



**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](mailto:aydin.bahramlouian@un.org)

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

RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

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

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

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

## High-level summary of key messages

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

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 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):

>>> The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention in Iraq :

- 1- Increased public awareness and community involvement in conservation activities related to migratory species.
- 2- Establishment and expansion of protected areas and nature reserves that serve as habitats for migratory species.
- 3- Active participation in regional and international cooperation frameworks supporting migratory species conservation.
- 4- Development and adoption of national strategies and action plans addressing biodiversity and species protection.
- 5- Successful rescue and rehabilitation initiatives for certain migratory and wild species, involving NGOs and government bodies

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

>>> The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention in Iraq :

- 1- Impact of environmental challenges such as water scarcity, habitat degradation, and climate change, which complicate species conservation efforts.
- 2- Limited financial and technical resources to support comprehensive conservation programs and enforcement activities.
- 3- Insufficient institutional capacity and coordination among governmental agencies and stakeholders involved in wildlife conservation.
- 4- Lack of updated and comprehensive data on migratory species populations, distribution, and threats.
- 5- Challenges related to illegal hunting and poaching, driven by economic and social factors.

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

>>> e main priorities for future implementation of the CMS Convention in Iraq :

- 1- Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to enhance the protection of migratory species and their habitats in accordance with CMS provisions.
- 2- Enhancing monitoring and research programs to improve data collection on migratory species populations, migration patterns, and threats.
- 3- Promoting community engagement and awareness-raising initiatives to involve local communities in conservation efforts and reduce threats such as poaching.
- 4- Improving transboundary cooperation with neighboring countries for the coordinated conservation of migratory species and their migratory routes.
- 5- Integrating CMS objectives into national environmental and development policies, including climate change adaptation and sustainable land use planning

## **I. Administrative Information**

Name of the Party

>>> Iraq

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

>>> 22-2-2016

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> -nil

### **Report compiler**

Name and title

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

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

Name and title

>>> -

Full name of institution

>>> -

Mailing address

>>> -

Telephone

>>> -

Email

>>> -

## II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

Please confirm the status of your country's participation in the following Agreements/MOUs, and indicate any updates or corrections required:

Yes, the lists are correct and up to date

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

*Please select only one per line*

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

### III. Species on the Convention Appendices

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

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

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

#### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes, the list is correct

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Iraq.xlsx](#)

## IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

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

Yes for all Appendix I species

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

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

>>> Note !:

The phrase “all species” in Appendix I specifically refers to those species that are both present in Iraq and included in Appendix I of the document.

The hunting of these species is prohibited under the following legal provisions:

2-Wild Animal Protection Law No.( 17) of 2010

3- The law of Iraq's accession to the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Animal Species CMS

Note 2 :

The Republic of Iraq is in the process of amending its legislation concerning the protection of aquatic life. During the consultation process, it was observed that the existing provisions primarily address fish species. Given that migratory waterbirds constitute an integral component of aquatic biodiversity, and in view of the fact that Iraq’s marshes and wetlands serve as critical habitats and migratory corridors, it was recommended that the revised legislation explicitly encompass these species and underscore the necessity of ensuring their protection. The legislative review and amendment process is currently ongoing.

IV.2 **Exceptions:** Where the taking of Appendix I species **is** prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition during the reporting period?

No

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

No

## V. Awareness

V.1. Please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country during the reporting period to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII may also be relevant).  
(select all that apply)

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and livelihoods), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests), Res. **14.14** (CMS Jaguar Initiative), Res. **14.13** (Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), Res. **14.12** (Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea), Res. **14.10** (Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)), Res. **14.8** (Conservation and sustainable management of seagrass ecosystems), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.1** (Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 – 2032), Res. **12.6 (Rev.COP14)** (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), Res. **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), and Decision 14.194 (Ecological Connectivity), Decision 14.54 (Marine Wildlife Watching) and Decision 14.223 (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

Press and media coverage

Engagement of specific stakeholder groups

Special publications

Other (please specify)

>>> During periodic surveys, the survey teams not only carry out their primary tasks but also raise environmental awareness among local communities about the importance of protecting migratory species.

### **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.

>>> Raising awareness among security agencies and authorities is one of the most crucial steps in protecting migratory species. In most governments around the world, economic and security concerns are typically prioritized, while the conservation of migratory species tends to fall low on the list of priorities.

