



**CMS**

## **2022 CMS National Report**

**Deadline for submission of the National Reports: 26 April 2023**

**Reporting period: from February 2020 to April 2023**

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 13.14 requested the Secretariat to develop a proposal to be submitted for the approval of the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (StC52) for a revision of the format for the national reports to be submitted to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently. The new format was adopted by StC52 in October 2021 and made available as an offline version downloadable from the CMS website also in October 2021. The 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 StC52. In addition, as requested by StC52, 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 several guidance documents 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). As requested by different COP13 Decisions, additional guidance is also provided in separate documents on how to report on the implementation of actions to address the impact of climate change and infrastructure development on migratory species, actions to address connectivity in the conservation of migratory species, and actions concerning flyways.

For any question, please contact Mr. Aydin Bahramlouian, Public Information Officer, [aydin.bahramlouian@un.org](mailto:aydin.bahramlouian@un.org)

**NOTICE:** Before clicking on the hyperlinks in this questionnaire, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

### RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

Note: These reporting processes of other relevant intergovernmental frameworks are examples of information resources to be used when filling out this national report, which may assist in identification and strengthening of synergies among these processes. This list is **not** exhaustive. There are many other sources of information that may also be of relevance for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems.

## High-level summary of key messages

### In your country, during the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise 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 “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2018 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds” rather than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles” rather than just “lack of funding”.

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> Strengthening the network of nature protection institutions, especially building capacities of protected area management institutions for improvement of overall implementation of conservation measures  
Work on identifying the level of threats, defining possible measures for marine migratory species and combating immediate threats.

Building capacity for conservation actions (in relevant institutions) to combat illegal actions, including poisoning, by raising knowledge and strengthening the network of institutions for swift actions and prosecution.

Building information systems for integration and sharing of data on conservation status of species, their habitats, threats and measures, as well as national monitoring system and developing programs for monitoring of conservation status of protected species.

Regarding light pollution, two Ordinances regrading 1) lighting plans and 2) measurement of emitted light, were adopted in 2023 and 2022, respectively. We expect that together with Law on the protection against light pollution from 2019 and Ordinance on enlightenment zones, permitted lighting values and methods of managing of enlightenment systems, adopted in 2020, the established legal framework will minimize light pollution in the next decade.

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

>>> Mainstreaming of conservation measures for migratory species in other sectors, particularly agriculture and fisheries, due to insufficient institutional capacities, advice and training, and no buy-in from stakeholders and the local community.

Insufficient capacities for surveillance of illegal activities (poaching, poisoning etc.) and further prosecution.

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

>>> 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

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.

Target 7: Multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation of migratory species or to the functioning, integrity, ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.

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.

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.

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of Contracting Party

>>> Croatia

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

>>> 01102000

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> /

### **Report compiler**

Name and title

>>> /

Full name of institution

>>> Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Telephone

>>> +385 1 4866 102

Email

>>> bidiHR@mzoe.hr

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

Name and title of designated Focal Point

>>> Ms. Ana Kobaslic, Head of Service for Strategic Affairs

Full name of institution

>>> Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Nature Protection Directorate

Mailing address

>>> Radnicka cesta 80

HR -10000 Zagreb

Telephone

>>> (+385 1) 4866 125

Email

>>> ana.kobaslic@mingor.hr

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

Name and title

>>> Dr. Jelena Kralj, Scientific Assistant

Full name of institution

>>> Institute of Ornithology, Croatian Academy of Science and Art

Mailing address

>>> Gundulićeva 24

HR -10000 Zagreb

Telephone

>>> (+385 1) 4825 401

Email

>>> zzo@hazu.hr

## 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*

	Range State, but not a Party/Signatory	Not applicable (= not a Range State)	Party/Signatory
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slender-billed Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western African Aquatic Mammals	<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 your 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.

There are cases where it may be difficult to determine what a “normal” migration route is, and for example to distinguish this from aberrant or vagrant occurrences. As per **Decision 13.140**, the Scientific Council has been requested to develop a practical guidance and interpretations of the terms ‘Range State’ and ‘vagrant’. In the meantime, if in doubt, please make the interpretation that you think will best serve the wider aims of the Convention. Feel free to consult the Secretariat in this regard.

A note on the application of the Convention to Overseas Territories/Autonomous Regions of Parties is found **here**. References 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 list is correct (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments regarding individual species)
- No, amendments are needed, and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (in the file, please select all the species that apply, including the source of information supporting the change, and upload the amended file using the attachment button):

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix I Croatia.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: Please consider the guidance tip in question III.1 concerning the interpretation of “Range State”.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes, the list is correct (please upload the file as your confirmation of this, and include any comments regarding individual species)
- No, amendments are needed and these are specified in the amended version of the Excel file provided (please upload the amended file using the attachment button below).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Croatia.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

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>> Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 15/18 and 14/19); Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG No. 144/13 and 73/16)

**Exceptions:** Where the taking of Appendix I species **is** prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition during the reporting period?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please indicate individual cases and provide details of the circumstances in the Excel file linked 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 TIP:

Parties are requested to provide specific information on cases wherein an exception has been granted during the reporting period. This would not include information on what exceptions might be theoretically possible or exceptions that occurred before the reporting period. 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 the table, 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”. Therefore, please 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 consider consulting reports submitted to CITES that may be relevant when answering this question.

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

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>>

**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 update existing legislation or 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 provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

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 update existing legislation or 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 provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

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 update existing legislation or 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 provide further information about the circumstances

>>>

Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits?

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

Unknown

Please provide information on the circumstances of the taking(s), including where possible any future plans in respect of such taking(s)

>>>

## 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.)

Please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country during the reporting period 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)

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Awareness raising that demonstrates work towards achieving Target 1 may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolutions **11.8 (Rev.COP12)** (Communication, information and outreach plan), **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions **13.6** (Insect Decline), **12.6** (Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **12.21** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), **11.16 (Rev.COP13)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), **11.31** (Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences within and beyond Borders), **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog) and Decision **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species).

- 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.

>>> Regarding the CMS COP Resolution 11.9 (World Migratory Bird Day) Celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day in Croatia is organized every year since 2006, in the second week of May. The main goals of these events are raising public awareness of the need to protect the migratory birds and their habitats, whether it is for resting, breeding or a flyway. These events are organized by civil organizations that work in nature protection field and public institutions that manage protected areas.

Regarding the Resolution 11.8 (Rev. COP12) (Communication, Information and Outreach Plan):

Implementation of the national campaign "Voice of Nature" focused on raising the awareness of general public on the importance of nature conservation, with extensive TV campaign, billboards and dedicated webpage (<https://glaspriode.hr/>).

Within the projects focused on improvement and increase of the capacity of the rescue centers for wild animals various communication, awareness raising and education activities have been implemented. Marine Educational Centre Pula raises public awareness on sea turtle conservation through organized visits of the Centre and sea turtle release events. These events are held in June, marking the World sea turtle day and are promoted through media, educational material and directly, by informing participants. In the centre there is a permanent exhibition about sea turtles and lectures for stakeholders are held (school children, students, adults etc.).

