



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):

>>> Strengthened national coordination and international partnerships: The UAE enhanced collaboration among government entities, NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector partners, and continued active engagement under CMS instruments, including the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, Dugong MoU, and Concerted Actions for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and guitarfishes.

Advances in species monitoring and data systems: Implementation of standardized monitoring programmes, digital tools such as e-CITES, and AI-based habitat mapping under the UAE Natural Capital Accounting Project have improved data accuracy and access for migratory species management.

Expansion of habitat protection and restoration: The UAE restored and protected over 50 million mangroves through national blue-carbon and Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) initiatives, expanded coastal and marine protected areas, and strengthened ecological connectivity planning.

Public awareness and environmental education: National campaigns—Clean UAE 2024, Green December 2024, and Can Collection Day 2025—along with the school programme “Ard Al Emarat”, significantly increased public understanding of biodiversity and migratory species.

Targeted conservation actions for priority species: The UAE advanced national plans for sharks, rays, and marine turtles, and contributed regionally to the Seagrass Breakthrough Initiative under CMS, linking species conservation with habitat restoration and climate resilience.

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

>>> Regional data and information gaps: Limited availability of coordinated regional datasets on migratory species constrains the assessment of population trends and migration pathways across the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean region.

Climate change pressures: Rising sea temperatures, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise continue to impact nesting beaches, coral habitats, and migratory corridors.

Limited capacity for specialized taxonomic research: Certain taxa, such as small cetaceans, elasmobranchs, and migratory seabirds, require further dedicated research and genetic data to inform conservation actions.

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

>>> Deepening regional cooperation: Strengthen collaboration through ROPME and CMS regional platforms to build unified monitoring frameworks for shared migratory species and habitats.

Scaling restoration and climate adaptation efforts: Increase investment in blue-carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, and saltmarshes) that support migratory species and climate resilience.

Empowering communities and youth: Continue integrating biodiversity and migratory species topics into education and citizen-science programmes, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and stewardship.

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party

>>> United Arab Emirates

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

>>> 01.05.2016

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> N/A

Report compiler

Name and title

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>>> N/A

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 United Arab Emirates.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.

>>> All species listed in Appendix I are fully protected under UAE legislation. Hunting, killing, or capturing these species is strictly prohibited nationwide. The primary governing framework is Federal Law No. (11) of 2002 on Regulating and Controlling the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which has been updated and strengthened to ensure full compliance with CITES and to establish strong deterrent penalties against violations.

At the emirate level, additional measures complement federal protection. For example, the Government of Sharjah, through Executive Council Resolution No. (9) of 2016, prohibits the hunting, sale, and possession of endangered migratory terrestrial and marine birds, further reinforcing national efforts to conserve species listed under CMS Appendix I.

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).

- 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

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.

>>> During the reporting period, the United Arab Emirates implemented a wide range of awareness and education initiatives that directly advanced CMS objectives and Resolutions. In 2024, World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated nationwide, with strong participation from schools, guided tours, and community events. Notably, Wasit Nature Reserve hosted awareness activities and educational sessions highlighting the reserve's vital role in protecting migratory species and their habitats.

The "Keep It Safe" campaign served as a flagship initiative to conserve migratory birds by raising awareness about the daily risks they face inside and outside their natural habitats. Through educational videos, workshops, and interactive sessions, the campaign explained man-made and natural threats to migratory birds and promoted practical measures to reduce these risks.

Public outreach extended further through the Mobile Exhibition Initiative, organized by the Natural History Museum in collaboration with the Environment and Protected Areas Authority. Among its highlights was the "My Environment's Safety" exhibition, which focused on marine turtles. The exhibition featured educational displays, including samples of deceased turtle specimens and marine litter retrieved from their stomachs, underscoring the dangers of marine debris and its impact on migratory marine species. It also showcased the tools used in the Hawksbill Turtle Monitoring Programme on Sir Bu Nair Island and raised awareness on nesting and hatching processes to encourage environmentally responsible behavior.

Complementing these efforts, youth education sessions were held across schools focusing on freshwater biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and the role of migratory species in ecosystem balance. Site-based interpretation materials and on-site signage were installed in visitor zones within protected areas, while community events such as World Environment Day, "Art from Waste," and Environmental Drawing Competitions engaged families and students in conservation dialogue.