However, through our efforts and repeated formal communications, we were able to draw the attention of top security authorities to the importance of this issue, leading them to take serious measures. For instance, the Ministry of Interior in Iraq issued a decision to completely ban foreign hunters from entering the country. Although this decision was later revised to allow entry under certain conditions, it proved that raising awareness and persistently engaging with decision-makers can lead to real change.

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.

2. Small impact

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

>>> While overall public awareness—and awareness among certain government and private sector employees—remains below the desired level, there are promising indications that environmental education and outreach efforts are beginning to yield tangible outcomes.

A notable example is an initiative that took place in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, specifically in the city of Sulaymaniyah. In this community-led effort, a group of environmental activists and nature enthusiasts, in collaboration with the Forest Police in the Bashdar area, successfully released several wild animals and

birds—including migratory species—that had been rescued from captivity. This action occurred during a critical period in which prolonged droughts and escalating water scarcity are driving wildlife closer to human-inhabited areas, increasing their vulnerability to threats such as illegal hunting. The initiative not only contributed to the direct protection of individual animals but also served as a symbolic demonstration of public commitment to biodiversity conservation. Such localized, citizen-driven actions underscore the growing potential for community engagement in national conservation strategies and highlight the importance of integrating public participation into broader biodiversity and species protection frameworks .

## 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.

>>> Through the National Strategy for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in Iraq, specifically within the Ecosystems and Biodiversity Sector for 2024–2030, there are clear indications of efforts to conserve migratory species, particularly in the marshlands region of southern Iraq. The proposed initiatives within this sector include programs aimed at amending existing legislation, as well as initiatives focused on restoring critical habitats across the country

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

[2024-2030 National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement in the Republic of Iraq](#)

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:

>>> - In The National Strategy for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in Iraq, specifically within the Ecosystems and Biodiversity Sector for 2024–2030

- In the national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity .

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.

>>> The following are examples of NGOs along with their most significant activities:

1- Nature Iraq Organization :

\* This organization has been actively involved in efforts to conserve the Persian leopard.

\*Recent publications include a booklet on the management and trade of birds.

\*Nature Iraq joined the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project in spring 2022, with the specific aim of combating the illegal killing and poaching of Egyptian Vultures in Iraq. The initiative also focuses on raising awareness about the species and the threats it faces, while engaging with decision-makers and stakeholders to implement and enforce environmental and conservation laws and regulations, in order to reduce pressure on wildlife—particularly the Egyptian Vulture.

2- Al-Jbayish Environmental Tourism Organization :

\*During the hunting season, awareness campaigns focused on the environmental dangers of illegal hunting.

\* Workshops and meetings are held with government agencies to contribute to biodiversity adaptation and conservation efforts .

3- Iraq green climate organization :

\*While the organization mainly addresses climate and climate change issues, it also plays a significant role in biodiversity conservation through its team of experts .

\* Monitoring and observing biodiversity in Iraq, in cooperation with official bodies, aims to reduce threats to endemic and migratory species.

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

[Egyptian Vulture Conservation Project in Iraq](#)

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

>>> The extent of private sector involvement in biodiversity conservation in Iraq remains somewhat unclear.

Nevertheless, the Iraqi government, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, has enacted regulations obligating companies to avoid causing harm to natural ecosystems.

While the private sector's role in environmental conservation is currently limited, several companies have made notable contributions, primarily through government-promoted afforestation campaigns. Such tree-planting initiatives are recognized as vital for preserving habitats essential to a variety of wildlife, including both resident and migratory bird species.

A prominent example is the Million Oaks Project, led by HasarPartners, which exemplifies large-scale reforestation efforts driven by private sector engagement. To date, more than 315,000 trees have been planted in Erbil, with plans underway to plant an additional 700,000 trees.

Another significant initiative is the sponsorship by the Al-Abbas and Al-Hussayn Holy Shrines—non-profit religious institutions—of the planting of 1.5 million trees across diverse regions, including arid desert areas. Although these efforts may not directly target biodiversity conservation or the protection of migratory species, they are expected to indirectly provide crucial refuges and habitats for both migratory and resident birds, as well as other wildlife.

Overall, however, the private sector's role in the conservation of migratory species in Iraq remains limited and not clearly defined .

VI.5. Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP14)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species).

