

**Outline of the Region's Report to
the Meetings of the CMS Standing Committee**

**EU countries regional activities for the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species
and its related instruments**

Each Party within the region is to provide data and information related to activities undertaken at national, regional, sub-regional level for the implementation of the Convention and its related instruments as well as relevant governing bodies resolutions and decision in the following non-exhaustive list of areas:

Period from last to present meeting of the CMS Standing Committee

1. CMS and its relevant instruments

Agreements for conservation of specific species

. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

France

France organised the seventh Meeting of the Advisory Committee of ACAP in La Rochelle from 6th to 10th May 2013. The meetings of the AC's Population and Conservation Status Working Group and Seabird Bycatch Working Group were held at the same venue from 29 April to 3 May.

. Agreement on the Conservation of African- Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

Denmark

Since 40.th St.C. meeting November 2012, the following activity should be mentioned: Ongoing contact in a positive atmosphere with Greenland on the possibility of Greenland joining AEWA. No decisions yet.

France

1) France participated on 21st August 2013 in a technical meeting in Moscow to support the adhesion of Russia to the AEWA

2) Implementation of the African Initiative: Following the decisions taken at MOP5 in may 2012 in La Rochelle, and in compliance with Resolution 5.9, the government of France has provided funding to

support the creation of the Technical support Unit to technically assist the African Parties to implement the Plan of Action for Africa adopted at MOP5. The Technical support Unit, based in Tour du Valat, and resulting from a cooperation of the ONCFS and Tour du Valat, was completed by the recruitments of two experts, one IGS specialist, and one ornithologist who is based in Dakar, Senegal. The TSU, composed of 4 persons, and supported by the French Ministry of Ecology, has organised a first sub-regional workshop in El Kala, Algeria, in June 2013, on the African Initiative, aiming at prioritizing the activities of the Plan of Action for Africa for the Northern African region resulted in a commonly agreed programme for Northern Africa focusing on training and monitoring of migratory waterbirds.

The TSU is currently planning its active participation to the second Sub-regional meeting for Southern/eastern Africa due to take place in South Africa, end of October 2013, organised by the AEWA/CMS Secretariats. The TSU is also currently actively preparing the third workshop for West/central Africa, planned for December 2013 in Dakar.

An official Protocol of collaboration was signed in July 2013 between the Directorate of National Park of Senegal and the Directorate for Water and Biodiversity of the French Ministry of Ecology, setting mutual support to the African Initiative. The Government of Senegal has created a special Unit dedicated to the implementation of the African Initiative.

3) Launching of the first identification guide in Arabic for Northern Africa: With financial support of the French government and the MAVA foundation, a first field guide for the identification of migratory water birds was created and officially launched in Tunis in March 2013. The guide concerns waterbirds occurring in Northern Africa, down to Mauritania and Sudan. The official launching in Tunis was covered by many press articles and radio interviews.

4) IWC project in Mediterranean Basin (DIOE): through financial support of the MAVA foundation and the French government, the project to improve waterbirds monitoring and census and develop regional synergies was pursued for the second year in 2013. Several training sessions were organised in Northern Africa. A "Mediterranean Waterbirds" network, bringing together different partners involved in the monitoring and the conservation of waterbirds and wetlands in the Mediterranean Region was created in 2012. The first edition of a "Mediterranean Waterbirds" Bulletin was issued in July 2013.

5) The SPOVAN project, managed by ONCFS, with financial support of the French Ministry of Ecology started three years ago to improve knowledge and local monitoring capacities on waterbird

population in the Nile Valley (Egypt, North and South Sudan) is currently at its third phase. Several training sessions were organised in Sudan and France (Tour du Valat) for the field expert of the region in charge of the monitoring in 2013.

6) Technical cooperation with Russia, Belarus, Lithuania and Lettonia: Through financial support to the NGO, OMPO, France is developing a three year project (2012-2014) to improve knowledge on the conservation status of anatidae and turdidae, through in particular the development of a scientific network in Eastern Europe. The first results of the studies should be published in an atlas on the conservation status of Anatidae to be finalised in 2014.

7) Eradication of Ruddy ducks: The drafting of a national plan to eradicate the last specimens of Ruddy ducks in France has started in 2013 and training session for ONCFS field officers has been organised in May 2013.

8) At the request of the French Ministry of Ecology, the ONCFS has initiated a study programme on geese that should run until 2015.

