

European parties 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 41st (November 2013) to present (44th) meeting of the CMS Standing Committee

1. CMS and its relevant instruments

NORWAY accepted to take on the role as Chair of the CMS Standing Committee after the last CMS CoP11.

Agreements for conservation of specific species

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

FRANCE

Given the majority of the species concerned, the area covered by this agreement is the southern hemisphere and for France, the TAAF which are hosting a majority of species regarded by the Agreement. France actively participates in the work conducted under this agreement: continuous scientific monitoring of these species and provision of the data collected to ACAP; conservation action of the breeding colonies (the TAAF have been classified nature reserve since 2006, the access to colonies is limited to scientists). Measures recommended by ACAP on the restriction of the present or past impact of introduced species, biosafety and spread of diseases are applied to the species regarded by the Agreement. At Sea, conservation of these species is essentially linked to fisheries and to the limitation of incidental capture in fishing gear. That is why France has implemented an action plan to reduce bycatch in the framework of CCAMLR, which aims to carry out measures of bycatch mitigation. Without reaching the “zero catch”, this plan has already got some achievements and will be continued. For a species for which France has the full responsibility worldwide: the Amsterdam Albatross, a national action plan has been being implemented since 2011 under ACAP. Within RFMOs to which France is a party, France supports the adoption of bycatch reduction measures proposed by ACAP. In the framework of this theme, France brings also regularly voluntary financial contribution to ACAP.

NORWAY

Norway participated at ACAP MoP5 (May 2015) and chaired the recruitment panel for a new Executive Secretary.

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

A number of European parties have submitted the AEWA implementation national reports to the AEWA MOP6 to be held from 9 to 14 November 2014 in Bonn, Germany. These reports can be found at <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/6th-meeting-parties-aewa>.

ALBANIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, ESTONIA, THE NETEHERLANDS, NORWAY & SWITZERLAND

See: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/document/report-stc-regional-representative-europe-and-central-asia>

For Belgium, see also: <http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/document/national-report-belgium-mop6>

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

On July 21st, 2015, the Republic of Belarus acceded to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. The decree about it will enter into force from January 1st, 2016.

NORWAY

Norway renewed support for full time position on action plans (main focus on LWfG) 2014-2017. Norway also contributes to the sponsored delegates programme. Norway holds the Chair of StC and contributes to the Secretariat work and chairing the StC meetings.

UKRAINE

A number of AEWA guidelines have been translated into Ukrainian for further use by local administrations and protected areas staff.

World Migratory Bird Day has been marked in Ukraine in 2014 and 2015. Relevant information had been posted in various Internet sites by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources if Ukraine and regional administrations.

Ukraine participated in and chaired the 1st Meeting of the AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group (18–20 February, 2014, Kavarna, Bulgaria).

Agreement on the Conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) & Agreement on the Conservation of small cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

BELGIUM

- Participation in:
 - the conservation plan for the harbour porpoise in the North Sea (ASCOBANS);
 - the monitoring of incidental catches of porpoises through the 2004 European Commission regulation 812/2004 aiming at reducing incidental catches;
 - National Reports to ASCOBANS in 2013 and 2014: see <http://www.ascobans.org/en/document/2013-annual-national-report-belgium> and <http://www.ascobans.org/en/document/2014-annual-national-report-belgium>

FRANCE

- Participation in:
 - the conservation plan for the harbor porpoise in the North Sea (ASCOBANS);
 - the monitoring of incidental catches of porpoises through the 2004 European Commission regulation aiming at reducing incidental catches;
 - international abundance assessment program SCANS and in the ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS-CMS working group on underwater noise.
- Among recent measures taken by France, it is worth mentioning the consolidation of regulations to protect marine mammals, the establishment of marine protected areas, measures to reduce the impact of shipping, off-shore and tourism activities, the establishment of the "whale watching" label, awareness campaigns for public and professionals, monitoring of bycatch, development of national monitoring programs to assess numbers and distribution of the species.

FINLAND

Finland will host the 8th ASCOBANS MOP in 2016.

POLAND

Poland is working on a continuation of the project entitled "Collecting ghost nets in the Baltic Sea" that comprises both active measures consisting in the removal of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea, and the development of tools that will reduce the amount of lost fishing gear and

better means to identify the owners. Following fruitful cooperation with Lithuania, the project is to be continued with Estonia "Keep Estonian Sea Tidy", Swedish municipality Simirsham and WWF Germany.

Yearlong monitoring of the coast with the involvement of volunteers, the so-called "Blue Patrol", is continued. The project has been implemented since 2010. The Blue Patrol is composed of 200 volunteers – its members monitor and intervene if water mammals or birds in need of help are observed. Cooperation between the network of volunteers operating in the area and a science and research institution allows for a suitable response to all threats concerning Baltic Sea mammals (including porpoises) found on beaches.

UKRAINE

Ukraine participated in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea Regional Workshop held in Menton, France, 16–17 April 2015, where cetaceans protection related activities important for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea have been discussed.

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

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The country is not a party to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats but is a Party to the Convention on Protection of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

All bat species are protected by these international agreements as well as by national legislative acts.

19 bat species are protected by the Law on Fauna and from them 8 most rare species are listed in the Red Data Book of Republic of Belarus (2 more bat species were proposed for listing in the Red Data Book of Republic of Belarus in 2014 year) and benefit from special protection measures under the Law on Environmental Protection.

The deliberate capture, keeping or killing of bats are illegal activities and should be persecuted with fines, except taking from the wild under a permit for scientific purposes which issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus.

BELGIUM

In 2014 Belgium organized the 7th MoP of Eurobats in Brussels. Ca. 150 delegates were received in the Egmont Palace. Prior to the meeting a field excursion was organized visiting mitigation measures in the Sonian Forest and an educational bat center in Comblain-au-Pont.

Belgium accepted to take on the role as Chair of the Eurobats Standing Committee after the last MoP. Belgium participated at the meeting of the Advisory Committee.

For further elaboration, see the [national report on the Eurobats-website](#).

