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):
››› Single and Mulit Species Action Plans are a great tool for focusing attention and prioritising activities that need to be implemented to facilitate the conservation of migratory species. The benefits of these plans include the relatively short timeframe required for development and adoption, the ability to include non-Party range states, and the ability to target specific conservation requirements.
The ability to include non-Party range states in the development and implementation of subsidiary agreements and MoUs is also a significantly successful aspect of the Convention. However, these subsidiary instruments take significantly longer to negotiate and can suffer from a lack of support (particularly in the case of non-legally binding MoUs).

The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention? (List up to five items):
››› Consistent interpretation of Convention definitions continues to be an area of potential improvement. The Scientific Council should endeavour to address this issue, where relevant, rigorously in future.
There can also be issues in implementing obligations related to species listings when the listing does not adequately recognise population or regional differences that occur within the species range. Greater use of regional or sub-population listings may help to alleviate this difficulty.

The main priorities for future implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):
››› Utilising the Scientific Council and its expertise to highlight priority taxa for inclusion on the Convention Appendices is critical to ensuring that key gaps are filled in future, and species that would benefit from CMS legally-binding obligations and international cooperation remain the focus of Parties. This would help to alleviate the current ad-hoc approach that is taken to the submission of listing proposals. It is great to see this important work for some taxa progressing.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party
››› Australia

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country (DDMMYY)
››› 01.09.1991

Report compiler

Name and title
››› Narelle Montgomery

Full name of institution
››› Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

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Designated CMS National Focal Point

Name and title of designated Focal Point
››› Ms Narelle Montgomery, Director, Migratory Species Section

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

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)..
☑ No, amendments are needed for the following species:

Emperor Goose / Anser canagicus
Select occurrence of Emperor Goose / Anser canagicus
☑ Not present

Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis
Select occurrence of Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis
☑ Not present

Spectacled Eider / Somateria fischeri
Select occurrence of Spectacled Eider / Somateria fischeri
☑ Not present

Common Eider / Somateria mollissima
Select occurrence of Common Eider / Somateria mollissima
☑ Not present

Velvet Scoter / Melanitta fusca
Select occurrence of Velvet Scoter / Melanitta fusca
☑ Not present

Black Scoter / Melanitta americana
Select occurrence of Black Scoter / Melanitta americana
☑ Not present

Scaly-sided Merganser / Mergus squamatus
Select occurrence of Scaly-sided Merganser / Mergus squamatus
☑ Not present

Orinoco Goose / Neochen jubata
Select occurrence of Orinoco Goose / Neochen jubata
☑ Not present

White-winged Duck / Asarcornis scutulata
Select occurrence of White-winged Duck / Asarcornis scutulata
☑ Not present

Common Pochard / Aythya ferina
Select occurrence of Common Pochard / Aythya ferina
☑ Not present

Spectacled Duck / Speculanas specularis
Select occurrence of Spectacled Duck / Speculanas specularis
☑ Not present

Falcated Duck / Mareca falcata
Select occurrence of Falcated Duck / Mareca falcata
☑ Not present

Chilean Flamingo / Phoenicopterus chilensis
Select occurrence of Chilean Flamingo / Phoenicopterus chilensis
☑ Not present

Lesser Flamingo / Phoeniconaias minor
Select occurrence of Lesser Flamingo / Phoeniconaias minor
☑ Not present

Sarus Crane / Grus antigone
Select occurrence of Sarus Crane / Grus antigone
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Sarus Crane is a native species to Australia, however, the Australian population does not migrate.

Whooping Crane / Grus americana
Select occurrence of Whooping Crane / Grus americana
☑ Not present

Magellanic Plover / Pluvianellus socialis
Select occurrence of Magellanic Plover / Pluvianellus socialis
☑ Not present

Eurasian Oystercatcher / Haematopus ostralegus
Select occurrence of Eurasian Oystercatcher / Haematopus ostralegus
☑ Not present

Diademed Plover / Phegornis mitchellii
Select occurrence of Diademed Plover / Phegornis mitchellii
☑ Not present

Piping Plover / Charadrius melodus
Select occurrence of Piping Plover / Charadrius melodus
☑ Not present

White-faced Plover / Charadrius dealbatus
Select occurrence of White-faced Plover / Charadrius dealbatus
☑ Not present

Snowy Plover / Charadrius nivosus
Select occurrence of Snowy Plover / Charadrius nivosus
☑ Not present

Double-banded Plover / Charadrius bicinctus
Select occurrence of Double-banded Plover / Charadrius bicinctus
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Double-banded Plover is a native species in Australia. The species migrates to Australia from its breeding grounds in New Zealand.

Mountain Plover / Charadrius montanus
Select occurrence of Mountain Plover / Charadrius montanus
☑ Not present

Northern Lapwing / Vanellus vanellus
Select occurrence of Northern Lapwing / Vanellus vanellus
☑ Not present

Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata
Select occurrence of Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata
☑ Not present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The species is considered a vagrant in Australia. Irregular occurrence of a small number of individuals.

Bar-tailed Godwit / Limosa lapponica
Select occurrence of Bar-tailed Godwit / Limosa lapponica
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Bar-tailed Godwit is a native species to Australia. The species spends its time in Australia during its non-breeding period between October – April.

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa
Select occurrence of Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Black-tailed Godwit is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper / Calidris acuminata
Select occurrence of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper / Calidris acuminata
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Curlew Sandpiper / Calidris ferruginea
Select occurrence of Curlew Sandpiper / Calidris ferruginea
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Curlew Sandpiper is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Red-necked Stint / Calidris ruficollis
Select occurrence of Red-necked Stint / Calidris ruficollis
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Red-necked Stint is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Asian Dowitcher / Limnodromus semipalmatus
Select occurrence of Asian Dowitcher / Limnodromus semipalmatus
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Asian Dowitcher is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Fuegian Snipe / Gallinago stricklandii
Select occurrence of Fuegian Snipe / Gallinago stricklandii
☑ Not present

Latham's Snipe / Gallinago hardwickii

Select occurrence of Latham's Snipe / Gallinago hardwickii
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Latham’s Snipe is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Wood Snipe / Gallinago nemoricola
Select occurrence of Wood Snipe / Gallinago nemoricola
☑ Not present

Great Snipe / Gallinago media
Select occurrence of Great Snipe / Gallinago media
☑ Not present

Grey-tailed Tattler / Tringa brevipes
Select occurrence of Grey-tailed Tattler / Tringa brevipes
☑ Present

Provide evidence (optional)
››› The Grey-tailed Tattler is a native species to Australia. The species spends its non-breeding season in Australia, largely between October – April.

Scissor-tailed Kite / Chelictinia riocourii
Select occurrence of Scissor-tailed Kite / Chelictinia riocourii
☑ Not present

Bearded Vulture / Gypaetus barbatus
Select occurrence of Bearded Vulture / Gypaetus barbatus
☑ Not present

Bateleur / Terathopius ecaudatus
Select occurrence of Bateleur / Terathopius ecaudatus
☑ Not present

Beaudouin's Snake-eagle / Circaetus beaudouini
Select occurrence of Beaudouin's Snake-eagle / Circaetus beaudouini
☑ Not present

Southern Banded Snake-eagle / Circaetus fasciolatus
Select occurrence of Southern Banded Snake-eagle / Circaetus fasciolatus
☑ Not present

Himalayan Griffon / Gyps himalayensis
Select occurrence of Himalayan Griffon / Gyps himalayensis
☑ Not present

Cinereous Vulture / Aegypius monachus
Select occurrence of Cinereous Vulture / Aegypius monachus
☑ Not present

Mountain Hawk-eagle / Nisaetus nipalensis
Select occurrence of Mountain Hawk-eagle / Nisaetus nipalensis
☑ Not present

Tawny Eagle / Aquila rapax
Select occurrence of Tawny Eagle / Aquila rapax
☑ Not present

Black Harrier / Circus maurus
Select occurrence of Black Harrier / Circus maurus
☑ Not present

Pallid Harrier / Circus macrourus
Select occurrence of Pallid Harrier / Circus macrourus
☑ Not present

Grey-bellied Goshawk / Accipiter poliogaster
Select occurrence of Grey-bellied Goshawk / Accipiter poliogaster
☑ Not present

Lesser Fish-eagle / Icthyophaga humilis
Select occurrence of Lesser Fish-eagle / Icthyophaga humilis
☑ Not present

Striated Caracara / Phalcoboenus australis
Select occurrence of Striated Caracara / Phalcoboenus australis
☑ Not present

Red-headed Falcon / Falco chicquera
Select occurrence of Red-headed Falcon / Falco chicquera
☑ Not present

Sooty Falcon / Falco concolor
Select occurrence of Sooty Falcon / Falco concolor
☑ Not present

Silver Oriole / Oriolus mellianus
Select occurrence of Silver Oriole / Oriolus mellianus
☑ Not present

Black-capped Vireo / Vireo atricapilla
Select occurrence of Black-capped Vireo / Vireo atricapilla
☑ Not present

Japanese Paradise-flycatcher / Terpsiphone atrocaudata
Select occurrence of Japanese Paradise-flycatcher / Terpsiphone atrocaudata
☑ Not present

Drakensberg Rockjumper / Chaetops aurantius
Select occurrence of Drakensberg Rockjumper / Chaetops aurantius
☑ Not present

White-browed Reed-warbler / Acrocephalus tangorum
Select occurrence of White-browed Reed-warbler / Acrocephalus tangorum
☑ Not present

Marsh Grassbird / Helopsaltes pryeri
Select occurrence of Marsh Grassbird / Helopsaltes pryeri
☑ Not present

Pleske's Grasshopper-warbler / Helopsaltes pleskei
Select occurrence of Pleske's Grasshopper-warbler / Helopsaltes pleskei
☑ Not present

Long-billed Grasshopper-warbler / Locustella major
Select occurrence of Long-billed Grasshopper-warbler / Locustella major
☑ Not present

Bristled Grassbird / Schoenicola striatus
Select occurrence of Bristled Grassbird / Schoenicola striatus
☑ Not present

Ijima's Leaf-warbler / Phylloscopus ijimae
Select occurrence of Ijima's Leaf-warbler / Phylloscopus ijimae

☑ Not present

Bush Blackcap / Sylvia nigricapillus
Select occurrence of Bush Blackcap / Sylvia nigricapillus
☑ Not present

Dartford Warbler / Curruca undata
Select occurrence of Dartford Warbler / Curruca undata
☑ Not present

Rufous-vented Grass-babbler / Laticilla burnesii
Select occurrence of Rufous-vented Grass-babbler / Laticilla burnesii
☑ Not present

Bicknell's Thrush / Catharus bicknelli
Select occurrence of Bicknell's Thrush / Catharus bicknelli
☑ Not present

Redwing / Turdus iliacus
Select occurrence of Redwing / Turdus iliacus
☑ Not present

Grey-sided Thrush / Turdus feae
Select occurrence of Grey-sided Thrush / Turdus feae
☑ Not present

Zappey's Flycatcher / Cyanoptila cumatilis
Select occurrence of Zappey's Flycatcher / Cyanoptila cumatilis
☑ Not present

Brown-chested Jungle-flycatcher / Cyornis brunneatus
Select occurrence of Brown-chested Jungle-flycatcher / Cyornis brunneatus
☑ Not present

Large Blue-flycatcher / Cyornis magnirostris
Select occurrence of Large Blue-flycatcher / Cyornis magnirostris
☑ Not present

Hill Blue-flycatcher / Cyornis banyumas
Select occurrence of Hill Blue-flycatcher / Cyornis banyumas
☑ Not present

Rusty-bellied Shortwing / Brachypteryx hyperythra
Select occurrence of Rusty-bellied Shortwing / Brachypteryx hyperythra
☑ Not present

Rufous-headed Robin / Larvivora ruficeps
Select occurrence of Rufous-headed Robin / Larvivora ruficeps
☑ Not present

Firethroat / Calliope pectardens
Select occurrence of Firethroat / Calliope pectardens
☑ Not present

Blackthroat / Calliope obscura
Select occurrence of Blackthroat / Calliope obscura
☑ Not present

Kashmir Flycatcher / Ficedula subrubra
Select occurrence of Kashmir Flycatcher / Ficedula subrubra
☑ Not present

Sentinel Rock-thrush / Monticola explorator
Select occurrence of Sentinel Rock-thrush / Monticola explorator
☑ Not present

White-browed Bushchat / Saxicola macrorhynchus
Select occurrence of White-browed Bushchat / Saxicola macrorhynchus
☑ Not present

White-throated Bushchat / Saxicola insignis
Select occurrence of White-throated Bushchat / Saxicola insignis
☑ Not present

Sprague's Pipit / Anthus spragueii
Select occurrence of Sprague's Pipit / Anthus spragueii
☑ Not present

Mountain Pipit / Anthus hoeschi
Select occurrence of Mountain Pipit / Anthus hoeschi
☑ Not present

Yellow-breasted Pipit / Hemimacronyx chloris
Select occurrence of Yellow-breasted Pipit / Hemimacronyx chloris
☑ Not present

Mekong Wagtail / Motacilla samveasnae
Select occurrence of Mekong Wagtail / Motacilla samveasnae
☑ Not present

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.
››› Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (s209-223):
The EPBC Act is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019:
Within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 prohibit the take of many CMS listed species including Dugong, Whales and Dolphins, and several species of sharks, sea snakes, and all bird species (s30).
States and Territories within Australia also have legislation that covers migratory species:
Implementing legislation – New South Wales:
• National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
• National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019
• Fisheries Management Act 1994
• Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019
• Marine Estate Management Act 2014
• Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
Implementing legislation - Victoria:
• National Parks Act 1975
• Wildlife Act 1975
• Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
• Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2011
• Wildlife (Marine Mammal) Regulations 2009 (Statutory Rule No. 152/1998)
• Fisheries Act 1995
Implementing legislation - South Australia:
• The Natural Resources Management Act 2004 was repealed in 2019 and replaced with Landscape SA Act.
• Landscape South Australia Act 2019
• National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972
• Fisheries Management Act 2007
• Marine Parks Act 2007
• Environment Protection Act 1993
Implementing legislation - Queensland:
• Marine Parks Act 2004
• Nature Conservation Act 2002
• Fisheries Act 1994
• Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019
• Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019
Implementing legislation – Western Australia:
• Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018
• Fish Resources Management Act 1994
• Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995
Implementing legislation – Tasmania:
• Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995
• Nature Conservation Act 2002 and National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
• Whales Protection Act 1988
• Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
• Natural Resources Management Act 2002
I
Implementing legislation – Northern Territory:
• Fisheries Act 1988
• Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2007
Implementing legislation – Australian Capital Territory:
• Nature Conservation Act 1980
Implementing legislation (External Territories):
• Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act 1980
• Australian Antarctic Territory Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
• Antarctic Marine Living Resources Conservation Act 1981