Lošinj Marine Education Centre features permanent and temporary exhibitions as well as interactive multimedia presentations. It regularly hosts workshops and lectures for visitors addressing different interests and catering for various age groups. It is the focal point for presentation of the Blue World Institute's (BWI) work, a tourist attraction, and an education hub for the region. Various public awareness and educational activities are carried out: The Dolphins Day is celebrated every year in Veli Lošinj since 1992. Also BWI has produced posters, t-shirts, leaflets, workbook for children about sea turtles and dolphins.

Through the LIFE Artina project (LIFE Artina project "Seabird Conservation Network in the Adriatic") is co-financed by the LIFE Programme of the European Union (started on September 2018 and will end on August,

2023), the Association Sunce and the Public Institution Nature Park Lastovo Islands designed and implemented an educational program called "The Seabirds" in cooperation with kindergartens and schools from Lastovo, Vis and Korčula. Based on the experience, the Association Sunce decided to organize the workshop "Cooperation of the civil sector, public institutions for the management of protected areas and educational institutions based on the example of the educational activities of the LIFE Artina project" in order to answer the question how to achieve cooperation between the local community, educational institutions and civil sector through an educational program. In addition, several project publications are available: light pollution leaflets (English version), poster and magnets about the marine litter problem and 3D seabird models (Audouin's gull, Scopoli's shearwater, Yelkouan shearwater).

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

[Voice of nature campaign](#)

Overall, how successful have these awareness actions been in achieving their objectives?

Tick one box

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

If the impact of awareness actions has been assessed by (for example) project evaluation studies or follow-up audience attitude surveys during the reporting period, those provide a basis for answering this question. If the assessment has involved any type of quantitative measure of the impact, please specify. It is recognized that such assessment studies may not always be available, in which case it is acceptable to base your answer on an informed subjective judgement. Alternatively, if there is genuinely no basis for forming such a judgement, please select "Unknown".

Question V.4 gives you the opportunity to explain the basis on which you have answered question V.3.

*Please select only one option*

- 1. Very little impact
- 2. Small impact
- 3. Good impact
- 4. Large positive impact
- Unknown

Please identify the main form(s) of evidence that has/have been used to make this assessment.

>>> /

## 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 details:

### GUIDANCE TIP:

Note that these strategies/planning processes may be relevant for objectives, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), and **13.116** (Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species). Please make reference to any relevant CMS documents in your response as appropriate.

>>> In 2021 National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia has been adopted (OG No. 13/21). One of the Strategic goals of the strategy is "Environmental and Energy Transition for Climate Neutrality", within which one of the two priority areas is "Protection of natural resources and the fight against climate change". Within this priority area public policies focused on the conservation of species and habitats within the Natura 2000 ecological network and the restoration of damaged ecosystems will be implemented, and pressures on biodiversity, especially from invasive alien species, will be removed. Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of integrated protection and management of the marine environment and coastal area will be improved.

Does your country integrate the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' referred to in SPMS Target 2 in any other national reporting processes?

E.g. Agenda 2030, reporting for International Whaling Commission, CBD, EU Nature Directives, etc.

### GUIDANCE TIP:

Responses to this question should be focused on the reporting processes of the country rather than on plans and regulations within the country. This question intends to understand if the values of migratory species and habitats are featured in other national reporting that your country participates in, such as reporting to other biodiversity MEAs, the International Whaling Commission, European Commission etc.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please provide details:

>>> Croatia regularly reports to IWC if the reporting topic is applicable to Croatia, and if not we provide explanation why the report does not apply to Croatia. As regards CITES, Croatia regularly provides annual trade reports and biannual implementation reports, as well as illegal trade reports (ETIS data collection report). For reporting period 2020-2021 Croatia has updated UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Reporting including Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).

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

>>> In Croatia, many non-governmental organizations are involved in the conservation of migratory species by implementing research, monitoring, education and raising of public awareness. Some of them are listed below:

Association for Animal protection, Ruščica

Association- BIOM - research, monitoring, conservation of birds and their habitats

Association for Bat Conservation Tragus (ABC Tragus) - research, monitoring, conservation of bats and their habitats

AWAP- Association for wild animal protection, Zagreb

Biology Students Association BIUS, Bird Group, Bat Group - research, monitoring, conservation of birds, bats and their habitats

Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation, Veli Lošinj (BWI) - research, monitoring, conservation of cetaceans, marine turtles and other endangered large marine vertebrates and their habitats

Centre for Nature Research and Conservation Fokus - research, monitoring, conservation of bats and their habitats

Croatian Biospeleological Society (CBSS) – research, monitoring, conservation of bats and their habitats  
Croatian Society for the Conservation of Birds and Nature, Zagreb Osijek – research, monitoring, conservation of birds and their habitats  
Grifon - Birds of Prey Conservation Centre - research, monitoring, conservation of the Griffon Vulture  
Marine Educational Centre Pula (MEC Pula) (<http://www.aquarium.hr/>) – conservation (primarily rehabilitation) of marine turtles  
Raptor Rescue Croatia - Falconry, conservation of birds of prey, wildlife hospital, education and research, Dubrava - Šibenik  
The Association of Environmental Protection “Val”, Zagreb (<http://val-nature.hr/>)- scientific research, popularization and education of marine mammals

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

>>> Small scale grant schemes not specifically targeted, but may include migratory species.

Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP12)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species) and Decision **13.130** (Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species) for more information on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please describe any hindrances and challenges to the application of EIA and SEAs with respect to migratory species, lessons learned, and needs for further capacity development.

>>> Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) is carried out for strategies, plans, programs and projects that might have significant impact on ecological network. When it comes to strategies, plans and programmes, ENIA is performed within the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In such a manner, already in the early planning stages, favourable solutions are chosen in order to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts on the environment and nature. When it comes to projects, ENIA is performed either as an independent procedure, or within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These procedures are being harmonized with the obligations stemming from international agreements, among other CMS, and with the obligations stemming from the EU legislation. If the ENIA concludes that the negative impact can not be excluded, mitigation measures are prescribed in relation to conservation objectives for the areas of the ecological network.

As part of the project “Development of a framework for the management of the ecological network Natura 2000”, monitoring was carried out on the effectiveness of measures for the preservation of freshwater ecosystems and a Manual for the application of measures to preserve freshwater ecosystems (MESD, 2022) was created, which is also accompanied by the Field Manual (MESD, 2022). These Manuals are made based on analysis of individual experts (biologists, hydrotechnicians, experts for individual taxonomic groups), results of research on plant and animal taxonomic groups for typical works of mowing, felling and debris removal, and previous experiences of all stakeholders in the implementation of ENIA, the program of maintenance work in the area of protection against the harmful effects of water and application of the nature protection requirements in the Republic of Croatia prescribed by the MESD with this procedure which actually represent measures for the preservation of freshwater ecosystems. Measures listed in the Manual are also based on the results of interdisciplinary working meetings with all stakeholders, i.e. expert institutions, authorities responsible for the evaluation, implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the water maintenance program, as well as on the analysis of expert opinions and solutions as well as experiences from other EU Member States.

