

2014 NATIONAL REPORT OF PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

Reporting format agreed by the Standing Committee at its 40th Meeting (Bonn, November 2012) for mandatory use by Parties, for reports submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) 2014.

The questions below combine elements of Resolution 4.1 (Party Reports) adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Nairobi, June 1994) and Resolution 6.4 (Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species 2000-2005), adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cape Town, November 1999), the COP8 Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and Resolution 8.24 adopted by the Conference of the Parties (Nairobi 2005), as well as commitments arising from other operational Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

COP Resolution 9.4 adopted at Rome 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 AEWA in their last Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5, 2012) reporting cycle. CMS now offers the Convention's Parties to use the ORS for submitting their national reports for the COP11 (2014) reporting cycle.

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions. Parties are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, including, where appropriate, a summary of activities, information on factors limiting action and details of any assistance required.

Please enter here the name of your country

> Samoa

Which agency has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?

> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)

I(a). General Information

Please enter the required information in the table below:

Party

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country
> 16 August 2005

Territories to which the Convention applies
> Samoa national waters and Exclusive Economic Zone

II. Appendix I species

2. MARINE MAMMALS

2.1 General questions on Appendix I marine mammals

1- Is the taking of all Appendix I species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2009

1a. If the taking of Appendix I marine mammals species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

If Yes, please provide details (Include the date on which the exception was notified to the CMS Secretariat pursuant to CMS Article III(7):

> NA

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I marine mammals:

Other threats to migration (please provide details)

> Stranding

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> 1. Countrywide awareness campaign.

2. Research and monitoring surveys to determine population status, migration, etc. 3. Enforcement and implementation of related national legislations including Marine Mammals Action Plans and EIA Guidelines for land-based and coastal development activities.

4. Well-coordinated national Stranding Committee established and in operation.

5. Cetaceans Stranding Manual (Guidelines) developed and is being used for stranding incidences.

2b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> The said actions are continuous and are progressing well. However stranding is sometimes not reported by the local communities because of unavailability of communication means.

2c. What assistance, if any, does your country require in order to overcome these obstacles?

> Financial and technical assistance to do research and monitoring Stranding equipments/tools including uniforms for the rescuers.

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I marine mammals species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Other (please specify)

> Stranding

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger marine mammals species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> Train the local communities on rescuing stranded marine mammals so they are capable of helping and saving the animal immediately instead of waiting for the Stranding Committee to arrive at the scene.

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> Training has been completed for the key community representatives of the national Stranding Committee but will continue (funds permitting) for other communities.

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

> Insufficient funds

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors?

> More funds

3. MARINE TURTLES

3.1 General questions on Appendix I marine turtles

1- Is the taking of all Appendix I marine turtles species prohibited by the national implementing legislation cited in Table I(a) (General Information)?

Yes

If other legislation is relevant, please provide details:

> Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2009

1a. If the taking of Appendix I marine turtles species is prohibited by law, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition?

No

2. Identify any obstacles to migration that exist in relation to Appendix I marine turtles species:

By-catch

2a. What actions are being undertaken to overcome these obstacles?

> Awareness and education

Tag and release of captured turtles

2b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> Improved reporting of captured turtles so as the response through the tag and release of these turtles.

3. What are the major pressures to Appendix I marine turtles species (transcending mere obstacles to migration)?

Collection of eggs

Destruction of nesting beaches

Other (please specify)

> erosion of nesting beaches

3a. What actions have been taken to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger marine turtles species beyond actions to prevent disruption to migrating behaviour?

> Awareness and education in the communities

Enforcement of regulations

3b. Please report on the progress / success of the actions taken.

> Improved reporting of turtle nesting

3c. Describe any factors that may limit action being taken in this regard:

> Insufficient funds

3d. What assistance, if any, does your country require to overcome these factors?

> More funds needed for monitoring in the nesting beaches and awareness countrywide

7. LISTING OF OTHER ENDANGERED MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX I

1. Is your country a Range State for any other endangered migratory species currently listed in Appendix I?

(according to the latest IUCN red data list). N.B.: States in which a species occurs as a vagrant (i.e. not "on its normal migration route") should not be treated as Range States. Please refer to Article 1 of the Convention for clarification.