FRANCE

The Second Action Plan for the conservation of bats 2009-2013 was implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Ecology. It included actions of: sites protection and bats conservation, improvement in the research system (analysis, understanding and disclosure of data) as well as awareness raising of the general public through the publication of many booklets, brochures and posters and, since 2009, the organization each year of the "European Bat Night". The plan was evaluated in 2014. A new national action plan for all bat species could be developed soon.

A legal protection was granted to the species *Myotis escaleraei* (Murin of Escalera) discovered in 2009 in Pyrénées Orientales (Ministerial Decree of 15.09.2012 and Ministerial Decree of 23.04.2007, mammals protection list in France, article L-411- 1 of the Environmental Code).

NORWAY

Norway continued to support participation in Advisory Committee (appointed councilor) and participated at the MoP (2014).

UKRAINE

- Ukraine participated in:
 - 9th Meeting of the Standing Committee / 19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to EUROBATS (7–10 April 2014, Heraklion, Greece);
 - 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to EUROBATS and 10th Meeting of the Standing Committee (Brussels, Belgium, 15–17 November 2014);
 - 11th Meeting of the Standing Committee (Rome, Italy, 28 April 2015).
- Ukraine is a member of the EUROBATS Standing Committee.

Memoranda of Understanding for conservation of specific species

Birds

- Aquatic Warbler

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Republic of Belarus participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) which took place in Vente (Lithuania), 20–21 May 2015.

At the meeting the updated version of the Action Plan had been discussed and prepared (with more recent figures on Aquatic Warbler population status in the different countries).

Republic of Belarus has prepared the national report for the Aquatic Warbler MOU and the Action Plan.

FRANCE

A National Action Plan following the LIFE program developed in Britain has been implemented from 2010 to 2014. The plan, which involved 14 regions and 37 departments had three main objectives: increase the area of the Aquatic Warbler habitat in staging, improve understanding of the migration scheme in France and participate in the overall conservation of the species.

The implementation of the Plan has improved the knowledge of the sites frequented by the species (the number of known sites increased from 172 to 228, or 25% increase in 5 years). These sites are mainly located on the coastline (along the Channel-Atlantic arc for the autumn migration, and along the Mediterranean coast for the spring migration). This figure has tended to stabilize since 2013; one may think now that the major steps of the migration of Aquatic Warbler in France are now known.

The National Action Plan for Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014 is being evaluated. The result of this analysis will be available by the end of 2015. However, at this stage we can already advance that the Plan has significantly increased the knowledge of the species in France. France is now recognized internationally as one of the major countries for the migration process. At the third meeting of the Aquatic Warbler MoU which was held in May 2015 in Lithuania, the monitoring of the migration of the species in France was deemed powerful enough for possibly developing annual indicators for breeding success of the species in countries where such reproduction takes place. With increased knowledge of the species in France (importance of staging, characterization of the preferred habitat of the species, ...) it will be now also easier to prioritize actions to implement in the staging sites, especially as a vast majority of these sites are included in protected areas, and especially within the Natura 2000 network.

POLAND

- in March 2015, a project entitled “Facilitating Aquatic Warbler” (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) habitat management through sustainable systems of biomass use” (LIFE09 NAT/PL/260), funded by the EU LIFE+ Nature Programme, has been completed and the final report is in preparation. The main issue in the project was to introduce sustainable

development of biomass use systems, which provides funding for conservation measurements on Aquatic Warbler sites, due to usage of the cut biomass. The beneficiary of the project was the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (PSPB). One of the objectives of the project was to enlarge the area and to improve the state of habitats suitable for Aquatic Warbler in Eastern Poland. Degraded habitats were restored and their quality was improved by bush removal and first mowing of the meadows on which farming had been abandoned. These conservation measures were carried out on 1,000 ha, to prepare optimal or suboptimal habitats of Aquatic Warbler for regular management, i.e. mowing in line with the habitat requirements of this species, as well as for other animals and plants protected in the Natura 2000 areas. In the frame of the project, a pelleting facility has been opened in Trzcianne village in the Biebrza Valley, to allow management of biomass (hay) collected on fen mires and marshy meadows.

- New Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme, based on new EU financial perspective (2014-2020), ensures financing management of habitats of Aquatic Warbler.

UKRAINE

Ukraine participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU, Vente, Lithuania, 20–21 May 2015 and submitted the country's report on MoU related activities that can be found at http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Doc_06_02_National%20Report_Ukraine.pdf.

- Raptors (Birds of Prey)

NORWAY

Norway will host the second meeting of Signatory States and contribute to sponsored delegates.

SPAIN

Spain has signed the Memorandum of Understanding on May 04th 2015.

Marine species

- Marine Turtles Africa

FRANCE

France has provided technical assistance to the Cameroon government for creating the Marine National Park Manyange na Elombo Campo. This future protected area encompasses nesting beaches for *Lepidochelys olivacea* and *Dermochelys coriacea*, and nursery areas for *Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Chelonia mydas*.

- Marine Turtles IOSEA

FRANCE

France in collaboration with IOSEA and according to its guidelines, is finalizing in 2015 the development and implementation of a national action plan for the conservation of marine turtles of French territories in the Indian Ocean: Reunion, Mayotte and the Scattered islands.

- Sharks

FRANCE

The signing of the MoU sharks by France is under discussion.

Marine Mammals

- Dugong

FRANCE

France, which hosts Dugong in New Caledonia and Mayotte implements conservation or restoration measures of its populations as recommended by the Memorandum. In Mayotte, a national action plan is developed for 2012-2016. It is an emergency plan given the extremely low numbers (less than 10 individuals) of the population which is threatened by incidental capture in fishing gear. Short-and medium term actions are already undertaken in the recently created Marine Natural Park which encompasses all the Mayotte lagoon. In New Caledonia which hosts the third world population of the species, the New Caledonian government is implementing an action plan for the conservation of the species.

