



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

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):

>>> Single Species Action Plans are a great tool for focusing attention and prioritising activities that need to be implemented to facilitate the conservation of migratory species. Benefits of SSAPs include the relatively short timeframe required for development and adoption, the ability to include non-Party range states, and the ability to target specific conservation requirements.

The ability to include non-Party range states in the development and implementation of subsidiary agreements and MoUs is also a significant successful aspect of the Convention. However, these subsidiary instruments take significantly longer to negotiate and can suffer from a lack of support (particularly in the case of non-legally binding MoUs).

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

>>> Given the legally-binding obligations for Parties that result from the addition of species to Appendix I in particular, it is unfortunate that there has been an inconsistent application and/or understanding of the definition of migratory under the Convention. The fact that a species is widely distributed, or that its home range happens to incorporate jurisdictional boundaries, does not mean that the species meets the definition of migratory. The Scientific Council should endeavour to address this issue rigorously in future.

There can also be issues in implementing obligations related to species listings when the listing does not adequately recognise population or regional differences that occur within the species range. Greater use of regional or sub-population listings may help to alleviate this difficulty.

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

>>> The outcomes of a comprehensive review of the species currently included on the Appendices, including both their migratory behaviour and conservation status, will be critical in ensuring that only those species that would benefit from CMS legally-binding obligations and international cooperation remain the focus of Parties. It would also be highly beneficial to undertake a strategic review of migratory species to determine which species are not currently listed on the Convention but would benefit in future. This would help to alleviate the current ad-hoc approach that is taken to the submission of listing proposals.

I. Administrative Information

Name of Contracting Party

>>> Australia

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

>>> 01.09.1991

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>>

Report compiler

Name and title

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Full name of institution

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

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 Australia.xlsx](#) - Appendix II - note additional reservations since 2019

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.

>>> Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (s209-223):

The EPBC Act is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019:

Within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 prohibit the take of many CMS listed species notably Dugong, Whales and Dolphins, and several species of sharks, sea snakes, and all bird species (s30).

States and Territories within Australia also have legislation that covers migratory species:

Implementing legislation - New South Wales:

- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019
- Marine Estate Management Act 2014
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- NSW Fisheries
- Marine Estate Management Act 2014

Implementing legislation - Victoria:

- National Parks Act 1975
- Wildlife Act 1975
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2011
- Wildlife (Marine Mammal) Regulations 2009 (Statutory Rule No. 152/1998)
- Fisheries Act 1995

Implementing legislation - South Australia:

- The Natural Resources Management Act 2004 was repealed in 2019 and replaced with Landscape SA Act.
- Landscape South Australia Act 2019
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972
- Fisheries Management Act 2007
- Marine Parks Act 2007
- Environment Protection Act 1993

Implementing legislation - Queensland:

- Marine Parks Act 2004
- Nature Conservation Act 2002
- Fisheries Act 1994
- Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019
- Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019

Implementing legislation - Western Australia:

- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018
- Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (to be replaced by the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016)
- Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995

Implementing legislation - Tasmania:

- Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995
- Nature Conservation Act 2002 and National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
- Whales Protection Act 1988
- Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
- Natural Resources Management Act 2002

Implementing legislation - Northern Territory:

- Fisheries Act 1988
- Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2007

Implementing legislation - Australian Capital Territory:

- Nature Conservation Act 1980

Implementing legislation (External Territories):

- Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act 1980
- Australian Antarctic Territory Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
- Antarctic Marine Living Resources Conservation Act 1981
- Christmas Island Act 1958
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Wild Animals and Birds Ordinance 1980
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
- Coral Sea Islands Territory Endangered Species Ordinance 1980
- Coral Sea Islands Territory Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
- Norfolk Island Endangered Species Act 1980
- Norfolk Island Migratory Birds Act 1980
- Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Endangered Species Ordinance 1980
- Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
- Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
- Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Environment Protection and Management Ordinance 1987

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section_IV_exceptions_Australia.xlsx](#) - Section IV - exceptions - Australia

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)

- >>> • Internet and social media relating to tracking of migratory bird within Australia and along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
- WetlandLink e-newsletters by Conservation Volunteers Australia, which included articles about their projects on migratory bird habitat and other relevant projects.
 - Migratory-bird focused events for World Wetlands Day.
 - Various publications regarding migratory birds and their habitats (see links).
- 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.

>>> CEPA - Communication, Capacity-building, Education, Participation and Awareness:

The Australian Government's Program on Communication, Capacity-building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) to support Ramsar obligations was established to help raise awareness of wetland values and functions. The CEPA Program calls for coordinated international and national wetland education, public awareness and communication. The Program also encourages the promotion of training in the fields of wetland research and management.

At Ramsar COP 14, a new CEPA approach was adopted which will see the integration of CEPA activities into the next Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2025-2030. The Australian Government will be updating its national CEPA plans to reflect this new approach.

World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. WWD was first celebrated in 1997. Since this time government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups across the world, including Australia, have celebrated World Wetlands Day by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

For World Wetlands Day and the fortieth anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, the Australian Government produced a primary school classroom kit. This activity kit includes a unit plan, fact sheets, a DVD, origami and subject book stickers.

The Australian Government produces a publication, Wetlands Australia - National Wetland Update. The

magazine aims to bring attention to Australia's achievements and continuing challenges in wetland conservation and wise use.

EAAFP – East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership:

In Australia, the EAAFP Flyway Site Network is recognised through interpretive materials such as signage, brochures and other publications. One example is Celebrating Australia's Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats. This publication showcases 24 East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership Flyway Sites in Australia, many of which are Ramsar sites, including Roebuck Bay in north-west Western Australia, Moreton Bay in Queensland, Logan Lagoon in Tasmania and Corner Inlet in Victoria. Flyway Network Sites may be designated regardless of tenure or protected status and several Australian sites are privately managed, e.g. by Indigenous communities. Along with migratory waterbirds, the Flyway Site Network also protects many Australian endemic, threatened and migratory species and threatened ecological communities.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999:

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) legislates a review of the state of the Australian environment every 5 years. Australia State of the Environment Report 2021 (SoE 2021) assesses the changing condition of Australia's natural environment across 12 themes: air quality, Antarctica, biodiversity, climate, coasts, extreme events, heritage, Indigenous, inland water, land, marine and urban. The SoE 2021 is designed to: help shape strategy, policy and action; influence behaviours of individuals, communities and businesses; and assist in assessing our actions as stewards of the Australian environment. The SoE 2021 report combines scientific, traditional and local knowledge to provide a rigorous, peer-reviewed assessment of every aspect of the environment.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority operates the Reef Guardian schools program. The program began in 2003 and aims to create awareness, understanding and appreciation for the Reef and its connected ecosystems.

During the whale migration season, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority publishes on its website and through social media - the need for Reef users to slow down and not approach whales too closely. This is to decrease likelihood of whale strike. For example, in the 2022 season, 13 social media posts about whales created 110,866 impressions, a reach of 132,276 and engagement of 8,229. The website's page about whales and dolphins had over a thousand views actioned by over a thousand users. The Reef Authority also had a specific media release for whale season.

New South Wales:

The NSW Government has delivered several actions to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats, and migration systems.

For migratory species, Wildlife Matters (an online education program) was developed to educate years K-12 on marine species facts which included migratory species listed in Appendix I and II.

The Organisation for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA) runs an annual whale census day which helps raise awareness of whales.

Social media posts and information web pages have also been used to educate the community on threatened marine species and notify if there are recent sightings of marine turtles nesting on beaches.

For migratory shorebirds, NSW Saving our Species social media campaigns and regional activities such as cinema advertisement, local signage, nest protection, engagement in schools, talking to beachgoers, artworks on buses, and local media releases and content packs were created to target community behavior and raise awareness of human disturbance on migratory shorebirds habitat. These efforts have occurred across the entire NSW coast, with some areas singled out for specific issues, such as Tuross Heads on the South Coast for recreational fishing and the Central/North Coast region for four-wheel-drive (4WD) users.

Community awareness – education, community engagement and social research - is carried out across coastal NSW to better understand the relationship between people, communities and sharks. The program involves:

- Partnerships
- Community forums
- Meetings
- Surveys
- Community drop-in stands
- Events
- School visits
- Media/social media

A Shark Smart app has been developed that contains the latest advice, alerts and information on sharks, as well as useful tips on reducing the risk of a shark encounter. A range of social research investigations have been undertaken to support shark management in NSW (see link below).

Western Australia:

The WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) website contains information on marine and threatened fauna along with information on protection measures such as minimum approach distances to whales, responsible whale watching and whale shark management program.

With regards to engagement, the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) liaises with commercial and recreational fishers, non-governmental organizations and produces special publications.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Whale Shark management - Ningaloo FINAL.pdf - Whale shark management program 2013

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

Shark Smart App

Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Program - The CEPA Programme calls for coordinated international and national wetland education, public awareness and communication. The Programme also encourages the promotion of training in the fields of wetland research and management.

Australian Government State of the Environment Report 2021 - Australian Government State of the Environment Report 2021

Whale and dolphin watching regulations - GBRMPA - Whale and dolphin watching regulations - GBRMPA

Look out for those below as heavy traffic hits the 'humpback highway' - 23Aug2022 - Look out for those below as heavy traffic hits the 'humpback highway'

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.

>>> New South Wales:

The Wildlife Matters (online education program) was recently released but has received positive feedback so far.

Saving our Species content targeting community behavior share through paid social media campaigns has reached over 1.8 million people that visit or live on NSW beaches.

In 2023, the 'Share the Shore' video content developed by Saving our Species received 42,000 organic (non-paid) views and 65% of local councils shared the content and key messages provided to them via the content packs.

