



CMS

2025 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: : 30 September 2025

Reporting period: from May 2023 to February 2025

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions and are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, when required.

National Report format is available through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Through Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) and Decisions 14.27, 14.25 National Reports and 14.2 Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat were tasked with developing a new format for National Reports that aligns with the SPMS. However, given that the indicators of the SPMS are not yet in place, and due to the time constraints caused by the exceptionally short intersessional period before COP15, there is insufficient time to substantially amend the National Report format to fully align it with the SPMS.

The Standing Committee therefore agreed to develop a new format for the reporting period after COP15, and to use the previous National Report format for the current reporting period, with only minor adjustments. These adjustments would include a limited number of additional questions on topics that COP14 specifically requested to be reported through National Reports.

Additionally, it was agreed not to attach the full list of species in Appendices I and II for verification by Parties, as this information was collected during previous reporting cycles but could not be fully assessed and reflected in the National Reports format due to a lack of resources. Instead, the Standing Committee agreed to collect information on Range States for species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 during this reporting cycle, in accordance with Decision 14.234.

A proposal of the National Reports format was circulated by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee members on 13 December and it was agreed through communication procedure, in line with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by Standing Committee through communication procedure. In addition, as was also the case for reporting prior to COP14, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat from the previous reporting cycles.

Please note that guidance is available for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact 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 2024 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):

>>> 1. The new Law on Fauna was adopted on 22.04.2022 that has led to numerous legal developments, such as:

- Government Decree N1276-N "On defining the procedure for concluding contracts for the use and exploitation of wildlife objects for agricultural and industrial purposes.", 2023;
- Government Decree N1985-N "On defining the procedure for providing data from the state cadaster of wildlife.", 2023;
- Government Decree N488-N "On defining the procedure for conducting wildlife population management measures." 2025;
- Minister order N111-N on "Defining the Procedure for issuance of a permit for keeping wild animals being kept in captive and semi-captive conditions, including the animals listed in the Red Book of Animals of the Republic of Armenia", 2023;
- Minister order N187-N on "Defining the procedure for the registration of wild animals kept in captivity and semi-captivity, including animals listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.",2023;
- Minister order N207-N on "Defining the procedure for collecting and registering information on zoological collections.", 2023;
- Minister order N351-N on "Approving the list of wild animals prohibited for use in circuses.", 2023;
- Minister order N376-N on "Defining the procedure for providing information on the results of wildlife research by entities studying wildlife." 2023;
- Minister order N96-N "On approving the standard forms of the contract and application for the use of wildlife objects for agricultural and industrial purposes.", 2024;
- Minister order N110-N "On approving the list of invasive alien animal species.", 2024;
- Minister order N113-N "On defining the procedure for granting permits for the reintroduction of wild animals into the wild.", 2024;
- Minister order N131-N "On approving the standard forms of the contract and application for the use of wildlife objects for conservation, scientific research, educational, healthcare, and reproduction purposes.", 2024;
- Government Decree N758-N "On defining the procedure for the reintroduction of wild animals into the wild.", 2024;
- Minister order N246-N "On defining the procedure for the use of animals kept in semi-free conditions, starting from the second generation, that are listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.", 2024;
- Minister order N259-N "On defining the procedure for the use of wild animals listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia and the procedure for concluding contracts.", 2024;
- Minister order N258-N "On approving the standard forms of the contract and application for the use of wild animals listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.", 2024;
- Minister order N277-N "On defining the criteria for determining important ornithological areas.", 2024;

2. The Ministry of Environment has developed and is currently submitting to the National Assembly for approval in order to discuss the final set of draft laws of the Republic of Armenia "On Amendments and Additions to the RA Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas".

Changes in the RA Law "On Specially Protected Territories " and the attached laws are due to a number of gaps in the current law:

- The law lacks the goals and foundations for the creation of specially protected natural areas;
- the principles of management of specially protected natural territories are not clearly stated. there are no problems with categories of specially protected natural territories;
- there is no classification or criteria for the creation and regime of protection of the natural monument;
- there is no protection regime of the reserve;
- there are no principles and regime of protection of the nature protection zone, ecological corridor, and ecological network;
- there are no issues of the creation and management of a biosphere reserve.

There is also a need to align the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Specially Protected Areas of Nature" with international standards, in particular:

- to ensure the establishment of the 5th category (protected landscape) of specially protected areas of nature as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
 - to promote the involvement of local self-government bodies in the management process of specially protected areas of nature.
3. The following articles were incorporated in the Code of Administrative Offences:
- Article 88 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Violations of Animal, Fish, and Wildlife Conservation Rules”. This article covers general violations related to the protection of wildlife, fish stocks, hunting, and fishing.
 - Article 88.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Holding Wild Animals Without Proper Authorization”. This article addresses the illegal captivity or ownership of wild animals, particularly those in Armenia’s Red Book of endangered species.
 - Article 88.2 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Violations in the Sale and Trade of Wild Animals”. This article concerns the trade of wild animals, including their parts or products, particularly those species listed in the Red Book.
 - Article 88.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Unauthorized Use of Wildlife”. This article focuses on the unauthorized use of wildlife for purposes that are not in accordance with the law.
 - Article 88.4 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Illegal Hunting”. This article deals with illegal hunting, especially hunting without proper permission or during restricted times or locations.
 - Article 89 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Illegal Fishing and Extraction of Aquatic Life”. This article regulates violations regarding the illegal hunting or extraction of aquatic life, such as fish, other aquatic animals, and plants.
 - Article 90 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Violations Related to the Protection of Habitats, Migration Routes, and Animal Import/Export Rules”. This article addresses violations involving the conservation of habitats, the management of migration routes, and the import/export of animals to and from Armenia.
 - Article 90.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Illegal Import or Export of Wild Animals, Their Parts, and Zoological Collections”. This article is concerned with the illegal movement of wild animals, their parts, and zoological collections across borders, without the appropriate permissions or licenses.
 - Article 91 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Destruction of Species Listed in the Red Book of Armenia”. This article addresses the destruction or harm to rare and endangered species listed in Armenia's Red Book of Endangered Species.
 - Article 93 of the Code of Administrative Offences describes on “Collecting Plants Listed in the Red Book”. This article addresses the illegal collection of plants listed in Armenia's Red Book of Endangered Species. These plants are protected due to their rarity and the threat they face from habitat destruction, climate change, or human activity.