- Pacific Islands Cetaceans

FRANCE

France is concerned through its territories of New Caledonia and French Polynesia. All cetaceans are fully protected, population monitoring such as that of the humpback whale in the framework of the regional cooperation are carried out as well as measures to better regulate the activities of "whale watching".

2. Activities related to:

FINLAND

Many activities regarding different areas have been developed in relation to Lesser white-fronted goose due to the ongoing EU Life project (<http://wwf.fi/en/lwfg/>).

- Scientific Research and Monitoring

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

In Wallonia specific focus was given to research on the impact of wind turbines on bats. Regarding monitoring, the six-annual monitoring for the Habitats Directive was carried out.

- AEWA

Monitoring of breeding and wintering birds:

> Flemish region:

- Rare breeding birds. Since 1994, a monitoring scheme on breeding birds, the project 'Bijzondere Broedvogels Vlaanderen', has been set up in Flanders. The species involved include all colonial breeders, rare breeding species (less than 150-200 pairs in Flanders) and all exotic (feral) birds, altogether about 60 species. There is a yearly standardized census of these species.
- Common breeding birds. In Flanders, a new monitoring project for common breeding birds started in 2007, in cooperation between the Institute for Nature and Forest Research and 'Natuurpunt' (NGO).
- Waterbird counts. In Flanders, six waterfowl counts are organized every winter. coordination by the Institute of Nature and Forest Research. counts from October until March. The mid-January count makes part of the 'International Waterfowl Census', a monitoring project of Wetlands International. About 500-600 sites in Flanders are counted on a regular basis, including at least all major wetlands.
- Seabird counts. Counts of overwintering seabirds are done and beached birds are mapped along the Belgian coast

> Walloon region:

- Spring Counting of water birds since 2014
- Rare birds counting in the framework of Natura 2000 and article 12 report of the Birds Directive.
- Monitoring of wintering birds (by Aves). Counting of waterbirds from October to March. Data are published in the « Bulletin Aves » magazine and communicated to Wetlands International.
- Implementation of methods to collect data's on birds in the framework of the elaboration of the Natura 2000 sites' designation bills.
- Monitoring of common birds (started in 1990 by AVES).
- Monitoring of birds for the State of the Walloon Environment "Etat de l'Environnement wallon"
- Monitoring of wintering birds (by Aves). Counting of waterbirds from October to March. Data's are published in the « Bulletin Aves » magazine and communicated to Wetlands international.

> Brussels Region (in association with):

- Spring Counting of water birds
- Common breeding birds (since 1992)
- Breeding birds of the Brussels Region: (2007)
- Monitoring of wintering birds. Counting of waterbirds in mid-winter. Data are published in the « Bulletin Aves» magazine and communicated to Wetlands International.
- Monitoring of birds breeding in colonies; sleeping site counts of Rose-ringed parakeet;
- Counting wintering waterbirds during mid-winter (since 1992) by AVES.
- Counting wintering waterbirds since 2003-2006. Waterbirds are counted from October till March in the valley of the Woluwe, one of the most important wintering places of waterbirds in the Brussels Capital Region.

Monitoring of birds during migration:

Although not strictly coordinated at a Belgian or regional level, counts of migrating birds are done by many volunteers. Data are entered in a online database and give a good picture of migration periods and monthly or yearly fluctuations.

Research:

An adaptation of the database for waterbird monitoring in Flanders is planned in the framework of an Integrated Life Project 2014. A fragment of the Technical Application Form: 'WATERBIRDS DATA SYSTEM - The waterbirds data collection system is as a monitoring network for several bird species protected by the Birds Directive that is operational since several years. However it has a different approach not yet adapted to new monitoring systems. The existing legacy application needs to be updated and refactored.

- Marine mammals:

- Monitoring of the population of marine mammals (aerial surveys, passive acoustic monitoring)
- Monitoring of the effects of the construction and operation of offshore windfarms
- Investigation of stranded marine mammals

ESTONIA

- Appendix I & II bird species:

- since 2013 special project for Anser erythropus annual monitoring of number of birds on main staging places included to official state biodiversity monitoring programme and funding from state budget for every year monitoring will be secured, training of census makers for Anser erythropus in Hungary in frame of Life+ project;
- since 2013 project of state monitoring programme for monitoring breeding eagles (incl. *Aquila clanga* & *Haliaeetus albicilla*) have been revised and fully funded from state budget and regular (for selected samples even every year) monitoring will be secured.

- satellite telemetry for *Ciconia nigra*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Grus grus*;
- since 2015 research for causes of death (including toxic substances) of eagles (especially *Haliaeetus albicilla*) started by University of Life Science;
- Support to applied researches on conservation biology for eagles, *Ciconia nigra*, *Calidris alpina*, *Numenius arquata*;
- Long-term monitoring and research of migration of Muscicapida and bats in Bird Stations (<http://kabli.nigula.ee/>)
- Bats
 - studies and renewing monitoring scheme of bats.
- Other migratory species:
 - studies and monitoring (also development for improving monitoring methods) of seals

FRANCE

See actions regarding this point in the paragraphs dedicated to ACAP, AEWA, ASCOBANS, Eurobats, Aquatic Warbler MoU, Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoU.

FINLAND

- Monitoring of populations of all Finnish species of CMS and its relevant instruments has been continued.
- In relation to ASCOBANS Finland has participated the EU Life SAMBAH project concerning the Harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea. The project has proved that the species is a regular visitor in Finnish waters.
- An example of a recent scientific study on bird of prey is: Björklund, H. 2015: The effects of habitat changes, conservation measures and interspecific interactions on forest-dwelling hawks. (<https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/155074/theeffec.pdf?sequence=1>)
- Bat research has been conducted e.g. on forest bat ecology, colony structure and site fidelity of bats using bat boxes and bat migration (co-operative project). Monitoring activities on bats consist of surveying circa 100 hibernation sites yearly mainly in Southern Finland as well as active and passive ultrasound detector monitoring at several locations.

