queensland, the project aims to investigate the drivers of decline of Australia's shorebird populations. The project is due for completion in 2019. See link for further information.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Queensland Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy - FINAL May 2018.pdf](#)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Recovering Australia's Migratory Shorebirds](#)

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

> There are a number of increasing pressures including coastal and urban development; changes to ocean currents affecting potential food sources for seabirds; increased temperature is causing feminization of *Chelonia mydas* at Raine Island (the largest rookery in the southern hemisphere); suspected longline fishing impacts in international waters, affecting both seabirds and loggerhead turtle recruitment in the southern Great Barrier Reef.

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

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

> See documents attached throughout this section.

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

Resolution 12.22 on by-catch.

Resolution 12.14 on underwater noise.

Resolution 12.20 on marine debris.

Resolution 7.3 (Rev. COP12) on oil pollution

Resolution 11.22 (Rev. COP12) on live captures of cetaceans (and Decision 12.48).  
Resolutions 7.5 (Rev. COP12) and 11.27 (Rev. COP12) on renewable energy.  
Resolutions 7.4 and 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds.  
Resolution 11.15 (Rev. COP12) on poisoning of migratory birds.  
Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP12) on illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (and Decision 12.26).  
Resolution 11.31 on wildlife crime.  
Resolution 12.21 on climate change (and Decision 12.72).  
Resolution 11.28 on invasive alien species.  
Resolution 12.6 on wildlife disease.  
Resolution 12.25 on conservation of intertidal and coastal habitats.  
Resolution 10.2 on conservation emergencies  
Resolution 7.2 (Rev. COP12) on impact assessment.  
> See documents attached throughout the national report.  
In particular, in relation to Resolution 12.25 on conservation of intertidal and coastal habitats, a number of projects have been supported that address the issue and links are included below. In 2018, Australia also nominated Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetlands, Victoria, as a Ramsar site. The nomination of this site has provided protection for this coastal site, which is visited by 24 migratory bird species, under the EPBC Act.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Assessing mangrove dieback in the Gulf of Carpentaria](#)

[Link between gulf rivers and food for migratory shorebirds](#)

[Intertidal and Subtidal Habitat Mapping and Conservation Values Assessment for Central Queensland State Waters](#)

[The global distribution and trajectory of tidal flats](#)

## XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

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

#### Aquatic mammals

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

#### Bats

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

#### Birds

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Conservation Advice in hyperlink	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Transfer from Vulnerable to Endangered Dec 2016	Fregata andrewsi (Christmas Island Frigatebird) Appendix I and II

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Conservation Advice for Christmas Island Frigatebird

Reptiles

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

Fish

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Listing advice in hyperlink	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Listed as Conservation Dependent in March 2018	Sphyrna lewini (Scalloped Hammerhead) Appendix II

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Listing Advice for Scalloped Hammerhead

Insects

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

## XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

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

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please provide a short summary:

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please specify which countries have been approached:

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

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

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

> Australia is championing the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew by supporting a high priority project on hunting in the Russian Far East. The project, Evaluation of hunting pressure on Numenius species (Curlew sp, Whimbrels) and other shorebirds in the Russian Far East – Stage One: Surveys in Kamchatka, will help document hunting activities in the breeding range of Far Eastern Curlew.

The project will:

- a) Identify main areas where hunters and poachers take the majority of shorebirds;
- b) Identify the time of year and in which habitats, as well as by what methods shorebirds are harvested;
- c) Identify which social groups are engaged in legal hunting for shorebirds and illegal poaching;
- d) Quantify the number of shorebirds taken;
- e) Propose further actions to manage shorebird hunting and protection measures for Far Eastern Curlew and other threatened species;
- f) Gain a better understanding of methodology for future surveys in the other parts of the Russian Far East.

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

> Resolution 12.17 on South Atlantic whales requests cooperation between the CMS Scientific Council and the IWC Scientific Committee to review existing data and identify opportunities for expansion of this work. There is a significant amount of collaboration between the CMS and IWC under a memorandum of understanding. Further collaboration between the IWC and CMS on joint areas of work has been recommended through the independent governance review of the IWC. Australia is supportive of efforts to ensure effective collaboration and streamlining of work between these bodies.

### XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

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

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

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

*Please select only one option*

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

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

> Continuing identification of Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance and East Asian-Australasian Flyway sites.

In NSW, the OEH is updating the Ecological Character Descriptions, Ramsar Information Sheets and plans of management for many of the NSW Ramsar sites, some of these being important feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds. This involves surveys of waterbirds including some of the CMS migratory species as part of monitoring the environmental flows. It also involves adding input into the new coastal management programs that councils are required to prepare.

Going forward, the group is focusing on:

- developing a NSW Ramsar Strategy, incorporating climate change adaptation
- preparing a Ramsar Nominations Framework
- looking at improved ways of engaging with Ramsar site managers
- improvements to monitoring and evaluation of Ramsar sites.

