

# 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):

> The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention are:

1) All importing habitats for migrating species are covered by i) NATURA 2000 Special protected areas (SPA) and ii) protected territories.

The entire Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria includes a total of 341 protected areas under the EU Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. It covers 34.9% of the national territory.

During last years some weakness in the national legal framework and its implementation were noticed, related to the efficiency of the management of the NATURA 2000 SPA network in the country and leading to the delay in the process of formal designation of some special conservation areas. In this regard, the main efforts of the administration in 2013-2018 aimed to eliminate these deficiencies and to introduce a new, effective approach for the NATURA 2000 network management. The new approach should optimize the management of the network in Bulgaria, and to the fullest possible extent to achieve the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directive.

Effective management of protected territories (national parks, nature parks, reserves, maintained reserves, natural monuments, protected sites), including developing of management plans.

2) Tagging and satellite tracking of CMS listed species such as *Gyps fulvus*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Branta ruficollis*.

- 3) Reducing mortality of endangered migrating birds, caused by power lines, which is done via changes and securing safe electrical grids by the electricity distribution companies and non-governmental organisations.
- 4) Reintroduction programmes regarding CMS listed raptors in Bulgaria such as *Falco cherrug*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Falco naumanni*, which succeed to different degrees. Restocking of sturgeons species in Danube river together with a prolonged sturgeons fishing ban are main activities in the country to for protection and recovery of sturgeon stock in Danube River and Black Sea.
- 5) Assessment of cetaceans in the Black Sea through plane and ship observations in two projects, one of which is currently underway (CeNoBS project). Projects for usage of Acoustic Deterrent Devices (pingers) from fishermen to prevent cetaceans bycatch. Evaluation of cause of mortalities on cetaceans by autopsies conducted. Studies on the accumulation of heavy metals in stranded dead specimens.

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

- > 1) Lack of transnational cooperation in protection of migratory species, especially on state level, incl. protection of all habitats during their migration routes.
- 2) Lost or changes of breeding habitats and wintering grounds, obstacles during migration, disturbance in stopover sites; behavior of aggregation, which makes these sites very sensitive and species vulnerable.
- 3) Control of short-term events such as illegal poisoning, illegal hunting, illegal taking of birds and eggs.
- 4) Lack of adequate investigation, prosecution and perception of importance in the court practice the cases listed in p. 3.

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

- > 1) Mapping the NATURA 2000 network, assessment of the conservation status of the species, threats, limiting factors, creation and improvement of the conservation of fauna, incl. migratory species.
- 2) Improvement of the whole national management approach of NATURA 2000 SPA.
- 3) Increasing of international cooperation with the countries along the main migratory roads which are passing Bulgaria.
- 4) Developing of species' action plans and management plans of the SPA.
- 5) To reflect conservation activities and priorities of migratory species in sectoral policies.

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of Contracting Party

> Bulgaria

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

> 1. 11. 1999

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

> No

### **Report compiler**

Name and title

> Yana Velina, senior expert

Full name of institution

> Ministry of Environment and Water-Bulgaria

Telephone

> (+359 2) 940 6128

Email

> yavelina@moew.government.bg

### **Designated CMS National Focal Point**

Name and title of designated Focal Point

> Ms. Yana Velina, senior expert in "Biological Diversity" division, "National Nature Protection Service" Directorate

Full name of institution

> Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

Mailing address

> 22, Knyagina Maria Luiza Blvd, 1000 Sofia

Telephone

> (+359 2) 940 6000

Email

> yavelina@moew.government.bg

### **Representative on the Scientific Council**

Name and title

> Assoc. Prof. Boris P. Nikolov, PhD

Full name of institution

> Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Head of the Bulgarian Ornithological Centre. <http://www.iber.bas.bg/?q=en/user/44>

Mailing address

> Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
2 Gagarin Street  
1113 Sofia  
BULGARIA

Telephone

> +359 2 8717195

Email

> lanius.bg@gmail.com

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Bulgaria\\_final\\_30.08.xlsx](#)