Hungary

Changes in the legislation on hunting concerning wildfowl as of 1 October 2012: the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) and the non-native Canada (*Branta canadensis*) and Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) became game birds, while the Teal (*Anas crecca*) and Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) became protected, leaving Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) as the only huntable duck species. Some other, minor modifications also took place concerning hunting seasons and daily bags.

A decision has been taken at ministerial level on elaborating a management plan for the Greylag Goose and the Mallard, and a joint species action plan for the Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*).

Participation in the LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638 LIFE+ project on the protection of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), and the drafting of the Hungarian action plan for the species.

Drafting of a national Species Action Plan for the Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*).

Continued monitoring of waterbirds (synchronized counts once every month from August to April at the 48 most important wetlands).

In the 2007-2013 EU monetary period, the Environment and Energy Operation Programme supported/support 44 projects that contained wetland restorations. Half of these projects (22) consisted/consist purely of wetland restoration. The 44 projects cover 76 602 ha Natura 2000 areas (not all wetlands), the 22 purely wetland projects cover 39453 ha.

Romania

Inventory and assessment of the current state of conservation of waterbirds species: *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Mergus albellus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Egretta alba*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Aythya ferina*, *Aythya feligula*, *Bucephala clangula*, in the natural protected areas, were carried on.

. Agreement on the Conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

Romania

The project “Photo – identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters” funded by ACCOBAMS was carried on. During this project the data about stranded (alive and dead) and entangled in fishing gears cetaceans were collected.

In the frame of the project “Reducing the impact of marine bioresources exploitation by elaborating ecological efficient solutions” new types of fishing gear were tested.

. Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

Poland

In August 2013 Poland hosted 20th meeting of Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS as well as North Sea Steering Group Meeting. WWF Poland yearlong monitoring of the coast with the involvement of volunteers trained by the Hel Marine Station, the so-called “Blue Patrol” will be continued.

UK

Information can be found in the UK’s annual national report to the agreement can be found at: [Link to reports](#) and [UK Report](#)

. Agreement on the Conservation of Population of European Bats (EUROBATS)

EU

The Action Plan for the Conservation of the Bat Species (Chiroptera sp.) in the European Union is under preparation.

France

At the occasion of the 17th International BAT Night on 23rd and 24th August and from July to October 2013, 214 public awareness events were organized or are registered all over the country.

Poland

According to the last Report for European Commission submitted by Poland out of 21 bat species permanently occurring in the country 9 have reached favourable conservation status.

Last year the Polish Ministry of Environment organised the two-day conference to celebrate “Year of the bat”. The conference provided a communication platform between the nature conservancy authorities, State Forests National Forest Holding, Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, scientists and NGO-s.

Romania

The projects “Supporting of a better local government and information exchange at European level” and “Bat conservation in Padura Craiului, Bihor and Trascau Mountains” were implemented. Education activities are carried out each year celebrating the International Bat Night such as meeting with private land owners, local authorities, owners associations, economic operators, custodians, NGOs teachers from the primary, secondary and university education and other stakeholders.

. Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their habitats (GORILLAS)

. Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea (WADDEN SEA SAEALS)

Denmark

The status of the Wadden Sea seals is good, and the population is still growing. The conservation agreement is expected to be reconfirmed during the trilateral meeting in February 2014, hosted by Denmark, between the three ministers of environment from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

In the draft declaration for this meeting, which is presently in an interministerial hearing process, the text concerning seals is as follows:

Seals

1. **Appreciate** the positive effects of long-term trilateral seal policy and management, as reflected by the highest population level ever counted.
2. Therefore **continue** their cooperation in the context of the Seal Agreement, including the Seal Management Plan which will be updated in 2016, reconfirming the guidelines on taking and releasing of seals.

The present seal management plan covers the period 2102-2017.

Memoranda of Understanding for conservation of specific species

. Birds

-Aquatic Warbler

Poland

In November 2012 Poland launched educational activities for school children by preparing and distributing by the website of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection (Secretary of the Aquatic Warbler MoU in Poland) the scenarios of the lessons “Ecology and conservation of Aquatic Warbler”.

In June 2013 Poland organized internal conference “The conservation of wetlands and its conditions in the perspective of the implementation of the Aquatic Warbler National Conservation Plan”. The aim of the conference was to highlight ongoing work on preparing such a document and emphasize main proposals for future work for the Aquatic Warbler Conservation, proposed in the draft of National Plan. On the conference, organized by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection, main Aquatic Warbler Conservation actors were present, including the author of the draft of Aquatic Warbler National Conservation Plan - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP).