Cinema ads on the south coast, which ran for the 2021 and 2022 seasons, reached around 15,000 - 20,000 people per year.

Social research underpins awareness and education programs for shark management in NSW, to improve extension and messaging and to inform policy and program development. For example, NSW is using social research about human behaviour and decision making processes to adapt messaging and communication outputs such as the SharkSmart app.

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

Reducing risk of human-shark interactions

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.

>>> Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (s209-223):

The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places —defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance. The nine matters of national environmental significance to which the EPBC Act applies are:

- migratory species
- world heritage properties
- national heritage places
- wetlands of international importance (often called 'Ramsar' wetlands after the international treaty under which such wetlands are listed)
- nationally threatened species and ecological communities
- Commonwealth marine areas
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining)
- a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

The EPBC Act comes into play when a proposal has the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. Once listed as a migratory species under the EPBC Act, irrespective of whether it is listed on Appendix I or II, it becomes an offence to kill, injure, take or move the species in Commonwealth waters.

In Australia, the environmental management of the offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas industries is regulated under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009. Under the Regulations, a document called an Environment Plan (EP) must be accepted by the regulator before an activity can commence. The Regulations require that the EP includes evaluations of all environmental impacts and risks of activities and demonstration that these impacts and risks are of an acceptable level and reduced to as low as reasonably practicable. The Regulations specifically require that consideration be given in an EP to the presence of listed migratory species under Australia's EPBC Act and that the EP demonstrates impacts and risks are of an acceptable level.

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 and Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030:

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 was superseded by Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030, which is now considered the relevant national strategy for migratory species. It prioritises building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate, with a specific focus upon maintaining ecosystem services and re-establishing ecosystem functions. The 2010-2030 Strategy was revised based upon a review of the first five years of the Strategy's operation, which identified several factors which have affected the Strategy's implementation and its success in delivering against its intent, including its governance, reporting and institutional frameworks; its ability to facilitate increased engagement in biodiversity conservation across society; and the effectiveness of the Strategy's design for prioritising and coordinating action. The outcome of the review was the development of Australia's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: "Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030".

The Strategy sets a national framework for government, non-government, and community action to strengthen Australia's response to biodiversity decline and care for nature in our many environments.

Threatened Species Action Plan:

The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032 superseded the Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 (detailed in Australia's previous CMS report) and aims to identify priority species and places, concrete actions, and practical and measurable targets to assess progress. The Action Plan maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places. The Action Plan 2022-2032 builds on the Action Plan 2021-2026 which was developed with input from experts, the community, natural resource

managers, scientists, conservation groups, and First Nations peoples. The critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew and the Green Turtle are listed as priority species. Other focus areas to reflect increased ambition and respond to some of the challenges identified in the 2021 State of the Environment report include:

- An objective to prevent new extinctions
- 14 new priority places announced in addition to six islands
- Commitment to protect and conserve more than 30% of Australia's land mass
- Increased participation of First Nations Peoples in the management and recovery of threatened species and threatened ecological communities
- Contemporary fit for purpose conservation planning approaches.
- Actions identified in Plan that can most benefit threatened species include: Tackling the impacts of feral cats, foxes and gamba grass as key threats to many threatened species; educating and empowering the community to participate and lead on recovery efforts; and improving the resilience and adaptive capacity of priority species to climate change.

Threatened Bird Index:

The Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program, The University of Queensland, and BirdLife Australia have established the Threatened Bird Index, which provides transparent and repeatable methods for quantifying population trends of Australia's waterbird populations through population indices, to track the overall health of these bird groups at a national and regional and local scales, and for use as indicators of wetland and coastal environments.

Biologically Important Areas (BIAs):

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is currently developing a Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol). The BIA Protocol will serve as an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environmental law. BIAs are a key consideration in the assessment of significant impacts and the development of approval conditions for marine projects referred under the EPBC Act. BIAs are not directly referenced in legislation and are used in research, conservation, and regional planning. The Protocol will provide guidance on the process for designation of BIAs under the updated framework.

Nature Positive Plan:

The Nature Positive Plan is the Australian government's response to the independent review of the EPBC Act and the State of the Environment Report. The aim of the Nature Positive Plan is to deliver reforms and laws that are nature positive, by restoring and recovering habitat and species with every environmental approval decision. The Nature Positive Plan is guided by three principles: (1) the need to better protect Australia's environment and prevent further extinctions; (2) the need to enable faster decision making and promoting sustainable economic development, as well as (3) committing to restoring public accountability and trust in environmental decision making through an independent Environment Protection Agency.

Marine turtles:

TurtleNet (Turtle Nesting Distribution Abundance and Migration) is an interactive atlas that shows nesting, courtship, feeding and migration routes of marine turtles at a global scale. TurtleNet was developed by Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) and CMS, and provides publicly-available data for stakeholders to use for reporting and decision-making actions.

The Department, in conjunction with other range states, contributed to the Hawksbill Single Species Action Plan through the CMS. The plan is underpinned by the IOSEA papers 'Assessment of the conservation status of the Hawksbill Turtle in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Region' and the 'Assessment of the conservation status of the Hawksbill Turtle in the Western Pacific Ocean Region'. The plan has a focus on addressing take and trade as a key threat.

State and Territory planning programs:

Migratory species matters also factor in various State and Territory planning programs, for example New South Wales: The NSW Government has developed a Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-28 which supports a range of projects to better understand and mitigate threats to marine species. Commencing in 2018, the NSW Government committed over \$180 million in new funding to the MEMS in 2022 which will see projects funded until 2028. The ten-year Marine Estate Management Strategy is in its fifth year, with \$30.7 million allocated to continue delivering close to 100 projects and enable the commencement of 10 new priority projects from 2022 to 2023.

The NSW Government has committed approximately \$30 million per annum over the next 6 years of the Strategy to deliver projects through June 2028.

The Strategy Implementation Plan 2022-24 outlines how we will reduce key threats facing our marine estate over a two-year period, and describes:

- the projects underway
- the agencies and partners delivering those projects
- when and where the projects will be delivered.

The NSW Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) (previously known as Office of Environment and Heritage Group) delivers the Saving our Species (SoS) program, under which several CMS Appendix I and II species (such as green and loggerhead turtles and southern right whale and migratory and beach-nesting birds) have been prioritised for investment within NSW priority sites.

Under the SoS framework, conservation strategies have been developed for these species. These outline the

critical threats and management actions needed to secure the species in NSW for 100 years. These strategies have been adopted and have received funding (more than \$1.1M) under the Program to deliver conservation projects for sea turtles and migratory and beach-nesting birds between 2016 and 2022, including:

- Developing and implementing the 'NSW TurtleWatch' citizen science program,
- providing advice on coastal development impacts on threatened species,
- maintaining signs and fencing and undertaking community liaison and law enforcement in mapped beach-nesting bird areas,
- restoring native beach vegetation,
- fox control, and
- monitoring.

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

[TurtleNet](#)

[Nature Positive Plan](#)

[Threatened Bird Index](#)

[Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031](#)

[Strategy for Nature 2019-2030](#)

[Saving our Species strategies](#) - Saving our Species strategies

[Saving our Species program](#) - Saving our Species program

[Strategy Implementation of the Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) - Strategy Implementation of the Marine Estate Management Strategy

[Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) - Marine Estate Management Strategy

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:

>>> All commercial fisheries with an export component are assessed under the EPBC Act. The assessments consider the impacts of the fishery on target and non-target species caught, and on the impacts of fishing on the broader marine environment, including on migratory species. Additionally, commercial fisheries operating in Commonwealth waters may also be assessed to determine the impacts of fishing operations on EPBC Act listed species, including migratory species. Conditions and/or recommendations may be placed on fisheries accreditations requiring actions to be taken within a specified period of time to improve the management of particular issues within the fishery, for example in relation to interactions with migratory species. Fisheries management agencies also monitor protected species interactions, including with EPBC Act listed migratory species, and report these to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Since the first fisheries assessments were completed in 2002 most fisheries have been assessed several times, and there have been significant improvements in the ecological sustainable management of these fisheries.

State and Territory-managed fisheries are also required to report interactions with protected species. For example, South Australia publishes fishery interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species (TEPS) annually. Similar processes are in place in Queensland where all commercial operators are required to report interactions with TEP species through a dedicated Species of Conservation Interest (SOCI) logbook. This information is used in a range of reporting systems including those linked to Wildlife Trade Operation approvals. NSW commercial fishers are also required to report interactions with TEP species via logbooks, and interactions are reported to the Commonwealth with respect to Wildlife Trade Operations. In addition to reporting threatened species interactions, Western Australia has specific whale entanglement mitigation measures in place for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (WCRLMF) and Octopus Interim Managed Fishery (OIMF); and bycatch reduction devices for turtles and dolphins are used in trawl fisheries. Fishery operations in the Northern Territory operate under agreed management arrangements that cover areas such as access, bycatch, reporting and monitoring.

Every 5 years, the Australian Government commissions an independent review of the state of the environment. The purpose of national state of the environment reporting is to:

- provide all Australians with authoritative information on the state of the environment that sustains our economy and wellbeing; and

- provide the Australian public, the Australian Government and other decision-makers responsible for managing our environment with an assessment of how effectively the Australian environment is being managed and what the key national environmental issues are.

The State of the Environment Report is grouped into themes. The Biodiversity theme summarises the condition of Australia's living resources and highlights the challenges of management in the context of human dependence on biodiversity for ecosystem services. A link to the 2021 report is provided below.

