

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):

- > • National and international breeding programs for migratory birds and mammals to promote its conservation.
- Hosting international and regional events in the UAE to promote conservation of migratory species; for example, a summit for flyway in 2018, hosting Dugong MoU MoS2
- Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, The UAE established a fund for the conservation of Migratory birds of prey and allocated one million US dollars to serve as a nucleus for the initiative.
- Re-introduction and release programs for captive bred migratory species on its international range. For example, the falcon release programme & the re-introduction of scimitar-horned oryx to its natural range in Chad.
- Migratory species are protected under the federal law; their hunting and trade are prohibited.

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

- > One of the difficulties is the limited data on a regional and international level on migratory species. The regional and international context is essential in order to enhance the efficiency of conservation actions nationally, regionally, and internationally

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

- › • Protect and/or manage important sites and migratory routes of migratory species
- Habitat conservation and sustainable management
- Raise awareness of problems faced by migratory species and measures needed to conserve them
- Monitor migratory species populations, carry out conservation research and take appropriate remedial measures

I. Administrative Information

Name of Contracting Party

> United Arab Emirates

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

> 01.05.2016

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>

Report compiler

Name and title

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Full name of institution

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Designated CMS National Focal Point

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Representative on the Scientific Council

Name and title

> N/A

Full name of institution

> N/A

Mailing address

> N/A

Telephone

> N/A

Email

> N/A

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 type="checkbox"/>
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slender-billed Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

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

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

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

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.

[updated-Section III Appendix I United Arab Emirates.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.

[updated-Section III Appendix II United Arab Emirates.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 species listed in appendix one are protected by law. Hunting, killing and capturing of those species is prohibited.

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).

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

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 UAE launched a national strategy for environmental awareness and education 2015-2021, which was developed with international and national stakeholders to raise awareness among new generations for more responsible behavior towards natural resources. Environmental awareness and education is one of the main elements of the UAE's environmental conservation policies.

In regards to the resolution 11.8 and 11.9, the UAE has undertaken several initiatives and projects which aim to protect migratory birds such as:

- Protection of birds through national laws and legislations
- Adoption of 30 Important Bird Areas
- The most important bird sites in the country have been declared as protected areas.
- Promotion of ecotourism through bird watching activities
- Cleaning campaigns for beaches that are important habitats for birds
- The national red list project for birds
- Breeding programs for threatened migratory birds such as falcons and Hubara bustards.

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.

> Following nation-wide surveys, the public awareness on issues related to biodiversity has increased from 64% in 2016 to 73% in 2018.

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:

> National and local development plans ensure the conservation of migratory species and their habitats, one of the main goals of the national strategy for the conservation of the marine environment and coastal zones in the UAE is that biodiversity and ecosystems are being preserved, with a particular focus on areas and habitats that are threatened by human activities, as well those that are in need of restoration to good environmental conditions. Furthermore, the UAE developed species specific plans. These include the National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtle in the UAE 2019-2021, which aims to ensure marine turtles populations and their critical habitats in the UAE are effectively conserved and managed to enable their sustainability, through:

1. Reduction of direct and indirect causes of marine turtle's mortality
2. Protection, conservation and rehabilitation of marine turtle's habitats
3. Improvement and understanding of marine turtle's ecology and populations through research, monitoring information exchange
4. Raising public awareness and encourage public participation in marine turtle's conservation activities
5. Enhancing the implementation of national legislations and policies for the protection, cooperation and integrated management of marine turtles at the national, regional and international levels
6. Enabling effective conservation through capacity building and awareness

A National Plane of Action for the Conservation and management of Sharks in the UAE 2018-2021 had been established also, which aims to:

1. Improve the knowledge of shark species, fisheries and their role in the ecosystem.
2. Ensure the effectiveness of policies, legislation and law enforcement mechanisms and develop a national, regional and international framework for cooperation.
3. Enable effective conservation of sharks through capacity building.
4. Implement education and awareness programs to raise public awareness and increase understanding of individual's and private sector role in shark conservation.