Yes

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

>>> Migratory species, particularly birds, are generally referenced in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) prepared for development projects. These assessments are expected to consider potential effects on biodiversity, including migratory species. However, there are some limitations in current practices. In many cases, the reports do not specify the exact species involved or include detailed information on their migration patterns and breeding cycles. This is often due to the evolving level of expertise in this specialized field. Enhancing technical capacity and access to species-specific data would further improve the quality and effectiveness of these assessments.

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.

>>> To date, the integration of biodiversity and migratory species considerations into Iraq's national energy and climate policies and legislation remains limited and has not yet reached a systematic level. Current climate policies primarily focus on adaptation to climate change and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, with little explicit reference to the impacts of these policies on ecosystems or migratory species within national legislation or implementation frameworks.

Nonetheless, there are some positive developments, such as the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement (2024–2030), which includes the conservation of natural habitats as a priority area. This could indirectly support migratory species. Additionally, Iraq's commitment to international agreements—such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Ramsar Convention—provides a potential foundation for greater integration of environmental and climate-related objectives in the future.

Moving forward, enhanced coordination between energy, climate, and environmental authorities, along with capacity-building to assess the interlinkages between energy projects and biodiversity—particularly migratory species—will be essential

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> /

## VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

(SPMS Target 3: National, regional and international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems have improved significantly, making relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive.)

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

### GUIDANCE TIP:

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

No, but there is scope to do so

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:

>>> 1-A committee has been recently established to oversee the implementation of CMS-related tasks and to facilitate coordination between the CMS focal point and the Environmental Police, with the aim of enforcing Iraqi legislation that prohibits the hunting of migratory species. However, this committee is still in its early stages of development

2- High-level committees have been established to oversee the management of the marshes inscribed on the World Heritage List, which represent the largest water body supporting migratory bird populations in Iraq. While these committees are not directly linked to the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), their objectives align closely with its goals.

VII.3. Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 29, 30 and 32 of **Res. 11.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Synergies and partnerships) and in paragraph 7 of **Res. 14.3** (Engagement in CBD processes including the Global Biodiversity Framework) ?

### GUIDANCE TIP:

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Dec. 14.6**(CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Res.8.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD). Guidance documents for integrating considerations relevant to Migratory Species in NBSAPs are available at CMS website.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Efforts are currently being coordinated between the CMS Coordination Centre, the CITES Coordination Centre, and the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, which serves as the national authority responsible for the implementation of both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Iraq. The Ministry of Environment oversees the implementation of all the aforementioned agreements.

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:

>>> While these initiatives and plans are not directly focused on migratory species, their overarching objective is the preservation of natural habitats and the prevention of environmental degradation. Key initiatives include:

The National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement (2024-2030)

The Nature Reserves Network project, overseen by the Ministry of Environment

The National Afforestation Campaign, supported by the Office of the Prime Minister

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

[National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement in Iraq](#)

[Natural Reserves Network](#)

[5 Million Tree Planting Initiative](#)

## 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?

Yes

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

>>> A temporary ban was imposed on foreign bird hunters entering Iraq, the majority of whom were from Gulf countries. This measure remained in effect for several months and was largely the result of sustained communication and advocacy by the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Interior. After this period, entry was permitted again under specific conditions. The ban proved to be highly beneficial in supporting the conservation of migratory species and biodiversity as a whole.

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

>>> 1- Launch of the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement (2024–2030)

In September 2024, the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), launched the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement. This strategy aims to address environmental challenges such as population growth, unsustainable resource use, and regional water resource management, thereby contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats of migratory species.

2-Sustainable Land Management Project in Dhi Qar and Muthanna

Through the "Sustainable Land Management for Livelihood Improvement in Degraded Areas" project, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, a national strategy for sustainable land management was developed, including an action plan for marshland protection. Additionally, 121 public employees and 1,500 farmers received training in sustainable agricultural practices. Although the project's primary objective was not directly focused on protecting migratory species, it effectively supports the preservation of their natural habitats.

3-Workshop on Promoting Agroecology and Marshland Conservation

In November 2024, FAO organized a training workshop in Basra in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Water Resources, targeting 40 employees from the governorates of Dhi Qar and Muthanna. The workshop focused on promoting agroecological practices and marshland conservation, thereby contributing to biodiversity preservation in these regions.

4- Response to Avian Influenza H5N1 Outbreak

In May 2024, the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture responded to an outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza among seagulls in the governorates of Diyala and Salahuddin. Preventive measures included field inspections of markets and major lakes, which contributed to protecting migratory species from infectious diseases and preventing their spread.