- Grassland Birds of South America

- Great Bustard

Hungary

The 3rd meeting of the Great Bustard MoU was held 8-12 April 2013 in Hungary. The meeting adopted a new Action Plan to the MoU, a new Medium-Term International Work Programme 2013-2016, a Joint Research Programme and several guidelines. The meeting also amended the MoU itself to extend its geographical scope to include Italy, Montenegro, Russia and Serbia.

Romania

During the period 2012-2013, 14-35 individuals of Great Bustard were observed by the ornithologists. Public awareness campaigns of threats to the Great Bustard population and its habitats and enhance public participation in the conservation activities were carried on.

- High Andean Flamingos

- Raptors (Birds of Prey)

Denmark

Denmark signed the Memorandum of Understanding for conservation of Raptors during the CoP 10 in Bergen, Norway 2011. Denmark fulfills the agreement in the text (all birds of prey are protected), but due to resource reasons, DK has not participated in MoU-meetings.

France

Meetings:

- An international meeting on the Osprey was organised in Orléans on 27 and 28 September 2013-
- The 5th National Meeting on the Red Kite is due to take place on 22 and 24 November 2013 in the Hautes-Pyrénées.
- The first national meeting on the Booted Eagle is organised on 27 and 28 October in Corrèze.
- The International Vulture Awareness Day was organized on 7 September 2013

National Action Plans :

- Launching of the third National Action Plan on the Bonelli's eagle for 2014-2023 in autumn 2013 :
- Drafting in 2013 of the first National Action Plan for the Griffon Vulture for a launching in April 2014.

Hungary

Hungary runs a LIFE+Nature project each for the protection of the Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) and for the conservation of the Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*). The former project's main objective is to eliminate illegal bird killing, especially bird poisoning.

The Accessible Sky Memorandum was signed in February 2008 with the objective to eliminate, as far as possible, bird mortality along power lines, which is a major mortality factor for most raptor species. Under the Memorandum, participants (representatives of the Ministry responsible for nature conservation, presently the Ministry of Rural Development, MME/BirdLife Hungary and electricity distribution and transmission companies) meet on a regular basis, at least annually. The participants of the Memorandum also run various projects (e.g. designing of bird-friendly pylon head standards, retrofitting projects) whose teams also have regular internal meetings, as required by the project.

In the frame of this memorandum, several projects and events have taken place in recent years: Saker Falcon Life project LIFE06 NAT/HU/000096 in collaboration with Slovakia, Saker Falcon Life project LIFE09 NAT/HU/000384 in collaboration with Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria; international conferences (with participation of even more countries) also took place in the frame of both projects; an international conference was held in April 2011 in the organisation of BirdLife in Budapest, which endorsed the Budapest Declaration. International conferences were co-organised by MAVIR, the Hungarian transmission company (last one on 6 March 2013).

MME/BirdLife Hungary received support from the Environment and Energy Operational Programme to carry out an assessment and prioritisation of power lines across the country. The study was produced in 2008 and forms the basis of prioritising retrofitting projects financed from the Environment and Energy Operational Programme. In close cooperation between energy companies and conservation experts, the best available technology to produce or retrofit power lines in a bird friendly way is constantly updated and new solutions are field-tested. The 2007 BAT (available at: http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu/user/downloads/publikaciok/Madarvedelmi_ajanlas_EON.pdf in Hungarian with photos) was renewed by April 2011, and a new standard is also being elaborated, to be issued in 2013.

- Ruddy-headed Goose
- Siberian Crane
- Slender-billed Curlew

Unfortunately, no observation since 2001.

Romania

6 pairs of Saker Falcon were found, among them, a new successfully breeding pair. One juvenile was marked by PTT. The projects : “For nature and local communities – the bases for a Natura 2000 integrated management in Hartibaciu – Tarnova Mare area”, “Conservation of Lesser Spotted Eagle in Romania” “Conservation of Saker Falcon in Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia”, “Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians” were implemented. The information about power lines network were collected, national potential conflict hotspots list was created.

- Ruddy-headed Goose
- Siberian Crane
- Slender-billed Curlew

UK

UK attended the first meeting of signatories to the Raptors MoU in December 2012

. Marine species

- Marine Turtles Africa
- Marine Turtles IOSEA

- Sharks

Denmark

Denmark signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Sharks during the CoP 10 in Bergen, Norway 2011. Denmark fulfills the agreement in the text, but due to resource reasons, DK has not participated in MoU-meetings. The administration of this MoU has now been transferred to the relevant Ministry: Ministry of Food, Fisheries and agriculture.