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:

> The UAE had lunched the Important Birds Areas Project (IBA). The project aims to identify, monitor and protect network of sites critical for the conservation of the world's birds and other wildlife. These sites, in addition to their international significance for biodiversity, also provide essential benefits to people, such as food, materials, water, climate regulation and flood protection, as well as opportunities for recreation and spiritual fulfilment. Over the past four decades, the IBA program has identified and documented:

- Total number of birds: 295
- Total number of IBA: 30
- Total IBA area: 420,325 ha

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

> Emirates Nature-WWF works to look after natural resources and assets oceans, land, climate, freshwater and wildlife, for the benefit of society. Within UAE waters, Emirates Nature-WWF is promoting integrated marine management to ensure that marine ecosystems continue to function and remain resilient in the long term. They are working with key UAE stakeholders and experts to fill in critical knowledge gaps around marine habitats and update existing information on 'High Biodiversity Areas'. This step is vital for the UAE to establish a successful network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Tracking devices were installed on 32 female turtles in 2012, which brought the total number of turtles that have been studied up to 75 turtles over three years' period. This program resulted in more than 1300 marine

turtles been successfully returned to Arabian Gulf water in the past 10 years. Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project, is one of the best CSR initiative in the region where turtles are being rescued and ensuring that they are receiving the necessary treatments to continue their life in water.

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

> The Emirates Council for Climate Change and Environment had been established by the UAE, where it includes decision makers from public and private sector to follow up on the implementation of UAE's environmental obligations. As well, different national teams have been formed to follow up and monitor the implementation progress of the national and international commitments.

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 current governance arrangements in the country ensure that legislations and policies are more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive. The UAE through its Emirates Council for Climate Change and Environment which include among its members the minister of climate change and environment, heads of competent authorities, private sector representatives, and society representatives, ensure that knowledge and implementation of relative legislations and policies are coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive. An example of legislations and policies The UAE has adopted during the reporting period are:

- National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the UAE 2019 - 2021
- The UAE National Plan of Action for the conservation and Management of Sharks 2017- 2020
- Ministerial Decree No. (43) 2019 Regulating the Fishing and Trade of Sharks

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

> • Update of legislations and policies related to migratory species. As well as, the implementation of various programs that support the enforcement of the national legislations and the implementation of policies, such as the UAE National Plan of Action for the conservation and Management of Sharks 2017- 2020, which consists of a national team that ensures the effective implantation of policies.

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) may be helpful in giving further context for this.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please provide a short summary:

> • The Emirates Council for Climate Change and Environment which was developed to reinforce the UAE's policies and strategies on climate change, environmental and sustainable development. The council will develop plans towards achieving environmental objectives and also represent the UAE in regional and international negotiations related to the scope of work of the ministry. The council will also create partnerships with the private sector and conduct studies and lead scientific research in fields related to the ministry's work. A Biodiversity Executive Committee was also developed that focuses on biodiversity related issues within the

UAE.

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:

> All biodiversity related focal points are under the same institute, The Ministry of climate change and environment. Therefore, Migratory species related issues are synergized across all related conventions.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

Please identify the legislation, policies or action plans concerned:

> The local competent authorities within the UAE implement the UAE NBSAP as well as all other related policies, action plans. The decision making authorities also report to the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment.

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.

> Time period 2012 - 2018

In the UAE, incentives encourage sustainable use and natural resource conservation. They are well studied before applying them, and ensuring that they do not impose harmful effects to the local environment and its biodiversity. The UAE provides support for fisheries sector. Fishermen are provided with needed facilities and Eco-fishing equipment, like the low-emission boat engines for a sustainable environment. Private companies, such as "Beeah" in Sharjah support and motivate the community to preserve the environment through simple reward points in exchange for recycling their waste.

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

>

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

Please select only one option

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

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

> Time period 2012 - 2018

In the UAE, incentives encourage sustainable use and natural resource conservation. They are well studied before applying them, and ensuring that they do not impose harmful effects to the local environment and its biodiversity. The UAE provides support for fisheries sector. Fishermen are provided with needed facilities and Eco-fishing equipment, like the low-emission boat engines for a sustainable environment. Private companies, such as "Beeah" in Sharjah support and motivate the community to preserve the environment through simple reward points in exchange for recycling their waste.

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

>

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

(SPMS Target 5: Governments, key sectors and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption, keeping the impacts of use of natural resources, including habitats, on migratory species well within safe ecological limits to promote the favourable conservation status of migratory species and maintain the quality, integrity, resilience, and ecological connectivity of their habitats and migration routes.)

During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are contributing to the achievement of the results defined in SPMS Target 5?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- In development / planned
- No

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented

> The National Biodiversity Strategy has been developed to support ongoing efforts in protecting biodiversity and complying with the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This strategy has been prepared based on interactive workshops held with federal ministries, environmental competent authorities, private sector, public associations, universities and research and scientific centers. This participatory approach helped stakeholders adopt the strategy's action plans and integrate them into their future plans. The concept of green economy has been adopted by the UAE since 2012, where it's an important tool to control the economic growth and guiding it toward sustainability through sustainable economic development policies. The UAE implemented this approach through the UAE's green development strategy that aims to transform the national economy into low carbon green economy, where modern technologies, knowledge and innovation take place.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is working with its partners from public and private sectors to implement the national programs set in the UAE's National Green Agenda 2015-2030, where these programs and their progress is being identified and monitored.