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

[Iraq Unveils a Blueprint for a Greener Future: National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement \(2024-2030\)](#)

[FAO and MOE are developing the National Strategy for Sustainable Land Management in Iraq](#)

[FAO empowers 40 extension officers to promote Agroecology and Marshland Conservation for SLM in southern Iraq](#)  
[H5N1](#)

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

>>> Despite all the measures that have been mentioned, water scarcity remains a critical issue that could jeopardize the positive outcomes achieved thus far. Moreover, several regions not explicitly addressed in this report are also experiencing water shortages, with some already facing drought conditions .

## 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	Panthera pardus	3
Illegal hunting	Falco biarmicus ,	3
Other harvesting and take		
Illegal trade	Phoenicopterus roseus ,Falco biarmicus ,Panthera pardus	2
Deliberate poisoning	Anas crecca , Anas platyrhynchos ,	2

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

>>> Key Developments Since the Previous Report:

- Public awareness has been significantly enhanced through the organization of public seminars and specialized workshops.
- Draft amendments to existing legislation have been prepared, aiming to enhance legal comprehensiveness and strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts.
- Coordination has been initiated with environmental authorities in the Kurdistan Region to bolster protection measures for the Persian leopard.
- Official communication and collaboration have been intensified with relevant executive bodies, including the Environmental Police and local law enforcement agencies, to actively pursue and prosecute individuals involved in illegal poaching activities.

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

##### GUIDANCE TIP:

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

Decision 14.126 (South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force).

>>> National priorities in Iraq have largely focused on economic development and security. Attention to migratory species within policy and planning frameworks is gradually increasing through sustained efforts and engagement.

Water scarcity in lake and marshland regions has significantly affected migratory species. Iraq, in particular, is facing a severe water challenge, especially during the summer of 2025

## 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	
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	3	
Other forms of unintentional taking		Unknown

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.

>>> Bycatch resulting from abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) does not have a significant negative impact on migratory species in Iraq.

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).

>>> Bycatch resulting from abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) does not have a significant negative impact on migratory species in Iraq.

## 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	Unknown	
Other collisions	Panthera pardus	3
Electrocution	birds ( unknown )	3
Vessel strikes	unknown	

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

>>> To the best of current knowledge, no systematic procedures have been implemented in Iraq to cover or bury electrical wires as a mitigation measure to reduce wildlife electrocution. However, incidents of this kind appear to be infrequent.

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

electrocution?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans) and Decision 14.48.

>>> /

**Other mortality**

	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>
Disease, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	3	Unknown
Unexplained stranding events	3	Anas platyrhynchos , Anas crecca,Phoenicopterus roseus
Accidental/indirect poisoning	2	Unknown
Disease	3	Unknown

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

>>> Several measures have been undertaken to curb illegal fishing practices involving the use of toxic substances, which are employed by poachers to maximize fish catch. These methods result in the contamination of water bodies, thereby posing a serious threat to migratory birds and overall aquatic biodiversity. Law enforcement agencies have actively monitored and intervened in such cases to reduce their occurrence.

Regarding avian diseases, the relevant authorities have implemented multiple preventive actions aimed at controlling the spread of infections among bird populations. These efforts are particularly crucial in preventing the transmission of such diseases to wild birds, including migratory species, where outbreaks could lead to significant ecological impacts.

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

[Iraq: Diyala’s Veterinary Hospital responded to nearby H5N1 outbreak in gulls with preventive measures](#)  
[Ministry of Agriculture: Iraq is free of bird flu](#)

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions**11.15 (Rev.COP14)** (Preventing Poisoning of of Migratory Species), Res. **12.6** (Rev.COP14) (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res.**13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. 14.18 Avian influenza and Decisions 14.148-14.150 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).

>>> /

**Alien and/or invasive species**

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

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

>>> /

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

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> /

**Disturbance and disruption**

	<b>Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details</b>	<b>Overall relative severity of impact</b> 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	All species on Appendix I & Appendix II are subject to disturbance including the noise of gunfire, as well as the sound of vehicles and the sound of boats	3

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

>>> In Iraq, a legal and institutional framework exists to regulate noise pollution and its impacts on natural habitats and wildlife.

First, the Law on the Protection and Improvement of the Environment No. 27 of 2009 mandates Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for new projects, explicitly requiring the evaluation and mitigation of noise as a form of pollution .