• Christmas Island Act 1958
• Cocos (Keeling) Islands Wild Animals and Birds Ordinance 1980
• Cocos (Keeling) Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
• Coral Sea Islands Territory Endangered Species Ordinance 1980
• Coral Sea Islands Territory Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
• Norfolk Island Endangered Species Act 1980
• Norfolk Island Migratory Birds Act 1980
• Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Endangered Species Ordinance 1980
• Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
• Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980
• Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands Environment Protection and Management Ordinance 1987

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

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (s209-223)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019

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?
☑ Yes

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Section_IV_exceptions_Australia.xlsx - Section IV - Exceptions Australia

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 livehoods), 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.COP.14)**(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).
☑ Campaigns on specific topics
☑ Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
☑ Press and media coverage
☑ Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
☑ Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
☑ Special publications
☑ Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites
☑ Other (please specify)

››› Summary:
• Australia has conducted research and public engagement on migratory birds, highlighting biosecurity success and the need to prioritise habitat protection. Studies have examined bird flu, pollutant exposure, drone impacts, and wetland habitat comparisons.
• Public awareness is raised through events like World Wetlands Day and tools such as AviFluMap.
• Marine wildlife conservation actions that involve the public include reef clean-ups, strandings data (StrandNet), and public education via aquariums and rehabilitation centres.
• Marine turtle conservation is supported through regional programs, eco-tourism, and educational outreach across multiple states and territories.
• National guidelines support conservation planning, including protocols for marine surveys, euthanasia of stranded large whales, tagging, and recovery plans for species like the Southern Right Whale.
1. Migratory Birds and the East Asian–Australasian Flyway
Australia has conducted a range of research, surveillance, and public engagement activities focused on migratory birds within Australia and along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. Scientific studies have examined the absence of the HPAI H5N1 2.3.4.4b strain in Australia for a second consecutive year, highlighting the effectiveness of current biosecurity measures.
Further research has explored the role of wild birds in the global bird flu panzootic, the lack of association between shorebird gut microbiota and bivalve prey in tropical Australia, and the behavioural responses of shorebirds to drone activity. Studies have also investigated pollutant exposure across the flyway and compared contaminant levels and survival outcomes in natural versus artificial wetlands, including wastewater treatment plants.
Conservation agreements in the Asia-Pacific region have been found to be more effective in addressing habitat loss than hunting pressures, suggesting a need to focus on mitigating hunting pressures in policy frameworks. Resources like AviFluMap and reports from Wildlife Health Australia and Animal Health Australia provide surveillance data and updates on avian influenza, contributing to national preparedness and awareness.
Relevant avian studies conducted during the reporting period:
• Wille M et al (2024) Long distance avian migrants fail to bring 2.3.4.4b HPAI H5N1 into Australia for a second year in a row. Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 18, e13281 https://doi.org/10.1111/irv.13281
• Gallo-Cajiao E, Morrison TH & Fuller RA (2024) Agreements for conserving migratory shorebirds in the Asia-Pacific are better fit for addressing habitat loss than hunting. Ambio, 53, 1336-1354.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-024-02018-3
• Klaassen M & Wille M (2023) Wild birds' plight and role in the current bird flu panzootic. Nature Ecology and Evolution, 7, 1541-1542 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-023-02182-x
• Weitzman CL, Tinning Z, Day KA, Garnett ST, Christian K & Gibb K. (2024) Migratory shorebird gut microbes are not associated with bivalve prey in monsoon tropical Australia. Current Microbiology, 81, 111. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-024-03628-6
• Sorrell KJ, Dawlings FME, Mackay CE & Clarke RH (2023) Routine and safe operation of remotely piloted aircraft systems in areas with high densities of flying birds. Drones, 7, 510. doi: https://doi.org/10.3390/drones7080510
• Wilson JP, Amano T & Fuller RA (2023) Drone-induced flight initiation distances for shorebirds in mixed-species flocks. Journal of Applied Ecology, 60, 1816-1827. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14467
• Ross TA, Zhang J, Chiang CY, Choi CY, Lai YC, Asimakopoulos AG, Lemesle P, Ciesielski TM, Jaspers VLB & Klaassen M (2024) Running the gauntlet; flyway-wide patterns of pollutant exposure in blood of migratory shorebirds. Environmental Research, 246, 118123. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2024.118123
• Ross TA, Zhang J, Wille M, Ciesielski TM, Asimakopoulos AG, Lemesle P, Skaalvik TG, Atkinson R, Jessop R, Jaspers VLB & Klaassen M (2023). Assessment of contaminants, health and survival of migratory shorebirds in natural versus artificial wetlands – The potential of wastewater treatment plants as alternative habitats. Science of the Total Environment, 904, 166309. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.166309
• Lisovski S, Hoye BJ, Conklin JR, Battley PF, Fuller RA, Gosbell KB, Klaassen M, Lee CB, Murray NJ & Bauer S (2024) Predicting resilience of migratory birds to environmental change. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 121, e2311146121. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2311146121
• Hansen B (2024) Australia's new threatened migratory shorebird species. Transects issue 19, pp. 6-9. Newsletter of the Ecological Consultants Association of Victoria
• Cooper R, Cooper B, Woehler EJ 2024. Migratory shorebirds of kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary. In: The State of Birds in 2023 in the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary, pp 10-23. BirdLife Tasmania and the Australasian Wader Studies Group, Hobart, 128pp.
• Daudt NW, Woehler EJ, Schofield MR, Smith RO, Bugoni L, Rayment WJ 2024. Seabird assemblages are linked to the major western boundary current off eastern Australia. Progress in Oceanography. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pocean.2024.103215
• Woehler EJ 2024a. Distribution and abundance of shorebirds and small terns, truwana/Cape Barren Island. Tasmanian Bird Report 43, 21-35.
• Woehler EJ 2024b. Migratory Shorebirds. In (eds) State of the Environment Report, Tasmania 2024. Report Card (pp, vol 1) and Technical Report (pp, vol 2). Tasmanian Planning Commission, Hobart. URL not yet available
• Jackson MV, Mott R, Delean S, Hunt BJ, Brookes JD, Casset P & Prowse TAA (2024) Shorebird habitat selection and foraging behaviour have important implications for management at an internationally important non-breeding wetland. Ecological Solutions & Evidence, 5, e12316. https://doi.org/10.1002/2688-8319.12316
• Bird JP, Fuller RA & Shaw JD (2024) Patterns of recovery in extant and extirpated seabirds after the world's largest multipredator eradication. Conservation Biology, 38, e14239. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14239
• Global assessment of marine plastic exposure risk for oceanic birds. Nature Communications, 14, 3665. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-38900-z

2. Marine Wildlife Conservation and Public Education

Public engagement efforts included events such as World Wetlands Day and the dissemination of information through social media, webinars, and publications. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority collaborates with community groups, councils, schools, traditional owners, and tourism operators to conduct reef clean-up events and raise awareness about marine debris.

Public education initiatives are supported by various institutions such as Sydney Aquarium and Sea World, which use captive animals and rehabilitation centres to inform visitors about the threats facing marine megafauna, including dugongs. The Queensland Government maintains StrandNet, a database that records marine wildlife strandings and deaths, helping to identify human-related causes such as boat strikes. This data has informed the implementation of protective measures, including "go-slow" zones in Moreton Bay and dugong protection areas along the Queensland coast. Educational materials are widely distributed to promote safe boating practices and conservation awareness across all Australian states and territories.

3. Marine Turtle Conservation and Education

Marine turtle conservation is supported through regional programs, ecotourism, and educational outreach. In Western Australia, the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program and the Ningaloo Turtle Program deliver targeted communication strategies and have developed a range of education, awareness and information resources. The Western Australian Parks and Wildlife Service also conducts evening guided turtle eco-education tours at the Jurabi Turtle Centre for people wanting to view nesting turtles and hatchlings. These programs are complemented by local initiatives in towns such as Shark Bay, Coral Bay, Exmouth, and Broome, as well as metropolitan centres like Perth.

In Queensland, the Mon Repos Conservation Park offers interpretative resources and guided tours during the turtle nesting season. The ReefHQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital in Townsville, although temporarily closed for renovations, has played a significant role in rehabilitating injured turtles and educating the public. In the Northern Territory, Bare Sand Island supports eco-tourism activities focused on nesting flatback turtles, while the Torres Strait Regional Authority trains traditional owners and students in seagrass monitoring.

Educational resources, including books and curriculum-aligned kits developed by organisations such as the Tangaroa Blue Foundation, are distributed to schools and communities to raise awareness about marine debris and its impact on wildlife.
4. National Guidelines and Strategic Frameworks
Several national guidelines have been developed to support conservation planning and public understanding of migratory marine species. These include the National Guidelines for the Survey of Cetaceans, Marine Turtles and the Dugong, which provide a consistent framework for undertaking in-water surveys for those species. The National Guidelines for Euthanasia of Stranded Large Whales establish humane protocols for managing welfare outcomes during stranding events, while the National Guidelines on the Use of Tagging for Cetaceans outline best practices for both invasive and non-invasive tagging methods.
National recovery plans set out research and management actions to stop the decline of, and support the recovery of, listed threatened species or threatened ecological communities – including a number of species listed on the CMS Appendices. The aim of a recovery plan is to maximise the long-term survival in the wild of a threatened species or ecological community and should state what must be done to protect and restore important populations of threatened species and habitats. They should also state how to manage and reduce threatening processes. Recovery plans provide a planned and logical framework for key interest groups and responsible government agencies. This helps them to coordinate their work to improve outcomes for threatened species and ecological communities. For example, the National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale sets out strategic actions to support the recovery of this iconic species, outlining threats such as climate change, entanglement, habitat loss and degradation. It also identifies critical reproductive habitat in Australian waters.
The Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas or Protected Marine Species provides guidance on submitting Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) to inform updates to critical marine habitats. BIAs are areas used by protected marine species for carrying out critical life functions, including reproduction, feeding, migration and resting. BIAs have so far been mapped for 72 nationally protected marine species, including cetaceans, marine turtles, dugongs, sharks, pinnipeds, and migratory birds. For more information on BIAs, please see section VII.1.
Collectively, these guidelines and frameworks enhance stakeholder engagement, improve data consistency, and contribute to the long-term conservation of Australia’s migratory marine fauna.

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

https://parks.qld.gov.au/parks/mon-repos
https://flatbacks.dbca.wa.gov.au/
Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species
National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale
National Guidelines on the use of Tagging for Cetaceans
National Guidelines for Euthanasia of Stranded Large Whales
National Guidelines for the Survey of Cetaceans, Marine Turtles and the Dugong
https://www.greatbarrierreefaquarium.au/
https://www.tangaroablue.org/resources/education-kit-and-fact-sheets/marine-debris-education-kit/
https://www2.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-work/programs-and-projects/reef-guardians/
https://www.ningaloocentre.com.au/tours/turtle-tours-exmouth-parks-and-wildlife/
https://ningalooturtles.org.au/
https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Resource-Centre/Surveillance-Reports?t=2
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/emergency/exercises/volare
https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/Incidents/H5_Bird_Flu_FAQ.pdf
http://hpairisk.deakin.edu.au/

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.
››› Summary:
• The Australian Government’s CEPA Program supports Ramsar obligations through coordinated wetland education, public awareness, and training.
• The Australian Government is investing $16 million in the Pacific Ocean Litter Project to reduce marine plastic pollution.
• The Reef Guardian Schools Program and seasonal whale awareness campaigns by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority enhance marine conservation education.
• NSW initiatives include Wildlife Matters, citizen science programs, and the ‘Share the Shore’ campaign to protect migratory species; shark conservation is supported by social research and the Shark Smart app.
• WA and QLD governments use tools like AviFluMap and QWildlife to manage wildlife health and incident reporting; Exercise Volare strengthens national preparedness for avian influenza.
• Tasmania and South Australia engage the public through hotlines, media, and educational outreach focused

on whale migration and species protection.
1. Communication, Education and Awareness for Wetland and Marine Conservation
The Australian Government's Communication, Capacity-building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Program supports its obligations under the Ramsar Convention by promoting coordinated wetland education and public awareness. The CEPA Program also encourages training in wetland research and management.
World Wetlands Day, celebrated annually on 2 February, commemorates the signing of the Ramsar Convention and is marked by awareness-raising activities across Australia. For the fortieth anniversary of the Convention, the Australian Government developed a primary school classroom kit that includes educational materials such as fact sheets, DVDs, and stickers. Additionally, the publication Wetlands Australia – National Wetland Update highlights achievements and challenges in wetland conservation.
A significant investment of $16 million between 2019 and 2027 has been allocated to the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), which is implemented in partnership with SPREP. This initiative aims to reduce marine litter in Pacific Island coastal environments by supporting legislation, increasing consumer awareness, promoting alternatives to single-use plastics, and identifying sustainable products.
2. Marine Park Engagement
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority runs the Reef Guardian Schools Program, which fosters awareness and appreciation of reef ecosystems. During whale migration season, the Authority uses social media and its website to promote safe whale viewing practices. These efforts have generated significant engagement, including thousands of impressions and interactions. Media releases and targeted content further support public education on whale conservation.
3. Government Initiatives for Migratory Species
Across New South Wales, various programs aim to increase awareness of migratory species and their habitats. The Wildlife Matters online education platform provides marine species information for students from kindergarten to Year 12. ORRCA's annual whale census day engages the public in tracking whale migrations. Citizen science initiatives such as Right Whale ID and NSW TurtleWatch involve volunteers in data collection and nest protection, with notable success during the 2024–25 turtle nesting season. The 'Share the Shore' campaign raises awareness of shorebird conservation through cinema ads, signage, school engagement, and local media, targeting specific threats such as recreational fishing and 4WD use.
Community engagement around shark conservation in NSW includes forums, surveys, school visits, and the Shark Smart app, which provides real-time alerts and safety tips. Social research supports shark management strategies and informs public behaviour.
In Western Australia, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions provides public information on marine fauna and responsible wildlife interaction. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development also engages with fishers and NGOs through publications and outreach.
Preparedness for HPAI H5N1 bird flu is supported by tools such as AviFluMap, which models the risk of virus introduction via wild birds. Wildlife Health Australia offers resources to guide site-specific response planning, and Exercise Volare has facilitated cross-sector collaboration to improve national preparedness.
Queensland has expanded its QWildlife application to manage reports of marine megafauna incidents, including strandings and entanglements. This digital tool enhances incident reporting and data accessibility, supported by annual media campaigns during whale migration season.
Tasmania promotes awareness of migratory species through social media and media engagement, particularly during whale migration and World Albatross Day. The state operates a 24/7 Marine Mammal Hotline for reporting sightings and incidents, which also serves as an educational platform.
South Australia similarly engages the public through literature and media, focusing on humpback whale migration and plover conservation. The Fishwatch hotline enables reporting of whale interactions and supports public involvement in marine species protection.