The UAE had issued numbers of legislations to ensure sustainable production and consumption as follows:

1. Ministerial Decree No. (98) of 2019 On using Refuse Derived Fuel produced from waste treatment procedures in cement plants
2. Ministerial Decree No. (33) of 2018 On the circulation of used oils
3. Ministerial Decree No. (783) of 2015 On the Industrial Chemicals Banned and of Which Use is Restricted in the UAE
4. Ministerial Decree No. (26) of 2014 On the special national system to reduce consumption of the substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (HCFCs).
5. Ministerial Decree No. (567) of 2014 On the regulation of the application, implementation and operation of crusher and quarry activities.
6. Ministerial Decree No. (141) of 2012 rationalization of energy and water consumption in government buildings - green applications
7. Ministerial Decree No. (137) of 2012 on the guidelines to organize the activities of establishments working in the cement industry field
8. Ministerial Decree No. 33 of 2012 on the Regulation of HCFC.
9. Ministerial Decree No. 42 of 2008 on Asbestos Production Control Procedures & Asbestos Waste By-products Control

The UAE has also published several reports:

1. UAE green footprint initiative report 2007-2010
2. UAE Green economy status report 2014
3. Environment status report 2015 and 2018
4. Abu Dhabi environmental status report 2017
5. Green Economy status report of the UAE 2015 and 2017

In addition to development of variety of initiatives, including:

- Integrated management of Chemical substances
- National Integrated waste management program
- Monitoring and control of air quality
- Sustainable buildings
- UAE Standardized guide for municipal work
- Improvement of Environmental performance initiative
- Satellite air quality control project

Furthermore, in 2019 the UAE adopted its national sustainable production and consumption plan (2019-2030) framework. The framework aims to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of resources, promote sustainable production and consumption pattern, and support the shift to cleaner production methods and techniques in different industries.

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

> The Emirates Council for Climate Change and Environment had been established by the UAE, where it includes decision makers from public and private sector to follow up on the implementation of UAE's environmental obligations. As well, different national teams have been formed to follow up and monitor the implementation progress of the national and international commitments.

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	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Legal hunting	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Other harvesting and take	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Illegal trade	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Deliberate poisoning	Not allowed within the country	N/A

Bycatch

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

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	birds of prey (only two cases)	3
Wind turbines	Not Applicable	N/A
Other collisions	None	N/A

Other mortality

	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

Predation	Red foxes are effecting the nesting areas of turtles and various birds	3
Disease	No record	N/A
Accidental/indirect poisoning	No record	N/A
Unexplained stranding events	No record	N/A

Alien and/or invasive species

	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
Alien and/or invasive species	No Record	N/A

Disturbance and disruption

	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
Disturbance	Marine turtles and birds	3
Light pollution	Marine turtles and birds	3
Underwater noise	Unknown (Data Deficient)	N/A

Habitat destruction/degradation

	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
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2
Habitat degradation	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2
Mineral exploration/extraction	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2
Unsustainable land/resource use	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	3
Urbanization	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2/ 3 (For coastal species)
Marine debris (including plastics)	Marine turtles, Marine mammals and seabirds	2
Other pollution	Not Applicable	N/A
Too much/too little water	Not Applicable	N/A
Fire	Not Applicable	N/A
Physical barriers	Not Applicable	N/A

Climate change

	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
Climate change	Data Deficient (no adverse impact of climate change on migratory species have been recorded in the UAE)	N/A

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

	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
Lack of knowledge	Not Applicable	N/A
Inadequate legislation	Not Applicable	N/A
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	Not Applicable	N/A
Inadequate transboundary management	Not Applicable	N/A

Other (please specify)

	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
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A

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 UAE National Plan of Action for the conservation and Management of Sharks 2017- 2020
- National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the UAE 2019 - 2021
- Identification of Important Bird Areas – IBA within the country
- Red List Assessment of mammals, birds and reptiles

These actions have aimed to identify the pressures and threats towards species while also addressing the impacts.

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

- > There are no significant negative trends since last report

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:

- > Ministerial Decree No. (43) 2019 Regulating the Fishing and Trade of Sharks

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.

>

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)
		MoCCaE: National Red List project	was previously nationally identified as vulnerable but now it is least concern	Gazella gazelle (App II)

Aquatic mammals

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
		MoCCaE: National Red List project	Was previously nationally identified as vulnerable but now it is Near Threatened	Dugong dugon (App II)

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)

		MoCCE: national Redlist Project	National Redlist status of some of the globally threatened species of birds are not yet finalized - will be updated very soon. National conservation status of some of the regionally important avian species will be changed.	