France

Drafting and launching of the first Shark Action Plan for La Réunion Island in July 2013.

Romania

No increase in and minimize the use of plastic and non-degradable materials in fishing operations were encouraged. In the Romanian waters of the Black Sea the fishing from 15 March to 30 April is prohibited. The use of the selective gear, devices and techniques to ensure that the take of sharks in fisheries is sustainable and appropriately managed and that mortality of non-utilized catches is minimized to the greatest possible extent, were encouraged.

UK

UK attended and contributed the first meeting of the Signatories to the MoU in September 2013.

UK co-chairs the Shark MoU intersessional Correspondence group with the US.

. Terrestrial Mammals

- Bukhara Deer
- Saiga Antelope
- West African Elephants
- South Andean Huemul

. Marine Mammals

- Dugong
- Mediterranean Monk Seal
- Pacific Islands Cetaceans
- Western African Aquatic Mammals

2. Activities related to:

Scientific Research and Monitoring

Denmark

Ongoing research, especially within DCE, Aarhus University on waterbirds

Hungary

Continued monitoring of waterbirds (synchronized counts once every month from August to April at the 48 most important wetlands) and strictly protected raptors.

Poland

The project entitled “*System for bat protection at wind farms*” was developed as a result of the research conducted by two engineers from the University of Technology in Wrocław specialized in acoustics. The aim of the project is to develop a device which generates ultrasonic waves which will make bats avoid wind turbines.

Last year Gdańsk University, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences and PTOP „Salamandra” launch the co-operative radio-tracking project on habitat selection of pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*). As the result of first year of study the two new maternity roosts were located, only two were previously known in the country, and the application was put forward to General Directorate for Environmental Protection to extend one of the Natura 2000 site.

UK ACAP

Falkland Island research on seabird mortality related to trawl fishing concluded in October 2012

Second phase of rat eradication on South Georgia commenced in late 2012/early 2013. First phase of the reindeer eradication project on the Busen Peninsula completed in early 2013

UK EUROBATS

The Bat monitoring programme is now in its 16th year. It is producing statistically robust population trends for 11 of the 17 bat species in the UK

The UK is surveying sites to establish whether UK bat species are killed by wind-turbines. The final report is due in 2014.

Sample testing has established that *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the fungus associated with white nose syndrome is present in South East England. Symptoms of the syndrome itself have not been found but a contingency plan has been agreed.

UK Sharks

Funded a Traffic Report assessing the intrinsic vulnerability of harvested sharks. The report was presented at the Sharks MoU meeting in September 2012

Two projects are underway (NEPTUNE and Shark By-Watch) bringing together fisheries scientist and fishermen to improve understanding of populations, discards, mortality and behaviour of migratory species.

- Education and Public Awareness

Hungary

Several meetings with stakeholders, such as hunters - in the frame of the LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638 LIFE+ project on the protection of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*).

Poland

On 5th September 2013 the “House of harbour porpoise”, the only museum in Europe devoted only to this species, was opened.

UK

Publication of the Production of Commercial [Fisheries Advisories](#) (by the Shark Trust) and [elasmobranch guidance](#) (by the Marine Management Organisation) and; the 2013 progress [review](#) of the [UK Shark, Skate and Ray Conservation Plan](#).

- Capacity Building

UK ACAP

UK attended the seventh meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC7) in La Rochelle in May 2013.

UK AEWA

Contribution made to the small grants fund in November 2013

UK ASCOBANS

UK hosted the 7th Meeting of Parties (MoP7) in Brighton in October 2012.

UK ACCOBAMS

UK continues to encourage collaboration with ACCOBAMS.

UK EUROBATS

Continued support of the iBats project. Development of an iBats web portal (www.ibats.org.uk) and 'app'. iBats is a partnership between The Zoological Society of London and Bat Conservation Trust and runs a number of national and international bat biodiversity monitoring projects.

-International Cooperation

Hungary

Hungary coordinates the LIFE+Nature project "Conservation of Saker Falcon in Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia".

International meetings in the frame of the LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638 LIFE+ project on the protection of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*).