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

http://
NSW TurtleWatch
Right Whale ID
ORRCA
Share the Shore
Reef Guardian Schools program
Pacific Ocean Litter Project
Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme
National HPAI Preparedness Task Force
Exercise Volare
Risk Mitigation Toolboxes
FAQ
AviFluMap

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.
››› Summary:
• Australia increased preparedness for HPAI H5N1 bird flu through awareness campaigns, site-specific planning using WHA toolboxes, and national use of AviFluMap.
• NSW launched the Wildlife Matters education program and delivered the ‘Share the Shore’ campaign, reaching over 1.3 million people and engaging 75% of local councils.
• Shark conservation messaging in NSW is informed by social research and supported by tools like the SharkSmart app.
• Tasmania recorded 201 cetacean sightings across 11 species, with 38% reported via the Marine Mammal Hotline, highlighting its value for public engagement and data collection.
• South Australia compiled fishery-specific data on Threatened, Endangered and Protected species to support marine ecosystem monitoring and management.
1. Education and Awareness Initiatives in New South Wales
New South Wales has implemented several targeted education and awareness programs to support conservation efforts for migratory and marine species. The Wildlife Matters online education program was recently launched and has received positive feedback, with further updates pending. A major initiative under the Saving our Species program is the ‘Share the Shore’ campaign, which aims to influence community behaviour through educational content distributed via paid social media. This campaign successfully reached over 1.3 million individuals who either reside near or visit NSW beaches.
During the 2024–25 period, the campaign’s video content achieved nearly 1.83 million impressions and reached over 1.3 million unique viewers. It also generated more than 1,500 link clicks to the campaign’s webpage. Notably, 75 percent of local councils actively participated by sharing the provided content and key messages, demonstrating strong local engagement.
Social research plays a foundational role in shaping shark management awareness and education programs in NSW. Insights into human behaviour and decision-making processes have informed the development of communication tools such as the SharkSmart app. These findings are used to refine messaging strategies and support policy and program development.
2. National Preparedness for Avian Influenza
Australia has undertaken significant awareness and preparedness activities in response to the potential arrival of HPAI H5N1 2.3.4.4b, commonly referred to as H5 bird flu. These efforts have led to an increase in the reporting and investigation of sick and dead birds across jurisdictions. Wildlife managers and agencies have adopted the Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) risk mitigation toolboxes to develop tailored preparedness plans for specific sites and populations, including Phillip Island National Park and the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team.
AviFluMap is being widely used by wildlife managers throughout the country to assess population vulnerabilities and track wild bird movements that may influence the introduction or spread of the virus. This tool supports strategic planning and enhances national biosecurity measures.
3. Cetacean Monitoring and Public Engagement in Tasmania
In Tasmania, cetacean monitoring efforts during the 2024–25 financial year resulted in 201 individual sighting reports, covering 11 distinct species. The Marine Mammal Hotline played a significant role in data collection, accounting for 38 percent of the total reports. This highlights the Hotline’s continued value not only as a data-gathering tool but also as a means of engaging and educating the public about marine mammal occurrences and conservation.

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.
››› Summary:
• The EPBC Act provides the legal framework for protecting nationally significant environmental matters, including migratory species, wetlands, and marine parks; it regulates activities that may impact these areas.
• Offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas activities are managed under the 2023 Environment Regulations, requiring approved Environment Plans that assess and minimise risks to migratory species.
• Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019–2030 sets a national framework to address biodiversity decline, replacing the earlier 2010–2030 strategy.
• The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 prioritises species and places, aiming to prevent extinctions and increase Indigenous participation in conservation.
• Monitoring tools like the Threatened Bird Index and Single Species Action Plans for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific and Hawksbill Turtle support species tracking and international conservation efforts.
• National policies and recovery plans aim to reduce bycatch impacts on marine turtles and seabirds, with the seabird Threat Abatement Plan currently being revised.
• NSW's Marine Estate Management Strategy funds projects to mitigate marine threats, while the Saving our Species program targets CMS-listed species.
• Fisheries management guidelines ensure compliance with the EPBC Act and minimise impacts on migratory species.
• Australia meets CITES obligations through regular reporting on trade and legal frameworks for endangered species.
1. Legislative Framework for Environmental Protection
The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) provides the overarching legal framework for protecting nationally and internationally significant flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places. It identifies nine matters of national environmental significance, including migratory species, Ramsar wetlands, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and threatened species. The EPBC Act is triggered when a proposed activity is likely to significantly impact any of these matters. Once a species is listed as migratory under the EPBC Act, it becomes an offence to kill, injure, take, or move the species within Commonwealth waters.
Environmental management of offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities in Commonwealth waters is regulated under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023. These regulations require the submission and approval of an Environment Plan by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), which must assess all environmental risks and demonstrate that impacts are minimised to an acceptable level. Migratory species listed under the EPBC Act must be specifically considered in these plans. NOPSEMA also enforces compliance and investigates breaches.
NOPSEMA also serves as the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021, overseeing environmental management for offshore electricity infrastructure, including potential renewable energy projects. Although no commercial-scale offshore renewable energy projects have been approved in Commonwealth waters to date, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) remains responsible for advising on EPBC Act conditions and approvals.
2. National Biodiversity and Threatened Species Strategies
Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019–2030 replaced the earlier Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030. The updated strategy focuses on building ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, maintaining ecosystem services, and restoring ecological functions. It was developed following a review of the earlier strategy, which identified governance, engagement, and prioritisation challenges. The new strategy provides a national framework for coordinated action by governments, non-government organisations, and communities to address biodiversity decline.
The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 outlines priority species and places, measurable targets, and practical actions to guide conservation efforts. It builds on the 2021–2026 plan and includes input from experts, communities, conservation groups, and First Nations peoples. The plan prioritises species such as the Far Eastern Curlew and Green Turtle and aims to prevent new extinctions, expand protected areas, and increase Indigenous participation in conservation. Key actions include managing invasive species, empowering communities, and enhancing species resilience to climate change.
3. Monitoring and Conservation Tools
The Threatened Bird Index, developed through collaboration between the National Environmental Science

Program, the University of Queensland, and BirdLife Australia, provides a transparent method for tracking population trends of Australia's threatened birds. It serves as an indicator of the health of wetland and coastal environments at national, regional, and local levels.
Australia has also contributed to a variety of single species action plans under the CMS, including for the Loggerhead and Hawksbill Turtles, the Far Eastern Curlew and the Christmas Island Frigatebird. The plans provide a guiding framework for collaborative and priority actions that are required to address threats to the species across their range.
Bycatch of migratory species is addressed through both the Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018 and the National Bycatch Policy 1999, which aim to minimise fishing-related impacts on non-target species through cooperative management across jurisdictions. Under the Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries, the environmental performance of commercial fisheries is assessed to ensure compliance with the EPBC Act. These guidelines require reliable monitoring and data collection and mandate that fishers take all reasonable steps to avoid and minimise impacts on migratory and protected species.
National recovery plans also address bycatch issues, where relevant. For example, the National Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles 2017–2027 seeks to improve the conservation status of marine turtles and reduce bycatch in domestic and international fisheries.
A review of the Threat Abatement Plan for seabird bycatch in longline fisheries, last updated in 2018, has recommended a variation to incorporate improvements and further reduce bycatch. Although bycatch rates are currently below performance thresholds, the goal of achieving zero bycatch remains unchanged. Development of the revised plan is scheduled to begin in 2025.
Australia also meets its international obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by submitting annual trade and compliance reports and biannual updates on legal and administrative arrangements.
4. State and Territory Contributions
State and territory governments also play a critical role in migratory species conservation. In New South Wales, the Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018–2028 supports projects to understand and mitigate threats to marine species. The NSW Government has committed over $180 million to the strategy, with $30.6 million allocated for the 2025–26 financial year alone. The Strategy Implementation Plan 2024–26 outlines ongoing projects, delivery partners, and timelines.
The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water also delivers the Saving our Species program, which prioritises investment in CMS-listed species such as green and loggerhead turtles, southern right whales, and beach-nesting birds.
South Australia has further compiled data on Threatened, Endangered and Protected (TEP) species by fishery, which is presented in an attached table. This data contributes to ongoing efforts to monitor and manage species at risk within the state's marine ecosystems.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

South_Australia_-_Fishery_TEPS_Interactions.png - South Australia - Fishery interactions

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

NSW Marine Estate
The 2023 Threatened Bird Index
The Threatened Species Action Plan
Australia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries (2nd edn)

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:
››› Summary:
• Australia maintains international agreements with Japan, China, and Republic of Korea to support migratory bird conservation, with national reporting prepared for each consultative meeting.
• Commercial fisheries are assessed under the EPBC Act for their impact on migratory and protected species, with reporting and mitigation measures in place across all jurisdictions.
• National environmental reporting includes the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, which assesses ecosystem

health and management effectiveness.
• Shark management in NSW is guided by a five-year strategy and annual programs, incorporating research, community input, and independent evaluations.
• NSW's Shark Meshing Program identifies precautionary trigger points for several species, prompting recommendations to reduce entanglements.
• The NSW Game Fishing Association supports ethical angling and contributes to long-term tagging and monitoring programs for pelagic species.
• NSW maintains multiple environmental reporting platforms, including the Saving our Species database and the Elements wildlife incident system.
• Queensland and other jurisdictions require commercial operators to report interactions with threatened species, contributing to national conservation data.
1. International Cooperation and Migratory Bird Conservation
Australia plays a key role in the conservation of migratory birds through international agreements with Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA), and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA). A national report has been prepared for the consultative meetings scheduled to take place in Dongying, China in October 2025. These agreements support coordinated conservation efforts across flyways and reinforce Australia's commitment to protecting migratory species.
2. Fisheries Management and Reporting
All commercial fisheries with export components are assessed under the EPBC Act and associated guidelines. These assessments evaluate the impact of fishing on both target and non-target species, including migratory species, and the broader marine environment. Commonwealth fisheries may be subject to conditions or recommendations to improve management practices, particularly regarding interactions with protected species. State and Territory fisheries are also required to report such interactions. For example, South Australia, Queensland, and the Commonwealth publish annual data on interactions with threatened, endangered, and protected species (TEPS). In New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory, commercial fishers report TEPS interactions via logbooks. Western Australia has implemented specific mitigation measures, such as whale entanglement prevention in lobster and octopus fisheries, and bycatch reduction devices in trawl fisheries. These measures reflect a broader national effort to reduce the ecological impact of fishing operations.
3. National and Regional Environmental Reporting
Australia conducts a national State of the Environment review every five years to provide authoritative information on environmental conditions and management effectiveness. The 2021 review was reported in the previous 2022 CMS National Report. Australia also reports every four years on progress toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, covering ecosystem protection, sustainable use, and capacity building.
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority produces an Outlook Report every five years, assessing the condition, use, risks, and management of the Reef. This report supports long-term planning and resilience-building for one of Australia's most iconic ecosystems.
Shark Management and Marine Species Monitoring in New South Wales
Shark management in NSW is guided by the five-year Shark Management Program (2022–2026) and annual Shark Programs for 2023/24 and 2024/25. These programs include the Shark Meshing Program (SMP) and a range of mitigation strategies developed through research and community consultation. The programs were informed by an independent evaluation of shark management efforts from 2015 to 2021. Publicly available reports detail catches from the SMP and SMART Drumlines, ensuring transparency and accountability.
The 2023/24 SMP performance report identified that precautionary trigger points were exceeded for Leatherback Turtles, Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins, and Hammerhead Sharks. These triggers relate to entanglement numbers and not necessarily mortality. The report includes species-specific and overarching recommendations to reduce adverse interactions.
The NSW Game Fishing Association (NSWGFA), in partnership with the Game Fishing Association of Australia, promotes ethical angling and conservation of game fish. It supports research and tagging programs, including the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program, which has tagged over 504,000 pelagic game fish since 1973. Incidental records of harm to CMS-listed species, such as whale shark strandings, are also collected.
The NSW Environment Protection Authority publishes a State of the Environment report every three years, outlining key environmental issues. Additional reporting platforms include the Saving our Species database, which tracks conservation strategies and progress for marine species, and the Elements database, which records wildlife interactions and incidents. The Marine Estate Management Strategy and coastal management frameworks also provide online updates on their objectives and outcomes.

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

Saving our Species program
NSW Game Fishing Association
Shark meshing program in NSW waters
NSW Shark Management Program
Outlook Report 2024
DCCEEW Migratory Birds

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.

››› Summary:

• The National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat guides conservation investment and supports international obligations, using extensive field data and community input.
• Queensland Wader Study Group contributes long-term shorebird monitoring, tagging, and data sharing for conservation planning and Ramsar site documentation.
• Collaborative projects such as the Raine Island Recovery Project and Reef Trust Partnership Program support marine species monitoring and Indigenous engagement.
• Citizen science and volunteer programs are supported by organisations including BirdLife Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia, WWF-Australia, and the Northern Territory Seafood Council.
• NSW Government partners with NGOs for shorebird and marine species conservation, including habitat restoration, stranding response, and whale disentanglement training.
• Programs like NSW TurtleWatch and the Game Fish Tagging Program engage communities in turtle and pelagic fish monitoring, with significant tagging data collected.
• Wildlife Health Australia coordinates national avian influenza surveillance, with expanded testing across species and sites.
• Advocacy and research by Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), Organisation for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA), Marine Mammal Foundation (MMF), and Dolphin Research Australia support cetacean conservation, public education, and policy reform across Australia.
• The Australasian Right Whale Photo-Identification Catalogue (ARWPIC) and HappyWhale are citizen science platforms that collect and share whale sighting data for research and conservation.