Guidelines for assessing and mitigating the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals and sea turtles in procedures Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment for strategies, plans and programs and Ecological Network Impact Assessment (MESD, 2022) has been developed. These guidelines refer to the UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.11 Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc38/Annex15/Res.7.13 – Anthropogenic noise. Guidelines (Croatian only) can be found at the following link: [https://www.haop.hr/sites/default/files/uploads/uploads/specifnicni-dokumenti/dokumenti/Smjernice\\_buka\\_MINGOR\\_2022.pdf](https://www.haop.hr/sites/default/files/uploads/uploads/specifnicni-dokumenti/dokumenti/Smjernice_buka_MINGOR_2022.pdf)

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

[Manuals \(Croatian only\)](#)

To what extent have biodiversity and migratory species considerations been specifically integrated into national energy and climate policy and legislation?

## GUIDANCE TIP

Please refer to Resolutions **12.21**(Climate Change and Migratory Species), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)**(Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **10.11 (Rev.COP13)**(Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **13.108**(Support to the Energy Taskforce) for more information.

>>> Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Republic of Croatia for the period up to 2040 with a view to 2070 was adopted in 2020 (OG No. 46/20). It is the first strategic document that provides an assessment of climate change for Croatia by the end of 2040 and 2070, possible impacts and vulnerability assessments. The goal of the Strategy is to raise awareness of the importance and threats of climate change for society and the necessity of integrating the concept of adaptation to climate change into existing and new policies, in order to reduce the vulnerability of the environment, economy and society caused by climate change. In addition, the goal is to stimulate scientific research in order to better understand the complexity of the impacts of climate change and reduce the degree of uncertainty related to the effects of climate change. The strategy contains climate projections in Croatia for the year 2040 with a view to the year 2070, taking into account the following climate parameters: precipitation, snow cover, surface runoff, air temperature, extreme weather conditions, wind, evapotranspiration, air humidity, soil humidity, solar radiation and mean sea level. The Strategy also shows the sector's vulnerability to climate change, among which eight key sectors (water resources; agriculture; forestry; fisheries; biodiversity; energy; tourism and health) and two cross-sectoral thematic areas (spatial planning and development and risk management) were selected. For them, 83 adaptation measures to climate change are listed, which are divided into five groups and for which estimates of the necessary amounts and sources of financing by sector are highlighted. The priority measures related to biodiversity amongst others include improving knowledge and creating databases to assess the vulnerability of (pre)natural ecosystems, habitats, wild species, protected areas and ecological network areas for the purpose of improving predictive models, establishment of a system for monitoring climate factors and early warning for protected areas and ecological network areas and for monitoring ecosystems, habitats and wild species and development and implementation of measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems, habitats and species.

The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the period 2021-2030 (from December 2020) provides an overview of the current energy system and the energy and climate policy. It also provides an overview of the national targets for each of the five key dimensions of the Energy Union and the appropriate policies and measures to achieve those targets. Particular attention is paid to the targets to be achieved by 2030, which include the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, energy from renewable sources (RES), energy efficiency and electricity interconnection. As a part of the measure "Analysis of the existing state of spatial capacities, defining guidelines and criteria for specific spatial planning elements for RES planning at the state, county and local level." identification and mapping of spatial, environmental (bio-ecological, landscape, geological) and social (use of space) and infrastructural constraints, and the sensitivity of space for plant construction and operation is envisaged to be carried out, given the characteristics of existing and advanced RES utilization technologies, which should produce the map of sensitivity areas for various species, including migratory ones.

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

[Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the Republic of Croatia for the period 2021-2030](#)

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> Measures and guidelines against electrocution, such as bird-safe insulation of electricity pylons, bird exclusion device, artificial bird safe perch, medium voltage lines placed underground, are integrated in the internal working documents of HEP Group - national energy company (HEP-ODS). As a part of national recovery program, in 2023 HEP-ODS is planning to start the project of modernization of its network in Natura 2000 areas. The project plans to invest in the modernization of existing transmission lines and sections of the medium and low voltage network within the area of the Natura 2000 ecological network. Modernization includes the construction, reconstruction and modification of existing overhead power networks, taking into account the specificities of the climate and techno-economic criteria. Project activities will be carried out on the existing overhead network within the area of the ecological network on the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia.

## 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?

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

This question is intended to understand improvements in governance arrangements in your country, which may potentially include improvements in policy, legislation, governance processes, plans etc. Please also consider the guidance below in VII.2.

*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 details:

>>> In order to ensure synergies between biodiversity conservation and forest management, through amendments of forestry and nature legislation, forestry management plans covering sites of ecological network have been identified as ecological network management plan. Until the beginning of 2023, 113 such plans have been elaborated through close cooperation of forestry and nature conservation sector, especially concerning the planned activities needed to reach the conservation objectives of forest ecosystems. With the purpose of improving management of ecological network sites, new Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for bird conservation in the area of the ecological network (OG No. 25/20 and 38/20) has been adopted, which, defines conservation objectives and main measures. These measures are implemented within the framework of planning documents for natural resources management, spatial planning documents, management plans for protected areas and / or ecological network areas, management plans for strictly protected species and during the implementation of interventions and / or activities that could affect the objectives of their conservation. Relevant sectors are agriculture, forestry, hunting, energetics, fishing and aquaculture.

In 2022 Ordinance on conservation objectives and conservation measures of target species and habitat types in the areas of the ecological network (OG No. 111/22) has been adopted. This Ordinance prescribes conservation objectives, conservation measures and the method of implementing conservation measures for target habitat types and species, except for birds, for conservation areas important for species and habitat types from the Annex to this Ordinance.

By the end of 2023 within project "Development of a framework for the management of the ecological network Natura 2000", management plans for at least 40 % of ecological network Natura 2000 will be developed. Management plans developed within this project are available on the MESD website.

In 2020 2019 Act on Protection against Light Pollution (OG No. 14/19) came into force. The aim of this Act is to protect against light pollution caused by light emissions into the environment from artificial light sources to which humans, flora and fauna in the air and water, other natural resources, the night sky and observatories are exposed, with the use of more energy-efficient lighting.

Ordinance on lighting zones, permitted lighting values and methods of managing lighting systems (OG No. 128/20) which defines curfew, a time interval at night during which outdoor lighting is turned off or reduced to a prescribed appropriate level and is determined within the Lighting Plan. Ordinance on measurement and monitoring of environmental lighting (OG No. 22/23) defines the method of measuring environmental illuminance, the content and method of creating a report on the carried out measurement, and the method of measurement to determine the level of illuminance. Ordinance on the content, format and method of creating a lighting plan and an action plan for the construction and/or reconstruction of outdoor lighting (OG No. 22/23) prescribes the content, format and method of delivery of the lighting plan and action plan for the construction or reconstruction of outdoor lighting, the method of informing the public about the plans and action plans, the method of data delivery for the needs of the environmental and nature protection information system, as well as other related issues.

The Ordinance on rescue centers (OG No. 145/20) prescribes in detail the tasks performed by the rescue centers, the list of endangered and rare species of animals that are prioritized for care, the level of care for animals depending on the degree of endangerment, the sequence of dealing with animals and the conditions of recovery and care. It also prescribes the method of financing the recovery and care of animals and the price list for the implementation of care. When finding an injured, sick and exhausted specimen of strictly protected species, it is necessary to contact the nearest rescue center that takes care of that category of animals. The contacts of all authorized wildlife rescue centers are available on the MESD webpage.