National campaigns such as Plant UAE and Connect with Nature integrated awareness on migratory species within broader environmental and climate action agendas, reinforcing the importance of biodiversity in sustainable development. Similarly, ongoing programmes such as the Sustainable Schools Programme, Environmental Guide Programme, and youth-led biodiversity field activities built long-term capacity and strengthened local participation in conservation.

All these initiatives are closely aligned with CMS Resolutions 8.12, 11.9 (Rev.COP13), 11.16, 11.24, 12.9,

12.11, 12.20, 12.21, 14.8, 14.16, 14.17, and Decisions 14.194 and 14.223, particularly in advancing ecological connectivity, engaging communities, and promoting education on migratory species. Together, they represent a holistic national approach to awareness-raising, education, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that CMS objectives are effectively mainstreamed across UAE communities, schools, and conservation landscapes.

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.

4. Large positive impact

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

>>> The assessment of progress in awareness and education for migratory species conservation in the United Arab Emirates is grounded in multiple evidence-based mechanisms. Participant surveys and structured feedback from school visits provided valuable insights into the effectiveness and relevance of outreach activities, while satisfaction questionnaires conducted after each initiative measured the positive impact and participant satisfaction levels across target groups.

Quantitative indicators further demonstrate the breadth and effectiveness of these efforts. The Connect with Nature programme engaged over 2.5 million youth, with more than 14,000 directly participating in environmental field activities, reflecting a strong culture of youth-led conservation. Similarly, the Sustainable Schools Initiative expanded to 562 schools, engaging over 313,000 students in biodiversity-related projects, field trips, and awareness campaigns.

In addition, volunteer participation in field-based programmes increased significantly, highlighting the growing community commitment to biodiversity and migratory species conservation. Communication metrics, such as the number of social media and press releases, and stakeholder engagement in national campaigns including Clean UAE and Green December, demonstrated wide public reach and sustained engagement.

Importantly, national environmental awareness surveys recorded a measurable increase in youth awareness levels—from 89.88% in 2022 to 92% in 2024—confirming the impact of these initiatives in embedding long-term conservation values and aligning with CMS objectives on education, outreach, and community involvement.

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

VI.1. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any national or local strategies and/or planning processes in your country relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?

Yes

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> The conservation of migratory species is incorporated into several national and local strategies in the United Arab Emirates. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) aligns with the objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) by integrating conservation measures into broader sectors such as tourism, education, spatial planning, and sustainable development. For example, eco-tourism initiatives in areas like Al Zorah help protect habitats while creating local jobs, while schools and universities run biodiversity awareness programmes that embed conservation values in education.

Sharjah's Wasit Wetland Reserve is a flagship case of mainstreaming ecological values into land-use planning. Once a degraded landfill, it has been rehabilitated into a Ramsar-listed wetland of international importance, now providing habitat for over 144 bird species, including migratory and endangered species. The reserve also integrates community education, eco-tourism, and local employment opportunities through the Wasit Wetland Centre, demonstrating how wetland restoration supports both livelihoods and migratory species conservation. More broadly, Ramsar sites and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) across the UAE are managed in ways that balance ecological integrity with local economic benefits, such as nature-based tourism and traditional fishing practices, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Migratory species conservation is also embedded in national climate and coastal resilience strategies. The National Mangrove Planting Initiative aims to grow 100 million mangrove trees by 2030, with more than one million seeds already planted in Abu Dhabi's coastal zones using drones and artificial intelligence. Achieving germination rates of nearly 48% in highly saline conditions, the project demonstrates the integration of advanced technology with ecosystem-based solutions. Mangroves, recognized as critical habitats for migratory birds and marine fauna, directly support CMS Res. 12.21 (Climate Change and Migratory Species) and Res. 14.16 (Ecological Connectivity).