1. National Shorebird Habitat and Monitoring Initiatives

The Australian Government, in collaboration with BirdLife Australia, has developed the National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat. This directory identifies key sites for conservation and restoration, supports the goals of the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds, and contributes to Australia’s international obligations. It is based on extensive field surveys and bird sightings and aims to build community awareness and incorporate Indigenous knowledge.

In Queensland, the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) plays a vital role in shorebird monitoring and conservation. The group conducts monthly counts at 95 high tide roosts and special surveys in key regions. Their data supports government and research activities, and a formal data-sharing agreement with the Queensland Government enhances planning and management. QWSG also runs long-term banding and tracking programs and has received funding through the Queensland Community Sustainability Action Grant to support surveys and education.

2. Collaborative Conservation Projects and Citizen Science

BirdLife Australia continues to lead national bird conservation efforts, working across local, state, and national levels. Non-government organisations also manage key wetland sites, such as the Hunter Estuary Ramsar site, which provides habitat for migratory birds and promotes education.

The Raine Island Recovery Project is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving government agencies, traditional owners, and private partners. It focuses on monitoring, research, and increasing First Nations participation in the management of Raine Island. Raine Island is the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, as well as the world’s largest rookery for green turtles. The Raine Island Recovery Project aims to protect and restore the island’s critical habitat to ensure the future of key marine species, and is mainly related to the conservation of green turtles and seabirds. Funding from the Australian Government’s Ocean’s Leadership Package and Priority Place Grants supports ongoing conservation efforts.

The Reef Trust Partnership Program supports reef-related monitoring and reporting activities, including marine turtle and dugong programs. It also prioritises collaboration with Traditional Owners and the development of decision-support systems. The Reef Islands Initiative and Rehabilitation Project have funded citizen science turtle conservation efforts in various regions.

Conservation Volunteers Australia has engaged thousands of volunteers in environmental projects since 1982, while WWF-Australia continues to support conservation through advocacy and partnerships.

The Northern Territory Seafood Council contributes to protected species awareness through factsheets and Environmental Management Systems that address bycatch risks.

Other citizen science initiatives include the Australasian Right Whale Photo-Identification Catalogue (ARWPIC), and HappyWhale. ARWPIC is an online platform developed to share images and sightings of southern right whales, and is hosted and maintained by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre of the Australian Antarctic Division (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water). HappyWhale is a global collection of sighting data of many species, gathered from many sources and likewise shared to many research collaborators and to OBIS-SEAMAP (note: search on keyword “Happywhale” to find all 200+ datasets there). The data within this site is kept and curated as an archive and public service for research, education, conservation and entertainment.

3. Marine Species Conservation and Response in New South Wales

The NSW Government coordinates conservation programs for threatened migratory shorebirds in partnership with organisations such as BirdLife Australia, the Australasian Wader Study Group, and Conservation Volunteers Australia. These programs include habitat restoration, species monitoring, and community

engagement.
For marine species, the NSW Government provides licences, training, and support to organisations responding to stranding events. Accredited training in whale disentanglement has been rolled out for staff, and partnerships with Dolphin Research Australia have supported habitat analysis for dugongs and humpback dolphins.
The Taronga Conservation Society assists with post-mortem investigations to determine causes of death in stranded animals.
NSW TurtleWatch engages local volunteers in monitoring nesting turtles, and the NSW Game Fishing Association promotes ethical angling and contributes data to the NSW Fisheries Tag Program. Over 460,000 pelagic game fish have been tagged since 1973, including CMS-listed species such as white sharks and makos.
4. National Surveillance and Advocacy for Marine Wildlife
Wildlife Health Australia coordinates national avian influenza surveillance, with expanded monitoring supported by government funding. Over 154,000 wild birds have been tested since 2005, with no high pathogenicity strains detected.
The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) advocates for stronger protection of whale habitats, particularly against threats from offshore fossil fuel developments.
The Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) contributes to cetacean protection through research, education, and policy advocacy, focusing on entanglement, vessel strikes, and climate change impacts.
The Organisation for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA) plays a key role in whale conservation through its annual census and volunteer training programs. It continues to lead volunteer-based rescue and rehabilitation efforts for marine mammals, supporting safe interaction guidelines and contributing valuable data for research.
The Marine Mammal Foundation (MMF) advances dolphin conservation through field studies, education, and citizen science, while Dolphin Research Australia conducts long-term ecological research and public outreach to promote marine stewardship and address threats such as pollution and coastal development.

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

Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG)
The National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat
OBIS-SEAMAP
HappyWhale
Australasian Right Whale Photo-Identification Catalogue (ARWPIC)
Raine Island Recovery Project
Northern Territory Seafood Council - Fact sheets
WWF Annual Report 2024
Reef Islands Initiative & Reef Islands Rehabilitation Project
Queensland Community Sustainability Action Grant

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

››› Summary:
• The Australian Government collaborates with universities, NGOs, Indigenous communities, and industry partners to deliver conservation and research programs nationally.
• The Threatened Species Prospectus invites business and philanthropic support for over 50 nationally endorsed conservation projects.
• National and international marine turtle symposia facilitate knowledge sharing among scientists, governments, and communities.
• Western Australia hosts extensive turtle monitoring programs supported by community groups and resource companies.
• Shark conservation is coordinated through the Shark Representatives Group, with research partnerships supporting species health and habitat studies.
• NSW collaborates with universities and organisations to manage wildlife interactions, conduct marine species research, and respond to strandings.
• Victoria’s Melbourne Water manages Ramsar sites for migratory waterbirds and delivers conservation education.
• Western Australia’s DPIRD works with academic and industry partners to support species conservation, particularly in the resource sector.
• Industry-led conservation efforts include OceanWatch Australia’s collaboration with commercial fishers along the east coast of Australia to reduce whale entanglements in set fishing gear.
1. National Collaboration and Strategic Frameworks
The Australian Government continues to support and collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders including universities, researchers, state and territory governments, Indigenous communities, NGOs such as WWF and HSI, regional organisations like SPREP, and private industry partners including Chevron and Pendoley Environmental. These partnerships are central to the delivery of conservation initiatives and research

programs across the country.
Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2019–2030 remains the national framework guiding biodiversity conservation, including for migratory species. The strategy focuses on building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate, maintaining ecosystem services, and restoring ecological functions. It has proven effective in coordinating actions across public and private sectors and in facilitating broader societal engagement in biodiversity conservation.
The Threatened Species Prospectus invites collaboration from business, industry, and philanthropic sectors to support over 50 scientifically assessed projects aimed at preventing further extinctions. These projects are endorsed by the Threatened Species Commissioner and reflect national conservation priorities.
2. Marine Turtle Conservation and Knowledge Sharing
Australia has hosted several key forums to advance marine turtle conservation. The 6th Australian Marine Turtle Symposium was held in 2024 in Townsville, Queensland, bringing together scientists, government, industry, and Indigenous groups. In 2021, Australia hosted the International Sea Turtle Symposium virtually from Perth, engaging global stakeholders in turtle conservation (https://www.ists40perth.com.au/)
In Western Australia, turtle monitoring programs are supported by a diverse group of partners including community groups, schools, and major resource companies. These programs operate in locations such as Ningaloo, Port Hedland, Barrow Island, and Wickham, and contribute to long-term monitoring and conservation outcomes.
The Raine Island Recovery Project, detailed in Section VI.3, continues to be a flagship initiative involving the Queensland Government, GBRMPA, and Traditional Owners, with support from the Australian Government.
3. Shark Conservation and Research
Australia’s shark conservation efforts are coordinated through the Shark Representatives Group, which includes non-government stakeholders and oversees the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA Sharks).
In New South Wales, the government collaborates with organisations such as NSW Water Police and Sea World to manage wildlife interactions including strandings and disentanglements. Research partnerships with universities such as Southern Cross University, Griffith University, Monash University, UTS, and UNSW support studies on habitat use, pollutant impacts, biotoxins, and hatchling fitness in marine species.
In Victoria, Melbourne Water manages the Port Phillip Bay and Edithvale-Seaford Ramsar sites, focusing on habitat conservation for migratory waterbirds. The organisation also delivers education and training programs to support wetland conservation.
In Western Australia, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) works with universities, environmental consultancies, and the resource sector to support species conservation, particularly in relation to oil and gas operations.

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

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.
››› Australia's national environmental law, the EPBC Act, ensures that migratory species are considered, including in the development of projects that may involve energy infrastructure. See Sections IV.1. and VI.1 for further details.
The Australian Government is advancing the Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI) to facilitate a smoother transition to renewable energy while safeguarding the environment and biodiversity. RERI supports research projects focused on threatened, migratory, and marine species to address knowledge gaps related to renewable energy impacts, such as wind farm threats, acoustic disturbances, and collisions. Current projects include studies on migratory birds, cetaceans, sharks, and rays, with completion of many projects expected by June 2026.

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

Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI)

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:
››› Summary:
• Reforms to the EPBC Act are underway, including the creation of a federal environment protection agency, with a focus on stronger protection, streamlined assessments, and improved transparency.
• The Nature Repair Market encourages voluntary investment in biodiversity through land management projects that attract funding and improve environmental outcomes.
• The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 outlines priorities for species and habitats, aiming to prevent extinctions, expand protected areas, and increase Indigenous involvement in conservation.
• Marine Bioregional Plans and the AMSIS platform identify Biologically Important Areas for 72 marine species, supporting conservation planning and regulatory decisions.
• Australia’s climate strategy includes emissions reduction through renewable energy, electric vehicle incentives, and innovation support, with a Net Zero 2050 plan in development.
• Emissions accountability is maintained through systems like the NGER scheme, the Safeguard Mechanism, and programs such as ACCU, Climate Active, and the Renewable Energy Target.
1. Environmental Legislation and Reform
The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) provides the legislative framework for environmental protection in Australia, with revised legislation to be introduced to Parliament by the end of 2025 with a focus on stronger environmental protection and restoration, more efficient and robust assessments, and greater accountability and transparency in decision-making. The proposed legislation will remove duplication in the approvals system, introduce new national environmental standards, and establish a national Environment Protection Agency. The legislation aims to deliver fit-for-purpose environmental laws while streamlining assessment and approval processes. Consultations with States and Territories, First Nations representatives, environmental groups, and business leaders are ongoing to support the development of this legislative reform.
2. Nature Repair Market and Threatened Species Action Plan
To promote investment in biodiversity, the Australian Government has introduced the Nature Repair Market. This voluntary national scheme enables individuals and organisations to undertake nature repair projects and attract investment. The market supports land management practices that improve biodiversity and environmental outcomes.
The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 supersedes the previous strategy and outlines a national pathway to protect and restore threatened species and critical habitats. It identifies priority species such as the green turtle and olive ridley turtle, and priority places including Raine Island. The plan includes measurable targets and actions to prevent extinctions, expand protected areas, and increase Indigenous participation in conservation. It also addresses threats from invasive species, climate change, and habitat degradation. The Action Plan underpins the Saving Native Species Program, which is providing over $200 million over four years to support recovery efforts for plants, animals, and ecological communities.
3. Marine Spatial Planning and Biologically Important Areas
Marine Bioregional Plans have been developed to strengthen the application of the EPBC Act in Commonwealth marine areas. These plans identify conservation values, ecological features, regional priorities, and pressures. A key component is the designation of Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for 72 nationally protected marine species, including cetaceans, marine turtles, dugongs, sharks, pinnipeds, and migratory birds. BIAs are areas used by protected marine species for carrying out critical life functions, including reproduction, feeding, migration and resting. The Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol) provides guidance on the process for designation of BIAs. BIAs are an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environment law. BIAs are represented in the Australian Marine Spatial Information System (AMSIS) platform, which supports developers in avoiding and mitigating impacts on migratory species in key marine areas.
4. Climate Change Strategy and Emissions Management
Australia’s climate change strategy encompasses a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse

gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. Key actions include upgrading the electricity grid to support renewable energy, reducing the cost of electric vehicles, supporting innovation in industry, and encouraging sustainable practices among businesses and consumers.
The government is developing a Net Zero 2050 plan, consistent with recommendations from the Climate Change Authority and outlined in the 2022 Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament. The Powering Australia plan focuses on job creation, lowering energy costs, and boosting renewable energy deployment.
Several programs support emissions reduction efforts. The Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) scheme incentivises carbon reduction and storage projects. Climate Active certifies businesses that achieve carbon neutrality. The Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme promotes electricity generation from renewable sources.
Australia's emissions monitoring and accountability systems are robust. The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme provides a unified framework for reporting emissions, energy production, and consumption. The Safeguard Mechanism sets limits on emissions for major emitters, with thresholds gradually reduced over time. These systems ensure transparency and support Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement and other international climate frameworks.

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

Net Zero Plan
The Nature Repair Market
EPBC Act Reform
Australian NBSAP
AMSIS
Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme
Climate Active DCCEEW
Climate Active
Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) scheme
Safeguard Mechanism
International climate action
IPCOS
Conservation Values Atlas
BIAs

To what extent have these improvements helped to make relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive?
☑ Not known

Please describe how this assessment was made
››› The process is ongoing.