In order to further ensure the preservation of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity, the Dinara Nature Park was declared in 2021, with Act on the Proclamation of the Dinara Nature Park (OG No. 14/21). This is an area of original natural values and the entire diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats resulting from the centuries-old tradition of human use of space. 83 species that have been recorded in the area of the Dinara

nature park are included in Appendix II of CMS.

In order to preserve unique and representative wetland habitats and its species, in 2020 several special reserves within the valley of the Neretva River were declared protected with Regulation on the Proclamation of Special Reserves "Lakes Blue Eye and Desne", "Neretva river delta" and "Kuti" (OG No. 94/20). These special reserves are significant due to the preservation of the habitat and diversity of wetland birds, particularly their nesting populations and the population of birds that migrate along the Adriatic migration route.

In 2023 Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/57 of 25 January 2021 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards lead in gunshot in or around wetlands came into force. The use and possession of lead shot in wetland habitats will be severely punished. The Law on the Implementation of REACH Regulation prescribes penalties in Croatia. A hunting license holder will be fined 6,636.14 to 13,272.28 euros. A fine of EUR 1,327.22 to EUR 1,990.84 will be imposed on both the responsible person at the hunting authority (most often the president of the hunting association) and the perpetrator (hunter who violates the ban). Supervision will be performed by the sanitary inspection of the State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia.

In 2021, the Jabuka/Pomo Pit was permanently protected as an area of limited fishing FRA (Fisheries Restricted Area) through GFCM, which is an important step for the restoration of the entire ecosystem, as well as for the increase of biomass species whose life cycle is linked to that area. It is being recognized across the region as a model for cooperation and efficient spatial management.

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

### Management plans

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 how this assessment was made

>>> Best expert judgement.

Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different government agencies/ministries, sectors or groups been established at a national and/or subnational level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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 national processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.

**The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments** may be helpful in giving further context.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>>

Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 25-27 of **Resolution 11.10 (Rev. COP13)** (Synergies and partnerships)?

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Resolution 13.1**(Gandhinagar Declaration on CMS



and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Resolution 8.18 (Rev.COP12)**(Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD).

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please provide details:

>>> In Croatia, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Nature Protection Directorate, is competent national authority for nature protection. For that reason focal points of the CMS and other relevant Conventions (CBD, CITES, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, etc.) are within the Nature Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development.

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please identify the legislation, policies, initiatives, or action plans concerned:

>>>

## VIII. Incentives

(SPMS Target 4: Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to migratory species, and/or their habitats are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats are developed and applied, consistent with engagements under the CMS and other relevant international and regional obligations and commitments.)

Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country during the reporting period resulting in benefits for migratory species?

*Please select only one option*

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

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

>>>

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

>>>

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time periods concerned:

>>>

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

*Please select only one option*

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

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

>>>

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

>>> In order to enable sustainable development of the fisheries sector, various support models are available on an annual basis through state grants. Compensations for damages caused by mammals are granted as compensation for damage on catches of sole fish, bogue, red mullet, mackerel, gilthead, muzzle, saddled seabream and cuttlefish, which are caused by dolphins on single and triple gillnets or bottom trawls. The compensation is granted on the basis of the Ordinance on the conditions, criteria and method of granting support under the support program for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems and for compensation schemes under sustainable fishing activities - compensation for damage caused by mammals (OG No. 84/17).

Compensation for damage and/or lost profit caused by various types of birds and other animals on carpfish ponds. The compensation is granted on the basis of the Ordinance on the conditions, criteria and method of granting state aid for damage from various species of birds and other animals on carpfish ponds (OG No. 46/2021)

Under the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the Period 2014-2020 Measure 10 "Payment for Agri-environment-climate commitments" comprises 16 types of operations. The aim of the type of operation 10.1.3 "Preservation of high nature value grasslands" is to maintain high nature value grasslands, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and prevent further loss of habitats. This Program will be implemented until the end of 2024.

## 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

>>> Croatia reported on SDG 12.1 (to implement the 10-Year Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production Programs) in 2022. The results of this reporting are available at the One Planet network platform at the following link: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/countries/europe-and-central-asia/croatia>

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

>>> /

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.

### Intentional Taking

#### GUIDANCE TIP:

Please note that as per Article 1(i) of the Convention, “Taking” means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in such conduct.

	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
Deliberate poisoning	/	/
Illegal trade	/	/
Other harvesting and take	/	/
Illegal hunting	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	2
Legal hunting	Appendix II Bird species	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?

>>> /

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning intentional taking?

#### GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **12.10** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.12 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plans for Birds), **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **11.15 (Rev.COP13)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **11.16 (Rev.COP13)** (The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), **11.31** (Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offenses within and beyond Borders), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.27-28** (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), **13.74** ((Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes) and **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>> /

### Unintentional Taking

	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>
Other forms of unintentional taking	/	/
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	/	/
Bycatch	2	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic Mammals; Reptiles; Fish species

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing bycatch or catch in ALDFG?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.22**(Bycatch), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **10.15 (Rev.COP12)** (Global Programme of Work for the Cetaceans) and **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species).

>>> At national level, sporadic data on bycatch is collected through the National Stranding Network. From 2019 fishing sector has the obligation to record and to report bycatch of endangered species, through Croatian national data collection programme conducted by Ministry of Agriculture. In order to reduce negative impacts of fisheries on strictly protected marine species and to improve reporting on by-catch, more work on project level have been done regarding education of fishermen on how to deal with accidentally caught cetaceans and sea turtles. In 2021 implementation of regular monitoring of accidental catches of sensitive species (including cetaceans) started in commercial fishing and during the big game fishing competition, as part of the national plan for collecting data in the fisheries.

Improvements of the National Work Plan for Data Collection in Fisheries have been implemented and adopted by COM in December 2022 based on results of the STREAMLINE project funded under the EU Call for Proposals MARE/2020/08 (Strengthening regional cooperation in the field of data collection) and following the recommendations of the Regional Coordination Group for the Mediterranean & Black Sea. Methodology and coverage of bycatch monitoring for gears having higher potential risk of bycatch, has been significantly improved and is in line with the recommended coverage according to the FAO methodology agreed at level of GFCM and EU Member States, but until now it has not resulted in an adequate level of data for assessment purposes. In 2022, interviews were introduced at landing sites for all gears, as well as experimental scientific remote electronic monitoring on trawlers, while electronic logbook and fishing reports for mobile devices will be gradually introduced for all coastal fisheries. There are many activities ongoing to strengthen the capacities of scientific observers and to educate fishermen on the identification and handling of protected species.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning bycatch?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).

>>> /

**Collisions and electrocution**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Electrocution	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	3
Other collisions	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	3
Wind turbines	Appendix I and Appendix II Birds species/ Appendix II Bat species	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing collisions and electrocution?