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

- >>> 1. Imperfection of the legislation on bio-resource management and determination of maximum hunting rates.
2. The professional skills and qualifications of the human resources in the biodiversity conservation and management system need to be enhanced and improved. From this perspective, there are significant challenges in the field of SPNA management.
3. The lack of necessary financial measures limits provided actions.

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

- >>> 1. Take active steps to join the Agreement on the Conservation of European Bat Populations
2. Carry out inventory and mapping of migratory species of Armenia,
2. Identify direct and indirect causes of habitat loss of migratory species of Armenia,
3. Develop and implement action plans on the conservation of migratory species in Armenia.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party

>>> Armenia

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

>>> 01/03/2011

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> -----

Report compiler

Name and title

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Full name of institution

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Designated CMS National Focal Point

Name and title of designated Focal Point

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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:

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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

III.1 Please confirm that the Excel file “Res. 14.19 species per Party” linked below correctly identifies the **Appendix II** species listed in Resolution 14.19 Guidance on the treatment of species included within aggregated families listed under Appendix II for which your country is a Range State.

The list of Resolution 14.19 species per Parties is available **here**.

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

GUIDANCE TIP:

During the last two reporting cycles, information has been collected on Appendix I and Appendix II species, and the information received still needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this reporting cycle only focuses on bird species identified under Resolution 14.19. This Resolution invites Parties to consider the list of Species in its Annex when preparing National Reports. This question aims at collecting information on Range States of species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19. Parties are therefore invited to review the Range State data which are available in the excel spreadsheet “Res. 14.19 species per Party”. Please confirm that the list is correct, or if amendments are needed, create a line for each species for which you wish to indicate different information from that shown in the Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, please also provide supporting evidence, such as a reference to a scientific paper. A more detailed spreadsheet with Data per countries and territories is available here as background information. The data used for these spreadsheets are based on the CMS standard references for non-passerine and passerine species, as determined by Resolution 12.27(Rev.COP14) Taxonomy and Nomenclature, using its online version HBW-BirdLife Version 9.0 (October 2024)..

Yes, the list is correct

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Armenia-2023.xlsx](#)

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

IV.1. Is the taking of Appendix I species prohibited by national or territorial legislation in accordance with CMS Article III(5)?

Yes for all Appendix I species

Please identify any change in the legal statute(s) concerned that has been introduced since the last reporting:

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

>>> 1. The new Law on Fauna was adopted in 22.04.2022 that has led to numerous legal developments, such as:

- Government Decree N1276-N "On defining the procedure for concluding contracts for the use and exploitation of wildlife objects for agricultural and industrial purposes.", 2023;
 - Government Decree N1985-N "On defining the procedure for providing data from the state cadaster of wildlife.", 2023;
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IV.2 **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?

No

IV.4. Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country’s national jurisdictional limits (consistent with the definition of “Range State” in Article I of the Convention)?

No

V. Awareness

V.1. 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 may also be relevant).
(select all that apply)

GUIDANCE TIP:

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **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 Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and livelihoods), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests), Res. **14.14** (CMS Jaguar Initiative), Res. **14.13** (Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), Res. **14.12** (Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea), Res. **14.10** (Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)), Res. **14.8** (Conservation and sustainable management of seagrass ecosystems), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.1** (Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032), Res. **12.6 (Rev.COP14)** (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), Res. **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), and Decision 14.194 (Ecological Connectivity), Decision 14.54 (Marine Wildlife Watching) and Decision 14.223 (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

- Press and media coverage
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

Impact of actions

V.2. Please provide details for the actions selected in the previous question and indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

>>> Armenia has implemented a range of public awareness and education activities to raise understanding of the importance of migratory species, their habitats, and migration systems. These actions involve governmental, NGO, and community-level initiatives and align with CMS objectives to increase visibility and stakeholder engagement.

1. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) Campaigns

Lead Organizations: Ministry of Environment, WWF-Armenia, BirdLife (partner NGOs), EcoClubs.

Activities:

Public birdwatching events at Lake Sevan, Arpi Lake, and Ardashir wetlands.
School competitions, art contests, and seminars on the value of bird migration.
Production of educational posters and online videos in Armenian.

2. Community-based Conservation Projects

In areas such as the Vedi Valley, Arpi Lake, and Khosrov Reserve, locals are engaged in:
Monitoring of species like Steppe Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, and White Stork.
Ecotourism development with a focus on migratory birdwatching.
Includes traditional knowledge and local storytelling on wildlife migration.

3. Media and Outreach Campaigns

Public service announcements on Armenian national TV and radio stations during migration seasons.
Social media campaigns by WWF-Armenia, Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds, and local influencers.

4. Celebration of Biodiversity Days

Activities during International Biodiversity Day, Earth Day, and Environmental Protection Day also highlight migratory species.

A prime example of this is the joint event organized in May 2025, during which, in celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, 9 Red deer individuals were released into the wild through the combined efforts of WWF and the Ministry.

5. The staff of the Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University, together with the Ministry of Environment, organize the International Bat Night every year. It was initiated by Eurobats and has been celebrated in European countries since 1997 and in Armenia since 2016. The goal of the event is to raise public awareness about bats, their ecological role and the need for their conservation. The event is held every year in late August or the first week of September in different settlements of the Republic of Armenia. In previous years, it was held in the Hrazdan Gorge (Yerevan), Gndevank Gorge (Vayots Dzor), and Khosrov

Forest State Reserve (Ararat Region).

V.3. 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.

3. Good impact

V.4. Please identify the main form(s) of evidence that has/have been used to make this assessment.

>>> The assessment of Armenia's actions to raise awareness of migratory species is based on multiple, cross-referenced forms of evidence, primarily from documented national and international sources, as well as NGO reports and official CMS records. Below are the main forms of evidence used:

1. NGO Project Reports and Campaign Summaries

WWF-Armenia, BirdLinks Armenia, and FPWC publish:

Annual reports

Publicly available campaign briefs

Education program summaries (e.g., World Migratory Bird Day activities).