Australia undertakes national reporting on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets every four years, under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes reporting on safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; promoting sustainable use of biodiversity; enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and enhancing planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Every 5 years the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority also prepares an Outlook Report. This report provides an overview of the Great Barrier Reef: the current condition, use, factors influencing the condition, management effectiveness, resilience, risks to its future, and likely outlook. A link to the 2019 report is provided below.

<https://www.sharksmart.nsw.gov.au/shark-nets>

The NSW Shark Meshing Program (SMP) annual performance report for 2021/22 identified that the trigger point for the objective of "minimising the impact on non-target species and threatened species" was tripped for Leatherback Turtles and Green Turtles. The trigger points are precautionary measures as they relate to the number of entanglements, not the number of animals that die as a result of entanglement. The report (link below) makes a number of species specific and overarching recommendations for the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) going forward to minimise adverse interactions with the turtle species.

The NSW Game Fishing Association (NSWGFA) in affiliation with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) was established to govern and co-ordinate the sport of game fishing in New South Wales. NSWGFA aims to conserve game fish and food resources of NSW waters for the recreational and economic use of present and future generations. NSWGFA also encourages the research and study of recreational game fishing, the related species, and the habitat requirements of those species while also encouraging ethical angling rules, best practice catch and release techniques and the tag and release of all pelagic migratory fish and sharks. The Association has long been an active participant and proud supporter of the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program, the NSW Game Fish Monitoring Program, as well as many other research projects and studies. Since the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program's inception in 1973, over 504,000 pelagic game fish, including sharks, have been tagged and over 10,400 have been reported as recaptured in Australian waters. Incidental records of harm to CMS species are also collected by NSW – such as strandings/washed up carcasses of whale sharks.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority releases a statutory State of the Environment report every three years. The report outlines the status of key environmental issues facing NSW. Please see the 2021 NSW State of the Environment below. The NSW Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) also has many other reporting functions online. For example, the Saving our Species has a database that includes the conservation strategies for threatened marine species listed in Appendix I and II and a web page dedicated to report cards updating the progress on these projects annually (please see links below). The aims of the Marine Estate Management Strategy are reported online, and information about wildlife interactions and incidents can be accessed in Elements database. The objectives of the NSW coastal management framework are reported online.

Shark management relevant to CMS species (i.e. White Shark) in NSW during this period encompasses both the five-year 2015/16-2019/20 Shark Management Strategy (SMS) and the Shark Programs of 2020/21 and 2021/22. The Shark Programs (2020/21;2021/22) includes the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program (SMP) in metropolitan areas and a range of mitigation options to reduce unprovoked shark bite as identified through the five-year SMS trials and research program. The SMS arose in response to increasing incidence (since 2014) of shark bite (particularly from White Sharks) to surfers on the NSW Far North and Mid North coasts. The Shark Programs (2020/21;2021/22) represent a state-wide expansion and was developed based on findings from the SMS and community consultation.

The ongoing shark management program development was underpinned by an independent evaluation of the 2015-2021 shark management programs (see links to review, government response). The current program, the Shark Management Program (2022-2026) includes a number of components and can be viewed at the links below:

https://www.sharksmart.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1398267/Cardno-Report.PDF

https://www.sharksmart.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1398465/NSW-Govt-Response-to-Cardno-Report.pdf

Catches in the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program are also made publicly available via annual performance reports (link below). Catches on the SMART Drumlines are also available as annual reports. Similar processes are in place in Queensland where all commercial operators are required to report interactions with TEP species through a dedicated Threatened, Endangered and Animals Logbook.

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

[NSW Shark Meshing \(Bather Protection\) Program Annual Reports](#)

[NSW Shark Management Program 2022-26](#)

[NSW Shark Meshing \(Bather Protection\) 21/22](#)

State of Environment Report 2021

NSW State of the Environment 2021 report - NSW State of the Environment 2021 report

Saving our Species report cards

Saving our Species conservation strategies database - Saving our Species conservation strategies database

Wildlife interactions reporting across South Australian fisheries 20/21

Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019 - Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019

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

>>> National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat:

The Australian Government funded the development of the National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat with support from BirdLife Australia. The National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat identifies, and guides investment into the protection and restoration of, important migratory shorebird habitat around Australia. It builds community awareness and Indigenous knowledge, helps achieve the goals of the Australian Government's Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds and contributes to the implementation of Australia's international obligations to the conservation and management of migratory shorebirds. It is based on thousands of field surveys by volunteers and experts, millions of bird sightings and uses rigorous methodology to identify key sites, thus providing useful and objective guidance. BirdLife Australia:

BirdLife Australia is Australia's largest bird conservation organisation. BirdLife Australia aims to make a real and positive difference for Australia's birds. Its experience and specialised knowledge combined with its ability to unite and inspire the bird-loving community means that it can act quickly and decisively at local, state and national levels. For a comprehensive overview of BirdLife Australia's activities, see its website.

A number of wetlands (including Ramsar sites) are managed by non-government bodies, including the Hunter Estuary Ramsar site which is run by the Hunter Wetlands Centre and provides essential habitat for migratory birds and promotes various educational activities (see link below).

Raine Island Recovery Project:

Under the \$100 million Ocean Leadership Package, \$2 million was allocated to support Phase 2 of the Raine Island Recovery Project (RIRP). Raine Island supports the world's largest remaining green turtle population and the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Phase 2 of the RIRP aims to re-establish and maintain Raine Island as a viable island ecosystem that supports sustainable turtle populations of green turtles and seabirds through collaboration with Wuthathi and Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners. The RIRP is delivered by the Queensland Government in collaboration with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and Traditional Owners. For further information relating to Raine Island's recovery, see link provided below.

Reef Trust Partnership Program - Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program:

This Program supports reef-related activities conducted with Traditional Owners. The aim of the program is to prioritise critical monitoring needs, as well as early-stage development and prototyping of a Reef-wide decision-support system. Successful projects include marine turtle and dugong monitoring programs. For more information, please refer to the link provided below.

Conservation Volunteers Australia:

Conservation Volunteers Australia has partnered with individuals, businesses and governments in the conservation of the Australian environment since 1982. In that time, hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around Australia and across the world have participated in a diversity of important projects to protect and enhance the environment. For more information, please refer to: <https://conservationvolunteers.com.au/>.

WWF-Australia:

WWF-Australia is part of the WWF International Network, whose mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF-AU has been involved in a number of relevant projects during the reporting period. For further details, see the WWF Annual Report 2022.

The Northern Territory Seafood Council:

The Northern Territory Seafood Council (NTSC) is an incorporated association that represents the NT seafood industry's interests in a diverse range of forums at the Northern Territory level including regional Aboriginal fishery consultative committees, fishery management advisory committees, conferences and workshops on specific issues such as the environment and native title, formal parliamentary committees, individual government and non-government bodies and the media. The NT Seafood Council has developed a number of protected species factsheets that aim to provide fishers with information on the species and ways in which to mitigate bycatch and release safely if caught. The NTSC is also involved in the development of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) which are used for addressing issues or risks with potential to affect the environmental sustainability of a fishery. These documents outline where there are risks of interacting with protected species, and how to mitigate these risks.

New South Wales:

In NSW, the Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) coordinates conservation programs for threatened migratory shorebirds in partnership with non-government organisations such as BirdLife Australia, the Australasian Wader Study Group, Hastings Bird Watchers Group, Hunter Bird Observers Club, Conservation

Volunteers Australia, and South Coast Shorebirds. This includes habitat restoration, species monitoring and community engagement and awareness.

For threatened migratory marine species, The NSW Government provides licenses and training to Australian Seabirds and Turtle Rescue, Dolphin Marine Rescue, Sea World Foundation and veterinarians to respond atypic marine and fauna stranding events to ensure welfare culture and scientific outcomes are optimised.

The NSW Government has also partnered with Dolphin Research Australia to do a desktop analysis on habitat use of the dugong and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin.

Taronga Conservation Society (Australian Registry of Wildlife Health) assists NSW Government helped with determining cause of death in stranded migratory marine animals through post-mortem investigation.

Organisation for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA) runs an annual whale census day which helps raise awareness to whales.

Under the Saving our Species program, NSW TurtleWatch engages volunteers from local communities in northern NSW to gather observational information on the presence of nesting green and loggerhead turtles. The project is delivered in a partnership between the NSW Government and Australian Seabirds and Turtle Rescue.

The NSW Game Fishing Association was established to govern and co-ordinate the sport of game fishing in New South Wales. It aims to conserve game fish and food fish resources of NSW waters for the recreational and economic use of present and future generations. The Association also encourages the study of game fish angling, the related species and the habitat requirements of such species and assists in the maintenance of the ecological balance of the waters. The Association encourages the tag and release of all pelagic migratory fish, and provides data to the NSW Fisheries Tag Program, which is recognised as one of the largest and best in the world. Since the program was started in 1973, over 460,000 pelagic game fish, including sharks, have been tagged and over 8,000 have been recaptured in Australian waters. CMS-listed species that have been tagged and released during the reporting period include white shark, makos, porbeagles and thresher sharks.

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

[National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat](#)

[WWF Annual Report 2022](#)

[Conservation Volunteers Australia](#)

[Reef Trust Partnership Program - Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program](#)

[Hunter Wetlands Centre](#)

[BirdLife Australia](#)

[Raine Island Recovery Project - GBRF page](#)

[Raine Island Recovery Project - QLD page](#)

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

>>> The Threatened Species Prospectus:

The Threatened Species Prospectus invites the business, industry and philanthropic sectors to join us in the battle to prevent further extinctions. It includes more than 50 projects that have been scientifically assessed by the Threatened Species Commissioner, in consultation with Australian's who are saving species on the ground across the country. See link provided for further information.