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details:
››› Summary:
• The Australian Government consults regularly with Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, NGOs, and fishing stakeholders on CMS-related issues, particularly around Conferences of the Parties and implementation decisions.
• Annual roundtable meetings on marine turtles and cetaceans facilitate coordination among government

agencies and support domestic conservation efforts.
• The National Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan is overseen by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, guiding conservation across Australia.
• A dedicated HPAI Preparedness Taskforce, supported by over $100 million in funding, coordinates national action on HPAI H5 bird flu, led jointly by DAFF, DCCEEW, DoHAC, and NEMA.
• The National Plan of Action for Sharks is implemented through a representative group of government and non-government stakeholders, supporting sustainable shark management and conservation of CMS-listed species.
1. Stakeholder Engagement and Multilateral Coordination
The Australian Government, through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), maintains regular consultation with a broad range of stakeholders on matters related to the CMS. These stakeholders include Commonwealth departments, State and Territory environment and primary industries agencies, environmental non-government organisations, and both commercial and recreational fishing sectors. Engagement typically occurs in the lead-up to CMS Conferences of the Parties (COP) and following COP decisions, ensuring coordinated implementation of conservation measures. Communication methods include emails and/or meetings.
Australia's focal points for CMS and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, such as the International Whaling Commission, coordinate national positions and responses on migratory species conservation. Additionally, the Australian Government convenes annual roundtable meetings focused on marine turtles and cetaceans. These forums bring together relevant State and Territory agencies, including the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, to address domestic conservation issues.
2. National Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan
The implementation of the National Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan is overseen by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from Commonwealth and state environment agencies, research institutions, and conservation organisations. This committee plays a central role in guiding coordinated conservation and management efforts for migratory shorebirds across Australia.
3. High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) Preparedness
A dedicated HPAI Preparedness Taskforce has been established to coordinate the Australian Government's response to the threat of HPAI H5 bird flu. This taskforce is jointly led by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), DCCEEW, the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC), and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The taskforce is supported by more than $100 million in government investment and is responsible for implementing key preparedness activities across sectors.
4. National Plan of Action for Sharks
Australia's National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan) is implemented under the guidance of the Shark-plan Representative Group. This group includes representatives from Commonwealth, state, and Northern Territory fisheries and conservation agencies, as well as a wide range of non-government stakeholders. The Shark-plan provides a national framework for the sustainable management of shark populations, including those species listed under the CMS Appendices.

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

Migratory Shorebirds

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 NBSAPsare available at CMS website.
☑ Yes

Please provide details:
››› The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has regular meetings that comprise focal points from CMS, CITES, Ramsar Convention, and CBD to share knowledge, facilitate synergies and coordinate work streams.
The Departmental JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA Focal Point attends meetings of the Ramsar National Committee (Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub-committee). This sub-committee facilitates cooperative action relating to the development of policy and guidelines, as well as community engagement activities, including publications.

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?
☑ Yes

Please identify the legislation, policies, initiatives, or action plans concerned:
››› The Australian Government:
The Australian Government has released a number of policies that encourage community involvement in the conservation of migratory species. Many of these policies are provided (either through attachment or links) in other sections of this report.
The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) has provisions to involve communities, including Indigenous people, in research and monitoring, including of migratory species.
The Australian Government has been supporting Indigenous ranger projects to create meaningful employment, training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and sea management. Indigenous ranger projects were first funded in 2007 through the former Working on Country program. The program has created more than 2,100 full-time, part-time and casual jobs in land and sea management around the country, providing meaningful employment, training and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
Indigenous ranger projects support Indigenous people to combine traditional knowledge with conservation training to protect and manage their land, sea and culture. This includes activities such as bushfire mitigation, protection of threatened species, and biosecurity compliance. Indigenous ranger groups also develop partnerships with research, education, philanthropic and commercial organisations to share skills and knowledge, engage with schools, and generate additional income and jobs in the environmental, biosecurity, heritage and other sectors.
The extension of the Indigenous Rangers Program from 2021 to 2028 was announced on 10 March 2020. More than $746 million will now be provided to 80 Indigenous ranger organisations over seven years to 2028. Funding will continue support for more than 1,900 Indigenous jobs and allow ranger groups to be more strategic with their land and sea country management. See link below for further information.
New South Wales:
The NSW Government has adopted several initiatives that promote community involvement in conservation of threatened migratory species:
• The Marine Estate Management Strategy recommends that industry, stakeholders, community and researchers contributes to the management of the marine estate through, for example, on-ground works projects to rehabilitate coastal habitats and riparian vegetation; formal research, education and citizen science programs; volunteer work; advising government during community engagement processes; working on advisory committees with natural resource managers; or simple activities such as picking up litter on daily walks.
• The Saving our Species program and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have strategies in place that seeks volunteer involvement to help with the conservation of NSW threatened migratory shorebirds.
Northern Territory:
The Fisheries Act 1988 for the Northern Territory has been amended to acknowledge the rights and interests of Aboriginal people and resources of significance to Aboriginal people and to promote opportunities for Aboriginal people to benefit economically from aquatic resources. The changes to the objectives of the Act are part of the Governments commitments under the Blue Mud Bay Implementation Action Plan.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:
The Raine Island Recovery Project is a collaboration between the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Wuthathi and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners. Raine Island supports the world’s largest remaining green turtle population and the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. For further information relating to Raine Island’s recovery, see link provided below.
South Australia:
The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara Management Plan was adopted in 2020 covering critical habitat within the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Flyway Site along the central and northern shores of Gulf St Vincent. This area represents high value habitat for shorebirds migrating along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway. The plan aims to manage the area for migratory shorebird habitat inclusive of the Kaurna people’s knowledge and connection with Country and maintain public access while improving visitor awareness of the global significance of the park for migratory birds. See link provided below for further information.
In 2022, the South Australian Recovery Plan for the eastern osprey and white-bellied sea eagle was released with the goal of increasing the number of breeding pairs from their current levels by 2030. Recovery actions include reducing disturbance, addressing mortality, and establishing management processes. Communicating with First Nations people and the wider community is essential to improving awareness and fostering involvement in the implementation of recovery actions.

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

NSW National Parks and Wildlife

Marine Estate Management Strategy
Indigenous Rangers Program
Reef 2050 Wetlands Strategy

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?
☑ No, because no such incentives have existed

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?
☑ No, but there is scope to do so

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
››› Summary:
• The Australian Government has updated national policies and plans to support sustainable marine resource use, including the revised Shark-plan and Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030, aligned with international biodiversity frameworks.
• Australia's draft Sustainable Ocean Plan, currently under ministerial review, outlines a national vision to 2040 with priorities including climate adaptation, ecosystem protection, pollution reduction, national collaboration and coordination, and integrating First Nations Knowledge with scientific research.
• AFMA manages Commonwealth fisheries with strict rules and mitigation measures to minimise interactions with protected species such as turtles, sharks, seabirds, dolphins, and dugongs.
• Dugong conservation is supported through Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs), which integrate cultural protocols and scientific monitoring to ensure sustainable harvest by Traditional Owners.
• The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and Queensland's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy include actions to protect marine biodiversity, such as phasing out gill-net fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
• Indigenous ranger programs and the National Landcare Program fund sea country management activities, including turtle monitoring, debris collection, and intergenerational knowledge transfer.
• Marine turtle conservation combines traditional ecological knowledge with scientific research, including tagging, genetic studies, and population modelling to support sustainable harvest and threat mitigation.
1. National Legislative and Policy Frameworks
The Australian Government has implemented a range of legislative and policy measures to support the conservation and sustainable management of marine species, particularly those listed under the EPBC Act. This includes the updated National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, adopted in April 2024, which outlines research and management actions to ensure long-term sustainability. The plan includes monitoring the effectiveness of "Fins Naturally Attached" legislation and enforcement across jurisdictions.
Australia's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are delivered through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, known as Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030. This strategy aligns with the Global Biodiversity Framework and sets national objectives to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. It integrates natural resource use with ecological sustainability and coordinates Australia's obligations under international agreements including the CBD, CMS, Ramsar Convention, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Australia's draft Sustainable Ocean Plan is with the Minister for consideration by the end of October, after extensive nation-wide engagement. Once finalised, the plan will – for the first time – articulate a shared national vision for Australia's ocean to 2040. The draft plan identifies key areas where collective national action will help achieve the plan's outcomes and vision.
Areas of interest include:
- preparing for, and responding and adapting to climate impacts protecting,
- effectively managing, restoring and adapting our coastal and ocean ecosystems
- reducing ocean pollution
- supporting national collaboration and coordination (noting that the Australian Government Marine Turtle and Cetacean Roundtables are an existing example of a successful mechanism for collaboration and coordination between officials on a specific cross-boundary topic)
- coordinating, prioritising and sharing ocean knowledge and research, and
- considering First Nations Knowledge alongside western science.
2. Commonwealth Fisheries and Protected Species Management
The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) oversees commercial fishing operations in Commonwealth waters, ensuring compliance with strict rules regarding interactions with protected species. These species, listed under the EPBC Act, include cetaceans, sharks, turtles, seabirds, seals, and sea lions. AFMA requires all interactions to be reported and has implemented a range of mitigation measures tailored to each species group. These include turtle exclusion devices, safe release techniques, gear modifications, crew awareness programs, and species-specific threat abatement plans.
For example, seabird mitigation includes gear restrictions and setting time controls, while dolphin mitigation involves vessel-specific plans and working group oversight. These measures aim to minimise bycatch and ensure sustainable fishing practices across all Commonwealth fisheries.
3. Dugong Conservation and Traditional Use Agreements
Dugongs are listed as migratory species under the EPBC Act, which prohibits trade and direct use except for traditional subsistence and customary practices. Management of traditional harvest is supported through

community-based plans such as Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs), developed by Traditional Owners and accredited by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Queensland Government.
TUMRAs incorporate traditional governance, cultural protocols, education, compliance, and monitoring. They set sustainable harvest limits based on scientific assessments and include compliance management plans and traditional permits. Currently, one quarter of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is covered by TUMRAs, with plans to expand the program further.
The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, jointly delivered by the Australian and Queensland Governments, supports the protection of the Great Barrier Reef through actions such as net-free fishing zones, sustainable port development, and strengthened water quality regulations. In 2023, Queensland announced the phase-out of commercial gill-net fishing in the Marine Park by 2027 to protect species such as dugongs, turtles, and sawfish.
4. Indigenous Ranger Programs and Marine Turtle Management
The National Landcare Program and Working on Country initiative have provided funding to Indigenous organisations for sea management activities, including marine debris collection and turtle conservation. These programs support full-time Indigenous ranger employment and activities such as turtle tagging, DNA sampling, nest monitoring, and feral pig control at nesting sites.
Traditional harvest of marine turtles occurs in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and Queensland, primarily of green turtles but also other species such as loggerhead, flatback, olive ridley, and hawksbill turtles. Indigenous communities apply traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices to manage these resources sustainably.
Long-term monitoring, tagging, and genetic studies help identify critical nesting and foraging sites and inform population modelling. These efforts support sustainable harvest levels and mitigation of threats from fisheries. Indigenous engagement in land and sea management has increased, particularly in northern Australia, reinforcing cultural connections and facilitating intergenerational knowledge transfer.
TUMRAs also play a central role in managing traditional use of marine turtles, integrating cultural lore with contemporary science. Each agreement is overseen by a committee and contributes to broader Sea Country planning and management.
5. Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy
The Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 outlines a decade-long reform agenda with 33 actions across ten key areas. These include harvest strategies, sustainable catch limits, and ecological risk assessments. The strategy supports the management of fisheries that may retain migratory species, such as sharks, and ensures that harvest strategies are informed by species and ecosystem-level risk assessments.

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

http://
Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027
The Reef 2050 Plan
Indigenous Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program
AFMA
Sustainable Ocean Plan
Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2024–2030

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

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		N/A
Illegal hunting	Migratory waterbirds (illegal hunting occurring outside of Australia but affecting populations found within the Australian jurisdiction)	2
Other harvesting and take	Marine sharks and rays	3
Illegal trade	Hawksbill turtle (illegal hunting occurring outside of Australia but affecting populations found within the Australian jurisdiction)	2
Deliberate poisoning		N/A

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?
››› Australia is providing support to the CMS Secretariat within the Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA); its terms of reference calling for collaboration with the EAAFP.
This ITTEA complements the Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in the EAAF. Noting that the EAAFP task force focuses only on waterbirds, the EAAFP MOP10 decision mandated the task force to explore with CMS and other frameworks to extend the scope to other migratory bird species and geographic regions, particularly noting that cooperation with CMS would be valuable, as CMS covers a wider variety of taxonomic groups of birds such as landbirds and raptors, which are currently outside of the scope of the EAAFP.

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

Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA)

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	2	Marine turtles, cetaceans, sharks and rays (NSW Shark Management Program), albatrosses and petrels
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	2	Cetaceans, marine turtles

Other forms of unintentional taking	2	Marine turtles, albatrosses and petrels, sharks and rays, cetaceans, migratory shorebirds

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.
››› 1. EPBC Act and Threat Abatement Framework
The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act establishes mechanisms for identifying and listing key threatening processes and developing threat abatement plans (TAPs). These plans provide a coordinated national response to processes that threaten the survival, abundance, or evolutionary development of native species or ecological communities. An example of a listed key threatening process is the incidental catch (bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations, which poses significant risks to species such as albatross, petrels, and shearwaters in Australian waters.
2. Variation to the Threat Abatement Plan for Seabird Bycatch
The current TAP for the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries, introduced in 2018, set performance indicators of 0.01 or 0.05 birds per 1,000 hooks per fishing season and area. While bycatch rates in several fisheries are now generally below these thresholds, the overarching goal of achieving zero bycatch remains unchanged. A 2023 review concluded that a variation to the TAP is necessary to incorporate improvements and further reduce seabird bycatch. Development of this variation is scheduled to commence in 2025.

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

Threat Abatement Plan for Seabird Bycatch
Threat abatement plans

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

GUIDANCE TIP:
Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).
››› NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program:
The NSW Government has identified an increase in bycatch numbers of marine turtles in the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program (NSW DPIRD), as can be seen in annual public reports. The NSW Government continues to record numerous entanglements of humpback whales during annual seasonal migration, with over 40 cases per year in 2023 and 2024. The majority of cases are entanglements (~70%) related to ropes and floats from commercial fishing gear, mostly traps. NSW Government also records interactions between humpback whales and SMART drumlines, the majority of which self-release as intended by design.