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 Bulgaria\\_final\\_30.08.2019.xlsx](#)

## 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

> All Appendix I CMS species are listed in Appendix 3 of the Biological Diversity Act and the following is prohibited:

1. all forms of deliberate capture or killing of specimens by whatever devices, means, or methods;
2. hunting and disturbance, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, wintering and migration;
3. destruction or taking of eggs, even where abandoned; destruction of, damage to, or removal of nests;
4. damage to, or destruction of, breeding, resting or staging places;
5. taking of found dead specimens;
6. possession, keeping, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of specimens taken in the wild;
7. stuffing, possession, exhibition to the public, movement, transport, export, trade and offering for sale or exchange of stuffed specimens.

The prohibitions referred to in Items 1, 2, 6 and 7 shall apply to all stages of life of the animals.

For the World and European threatened species is also applicable the Penalty Code.

**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.

[exception taking of appendix I species.docx](#)

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.

>

## 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)

>

- No actions taken

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Awareness-art. 5.docx](#)

### 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.

> The world migratory birds day is campaigning, which draws attention of the public in Bulgaria every May.

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

[World Migratory Bird Day](#) - NGO Green Balkans-2018

[World Migratory Bird Day](#) - Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds

[World Migratory Bird Day](#) - Sofia Zoo-May 2019

[World Migratory Bird Day](#) - information

[World Migratory Bird Day](#) - information from the webpage of the Ministry

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.

> The events and the information disseminated had been performed as a standard ones regarding celebrating World Migratory Day in May.

## VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

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

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> Regulations and requirements regarding conservation of migratory species are under Biological Diversity Act (art. 31, para 1) "Any plans, programmes, projects and building-development proposals that are not directly related or necessary for the management of the special areas of conservation and that, either individually or in interaction with other plans, programmes, projects or building-development proposals, are likely to have a significant negative impact on the special areas of conservation, shall be assessed as to the compatibility thereof with the protection purposes of the relevant special area of conservation." This text concern NATURA 2000 areas.

- Compliance Assessment Ordinance regulates the procedure for performing compliance assessment.
- Regulation for conditions and the method for performing of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Regulations in place do not consider migrating species as a separate group. Assessment is made concerning protected territories, protected zones (NATURA 2000), protected species. Migratory species are protected under Biodiversity Act and the important sites and territories for it as well.

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:

> Reporting under art. 12 of the Birds Directive and art. 17 of the Habitats Directive.

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

> NGOs are working to protect migratory species mainly through projects. They also carry out specific conservation actions. NGOs and the civil society are participants in the Environmental Impact Assessments, Compliance Assessment, Ecological Assessment due the procedures of public consultations. NGOs and representatives of the civil society may also appeal against decisions of administrative bodies, which they deem to have a negative impact on nature, biodiversity, incl. and migratory species.

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

> Private sector takes initiatives for small grants, which lead to small projects beneficiary of which they are that it provides to non-governmental organizations.

Reducing mortality of endangered migrating birds, caused by power lines, which is done via changes and securing safe electrical grids by the electricity distribution companies and non-governmental organisations.

## 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 Bulgarian legislation in the field of habitat and biodiversity protection is written within the Biodiversity Act and the Protected Areas Act, as well as the Environmental Protection Act. The Bulgarian legislation transposes the European legislation (relevant regulations and directives) in the field. A better management approach for the Natura 2000 network took place during the reporting period.

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

> Assessment is done under national reporting of art. 12 of Birds Directive and art. 17 of Habitats Directive.

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:

> Partly.