Second, the Noise Control Law No. 41 of 2015 establishes definitions, permissible limits, and control measures for noise, providing a direct legal basis for enforcement .

Third, the Ministry of Environment issues implementing instructions under these laws and is authorized to develop technical regulations specific to noise management for both public health and environmental protection .

Fourth, in the Kurdistan Region, environmental legislation and EIA requirements also classify noise as a pollutant subject to assessment, licensing, and regulatory oversight . Fifth, while the legal standards are in place, practical enforcement remains limited, particularly regarding detailed safeguards for migratory birds and aquatic habitats that are sensitive to industrial noise during critical periods such as breeding or migration.

- As part of the measures to mitigate noise-related disturbance to migratory species, particularly marine organisms, the Ministry of Environment, upon the proposal of the national focal point of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), has officially submitted a request to the Iraqi Ports Authority to ensure that commercial ships and vessels reduce engine noise levels and adopt noise-dampening technologies. The country's main ports, located in southern Iraq within Basra Governorate, are critical areas where such measures are to be implemented.

- In Duhok Governorate, a border and mountainous region in northern Iraq within the Kurdistan Region, a survey was undertaken to address noise pollution generated by diesel generators. This initiative followed the findings of a study entitled 'Investigation of Noise Pollution of Electrical Diesel Generators in Duhok City/Kurdistan of Iraq.' Duhok is recognized as an important migration route for various animal species, including the Persian leopard, making noise reduction efforts particularly relevant for biodiversity conservation.

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

[Duhok cracks down on pollution](#)

**Pollution**

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

Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		
---------------------------------	--	--

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

>>> Between 2023 and 2025, Iraq undertook a series of measures to address water, air, and marine pollution, with particular relevance to the conservation of migratory species. In the southern marshlands and river systems, the Ministry of Water Resources implemented programs to maintain stable water allocations to the marshes, while clean-up campaigns supported by FAO targeted the removal of plastic and solid waste from habitats critical for migratory waterbirds. Complementary initiatives, such as the national program ‘Our Water... Our Future’, introduced modern irrigation technologies and improved river basin management, thereby reducing pollution inflows to rivers and marshes. In parallel, projects supported by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility focused on eliminating persistent organic pollutants and chemical hotspots, directly improving water quality for aquatic fauna.

On air pollution, the government closed more than one hundred unlicensed smelting plants in Baghdad and scaled up the capture and utilization of associated gas, reducing harmful emissions that threaten bird migration corridors and wetland ecosystems. Regulatory steps were also advanced to monitor methane leaks, supporting cleaner air across key habitats.

In coastal and marine environments, Iraq ratified the London Protocol in 2023, reinforcing commitments to prevent marine dumping. In Basra’s coastal zone, mangrove restoration projects were launched to stabilize shorelines, filter pollutants, and provide habitat for migratory fish and marine mammals. Scientific studies have further guided interventions to address heavy-metal contamination in southern mudflats, while the National Environmental Strategy (2024-2030), now embeds coastal and marine ecosystems as a priority for integrated management.

In Duhok Governorate, a mountainous border region that serves as a migration corridor for birds and other wildlife, industrial facilities operating without authorization were closed, and operators of private generators were required to install emission filters and noise-reducing equipment. Additional measures targeted vehicle fuel quality and emission standards to minimize harmful outputs. While these actions were not specifically designed for migratory species but for environmental protection more broadly, they nevertheless contribute to reducing the pollution pressures that directly affect migratory birds and transboundary species such as the Persian leopard, thereby enhancing the resilience of sensitive ecosystems.

In the Al-Chibayish Marshes—recognized as one of the most significant wetlands in southern Iraq and the largest continuous body of water in the country that serves as a critical stopover for migratory birds—a large-scale campaign was implemented to remove plastic waste. The initiative, led by civil society volunteers, contributed to improving habitat quality, reducing pollution stress, and enhancing the ecological integrity of this internationally important wetland

Collectively, these actions contribute to the protection of habitats essential for migratory species—including waterbirds in the marshes, as well as marine taxa such as sharks, and marine mammals—by improving water quality, reducing atmospheric pollution, and strengthening the resilience of coastal ecosystems.