POLAND

- continued monitoring programs for about 170 birds species, including breeding, wintering and migrating species (initiative coordinated by Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection)

SPAIN

- Inventory of Spanish terrestrial species

Regulated by Royal Decree 556/2011, of April 20, for the development of the Spanish Inventory of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, shows the distribution, abundance and conservation status of Spanish terrestrial fauna and flora. Consider both terrestrial fauna (vertebrates and invertebrates) and flora (vascular and nonvascular).

The inventory consists of the following elements:

- Pattern lists: List of species of a taxonomic group present in Spain, indicated by scientific and common nomenclature.
- Chorologic Inventory: it Includes Atlas, which reflect the distribution of the species throughout Spain, as well as additional information (when available), as absolute or relative abundances.
- Conservation status: includes lists and red books. The former are technical documents that contain the pattern list that assigns a category of the conservation status to each species, according to the system developed by IUCN. These categories have no legal impact. Red books are red lists that include additional information for each species (ecology, geographical distribution, threats, population trends, etc.)

- Monitoring systems that generate information on population trends and the temporal evolution of the distribution and conservation status. Furthermore, it includes monographs through specific monitoring.
- Other biological information: includes links to other projects developed on a national scale.
- Databases: include downloadable information on the distribution to allow draw maps. Unit used is UTM grid 10x10 km

The information contained in the Spanish inventory of Terrestrial species applies to compliance with different national and international commitments of Spain, as those derived from periodic report on the implementation of Directives 2009/147 / EEC ("Birds") and 92/43 / EEC ("Habitats"), the annual reports on the state of the natural heritage and biodiversity (Article 10 of Law 42/2007, of December 13) and reports of periodic assessment of the conservation status of protected species (Article 9 of Royal Decree 139 / 2011 of February 4).

This inventory also includes information regarding the scientific ringing of birds, sea turtles and bats, coordinated nationally by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment through the Office of Migratory Species (OEM). Wintering Waterfowl Census and results of projects in relation to the effects of climate change on biodiversity in Spain are also included.

Inventory status and annual reports on the state of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity is available at:

<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/inventarios-nacionales/inventario-especies-terrestres/default.aspx>

http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/publicaciones/publicaciones_fauna_flora_I.aspx

- **Spanish Inventory of Marine Species**

Spanish Inventory of Marine Species has as its starting point a preliminary list of marine species that contain, as a priority, all the species protected by both national law and by international agreements to which Spain is a contracting party, and as those species for which information is available.

It has been collected information on distribution, abundance and conservation status of the following groups: invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds, mammals, flowering plants, algae and fungi. For the development of the Spanish Inventory of Marine Species, a Group of Experts on Species has been created to advise on the role of species to include in it.

The pattern list on marine species in Spain is currently underway, with the collaboration of a large group of experts which is providing the information needed for processing.

The extraordinary geomorphologic, oceanographic and biogeographic diversity of Spain results in a high variety of marine environment; the greatest marine biodiversity in Europe (Templado and Pantoja, 2006; Templado, 2011). Because of these features, it is expected that the number of species recorded in this list will be very high.

The publication of the list will take place in 2016.

<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/biodiversidad-marina/habitats-especies-marinos/inventario-espanol-habitats-especies-marinos/inventario-habitats-especies.aspx>

- Education and Public Awareness

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

General support for the educational activities of relevant NGOs and the International Bat Night.

- AEWA

Visitor centers, natural parks and public awareness activities run by regional government agencies and departments and NGOs.

In the framework of Natura2000, public awareness for the conservation of populations of relevant waterbird species in Flanders has been addressed by the website www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be.

In 2014, there was a birdwatching activity at Uitkerkse Polder and a press release on the reporting for the EU Birds Directive on the occasion of the World Migratory Bird Day.

- Marine mammals:
- A website is continued for information about stranded animals
- The University of Liège (Belgium) hosted the annual conference of the European Cetacean Society in 2014, supported by the University of Antwerp, the Catholic University of Louvain, the University of Ghent and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The theme was: "Marine mammals as sentinels of a changing environment".

ESTONIA

- Appendix I bird species: *Haliaeetus albicilla*
- Web cameras on winter feeding places and nesting sites installed for wide public audience;
- Since 2014 Birdwatching Day for Bird Towers organized by Birdlife Estonia is dedicated for celebration of International Migratory Bird Day;
- Online migration routes of birds marked in Estonia with satellite telemetry transmitters for *Ciconia nigra*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Grus grus*;
- Database about environmental education opportunities in Estonia, network of environmental education centres, media products etc;
- Improving infrastructure for environmental education opportunities in Estonia.

FINLAND

- In relation to EUROBATS many efforts have been put in education and public awareness. Activities have included bat walks and talks, bat exhibition, producing leaflets and up-to-date web pages on bats. The NGO Chiropterological Society has organized several workshops and short training courses on bat ecology, conservation and research. Courses have been organized at some universities as well.
- Due to the new information on Harbour porpoises in Finland, the old Harbour porpoise brochure and the reporting system have been revised.

FRANCE

See actions regarding this point in the paragraph dedicated to AEWA, ASCOBANS and Eurobats.

NORWAY

The national programme for seabird monitoring marked its tenth anniversary in 2015 (SEAPOPOP). This is a collaboration with industries and publications and interactive web pages are innovative and easily accessible for the public. Data from last 50 years on specific species or e.g. colonies can be downloaded and sorted by many parameters (including prey/feed of seabirds).

SPAIN

- Publications:
Available in:
http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/publicaciones/publicaciones_fauna_flora_l.aspx
 - Identification Guide for Iberian raptors through bones (part 1, Large raptors). 2013.
 - Strategy for the conservation of the Marbled duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), Red-knobbed Coot (*Fulica cristata*) and White headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) in Spain. 2013.
 - Strategy of control, management and eradication of the American mink (*Neovison vison*) in Spain. 2013.
 - Strategy for the control, management and possible eradication of the Asian hornet or black wasp (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax* ssp.) in Spain. 2015.