Reptiles

	Comments	Source reference	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
		MoCCaE: National Red List project	Is nationally identified as Vulnerable as compared to the globally status of critical endangered	Eretmochelys imbricata (App I,II)
		MoCCaE: National Red List project	Is nationally identified as Vulnerable as compared to the globally status of endangered	Chelonia mydas (App I,II)

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)

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

>

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:

> The United Arab Emirates has developed several projects to protect threatened species within the national biodiversity strategy of the country. Overall it is aimed that by 2021 there has been the development and implementation of programs to improve the conservation status of 70 percent of the more threatened species as a contribution to achieving Aichi target #12. Key initiatives are outlined below:

1. The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund aims to preserve the wildlife and biodiversity and raise the level of importance of species conservation through different projects. Some projects provide financial support for field actions that make a difference on the ground and contribute to the survival of species. Other projects aim to raise the level of awareness of conservation of living organisms and stimulate interest among young people in the field of natural sciences. The endowment fund can support projects on all living things around the world without prejudice or discrimination. It is currently working to provide financial support to projects aiming to maintain endangered plants, animals and fungi, according to the approval of an independent commission. The fund covers all the continents of the world and has supported projects in different continents.
2. Protection of endangered marine turtles, where the Emirates Nature in association with the World Wide Fund for Nature (EN-WWF) keeps track of green turtles and hawksbill turtles across the Arabian Gulf and monitors behavior and movement patterns using satellite tags.
3. International Fund for Houbara Conservation, which aims to continue to implement the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to restore sustainable numbers of Houbara birds in the United Arab Emirates. The Fund has expanded the application of this vision to play a leading role in maintaining the

Houbara throughout their range in different countries and regions.

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?

> The identification of Important Biodiversity Areas within the country. The completion of the UAE natural capital map which would include all ecosystem services as well as identify all important habitats in the country.

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:

> The population of migratory birds have increased over the years, as identified during the identification of IBAs. Previously the UAE had 19 IBAs in 1994 and to date there is 30 IBAs within the country. There are also other efforts being taken such as the reintroduction of the Arabian Oryx, Arabian Tahr, Arabian Gazelle and the Arabian Sand Gazelle.

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:

- > • National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the UAE 2019 - 2021
• The UAE National Plan of Action for the conservation and Management of Sharks 2017- 2020
• Ministerial Decree No. (43) 2019 Regulating the Fishing and Trade of Sharks

Furthermore, migratory species are protected by law in the UAE and there any numerous efforts taken for the rehabilitation of species, such as for marine turtles, as well as the breeding centers for the Houbara, Arabian Tahr and Arabian Leopard.

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:

> The UAE adopted the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) which covers a number of topics such as management of the area, design and budget needs, staff roles and skills required, stakeholder's contribution and awareness, public education and awareness of the protected area and the current status of the species within it

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:

> There are a number of private protected areas and parks that also work towards the conservation of species. There are also planted forests that many migratory species visit and nest in during breeding and migratory seasons.

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

Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks.

Resolution 12.13 on Important Marine Mammal Areas.

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

Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats.

>

XIV. Ecosystem Services

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 Partly / in progress
 No

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

> • Coastal vulnerability index was conducted in 2016 and looked at the threats that may affect the coastal habitat.

- The identification of IBAs also helped to assess some ecosystem services.
- The completion of the following projects with aid in assessing ecosystem services:
- UAE natural capital map will include ecosystem services
- The identification of KBAs in the country

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

>

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

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

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

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

> Regulating the transboundary movement of GMOs, the UAE recently developed a federal law to govern the biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) which aim to protect the environment during the development, manufacture, production, transfer or circulation of genetically modified organism or their product, which include agricultural crops and food.

International Fund for Houbara Conservation has developed a breeding program to study the birds physiological and behavioral characteristics, both in the wild and in captivity. Maintaining genetic purity provides the best chance of survival as captive-bred birds retain the genes of wild Houbara. Therefore, UAE has invested immense economic, as well as intellectual, capital in ensuring the genetic line of the Houbara is secure in the captive breeding flock.

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

> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ae/ae-nbsap-01-ar.pdf>

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

> The goals of the Strategy:

1. Mainstreaming biodiversity into all sectors and society.
2. Strengthening the knowledge base and building the capacity for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.
3. Improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, rehabilitating degraded ecosystem.
4. Reducing pressures on terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
5. Enhancing cooperation and coordination at local, regional and international levels in areas related to biodiversity conservation.