In Fujairah, the integration of biodiversity and migratory species is evident in the environmental planning and land-use guidelines of Wadi Wurayah National Park. Through multi-stakeholder partnerships, the park has become a model for mainstreaming ecological values in sustainable tourism, youth employment, and ecosystem-based planning. These efforts align with UAE Vision 2031 and international commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Similarly, the Abu Dhabi Maritime Plan integrates coastal development with the conservation of wetlands, mangroves, and seagrass beds that are vital for migratory species. The plan sets out strategies to minimize the impacts of coastal development on migratory species and their habitats, while promoting the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

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:

>>> The United Arab Emirates integrates the values of migratory species and their habitats across multiple national and international reporting processes. These include the country's Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2031) progress updates, which explicitly reference the protection of migratory species as part of national biodiversity targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Additionally, migratory species values are reflected in national submissions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs 14 and 15), and in the UAE's Ramsar Convention and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) reports, where the conservation of marine turtles, dugongs, migratory birds, and other CMS-listed species are highlighted. The UAE also reports on migratory and transboundary species through the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and contributes to joint assessments under the UNEA and UN Ocean Conference processes. Together, these mechanisms ensure consistent mainstreaming of migratory species values across the UAE's

national and international environmental reporting obligations.

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

>>> Non-governmental organizations and civil society play a central role in migratory species conservation in the UAE. Emirates Nature-WWF and the Fujairah Environment Authority (FEA) have been particularly active in Wadi Wurayah National Park, leading awareness campaigns, habitat monitoring, and community outreach. Volunteers and citizen scientists regularly contribute to species surveys, public events, and school programs, strengthening data collection and fostering community stewardship. National initiatives such as Clean UAE and Connect with Nature (which reached over 2.5 million youth, with more than 14,000 directly engaged in field activities) demonstrate how community-based approaches enhance awareness and participation in conservation.

The Wasit Wetland Reserve in Sharjah also integrates education and eco-tourism, showcasing the success of partnerships in restoring critical habitats for migratory birds and engaging local communities in long-term stewardship.

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

>>> Private sector participation is steadily expanding. In Fujairah, local tourism operators and hospitality venues around Wadi Wurayah have adopted biodiversity-sensitive practices and hosted exhibitions that highlight the importance of migratory species. More broadly, eco-tourism providers in coastal zones integrate mangrove and wetland conservation into guest experiences, while corporate partners support seed planting under the National Mangrove Planting Initiative. Abu Dhabi Ports has established the Marine Sustainability Research Center to advance applied research on coastal and marine ecosystems, and energy companies such as Masdar are investing in renewable energy projects that include safeguards for migratory corridors. These initiatives reflect a growing recognition within the private sector of the link between ecological resilience, sustainable tourism, and long-term economic value.

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.

>>> While the United Arab Emirates continues to strengthen the integration of migratory species considerations within Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), certain challenges remain. In particular, species-specific data gaps, especially for marine and freshwater migratory species beyond protected areas, may limit the depth of impact analysis. There is also scope to enhance national and regional capacity among practitioners to systematically incorporate CMS-related considerations and transboundary ecological connectivity into assessment processes.

Lessons learned underline the value of continuous improvement in baseline data collection, expanded collaboration with research institutions and citizen science initiatives, and targeted technical training for consultants and authorities. The UAE remains committed to advancing knowledge exchange, capacity development, and data-driven approaches to ensure that EIAs and SEAs effectively contribute to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats.

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.

>>> Biodiversity and migratory species considerations are systematically integrated into the United Arab Emirates' national energy and climate policies, reflecting the country's holistic approach to sustainable development. The UAE's Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, National Climate Change Plan 2050, and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2031 all recognise the interlinkages between renewable energy expansion, climate mitigation, and the conservation of migratory species and their habitats.

This integration is aligned with CMS Resolutions 12.21 (Rev.COP14) on Climate Change and Migratory Species, 11.27 (Rev.COP13) on Renewable Energy and Migratory Species, and 10.11 (Rev.COP13) on Power Lines and Migratory Birds. The UAE ensures that renewable energy development and infrastructure planning incorporate ecological impact assessments, particularly in coastal, desert, and migratory bird corridors.

In practice, biodiversity safeguards are embedded across national energy policies, Environmental Impact

Assessment (EIA) frameworks, and climate adaptation plans. Migratory species considerations are reflected in blue-carbon initiatives, mangrove restoration programmes, and renewable energy guidelines designed to avoid or mitigate risks to wildlife.

Please provide any examples related to such policy and legislation.

>>> The UAE's Clean Energy Strategy 2050 aims to raise the share of clean energy to 50% of the national energy mix by 2050 while reducing indirect climate pressures on ecosystems. This strategy integrates bird-friendly solar and wind technologies in line with CMS Res. 12.21, Res. 11.27, and Decision 14.207.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), in collaboration with Khalifa University and IRENA, has established an Advanced AI Environmental Laboratory to support data-driven renewable energy planning. The laboratory employs AI and satellite monitoring to identify optimal solar energy sites, assess air and water quality, and monitor marine ecosystems—helping to balance renewable energy development with biodiversity protection.