Marine turtles:

The Raine Island Recovery Project is a collaboration between the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Wuthathi and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners. Raine Island supports the world's largest remaining green turtle population and the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. For further information relating to Raine Island's recovery, see link provided above.

Sharks

Australia has a Shark Representatives Group that oversees implementation of NPOA Sharks - this group includes non-government representatives.

New South Wales:

In NSW, corporate organisations such as Port Waratah Coal Services and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group are involved in the conservation of migratory shorebirds in the Hunter and Port Stephens estuaries through grants to bird watching groups to assist with bird surveys, site-management, including fencing, pest control and rehabilitation, and community awareness programs.

The NSW Government works with organisations such as NSW Water Police and Sea World on wildlife interactions such as strandings, disentanglements, and haul-outs.

NSW Government also works with Southern Cross University to look at nearshore habitat use by migratory marine species and the impacts of different anthropogenic pollutant levels on sea turtles' health; and with Griffith University to investigate emerging techniques to assess the health of stranded marine species. NSW Government has also worked with Monash University to develop species distribution models and population viability assessment.

Victoria:

Melbourne Water manages the Port Phillip Bay Ramsar site and the Edithvale-Seaford Ramsar site to benefit

migratory waterbirds. The organisation also undertakes education and training activities. See the link provided below for further information.

Western Australia:

In Western Australia, DPIRD liaises with universities, environmental consultancies and the resource sector (oil and gas) regarding species conservation.

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

Melbourne Water

Threatened Species Prospectus

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.

>>>

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.

>>>

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>>

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:

>>> The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act):

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) legislates a review of the state of the Australian environment every 5 years. Australia State of the Environment Report 2021 (SoE 2021) assesses the changing condition of Australia's natural environment across 12 themes: air quality, Antarctica, biodiversity, climate, coasts, extreme events, heritage, Indigenous, inland water, land, marine and urban. The SoE 2021 is designed to: help shape strategy, policy and action; influence behaviours of individuals, communities and businesses; and assist in assessing our actions as stewards of the Australian environment. The SoE 2021 report combines scientific, traditional and local knowledge to provide a rigorous, peer-reviewed assessment of every aspect of the environment.

EPBC Act Reform Priorities:

The Australian Government has committed to developing National Environmental Standards, establishing an independent Environmental Protection Agency, improving environmental data and information, regional planning, environmental offsets reform, improving conservation planning arrangements and working with First Nations partners. Each priority is briefly described below.

1. National Environmental Standards - Standards will improve environmental protections and guide decision-making by setting clear, demonstrable outcomes for regulated activities under the new Act. The initial standards for development will cover:

- a) Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)
- b) First Nations engagement and participation in decision-making
- c) regional planning
- d) community engagement
- e) environmental offsets

2. An independent Environment Protection Agency - The Government has committed to establishing an independent Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to provide assurance and restore public trust in our national environmental law. The EPA will be resourced and empowered to ensure compliance and enforcement under the new EPBC Act. It will be responsible for project assessments, decisions, post-approvals and for assuring the operations of states, territories and other Commonwealth decisions-makers under accreditation arrangements.

3. Improving environmental data and information - A new Data Division will improve the availability, access and quality of environmental information to underpin these reforms. It will also ensure we can track, understand and adapt to changes in our environment.

4. Regional planning - The Regional Planning Initiative is a key Government commitment to help restore, protect and manage the environment. Regional planning will enable better and faster decision-making under the EPBC Act.

5. Environmental offsets reform - The Government will reform offset arrangements to ensure they deliver gains for the environment and reduce delays for project developers. A National Environmental Standard for environmental offsets will be made under law to provide certainty and confidence in its application.

6. Improving conservation planning arrangements - An improved national conservation planning framework for species and places will be underpinned by National Environmental Standards. It will prioritise on-the-ground action based on the latest science.

7. Working with First Nations partners - The role of First Nations partnerships will be enhanced to give First Nations peoples a stronger voice in Australia's system of environmental protection, including new standalone First Nations cultural heritage protection laws. In 2022, the Minister for the Environment and Water extended and expanded a Partnership Agreement with the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance, to work in a genuine co-design partnership with the Alliance and communities to reform our cultural heritage laws.

8. Next steps - The department will be working closely with stakeholders and partners during the first half of 2023 to develop a package of new national environmental legislation to implement the Government's reform

priorities.

Nature repair market:

The Australian Government is also developing a nature repair market to encourage investment in biodiversity and drive environmental improvements across Australia. Companies are looking at ways to achieve positive outcomes for nature through their investments but a national framework to facilitate that investment is not yet in place. The market will be underpinned by legislation – the Nature Repair Market Bill (the Bill). This will enable landholders who protect, manage or restore local habitat and to receive biodiversity certificates which can then be sold to other parties. It will ensure the integrity of biodiversity certificates so the market can invest with confidence.

Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds and changes to conservation planning:

The Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds was made under the EPBC Act on 15 January 2015, and will sunset on 1 April 2026. In addition to the wildlife conservation plan, comprehensive Conservation Advices have been approved for those shorebird species/subspecies that are listed as threatened to support recovery actions. A review of the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds in 2021 concluded that it should be updated once the 15 migratory shorebird listing assessments have been finalised. Draft listing assessments and conservation advices have been prepared by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to incorporate new information outlined in The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020.

Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 and Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032:

The Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031, which was detailed in Australia's previous CMS report, was superseded by the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032. The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032 maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places. The Action Plan 2022-2032 builds on the Action Plan 2021-2026 which was developed with input from experts, the community, natural resource managers, scientists, conservation groups, and First Nations peoples.

Biologically Important Areas (BIAs):

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is currently developing a Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol). The BIA Protocol will serve as an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environmental law. BIAs are a key consideration in the assessment of significant impacts and the development of approval conditions for marine projects referred under the EPBC Act. BIAs are not directly referenced in legislation and are used in research, conservation, and regional planning. The Protocol will provide guidance on the process for designation of BIAs under the updated framework.

Nature Positive Plan:

The Nature Positive Plan is the Australian government's response to the independent review of the EPBC Act and the State of the Environment Report. The aim of the Nature Positive Plan is to deliver reforms and laws that are nature positive, by restoring and recovering habitat and species with every environmental approval decision. The Nature Positive Plan is guided by three principles: (1) the need to better protect Australia's environment and prevent further extinctions; (2) the need to enable faster decision making and promoting sustainable economic development, as well as (3) committing to restoring public accountability and trust in environmental decision making through an independent Environment Protection Agency. Please refer to the Nature Positive Plan for further information.

The International Whaling Commission:

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) reviewed its governance arrangements and is implementing governance reforms. In the longer term, a more efficient organisation will benefit the management and conservation of cetaceans.

Data management platform:

In addition to legislative reform, the Australian Government recognises that better conservation planning for species protection requires more strategic financial investment in protection measures and better management of data. The government will pursue a modern data management platform that enables efficient production of conservation planning documents that are more accessible, searchable and informative. This system will be designed to better identify and target action on threats to biodiversity, and to direct investment in protection and recovery action where it is needed most and will have the biggest impact. This platform will in turn be informed by, and guide, the delivery of Australian Government conservation programs and the efforts of conservation managers and stakeholders, notably state and territory governments, recovery teams, conservation groups, the scientific community and First Nations organisations.

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

[Threatened Species Action Plan 2021-26](#)

[Nature Positive Plan](#)

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

>>> The process is ongoing.

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 related 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:

>>> Australian Government:

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water consults with key stakeholders, including relevant Commonwealth departments, State and Territory environment and primary industries counterpart agencies, environmental non-government organisations (NGOs) and commercial and recreational fishing stakeholders, on CMS issues. This consultation occurs regularly in the period leading up to a Conference of Parties and following decisions of the COP to consult and advise on government implementation. Consultation takes the form of email communications, meetings, and teleconferences with interested organisations. Australia's focal contacts for CMS and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, such as the International Whaling Commission, engage as required to coordinate approaches to issues concerning the conservation of migratory species. The Australian Government also organises an annual meeting on marine turtles (Marine Turtle Round Table) and cetaceans (Cetacean Round Table). These meetings actively engage relevant State and Territory management agencies, such as NSW OEH, in discussions on domestic issues related to the conservation of marine turtles and cetaceans in Australia.

National Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan:

The Steering Committee for the implementation of the National Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan has been developed by a broad range of stakeholders that are working in shorebird conservation and management across Australia and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The Steering Committee oversees the action plan and has representation from Commonwealth and state environment agencies, including NSW Environment and Heritage Group (EHG), research institutions and conservation organisations.

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:

>>> The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has regular meetings that comprise focal points from CMS, CITES and CBD to share knowledge, facilitate synergies and coordinate work

streams.

The Departmental Migratory Birds National Focal Point attends meetings of the Ramsar National Committee (Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub-committee). This sub-committee facilitates cooperative action relating to the development of policy and guidelines, as well as community engagement activities, including publications.

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:

>>> The Australian Government:

The Australian Government has released a number of policies that encourage community involvement in the conservation of migratory species. Many of these policies are provided (either through attachment or links) in other sections of this report.

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) has provisions to involve communities, including Indigenous people, in research and monitoring, including of migratory species.

The Australian Government has been supporting indigenous ranger projects to create meaningful employment, training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and sea management. Indigenous ranger projects were first funded in 2007 through the former Working on Country program. The program has created more than 2,100 full-time, part-time and casual jobs in land and sea management around the country, providing meaningful employment, training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Indigenous ranger projects support Indigenous people to combine traditional knowledge with conservation training to protect and manage their land, sea and culture. This includes activities such as bushfire mitigation, protection of threatened species, and biosecurity compliance. Indigenous ranger groups also develop partnerships with research, education, philanthropic and commercial organisations to share skills and knowledge, engage with schools, and generate additional income and jobs in the environmental, biosecurity, heritage and other sectors.