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		
Other collisions		
Electrocution		
Vessel strikes	Cetaceans, marine turtles, dugong, whale shark	3

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

The Renewables Environmental Research Initiative - DCCEEW

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

››› 1. NSW Government Initiatives
The NSW Government has implemented a comprehensive strategy to ensure safe and legal approach distances to marine mammals. This effort spans multiple departments and initiatives, including the Marine Estate Management Strategy, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), NSW DPIRD, NSW Maritime, and Marine Rescue NSW. Collaborative partnerships with organisations such as ORRCA further reinforce public messaging. Regular engagement with commercial whale watching operators is maintained to foster positive relationships and reduce the risk of vessel-megafauna collisions.
In 2024 and 2025, NPWS, in collaboration with the Specialist Investigations Section, conducted Operation KETOS during the whale migration season along the NSW coastline. This operation focused on overt compliance activities to regulate the whale watching industry and enhance NPWS visibility, emphasizing the regulated nature of marine wildlife interactions. Covert operations also continue to monitor industry practices. Public awareness is heightened during migration seasons through various channels including media releases, social media, newsletters, and participation in community events such as National Science Week and the Sydney International Boat Show.
2. Australian Government Research Initiative
The Australian Government is advancing the Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI) to facilitate a smoother transition to renewable energy while safeguarding the environment and biodiversity. RERI supports research projects focused on threatened, migratory, and marine species to address knowledge gaps related to renewable energy impacts, such as wind farm threats, acoustic disturbances, and collisions. Current projects include studies on migratory birds, cetaceans, sharks, and rays, with completion of many projects expected by June 2026.

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

ORRCA
Marine Rescue NSW
NSW Maritime
NSW DPIRD
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
Marine Estate Management Strategy
The Renewables Environmental Research Initiative

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	migratory birds
Unexplained stranding events	unquantified	cetaceans
Accidental/indirect poisoning	3	dugong, turtles, cetaceans, pristidae
Disease	unquantified	turtles, migratory birds, cetaceans

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering other mortality?
››› 1. NSW Marine Conservation Actions
Following Cyclone Alfred in early 2025, the NSW Government collaborated with NSW TurtleWatch and the Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue to relocate nine loggerhead turtle nests threatened by inundation and erosion. This initiative marked the largest marine turtle egg relocation in the state’s history, achieving a hatch success rate of 79.9%.
2. Shark Research Findings
Recent research indicates that external tagging, biopsies, and deterrent trials have no significant impact on the short- or long-term residency or abundance of white sharks. This resilience is attributed to the minimally invasive nature of these activities and the species’ strong immune systems and healing capabilities.
3. Tasmanian Cetacean Stranding Response
Tasmania remains a global hotspot for cetacean mass strandings. Between July 2024 and June 2025, the Tasmanian Government responded to or documented 22 stranding events. These efforts have enhanced understanding of stranding dynamics and improved response efficiency, increasing the likelihood of successful rescues and releases. Tasmanian specialists also provide expertise to interstate and international agencies managing similar events.

4. Other Listed Key Threatening Processes
Additional key threatening processes under the EPBC Act include:
• Injury and fatality to marine vertebrates from ingestion or entanglement in harmful marine debris.
• Loss and degradation of native habitats due to invasive garden plants, including aquatic species.
• Predation by feral cats.
• Predation by exotic rats on Australian offshore islands smaller than 1,000 km².

Alien and/or invasive species

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

Disturbance and disruption

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

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing disturbance & disruption?
››› • Community awareness events, social media, radio interviews and online newsletters provided information on human disturbances on migratory shorebirds and beach-nesting birds (targeting visitors driving vehicles on the beach).
• The Australian Government is advancing the Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI) to facilitate a smoother transition to renewable energy while safeguarding the environment and biodiversity. RERI supports research projects focused on threatened, migratory, and marine species to address knowledge gaps related to renewable energy impacts, such as wind farm threats, acoustic disturbances, and collisions. Current projects include studies on migratory birds, cetaceans, sharks, and rays, with completion of many projects expected by June 2026.

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

Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI)

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)	Seabirds, marine turtles	2
Light pollution	cetaceans, dugong, marine turtles, seabirds	2
Underwater noise	Marine turtles, migratory birds, cetaceans	3
Other pollution	all species for which Australia is a range state	2
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)	cetaceans	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing pollution?
››› Summary:
• Marine Mammal Research: In 2025, $120,000 was provided to CMS to study the effects of artificial light from offshore developments on marine mammals, funded under the Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI).
• Light Pollution Mitigation Projects: Over $200,000 was invested in 2023 for five projects to reduce light

pollution impacting threatened species. These projects concluded in June 2024 and included lighting audits, retrofits, and community education.
• Guideline Implementation Case Study: A case study by Sunshine Coast Council, commissioned in 2024, demonstrates practical application of the National Light Pollution Guidelines. The final draft was submitted in 2025 and is under review.
• Awareness and Implementation Challenges: The Valuing Darkness Symposium in March 2025 brought together diverse stakeholders to address barriers, share resources, and build industry support for light pollution management.
• International Engagement: Australia will participate in the Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) Conference in October 2025 to promote awareness and share best practices on light pollution impacts.
• Tasmanian Measures: Development applications in Tasmania are assessed for compliance with National Light Pollution Guidelines, requiring developers to minimize light pollution impacts on seabirds.
• The Ghost Nets Initiative addresses marine debris in northern Australia through technology, Indigenous ranger programs, and multi-agency collaboration.
1. Research on Artificial Light and Marine Mammals
In 2025, the Australian Government provided $120,000 to the CMS to investigate whether artificial light from offshore developments, such as wind farms, affects marine mammals. This research will focus on species including whales, dolphins, and seals, which are not currently addressed in the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife. The funding is part of the Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI), which aims to support the transition to renewable energy while protecting biodiversity and achieving net zero targets.
2. Light Pollution Mitigation Projects
In 2023, the Australian Government invested over $200,000 in five projects designed to reduce light pollution and protect coastal habitats for threatened species, including marine turtles and migratory birds. These projects, completed in June 2024, involved developing light management plans for communities and local governments, conducting lighting audits, upgrading and retrofitting lighting near sensitive habitats, and running community education sessions. The initiatives also explored effective strategies to encourage behavioural change in reducing light pollution.
3. Case Study on Guideline Implementation
A case study commissioned in 2024 from the Sunshine Coast Council demonstrated practical application of the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife. Intended as a template for other communities, the case study provides adaptable strategies for managing light pollution. A final draft has been submitted to the Australian Government in 2025 and is currently under review.
4. Challenges and Stakeholder Engagement
Two primary challenges in addressing light pollution in Australia have been limited awareness and inconsistent implementation. To address these, the Australian Government sponsored the Valuing Darkness Symposium in Melbourne in March 2025. This event brought together experts from lighting design, environmental science, urban planning, and public health, marking the first comprehensive meeting of all relevant stakeholders. Outcomes included identifying barriers and resources, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and building industry support to reinvigorate efforts to manage light pollution.
5. International Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing
Australia, with CMS support, will participate in the Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) Conference in October 2025. ALAN is the largest global scientific forum on artificial light impacts, covering topics such as biology, governance, health, and technology. The conference aims to advance research and promote better lighting practices internationally.
6. Tasmanian Regulatory Measures
In Tasmania, development applications that may impact seabirds are assessed for compliance with the National Light Pollution Guidelines. Developers must demonstrate measures to minimize light pollution impacts as part of the approval process.
7. Marine Debris and the Ghost Nets Initiative
The Ghost Nets Initiative, led by Parks Australia, is a major national effort to address marine debris in northern Australia, particularly in the Gulf of Carpentaria. With up to $14.8 million committed over four years, the initiative supports projects that improve detection, collection, and disposal of ghost nets and plastic litter. It also promotes Indigenous employment and community-based conservation.
The initiative includes the Ghost Nets Innovative Solutions grant program, which funds projects to develop new technologies and raise public awareness. It also supports Indigenous ranger groups in data collection and marine debris clean-ups. In collaboration with AFMA and Maritime Border Command, trials are underway to attach GPS trackers to ghost nets that cannot be immediately retrieved, enabling future recovery operations.
8. Australian Government Renewable Energy Research Initiative / Renewables Environmental Research Initiative
Under the Initiative, national regulatory guidance for considering anthropogenic underwater noise impacts to protected marine species is under development.

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

The Renewables Environmental Research Initiative

The Ghost Nets Initiative

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		N/A
Habitat degradation	Beach-nesting birds, Far Eastern Curlew - Numenius madagascariensis, Appendix I & II), marine turtles, dugong, migratory birds, cetaceans	2
Mineral exploration/extraction	Birds, marine turtles, cetaceans, dugong	3
Unsustainable land/resource use	birds, marine turtles, dugong, cetaceans	3
Urbanization	birds, marine turtles, dugong, cetaceans	3
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation	birds, marine turtles, dugong, cetaceans	3
Fire	birds	3
Physical barriers	birds	2

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	1	All species for which Australia is a range state

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

››› 1. Climate Change Research and Adaptation

Australia’s National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Climate Systems Hub is leading research to improve understanding of Australia’s climate, its extremes, and the underlying drivers of variability. This work focuses on fundamental factors influencing rainfall, drought, and bushfires, with the aim of informing climate adaptation strategies. The Hub maintains Australia’s capability in multidisciplinary Earth-system science and modelling, advances knowledge of climate variability and extremes, and develops applied decision-making tools to support policy and program development for managing emerging climate risks and opportunities.

The State of the Climate Report 2024, prepared by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology, has found Australia’s weather and climate has continued to change, with an increase in extreme heat events, longer fire seasons, more intense heavy rainfall, and sea level rise.

2. Impacts on Migratory Waterbirds and Wetlands

A range of contemporary information is available on how climate change affects migratory waterbirds and wetlands. This knowledge underpins efforts to safeguard these ecosystems and species in the face of changing environmental conditions.

Example study - Tasmanian Research on Shy Albatross:

The University of Tasmania is investigating the effects of extreme weather events on the reproductive output and population dynamics of the shy albatross (Thalassarche cauta). Findings indicate that the three main breeding colonies exhibit distinct responses to extreme conditions, such as severe wave events, heavy rainfall, and prolonged wet periods, which significantly influence chick productivity. These insights are critical for developing site-specific climate adaptation strategies to enhance the conservation of this species.

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

Australia’s National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Climate Systems Hub

State of the Climate Report

CSIRO - Climate

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	3	migratory shorebirds, marine turtles, dugong, cetaceans
Inadequate legislation	3	cetaceans, marine turtles
Lack of knowledge	3	cetaceans
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	3	cetaceans, seabirds, shorebirds

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc?
››› Please refer to section IV (Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes) for a detailed overview of the strategies and planning processes to advance levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, and management.
With regards to sharks, a recent study showed that external tagging, biopsies, or deterrent trials do not affect short- and long-term residency or abundance of white sharks, probably owing to the research activities being minimally intrusive and to sharks having efficient immune systems and remarkable ability to heal from injuries.

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

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.
☑ No

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)

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Australian snubfin dolphin: Vulnerable - 5 March 2025		https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=81322	Orcaella heinsohni - Appendix II
	Australian humpback dolphin - Vulnerable - 5 March 2025		https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=87942	Sousa sahulensis – Appendix II

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

Australian humpback dolphin
Snubfin dolphin

Birds

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LIST (there were not enough table rows in the ORS)			

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Change_in_status_-_Birds.docx - Change in status - Australian birds

Fish

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

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?
☑ Yes

Please specify which countries have been approached:
☑ China
☑ Japan
☑ Republic of Korea

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?
☑ Yes

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

GUIDANCE TIP:
If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)
››› Australia continues to implement the Concerted Action for the Antipodean Albatross (Concerted Action 13.12 (Rev.COP14). Australia manages fisheries bycatch by using effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures in fishing operations and associated monitoring and compliance. The Antipodean Albatross is managed in Australia through the National Recovery Plan for albatross and petrels (DCCEEW 2022). Threats to the species are also managed through the Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations and Threat Abatement Plan for the impacts of marine debris on the vertebrate wildlife of Australia's coasts and oceans.
Australia is investing more than $4 million (AUD) on albatross and petrel research that will have direct and indirect benefits to Antipodean Albatross. Funded by the Australian Government’s Renewables Environmental Research Initiative these projects will improve understanding of population trends in albatrosses and petrels and the potential impacts offshore wind developments in Australia. Project descriptions are provided below.
Long-term albatross and petrel research to examine potential impacts from offshore renewable energy activities (delivered by the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP))
This project will address longer-term research priorities to improve understanding of population trends in albatrosses and petrels and the potential impacts offshore wind developments in Australia may have on these species. The research will:
• improve understanding of the size, structure and long-term population trends for albatrosses and petrels breeding and foraging in Australia.
• improve understanding of the potential impacts to albatrosses and petrels from offshore wind farms and how to best manage them.
• translate findings into targeted, accessible regulatory guidance to assist developers in designing impact avoidance and mitigation strategies for offshore renewable energy activities.
Filling information gaps on albatrosses and petrels to examine potential impacts from offshore wind (delivered by Monash University)
This project will undertake field studies to improve information about the potential risks to albatrosses and petrels from offshore wind developments. It will fill knowledge gaps about how to best avoid and mitigate potential impacts. The research will include investigation of movement patterns, flight heights and flight speeds for at least 10 species that frequent Australian waters. It will include population surveys across key breeding islands. The project findings will inform regulatory guidance and survey guidelines to support the sustainable development of offshore wind in Australia.

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 implementingResolutions **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).
☑ Yes

Please provide details:
››› Australia provided a voluntary contribution of $490,000 (AUD) to support the delivery of Decision 14.137 and Resolution 12.11(Rev.COP14) Flyways.
The voluntary contribution was directed towards the production of a concise situation analysis of marine flyways that will serve as a generally accepted baseline for priority setting of migratory seabird conservation actions and will place these priorities in the context of the wider global ocean agenda in line with Decision 14.137 and Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) Flyways. The situation analysis will support the planning and work of range states, the CMS Flyways Working Group and regional bodies that have an interest in marine conservation.
Australia is also supporting the development of a situation analysis of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. The objective of this study is to advance the conservation of migratory birds in the EAAF by producing a comprehensive Situation Analysis that could serve as a baseline for priority setting of migratory bird conservation actions and recommendations for effective implementation. The key focus will be made on the assessment of the conservation status of all CMS Appendix I and II birds species, relevant species contained in Res. 14.20 Potential Avian Taxa for Listing and EAAF Partnership (EAAFP) Appendix III listed waterbird species, with the possibility of grouping them into ecologically coherent subgroups (for example landbirds, raptors, seabirds and waterbirds), including existing and emerging direct/indirect threats, institutional practices, knowledge gaps, and opportunities for the improvement of the conservation status. The study will indicate existing legal frameworks affecting these species, as well as other non-legal instruments. Based on the analysis, recommendations for priority conservation and/or policy actions, as well as potential institutional arrangements, will be provided. These recommendations will address practical and effective conservation measures and align with climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. In essence, the Situation Analysis will include comprehensive recommendations to further support the favourable conservation status of CMS-listed bird species along EAAF that is consistent with the objectives under CMS.