>>> Since 2017, HEP Distribution system operator (HEP DSO) has been systematically monitoring the medium

voltage electricity power lines on the island of Cres, due to the significant negative impact on the Griffon vultures population. During the reporting period, a plan for the implementation of griffon vulture protection activities in Kvarner area in cooperation with JU Priroda was adopted (June 2020), by which HEP DSO committed to protect all dangerous lines on Cres, Krk and Rab islands by the end of 2025. In 2020, protection measures were implemented on the island of Cres with a total length of 4,5 km by using insulation equipment and setting up safe runways at more than 60 potentially dangerous poles. Additionally, three-post substations have been reconstructed in such a way that they no longer pose a danger to electrocution. In the second half of 2020 and the first half of 2021, more than 11 km of overhead medium voltage lines on Cres (Punta Križa and Ivanje area) were replaced by an underground cable. Within LIFE project Danube Free Sky HEP DSO is installing bird flight diverters on the 35 kV powerline Bilje - Kneževi Vinogradi near the boundaries of the Kopački rit Nature Park. The diverters are installed using a drone that can install two diverters with one charge. They are placed in such a way that the drone is positioned above the protective rope and the diverter clip is lowered under the rope and by a sudden lift, it hooks the clip to the rope, which is then closed. With this activity, more than 13 km of powerlines will be safer for birds and the risk of birds colliding with powerlines will be reduced. Within the project in February 2023 three artificial aluminum nest boxes for the Saker Falcon were installed in cooperation with HEP DSO on a section of the 35 kV powerline. This activity increased the chances of its nesting again in the wider area of the Kopački rit Nature Park. Next to the nest boxes, video surveillance systems have been installed. Cameras with a motion sensor and solar power will give a constant insight into the activities in the nests without the need to visit them.

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

[LIFE Danube Free Sky](#)

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds, **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10**(Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures).

>>> /

**Other mortality**

	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>
Disease	/	/
Accidental/indirect poisoning	3	Appendix II Bird species
Unexplained stranding events	/	/
Predation	/	/

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering other mortality?

>>> /

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning other mortality?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **11.15 (Rev.COP13)** (Preventing Poisoning of of Migratory Species), **12.6**(Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures) and **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>> /

**Alien and/or invasive species**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Alien and/or invasive species	Appendix II Bird species	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing alien and/or invasive species?

>>> Two projects related to the management of invasive alien species have been implemented by MESD. Project “Establishment of the National Monitoring System for Invasive Alien Species” (implementation time: 2017-2021), had the objective to establish monitoring and citizen science programs. Mobile application has been developed and all relevant stakeholders are informed on the importance of reporting IAS observations as well as educated on the use of application. Also, a web page “Invasive species in Croatia” (<https://invazivnevrste.haop.hr/>), with information on invasive alien species, risk assessments, legal framework, ongoing activities and educational materials has been developed through this project. Project “Development of the Management and Control system for Invasive Alien Species” (implementation time: 2017-2022) had the objective to contribute to the development of IAS management and control systems through the development of planning acts for IAS management. In accordance with Art. 13 of Regulation (EU) no. 1143/14 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, two action plans were established: Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species by transport and Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species by spontaneous spread. The aim of this action plans was to address the priority pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species of Union concern in Croatia and focus on activities that will prevent the spread. Also, three management plans for widely spread invasive animals in Croatia (sliders *Trachemys scripta*, signal crayfish and small Indian mongoose), two management plans for widely spread invasive plants in Croatia (Himalayan balsam and common milkweed) and manual on the recognition and management of invasive alien species were developed through this project.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning alien and/or invasive species?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **11.28** (Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species).

>>> /

**Disturbance and disruption**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	Appendix II Bat species	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing disturbance & disruption?

>>> Activities initiated by Ministry to harmonize visiting of under and overground bat roosts by researchers and experts, especially in internationally important sites. Public institutions in charge of management of MPAs and Natura 2000 sites are responsible for implementation of conservation measures for important bat roosts in those areas including regulation of disturbance/disruption.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning disturbance and disruption?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.16** (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and Decision **13.66**(Marine Wildlife Watching).

>>> /

**Pollution**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Other pollution	/	/
Underwater noise	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Reptile species	3
Light pollution	Appendix II Bat species, Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Reptile species, Fish, Bird Species	2
Marine debris (including plastics)	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Reptile, Fish; Bird species	2

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing pollution?

>>> SOUNDSCAPE project was implemented until 2021, with the overall aim to create a cross-border (IT-HR) technical, scientific and institutional cooperation to face together the challenge of assessing the impact of underwater environmental noise on the marine fauna. It was pursued in three ways: implementing a shared monitoring network for a coordinated regional and transnational assessment of the underwater noise, evaluating the noise impact on marine biological resources, developing and implementing a planning tool for straightforward management

Guidelines for assessing and mitigating the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals and sea turtles in procedures Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment for strategies, plans and programs and Ecological Network Impact Assessment (MESD, 2022) has been developed. These guidelines refer to the UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.11 Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities and ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc38/Annex15/Res.7.13 – Anthropogenic noise.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning pollution?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.5** (Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife), **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **13.122** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>> /

**Habitat destruction/degradation**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Physical barriers	Appendix II Birds, Bat species	3
Fire	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	3
Too much/too little water	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species	2
Urbanization	Appendix II Bat species	3
Unsustainable land/resource use	Appendix II Bird, Bat species	3
Mineral exploration/extraction	Appendix II Bat species	3
Habitat degradation	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species, Appendix II Bat Species	2
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	Appendix I and Appendix II Bird species/ Appendix II Bat species	2

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing habitat destruction/degradation?

>>> Through management plans for Natura 2000 sites, which are under preparation in the reporting period for at least 40% of the surface of the ecological network (that covers more than 36% of the Croatia’s land area),



measures aimed at habitat and species conservation have been set.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning habitat destruction/degradation?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), **13.6** (Insect Decline), **12.7 (Rev.COP13)**(The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways), **12.12 (Rev.COP13)**(Action Plans for Birds), **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), **12.19** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), **12.24**(Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), **12.26 (Rev.COP13)** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **11.17 (Rev.COP13)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), **11.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), and Decisions **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.94** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog).

>>> /

**Climate change**

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report concerning climate change?

>>> Strategic and legislative framework related to climate change adaptation and mitigation has been established and the relevant information is available at the following link: <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/countries-regions/countries/croatia>

Increasing the information network for monitoring climate changes in different ecosystems (e.g. through climate adaptation projects financed from EU funds - open call "Scheme for strengthening applied research for climate change adaptation measures" for projects that carry out applied research for adaptation measures to climate change.

Participation of Croatian MPAs in the MedAdapt project through which an online platform was developed to help MPAs adapt to climate change <https://mpa-adapt.interreg-med.eu/news-events/news/detail/actualites/climate-change-platform-for-mediterranean-mpas-launched/>

Implementation of projects, i.e. activities of developing a system for monitoring the state of species conservation, which also includes monitoring of pressures and threats such as climate change and their impact on the state of species.

Establishing and strengthening the monitoring of the introduction of alien species as a consequence of climate change as a pressure or threat to migratory species, among others development of an Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species by transport and Action plan on the control of the pathways of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species by spontaneous spread, Monitoring the appearance of alien species that cause damage to forest ecosystems, which automatically affects the weakening of habitats for species, including migratory ones.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning climate change?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Decision **13.126** (Climate change and Migratory Species).