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

[Campaign to clean the marshes of plastic waste](#)

[FAO campaign to clean Hawizeh Marshes](#)

[Duhok cracks down on pollution: factories closed, emission controls enforced](#)

[Iraq advances implementation of waste dumping treaty study](#)

[Mangroves mount a fragile green revival in Iraq’s toxic south](#)

### Habitat destruction/degradation

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Landscape fragmentation/loss of ecological connectivity, physical barriers		
Habitat degradation		
Mineral exploration/extraction	Anas platyrhynchos , Anas crecca,Phoenicopterus roseus ,Anser erythropus , Aythya nyroca , Marmaronetta angustirostris , And the rest of the waterbirds present on Appendix I&II of Iraq for which the southern marshes are habitat or a resting station during migration.. The threat of drought due to the lack of water releases from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers from upstream countries.	1

Unsustainable land/resource use		
Urbanization		
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation		
Fire	Panthera pardus , Gazella subgutturosa	3
Physical barriers	Gazella subgutturosa, Panthera pardus	3

## 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	3	waterbirds on Appendix I & II

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

>>> Between 2023 and 2025, Iraq implemented a series of measures to address the impacts of climate change on natural habitats and migratory species, particularly birds. The Ministry of Environment, in coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources, launched joint programs to mitigate the degradation of wetlands and lakes that serve as critical stopover sites for migratory birds. The National Climate Change Strategy was introduced to integrate biodiversity protection into national environmental policies and planning frameworks. Iraq's engagement with the Green Climate Fund supported vulnerable communities affected by drought while enhancing water resource management to sustain ecological systems. In parallel, initiatives with the United Nations Development Programme focused on improving freshwater management and alleviating pressure on key habitats. Furthermore, biodiversity and climate-induced migration issues were incorporated into inter-ministerial technical groups. Collectively, these actions reflect Iraq's efforts to counter habitat loss and safeguard migratory bird pathways under increasing climate pressures.

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

[launch the National Pollution Strategy](#)

[Iraq unveils plans for ambitious climate project pipeline](#)

## 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	2	waterbirds , Falco biarmicus & Panthera pardus
Inadequate legislation		
Lack of knowledge		
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	3	Panthera pardus ,

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

>>> /

## Other (please specify)

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

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)
	No change			

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	No change			

Birds

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	2023	This species had not been previously documented in the avifauna of Iraq and was recorded for the first time in the central regions of the country. It remains unclear whether this species can now be considered a regular migratory bird to Iraq, or if its presence was the result of a chance occurrence or a one-time sighting. While this has not yet been confirmed, the observation has nonetheless been formally documented in a scientific publication.	<a href="https://sciendo.com/article/10.2478/srj-2024-0008?utm_source=chatgpt.com">https://sciendo.com/article/10.2478/srj-2024-0008?utm_source=chatgpt.com</a>	Torgos tracheliotos negevensis / APPENDIX I

## Reptiles

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	No change			

## Fish

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	No change			

## XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 During the reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species?

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

No

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

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

### **GUIDANCE TIP:**

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Iraq is a signatory to the Paris Agreement on climate change and remains an active participant in international efforts to address this global challenge. The country is working with its partners to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to strengthen national resilience through adaptation measures. Iraq is also committed to the protection and conservation of biodiversity and has submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) outlining emission reduction targets in cooperation with its partners. In addition, Iraq is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and has pledged to implement its provisions in coordination with other signatory states, supported by the development of a comprehensive national biodiversity strategy

In addition to the previously issued National Biodiversity Strategy, Iraq later adopted the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement, which contains significant provisions related to the conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Furthermore, under an initiative led by the Iraqi Council of Ministers, the government has mobilized resources to support afforestation efforts in some of the country's most environmentally fragile region .

### 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

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

[Canada Commits to Protect Iraq’s Mesopotamian Marshlands](#)

[Promotion of Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality in Highly Degraded Landscapes of Iraq](#)

[Identifying hotspots of endangered wetland bird in the Marsh Al-Dalmaj / Iraq](#)

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

>>> Key Gaps and Priority Challenges:

- Insufficient Financial Resources:

The lack of sustainable and adequate financial support continues to hinder the implementation of biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts across the country.

- Ongoing and Rapid Land Degradation:

In many cases, sites that have been previously surveyed and classified as ecologically intact are later found to have undergone significant environmental degradation. This necessitates the reassessment and potential revision of both past and recent ecological findings.