- 1) Mid-winter counts of waterbirds in the most important wetlands in Bulgaria. The average winter census of waterfowl has been conducted since 1967 in almost all European countries, coordinated by Wetlands International. The purpose of the census is to determine the size of European waterfowl populations and to assess the status of the wetlands where they inhabit. Such monitoring schemes contribute to the monitoring of more general environmental changes and their effects on humans and biodiversity. In Bulgaria its done between the Executive Environment Agency (ExEA), Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, ornithological non-governmental organizations, Executive Forests Agency, Bulgarian Academy of Science.
- 2) Interagency Expert Group (governmental, non-governmental, civil and scientific representatives) with the aim of implementation of Bulgarian obligations under Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), established in 2015. Part of the work overlap with CMS.
- 3) National Council on Biodiversity, which is consultative to the Minister of Environment and Water in the field of biodiversity, including representatives from governmental, non-governmental, civil and scientific representatives.
- 4) Council of Scientists was established, advising Minister of Environment and Water regarding counseling in

the area of environmental protection, including biodiversity.

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 focal points of all biodiversity related Conventions and Agreements are in the same department. NFPs collaborate according to the national legislation and the strategic documents/vision.

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:

>

## 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.

>

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

> 1) Under the Bird Directive it has been developed integrated bird protection system in the SPA

"Kaliakra" and around areas.

The Early Warning System allows management and minimization of the risk of collision of birds with rotating wind turbines by stopping single or clustered turbines or entire wind farms, as well as monitoring at risk periods for species of conservation importance.

The integrated system is implemented by all Wind Power Plants on the territory of the Kaliakra SPA.

Period of application: All year round, including during spring and autumn migration and recorded food migrations leading to high concentrations of birds.

A combination of existing high-tech radar observations, meteorological data integrated with field-based visual observations by experienced ornithologists is used to achieve the objectives.

2) After Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Compatibility assessment (CA) or Ecological Assessment (EA), the Ministry of Environment and Water or the respective Regional Inspection of Environment and Water could bring in monitoring scheme and mitigation measures.

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.

>

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

> Protection of the wintering habitats of species (e.g. *Branta ruficollis*), reintroduction programmes for birds of prey, restocking programmes for sturgeons, satellite tracking of bird species.

## 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

> The measures are within the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). Biodiversity and habitat preservation have been addressed through measures applied under CAP, including direct payments. Habitat Directive, Birds Directive, The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive are the legal base for integrating conservation of migratory species in different sectors.

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

> Reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive gives (i) general information about the implementation of the Directive, (ii) the bird species' status and trends.

Reporting under Article 17 of Habitats Directive gives information regarding the progress made with the implementation of the Habitats Directive. Information includes non birds species information, status and trends.

Additional information could be obtained by the Bulgarian reporting under the both directives.

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	Branta ruficollis, Anser erythropus, Aythya nyroca, Aythya ferina, Crex crex, Gallinago media	2
Legal hunting	Anser albifrons, Anas acuta, Aythya fuligula, Anas platyrhynchos, Coturnix coturnix, Streptopelia turtur	2
Other harvesting and take	No evidence for reporting period-birds of prey eventually	3
Illegal trade	No evidence for reporting period-birds of prey eventually	3
Deliberate poisoning	all vultures, Aquila heliaca, Haliaeetus albicilla, Accipiter gentilis & Falco peregrinus (using pigeons as baits)	1

#### 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	cetaceans	2

#### 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	Aquila heliaca, Neophron percnopterus, Gyps fulvus, Ciconia ciconia, Pelecanus crispus, Pelecanus onocrotalus, Haliaeetus albicilla	2
Wind turbines	Buteo spp., Pelecanus spp.	2
Other collisions	light houses, large glass buildings - impact towards (mainly) passerine birds	3

#### 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	feral cats, dogs....	3
Disease	Pelecanus crispus, no data for other species	3
Accidental/indirect poisoning	legal voles poisoning (Microtus arvalis) - Buteo spp.	2
Unexplained stranding events	cetaceans-in Bulgaria there are almost no cases of live specimens stranding	3

#### 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	No data.	3

#### 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	all species that occur on the Black Sea Coast	2
Light pollution	light houses - impact towards passerine birds	3
Underwater noise	cetaceans	no assessment made