>>> /

**Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.**

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

Inadequate enforcement of legislation	2	Appendix II Bird, Bat species
Lack of knowledge	2	Appendix I and Appendix II Aquatic mammals; Bird species/ Appendix II Bat species
Inadequate legislation	/	/
Inadequate transboundary management	3	Appendix II Bird species

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc?

>>> /

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.?

>>> /

**Other (please specify)**

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in other pressures?

>>> /

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning other pressures?

>>> /

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?

CMS Article III(4)(b) states ‘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.’

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

This question is intended to specifically report on any new legislation or domestic measures **addressing obstacles to migration**. Relevant information would not include general conservation measures.

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

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

>>> In order to contribute to river connectivity, in 2023 LIFE project has started which will provide the list of the priority barriers on the rivers in Croatia that need to be removed/adjusted.

## 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 (e.g. national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country during the reporting period?**

**“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).**

**If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file detailing a longer list of species.**

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” during the reporting period. Information is expected to be provided 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 record if any CMS listed species has become extinct or extirpated from your country - or reintroduced/re-established/established - during the reporting period (or before if not previously reported to CMS).

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)

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			/

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			
	RE	There are no confirmed specimens since 2014.	Antolović, J., Frković, A., Grubešić, M., Holcer, D., Vuković, M., Flajšman, E., Grgurev, M., Hamidović, D., Pavlinić, I. i Tvrčković, N. (2006): 'Crvena knjiga sisavaca Hrvatske', Ministarstvo kulture, Državni zavod za zaštitu prirode, Zagreb. <a href="http://www.haop.hr/hr/publikacije/crvena-knjiga-sisavaca-hrvatske">http://www.haop.hr/hr/publikacije/crvena-knjiga-sisavaca-hrvatske</a> Rako, N. (2011): Izvještaj o opažanju jedinke sredozemne medvjedice (Monachus monachus) uz zapadnu obalu otoka Cresa, Plavi svijet Institut za istraživanje i zaštitu mora Gomerčić, M. D., Gomerčić, T., Huber, D., & Gomerčić, H. (2005, December). Recent sightings of the monk seal in Croatian areas of the Adriatic. The Monachus Guardian, 8. <a href="http://www.monachus-guardian.org/mguard16/1621feature.htm">www.monachus-guardian.org/mguard16/1621feature.htm</a> . Bundone et al. (2019) On sightings of (vagrant?) monk seals, Monachus monachus, in the Mediterranean Basin and their importance for the conservation of the species. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems DOI: 10.1002/aqc.3005.	Monachus monachus

Bats

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			/

Birds

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			/

Reptiles

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			/

Fish

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	/			/

Insects

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	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.)

During the 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?

E.g. Developments following the advice in Resolutions **12.8** and **13.7**.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes  
 No

Please provide details:

>>>

During the 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

During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolutions **12.28 (Rev.COP13)** to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)

>>>

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)?

E.g., steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Flyways) and **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions **13.36** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), **13.41** (Flyways), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog) and **13.108** (Support to the Energy Task Force).

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>> In the period 2020 -2023 Croatia joined the international winter counts of Red and Black Kites (*Milvus milvus* & *M. migrans*) organized as a part of LIFE EUROKITE+ project.

Croatia joined international summer counts of the Mediterranean Shag (*Gulosus aristotelis desmarestii*) (listed on AEWA species list and Bird Directive Annex I, but not CMS) organized between Italy, Slovenia and Croatia in 2020-2022.

Croatian scientists are active members of Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group (ESIEG), and, among other activities, organized Xth ESIEG workshop in Croatia in October 2022.

LIFE EUROTURTLES - The aim of the project was to improve the conservation status of the EU populations of two sea turtle priority species, the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* and the green turtle *Chelonia mydas*.

The project recognized that this aim can only be achieved through wider, EU-level approach considering the multinational distribution of these populations, which have breeding and foraging grounds in different and distant EU countries.

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

[LIFE Euroturtles](#)

Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Post-2020 framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision **13.113 a)**

*Please select only one option*

Yes

No

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

[LIFE WILDisland](#)

Please provide details:

>>> In the framework of EU strategy for the Danube region (EUSDR), Croatia together with the Land Bavaria (Germany) is coordinating Priority Area 06 (PA6) "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils". PA6 deals in particular with nature conservation issues on transnational level within 14 Danube States. In order to continuously improve the management and implementation process, EUSDR priority area coordinators, in cooperation with the Steering group, established Task Forces which are the backbone for the implementation of PA 06 and which gather, among other things, representatives of networks and platforms of non-governmental organizations and the scientific sector, public authorities and other interest groups that are stakeholders in the implementation of the objectives of PA 06.

One of the topics that PA6 is addressing is ecological connectivity, EUSDR Priority Area Coordinators with support of INTERACT held the Meeting of macro-regional coordinators (December 2019). The aim of the meeting was to promote the exchange of experience and to explore potential for further cooperation between the currently four Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) in the field of ecological connectivity.

Additionally, the activities regarding the topic of ecological connectivity are implemented within Task Force DANUBE PARKS and their members through various projects.

LIFE WILDisland - Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor (September 2021 - August 2027) - one of the objective is strengthen ecological connectivity and preserve the natural wilderness in the heart of Europe, improving the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. The project represents an amazing example of cross-sector trans-border cooperation, involving 15 partners from 8 countries united to restore and conserve a total of 34 islands all the way from Germany to Romania.

LIFE Danube Free Sky - Transnational conservation of birds along Danube river - (01/09/2020 - 28/02/2026) project represents a unique example of wide transnational cooperation. Strong collaboration is presented of beneficiaries from 7 countries and one non-beneficiary country including the private commercial sector, nature conservation authorities, municipality, and private non-commercial entities. The project presents a solution to one of the biggest threats for the wild living species of birds today - interaction with the power line. Moreover, this problem will be solved along with one of the most important migration corridor, stopover site, and wintering place for many bird species in Europe - the Danube river.

Croatian ornithologists supported the production of African-Eurasian Bird Migration Atlas by providing ringing recoveries and tracking data, and by reviewing the species accounts.

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

[Meeting of macro-regional coordinators \(December 2019\)](#)

### 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 (e.g. by an inventory) in your country?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species. It is left to report compilers to work with any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement.

Helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the “**Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species**” presented to COP11 and the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention.

*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?

>>> With identifying important bird areas and designation of Natura2000 network in Croatia, critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures. Further research is needed to identify important sites for marine turtles, marine birds and fish species.

In order to contribute to the new global goal of 30% of ocean protection and the objectives of EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Croatia intends to contribute with new spatial protection of its sea under national jurisdiction by 2030 (including EEZ).

This includes potential areas identified based on insufficiencies/scientific reserves related to obligations under the EU Habitats Directive for the loggerhead turtle and the bottlenose dolphin in the Croatian part of Adriatic Sea.

Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the country’s protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

The “contribution” may relate to habitat types, and/or geographical coverage/distribution factors, and/or coverage of particular priority species or species groups, and/or factors concerning functional connectivity, and/or any other factor considered relevant to the achievement of SPMS Target 10.

(If you have information on assessments of management effectiveness, please do not include that here, but provide it instead in your response to question XIII.4).

*Please select only one option*

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

Please provide details:

>>>

Please provide details:

>>> Within the project of LIFE Artina for marine bird populations, among others for Appendix I species Larus audouinii.

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

[LIFE Artina Project](#)

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No



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

>>> In addition to the lack of suitable habitats where it can hunt, the fundamental problem of Croatian population of European roller (*Coracias garrulous*) is the lack of cavities in which to nest. Sufficiently large hollows are found only on poplar trees, in which, due to the soft wood, hollows necessary for the nesting of various birds are often formed. Rows of poplars were planted in order to create windbreaks to prevent soil erosion by wind. Today, the biggest threat to their survival, and consequently to the European roller, are fires caused by the burning of marginal vegetation along tree rows, careless burning of plant residues on arable land and infestation by citrus long-horned beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*). Due to the drastically reduced number of poplars, it is necessary to urgently restore the wind protection tree rows in order to protect the fertile soil from wind erosion, and to enable European roller and other burrowing birds to nest in natural cavities. Although, it takes decades to form hollows in newly planted poplars, European roller accepts nesting boxes, so placing boxes in suitable foraging habitats (the activity that is envisaged to be finished by the end of April 2023) will help them through the transition period.

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 details on what is covered:

>>>

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

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

>>> In 2017 (by way of national Ordinance on particular management regime in the part of Jabuka Pit area published on 8 September 2017 in OG No 90/17) Croatia enforced a particular management regime in the area of Jabuka/Pomo Pit area, as Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA), which implied a complete prohibition of using trawling gears, bottom set longlines, hooks and lines, pots and gillnets as well as sport and recreational fisheries over the area under the national jurisdiction and beyond it for the period of more than 3 years - until 31 December 2020.

In 2021, Jabuka/Pomo Pit area was permanently protected as FRA, which is an important step for the restoration of the entire ecosystem, as well as for increasing the biomass of species whose life cycle is linked to that area.

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

**Resolution 12.7 (Rev.COP13)** 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.

**Resolution 13.3** on Chondrichthyan Species

**Decision 13.116** on Transfrontier Conservation Areas for Migratory Species

>>> Resolution 12.7 on ecological networks:

According to the Art. 54 of the NPA ecological network is proclaimed for the purpose of conservation and achieving favorable conservation status of wild birds and their habitats, other species of wild animals and plants and their habitats, as well as habitat types of special interest for the EU and Croatia. Ecological network includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs), areas important for rare and vulnerable birds and for the conservation of migratory bird species, especially wetland areas of international importance. Within the project 'Development of management framework for ecological network Natura 2000' (September 2017 - November 2023) management plans are in preparation covering at least 40% of the network.

Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats:

Setting up a long-term monitoring for assessing the conservation status of habitat types included in the Annex I of the Habitats Directive is implemented through the project "Establishment of the system of monitoring conservation status of species and habitats" (2018-2023). Additionally, the project "Mapping of coastal and seabed habitats in the Adriatic sea under the national jurisdiction" that will end in 2023 is expected to produce a map of seabed habitats for at least 51% of territory under national jurisdiction.

Finning prohibition is regulated by Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 of 26 June 2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels, which is directly applicable in EU Member States and complemented also by

Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 of 13 December 2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea.

Monitoring activities of chondrichtian species are implemented through Monitoring System for the Assessment of the Status of the Adriatic Sea. Additional data have also been collected under the Data Collection Framework (Ministry of Agriculture) and 'MEDITS' bottom trawl surveys in the Adriatic Sea. Please note that significant increase in biomass of chondrichtian species has been observed through scientific monitoring of Adriatic Sea, as a result of the establishment of FRA described in chapter XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures.

## 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?

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

The phrase “associated with” migratory species allows you to report on any assessments that cover ecosystem services of systems, habitats or species assemblages that include migratory species. The question is therefore not expecting you to limit this to assessments focused solely on one or more migratory species.

For a broader biodiversity assessment to be relevant here, the migratory species involved must be making some identifiable contribution to the ecosystem services concerned.

Note also the particular aspects to be taken into account that are specified in the wording of the SPMS target. For the CMS definition of “favourable conservation status”, see Article I(1)(c) of the Convention text.

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- Partly / in progress
- No

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>>

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> In 2022, through EUROSTAT project, initial activities for identification of changes in ecosystem extent were implemented whose results will serve as an input to compilation of ecosystem condition and development of system of monitoring of ecosystems and their services. In this reporting period no specific assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species has been implemented.

## 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?

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Strategies to be considered under this section do not necessarily have to specifically address migratory species but be of sufficient relevance in relation to the objective of safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild populations.

*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

>>>

Please describe the Captive breeding strategy:

>>>

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>>

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>>

Please describe the reproductive material archives/repositories strategy:

>>>

## 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.)

Does your country's National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan (NBSAP), or other relevant plans or strategies used in your country, explicitly address obligations under CMS, priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and ecological connectivity?

*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/hr/hr-nbsap-v3-en.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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.

>>> Under the specific objective 1.3 Standardize management in nature protection and establish a performance monitoring system, activities:

1.3.1 Prepare management plans for strictly protected species with action plans for those species determined as priorities; revise the existing management plans;

1.3.2 Ensure the implementation of measures defined by management plans for strictly protected species with action plans for priority strictly protected species, are particularly relevant for the migratory species.;

1.3.3 Establish a comprehensive care system for priority animal species

1.3.4 Establish a comprehensive alert system on fatalities among strictly protected animal species

Specific objective 2.5 Conserve unfragmented natural areas and restore the most threatened degraded habitats activities:

2.5.2 Prepare a map of habitat corridors important for the migrations of the fauna threatened by fragmentation, with impact mitigation measures

2.5.4 Improve the existing monitoring of fatalities among strictly protected animal species due to road and railway transport and due to power lines, primarily through intensified intersectoral cooperation

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

>>> here are for example - preparation and implementation of Protocols within the National Alert and Rescue system for strictly protected species groups, start up of informal task group on illegal killing of birds (Ministry, NGOs, scientists), several NGO BIOM actions against illegal killing; cooperation between NGO BIOM and national electrical company (HEP) on identification of priority areas (bird electrocution hotspots) and implementation of mitigation measures such as insulation and diverters, preparation of guidelines for reporting findings of critically endangered plant species

National Alert System for strictly protected species is coordinated by IENC. Since March 2023 a new web form is available for reporting the finding of dead wild strictly protected species, within the System for reporting and monitoring caught, killed, injured and sick strictly protected animals (at link <https://arcg.is/1CbK98>) which is adapted for viewing and entering data via smartphones.

Specimens of strictly protected species that have been found sick, death, exhausted, injured, disoriented or wounded are pursuant to Article 67 of the Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 15/18, 14/19 and 127/19) collected and settled in the Rescue Centres (RC).

Until now protocols for several species groups are established and more are in development.