- Inaccessibility of Conflict-Affected Border Areas:

Certain remote and border regions remain inaccessible due to the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance, particularly in areas previously affected by armed conflict.

- Security Concerns in Isolated Areas:

A limited number of ecologically important areas remain unsafe due to the potential presence of terrorist elements, posing risks to monitoring teams and restricting research activities.

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

Yes

Please provide details:

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

The “contribution” may relate to the use of the identified **Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)** ([www.marinemammalhabitat.org](http://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 assessment highlights that protected areas represent a key tool for conserving biodiversity in Iraq, though their effectiveness depends largely on the quality of management. It notes that, with the support of IUCN and the United Nations Environment Programme, Iraq has taken initial steps toward establishing a national network of protected areas and applying effectiveness assessment methodologies. The assessment further indicates that current management faces challenges related to financing, human resources, and growing environmental pressures. It emphasizes the importance of integrating regular evaluations into environmental planning policies to enhance transparency and accountability. Moreover, it stresses the role of such assessments in guiding resource allocation and improving decision-making. The report recommends greater engagement of local communities and stakeholders, along with strengthening institutional capacities.

Overall, the assessment represents a foundational step toward a more effective protected areas network aligned with international commitments

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

#### Assessment

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:

>>> All protected areas produce monthly or quarterly reports to assess their environmental status. A notable example is the marshlands that are inscribed on the World Heritage List.

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:

>>> The Organized Crime Directorate, operating under the Ministry of Interior, has launched targeted campaigns to combat the illegal sale and hunting of endangered species, including migratory species and others. Additionally, customs police occasionally apprehend illegal hunters targeting threatened wildlife, with offenders referred to the competent judicial authorities. Ongoing and intensive coordination is maintained with the aforementioned enforcement agencies under the Ministry of Interior, as well as with local governments, to strengthen efforts aimed at conserving biodiversity in general, and migratory species in particular.

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

[Iraqi Ministry of Environment Enforces Stricter Measures in Najaf](#)

[The Iraqi Ministry of Environment ilraqi Ministry of Environment Enforces Stricter Measures in Babylon](#)  
[Strict measures implemented by the Iraqi Ministry of Environment](#)  
[Environmental police](#)

## 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.

Yes

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> In early 2025, the Ministry of Planning launched the Participatory Ecosystem Assessment Report for the Mesopotamian Marshes located in the southern governorates of Dhi Qar, Maysan, and Basra. The report was developed by the Bureau of Statistics and Geographic Information Systems, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The assessment was based on a statistical survey conducted in selected marsh areas within the three governorates. These marshlands represent a unique ecological environment, rich in biodiversity, and play a vital role in promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing resilience to climate change

\*\*\*\*\*

Surveys conducted by the Ministry of Environment through its directorates across all Iraqi governorates have demonstrated that migratory species—particularly birds—provide vital ecosystem services. Among these are food resources, ex : various duck species. Moreover, certain vulture populations in northern Iraq play an important ecological role by contributing to the disposal of organic waste, thereby supporting natural waste management processes

\*\*\*\*\*

A study on the marshes of Mesopotamia, featuring a chapter on ecosystems, was published by the Al-Bayan Center for Studies in 2024

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

[study on the marshes of Mesopotamia](#), - study on the marshes of Mesopotamia in arabic

## 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

>>> There is an intention to develop a project aimed at establishing a safe haven for selected species of migratory and resident birds, reptiles, and fish. The project, which is currently in the planning stage, is intended to serve as a conservation measure to protect these species from the risk of extinction in the event of a severe drought crisis. The project site is located within the marshlands of southern Iraq.

## 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

>>> [https://iq.chm-cbd.net/sites/iq/files/2022-06/En\\_NBSAP\\_Iraq\\_rev6.pdf](https://iq.chm-cbd.net/sites/iq/files/2022-06/En_NBSAP_Iraq_rev6.pdf)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[En\\_NBSAP\\_Iraq\\_rev6.pdf](#)

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

[National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Improvement in the Republic of Iraq 2024-2030](#)

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.

>>> The National Strategy for Environmental Protection in Iraq frequently references migratory species, particularly birds, across multiple sections. It also recognizes the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) as one of the key frameworks guiding the strategy's implementation.

At the time of writing this report, preparations were underway to finalize Iraq's Seventh National Report on Biodiversity. Migratory species are expected to feature prominently within that report, reflecting their ecological significance and the national commitment to their conservation.