No

III. Appendix II Species

1. INFORMATION ON APPENDIX II SPECIES

Information pertaining to the conservation of Appendix II species that are the object of CMS Agreements will have been provided in periodic Party reports to those instruments. It will suffice therefore to reference (below), and preferably append, a copy of the latest report that has been submitted to the Secretariat of each of the Agreement/MoUs to which your country is a Party.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CETACEANS (2006)

Date of last report:

> September 2007

Period covered:

> 2006-2007

2. QUESTIONS ON CMS AGREEMENTS

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Bird Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Bird Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Bird Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bird Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Marine Mammal Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?

No

If Yes, what is the current state of development?

> Completed

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Mammal Species ?

No

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instrument's development?

> Funding

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Mammal Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Marine Turtle Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Marine Turtle Species ?

No

3. If your country has initiated or is participating in the development of a new Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, what assistance, if any, does your country require in order to initiate or participate in the instrument's development?

> funding

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Marine Turtle Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

Yes

4.1. If Yes, please provide details:

> Samoa would support the need to also develop an MoU for the conservation of marine turtles and their nesting areas in the Pacific Island Region.

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Terrestrial Mammal (other than bats) Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Bat Species

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Bat Species ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Bat Species ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Bat Species, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

Questions on the development of new CMS Agreements relating to Other Taxa

1. In the current reporting period, has your country **initiated** the development of any CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II Other Taxa ?

No

2. In the current reporting period, has your country **participated** in the development of any new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, which address the conservation needs of Appendix II Other Taxa ?

No

4. Is the development of any CMS Agreement for Other Taxa, including Memoranda of Understanding, planned by your country in the foreseeable future?

No

3. LISTING OF MIGRATORY SPECIES IN APPENDIX II

1. Is your country a Range State for any migratory species that has an unfavourable conservation status, but is not currently listed in Appendix II and could benefit from the conclusion of an Agreement for its conservation?

N.B.: States in which a species occurs as a vagrant (i.e. not "on its normal migration route") should not be treated as Range States. Please refer to Article 1 of the Convention for clarification.

No

1a. Is your country taking any steps to propose the listing of this/these species in Appendix II?

No

IV. National and Regional Priorities

1. What priority does your country assign to the conservation and, where applicable, sustainable use of migratory species in comparison to other biodiversity-related issues

High

2. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

Yes

2.1. If Yes, please indicate and briefly describe the extent to which it addresses the following issues:

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of the habitats of migratory species, including protected areas

Actions to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger migratory species (e.g. alien invasive species or by-catch)

Research and monitoring of migratory species

Transboundary co-operation

3. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any other national or regional policies/plans (apart from CMS Agreements)

Yes

3.1. If Yes, please provide details:

> SPREP Regional Marine Species Action Plan

3a. Do these policies/plans cover the following areas?

Exploitation of natural resources (e.g. fisheries, hunting, etc.)

Yes

Economic development

Yes

Pollution control

Yes

Designation and development of protected areas

Yes

Development of ecological networks

Yes

Other

Yes

V. Protected Areas

1. Are migratory species taken into account in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> The Aleipata and Safata Marine Protected Areas protect the nesting hawksbill turtles and the nesting beaches, as well as some of the resting areas for whales and dolphins.

1a. Please identify the most important national sites for migratory species and their protection status:

> Aleipata MPA for marine turtles

1b. Do these protected areas cover the following areas?

Terrestrial

Yes

Aquatic

Yes

Marine

Yes

If Yes, please provide details and include the amount of protected areas coverage and the number of protected areas

> 2

1c. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

2. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> Improved conservation and protection of nesting hawksbill turtles and their nesting beaches

VI. Policies on Satellite Telemetry

2. Are any future conservation/research projects planned that will use satellite telemetry?

No

IX. Mobilization of Resources

1. Has your country made financial resources available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> marine turtles and whales and dolphins

3. Has your country made other voluntary financial contributions to support conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in other countries (particularly developing countries)?

No

4. Has your country provided technical and/or scientific assistance to developing countries to facilitate initiatives for the benefit of migratory species?