#### 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)	Different bird species such as Coracias garrulus, Charadrius alexandrinus, Ficedula semitorquata.	2
Habitat degradation	Reduction of insects and other invertebrates as a result of chemical use in agriculture and forestry affects numerous species of birds.	2
Mineral exploration/extraction	Waste water artificial reservoirs can be deadly attractive to a number of waterbirds.	2
Unsustainable land/resource use	Overgrazing due to wrongly applied agro-ecological measures affects many grassland and shrub-nesting species (mainly passerines).	2
Urbanization	Modern architecture is often not bird-friendly in terms of providing suitable nesting sites (swifts, Jackdaws, swallows and martins, sparrows).	2
Marine debris (including plastics)	no data (possible impact on many waterbird species)	2
Other pollution	Lead poisoning (first documented case in 2019 - Gyps fulvus in the Eastern Rhodopes)	2
Too much/too little water	Unstable water level affects many wades species (Black Sea salines), as well lots of freshwater species (marshes along the Danube)	2

Fire	Open-landscape species (Stone Curlew, larks, Tawny Pipit) & reedbed species (herons & bittern sp., Marsh Harrier, Bearded Reedling, Acrocephalus & Locustella spp., crakes)	2
Physical barriers	no data	3

### 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	No data. It is still rather difficult to relate any observed trends/ changes to climate change.	2

### 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	This is general estimate for the whole situation. For some species much knowledge has been gathered so far (vultures, Aquila heliaca etc.), while others are still rather unstudied (Bonasa bonasia, Porzana/ Zapornia spp. etc.)	2
Inadequate legislation	no data	3
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	no data	2
Inadequate transboundary management	no data	2

### 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 most significant advances are the large scale projects regarding mapping of habitats, surveying of birds, other species and habitats, regarding Bulgarian reporting under Birds/Habitat Directives, which are conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Water and Executive Environmental Agency. NGOs via mainly LIFE projects performed concrete conservation activities such as retrofitting of hazardous overhead powerlines, restoration and sustainable management of Imperial Eagle's foraging habitats in key Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria, preservation key forest habitats of the Lesser Spotted Eagle; also breeding and reintroduction programmes. There are independent projects for Branta ruficollis, including preservation of its wintering grounds in Bulgaria.

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

> The most significant negative trends is regarding preservation of all migrating species under Via Pontica migratory route.

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:

>

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.

> 1) Regarding Resolution 11.28 on invasive alien species: An Atlas of Invasive Alien Species of Importance for the European Union has been developed and is freely available online.

2) Resolution 10.2 on conservation emergencies: transportation and initial medical care are fast towards rehabilitation, rescue centres in NGO or state zoos, which pick up signals even outside business hours or during weekends. Green telephones are available.

3) Resolution 11.31 on wildlife crime: The Ministry is responsible for both native Bulgarian and CITES species, crimes that occur domestically and on custom borders, also outside Bulgaria, in which a Bulgarian traces exist. Non-governmental organizations have conducted trainings in Bulgaria with the participation of leading international officials as speakers, as well as sent servants (e.g. police) abroad for participation in workshops. Currently, the

Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds is writing a National action plan to combat illegal poisoning.

4) Resolutions 7.4 and 10.11 on power lines and migratory birds: Reducing mortality of endangered migrating birds, caused by power lines, which is done via changes and securing safe electrical grids by the electricity distribution companies and non-governmental organisations.

5) Resolution 12.14 on underwater noise: During oil and gas surveys, mitigation measures were applied to underwater noise and cetaceans.

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

[A Guide to invasive alien species of European Union concern](#)

## 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)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Conservation\\_status-app\\_II\\_-art\\_XI\\_final\\_30.08.2019.xlsx](#)

[Conservation\\_status-app\\_I\\_species\\_-art.XI-final\\_30.08.2019.xlsx](#)

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)


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)

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:

> Improvement of knowledge about migratory species, reintroduction programs for birds of prey, restocking programs for sturgeon, habitat conservation, NATURA 2000 mapping, mitigation measures regarding investment proposals, educational and awareness activities, other studies.