These are often donor-funded (e.g., EU, UNDP, GEF), requiring documented impact.

2. Websites and Social Media Posts

NGO websites and platforms (e.g., Facebook pages of WWF-Armenia, FPWC) showcase public events, school outreach, eco-clubs, and birdwatching campaigns.

3. Academic and Technical Reports

Research papers and biodiversity assessments (e.g., on IBAs, Steppe Eagle surveys) often include education and stakeholder engagement components.

Sometimes jointly prepared by scientists, NGOs, and government experts.

4. Protected Area Management Plans

Updated management plans for national parks (e.g., Lake Arpi NP, Khosrov Forest) include educational strategies and visitor engagement plans focused on migratory species.

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

VI.1. 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?

Yes

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe how CMS objectives are incorporated in other sectoral strategies such as transport, construction, agriculture, tourism, education, spatial planning, Sustainable Development Goals and other strategies.

>>> The conservation of migratory species is increasingly being integrated into national and local strategies and planning processes in Armenia, particularly in relation to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and rural livelihoods. While there is no single strategy solely focused on migratory species, several national frameworks and policies incorporate aspects relevant to their conservation:

1. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Armenia's updated NBSAP (2016–2020), aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, includes actions directly and indirectly supporting migratory species. It recognizes the importance of ecosystem connectivity and the protection of key habitats for migratory birds and animals.

2. National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP)

The NEAP includes provisions for:

Biodiversity protection

Habitat restoration

Management of protected areas

These are critical to maintaining the migration corridors and stopover habitats for species such as cranes, raptors, and waterbirds.

3. Integration in Rural and Livelihood Strategies

Although not explicitly framed around migratory species, several rural development programs and poverty reduction strategies include components that promote:

Eco-tourism based on birdwatching and wildlife observation (e.g., in Lake Sevan, Armash wetlands, and Khosrov Forest),

Sustainable use of natural resources (including community-based wildlife management),

Support for local communities to engage in conservation-friendly practices that benefit migratory species habitats.

4. Protected Areas and Habitat Management Plans

Many protected areas and Ramsar sites in Armenia (e.g., Lake Arpi National Park, Sevan National Park) are important for migratory birds. Their management plans often reflect goals from international agreements like CMS and AEWA, integrating conservation with sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

While the conservation of migratory species is not always explicitly linked to poverty reduction or development strategies in Armenia, it is increasingly mainstreamed into:

Biodiversity action planning,

Environmental governance,

Sustainable rural development policies.

Further integration is likely as Armenia continues aligning with Agenda 2030, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and enhancing its CMS-related obligations.

VI.2. Does your country integrate the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' 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.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> By signing the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the European Union, which entered into force in 2021, Armenia agreed to undertake measures geared towards improved protection and sustainable use of biodiversity

in line with European Union standards. Those, in particular, envisage: review and alignment of national legislation; preparing inventory and designation of key sites for biodiversity protection; establishing measures required for the conservation of such sites, including setting priorities for their management; and introducing strict protection for selected species. All wild bird species shall be protected.

Furthermore, the CEPA Implementation Roadmap envisages setting a system to monitor the conservation status of species by 2028, as well as establishing a mechanism to promote education and share general information with the public (by 2027).

Monitoring of migratory species is regularly carried out twice a year, in autumn and spring. The assessment of the environmental status of those species is in progress. In particular, the status of the following species was evaluated: White-tailed heron *Vanellus leucurus*, common kiwi *Vanellus vanellus*, red-headed plover *Aythya ferina* (about which three scientific articles were published). During 2022, the environmental statuses of three more species were assessed. These include Marmaronetta angustirostris - article accepted for publication, White-eyed plover (*Aythya nyroca*) - article in preparation, and white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) - article in preparation.

Data analysis is underway for the next group of species, and the environmental statuses of a further 3 species have been assessed (also to be published as scientific papers). They are the viper (*Neophron percnopterus*), the grebe (*Accipiter gentilis*), and the sea harrier (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).

The environmental status assessment for the Mediterranean plover (*Poecile lugubris*) has been completed, a scientific paper has been prepared and submitted to an international journal.

With the support of the Caucasus Nature Foundation (CNF), since 2019, within the framework of the pilot project, in the Ararat valley, a pilot program of raising the water level in the area of 1.5 ha has been implemented by creating ponds. Currently, there are 3 ponds next to the canal bordering the reserve.

Based on the recorded results, a new program was launched in the spring of 2024 in the "Khor Virap" reserve with the support of CNF, within the framework of which the restoration of new 1.61 ha of wetlands has already been carried out (according to the plan, the restoration of the ecosystem is planned for almost the entire territory of the reserve, about 51 ha).

Research on the restoration of wetland birds has been carried out in those areas (a scientific article is being published in the journal *Wet land management*). The bird species monitoring that has already been carried out has shown that nesting bird species have increased from 38 to 55, and migratory species have increased from 31 to 61.

It is planned to create another pond with an area of 0.9 ha during this year.

2. As an additional supporting measure, the implementation of amendments to the Law "On Hunting and Hunting Economy Management" is considered, which envisages fixing the procedure for conducting the hunting minimum examination. Currently, the Project has been revised and is in the stage of internal circulation. The need for revision was caused by the amendment of the "Arms" law.

VI.3. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society have played a significant and growing role in the conservation of migratory species in Armenia. Their work spans research, habitat restoration, community outreach, eco-tourism, and policy advocacy. Below are key examples of involvement by major NGOs and civil society initiatives:

1. Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds (ASPB / BirdLife Armenia)

Affiliation: BirdLife International partner in Armenia

Key contributions:

Monitoring migratory bird populations, especially waterbirds, raptors, and globally threatened species.

Management and advocacy for Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) such as Ardashir Fishponds, Lake Arpi, and Noravank Gorge.

Community outreach and eco-tourism initiatives to promote birdwatching as a sustainable livelihood.

Scientific input into CMS/AEWA reporting and conservation planning.

2. WWF-Armenia (World Wide Fund for Nature)

Key contributions:

Conservation of migratory mammals, including Caucasian leopard corridors, lynx, and bear migration routes.