No

5. Has your country received financial assistance/support from the CMS Trust Fund, via the CMS Secretariat, for national conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> whales and dolphins

6. Has your country received financial assistance/support from sources other than the CMS Secretariat for conservation activities having direct benefit for migratory species in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> marine turtles and whales and dolphins

X. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

Please provide information about measures undertaken by your country relating to recent Resolutions and Recommendations since the last Report. For your convenience please refer to the list of COP Resolutions and Recommendations listed below:

Resolutions

Resolution 6.2 - By-catch, and Recommendation 7.2 - Implementation of Resolution 6.2 on By-catch
 > Formation of networks with Samoan fishermen to discuss the bycatch issue resulting from tuna longlining and practicable measures to address it.

Resolution 6.3 - Southern Hemisphere Albatross Conservation
 > NA

Resolution 7.2 - Impact Assessment and Migratory Species
 > Consideration of migratory species e.g. turtles and their habitats in Impact Assessments criterias for Development Consent application and approval process.

Resolution 7.3 - Oil Pollution and Migratory Species
 > Enactment of the Marine Pollution Act.

Resolution 7.9 - Cooperation with Other Bodies and Processes
 > Samoa has developed and maintained stable working relationships with relevant bodies (e.g. SPREP, UNDP, USP, IUCN, WDCS, etc.) and processes even at the national level for the conservation of migratory species.

Resolution 8.1 - Sustainable Use
 > Samoa is promoting the sustainable use and development of the environment and resources including migratory species.

Resolution 8.2 - CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2010
 > Samoa continued to implement relevant national provisions under the Strategic Plan.

Resolution 8.5 - Implementation of Existing Agreements and Development of Future Agreements
 > Samoa has emphasized on mainstreaming existing MEAS and regional agreements into the current legislations, plans and policies of the government for implementation.

Resolution 8.7 - Contribution of CMS in Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target
 > Implemented and completed relevant activities for the conservation and management of migratory species.

Resolution 8.9 - Review of GROMS (Global Register on Migratory Species)
 > NA

Resolution 8.11 - Co-operation with other Conventions
 > The same high level of support is given by the Samoan government to the implementation of other Conventions as they are interrelated and wide ranging therefore needing cooperative implementation.

Resolution 8.13 - Climate Change and Migratory Species
 > - Climate Change has been mainstreamed into the relevant government plans as having an impact on migratory species so government emphasis is on this particular area of environmental concern.
 - Climate change indicators have been included for migratory species and/or marine biodiversity surveys.

Resolution 8.14 - By-Catch
 > - Formation of networks with Samoan fishermen to discuss the bycatch issue resulting from tuna longlining and practicable measures to address it.
 - Samoa has been part to the efforts by some regional organizations to develop alternative methods to reduce cetaceans bycatch from longlining.

Resolution 8.27 - Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
 > Concerted Actions for Appendix I Species

Resolution 9.7 - Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species
 > Climate Change has been mainstreamed into the relevant government plans as having an impact on migratory species so government emphasis is on this particular area of environmental concern.

Resolution 9.9 - Migratory Marine Species

> Samoa has completed several assessments on marine turtles and cetaceans as part of efforts to protect these marine species.

Resolution 9.12 - Capacity Building Strategy

> Samoa has focussed on capacity building as a very essential part of migratory species conservation and management so has promoted and put in place this Strategy.

Recommendations**Recommendation 7.5 - Range State Agreement for Dugong (Dugong dugon) Conservation**

> NA

Recommendation 7.6 - Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)

> NA

Recommendation 7.7 - America Pacific Flyway Programme

> NA

Recommendation 8.12 - Improving the conservation status of raptors and owls in the African Eurasian region

> NA

Recommendation 8.16 - Migratory Sharks

> Developed, approved and implemented national Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations which address sharks exploitation.

Recommendation 8.17 - Marine Turtles

> Samoa has continued to promote the protection of marine turtles with the involvement of the local communities, development of Management Plans, conducting awareness, development and implementation of related regulation and actual restoration of nesting beaches.

Recommendation 8.23 - Central Eurasian and Aridland Mammals

> NA

Recommendation 8.26 - Grassland Bird Species and their Habitats in Southern South America

> NA

Recommendation 9.1 - Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals

> NA

Recommendation 9.2 - Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna

> NA

Recommendation 9.3 - Tigers and other Asian Big Cats

> NA

Recommendation 9.5 - Cooperative Action for the Elephant (Loxodonta africana) in Central Africa

> NA