- Technical Guidelines for the development of reintroduction programs and other translocations for conservation of wildlife in Spain. 2013.
- Technical standards for bird ringing in Spain. 2014.
- Different technical and outreach publications on cetaceans, seabirds and turtles in Spanish waters generated during development of the Project LIFE + INDEMARES (2009-2014) can be consulted at the following link:
<http://www.indemares.es/multimedia/publicaciones?page=3>
- Campaigns:
 - Campaign for the prevention, minimization and elimination of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), promoted by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, through the Network of Local Governments + Biodiversity in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and with the assistance of a technical working group composed of representatives of local governments adhere to the Network and some Autonomous Communities with extensive experience in this field. This project is the result of a joint work between the different administrations to face the need to curb IAS presence in our territories and focused on the municipal level, to minimize the negative impact that these species have both on the environment and in the socioeconomic area. The aim of this campaign is double: first, to inform, educate and sensitize local governments about the publication of the Royal Decree 630/2013, of 2 August, approving the Spanish Catalog of IAS, and second, the need to incorporate into their daily actions, programs that help to eliminate or to reduce the presence of IAS in urban areas and to prevent the introduction of new IAS and that, precisely, because the cities are a major gateway and trade of alien species. It has been edited: (i) Action Guide to Local Government in relation to the IAS; (ii) Informative brochure; (iii) Poster.
http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-especies/especies-exoticas-invasoras/ce_eei_campana_eei.aspx
- Conferences:
 - Ecological Connectivity and transport routes. Caceres, 13 and 14 of November, 2013.
http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/ecosistemas-y-conectividad/conectividad-fragmentacion-de-habitats-y-restauracion/fragm_jornadas_tecnicas_caceres.aspx
 - On 18 of December, 2013, it was held in Madrid the Conference on Invasive Alien Species in urban areas organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.
http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/formacion/Jornada_Especies_Exoticas_medio_urbano.aspx
 - Conference "Programs, systems and existing / emerging tracking technologies to meet Framework Directive on Marine Strategy and Directives of biodiversity in the marine environment", organized by the by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Technology Platform PROTECMA, in Madrid, during the 10 and 11 June 2014.
www.ptprotecma.es
- Workshops:
 - Expert Workshop on cetaceans, for the design of the monitoring programs of marine strategies for groups of marine mammals and turtles (MT program). Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and scientifically coordinated by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO). Madrid, May 2014.
 - Workshop on Measures for marine biodiversity. 18 and June 19, 2015, Madrid. Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in the context of the design of the monitoring programs of marine strategies. Notes and conclusions of the workshop are in preparation. They may be consulted on the web:
<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/estrategias-marinas/default.aspx>
 - Expert Workshop on cetaceans in Spain, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, to address different issues on the protection and conservation

of cetaceans in Spanish waters as the design of conservation plans, the inclusion of new taxa in the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species, by catch in fishing gear and other threats, etc. Madrid, December 2014.

- Expert Workshop on marine turtles in Spain, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. to address different issues on the protection and conservation of sea turtles in Spanish waters as the development of a strategy for the conservation of sea turtles in Spain, monitoring programs and measures of the Marine Strategies, marine litter and by catch of turtles , etc. Madrid, July 2015.
- Expert Workshop on cetacean stranding, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment for the establishment of a national protocol for action in the stranding of cetaceans. CENEAM (Segovia), July 2015.

- Capacity Building

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

Regular support for the activities of relevant NGOs.

- AEWA

Information of farmers, hunters, anglers and other relevant stakeholders on measures to prevent damage by geese, ducks, herons and cormorants.

- **Marine mammals**

The University of Liège hosted a marine mammal necropsy workshop (July 2014, July 2015).

ESTONIA

- Training of census makers for monitoring programmes (e.g. MARMONI, LIFE+);
- Support to migratory species expert for participation related events (scientific conferences, expert workshops etc.).

FRANCE

See actions regarding this point in the paragraph dedicated to AEWA.

POLAND

- 2 members of General Directorate for Environmental Protection attended a workshop on Oiled Wildlife Response planning organized by SeaAlarm in Brussels, Belgium,
- In 2014 General Directorate for Environmental Protection in cooperation with Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gorzów Wielkopolski organized a conference for parties crucial to protection of the Osprey in Poland, which was attended by representatives of foresters and energy holding companies.

SPAIN

- Topics for updating the knowledge aimed to whale watching sector

In the framework of the activities of the Conservation Plan for Cetaceans in the Canary Islands (marine SCA NATURA 2000 and species in Annexes II and IV of the Habitat Directive / listed species), financed with European funds FEDER and framed within a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Canary Islands, a training-informative work concerning cetaceans of the Canary Islands and all activities related to observing them has been developed.

The agenda includes 23 subjects, whose aim is to improve and update the knowledge on cetaceans and the marine environment in general, being aimed primarily at whale watching guides and General Staff of tourist companies related to this activity.

Therefore, this is an "on line" agenda which is intended for the following recipients:

- Interpreters of the marine environment in tourism whale watching. Focused on the guides and interpreters who work in companies for whale watching (or will work), or for those not being entitled as "Guide of tourism of whale watching" but they are doing a

work of interpretation on board or support to, either guides or interpreters without qualifications but who perform that role on board.

- For staff working in companies or entities who work linked to whale watching.
- To the general public

<http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/medioambiente/piac/temas/biodiversidad/medidas-y-factores/flora-fauna/conservacion-especies/Cetaceos/curso-cetaceos/>

- Course for Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) and for Technical of Passive Acoustic Marine (PAM) to operate in Spanish Waters.

As part of the actions to mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment gave this course on 10-14 March 2014 in Valsaín, Segovia. The aim of the course was to train people who work with mammals and sea turtles present in Spanish waters on the implementation of mitigation protocols to prevent damage resulting from noise pollution generated by offshore industry operations. Documentation is available at the following link: <http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/costas/formacion/>

- International Cooperation

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

Next to the organization of the last MoP, the active participation at the Advisory and the Standing Committees and at scientific conferences.