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:

>

### 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?

> NATURA 2000 SPA has identified all important birds areas, as the network in its part for birds was proposed by Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds (BSPB) and its based on Bulgarian list of Important Birds Areas (developed by BSPB and BirdLife International). At the moment the marine network of NATURA 2000 is under development and extension, which will better address needs of cetacens.

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:

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

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

>

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

*Please select only one option*

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

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

>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please describe:

> According to the National prioritised action framework (NPAF) for NATURA 2000 Bulgaria, the most numerous threats to the species are related to fire, the intensification of agricultural practices, transport infrastructure, the use of biocidal products, hormones and another practices in forestry, also afforestation of open spaces with non-native species. Bulgaria developed national framework for ecological activities for the period 2017-2021 in agriculture, in which at the beginning 10 % of the expenditures should cover ecological activities, at the moment they rised up to 20 %. Part of the scheme include activities, orientate toward preservation of habitats and biodiversity. Examples of these are Implementation of alternative methods and procedures for chemical plant protection and other activities for the implementation of integrated pest management practices in. Executive Forest Agency implements the policy of conservation and sustainable use of forests. The EAG maintains a modular internet based information system with data on the state of the forest territories at national, regional and local level. Information modules on forest fires, forest pathology monitoring, and projects in the forest sector have been prepared and maintained.

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.

> NATURA 2000 SPA network has been developed under the requirements of Birds Directive and Habitat Directive, which involve migratory species as well (for Bulgaria species are mainly birds, bats, cetaceans), the network it covers 34 % of the territory of the country.

Beside this, in Bulgaria there are six categories of protected territories, which cover 5.27 % of the territory of the country (all of them overlap with NATURA 2000)-reserves, maintained reserves, nature landmark, nature park, national park, protected sites.

Under measure 12, "Natura 2000 Payments and the Water Framework Directive" State Fund Agriculture supports farmers with land within the NATURA 2000 SPAs, who comply with the prohibitions and restrictions of the respective protected area by means of direct payments.

Regarding Resolution 12.13,12.24 and 12.25, it has started project "Natura 2000 in Black Sea". The main objective of the project is to complete Natura 2000 network in Black Sea according to the requirements of the Habitat Directive. Within the project will be developed and provided detailed methodological approach to study the distribution of the target objects and their populations in the Bulgarian aquatory of Black Sea and to determine their CS (Conservation Status). As a result of the project and if necessary will be designated new marine protected sites (PS) and/or there will be adjustments of the boundaries of the existing marine PS. The project will provide a frame for joint monitoring under the Habitat Directive, The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

## 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):

> In Bulgaria there are implemented few projects regarding mapping of ecosystem services, correlatable to migrating species from them are :

1) Wetland Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (WEMA), which objective is improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation.

2) Fresh water ecosystem services mapping and assessment in Bulgaria (FEMA).The project is aiming at assessment and mapping of ecosystem goods and services provided by the freshwater ecosystems as situated outside the NATURA 2000 Network.

3) Assessment and mapping of GRASSLAND ecosystems condition and their services in Bulgaria. The project aims to ensure an opportunity to explore various issues related to the availability of grassland ecosystems, combined with the long-term preservation of their potential.

4) Methodological Support for Ecosystem Services Mapping and Biophysical Valuation (MetEcoSMap). Project objective is

improved integration of biodiversity considerations in sectoral policies and legislation.

There is no specific information regarding ecosystem services associated with migratory species.

## 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

> Reintroduction programmes of migratory species, including importing of juveniles or breeding in Bulgaria and releasing in nature. Activities to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity include species' reintroduction programmes.

## 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

> The link includes National Strategy for Protection of Biodiversity and National action plan for protection of biological diversity. New procedure is under development, as a public tender is already announced by the Ministry.