The extension of the Indigenous Rangers Program from 2021 to 2028 was announced on 10 March 2020. More than \$746 million will now be provided to 80 Indigenous ranger organisations over seven years to 2028. Funding will continue support for more than 1,900 Indigenous jobs and allow ranger groups to be more strategic with their land and sea country management. See link below for further information.

New South Wales:

The NSW Government has adopted several initiatives that promote community involvement in conservation of threatened migratory species:

- The Marine Estate Management Strategy recommends that industry, stakeholders, community and researchers contributes to the management of the marine estate through, for example, on-ground works projects to rehabilitate coastal habitats and riparian vegetation; formal research, education and citizen science programs; volunteer work; advising government during community engagement processes; working on advisory committees with natural resource managers; or simple activities such as picking up litter on daily walks.

- The Saving our Species program and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have strategies in place that seeks volunteer involvement to help with the conservation of NSW threatened migratory shorebirds.

Northern Territory:

The Fisheries Act 1988 for the Northern Territory has been amended to acknowledge the rights and interests of Aboriginal people and resources of significance to Aboriginal people and to promote opportunities for Aboriginal people to benefit economically from aquatic resources. The changes to the objectives of the Act are part of the Governments commitments under the Blue Mud Bay Implementation Action Plan.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:

The Raine Island Recovery Project is a collaboration between the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Wuthathi and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners. Raine Island supports the world's largest remaining green turtle population and the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. For further information relating to Raine Island's recovery, see link provided below.

South Australia:

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaityi Pangkara Management Plan was adopted in 2020 covering critical habitat within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Flyway Site along the central and northern shores of Gulf St Vincent. This area represents high value habitat for shorebirds migrating along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway. The plan aims to manage the area for migratory shorebird habitat inclusive of the Kurna people's knowledge and connection with Country and maintain public access while improving visitor awareness of the global significance of the park for migratory birds. See link provided below for further information.

In 2022, the South Australian Recovery Plan for the eastern osprey and white-bellied sea eagle was released with the goal of increasing the number of breeding pairs from their current levels by 2030. Recovery actions include reducing disturbance, addressing mortality, and establishing management processes. Communicating with First Nations people and the wider community is essential to improving awareness and fostering involvement in the implementation of recovery actions.

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

[Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle Recovery Plan](#)

[Australian International Bird Sanctuary](#)

[Indigenous Rangers Program](#)

[Raine Island Recovery Project - GBRFpage](#)

[Raine Island Recovery Project - QLD page](#)

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.

>>>

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

>>> Traditional use of marine resources agreements (TUMRAs) under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 aim to set sustainable harvest of species.

South Australia:

In 2021, the South Australian Government implemented large reforms to the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery, which is the State's largest and most diverse fishery and has access to a wide range of marine fish and shark species. The reforms included the introduction of four management zones; move to quota management under total allowable commercial catches (TACCs) for the four priority species and removal of 100 licences through a voluntary licence surrender program. The reforms are expected to improve the long-term economic and environmental performance of the fishery. As part of the reform, the multi-sector and independently chaired Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the management of the shared-access fishery. Various fishery management plans have also been updated in the period which all aim to achieve the objectives of the Fisheries Management Act 2007.

Queensland:

Queensland has implemented a broad range of initiatives as part of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017 - 2027. The Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 was implemented in 2017 and outlines the government's reform agenda for the next decade. The Strategy outlines 33 actions to be delivered across 10 reform areas that include (among others) harvest strategies, sustainable catch limits and ecological risk assessments. Harvest strategies have been established under this strategy for key fisheries including those that may retain migratory species for sale (e.g., sharks). The harvest strategies are supported by assessments that examine the risk poses to a wide range of species and ecological components.

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		N/A
Illegal trade		N/A
Other harvesting and take	marine sharks and rays	3
Illegal hunting		N/A
Legal hunting	marine turtles, dugong	3

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

>>> Australia is providing support to the CMS Secretariat for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, with its terms of reference calling for collaboration with the EAAFP.

This Intergovernmental Task Force will complement the Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in the EAAF. Noting that the EAAFP task force focuses only on waterbirds, the MOP10 decision mandated the task force to explore with CMS and other frameworks to extend the scope to other migratory bird species and geographic regions, particularly noting that cooperation with CMS would be valuable, as CMS covers a wider variety of taxonomic groups of birds such as landbirds and raptors, which are currently outside of the scope of the EAAFP.

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 Offences 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

	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
Other forms of unintentional taking		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	3	migratory shorebirds
Bycatch	2	marine turtles, albatrosses and petrels, sharks and rays

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).

>>>

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).

>>> NSW Environment and Heritage staff have observed migratory shorebirds caught in discarded fishing gear on beaches.

NSW Environment and Heritage staff have identified bycatch numbers of marine turtles have increased as can be seen in the public register of bycatch.

Collisions and electrocution

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Electrocution		N/A
Other collisions	cetaceans, marine turtles, dugong, whale shark	Ship strike - 3
Wind turbines	migratory birds	2

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

>>>

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

[Impacts on birds from offshore wind farms in Australia 2022 Keith Reid, G. Barry Baker and Eric Woehler - Impacts on birds from offshore wind farms in Australia 2022](#)

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

	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
Disease	3	turtles, migratory birds, cetaceans
Accidental/indirect poisoning	N/A	
Unexplained stranding events	2	dugong, turtles, cetaceans, pristidae
Predation	unquantified	turtles, migratory shorebirds

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

>>> EPBC Act:

The EPBC Act provides for the identification and listing of key threatening processes and the development and implementation of threat abatement plans. These plans help to guide and coordinate Australia's response to key threatening processes. A threatening process is defined as a key threatening process if it threatens or may threaten the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community. For example, incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations' is listed as a key threatening process as it threatens albatross, petrels and shearwaters in Australian waters where the fishing practice is undertaken. Other relevant listed key threatening processes include:

- Injury and fatality to vertebrate marine life caused by ingestion of, or entanglement in, harmful marine debris
- Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants
- Predation by feral cats
- Predation by exotic rats on Australian offshore islands of less than 1000 km² (100,000 ha)

New South Wales:

- Camera monitoring was implemented to detect the presence/absence of introduced predators at key nesting sites for Little Terns. The results of the monitoring surveys are used to inform pest control programs during the breeding season for Little Terns.
- Little Tern Nesting Predation Research Trial was undertaken by the University of Newcastle to determine how avian predators view and detect Little Tern eggs. The aim of this research is to provide information to help develop management measures to prevent avian predation on Little Tern eggs and chicks.
- Over the last 20 seasons, the Little Tern fledging rate at sites subject to best-practice fox control was 52% higher than at other sites.

Sharks:

Recent study showed that external tagging, biopsies, or deterrent trials do not affect short- and long-term residency or abundance of white sharks, probably owing to the research activities being minimally intrusive and to sharks having efficient immune systems and remarkable ability to heal from injuries.

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).

>>> There is ongoing evidence of predation by foxes of Little Terns nesting on beaches in NSW where predator controls are ineffective as well as frequent disturbance from domestic dogs.

Alien and/or invasive species

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

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

>>>

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

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

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

- >>>
- Temporary fencing and signage installed to control access to Little Tern nesting areas along the NSW coast where there is high visitation.
 - Community awareness events, social media, radio interviews and online newsletters provided information on human disturbances on migratory shorebirds and beach-nesting birds (targeting visitors driving vehicles on the beach).

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

	Species/species groups affected (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
Other pollution		
Underwater noise	cetaceans, dugong, marine turtles	3
Light pollution	Marine turtles, migratory birds	3
Marine debris (including plastics)	all species for which Australia is a range state	2

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

- >>>
- National light pollution guidelines have been developed for wildlife, including marine turtles, seabirds, and migratory shorebirds, and were further adopted by CMS in 2020. These Guidelines provide users with the

theoretical, technical and practical information required to assess if artificial lighting is likely to affect wildlife and the management tools to minimise and mitigate that affect. These techniques can be applied regardless of scale, from small, domestic projects to large-scale industrial developments. Additional appendices have been created for terrestrial species.

Light audits e.g., sky glow assessments at areas that are biologically significant for migratory marine species, have been implemented as a result.

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

National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds - The guidelines raise awareness of the impacts of artificial light on wildlife. They can help you protect Australia's threatened wildlife. The guidelines provide: a framework for how to assess and manage the light pollution impacts on protected wildlife detailed guidance for how to manage artificial light specific advice on how to protect marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds.

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

	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
Physical barriers		N/A
Fire		N/A
Too much/too little water	birds	3
Urbanization	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Unsustainable land/resource use	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Mineral exploration/extraction	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Habitat degradation	birds, marine turtles, dugong	3
Habitat loss/destruction (including deforestation)	birds, marine turtles, dugong	2

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

>>>

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	All species for which Australia is a range state

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

>>> A range of contemporary information on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands is available.

Australia's National Environmental Science Program Climate Systems Hub is undertaking research to advance the understanding of Australia's climate, its extremes and associated drivers, including the fundamental drivers of rainfall, drought and bushfires, to inform climate adaptation solutions for Australia. The Climate Systems Hub is:

- maintaining Australia's world-class capability in multidisciplinary Earth-system science and modelling
- advancing understanding of Australia's climate variability, extremes and associated drivers, including the fundamental drivers of bushfires, drought and rainfall in the Australian region
- developing applied decision-making tools and information to inform policy and programs to prepare Australia to manage emerging risks and opportunities.