- AEWA
 - Twinning of sites relevant to waterbirds with the Netherlands near the Zwin Tidal Area in the ZTAR project and REECZ project: nature restoration and recreation/ecotourism.
 - The Hedwige-Prosper project across the Dutch/Belgian border in the Scheldt Estuary: restoring waterbird habitat.
 - Dune restoration in Flanders and North France via Life project FLANDRE. Collaboration with the Netherlands and Germany in the tri-country Park: broad collaboration including landscape management.
 - Active participation in the International Workgroup for the pink-footed goose.

- Marine mammals

Participation in the DEPONS project on modelling harbour porpoise seasonal distribution in the North Sea.

ESTONIA

- Implementation of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) ESTLAT programme "Eagles cross borders": *Haliaeetus albicilla* & *Pandion halieetus*;
- Participation in project "Innovative approaches for marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment of conservation status of nature values in the Baltic Sea (MARMONI)", LIFE 09 NAT/LV/000238; 2010-2015): marine waterbirds;
- AEWA action planning workshop for species action plan for *Clangula hyemalis* (April 2014 in Põõsaspea).

FINLAND

- In SAMBAH project there has been cooperation with Baltic Sea states taking part in the project.
- Active bat workers (scientists and volunteers) have contacts to colleagues abroad. Cooperation on bat migration has been done in the Baltic area.
- Finland has played an active role in preparation of an international action plan for Taiga Bean Goose.

FRANCE

See actions regarding this point in the paragraphs dedicated to AEWA and marine Turtle Africa MoU.

NORWAY

Norway hosted the Arctic Biodiversity Congress (Dec. 2014) under the Arctic Council. The meeting gathered experts from the northern regions and ia discussed launching the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI).

SPAIN

- Spain's commitment for the conservation of biodiversity in developing countries is articulated through the Law on International Cooperation for Development and the Director Plan of the Spanish Cooperation (2013-2016). For the Spanish Cooperation, environmental sustainability is part of its purpose, its principles and its sectored priorities. This will continue working on the integration of the environmental variable across all interventions and areas, making it a must for the funding requirement at the same time continue with international commitments that have been acquired in recent years in relation to the environment and sustainable development projects. The Director Plan of the Spanish Cooperation (2013-2016) can be downloaded at:
<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad/biodiversidad-y-cooperacion/default.aspx>
- In addition, Spain participates in international initiatives on biodiversity among which the LifeWeb initiative related to protected areas in the world:
http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad/biodiversidad-y-cooperacion/cb_bci_acciones_cooperacion_internacional.aspx
- On the other hand, the Alboran project, approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme of Cooperation Spain - External Borders (POCTEFEX) which ended in December 2013, has aimed to establish a border management model and monitoring of natural resources of the Alboran Sea, through the exchange of experiences between different actors and identifying priorities to improve governance in this geographical area. the Ministry of Environment of the Junta de Andalucía, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the University of Almeria and different entities of Morocco, have collaborated in this projet. The results of the project can be found at:
<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/site/porta/web/menuitem.220de8226575045b25f09a105510e1ca/?vgnextoid=c74cef49e9ddc310VgnVCM1000001325e50aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=5527976ee63b8310VgnVCM2000000624e50aRCRD>

UKRAINE

Ukraine participated in the International Workshop on Sustainable Game (Bird Hunting) Principles of Black Sea Coastal Wetlands (4–6 May 2015, Istanbul, Turkey) where the Black Sea countries had discussed and shared experience and knowledge on hunting legislation and principles in their countries. BlackSeaWet Initivate activities for the next years had been discussed.

- Protection of Migratory Species, conservation measures

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

Conservation measures are planned in the context of the implementation of the EU Habitats directive.

- AEWA

Single Species Action Plans are being developed for the corncrake

A control or eradication programme for ruddy duck and greater canada goose was developed and is being implemented

Habitat conservation measures are planned in the context of the implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds directives.

ESTONIA

- Preparation national species action plans for species Annex I & II species (e.g. all bats species, *Phoca vitulina*, *Halichoerus grypus*, *Cygnus columbianus*, *Anser erythropus*, *Anser anser*, *Polysticta stelleri*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Calidris alpina (schinzii)*, *Limosa limosa*, *Gallinago media*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Numenius arquata*, *Sterna caspia*, *Sterna sandvicensis*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Grus grus*, *Crex crex*, *Porzana porzana*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Ficedula parva*);
- Renewing Protection Rules for protected areas and taking into account protection needs for migratory species;
- Preparation of management plans for protected areas important for migratory species;
- Management of semi-natural grasslands on stop-over sites for migratory species (e.g. *Anser erythropus*, *Calidris alpina (schinzii)*, *Limosa limosa*, *Gallinago media*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Numenius arquata*, *Crex crex*);
- Habitat restoration for meadow and mire habitats important for migratory species.

FINLAND

Knowledge on the topic of bats and wind turbines has been disseminated to stakeholders (planners, consultants etc). Bat migration studies will produce useful data for the conservation of migratory species

FRANCE

See actions regarding this point in the paragraphs dedicated to the various Agreements and MoUs.

POLAND

- Nesting platforms are being installed on power poles by Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gorzów Wielkopolski, in cooperation with energy holding companies,
- Nesting platforms for the White Stork are being installed by several Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection to protect birds and their nests from electrocution on power lines,
- National programs (species actions plans) for several species are being prepared (Lesser Spotted Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Montagu's Harrier, Curlew).

SPAIN

- Catalog of measures to protect agriculture and livestock Interactions with wildlife

With an eminently practical aim, the information contained in this catalog is presented in records format for wildlife species and type of resource to be protected; with an initial description of the damage and circumstances, a detailed technical description of the preventive measures proposed and updated bibliography of reference.

The information contained in the records comes from the review and evaluation of technical or scientific publications on good practices or best prevention techniques, and specific experiences in the Spanish context. In general we have tried to give an innovative approach, drawing on new technologies and latest scientific knowledge which can contribute to face interactions with wildlife and livestock farming.