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

<https://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=386>

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

> These are national strategic plans, which don't examine migratory species in particular.

Beside of that, there are adopted by the Ministry Species Action Plans as follow regarding species, included CMS appendices:

- Action plan for protection of *Pelecanus crispus* in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022
- Action plan for protection of *Aquila heliaca* in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022
- Action plan for protection of *Falco cherrug* in Bulgaria 2013 - 2022
- Action plan for protection of *Aythya nyroca* in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
- Action plan for protection of *Botaurus stellaris* in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
- Action plan for protection of *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* (*Microcarbo pygmaeus*) in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
- Action plan for protection of *Oxyura leucocephala* in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023
- Action plan for protection of *Anser erythropus* in Bulgaria 2018 - 2027
- Action plan for protection of *Branta ruficollis* in Bulgaria for the period 2018 - 2027
- Action plan for protection of *Aegypius monachus* in Bulgaria for the period 2019 - 2028
- Action plan for protection of *Clanga pomarina* in Bulgaria for the period 2019 - 2028

Another ones regarding migrating species are in process of adoption.

The action plan regarding protection of *Neophron percnopterus* in Bulgaria was valid for the period 2009-2018, which includes the reporting period as well.

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

> Species action plans are implemented on a project base.

## **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

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.

> Bulgaria has no indigenous or local communities.

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).

> Bulgaria has no indigenous or local communities.

## **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**

> Educational campaigns in schools are conducted on a regular basis, mainly by non-governmental organizations, which provide lectures on ornithology and nature conservation, bat conservation, cetacean conservation, i.e. they cover the main migratory groups of species. There are "green clubs" in schools, and they also affect the study of migratory species.

#### **Public awareness campaigns**

> Public awareness campaigns are conducted mainly by non-governmental organizations, government agencies and scientific institutes. In many cases, they are carried out on projects' base as the projects have publicity and information sharing activities. Independent public awareness projects have been implemented or are in process of implementation. For example Knowledge for Natura 2000, which is a national project involving exit poll, Natura 2000 knowledge assessment and dissemination of information.

#### **Capacity building**

>

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

> Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives can be through the publication of information, the provision of information on request (the law on access to public information). For example, the Red Data Book of Bulgaria is available in its entirety, free of charge online. The MOEW website contains legislation, guidelines, action plans. E.g. Disaster Management Guide prior to their placement at the Rescue Center, Instruction for interaction with dead cetaceans found.

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

[Information system with biological information of the BSPB](#)

[Birds in Bulgaria](#)

[Rescue Centers and Animals in distress information](#)

[Red Data Book of Bulgaria](#)

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

> No data in MoEW.

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

> No.

#### **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))

> Implemented projects within the period contributed toward Target 7: 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. This includes protecting birds from powerlines, systems for detection of migrating birds before reaching wind parks, work with hunters, protection of wintering habitat (e.g. *Branta ruficollis*) via purchase of land, monitoring and educational activities.

Regarding 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.

The major projects in Bulgaria in reporting period are connected with NATURA 2000 inventory and management, aslo writing of management plans of National Parks.

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

Reintroduction programmes of raptors and restocking programmes for sturgeons.

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)

- > 1) Norwegian Financial Mechanism  
2) Small grants from private companies  
3) Small grants from ACCOBAMS  
4) The Enterprise for management of environmental protection activities /EMEPA/, part of MoEW  
 Other

- > 1) Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020  
2) LIFE program  
3) INTERREG

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

[The Enterprise for management of environmental protection activities /EMEPA/](#)

[Managing and restoring aquatic ecological corridors for migratory fish species in the Danube river basin](#)  
<http://www.life-bulgaria.bg/en/>

[Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020](#)

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?

> Birds of prey, the red-breasted goose, sturgeons, bats.

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

*Please select only one option*

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

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

> Assessing the importance of migratory birds in NATURA 2000 SPA and creating successful plans for the management of the relevant sites.

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.

> Bulgaria is not eligible country for GEF.