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	3	migratory shorebirds, marine turtles, dugong, cetaceans
Lack of knowledge	3	cetaceans, marine turtles
Inadequate legislation	N/A	
Inadequate transboundary management	N/A	

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

>>> Please refer to section IV (Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes) for a detailed overview on the strategies and planning processes to advance levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, and management.

Sharks:

Recent study showed that external tagging, biopsies, or deterrent trials do not affect short- and long-term residency or abundance of white sharks, probably owing to the research activities being minimally intrusive and to sharks having efficient immune systems and remarkable ability to heal from injuries.

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

[Short-term response of research activities on white shark behaviour](#) - Study - Short-term response of research activities on white shark behaviour

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
	2 - mangrove encroachment on saltmarsh mudflats	migratory shorebirds

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:

>>> See documents attached throughout this section.

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)
	Removal from the Threatened species list Feb 2022	Listing advice in hyperlink	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Megaptera novaeangliae (Humpback whale) Appendix I

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

[Listing Advice for Humpback whale \(delisting\)](#) - Listing Advice for Humpback whale (delisting)

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)

>>> Australia is supporting implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew through funding of surveys in Malaysia and research into the level of take in the Russian Far East, as well as domestic research on the species.

Australia participated in regional workshops held by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to support the conservation and management of threatened and migratory marine species. Seabirds in Pacific Islands region are highly threatened with 11 of the 40 breeding species threatened with extinction, but knowledge of the location, distribution and populations of many remain unknown. Workshops resulted in SPREP developing strategic guidance for the migratory marine species, including migratory seabirds, in the Regional Marine Species Programme and Action Plans.

Australia participated in consultative meeting of the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), the China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA) between 31 October and 2 November 2022.

For 40 years Australia has played an important role in international cooperation to conserve migratory birds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, entering into bilateral migratory bird agreements with Japan in 1974, China in 1986 and the Republic of Korea in 2007. Each of these legally-binding agreements provide for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their important habitats, protection from take or trade, information exchange and cooperation in research and management action. Birds listed under these three bilateral agreements, together with those listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), must also be included in the migratory species list under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and are therefore Matters of National Environmental Significance.

The three bilateral meetings were very successful – the commitment to collaborative and practical action on protection of shared migratory birds in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway was clear in the very enthusiastic dialogue. Updates on new and innovative research conducted since the last meetings in 2018 were discussed. Threats and management actions for high priority species (e.g., Far Eastern Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit) were explored and a joint workplan for 2022-2024 was agreed.

Australia also used this opportunity to highlight priorities for the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership 11th Meeting of Partners – co-hosted by Australia and Birdlife Australia in Brisbane in March 2023. See link provided below for further information on MOP11.

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

[11th Meeting of Partners to the EAAFP](#)

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:

>>> Resolution 12.17 on South Atlantic whales requests cooperation between the CMS Scientific Council and the IWC Scientific Committee to review existing data and identify opportunities for expansion of this work. There is a significant amount of collaboration between the CMS and IWC under a memorandum of understanding. Further collaboration between the IWC and CMS on joint areas of work has been recommended through the independent governance review of the IWC. Australia is supportive of efforts to ensure effective collaboration and streamlining of work between these bodies.

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

Please provide details:

>>> Close collaboration with the Australian Convention on Biological Diversity focal point assisted in the successful inclusion of ecological connectivity, and a range of other issues that affect migratory species, in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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?

>>> Continuing identification of Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance and East Asian-Australasian Flyway sites.

Australia currently has 66 Ramsar wetlands listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (the Directory) identifies nationally important wetlands, and provides a substantial knowledge base of what defines wetlands, their variety, and the many flora and fauna species that depend on them. The Directory is at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database/directory-important-wetlands>. However, it has not been updated since 2006. To address this, the Australian Government is developing a National Wetlands Inventory that will document and classify Australia’s wetlands, including their condition and environmental values.

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

Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention - Australia currently has 66 Ramsar wetlands listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

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:

>>> The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report is produced every five years and assesses the condition and trend of species and habitats.

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

Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019 - Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019

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 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:

>>> Australia has established a number of tools and mechanisms to support planning, management and evaluation of Ramsar sites, including the Ramsar Management Principles (part of the EPBC Regulations), regular reporting by jurisdictions on the status of their Ramsar sites, the Management Effectiveness Framework and various National Park and Protected Area planning processes at the Commonwealth and state/territory levels.

As part of the five-yearly Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, an independent assessment of management effectiveness is undertaken in accordance with the IUCN framework.

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:

>>> The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is currently developing a Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol). The BIA Protocol will serve as an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environmental law. BIAs are a key consideration in the assessment of significant impacts and the development of approval conditions for marine projects referred under the EPBC Act. BIAs are not directly referenced in legislation and are used in research, conservation, and regional planning. The Protocol will provide guidance on the process for designation of BIAs under the updated framework.

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

>>>

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):

>>>

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

>>> The Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia is a national plan which aims to aid in the recovery of six of the world's seven species of marine turtles. These species are the: loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), flatback (*Natator depressus*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles.

The plan considers the conservation requirements of the species across their range and identifies the actions to be taken to ensure the species long-term viability in nature, including the conservation of genetic stocks, and the mechanisms to undertake those actions. See link provided for further information.

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

[Marine Turtle Recovery Plan](#)

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

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

[Australia's Strategy for Nature](#)

a. Please provide a link to or attachment of the strategy/action plan

>>>

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

[Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds](#) - This Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds outlines national activities to support seabird conservation initiatives and provides a strategic framework to ensure these activities plus future research and management actions are integrated and remain focused on the long-term survival of seabird populations and their habitats. The Plan outlines the statutory elements as legislated by the EPBC Act by addressing topics relevant to the conservation of seabirds, including a summary of Australia's commitments under international conventions and agreements.

[Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds](#) - A wildlife conservation plan sets out the research and management actions necessary to support survival of one or more migratory, marine, conservation dependant or cetacean species listed under the EPBC Act, which are not considered endangered or vulnerable, but would benefit from a nationally coordinated approach to their conservation. This is the second Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds developed under the EPBC Act.

[Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032](#) - The Threatened Species Action Plan maps a pathway to recovery for our nation's threatened wildlife, spanning terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments. It presents a vision to drive practical on-ground efforts and identifies critical action for the recovery of threatened species and ecological communities guided by experts and the Australian Public.

[Marine Estate Management Strategy](#)

[Saving our Species Conservation Strategy database](#)

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.

>>> Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 and Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032:

The Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031, which was detailed in Australia's previous CMS report, was superseded by the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032. The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032 maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places. The Action Plan 2022-2032 builds on the Action Plan 2021-2026 which was developed with input from experts, the community, natural resource managers, scientists, conservation groups, and First Nations peoples. For more information on the Action Plan, please refer to:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/action-plan>.

The critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew, the green turtle, and the olive ridley turtle are listed as a priority species, with the objective to improve the conservation status and trajectory of these species. Raine Island was also listed as a 'priority place', with the objective of improving the condition of this habitat for marine turtles. Other focus areas to reflect increased ambition and respond to some of the challenges identified in the 2022 State of the Environment report include:

- An objective to prevent new extinctions
- 14 new priority places announced in addition to six islands
- Commitment to protect and conserve more than 30% of Australia's land mass
- Increased participation of First Nations Peoples in the management and recovery of threatened species and threatened ecological communities
- Contemporary fit for purpose conservation planning approaches.
- Actions identified in Plan that can most benefit threatened species include:
- Tackling the impacts of feral cats, foxes and gamba grass as key threats to many threatened species
- Educating and empowering the community to participate and lead on recovery efforts

- Improving the resilience and adaptive capacity of priority species to climate change.

The Australian Government also develops and implements domestic conservation planning documents for threatened and migratory species. Recovery plans and conservation advice provide for recovery actions to support the survival of threatened species, such as Far Eastern Curlew and Christmas Island Frigatebird (see below). Wildlife conservation plans provide a national framework to support research and management of listed migratory species. Two wildlife conservation plans exist under the EPBC Act that are relevant to the EAAFP, the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (35 species) and the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds (76 species).

Recovery Plans and National Guidelines:

The Christmas Island Frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*) is a globally threatened seabird with a small population which breeds on only one island (Christmas Island, Australia). The species population size is considered to be declining. The Single Species Action Plan has been developed to coordinate and enhance conservation efforts for the Christmas Island Frigatebird across its entire range. The plan includes a biological assessment of the species, identification and prioritisation of threats, a review of current policies and legislation relevant for management and also priority management and research actions. The draft Single Species Action Plan for the Christmas Island Frigatebird was provided to the CMS Secretariat and Scientific Council for review in July 2022. The Single Species Action Plan was presented to Partners of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership in March 2023 and was adopted. The Plan will be submitted to the 14th Conference of Parties of CMS in October 2023 for endorsement.

The Department, in conjunction with other range states, contributed to the Hawksbill Single Species Action Plan through CMS. The plan is underpinned by the IOSEA papers 'Assessment of the conservation status of the Hawksbill Turtle in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Region' and the 'Assessment of the conservation status of the Hawksbill Turtle in the Western Pacific Ocean Region'. The plan has a focus on addressing take and trade as a key threat.

Australia has also been developing National Guidelines for the Survey of Cetaceans, Marine Turtles and the Dugong. This document is expected to be published in June/July 2023.

The CMS is referenced as an acknowledged element of the framework of international obligations under which Australia operates.