Protection and expansion of protected areas and ecological corridors essential for transboundary species movement.

Community-based conservation and education programs in biodiversity hotspots.

Collaborates with the Ministry of Environment and international donors on species action plans and sustainable development.

3. Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

Key contributions:

Created and manages the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR), a privately protected area vital for migratory mammals and birds of prey.

Involves local communities (e.g., Urtsadzor village) in conservation work, wildlife monitoring, and alternative livelihood development.

Promotes wildlife-friendly tourism, including birdwatching and educational programs.

Uses camera traps and drone monitoring for migratory and endangered species.

VI.4. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> In Armenia, the private sector's direct involvement in the conservation of migratory species is still

emerging but has shown notable progress in specific areas such as eco-tourism, agriculture, and private land conservation. Several companies and foundations have collaborated with NGOs and state institutions to support biodiversity conservation efforts, including migratory species.

VI.5. 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.COP14)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species).

Yes

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.

>>> Armenia's legislation and regulations concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) do formally recognize environmental and biodiversity issues, including those related to migratory species, but in practice, consideration of migration impediments and transboundary effects remains limited and not consistently enforced.

The application of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) in Armenia, particularly in relation to migratory species, faces a number of hindrances and challenges. These reflect both systemic and technical issues that affect the effectiveness of assessments in protecting migratory routes, habitats, and transboundary ecosystems.

Hindrances and Challenges

1. Insufficient baseline data and monitoring
2. Limited consideration of migration in EIA/SEA processes
3. Weak integration of transboundary concerns
4. Capacity limitations

Many environmental assessment practitioners lack training in migratory species ecology and habitat connectivity analysis.

There is limited use of advanced tools (e.g., GIS-based modeling, ecological network analysis) for migration-sensitive planning.

5. Inconsistent enforcement and oversight

EIA/SEA conclusions are not always rigorously implemented or monitored during the project lifecycle.

Mitigation measures related to habitat connectivity or migration-friendly infrastructure (e.g., fish passes, wildlife corridors) are often ignored or poorly designed.

VI.6. 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 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), Res. **10.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **14.207** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species) 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.)

VII.1. Have any governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, resulted in improvements 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.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> 1. Participation in the AEWA Agreement

Armenia is a signatory to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). In recent years: Actions under AEWA have led to improved monitoring and data sharing on migratory waterbirds and wetland habitats.

The Ararat Plain has received enhanced attention due to its significance as a key stopover site for many AEWA species, supporting improved wetland management practices.

2. Regional Cooperation and EU-Funded Initiatives

Armenia has engaged in regional conservation projects, including:

The EU4Environment - Water and Data initiative, supporting transboundary water cooperation and wetland ecosystem restoration, which benefits migratory birds and aquatic species.

The Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF) have contributed funding and technical capacity to support protected areas important for migratory species, such as Khosrov Forest and Lake Arpi National Park.

3. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updates

As part of Armenia's commitment to the CBD, its updated NBSAP (2021-2030) includes explicit references to migratory species conservation, incorporating:

Habitat protection measures across flyways,

Integration of CMS priorities into national biodiversity monitoring frameworks.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and NGO Involvement

Organizations like WWF-Armenia, BirdLife partners, and local NGOs have played a significant role in:

Citizen science projects (e.g., bird counts and monitoring),

Awareness campaigns aligned with World Migratory Bird Day, and

Field-based conservation interventions.

To what extent have these improvements helped to make relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive?

3. Good contribution

Please describe how this assessment was made

>>> This assessment was made through a combination of the following methods and sources of evidence:

1. Review of National Policy and Reporting Documents

Analysis of Armenia's 6th and 7th National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2021-2030 was reviewed for its inclusion of migratory species and their habitats.

2. Reference to International and Regional Agreements

Armenia's participation in and implementation of CMS, AEWA, Bern Convention, and Ramsar Convention obligations were examined.

Decisions and action plans from CMS COP13 and COP14, as well as AEWA MOPs (Meetings of Parties), were compared with national activities.

3. Scientific and Technical Reports

Review of scientific publications, wildlife monitoring reports, and biodiversity assessments conducted by national academic institutions (e.g., Institute of Zoology NAS RA) and international partners (e.g., UNEP, IUCN).

Analysis of migration tracking and species distribution data, such as bird migration monitoring along the Ararat Plain and Lake Sevan region.

4. Project and NGO Documentation

Reports and evaluations from conservation projects funded by the EU, GIZ, WWF, BirdLife International, and Caucasus Nature Fund were used to track on-the-ground improvements.

Field assessments and pilot project results were analyzed for tangible outcomes on habitat restoration, protected area management, and public awareness.

VII.2. 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.

No

VII.3. 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 29, 30 and 32 of **Res. 11.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Synergies and partnerships) and in paragraph 7 of **Res. 14.3** (Engagement in CBD processes including the Global Biodiversity Framework) ?

GUIDANCE TIP:

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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Dec. 14.6** (CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Res.8.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD). Guidance documents for integrating considerations relevant to Migratory Species in NBSAPs are available at CMS website.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Collaboration between the focal points of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and other relevant global and regional biodiversity-related conventions does take place in Armenia, though its level and effectiveness may vary depending on institutional capacities and ongoing projects.

This is mostly informal or project-based, rather than institutionalized through a joint working group or national MEA coordination mechanism.

Armenia has taken steps to improve coordination between national focal points of CMS, CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), AEWA (African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement), Ramsar Convention, and CITES. This is done through periodic consultations, inter-agency meetings, and joint participation in policy dialogues, workshops, and reporting processes.

Участие в Глобальной рамочной программе по биоразнообразию (ГРБ): Армения участвует в процессе ГРБ КБР на период после 2020 года, и приоритеты КМВ, такие как взаимосвязь местообитаний и миграционные коридоры, обсуждаются, в частности, в контексте пересмотра Национальной стратегии и плана действий по сохранению биоразнообразия Армении (НСПДСБ). Однако целевые показатели, специфичные для КМВ, пока не систематически включены в национальные процессы, связанные с ГРБ. While collaboration exists, it remains somewhat limited by human resource capacity, lack of dedicated coordination mechanisms, and overlapping mandates.

VII.4. 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?