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

*Please select only one option*

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

Please provide a short summary:

>

Please provide a short summary:

> In 2012, Australia met its international and national commitments to establish a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) by 2012 through the establishment of 40 new Commonwealth marine reserves under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. These new reserves added more than 2.3 million square kilometres to the former national system of Commonwealth marine reserves and expanding Australia’s marine protected areas in Commonwealth waters to 60, covering some 3.3 million square kilometres (including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park) or 36 per cent of Australia's oceans. This is the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world.

The Australian Government commissioned the independent review of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves that were established in 2012.

The Review considered what management arrangements would best protect Australia's marine environment and accommodate the many activities that Australian's love to enjoy in our oceans and aimed to restore confidence in Commonwealth marine reserves, by ensuring that management arrangements for the reserves reflect genuine and thorough consultation with stakeholders and are informed by the best available science.

This review was finalised in 2016 and further information can be found at the link provided below.

Following the independent review, the Australian Government consulted widely during 2017 - 2018 to finalise marine park management plans. The resulting six management plans, one for each of the five marine park



networks (the North, North-west, South-west, South-east and Temperate East networks) and one for the Coral Sea Marine Park, can be accessed at the link provided below.

The Australian Government has developed marine bioregional plans under the EPBC Act. The plans aim to strengthen the operation of the EPBC Act in the Commonwealth marine environment in each marine region to ensure the marine environment remains healthy and resilient. The Plans identify conservation values, key ecological features, regional priorities, regional pressure analysis, and regional advice. Marine bioregional plans have been developed for four of Australia's marine regions - South-west, North-west, North and Temperate East. Access them at the link provided below for further information.

One important element of these Plans is the identification of biologically important areas for over 66 different marine species, including marine turtles. The Conservation Values Atlas allows identification of areas that are important for different behaviours, such as nesting, feeding and inter-nesting activity. Guidance is provided on what actions represent greater risk of impact to marine turtles. This improved spatial information assists developers avoid and mitigate impacts to marine turtles.

The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report is produced every five years and assesses the condition and trend of species and habitats.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Marine Bioregional Plans](#)

[Commonwealth Marine Park Management Plans](#)

[Review of Commonwealth Marine Reserves](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014](#) - And soon to be released 2019 report

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 2015, the NSW Government pledged five years funding for the Saving our Species program, a statewide program to secure threatened plants and animals in the wild in NSW. This program targets several CMS Appendix I and II species which the government aims to secure in the wild for 100 years.

In 2017, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 commenced. The Act aims to conserve biodiversity and bioregional and state scales, maintain the diversity and quality of ecosystems and enhance their capacity to adapt to change, and support conservation and threat abatement action to slow the rate of biodiversity loss and conserve threatened species and ecological communities in nature. Conserving and restoring vegetation integrity and habitat suitability are key considerations under the Act.

Prior to the reporting period, the Western Australian Government identified breeding areas for dusky sharks and implemented commercial shark fishery closures to enhance protection of the species. It has also put in place a maximum size limit of 700mm interdorsal fin length for dusky sharks to protect mature breeding adults.

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes

Partly / for some areas

In development

No

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

> See information provided above.

Australia has established a number of tools and mechanisms to support planning, management and evaluation of Ramsar sites, including the Ramsar Management Principles (part of the EPBC Regulations), regular reporting by jurisdictions on the status of their Ramsar sites, the Management Effectiveness Framework and various National Park and Protected Area planning processes at the Commonwealth and state/territory levels.

For example, Parks Victoria has committed to undertaking evaluation of the effectiveness of its management programs and condition of its park values at regular intervals as an important component of adaptive management. Its third edition on the state of its parks can be accessed through the link below.

In NSW, works have been done on Hunter Wetlands National Park, including large and small scale mangrove removal to create saltmarsh meadows, and the introduction of saltwater into sites to rehabilitate an estuarine environment. Man-made structures in the Hunter River have also been modified and stabilised, such as stabilising and raising the 1.5 kilometre Kooragang Dyke wall to create high tide roosting sites for migratory

shorebirds.

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, an independent assessment of management effectiveness is undertaken in accordance with the IUCN framework.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 - Chapter 7](#)

[Victoria State of the Parks third edition](#)

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

Please describe:

> As mentioned above, in the Hunter Wetlands National Park, actions on Spit 2 Kooragang Dykes were focused around managing mangrove incursion into saltmarsh habitat at historic shorebirds roost sites.

At Shoalhaven Heads and Lake Wollumboola, actions included temporary fencing and signage at some foraging sites due to increase in competition from crabbers and bait collectors, permanent and multilingual signage, shorebird ID talks and walks, beach (estuary) wardens during busy school holidays, talks to community groups, and murals on facilities buildings.