Poland

WWF Poland with Lithuania, based on Swedish donation made by organization Baltic 2020, carried out the ghost nets retrieval project. The first stage of the project, in year 2011, covered the Polish marine areas. Thanks to fruitful cooperation between WWF Poland and Polish fishermen and experts 6 tons of nets were removed from the Sea. In 2012 the project covered not only Polish but also Lithuanian waters. We are glad to report that the project totally resulted in retrieval of 22 tons of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea.

SAMBAH – Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise – is an international project involving all EU countries around the Baltic Sea, with the ultimate goal to secure the conservation of the Baltic Sea harbor porpoise. SAMBAH has ten partners in Sweden, Finland, Poland and Denmark. They also work closely with colleagues in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Germany to make SAMBAH cover as much of the Baltic Sea as possible.

Romania

Project “Conservation of Saker Falcon in Northeast Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia”, created favorable conditions and steady growth of population in Central and Eastern Europe and transferred the experience for implementing the best practices for Saker Falcon conservation.

In June 2013 an international workshop was organized to raise awareness of the conservation measures of waterbirds with the experts from Romania, UK, Germany, Hungary, Finland, Slovenia and Turkey. The Action Plans for the conservation of Ferruginous Duck and Pygmy Cormorant were elaborated and adopted in September 2013.

UK ACAP

Work has been undertaken on the UK Overseas Territories ACAP action plan. A formal review was planned with the relevant OTs by June 2013. Awaiting outcomes.

UK EUROBATS

iBats project operating in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Hungary.

UK Sharks

Actively involved in the Shark Implementation International Partners coordination group established at CITES CoP 16 whose aim is to help likeminded countries with implementation and facilitate exchange of information

Protection of Migratory Species, conservation measures

UK ACAP

Continued collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Authorities (RFMOs) remains a UK priority.

UK Sharks

UK continues to press for strong, scientifically led management measures at all fisheries management meetings, and where appropriate through conservation bodies such as CMS and CITES.

-Administrative, Institutional & Legislative/Policy measures

Denmark

AEWA: The Minister of Environment's Advisory Board of on hunting and Wildlife management issues has in September 2013 recommended the minister revised hunting regulations from 2014 concerning a number of bird species, including general hunting ban on Eider Duck females, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Bean Goose in all communities except three (and a reduction of the period to the three months of September, October and November only), and general hunting ban of Herring Gull, Lesser Blackbacked Gull and Greater Blackbacked Gull.

It is now up to a political decision whether these recommendations will be followed from 2014.

Hungary

New list of protected species came into effect since 1st of October, 2012. Relating CMS listed species the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) became a game species, while the Teal (*Anas crecca*) and the Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) became protected. The Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), the Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), the Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), the Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), the Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), the Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*), the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and some vagrants became strictly protected species (= highest level in Hungarian legislation).

UK ACAP

Anton Wolfaardt (Joint Nature Conservation Committee – JNCC), UK focal point for conservation in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories left his post in June 2013 and has been replaced by Anne Saunders

UK ASCOBANS

June 2013, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) circulated guidance to the industry on Council Regulation EC 812/2004, laying down the measures concerning incidental catch of cetaceans in fisheries

UK Sharks

Shark species that have been afforded additional protection in the UK (and throughout Europe) include basking shark, white shark, angel shark, deep sea sharks, spurdog, and porbeagle. This has

been delivered through zero TAC's and prohibitions on landings under the Common Fisheries Policy and through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA).

The EU Finning Ban ([Regulation 1185/2003](#)) has been amended to require the whole European fleet to land all sharks with their 'fins naturally attached' with no exceptions

The [Sharks Skates and Rays \(Prohibition of Fishing, trans-shipment, and landing\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012](#) was introduced in Scotland to introduce a landing ban for recreational sea anglers on 26 species of elasmobranch, including porbeagle, spurdog, tope, and a number of deep sea sharks.

3. Activities planned for next year

UE

The revision of regulation conc. bycatch of small cetaceans is foreseen for the year 2015.

Romania

Edition of detailed map of the of the "Important Great Bustard Areas". Conservation of currently unoccupied, but suitable habitats for the Great Bustard and their migration routes.

Elaboration and implementation of the National Plan of Action for Shark conservation.

UK ACAP

Eradication of the reindeer herd on the Barff Peninsula (South Georgia) is planned for the Austral summer of 2013/14.

UK ASCOBANS

A final report on the monitoring of cetaceans in Cardigan Bay, Wales, undertaken by the Sea Watch Foundation is due in 2014.

UK EUROBATS

Bats continue to be a UK wildlife crime priority.