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 and Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030:

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 was superseded by Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030, which is now considered the relevant national strategy for migratory species. It prioritises building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate, with a specific focus upon maintaining ecosystem services and re-establishing ecosystem functions. The 2010-2030 Strategy was revised based upon a review of the first five years of the Strategy's operation, which identified several factors which have affected the Strategy's implementation and its success in delivering against its intent, including its governance, reporting and institutional frameworks; its ability to facilitate increased engagement in biodiversity conservation across society; and the effectiveness of the Strategy's design for prioritising and coordinating action. The outcome of the review was the development of Australia's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: "Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030". The Strategy sets a national framework for government, non-government, and community action to strengthen Australia's response to biodiversity decline and care for nature in our many environments. The Strategy can be found under:

<https://www.australiasnaturehub.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/australias-strategy-for-nature.pdf>

Marine Estate Management Act 2014:

The Marine Estate Management Act 2014 provides for strategic and integrated management of the whole marine estate – our marine waters, coasts, and estuaries. The Strategy is a requirement of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014. It aims to address the state-wide priority threats to the environment as well as threats to community benefits, we derive from the marine estate. It sets out nine initiatives and the actions needed to deliver improved, evidence-based management of our marine estate. The fifth initiative focuses on reducing impacts on threatened and protected marine species which includes CMS-listed species.

New South Wales Biodiversity Conservation Program:

In NSW, the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 commenced in 2017. Under the Act, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Program outlines strategies for assisting threatened species, populations and ecological communities. The Biodiversity Conservation Program consists of:

- strategies to achieve the program's objectives in relation to each threatened species and threatened ecological community
- a framework to guide the setting of priorities for implementing the strategies
- a process for monitoring and reporting on the program's overall outcomes and effectiveness.

Through the Biodiversity Conservation Program, the Saving our Species program implements strategies through its conservation strategies. Conservation of migratory species, such as shorebirds and sea turtles, is explicitly addressed in the strategies. The Saving our Species Database provides a public register of strategies included in the Biodiversity Conservation Program.

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

>>> Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 was revised in 2019 and was superseded by Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030.

In NSW, the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Marine Estate Management Strategy is currently

being reviewed.

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

>>>

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).

>>> Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to have a cultural responsibility of stewardship - making rules, administering resources, and managing the environment according to Indigenous values, knowledges and practices - for environment and wildlife including many of Australia's Flyway Network Sites. More information on local Indigenous community relationship with Australia's natural resources is provided in Australia's State of the Environment Report 2021. See link below for further information. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have strong connections with the natural resources of habitats and corridors of migratory species (e.g., Flyway Network Sites) and embed sustainability in cultural practices through traditional hunting, harvesting, and management of plants and animals. For example, the collaboration with Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, a Traditional Fishing Agreement has been co-developed with the Government of South Australia. The aim of this collaboration was to build a framework that: recognises and preserves cultural rights, interest, and knowledge of traditional fishing; supports the sustainability of South Australia's aquatic resources. The linked agreement was signed in February 2021. In Western Australia, the commencement of Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 further strengthened involvement, engagement and indigenous and/or customary resource allocation. The Indigenous Ranger Program:

The Indigenous Ranger Program supports Indigenous people to combine traditional knowledge with conservation training to protect and manage their land, sea and culture, including participating in the research and monitoring of migratory species and their habitats. Indigenous ranger groups also develop partnerships with research, education, philanthropic and commercial organisations to share skills and knowledge, engage with schools, and generate additional income and jobs in the environmental, biosecurity, heritage, and other sectors. See link below for examples of ranger groups operating in the Northern Territory. The Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Land and Sea Management Unit:

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Land and Sea Management Unit, through its Environmental Management Program, provides support to 14 community-based dugong and turtle management plans in the Torres Strait region. The plans aim to promote community control and empowerment; respect cultural values and traditional knowledge; conserve natural and cultural values of their management area; and utilise two-way management through mutual investigation and implementation of Western and Indigenous systems of knowledge.

Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs):

Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) describe how Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner groups work in partnership with the Australian and Queensland governments to manage traditional use activities on their sea country. A TUMRA may describe how Traditional Owner groups wish to manage their take of natural resources (including migratory species), their role in compliance, their role in monitoring the condition of plants and animals, and human activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. For further information on TUMRAs, please refer to the link provided below.

National Environmental Science Program (NESP) and Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub:

The participation of Indigenous Australians in research and monitoring projects has also been formalised in the National Environmental Science Program (NESP), in particular through the development of an Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy in the Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub. The overall goal of the TSR Hub's Strategy is to enable a meaningful two-way partnership to be developed between the NESP TSR Hub and Indigenous Australians that recognises the interests, rights and knowledge of Indigenous Australians in undertaking the Hub's research agenda. Please refer to the link provided below.

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

[Indigenous Rangers Program](#)

[TSRA Land and Sea Management Strategy](#)

[NESP Threatened Species Hub](#)

[State of the Environment Report - Indigenous](#) - local Indigenous community relationship with Australia's natural resources is provided in Australia's State of the Environment Report 2021

[Narungga Nation Traditional Fishing Agreement](#)

[Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements](#) - Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements

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).

>>> See information provided above.

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

>>> • Increased awareness of marine debris and major threats (e.g., climate change) on migratory species through the Reef Guardian Schools Program.

• The New South Wales (NSW) Saving our Species program has developed an Australian Curriculum education resource for years 1-6, which includes some CMS Appendix I and II species.

• World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. WWD was first celebrated in 1997. Since this time government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups across the world, including Australia, have celebrated World Wetlands Day by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands. For World Wetlands Day and the fortieth anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, the Australian Government produced a primary school classroom kit. This activity kit includes a unit plan, fact sheets, a DVD, origami, and subject book stickers.

• Supported by Hunter LLS, NPWS Discovery Rangers gave environmental education presentations about the threats to migratory and beach-nesting shorebirds to 551 students at four schools in the Port Stephens region during 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

• In 2021, 60 students participated in the Shorebirds Ambassador Schools Program run by Manning Coastcare. This program introduces school children to information about local shorebirds via presentations and local field trips, to educate and raise awareness about these species and how to protect them.

• Wildlife Matters (online education program) was developed to educate year K-12 on marine species facts which included migratory species listed in Appendix I and II.

• Bournda Environmental Education Centre also run occasional beach-nesting bird education events for local schools.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> Please see information provided in Section V (Awareness). Additional campaigns include, but are not limited to:

• The Australian Government's Program on Communication, Capacity-building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) to support Ramsar obligations was established to help raise awareness of wetland values and functions. The CEPA Program calls for coordinated international and national wetland education, public awareness, and communication. The Program also encourages the promotion of training in the fields of

wetland research and management.

- Beach Warden program engaged visitors and locals alike about the shorebirds, their conservation, and how to protect them.
- Saving our Species delivered a presentation as part of the Birdlife Shoalhaven Dinner with the Birds webinar series. This encapsulated both a local and wide-ranging audience, raising awareness of how unique the Shoalhaven estuary is as critical habitat for migratory shorebirds.
- Community engagement events (including displays, workshops, field days, boat trips and shorebird art creation & display (FlockOz) run by Hunter Region Landcare to increase community knowledge and awareness of migratory shorebirds.
- Permanent informative signage was installed along high traffic coastlines to advise and educate people on how to limit disturbance to migratory shorebirds at feeding and roosting sites.
- New South Wales' Department of Planning and Environment ran a social media campaign from 10 Jan to 6 Feb 2022 to improve awareness of shorebird-inclusive behaviour among beach users on the NSW coast. Four ads were run on Facebook, targeting people aged 18+ who are interested in nature and live on the coast of NSW (Merimbula to Byron Bay, including metro Sydney). In total, these campaigns reached more than 855,000 people. For details, please refer to the following examples:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eulu3auHQYg> (four-wheel driving),
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoqPFPUx7gE> (fishing), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNoWY27tdpc> (dog walking).

Capacity building

>>> The Australian Government provided funding to Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to deliver an innovative project engaging communities along the east coast of Australia in conserving the critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew, the largest shorebird in the world. Titled Community Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew, the project includes habitat restoration, monitoring, and education. The project has made significant progress in building community understanding and conservation of Eastern Curlew and other migratory shorebirds. CVA has engaged volunteers in habitat restoration at the five project locations in Towra Point Nature Reserve (Sydney, New South Wales), Moreton Bay and the Broadwater (South East Queensland), Hunter Estuary (Newcastle, New South Wales), Shoalhaven Heads (Nowra, New South Wales), and Casuarina Coastal Reserve (Darwin, Northern Territory). Key achievements in the first year include:

- Engaging 419 individuals in the project, including 15 Indigenous Australians, with 320 people participating more than once.
- Undertaking 20 community shorebird surveys, adding 2,376 bird observation records to the Australian Living Atlas covering 107 species.
- Hosting community awareness events at each location and connecting with local partner organizations
- Completing 55 on-ground team days over the five locations, controlling weeds and mangroves and removing 2 tonnes of marine debris.

Other types of training and capacity building activities are managed by each sub-national jurisdiction. For example, through the Queensland Wetlands Program, the Department of Environment and Science support adoption of best practice wetland management, by building capacity, developing resources, and providing technical support. In October 2020, an Applied Hydrology workshop delivered to 30 extension and NRM officers working in Great Barrier Reef catchments, increasing participants' skills and knowledge in hydrology. The workshop was tailored to field staff to build knowledge and skills in understanding water dynamics in the landscape to help in planning and undertaking on-ground works. Topics covered included:

- Case studies and demonstrations of applying hydrological understanding to site assessment and planning
- Hydrology and hydrodynamics
- Geospatial tools
- Remote sensing
- Future considerations for ecosystem restoration

Please see links provided in Section V (Awareness).