Protocol for strictly protected marine mammals, turtles and chondrichthyes is in function and operational and the Protocol for the collection of samples for monitoring of the appearance of the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* for bat experts. Protocols for serpents and birds are in the test phase. Protocol in case of suspected illegal actions has been drafted.

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

[Protocol for strictly protected marine mammals, turtles and chondrichthyes](#)

Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and

Migratory Species, etc.

>>> /

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant international agreements.

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>> /

## 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.)

Note that progress in achieving Target 13 of the Strategic Plan considers indigenous and local communities.

In the absence of a national definition of 'indigenous and local communities', please refer to the Convention of Biodiversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"** for helpful guidance on these terms.

During the reporting period, 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

During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement 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 (e.g. as part of development projects)
- Formal recognition of rights
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms (legislation, policies, etc.)
- Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests
- Other

>>> not applicable for Croatia

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

### **GUIDANCE TIP**

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as those described in Decisions **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), and **13.116** (Transfrontier Conservation Areas for 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 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 provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>> Target is not applicable for Croatia

## 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.)

During the 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? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(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
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders
- Other (please specify):

>>>

- No steps have been taken

**Please describe the contribution these steps have made towards achieving the results defined in Target 15:**

### **GUIDANCE TIP**

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), **13.35** (Light Pollution), **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions **13.37** (AEM LAP), **13.39** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.90** (Conservation and Management of the African Lion), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), **13.106** (Support to the Energy Task Force), **13.110** (Addressing Unsustainable Use of Terrestrial and Avian Wild Meat), and **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species).

### **Education campaigns in schools**

>>> The Diverterra mobile exhibition covers the topics of nature and environmental protection with an additional focus on one of the biggest threats - climate change. It is designed as a portable exhibition with multimedia content in augmented reality on tablets and panels, with the use of didactic aids and through an accompanying workshop brings the topics and content of the exhibition closer to users. The contents of the exhibition are intended for preschool and early school age (lower grades of elementary school).

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

[Diverterra mobile exhibition](#)

### **Public awareness campaigns**

>>> Implementation of the national campaign "Voice of Nature" focused on raising the awareness of general public on the importance of nature conservation, with extensive TV campaign, billboards and dedicated webpage (<https://glasprirode.hr/>).

Celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day in Croatia every year from 2006, in the second week of May. The main goals of these events are raising public awareness of the need to protect the migratory birds and their habitats, water it is for resting, breeding or a flyway. These events are organized by civil organizations that work in nature protection, public institutions that manage protected areas and CAEN.

Since 1993 Dolphin Day has been traditionally celebrated by BWI. The programme of the Dolphin Day varies each year, but usually includes lectures, exhibitions, workshops, games and sports competitions. World Sea Turtle Day is also celebrated in Croatia, mostly by the Aquarium Pula and Marine Educational center Pula.

Also, since 2014 World Migratory Freshwater Fish Day is being celebrated in Croatia, mostly by the NGO (Croatian Institute for Biodiversity, ECO PAN).

International Bat Night events are organized each year by a number of public institutions that govern national parks, nature parks and protected areas on county or local level, as well as zoological gardens and natural history museums, in cooperation with bat organisations (Croatian Biospeleological Society, Association for Bat Conservation Tragus) and individual bat experts.

BalkanDetox LIFE project, co-financed in Croatia by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, is implemented in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, to tackle illegal wildlife poisoning by raising awareness and strengthening national capacities.



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

National campaign "Voice of Nature"

### **Capacity building**

>>> Within the project "Development of a framework for the management of the ecological network Natura 2000", implemented by MESD (2017-2023), a series of educational activities have been undertaken, and the equipment necessary for implementation of management plans and the management itself was acquired.

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

>>> Within the project "Development of a framework for the management of the ecological network Natura 2000" the existing information and communication technologies, a tool within the Nature Protection Information System (Bioportal), was improved by integrating Natura 2000 area management module. In July 2021, representatives of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, the Center for Forensic Research "Ivan Vučetić" and the Biom Association participated in the first in Europe training "Wildlife Crime Academy", prepared and organized by the Spanish government of the Andalusian region with the support of the international non-governmental organization for carnivores - Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF). The course was organized for representatives of 9 countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Spain. Participants were trained how to investigate crimes against the wild animals - from the rules of investigation (CSI - Crime Scene Investigation) and forensic analysis to the final procedure before the court.

The LIFE SWiPE project ("Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe") will provide an overall picture of wildlife crime at the European scale, focusing on the 11 target countries of the project with an emphasis on Central and South-Eastern European countries, and will make special reference to cross-border aspects. It will identify the scale and commonality of problems arising along the enforcement chain, gaps in current practices, reasons for successfully investigated cases leading to prosecution and common issues along the enforcement chain leading to failed prosecution. It will profile solutions and best practice approaches from relevant countries, and provide national and EU-level policy recommendations. There will be pilot cases in Spain, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Croatia, with best practice examples regarding monitoring birds, demonstrating sniffer dogs and training existing dog units to detect wildlife crime, using applications for reporting crimes, fostering better inter-agency cooperation, developing a criminalistics education module, and establishing a wildlife crime hub.

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

>>>

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

>>>

### **Other**

>>>

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> The east African migration route of Common Terns from Croatia and Hungary was described using light-level geolocators. Postbreeding dispersion of European Rollers in Italy and Croatia was described.

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 (please specify):

>>>

- No assistance required

## 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?

### GUIDANCE TIP:

The “resources” that are relevant here can be financial, human or technical. In addition to funding, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure could be relevant, as could the loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities, technology transfer, training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building.

Further comments on resource mobilization issues in the CMS context can be found in the **Strategic Plan for Migratory Species**, Chapter 4.

Further examples could include providing resources to actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **13.4** (Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative, and Decisions **13.23** (Review Mechanism and National Legislation Programme, **13.25** (Conservation Status of Migratory Species, **13.32** (Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the EAAF), **13.36** and **13.37** (AEMLAP), **13.39** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), **13.41** (Flyways), **13.50** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), **13.69** (Marine Turtles), **13.76** (European Eel), **13.80** (Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans), **13.90** (Conservation and Management of the African Lion), **13.95** (Conservation and Management of the Cheetah and African Wild Dog), **13.102** (Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity), **13.106** (Support to the Energy Task Force), **13.113** (Improving Ways of Addressing Connectivity in the Conservation of Migratory Species), **13.120** (Community Participation and Livelihoods), **13.122** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution), and **13.134** (Infrastructure Development).

- 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**, and which initiatives, plans and programmes has this made a contribution? (Identify all those that apply).

>>> 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.

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

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

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.

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  
 Unknown

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

>>> LIFE program

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

>>> 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

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

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

>>> Transboundary LIFE Euroturtles project (Collective actions for improving the conservation status of the EU sea turtle populations) (2016-2021). The objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of the EU populations of two sea turtle priority species, the loggerhead turtle and green turtle.

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  
 Unknown

Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please consider answers provided in HLS.3 when answering this question where appropriate, as they may be of relevance.

>>> Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favorable conservation status

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.

International and regional action and cooperation between States for the conservation and effective management of migratory species