No

VIII. Incentives

VIII.1. 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?

Partly / in some areas

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

>>> During the reporting period, Armenia has taken steps to reform or phase out certain harmful incentives that previously had negative impacts on biodiversity, including migratory species. These reforms were primarily embedded within broader environmental governance improvements and biodiversity-related legislation.

For example:

1. Reform of hunting regulations and licensing procedures.

The legal framework governing hunting has been revised to introduce stricter controls on the issuance of hunting licenses, including:

Seasonal restrictions aligned with the migratory periods of birds.

Enhanced regulation of waterbird hunting near wetlands (important stopover and breeding habitats for migratory birds).

Increased penalties for illegal hunting and poaching, contributing to reduced pressure on migratory bird populations.

2. Adoption of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reforms.

Reforms in SEA/EIA laws now better reflect the potential impacts of projects on migration routes and species.

These reforms require assessment of transboundary and cumulative impacts on biodiversity, including migratory species.

Have resulted in the prevention or modification of infrastructure projects near important flyways routes.

While implementation challenges remain, these legal and policy reforms represent a move toward phasing out or modifying incentives that previously harmed migratory species.

VIII.2. Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country during the reporting period, resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Partly / in some areas

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

>>> Armenia has increasingly leveraged financial, regulatory, and community-based incentives to benefit migratory wildlife. The government and its partners have expanded protected-area management and funding, worked with international programs, and engaged local communities in conservation activities.

International Collaborations and Funding Mechanisms

Armenia's conservation progress has been bolstered by major international partnerships. European and global funds have flowed into wetland restoration, park management, and community projects. For example, to restore key wetlands its teams worked at Khor Virap and nearby Armash fish ponds to re-excavate ponds, create islets and reedbeds, and install bird hides.

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

IX.1. During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are relevant for conservation of migratory species?

Yes

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

>>> Armenia participates in major transboundary conservation initiatives. Under the EU-funded EU4Environment programme, the World Bank and local partners are developing the Emerald Network of protected areas (analogous to Natura 2000) in Armenia. In March 2023 an Emerald Network project was launched to manage and expand key habitats, explicitly targeting wetlands and other natural sites for biodiversity conservation

For example, the Emerald site at Armash Wetland (a critical staging area for migrating waterbirds) was re-designated in 2023–2024 to focus protection on its marshes, “which will significantly contribute to the conservation of target species”

This effort to plan and manage sites helps secure habitat for migratory waterbirds and other species across flyways. Armenia also works with regional and global funds to protect wildlife corridors. A 2021–2024 GEF Small Grants Programme project in Vayots Dzor province engaged local communities in eco-tourism and sustainable livelihoods to protect migration routes for large mammals.

That project notes that the target area (Lesser Caucasus eco-corridor) is a “migration corridor” for species like Armenian mouflon, Bezoar goat and Caucasian leopard.

Although focused on large mammals, such community-driven conservation also maintains habitats used by migratory birds and other wildlife. Armenia will host the CBD COP17 in 2026, reflecting its commitment to global biodiversity goals.

Domestic green-policy initiatives (such as the Green Agenda Armenia funded by Sweden) are explicitly aligning with the Kunming–Montreal Biodiversity Framework. For instance, Armenia’s National Green Transition Assessment Report (2025) – part of the EU Green Deal alignment – highlights ecosystems and biodiversity in its analysis.

Local conservation groups have led many concrete projects. The FPWC (Armenian wildlife NGO) and partner BirdLife Araks have long-run Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring and protection programs. For example, FPWC’s Caucasus Wildlife Refuge and reforestation projects maintain habitat for woodland and riparian species. FPWC also conducted human–wildlife conflict mitigation and beekeeping programs (2025), improving coexistence and land stewardship.

Other civil society efforts include stewardship of IBAs and local wetlands by village caretaker groups (often funded by GEF and BirdLife). One completed project (SGP/WWF) built eco-tourism infrastructure (viewing platforms, trails, LED lighting) in Vayots Dzor to fund habitat protection.

Tagging of migratory eagles by NABU Armenia (2023) helps identify international flyways. Such transboundary efforts are at an early stage, but they complement domestic conservation by acknowledging Armenia’s place on Eurasian flyways.

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

>>> The following evidence demonstrates that these measures have yielded results relevant to the conservation of migratory species:

Monitoring results (2023–2024) showed:

Improved habitat condition scores .

Slight increases in waterbird species richness and nesting activity at Armash.

These findings indicate progress in maintaining suitable habitats for migratory species through sustainable land-use planning.

Camera traps and ranger reports confirm increased movement of migratory large mammals (e.g., Bezoar goats, bears) through restored corridors.

Vegetation recovery and water management in stopover sites also benefited raptor and crane flyways.

This provides strong evidence of functional restoration of migration corridors.

X. Threats and Pressures Affecting Migratory Species; Including Obstacles to Migration

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
Legal hunting	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II)	2
Illegal hunting	All Songbirds (Appendix I)	3
Other harvesting and take	All Songbirds (Appendix I)	3
Illegal trade	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), Common Quail (Appendix I), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II)	2
Deliberate poisoning	Common Quail (Appendix I), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I)	2

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

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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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.15** (Aquatic Wild Meat), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19** (Rev.COP14) (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.22 (Rev.COP12)** (Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31** (Rev.COP14) (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), 14.119-14.121 (Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean), 14.125 (Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force), Decision 14.126 (South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force).

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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
Bycatch		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Other forms of unintentional taking	3	All Songbirds (Appendix I)

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), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), and Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species) and Dec. 14.31 b) and c). Parties are encouraged to report on the implementation of the recommendation included in Drynan and Baker 2023 “Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks” provided in Annex 1 to UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1.

>>> --

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> --

Collisions and electrocution

	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
Wind turbines	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II)	2
Other collisions	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)	2
Electrocution	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), all Cranes (Appendix I) all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II)	2
Vessel strikes		

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

>>> --

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.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans) and Decision 14.48.

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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, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	3	All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II)
Unexplained stranding events	2	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)
Accidental/indirect poisoning	3	Not well documented
Disease	2	All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), all Songbirds (Appendix I)

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

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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.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Species), Res. **12.6** (Rev.COP14) (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. 14.18 Avian influenza and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

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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	Not documented	3

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

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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).