Under the Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018–28) the NSW Government has:

- funded a range of initiatives to support loggerhead and green turtles. This includes the production of educational online videos demonstrating best-practice handling and assessment techniques for debilitated sea turtles, assessment of nesting frequency and distribution in southern latitudes and implementation of best-practice management techniques for sea turtle nests in cold climates, microchip training for DPI shark mesh contractors to improve monitoring of animals released alive from the shark mesh, development of targeted programs assessing the impact of biotoxins and anthropogenic pollutants on sea turtle health and assessment of sex ratios in stranded deceased sea turtles.
- funded covert operations investigating breaches of marine mammal approach distances.
- trained NSW Government staff and volunteers of NSW land management agencies were conducted on management, monitoring, and data capture for Little Terns. The project has been successful at filling some important gaps in the breeding records for threatened shorebirds along the NSW coastline, but there are still gaps in breeding records along the coastline that remain to be addressed.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>>

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

>>>

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

>>> National Environmental Science Program (NESP):

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government. NESP funds environment and climate research, including a range of research programs that are aimed at conservation and sustainable management outcomes for internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds. The program provides evidence for the design, delivery and on-ground outcomes for environmental programs; helps decision-makers, including from Indigenous communities, build resilience; supports positive environmental, social and economic outcomes. Please see link provided in section below. The first phase invested \$145 million (2014-15 to 2020-21) into 6 research hubs. The second phase is investing \$149 million (2020-21 to 2026-27) into 4 new research hubs. Australian research institutions host the multi-disciplinary research hubs. The hubs connect scientists, policy makers, industry, Indigenous people and communities. Each hub has identified its own research priorities, and further information can be found at the link provided in the previous paragraph.

The NESP Climate Systems Hub is undertaking research to advance the understanding of Australia's climate, its extremes and associated drivers, including the fundamental drivers of rainfall, drought and bushfires, to inform climate adaptation solutions for Australia. The Climate Systems Hub is:

- maintaining Australia's world-class capability in multidisciplinary Earth-system science and modelling
- advancing understanding of Australia's climate variability, extremes and associated drivers, including the fundamental drivers of bushfires, drought and rainfall in the Australian region
- developing applied decision-making tools and information to inform policy and programs to prepare Australia to manage emerging risks and opportunities.

The Resilient Landscapes Hub is undertaking research to inform management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater habitats to promote resilience and sustainability.

- applied research to support management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater habitats, including a focus on bushfire recovery, feral animals and invasive species impacts, and accessible science to assist land managers develop and maintain resilient, sustainable and productive landscapes
- targeted biodiversity and taxonomy products to support efficient system monitoring
- environmental monitoring systems and decision-support tools.

NESP is also driving coordinated research across all 4 new Hubs under NESP's 'threatened and migratory species and threatened ecological communities' cross-cutting initiative. This research is supporting policy development, program management and regulatory processes aimed at protecting Australia's environmental assets in terrestrial, Ramsar and marine environments.

The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020:

The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020 is the most comprehensive review of the status of Australia's avifauna including migratory waterbird species. It is the latest in a series of action plans for Australian birds that have been produced every decade since 1992 and is authored by more than 300 bird experts. The Action Plan documents the increasing impact of climate change on avifauna, and direct and indirect impacts such as bushfires. Profiles of 15 migratory shorebirds are included in the Action Plan which includes information on their threatened status, threats such as climate change and management actions to support their recovery. The Action Plan also includes accounts of over 60 taxa that are no longer considered threatened due to sustained conservation action over decades.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority developed a document and interactive interface for 'Science and Knowledge Needs for Management'. These resources set out the Reef Authority's priority information needs, have a focus on elements that will help improve management and protection strategies over the long term, and reflect findings of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019.

Western Australia:

The Western Australian Government also has a range of internal Resource Programs that focus on research priorities.

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

[Science and Knowledge Needs - GBRMPA](#) - Science and Knowledge Needs - GBRMPA

Other

>>>

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) has been critical for supporting projects related to migratory species. Some examples are provided below:

- During phase 1 of the NESP program, a specific project supported the conservation of Far Eastern Curlew and its habitat. The Far Eastern Curlew has experienced one of the most acute declines of any Australian shorebird species. Currently little is known about its exact feeding and roosting habitat requirements. While coastal development can negatively impact populations, it is known to use some artificial habitat for roosting.

This project provided the knowledge needed to develop strategic guidelines for Far Eastern Curlew conservation in the context of potential development and associated offsetting. Outcomes of the NESP project can be found at: <https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/projects/strategic-planning-for-the-far-eastern-curlew>

- Two recent programs of specific relevance are Project 1.21 Australia's coastal shorebirds: trends and prospects (see <https://www.nespmarinecoastal.edu.au/project-1-21-2/>) and Project 1.3 Scoping for an Australian Wetlands Inventory: identifying knowledge gaps and solutions for mapping marine and coastal wetlands (see <https://www.nespmarinecoastal.edu.au/project-1-5-2/>).
- With regards to marine turtles and the dugong, NESP provided \$260,000 to six projects focusing on seagrass monitoring and habitat restoration.

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

[Scoping for an Australian Wetlands Inventory: identifying knowledge gaps and solutions for mapping marine and coastal wetlands](#)

[Australia's coastal shorebirds: trends and prospects](#)

[Strategic planning for the far eastern curlew](#)

[National Environmental Science Program](#) - The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government. The program funds environment and climate research.

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).

>>> Voluntary contributions to the CMS:

Australia provided voluntary contributions amounting to more than \$1million (AUD) to CMS and its subsidiary instruments between 2020 - 2023. Priority activities included support for the review of the CMS Appendices, establishment an Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway, implementation of single species action plans (Loggerhead turtles, Far Eastern Curlew, Christmas Island Frigatebird), development of additional guidance on light pollution, TurtleNet, effect of insect decline on migratory species.

Voluntary contributions were also provided to a number of subsidiary instruments including IOSEA, Pacific Cetaceans MOU and the Sharks MOU.

A range of important activities are also undertaken within Australia to conserve migratory bird populations and their habitats. These activities have largely focused on migratory waterbirds, including shorebirds and seabirds as their tendency to aggregate in flocks in coastal areas makes them particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and disturbance.

Habitat protection and restoration in Australia has also been advanced under the National Landcare Program for projects that will directly benefit migratory birds and their habitat. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, Parks Australia and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are also working to improve the habitats of migratory birds and reduce or eliminate known threats to these birds such as invasive weeds and feral cats.

Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018–2028 Initiative 5:

During the reporting period, the Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018–2028 Initiative 5 has delivered conservation projects for threatened migratory marine species including:

- licensing and provide training to NGO groups to respond to atypic marine and fauna stranding events to ensure welfare culture and scientific outcomes are optimised.
- desktop analysing on habitat use of dugong and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin.
- analysing cause of death in stranded migratory marine animals through post-mortem investigation.
- investigating nearshore habitat use by migratory marine species and the impacts of different anthropogenic pollutant levels on sea turtles’ health.
- investigating emerging techniques to assess the health of stranded marine species.
- developing species distribution models and population viability assessment.
- Saving our Species Program has invested more than \$1.1M in the delivery of conservation projects for the turtles and migratory birds (12 species) between 2016 and 2022, including:
 - developing and implementing the ‘NSW TurtleWatch’ citizen science program, with Australian Seabird Rescue. This project is involving volunteers to collect valuable data for marine turtles nesting in NSW and their potential threats,
 - maintaining signs and fencing and undertaking community liaison in mapped beach-nesting bird areas, up

and down the NSW coast,

- restoring native beach vegetation,
- undertaking fox control around beach-nesting bird breeding areas to control predation and enable more chicks to fledge, and
- monitoring species populations.

The Oceans Leadership Package:

The Oceans Leadership Package (OLP) announced in 2022, has committed \$100m funding, includes funding towards practical actions to protect threatened marine species. As part of the OLP \$1.25m was allocated to conserve 6 priority marine turtle nesting populations at highest risk from climate change. The Marine Turtle Climate Change Resilience and Nest Protection Program is providing grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000 to support on-ground action to increase hatchling production with appropriate sex ratios in marine turtle populations that are at greatest risk from climate change. In addition, the OLP also provided \$1m funding to support a grant program to reduce light pollution in coastal communities. The program is also providing grants between \$15,000 and \$50,000 to: increase awareness of the impacts of light pollution on wildlife; reduce light pollution at ecologically sensitive areas to support conservation and recovery of marine turtles, seabirds and shorebirds listed under the EPBC Act; and support local communities to ensure best-practice light management methods are identified and implemented where needed.

Light pollution workshop:

In 2022, Australia facilitated a workshop on light pollution at the 40th International Sea Turtle Symposium. The workshop allowed attendees to share knowledge, network and facilitate best practices in managing light for marine turtles.

Agreements at policy level on research priorities:

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government to environment and climate research. NESP projects deliver collaborative, practical and applied research to inform decision making and on-ground action. The second phase of NESP includes an investment of \$149 million from 2021-2027 across 4 new research hubs. One of the NESP Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub outcomes will be integrating the social value of night skies for sustainable human-environment interactions into light pollution policy and dark skies programs. Please see section XVIII (Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building) for further details on NESP.

Great Barrier Reef:

Under the Reef Trust Partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, \$201m has been committed to addressing water quality. Progress to date (at 2021), includes end of catchment reductions of 41% dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN), 8% of fine sediment, and 229 kg of pesticides. Six new Reef Trust Water Quality projects commenced in January 2021, to support growers and graziers in preventing more than 36,699 tonnes of fine sediment runoff and 175 tonnes of DIN entering the Great Barrier Reef

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

>>>

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).

>>>

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

>>>

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

Please select only one option

- Increased
- The same
- Decreased
- 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.

>>>