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

>>> The implementation is progressing as outlined in the strategic plan; nevertheless, it is anticipated that certain challenges may arise—most notably political dynamics, the water crisis, and possibly financial limitations.

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.

>>> Biodiversity, including migratory species, falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment in Iraq. This responsibility is supported by environmental civil society organizations as well as academic institutions with specialized environmental departments. The Ministry of Environment is primarily responsible for monitoring and observation activities. Dedicated teams affiliated with the Ministry conduct regular monitoring of selected sites across Iraq and submit reports on a monthly or quarterly basis. Additionally, the Kurdistan Regional Government has an independent authority tasked with the protection and enhancement of the environment within the region, which undertakes similar monitoring and biodiversity observation efforts.

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

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

XVII.1. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to foster consideration for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Partly / in some areas

XVII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

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)

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).

>>> During the reporting period (2023-2025), Iraq has undertaken several actions to foster effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats, and migration systems. Key examples include:

1- Community Training Workshops in Marsh Areas (2024):

In November 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, organized training workshops for local community members in the governorates of Dhi Qar and Muthanna. These workshops focused on sustainable agricultural practices and marsh conservation, directly involving local farmers and fishermen in protecting migratory bird habitats.

2- Establishment of Local Conservation Committees (2023):

In 2023, committees comprising local community leaders and representatives were established in southern Iraq's marshlands. These committees work alongside environmental authorities to monitor illegal hunting and habitat degradation, providing a platform for community voices in conservation decision-making.

3- Public Awareness Campaigns on Migratory Birds (2023-2025):

Ongoing awareness campaigns were conducted in key regions, including Basra and Najaf, educating local populations about the importance of migratory birds and wetlands conservation. These campaigns engaged schools, tribal leaders, and local councils, enhancing community stewardship.

4- Support for Sustainable Livelihood Projects (2024):

Through a project implemented by the Ministry of Environment with support from international donors, over 1,500 farmers received training on sustainable land and water management practices. This initiative helps reduce pressure on migratory species' habitats by promoting environmentally friendly agriculture .

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

2. Some progress but more work is needed

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

>>> While there are signs of improvement and measurable progress, the pace remains notably slow.

## 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)

- Public awareness campaigns
- Capacity building
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

### XVIII.2 Please describe the contribution these steps have made towards achieving the results defined in Target 15:

#### GUIDANCE TIP

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions 14.130/14.131 (AEMLAP), 14.134 (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), 14.148-14.151 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Decisions 14.207-14.208 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), and 14.182 (Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife).

#### Public awareness campaigns

>>> Public awareness campaigns aimed at highlighting the importance of biodiversity and migratory birds — both among the general public and non-environmental professionals — may not have fully achieved their intended goals. However, they have contributed, even if modestly, to increasing understanding of the value of biodiversity and the need to protect migratory species .

#### Capacity building

>>> Although current specialists demonstrate solid capabilities, there remains a significant need for enhanced training programs—particularly targeting early-career professionals—to strengthen their competencies in the identification, diagnosis, and classification of migratory birds and other species .

#### Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> A scientific publication is available and specifically targets specialists. Additionally, content is disseminated through social media platforms which, although occasionally lacking in scientific precision, plays an important role in raising awareness among the general public .

#### Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> During the preparation of this report, numerous studies conducted by universities and research institutions were identified, addressing migratory birds directly or focusing indirectly on their habitats, which are increasingly impacted by drought crises.

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

[Amazing scientific journey in the Babylon wetlands - central Iraq](#)

[CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE MIGRATORY WESTERN MARSH HARRIER THROUGHOUT THE UNESCO SITE IN AL-CHIBAYISH MARSH, SOUTH OF IRAQ](#)

[New Records of Birds in Bahr Al-Najaf Depression, Iraq - study](#)

[he impact of climate change on incoming birds in the Al-Hammar marshes](#)

XVIII.3 What assistance (if any) does your country require in order to build sufficient capacity to implement its obligations under the CMS and relevant Resolutions of the COP?

(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance
- Education/training/mentoring
- Exchange of information & know-how

## **XIX. Resource Mobilization**

XIX.1 During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

Yes, made available for activities within the country

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

Increased

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

No

XIX.3. Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

**GUIDANCE TIP:**

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

>>> - Training and capacity building of staff

- Effective enforcement of wildlife laws

- Raising awareness of the importance of migratory species