In Western Australia, DPIRD has adopted an 'indicator' species approach where a subgroup of species, in the case of sharks: gummy, whiskery, dusky and sandbar sharks (which comprise 80% of all shark and ray landings and capture the range of life histories of all captured sharks and rays), are assessed and used to determine the risk to the entire suite of sharks and rays captured in WA. For these indicator species, and hence for the entire suite, the current status is acceptable. Please also note that shortfin mako is reported in the annual Status reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources of WA, available at <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Pages/State-of-the-Fisheries-report.aspx> and that both species are listed in Annex 1 of the CMS Sharks MOU.

With regard to conservation measures in WA, a range of measures have been implemented for managing migratory shark and ray species. This includes restrictions on the mesh and hook sizes, net height (drop) and maximum length of net permitted in WA's commercial shark fisheries and the Department's Vessel Monitoring System, which monitor the West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery (WCDGDLF) and the Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery (JASDGDLF), who are required to submit catch and effort returns.

Further to this, there has also been a suite of management arrangements in place since 2006/07 for both target and non-target fisheries to ensure sustainable catches of target, byproduct and bycatch species are maintained, continue to assist in the recovery of shark stocks (where necessary) and to maintain acceptably low risks to ETP species. These arrangements include, but are not limited to:

- The Statewide commercial protection of all sharks and rays;
- Significant penalties for illegally possessing sharks or rays;
- The prohibition of metal trace wire and larger hooks; and
- Substantial areas of closed waters (since 2005) to rebuild and support recovery of the sandbar shark and dusky shark stocks.

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

Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks.

Resolution 12.13 on Important Marine Mammal Areas.

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

Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats.

>

## **XIV. Ecosystem Services**

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

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly / in progress
- No

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

>

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

>

## XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

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

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

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

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

> The Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia is a national plan which aims to aid in the recovery of six of the world's seven species of marine turtles. These species are the: loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), flatback (*Natator depressus*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles.

The plan considers the conservation requirements of the species across their range and identifies the actions to be taken to ensure the species long-term viability in nature, including the conservation of genetic stocks, and the mechanisms to undertake those actions. See link provided for further information.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles - 2017](#)

## XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

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

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

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

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

>

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Western Australia: Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management](#)

[Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010 - 2030](#)

[NSW Biodiversity Conservation Program](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Blueprint for Resilience](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy](#) - Incorporated into the Reef 2050 Plan and the Great Barrier Reef Blueprint for Resilience

[Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan](#)

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

> Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 is the relevant national strategy for migratory species. It prioritises building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate, with a specific focus upon maintaining ecosystem services and re-establishing ecosystem functions.

The CMS is referenced as an acknowledged element of the framework of international obligations under which Australia operates.

In NSW, the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 commenced in 2017. Under the Act, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Program outlines strategies for assisting threatened species, populations and ecological communities.

The Biodiversity Conservation Program consists of:

- strategies to achieve the program's objectives in relation to each threatened species and threatened ecological community

- a framework to guide the setting of priorities for implementing the strategies

- a process for monitoring and reporting on the program's overall outcomes and effectiveness.

Through the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Program, the Saving our Species program implements strategies through its conservation strategies. Conservation of migratory species, such as shorebirds and sea turtles, is explicitly addressed in the strategies.

The Saving our Species Database provides a public register of strategies included in the Biodiversity Conservation Program.

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

> Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 was reviewed in 2015 and is currently being revised.

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

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

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

*Please select only one option*

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

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy](#)

[Traditional use of Marine Resources Agreements](#)

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

*Please select only one option*

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

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

(select all that apply)

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

>

Please add comments on the implementation of the actions concerned.

> The Australian Government has released a number of policies that encourage Indigenous peoples involvement in the conservation of migratory species. Many of these policies are provided (either through attachment or links) in other sections of this report.

As mentioned in Section VII, the Indigenous Ranger Program supports Indigenous people to combine traditional knowledge with conservation training to protect and manage their land, sea and culture, including participating in the research and monitoring of migratory species and their habitats. Indigenous ranger groups also develop partnerships with research, education, philanthropic and commercial organisations to share skills and knowledge, engage with schools, and generate additional income and jobs in the environmental, biosecurity, heritage and other sectors. See links below for examples of ranger groups operating in the Northern Territory.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Land and Sea Management Unit, through its Environmental Management Program, provides support to 14 community based dugong and turtle management plans in the Torres Strait region. The plans aim to: promote community control and empowerment; respect cultural values and traditional knowledge; conserve natural and cultural values of their management area; and utilise two-way management through mutual investigation and implementation of Western and Indigenous systems of knowledge.

Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) describe how Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner groups work in partnership with the Australian and Queensland governments to manage traditional use activities on their sea country.