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 Decision14.194.
☑ Yes

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

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

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?
››› Continuing identification of Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance and East Asian-Australasian Flyway sites.
Australia currently has 67 Ramsar wetlands listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (the Directory) identifies nationally important wetlands, and provides a substantial knowledge base of what defines wetlands, their variety, and the many flora and fauna species that depend on them. The Directory is linked below. However, it has not been updated since 2006. To address this, the Australian Government is developing a National Wetlands Inventory that will document and classify Australia’s wetlands, including their condition and environmental values.
Australia is updating its Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat, including the creation of a user-friendly, online spatial interface. This will reduce uncertainty for proponents and decision makers about the location of important habitat for migratory shorebirds.
Marine Bioregional Plans have been developed to strengthen the application of the EPBC Act in Commonwealth marine areas. These plans identify conservation values, ecological features, regional priorities, and pressures. A key component is the designation of Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for 72 nationally protected marine species, including cetaceans, marine turtles, dugongs, sharks, pinnipeds, and migratory birds. BIAs are areas used by protected marine species for carrying out critical life functions, including reproduction, feeding, migration and resting. The Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol) provides guidance on the process for designation of BIAs. BIAs are an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environment law. BIAs are represented in the Australian Marine Spatial Information System (AMSIS) platform, which supports developers in mitigating impacts to protected marine species. BIAs for the threatened southern right whale were updated in 2024.

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

Biologically Important Areas for protected marine species (BIAs)
Marine Bioregional Plans
Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat
Australian Ramsar Wetlands
Directory of Important Wetlands

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

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

Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report

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?
☑ Yes

Please provide a reference and details on what is covered:
››› Australia has established a number of tools and mechanisms to support planning, management and evaluation of Ramsar sites, including the Ramsar Management Principles (part of the EPBC Regulations), regular reporting by jurisdictions on the status of their Ramsar sites, the Management Effectiveness Framework and various National Park and Protected Area planning processes at the Commonwealth and State/Territory levels.
As part of the five-yearly Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, an independent assessment of management effectiveness is undertaken in accordance with the IUCN framework.

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:
››› Biologically Important Areas, Marine Bioregional Plans and the Australian Marine Spatial Information System (AMSIS) Platform:
Marine Bioregional Plans have been developed to strengthen the application of the EPBC Act in Commonwealth marine areas. These plans identify conservation values, ecological features, regional priorities, and pressures. A key component is the designation of Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for 72 nationally protected marine species, including cetaceans, marine turtles, dugongs, sharks, pinnipeds, and migratory birds. BIAs are areas used by protected marine species for carrying out critical life functions, including reproduction, feeding, migration and resting. The Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol) provides guidance on the process for designation of BIAs. BIAs are an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environment law. BIAs are represented in the Australian Marine Spatial Information System (AMSIS) platform, which supports developers in avoiding and mitigating impacts on marine species.

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

Marine planning spatial information
BIAs
AMSIS

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.
☑ No

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):
☑ Other

››› Summary:
• Marine Turtle Recovery Plan: The national plan covers six marine turtle species, outlining actions to ensure long-term viability, conserve genetic diversity, and address threats across their range.
• Queensland Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy: The 2021–2031 strategy focuses on halting decline and supporting recovery of marine turtles in Queensland by reducing operationally manageable threats and protecting ten genetic stocks.
• Shark Conservation: The revised Shark-plan (2024) sets research and management priorities for sustainable shark populations and includes community education initiatives.
• Albatross and Petrel Recovery: The 2022 plan provides a national strategy to halt declines, support recovery, and fulfill international obligations under ACAP, CBD, and CMS, while improving community awareness.
• Southern Right Whale Recovery: The 2024 plan identifies conservation requirements and actions to stop decline and promote recovery, developed with input from governments, experts, and stakeholders.
• Inshore dolphin recovery: In 2025 Conservation Advices for the threatened Australian Snubfin Dolphin and the Australian Humpback Dolphin were released and outline priority conservation, management and research actions to address key threats across their range. This includes maintaining genetic diversity and long-term evolutionary development.
• Genetic Resource Access Framework: A nationally consistent approach, endorsed in 2002, regulates access to genetic and biochemical resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Bonn Guidelines.
1. National Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles
The Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia provides a national framework to support the recovery of six of the world's seven marine turtle species: loggerhead (Caretta caretta), olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea), leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea), green (Chelonia mydas), flatback (Natator depressus), and hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata). The plan addresses conservation requirements across the species' range, identifies actions to ensure their long-term viability, and includes measures for conserving genetic diversity. It outlines mechanisms for implementation and aligns with Australia's broader biodiversity objectives.
2. Queensland Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy
The Queensland Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy 2021–2031 complements the national plan by focusing on the six species found along the Queensland coast. It aims to halt population decline and support recovery by addressing threats to ten recognized genetic stocks of nesting turtles and those that forage and migrate in adjacent waters. The strategy emphasizes reducing all operationally manageable threats to improve the conservation status of marine turtles and ensure their long-term survival in the wild.
3. Updated National Plan of Action for Sharks
A revised National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan) was adopted in April 2024. This plan sets out research and management actions to ensure the long-term sustainability of shark populations, including measures to minimize fishing impacts. It also promotes community education to enhance awareness of shark conservation.
4. National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels
The 2022 National Recovery Plan for albatrosses and petrels provides a coordinated national strategy for the protection and recovery of listed threatened species. It outlines research and management actions to halt population declines and improve survival prospects. The plan also benefits non-listed species and supports Australia's international obligations under agreements such as the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Community awareness initiatives are included to strengthen conservation outcomes.
5. National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale
The National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale came into effect in July 2024. Developed through collaboration with government agencies, species experts, industry, and the public, the plan identifies conservation requirements and actions to halt decline and promote recovery across the species' range, ensuring its long-term survival in nature.
6. Conservation Advice for the Australian Snubfin Dolphin and Conservation Advice for the Australian Humpback Dolphin
The 2025 Conservation Advices for the two inshore dolphin species provide a foundation for conservation actions and further planning to halt the decline and promote recovery of both species across their range. These were developed with significant consultation with stakeholders including government, species experts,

industry and the general community.
7. Access to Genetic and Biochemical Resources
In 2002, all Australian governments endorsed a nationally consistent approach to regulate access to and utilization of Australia’s native genetic and biochemical resources. This framework ensures compliance with Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and incorporates the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits. It promotes consistency in regulation and management across jurisdictions.

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

Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles 2017

Australia's Biological Resources

Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their utilisation

Nationally consistent approach for access to and the utilisation of Australia's native genetic and biochemical resources

Southern Right Whale Recovery Plan

Queensland Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy

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?
☑ Yes

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

b. Please identify the elements in the plan/strategy that are particularly relevant to migratory species, and highlight any specific references to the CMS/CMS instruments

GUIDANCE TIP:
Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.
››› Summary:
• Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032: Provides a national framework to protect and restore threatened species and habitats, prioritizing species like green and olive ridley turtles and places such as Raine Island. Key improvements include preventing new extinctions, protecting 30% of Australia's land, increasing Indigenous participation, and enhancing resilience to climate change. Supports the Saving Native Species Program with over AUD 200 million in funding.
• Marine Bioregional Plans and BIAs: Strengthen EPBC Act implementation in Commonwealth waters by identifying conservation values and Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for 72 nationally protected marine species, including marine turtles, cetaceans, the dugong, sharks, seabirds and pinnipeds. The AMSIS platform and the Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species provide spatial data and guidance for conservation planning and regulatory decisions.
• Conservation Planning Documents: Recovery plans and conservation advice guide actions for species such as the Far Eastern Curlew, Marine Turtles, Southern Right Whale, Blue Whale, Australian Snubfin Dolphin and the Australian Humpback Dolphin. Wildlife conservation plans for migratory shorebirds (35 species) and seabirds (76 species) provide national frameworks for research and management.
• International Commitments: Australia's conservation strategies align with global obligations under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), ensuring domestic actions contribute to international biodiversity goals.
1. Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032
The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032, which supersedes the previous Threatened Species Strategy 2021–2031, provides a comprehensive framework to protect, manage, and restore Australia's threatened species and critical habitats. The plan identifies priority species, such as the green turtle and olive ridley turtle, and priority places, including Raine Island, and sets measurable targets to track progress. Key improvements include an explicit objective to prevent new extinctions, a stronger focus on priority places, and a commitment to protect and conserve over 30% of Australia's land mass. The plan also emphasizes Indigenous participation in species and habitat management, updated conservation planning approaches, and strategies to address feral animal impacts, enhance public awareness, and improve species resilience to climate change. It underpins the Saving Native Species Program, which allocates over AUD 200 million across four years to support recovery actions for plants, animals, and ecological communities.
2. Marine Bioregional Planning and Biologically Important Areas
Marine Bioregional Plans have been developed to strengthen the application of the EPBC Act in Commonwealth marine areas. These plans identify conservation values, ecological features, regional priorities, and pressures. A key component is the designation of Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for 72 nationally protected marine species, including cetaceans, marine turtles, dugongs, sharks, pinnipeds, and migratory birds. The Protocol for the Designation of Biologically Important Areas for Protected Marine Species (BIA Protocol) provides guidance on the process for designation of BIAs. BIAs are an important decision support tool for conservation planning and regulatory decision-making carried out under Australian national environment law. BIAs are represented in the Australian Marine Spatial Information System (AMSIS) platform, which supports developers in avoiding and mitigating impacts on marine species.
3. Conservation Planning for Threatened and Migratory Species
The Australian Government continues to develop and implement domestic conservation planning documents for threatened and migratory species. Recovery plans and conservation advice outline actions to support the survival of species such as the Far Eastern Curlew, Christmas Island Frigatebird, Southern Right Whale, and Blue Whale. Additionally, wildlife conservation plans provide a national framework for research and management of listed migratory species. Two key plans under the EPBC Act relevant to the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) are the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds, covering 35 species, and the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds, covering 76 species.
4. International Framework and Obligations
Australia's conservation efforts operate within a broader international framework, with the CMS acknowledged as a key element guiding national strategies. These commitments ensure that domestic actions align with

global biodiversity conservation objectives.
5. Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030
Australia's current National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan (NBSAP), known as Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030, has been updated to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework. It brings together existing work across the country and sets Australia's direction to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Objective 8 of the strategy is to use and develop natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way. Australia's Strategy for Nature coordinates national delivery of Australia's commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and other international agreements including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species.
*National Recovery Plans for select species have been detailed in the previous section (XV)

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

https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-bioregional-plans/conservation-values-atlas
https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-species/bias
https://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/marine/jurisdiction/amsis
https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/saving-native-species
https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/action-plan-2022-2032

c. Please add comments on the implementation of the strategy or action plan concerned.
››› Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 was revised in 2019 and was superseded by Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030.
In NSW, the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 was reviewed in 2023 and the NSW Government released the NSW plan for nature in 2024 in response to the statutory review.

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.
››› 1. Single Species Action Plans
Australia has provided a voluntary contribution of $800,000 (AUD) to support the implementation of high priority activities for single species action plans (Far Eastern Curlew, Christmas Island Frigatebird and Loggerhead Turtle).
For example, Australia's contribution will support the development of a guidance document for market surveys that aim to improve understanding of the scope, scale, and motivations for illegal taking and trade of avian species (incl. adding market surveys for the northern Philippines). Australia's contribution will also support a project with the Malaysian Nature Society-Kuching on surveys and initiation of long-term monitoring program of Far Eastern Curlew contributing to baseline estimates of illegal taking of birds in Borneo, Malaysia. This project builds on a similar but much smaller scale project in Sabah and Sarawak in 2022/23.
2. H5 avian influenza (bird flu)
High pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1, commonly known as H5 avian influenza (bird flu), is a serious and contagious strain of bird flu. Internationally, this strain has killed millions of wild birds and tens of thousands of wild mammals.
As of August 2025, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific are free of this highly infectious bird flu. Migratory birds can carry diseases very long distances. These birds are on the move and share habitats with other native species. If this strain of bird flu spreads to Australia, our native species may face long term population setbacks or it may even push some species towards extinction. Threatened species like Australian sealions, and species that use a single breeding or roosting location like the Christmas Island Frigatebird and Abbott's Booby, are at high risk of significant impacts. This strain also has the potential to have a significant impact on species that are not currently threatened, increasing the risks for more common species.
The Australian Government is working with and supporting state and territory governments and key conservation partners to protect our most at-risk wildlife. We are supporting and encouraging site-specific and species-specific preparedness and response planning. This includes planning within Commonwealth-managed or jointly managed estates like our national parks and the Australian Antarctic Territory.
More than $100 million is being invested in tackling H5 bird flu by the Australian Government. Of this, $35.9 million is strengthening and accelerating H5 bird flu preparedness planning and protective action for Australia's most at-risk species and important natural places. This includes:
• $7.1 million to support wildlife susceptibility and disease spread analysis and decision support tools, to:
• identify high-risk species and areas
• identify the actions we can take to protect them
• increase surveillance across wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin and our remote island parks
• support preparedness in Commonwealth national parks while keeping our on-ground staff safe.
• $28.8 million for preparedness and response planning, and practical actions for priority species in captivity and in nature. This includes:

• developing plans to reduce the spread and impact of the virus on vulnerable wildlife
• strengthening biosecurity and protection for threatened species in captivity
• building resilience for at-risk species by addressing other threats, such as exotic rodents preying on seabirds in targeted locations.

Investments also include other initiatives aimed at boosting our preparedness across biodiversity, agriculture and human health, including:

• $10 million to support coordinated communications
• $7 million to improve Wildlife Health Australia's surveillance activities
• $5 million to boost biosecurity and scientific capability including vaccines to protect vulnerable threatened species.

The best way to protect our native wildlife is to ensure strong, healthy populations across their range. This means continuing, and where possible increasing, efforts to support species recovery and reduce other threats.