By their nature of proposal of the best available techniques, the records will be updated progressively as new scientific or technical information appear.

| Species | Activity | Record |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Merops apiaster</i> | Protection of apiaries | Click to see |
| <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> | Protection of rice fields | Click to see |
| <i>Canis lupus</i> | Protecting cattle farms | Click to see |
| | Protection farms sheep and goats | Click to see |
| <i>Ursus arctos</i> | Protection of apiaries | Click to see |
| | Protection of sheep farms | Click to see |
| <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | Protection goat farms | Click to see |

- Protection of wild species from the issue of the use of pesticide

Spain has a huge agricultural biodiversity. However, there is evidence that in recent decades, the populations of many wild species have been reduced. Their conservation is needed and, therefore, Royal Decree 1311/2012, of 14 September, which establishes the framework for action to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides aims, among other objectives, to reduce the risk for plants and animals from the use of plant protection products in the areas of greatest interest (Article 34).

Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment has identified these areas of interest, which happen to be the most sensitive because of the presence in them of the most threatened species, both flora and fauna. To define these areas (called "protection zones") it has been considered the presence of protected species in agricultural areas, the NATURA 2000 network and the presence of water bodies. The result is a map with three broad categories: non-agricultural areas (agricultural areas with low risk), peripheral areas and buffer zones (agricultural areas with high risk).

For protection areas, it have been issued a series of recommendations for the sustainable use of plant protection products and the conservation of protected species. For outlying areas, it has been issued no recommendations beyond the legal obligations under the Royal Decree 1311/2012, of 14th September.

- Administrative, Institutional & Legislative / Policy measures

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

The necessary measures on administrative (e.g. grant schemes) institutional (e.g. nature management plans), legislative (e.g. modernization of Flemish nature decree) and policy level to implement the EU Habitats directive (covering the bat species) have been taken or are being set up.

- AEWA

Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, adopted in 2014, has been enforced from 2015.

In the Brussels region, an Order on nature conservation has been issued on 1/12/2015. It states that the introduction of non-indigenous invasive species is forbidden and that the introduction of non-indigenous species is submitted to an authorization.

In Flanders, hunting regulations have been updated in 2014 and 2015. Independent hunters or game management units need to provide a 'fauna management plan' which contains population goals for each huntable game species, data on habitat quality and quantity, measures for a sustainable game management. In the 'game report', game management units and independent hunters also need to report the estimated spring population state of game species within their hunting ground.

the Advising Interparliamentary Council of the Benelux has requested the governments to promote the use of ecological and degradable alternatives in sport fishing practice and to sensitize all actors involved in sport fishing for the problems and harmful consequences of lead weights.

- Marine mammals

The Government of Flanders took the decision to prohibit the recreational use of different types of gill and trammel nets on the beach as a protective measure for marine mammals in the intertidal zone (Belgian Official Journal, 25 March 2015).

A marine spatial plan for the Belgian part of the North Sea has been adopted on 20 March 2014. This plan has designated several marine protected areas. One of them, namely the “Vlaamse Banken”, is dedicated to the protection of some valuable habitats and fifteen species, including the harbour porpoise.

Measures are taken to minimize disturbance and avoid harm to marine mammals during the construction of offshore wind farms.

ESTONIA

- Use of lead pellets when hunting waterfowl is prohibited (Change in Hunting Act, entry into force in 2013);
- Reorganization in implementation of the State Monitoring Programme, establishment Environmental Agency – responsible state institution for monitoring;
- National species action plans for species Annex I & II species approved in 2013-2015: *Halichoerus grypus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Pandion halieetus*, *Aquila clanga*, *Cygnus columbianus*, *Accipiter gentilis*;

FINLAND

Finland has revised its national Harbour porpoise protection plan (2006) taking into account new legislation (e.g. MSFD) and outcomes from SAMBAH project. The revised plan will be ready by the end of this year.

Finland is also revising its Fisheries legislation. The new act will be in force 1.1.2016. There will be a paragraph concerning the responsibility of fishermen to report on by caught harbour porpoise and seals.

FRANCE

See action regarding this point in the paragraph dedicated to EUROBATS.

LIECHTENSTEIN

The country is a CMS Party since 1997. Even though Liechtenstein has not signed any CMS instruments, most species concerning the CMS are protected by several treaties (Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, CITES) as well as federal state law. Under federal state law all bats as well as all birds are strictly protected except the huntable bird species mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

SPAIN

- Legislation adopted:
 - Law 21/2013, of 9th December, on environmental assessment (http://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2013-12913)
 - Royal Decree 630/2013, of 2 August, regulating the Spanish Catalog of Invasive Alien Species (http://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2013-8565)
 - Royal Decree 1015/2013 of 20th December, modifying Annexes I, II and V of Law 42/2007 of 13th December on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (http://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2013-13432)
 - Order AAA / 658/2014 of 22th April, regulating fishing with surface longline gear to catch highly migratory species. It includes measures to prevent the accidental capture of seabirds and turtles
 - Order AAA / 1260/2014, of 9th July, for which Special Protection Areas for Birds are declared in Spanish marine waters
 - Order AAA / 1299/2014, of 9th July, amending the proposal to include in the approved list of Sites of Community Importance for the NATURA 2000 network of the marine areas: ESZZ16001 Submarine canyons system western of Gulf of Lion, ESZZ16002

Canal de Menorca, ESZZ12002 mud volcanoes in the Gulf of Cádiz and ESZZ12001 Banco de Galicia

- Order AAA / 2280/2014 of 1 December, approving the proposal for inclusion in the list of Sites of Community Importance for the NATURA 2000 network of spaces: ESZZ12003 Canyons Submarine System of Aviles, ESZZ16003 South of Almería – Dry of Olives, ESZZ16005 Sea Space of Alborán, ESZZ16004 Marine Space of Illes Columbretes and ESZZ15001 Banco de la Concepción
 - Law 30/2014, of 3 December, on National Parks (http://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2014-12588)
 - Order AAA / 368/2015 of 24 February, approving the inclusion in the list of Sites of Community Importance for the NATURA 2000 network of the space ESZZ15002 Marine Space of Eastern and Southern Lanzarote - Fuerteventura
- Administrative measures:

According to the timetable for the implementation of the Framework Directive on Marine Strategy (DMEM) in the European Union, Spain prepared in 2014 the proposal of monitoring programs for the five Spanish marine boundaries, which aims to evaluate on an ongoing basis a good environmental status of the marine environment. The proposal, after being subjected to a process of public information, was sent to the European Commission in March 2015. The proposal includes a set of programs for different functional groups: AV Program: seabirds, MT Programme marine mammals and turtles, PC Program: fish and cephalopods. It also includes a number of sub-activities and pressures on these functional groups that will get information related to underwater noise and pressure, the presence of litter in stomach committed or by catch resulting from fishing activities. We are currently working on the implementation of such monitoring programs. These monitoring programs can be found at:

http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/estrategias-marinas/em_programas_seguimiento.aspx

Spain is currently working on the next phase of the Marine Strategies which is the design of the Programme of Measures (PDM). These are necessary to achieve or maintain good environmental status of the marine environment. The proposal should be finalized in 2015 for implementation in 2016. During the current design process of PDM, there have been two specific workshops for the proposed measures related to biodiversity (see "workshops"). In these workshops there has been a proposal of specific measures for groups of sea birds, turtles and marine mammals, cephalopods and elasmobranchs, which are currently under discussion with the competent authorities.

<http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-medio-marino/estrategias-marinas/default.aspx>

UKRAINE

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine endorses Plans for Implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds by its decision on 15.04.2015 No. 371-r.

3. Activities planned for next year

BELGIUM

- Eurobats

No extraordinary measures foreseen for the coming period on top of the implementation of the EU Habitats directive. Depending on the region this can take the form of a targeted species protection programme.

International participation is limited to the active participation at the Advisory and the Standing Committees and possible attendance of scientific conferences.

- AEWA

The Species Protection Programme for corncrake in Flanders will be implemented. Participation in the AEWA MOP6, November 2015.

A meeting of the international working group on pink-footed goose will be held in Ghent in December 2015.

Further implementation of the EU Habitats and Bird Directives.

- Marine mammals

Participation in an international cetacean survey (SCANS III, summer 2016).

Setting up a website on stranded marine mammals, including information about tissue samples that are available (Biobank)

ESTONIA

- Participation in coordinated flight survey for wintering waterbirds on Baltic Sea in January-March 2016 (all territorial sea with open water will be covered by standard flight counts);
- Implementation of approved national species action plans for species Annex I & II species;
- Preparation and approval of national species action plans for species Annex I & II species.

FINLAND

A new national red-list assessment of birds and mammals will be finalized and published by the end of 2015, which will be used as a measure of conservation success of species and as a tool to assess further conservation needs.

In order to streamline the conservation of bats in different regions and to give the environmental authorities easy-to-use information, a guidance document on the breeding and resting sites of bats and conservation of these sites is under preparation and will be finalized in 2016.

FRANCE

In addition to the actions foreseen in the paragraphs dedicated to the various agreements or MoUs, national implementation of COP 11 resolutions, in particular Res.11.15: "Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds".

LIECHTENSTEIN

There are no particular activities planned for next year.

NORWAY

Norway continues to be active within the Polar Bear Agreement (1973) and is in dialogue with the CMS Secretariat on a potential seminar on Polar Bear and the effects of climate change.

POLAND

German-Polish conference on protection and conservation measures for Osprey.

SPAIN

- Development of plans and strategies for conservation of endangered species.
 - Currently there are conservation strategies for the Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), the most endangered seabird of Europe and for the Ribbed Mediterranean Limpet (*Patella ferruginea*), endemic gastropod mollusk in the western Mediterranean. We are working on updating the first of these strategies to the new International Action Plan for the Balearic shearwater of the European Commission. We are also developing a strategy for the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and other sea turtles in Spain, with measures aimed at conserving the main species of turtles present in Spanish waters such as the loggerhead, the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and other turtle with more occasional presence as the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and Olive Ridley (*L. olivacea*).
 - In the terrestrial environment, the following strategies are updating at the moment: Strategy for the conservation of freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera auricularia*);

Strategy for the Conservation of the Iberian imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*); National Strategy against illegal use of poisoned bait in the natural environment.

- At the same time, the following strategies are developed: Strategy for the conservation of Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*); Strategy for the conservation of wild rabbit; Strategy for the conservation of bats in Spain.

- Preparation and approval of conservation plans

From 2015, the development and adoption of conservation plans targeting different taxa of baleen and toothed will be addressed. It is also planned to develop a strategy to reduce by catch in fishing gear of birds, turtles, marine mammals and elasmobranch protected.

- Designation of Conservation Areas

A proposal for designation of Special Areas of Conservation of NATURA 2000 is currently in phase of public information, together with their corresponding management plans. Included at the Mediterranean marine biogeographic region, they have been designated for species of Community interest such as the loggerhead turtle or the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*).

- Projects and programs for conservation

A project granted by the European Commission, called "*Macaronesian islands standard indicators and criteria: Reaching common grounds on monitoring marine biodiversity in Macaronesia (MISTIC 'SEAS)*" has been recently approved. This project aims to strengthen coordination between Spain and Portugal regarding the implementation of marine strategies in marine subregion of Macaronesia (Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira). The project includes the design and field-tested monitoring methodologies common for groups of marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds. It is scheduled to begin in December 2015 and its duration is 15 months. It involves the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the Foundation of Biodiversity and the IEO.

As indicated above, the development of the "*Catalog of measures for the protection of agriculture and livestock: Interactions with wildlife*" will continue. That is, the development of specific measures to resolve the conflict between raptors and the practice of pigeon chips.

UKRAINE

- On-going work on implementation of resolutions adopted by the CMS and its instruments.
- Implementation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine's Decision on 15.04.2015 No. 371-r on endorsement of Plans for Implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds including provisions relevant to migratory species.
- Support of the work of the CMS and EUROBATS Standing Committees in their member's capacity.
- Implementation of migratory species research projects.