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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	All Waders (Appendix I and II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)	2
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What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing disturbance & disruption?

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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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **12.16** (Rev.COP14) (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), Res. **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and measures to mitigate threats to Important Shark and Ray Ares under Decision **14.61**.

>>> --

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
Marine debris (including plastics)		
Light pollution		
Underwater noise		
Other pollution		
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

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

>>> --

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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), Res. **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **14.223** (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
Landscape fragmentation/loss of ecological connectivity, physical barriers		
Habitat degradation		
Mineral exploration/extraction		
Unsustainable land/resource use		

Urbanization		
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation		
Fire		
Physical barriers		

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 **14.6** (Deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities and migratory species) **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)**(Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.24**(Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), and Decisions **14.148-14.150** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

>>> --

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 Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)

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

>>> --

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 **14.211** (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 transboundary management	1	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)
Inadequate legislation	2	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)
Lack of knowledge	2	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	2	All Raptors (included in both Appendix I and II), All Ducks and Geese (Appendix I and II), all Waders (Appendix I and II), Turtle Dove (Appendix I), all Herons and Egrets (Appendix I), all Cranes (Appendix I), Great Bustard (Appendix II), all Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills (Appendix I), Pelicans (Appendix II), all Songbirds (Appendix I)

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

>>> --

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

>>> --

Other (please specify)

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

Yes

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

>>> Karen Aghababyan PhD, <<TSE - Towards Sustainable Ecosystems>> NGO (branch - Armenian Bird Census)

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

XI.1. 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)
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	-----	-----	-----	-----

Aquatic mammals

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

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)
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	-----	-----	-----	-----

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)
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	-----	-----	-----	-----

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 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**.

No

XII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

No

XII.3. During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolution **12.28 (Rev.COP14)**) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

No

XII.4. Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to enhancing cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach?

E.g. steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways) and Res. **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions 14.130 (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), 14.137 (Flyways), and 14.207 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species).

No

XII.5. Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> In its Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Armenia explicitly noted the need to strengthen “habitat networks and ecological corridors” to halt fragmentation of key montane and riparian ecosystems.

During the CBD’s post-2020 negotiations, Armenian delegates supported language in Targets 1 and 2 calling for restoration of “at least 30 percent” of degraded ecosystems, with connectivity as a key success metric. Armenia has begun mapping candidate corridors in the Lesser Caucasus as part of its forthcoming NBSAP update for 2025–2030, laying groundwork to nominate potential Key Biodiversity Areas for transboundary linkage.

In 2024, Armenia began updating its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to align with the GBF, including components on ecological corridors and landscape connectivity.

Armenia has expanded its protected areas, including the establishment of ecological corridors (e.g., between Khosrov Forest State Reserve and adjacent natural areas).

Under the Caucasus Ecoregional Conservation Plan (supported by WWF and partners), Armenia is working to improve landscape-level connectivity across national borders with Georgia and Iran.

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

XIII.1. 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 Resolution **Res. 14.16** (Ecological Connectivity) and in “**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. For sharks and rays please refer to <https://sharkrayareas.org>. For marine mammals, please refer to <https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas/>.

Partially - to a large extent

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites?

>>> Armenia has identified several critical habitats for migratory species through Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), Ramsar Sites, and the Emerald Network, but coverage remains incomplete. Current knowledge is largely limited to birds, while migratory bats, and other mammals are insufficiently assessed. Important river corridors, mountain passes, and steppe/semi-desert habitats are underrepresented, and there is no fully integrated national inventory consolidating data from different sources. Monitoring efforts are fragmented, with limited long-term datasets to track trends or assess climate change impacts on migratory routes.

To achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites, Armenia’s priorities should include: expanding assessments to cover underrepresented taxa and ecosystems; strengthening long-term migration monitoring with modern tools such as satellite tracking and GIS; improving mapping of flyways and ecological corridors in addition to key sites; consolidating existing data into a centralized national inventory; and ensuring these sites are systematically integrated into protected area planning and broader land-use management. These steps would close critical gaps, enhance connectivity of habitats, and align Armenia’s efforts with its international commitments under CMS, AEWA, and the Ramsar Convention.

XIII.2. Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the country’s protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?

Partly / for some areas

Please provide details:

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 conservation of migratory species.

The “contribution” may relate to the use of the identified **Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)** (www.marinemammalhabitat.org) and support to identification of new **Important Shark and Ray areas (ISRAs)** (<https://sharkrayareas.org>).

Regarding Birds of Prey, the “contribution” may relate to the Internationally Important Raptors Sites (relevant to the range of the Raptors MOU, as sites listed in table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU).

(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).

>>> Armenia’s protected areas network makes an important contribution to the conservation of migratory species, particularly birds. Key Ramsar Sites such as Lake Sevan and Lake Arpi are safeguarded within national parks, and several reserves and sanctuaries also provide protection for forest and mountain corridors used by raptors and other migrants. Assessments undertaken through the Emerald Network and the designation of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) have highlighted overlaps between protected areas and critical sites for migratory species. However, no comprehensive national assessment has been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the protected area system specifically for migratory species. Coverage remains uneven, with wetlands relatively well represented, while steppe, semi-desert habitats, river corridors, and mountain passes remain underprotected. Expanding representation of these habitats and species within the protected areas network, alongside a dedicated assessment of its contribution to migratory species conservation, should be a priority.

XIII.3. 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”)?

No

XIII.4. 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?

Partly / for some areas

XIII.5. Beyond Protected Areas, are other effective area-based conservation measures implemented in your country in ways which benefit migratory species?

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Beyond the formal protected area system, Armenia has several other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) that benefit migratory species. These include the designation of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) under the Emerald Network, which cover key wetlands, river valleys, and mountain habitats along migratory routes; community-managed sanctuaries and locally designated reserves; and privately managed sites such as the Armash fishponds, which serve as one of the most important stopover habitats for waterbirds in the Caucasus. While these measures provide important complementary benefits for migratory species, they are not yet formally recognized as OECMs in national legislation, and their contribution has not been systematically assessed.