Further information is available on the department's website, at www.dcceew.gov.au/birdflu.

3. The Renewables Environmental Research Initiative

The Australian Government is delivering the Renewables Environmental Research Initiative (RERI) to support more efficient transition to onshore and offshore renewable energy and protect Australia's biodiversity while meeting net zero targets. RERI is delivering targeted research on threatened species, new and updated regulatory guidance and useful tools and data to support proponents and environmental decision makers.

These projects will improve our understanding of the species most vulnerable to the impacts of renewable energy developments. Projects will inform guidance about how to best avoid, mitigate and offset these impacts.

Under national environment law, proponents seeking approval for development projects must collect scientific information to demonstrate that their project will not have unacceptable impacts on environmental matters such as migratory and threatened species. The RERI will support proponents of renewable energy projects by:

• addressing scientific knowledge gaps about key species, such as flight height, flight speed, migration routes and timing of migration
• developing guidance on best-practice conditions, mitigation, monitoring and offsets
• developing information standards, such as data standards and survey methodology guidelines.

There are 41 projects contracted to date under RERI, with most to be completed by June 2026. These projects will fill knowledge gaps and provide guidance for over 80 threatened species listed under Australia's environmental laws, including over 30 migratory birds.

Three projects will be delivered by the CMS and its Energy Task Force:

a) Best practice guidance for regulating impacts to cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises) - $2 million AUD

Drawing on international literature and a review of other nations' environmental regulatory frameworks for assessing and managing potential impacts to cetaceans from offshore wind developments, the project will develop:

• guidance for assessing, mitigating, and managing potential impacts on cetaceans
• population assessments and a risk framework, focusing on the southern right whale and blue whale
• a long-term cetacean monitoring framework.

b) Literature review of interactions of marine mammals with light sources from offshore developments - $120,000 AUD

The project will identify Australian species that may be affected by artificial light from offshore developments, such as wind farms. It will consider a range of marine mammals, including whales, dolphins and seals, that are not currently covered in the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (2023). The project will:

• summarise existing international and domestic research
• provide recommendations about the development of additional guidance
• identify which species are or are not adversely affected by artificial light, along with appropriate mitigation measures.

c) Review of international environmental regulatory approaches for onshore wind farms for consideration in the Australian context - $200,000 AUD

This project will provide case studies from other countries about how environmental impacts from onshore wind farms are managed and regulated. This includes consideration of:

• best practice impact mitigation and management approaches
• conditions of approval
• technological innovations to minimise environmental impacts.

The project will advise on how these approaches could be applied in Australia.

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

H5 bird flu and Australia's preparations

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?
☑ Yes

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?
☑ Yes

If 'yes' or 'partly/in some areas' to either of the preceding two questions, please select which actions have been taken:
(select all that apply)
☑ Research & documentation
☑ Engagement initiatives (e.g. as part of development projects)
☑ Formal recognition of rights
☑ Inclusion in governance mechanisms (legislation, policies, etc.)
☑ Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests

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).
››› Cultural Stewardship and Indigenous Knowledge:
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples maintain a cultural responsibility for environmental stewardship, applying traditional values, knowledge, and practices to manage land, sea, and wildlife. This responsibility extends to many of Australia’s Flyway Network Sites and reflects a holistic approach to conservation that integrates cultural heritage with ecological sustainability.
Summary:
• Indigenous Ranger Program: Combines traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices; rangers monitor migratory species, build partnerships, and create jobs in environmental and heritage sectors.
• Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA): Supports dugong and turtle management plans through two-way management integrating Indigenous and conventional knowledge; the Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait 2016–2036 prioritizes sustainable management and empowers Traditional Owners.
• Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs): Formal agreements between Traditional Owners and governments for managing traditional marine resource use in the Great Barrier Reef, including compliance and monitoring.
• Indigenous Participation in Research: NESP embeds Indigenous partnerships across four research hubs, employing Indigenous Facilitators and fostering collaboration through the Indigenous Facilitation Network.
• First Nations Strategy 2025–2030: Aims to embed First Nations expertise in departmental operations, emphasizing early engagement, cultural inclusion, and reconciliation through a two-stage implementation plan.
• Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs): 93 IPAs, including 14 with sea Country, protect over six million hectares; IPAs combine cultural stewardship with science to conserve marine species like turtles and lead research on climate impacts.
1. Indigenous Ranger Program
The Indigenous Ranger Program enables Indigenous communities to combine traditional ecological knowledge with modern conservation practices. Rangers engage in research and monitoring of migratory species and their habitats, while also building partnerships with research institutions, educational bodies, philanthropic organizations, and commercial enterprises. These collaborations foster knowledge exchange, create employment opportunities, and strengthen community engagement in environmental, biosecurity, and heritage sectors.
2. Torres Strait Regional Authority and Land and Sea Management (TSRA)
The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) operates a Land and Sea Management Unit that supports community-based dugong and turtle management plans. These plans emphasize cultural values, traditional knowledge, and two-way management approaches that integrate Indigenous and Western systems. The Land and Sea Management Strategy for Torres Strait 2016–2036 builds on earlier frameworks to recognize the holistic relationship of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples with their islands and sea country. It

prioritizes sustainable management of natural and cultural values, empowers Traditional Owners, and seeks ongoing investment for ranger programs and other community-based initiatives.
3. Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs)
TUMRAs formalize partnerships between Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner groups and Australian and Queensland governments to manage traditional use activities. These agreements outline how Traditional Owners manage resource use, participate in compliance and monitoring, and oversee human activities within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, ensuring sustainable practices that respect cultural traditions.
4. Indigenous Participation in Research and Policy
The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) integrates Indigenous participation across its four research hubs—Resilient Landscapes, Marine and Coastal, Climate Systems, and Sustainable Communities and Waste. Each hub implements an Indigenous partnerships strategy and employs Indigenous Facilitators who collaborate through the Indigenous Facilitation Network to ensure meaningful engagement in research and monitoring projects.
5. First Nations Strategy 2025–2030
The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has developed the First Nations Strategy 2025–2030 to embed First Nations expertise and aspirations into departmental operations. The strategy emphasizes early and genuine engagement, consistent communication, and mutually beneficial relationships. It aims to transform departmental practices by placing Country at the core of decision-making and fostering reconciliation. Implementation will occur in two stages: the Foundations stage (2025–2026), which builds capability, and the Embedding stage (2026–2030), which leverages these foundations to achieve strategic outcomes. The strategy was informed by extensive consultation, including workshops with First Nations staff and advice from the Indigenous Advisory Committee.
6. Indigenous Protected Areas
Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) are marine or coastal zones managed by First Nations communities to conserve and protect Australia’s unique marine and coastal environments. These areas combine cultural stewardship with modern conservation practices, ensuring ecological sustainability while maintaining cultural heritage.
Australia currently has 93 dedicated IPAs, with the first sea Country IPA, Dhimurru, established in 2001 in the Northern Territory. Today, 14 IPAs include sea Country, collectively protecting more than six million hectares across the Northern Territory, Queensland, and Western Australia. These IPAs foster partnerships between First Nations communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to collaboratively manage marine and coastal resources. This approach delivers ecological benefits alongside broader social, cultural, and economic outcomes for Indigenous communities.
IPAs play a critical role in protecting culturally significant marine species such as green, olive ridley, and flatback turtles. Indigenous rangers apply both traditional knowledge and Western science to strengthen species protection through activities such as tracking and nest counts, nest shade trials, feral pig control, marine debris removal, and education on sustainable harvesting practices. In addition, IPAs lead and collaborate on research initiatives, including collecting scientific data on threatened species, satellite tagging, and monitoring the impacts of climate change on seagrass beds and beaches essential for marine turtle survival.

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

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)

First Nations Strategy

Indigenous partnerships in environmental science

Indigenous Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program

TSRA

Indigenous Rangers Program (IRP)

Statement of Commitment to First Nations people

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?
☑ 3. Positive advances have been made

Please provide details on the progress made (where applicable).
››› See information provided above.

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
☑ Capacity building
☑ Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
☑ Capacity assessments/gap analyses
☑ Agreements at policy level on research priorities
☑ Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

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

››› Please see information provided in Section V (Awareness).

Public awareness campaigns

››› Please see information provided in Section V (Awareness). Additional campaigns include, but are not limited to:
Continued social media outreach to raise awareness of light pollution.
Attending conferences, symposia and events to present on light pollution and raise awareness of the threat it poses to migratory species.

Capacity building

››› Please see information provided in Section V (Awareness).
1. Capacity Building and Training Initiatives
Training and capacity-building activities are implemented by sub-national jurisdictions to strengthen conservation practices. For example, the Queensland Wetlands Program, managed by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, promotes best-practice wetland management through resource development, technical support, and capacity-building initiatives.
2. Marine Estate Management Strategy in New South Wales
Under the Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018–2028), the NSW Government has funded a range of initiatives to support marine species conservation, particularly loggerhead and green turtles. These initiatives include the production of educational videos demonstrating best-practice handling and assessment techniques for debilitated turtles, research on nesting frequency and distribution in southern latitudes, and implementation of nest management techniques in colder climates. Additional measures include microchip training for shark mesh contractors to improve monitoring of live releases, targeted programs assessing the impact of biotoxins and pollutants on turtle health, and studies on sex ratios in stranded turtles.
The strategy also supports covert compliance operations to investigate breaches of marine mammal approach distances, reinforcing regulatory compliance and species protection.
3. Shorebird Monitoring and Staff Training
The NSW Government has delivered training for staff and volunteers from land management agencies on the management, monitoring, and data collection for Little Terns. This initiative has improved breeding records for threatened shorebirds along the NSW coastline, although some gaps in data remain and require further attention.

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

Marine Estate Management Strategy in New South Wales
Queensland Wetlands Program

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

››› This information has been provided in previous sections

Capacity assessments/gap analyses

››› This information has been provided in previous sections

Agreements at policy level on research priorities

››› Summary:

• National Environmental Science Program (NESP): Long-term government initiative funding environmental and climate research through four hubs to support conservation, policy design, and resilience building for ecosystems and communities.
• Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020: Comprehensive review of avifauna status, highlighting climate change impacts and recovery actions for migratory shorebirds, while noting species recovery successes.
• Australian Antarctic Division (AAD): Leads Antarctic research supporting international treaty obligations, focusing on environmental protection and conservation of marine species.
• NOPSEMA and OIR Research Strategy 2024–2027: Defines research priorities for offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors to guide evidence-based regulation and industry practices.
• Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS): Maintains over 4.4 million records to support research and conservation of threatened and migratory species.
• Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS): Strategy 2030 focuses on delivering science and technology solutions for sustainable marine environment management, aligned with global priorities.
• CSIRO: Conducts research to support industry, community, and national objectives, including technology transfer and international collaboration.
• Geoscience Australia: Provides geoscientific and spatial data to inform natural resource management, guided by its Science Strategy 2028.
• Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Identifies priority science needs to improve long-term reef management and protection strategies.
• State and Territory Programs: Implement additional research initiatives that contribute to migratory species conservation.

1. National Environmental Science Program (NESP)

The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is a long-term Australian Government initiative that funds environmental and climate research to support conservation and sustainable management outcomes. It provides evidence to inform policy, program design, and on-ground actions, helping decision-makers, including Indigenous communities, build resilience and achieve positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes. The first phase invested $145 million (2014-15 to 2020-21) into 6 research hubs, and the second phase is investing $149 million (2020-21 to 2026-27) into 4 new research hubs—Resilient Landscapes, Marine and Coastal, Climate Systems, and Sustainable Communities and Waste—bringing together researchers across Australia.

2. Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020

The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020 is the most comprehensive review of the status of Australia’s avifauna, including migratory waterbirds. Authored by over 300 experts, it documents the increasing impacts of climate change and related threats such as bushfires. The plan profiles 15 migratory shorebirds, detailing their conservation status, threats, and recovery actions. It also highlights over 60 taxa that are no longer considered threatened due to decades of sustained conservation efforts.

3. Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)

The Australian Antarctic Division leads the government’s scientific program in Antarctica, guided by the Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan. Its research supports Australia’s role in international treaty bodies, including the Antarctic Treaty’s Committee for Environmental Protection, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the International Whaling Commission, and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Projects span Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic, the Southern Ocean, and Australia, and are highly collaborative, involving national and international partners.

4. NOPSEMA and Offshore Infrastructure Regulator Research Strategy

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) and the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) published the Research Strategy 2024–2027 to guide research priorities for offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors. The strategy identifies key science needs to support evidence-based decision-making under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act, the EPBC Act, and the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act. It aims to inform industry and research communities on funding and scientific design decisions.

5. Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS)

Established in 1953, the ABBBS coordinates bird and bat banding research and manages a dataset of over 4.4 million records, including information on threatened and migratory species. This data supports understanding of species ecology and informs conservation actions under the EPBC Act.

6. Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)

AIMS Strategy 2030 builds on previous strategic plans to deliver science and technology solutions for the sustainable growth, management, and protection of Australia’s marine environment. The strategy aligns with national and international priorities, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and reflects stakeholder needs.

7. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
CSIRO conducts scientific research to support Australian industry, community interests, and national objectives. Its functions include international scientific collaboration, training, technology transfer, and dissemination of research outcomes, ensuring science contributes to economic and environmental sustainability.
8. Geoscience Australia
Geoscience Australia provides geoscientific and spatial information to inform decisions on the economic, social, and environmental management of natural resources. Its Science Strategy 2028 and accompanying implementation plan set measurable objectives and outline the role of the Office of Chief Scientist in delivering strategic commitments.
9. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has developed resources outlining priority science and knowledge needs to improve long-term management and protection strategies for the Reef. These priorities are informed by findings from the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Reports and are accessible through an interactive interface.
10. State and Territory Programs
States and territories also implement internal programs addressing research priorities that contribute to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats.

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

2020 Action Plan for Australian Birds
NOPSEMA and OIR revised Research Strategy 2024-2027
DCCEEW ABBBS
AIMS Strategy 2030
CSIRO Strategy
Geoscience Australia - Science Strategy
GBRMPA - Science management
Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
International Whaling Commission
Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
Committee for Environmental Protection of the Antarctic Treaty
Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan
National Environmental Science Program - DCCEEW

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders
››› This information has been provided in previous sections

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)
☑ 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
☑ Yes, made available for activities in one or more other countries

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?
☑ No