A TUMRA may describe how Traditional Owner groups wish to manage their take of natural resources (including migratory species), their role in compliance, their role in monitoring the condition of plants and

animals, and human activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. For further information on TUMRAs, see link below.

The participation of Indigenous Australians in research and monitoring projects has also been formalised in the National Environmental Science Program (NESP), in particular through the development of an Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy in the Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub. The overall goal of the TSR Hub's Strategy is to enable a meaningful two-way partnership to be developed between the NESP TSR Hub and Indigenous Australians that recognises the interests, rights and knowledge of Indigenous Australians in undertaking the Hub's research agenda. See link below for further information.

In Western Australia, the commencement of Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 will further strengthen involvement, engagement and indigenous and/or customary resource allocation.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Anindilyakwa Ranger Group](#)

[Northern Land Council Ranger Groups](#)

[Tiwi Marine Rangers](#)

[TSRA Land and Sea Rangers](#)

[TSR Hub Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy](#)

[Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements](#)

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

Please select one option:

*Please select only one option*

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

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

> See information provided above.

## **XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building**

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

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

(select all that apply)

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

>

- No steps have been taken

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

#### **Education campaigns in schools**

> Increased awareness of marine debris and major threats (e.g. climate change) on migratory species through the Reef Guardian Schools Program.

The NSW Saving our Species program has developed an Australian Curriculum education resource for years 1-6, which includes some CMS Appendix I and II species.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[NSW Saving our Species Program](#)

[The Reef Guardian schools program](#)

#### **Public awareness campaigns**

> See information provided in Section V.

#### **Capacity building**

>

#### **Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives**

>

#### **Capacity assessments/gap analyses**

>

#### **Agreements at policy level on research priorities**

> The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government to environment and climate research. NESP projects deliver collaborative, practical and applied research to inform decision making and on-ground action.

NESP funding of \$145 million over the six years from 2015 to 2021 supports six themed research hubs, along with projects to address emerging environmental research needs.

The hubs connect scientists, policy makers, industry, Indigenous people and communities. Each hub has identified its own research priorities, and further information can be found at the link provided below.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority developed the Science Strategy and Information Needs 2014–2019. This strategy sets out the future scientific information needs of the agency. It aims to ensure that science activities are relevant, targeted to address critical management issues and their outcomes are easily accessible. The strategy is based on the outcomes of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 and the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment, plus the critical thinking applied in developing the synthesis documents that informed those reports.

The Western Australian Government also has a range of internal Resource Programs that focus on research priorities.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[National Environmental Science Program](#)



**Other**

>

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

(select all that apply)

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

>

## XIX. Resource Mobilization

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

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

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

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

(SPMS, including targets: [www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4](http://www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4))

> Australia provided a voluntary contribution of \$20,000 to the CMS in 2017 for a joint study with CITES on the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles: to research its status, scope and trends, conservation impacts and management options, and to identify areas where immediate mitigation efforts may be needed. Voluntary contributions were also made a number of subsidiary instruments, including the Sharks MoU.

A range of important activities are also undertaken within Australia to conserve migratory bird populations and their habitats. These activities have largely focused on migratory waterbirds, including shorebirds and seabirds as their tendency to aggregate in flocks in coastal areas makes them particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and disturbance.

Habitat protection and restoration in Australia has also been advanced under the National Landcare Program for projects that will directly benefit migratory birds and their habitat. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, Parks Australia and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are also working to improve the habitats of migratory birds and reduce or eliminate known threats to these birds such as invasive weeds and feral cats.

Since 2014, the Australian Government has provided funding of more than \$38 million for a variety of projects that provide direct and indirect benefits for the Eastern Curlew, and many other migratory birds. Many of these projects are delivered by local community groups and non-government organisations. Examples include:

- \$200,000 to restore habitat, raise community awareness and protect important sites, from Darwin to the south coast of New South Wales.

- \$20,000 to restore saltmarsh habitat at flyway sites.

- \$160,000 to manage the impacts of feral cats on French Island in Victoria. French Island forms part of the Western Port Ramsar site.

Another example of local action is a project being undertaken by the Bundaberg Regional Council to conserve the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the east coast of Australia using smart technology and open data. The project includes deploying urban glow sensors to measure light pollution during nesting season, the data from which will be displayed on a publicly accessible web-based heat map. With Australian Government funding of \$660,000 (\$1,320,000 project total), the Council has partnered with Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Central Queensland University Ergon Energy, Burnett Mary Regional Group, and the Prince's Trust Australia Bundaberg Tourism. For further information, see link provided.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Reducing urban glow: supporting sea turtle survival using open data](#)

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

*Please select only one option*

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

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

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

>

Other

>

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

(SPMS, including targets: [www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4](http://www.cms.int/en/document/strategic-plan-migratory-species-2015-2023-4))

>

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

>

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

*Please select only one option*

Increased

The same

Decreased

Not known

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

>

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

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