XIV. Ecosystem Services

XIV.1. Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species been undertaken in your country since the last reporting?

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.

Partly / in progress

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> Maintenance of ESs and long-term use of biodiversity imply application of the ecosystem approach in integrated management of natural resources. To date in Armenia the needs of natural resource management have not been fully integrated in the sectoral policies. The main reason is the lack of assessment of provisioning services provided by natural ecosystems and their monetary evaluation. Consequently, it is important to evaluate natural resources and ESs as well as to integrate the costs of biodiversity maintenance and restoration in the economic development policy and strategy of the country. Underestimation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Republic of Armenia is related to a number of problems such as:

- a. Low awareness of wide public, users of ecosystem services and decision-makers, who are either absolutely ignorant about the services provided by ecosystems or perceive ecosystem services only as the resources available in ecosystems.
- b. The benefits coming from the services provided by various ecosystems have not been valued yet and integrated in market relations.
- c. The value of ecosystem services very often is not considered during economic assessments and decision-making as well as it is not reflected in economic indicators of the country.
- d. The legislation on ecosystem services is not appropriate.

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

XV.1. 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.

Yes

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

Captive breeding and release

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>> Since 2013, the Armenian branch of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Armenia) and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Armenia, with the support of the Federal Government of Germany (BMZ), through the KfW Development Bank, WWF Germany and the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF), have been implementing the "Caspian red deer (*Cervus elaphus maral*) resettlement program in Armenia". The overall goal of the program is to restore the Caspian red deer population in Armenia. It is implemented in the red deer breeding center built in the Dilijan National Park by breeding imported animals and then releasing the deer born in the breeding center into the wild.

Among the works, one can mention the organization of an open-air cage with a total area of 10 hectares in the territory of the Dilijan National Park for the Caspian red deer breeding group. A house standing on the ground was built for the breeding center's office, which was furnished and equipped. A hay and feed storage, as well as feeding troughs were built. A road has been built (without damaging the ecosystem) to the Breeding Center. The center's water supply has been organized, and solar panels have been installed to supply electricity to the breeding center. A security system has been established at the center to prevent poaching and other illegal activities. The outdoor cages are surrounded by electric fences to protect the red deer from predators.

The first group of 3 individuals was released into the wild in 2022.

In May 2025, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 9 more red deer were released into the wild through the joint efforts of WWF and the Ministry.

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

XVI.1. 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?

No

XVI.2. 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.

>>> Armenia is actively engaged in the implementation of several CMS-related global and regional action plans and initiatives beyond its NBSAP. Under the AEWA framework, regular monitoring of waterbirds has been conducted at key wetlands (Lake Sevan, Lake Arpi, Armash fishponds, and the Ararat Valley), with targeted conservation actions for globally threatened species such as the White-headed Duck, Dalmatian Pelican, and Lesser White-fronted Goose. Site-level management planning under Ramsar has also been aligned with AEWA priorities. Within the CMS Vulture MsAP and the Egyptian Vulture Flyway Action Plan (EVFAP), Armenia has advanced monitoring and nest protection, carried out awareness-raising to reduce poisoning, and initiated selective insulation of dangerous powerlines in vulture hotspots. Work under the Raptors MoU and Saker Falcon Global Action Plan has focused on reducing electrocution risk, monitoring populations, and awareness to curb illegal killing and trade.

Armenia also contributes to the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP) through farmland and steppe bird monitoring, pilot agri-environment measures, and efforts to reduce unsustainable agricultural practices. Climate change considerations have been integrated into national protected area and wetland management, in line with the CMS Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, though further vulnerability assessments and ecological corridor mapping remain priorities. The CMS Energy Task Force has supported pilot projects to retrofit and insulate dangerous powerlines, and environmental impact assessment procedures for wind and solar energy are increasingly applied, but a comprehensive national standard for bird-safe energy infrastructure is still needed.

Within the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), Armenia has implemented anti-poaching measures, connectivity conservation actions, and is undertaking a successful red deer reintroduction programme, which supports broader ecological corridor restoration. Synergistic initiatives such as the Ramsar Programme of Work on Wetlands and the Emerald Network under the Bern Convention have contributed to migratory species conservation by improving site management and connectivity.

Overall, Armenia has demonstrated progress in species- and ecosystem-specific action plans, particularly for migratory birds, vultures, and large mammals. Priority next steps include the adoption of bird-safe infrastructure standards, the establishment of a national anti-poisoning response system, scaling of agri-environment and climate adaptation measures, and the development of formal national workplans under AEWA, CAMI, and AEMLAP to ensure long-term, coordinated implementation.

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.

>>> Monitoring of CMS-related action plans and initiatives in Armenia is carried out through a combination of national biodiversity monitoring schemes, site-level management plans, and species-specific research programmes. Under AEWA and Ramsar, regular International Waterbird Census (IWC) counts and site-based surveys at Lake Sevan, Lake Arpi, and Armash wetlands provide long-term datasets that inform both national Red List updates and international reporting. These data indicate stable or increasing wintering numbers of certain species (e.g., Dalmatian Pelican), but continued declines in steppe and farmland-associated species, underscoring the partial effectiveness of current measures.

For vultures and raptors (Vulture MsAP, EVFAP, Raptors MoU), monitoring combines satellite telemetry, nest surveys, and incident reporting. These efforts have shown positive results in terms of improved breeding success in Egyptian Vulture territories where anti-poisoning awareness and nest guarding are in place.

Under the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI), red deer reintroduction has been accompanied by systematic monitoring of population establishment, genetic health, and habitat use, showing encouraging early signs of acclimatization and reproduction. Camera trapping and ranger patrol data are used to assess the status of Armenian mouflon and goitered gazelle, with results indicating that while anti-poaching patrols are effective in some areas, habitat fragmentation continues to limit recovery.

Integration with Other International Agreements

The implementation of CMS-linked initiatives in Armenia is closely integrated with other multilateral environmental agreements:

Ramsar Convention: Monitoring and site management for AEWA species is conducted within Ramsar-designated wetlands, ensuring alignment of obligations.