Action Plan

TARGET 3.3. By 2021, programmes developed and implemented to improve the conservation status of 70% of species most threatened by extinction.

1. Increase planned recovery actions to cover priority threatened species and subspecies so that viable representative populations are maintained in habitats and ecosystems important for biodiversity.
2. Review national legislations in terms of their effectiveness in protecting threatened species and ecosystems, taking into account mechanisms under the other relevant legislation.
3. Survey the threatened species and extend them to assess coastal and marine species.
4. Identify and protect threatened species and their key habitats.
5. Implement population management plans for those threatened marine and terrestrial species ranked as high priority.
6. Minimise the loss of indigenous biodiversity through efficient regulation of illegal species trade.
7. Identify the marine and terrestrial migratory species in the State and their classification according to the degree of threat of extinction or change its course.
8. Implement conservation plans for threatened marine and terrestrial migratory species ranked as high priority.

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

> The UAE had devoted considerable attention to protected areas as home of native and migratory species. In 2010 the number of protected areas was 19 but within three years the number was increased into 22 protected areas. In 2017, the number continued to increase into 43 protected area. The UAE work hard to increase the number of protected areas and recognize them globally. A new protected area has recently been announced in Ras Al Khaimah. That increased the total number into 44 protected areas in UAE within short period of time.

These protected areas contain variety of habitats include coastal shallows, inland waterways, mangroves and salt marshes and all are support the migratory species.

The UAE is one of the preferred regions of migratory species, especially marine organisms. The UAE marine habitats are home to the second largest population of dugongs in the world. In addition, these habitats are home to the endangered turtles such as hawksbill and green turtles. Also, these habitats are home of the world's largest population of Indian Ocean humpback dolphins, sharks and rays.

Within the framework of the implementation of the national biodiversity strategy, the National Marine Turtles Conservation Plan was prepared, which aims to develop a national action plan for the conservation of marine turtles and habitats. Also, the preparation of the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks is therefore part of the UAE's biodiversity conservation response mechanism to ensure long-term survival of sharks and rays.

The UAE has 30 important bird areas (IBAs) and major sites for migratory birds, covering an area of approximately 4,200 square kilometers. All 30 of the IBAs have been assessed for the state of their trigger populations (or the habitats that these species depend on), as well as the negative pressures that are affecting these populations, and the positive community responses to address (reduce) these pressures and

conserve these populations.

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.

> Local communities are involved in the planning process for policies and management strategies. They are also involved in the management of protected areas. Engagement initiatives targeted to local communities have been also carried out throughout the country. local communities are considered a stakeholder in all initiatives related to migratory species.

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).

> Local communities are considered as a main stakeholder in developing and implementing national policies

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

> Conducting seminars during the summer for youth organized by the Emirates Youth Council

Public awareness campaigns

> The UAE has been working on increasing public awareness on biodiversity and the importance of conserving species such as sharks to maintain rich marine biodiversity in cooperation with the local authorities.

- the UAE in February 2018 organized The National Environment Day exhibition that focused on six main themes, including the achievements of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the UAE, in conserving the environment; increasing public awareness on endangered animals and the importance of sustainable fisheries.

- In another campaign, the UAE in cooperation with Dubai Aquarium participated in “Shark Week” at Dubai Mall from 2017 and in 2018 at Atlanta’s Aquarium. The event included educational workshops and activities for children.

- Furthermore, MOCCAIE initiated a number of electronic campaigns on social media such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, where posts have been made to spread information in Arabic and English language to the public to increase their awareness about sharks and the regulations in the country.

- Promotion of ecotourism through bird watching activities.

- Cleaning campaigns for beaches.

- Celebrating on World Migratory Bird Day.

Capacity building

> • The National Workshop for the Preparation of the National Red List of Threatened Species in collaboration with IUCN.

- A Summit for the Flyways (Abu Dhabi 2018).

- Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)

- The identification of important bird areas workshop.

- The participation in a side event during CMS CoP13.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

> The UAE through the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and other government agencies adopts the Open Data Policy, which make it easy & accessible to others. the ministry’s online information center and GIS portal aims to support the process of planning and development to help the setting of policies and decision making as well.

It is also entrusted with providing information, data, statistics and studies related to environment, plants, animals and fisheries aspects as well as the economical and statistical indicators, so that it will become a reference center for environmental and agricultural knowledge in the UAE. Given the importance of information and knowledge, these data are available to public to benefit from them.

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

>

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>

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)

>

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

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

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

>

Other

>

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

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

>

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

>

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- Not known

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

> N/A

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.

> N/A