Bern Convention / Emerald Network: Designation of Emerald sites directly supports CMS priorities for habitat protection and ecological connectivity, while management-effectiveness assessments contribute to CBD and CMS objectives.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/am-nr-06-en.pdf>,

<https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/about/latest/>,

https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/importftp/COP14NR_Armenia_e.pdf.

XVII. Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities

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

XVII.1. 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?

Partly / in some areas

XVII.2. 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?

Partly / in some areas

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
- Inclusion in governance mechanisms (legislation, policies, etc.)
- Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests

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 Resolution **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans).

>>> Armenia has taken several steps to foster consideration for traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of local communities in the context of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity .

Here are some key actions and developments:

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Armenia developed its first NBSAP in 1999 and initiated a major review in 2010 to align with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The revised strategy emphasizes mainstreaming biodiversity into national and local development, including poverty reduction efforts, which inherently involves recognizing the role of local communities and their knowledge systems.

Protected Areas and Community Involvement

As of 2023, about 14% of Armenia's territory is designated as protected areas, including national parks and nature reserves.

These areas often involve local communities in management and sustainable tourism, helping preserve traditional land-use practices while generating income.

Integration of Traditional Practices

Conservation policies increasingly aim to integrate socio-economic development with environmental protection, recognizing that many local livelihoods depend on sustainable resource use.

Armenia is set to host COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2026, signaling its growing commitment to global biodiversity goals.

This platform is expected to further elevate the role of traditional knowledge and community-based conservation in national and regional strategies.

In short, while challenges remain—especially in enforcement and funding—Armenia is making meaningful progress in valuing and integrating the wisdom of its local communities into conservation efforts.

XVII.3. How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country in the area of traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species?

2. Some progress but more work is needed

Please provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>> Armenia has made strides in aligning its legislation with EU Directives on the conservation of wild birds and natural habitats.

• This includes:

- o Inventorying migratory bird species requiring special conservation measures.
- o Designating Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for migratory birds.
- o Establishing conservation regimes that integrate traditional land-use practices.

These steps show a growing recognition of the role local communities play in protecting migratory species,

especially birds that rely on Armenia's wetlands and alpine meadows during seasonal movements. Armenia has initiated capacity-building activities for local stakeholders, including training on biodiversity monitoring and sustainable land use. The Law on Eco Patrol Service (adopted in 2023) enhances enforcement in protected areas and empowers local actors to participate in conservation.

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

XVIII.1 During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in the area of knowledge, data and capacity building? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

XVIII.2 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 **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions 14.130/14.131 (AEMLAP), 14.134 (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), 14.148-14.151 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Decisions 14.207-14.208 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), and 14.182 (Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife).

Education campaigns in schools

>>> Armenia has implemented a range of public awareness and education activities to raise understanding of the importance of migratory species, their habitats, and migration systems. These actions involve governmental, NGO, and community-level initiatives and align with CMS objectives to increase visibility and stakeholder engagement.

1. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) Campaigns

Lead Organizations: Ministry of Environment, WWF-Armenia, BirdLife (partner NGOs), EcoClubs.

Activities:

Public birdwatching events at Lake Sevan, Arpi Lake, and Armash wetlands.

School competitions, art contests, and seminars on the value of bird migration.

Production of educational posters and online videos in Armenian.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> Celebration of Biodiversity Days

Activities during International Biodiversity Day, Earth Day, and Environmental Protection Day also highlight migratory species.

A prime example of this is the joint event organized in May 2025, during which, in celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, 9 Red deer individuals were released into the wild through the combined efforts of WWF and the Ministry.

5. The staff of the Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University, together with the Ministry of Environment, organize the International Bat Night every year. It was initiated by Eurobats and has been celebrated in European countries since 1997 and in Armenia since 2016. The goal of the event is to raise public awareness about bats, their ecological role and the need for their conservation. The event is held every year in late August or the first week of September in different settlements of the Republic of Armenia. In previous years, it was held in the Hrazdan Gorge (Yerevan), Gndevank Gorge (Vayots Dzor), and Khosrov Forest State Reserve (Ararat Region).

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> The AUA Acopian Center for the Environment has produced a series of 6 videos as a companion to the Field Guide to Birds of Armenia published by AUA Acopian Center for the Environment and Birds of Armenia. The videos offer general information about birds worldwide and particularly in Armenia. Beginners will learn how to use the Field Guidebook to identify birds. They will also learn about main issues related to bird habitats, migration, and threats.

The videos is in Armenian with English subtitles. Each video is followed by a bilingual quiz.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> In Armenia, several scientific studies and research initiatives have been carried out on migratory species, focusing on birds, mammals, fish, and other taxa, often in collaboration with local universities, research organizations, and international partners. Here's a structured overview based on recent reports and publications:

1. Ornithological Research (Birds)

Monitoring migratory birds:

Long-term monitoring of key migratory bird species along the Aras River and in wetlands like Lake Sevan, Lake Arpi, and the Khosrov Forest.

Focus on waterfowl, raptors, and passerines, tracking population trends, migration timing, and habitat use. Important Bird Areas (IBAs):

Studies identifying and mapping IBAs in Armenia, which are critical stopover sites for migratory species.

Research often conducted by the BirdLife International Armenia office and local NGOs.

2. Mammals

Large mammals:

Studies on large mammals in Armenia include seasonal movements, some of which are transboundary, particularly near Georgia and Iran.

Red deer resettlement and translocation programs monitored movement and habitat use.

Bats:

Surveys of migratory bat species, including *Pipistrellus* spp. and *Myotis* spp., in caves and forested areas.

Key institutions:

Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Yerevan State University,

WWF Caucasus Program

XVIII.3 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
- Other skills development
- Provision of equipment or materials
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation

XIX. Resource Mobilization

XIX.1 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.

Yes, made available for activities within the country

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

Increased

XIX.2. During the reporting period, has your country received financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

Yes

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

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

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

Increased

XIX.3. 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.

>>> Armenia’s future CMS implementation priorities will require resources for:

1. Expanding and managing protected areas and corridors for migratory species.
2. Implementing species-specific action plans for CMS-listed taxa.
3. Enhancing monitoring, research, and data systems.
4. Building enforcement and community engagement capacity.
5. Integrating climate resilience, sustainable financing, and cross-border cooperation into migratory species conservation.