Under the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 Strategy, several sectoral frameworks embed ecological considerations:

- Mangrove restoration is a core element of national blue carbon and climate resilience policies, directly benefiting migratory birds and coastal ecosystems (Res. 12.21).

- National power infrastructure guidelines address risks to birds from overhead lines and transmission networks (Res. 10.11).

- Renewable energy projects are subject to rigorous EIA processes that consider ecological connectivity and migratory corridors (Res. 11.27, Decision 14.207).

The UAE also launched 78 national initiatives ahead of COP28, covering renewable energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable construction. Among these:

- The National Guideline for Smart Construction, mandating urban sustainability standards to 2050.

- The Policy Framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuel, encouraging domestic production with minimal biodiversity impacts.

- The Fujairah Green Initiative, which integrates climate action into energy, industry, and agriculture planning, linking development with habitat conservation.

- Masdar-led projects in solar power and green hydrogen, which incorporate biodiversity monitoring and safeguard measures.

Additionally, education and public awareness have been embedded through the National Framework for Education for Sustainable Development, developed by the Ministry of Education, ensuring that biodiversity, energy, and climate change concepts are introduced across curricula, strengthening public understanding of sustainable resource use and migratory species conservation.

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:

>>> During the reporting period, the UAE significantly strengthened governance structures for biodiversity and migratory species. At the national level, the adoption of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031 embedded CMS priorities into wider frameworks on climate, land use, and sustainable development. The protected area network expanded to 49 sites (33 terrestrial and 16 marine), covering 18.4% of land and 12.01% of marine/coastal areas, in line with global 30x30 targets. In collaboration with IUCN, nine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) were designated, many of which directly support migratory species. Locally, the Fujairah Environment Authority coordinated with NGOs and protected area managers to integrate CMS targets into Wadi Wurayah management, while similar cooperative models were applied in mangrove restoration and coral reef rehabilitation across Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Fujairah.

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

4. Major contribution

Please describe how this assessment was made

>>> Improvements are reflected through enhanced coordination mechanisms, including joint planning meetings, stakeholder workshops, and the adoption of standardized monitoring protocols across all emirates. Initiatives such as the National Red List of Species and Ecosystems, the updated CITES legislation, and the National CITES Plan 2023–2030 have established participatory platforms that engage government entities, NGOs, the private sector, and citizen scientists. Transparency and efficiency have been further strengthened through the use of digital tools, including the e-CITES system, smart monitoring for invasive species, and AI-based mangrove restoration technologies, promoting inclusivity and evidence-based decision-making in conservation implementation.

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:

>>> The Emirates Council for Municipal and Environmental Affairs, established to strengthen the UAE's policies and strategies on climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable development, brings together representatives from the public, private, academic, and non-governmental sectors. The Council develops national plans to achieve environmental objectives, represents the UAE in regional and international negotiations relevant to the Ministry's mandate, and fosters partnerships with the private sector to advance scientific research and innovation. Through its inclusive composition, the Council ensures that environmental

policies — including those related to migratory species — are formulated and implemented in a coordinated and evidence-based manner, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of CMS implementation at the national level.

At the local level, multi-stakeholder coordination platforms support site-based conservation efforts. For example, a coordination group led by the Fujairah Environment Authority, in collaboration with local NGOs, researchers, and community representatives, focuses on CMS-related conservation in Wadi Wurayah, emphasizing species monitoring, site management, and public awareness.

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:

>>> All biodiversity related focal points are under the same institute, The Ministry of climate change and environment. Therefore, Migratory species related issues are synergized across all related conventions.

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:

>>> Yes, the UAE has adopted several legislations, policies, and action plans that promote community involvement in the conservation of CMS-listed species. Some of these include:

- Local conservation and protected area regulations governing Wadi Wurayah.
- Community engagement frameworks incorporated into park management strategies.
- Volunteer guidelines for citizen science and habitat stewardship.
- Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 on environmental protection, which encourages public participation.
- Local initiatives such as “Connect with Nature” and “Plant UAE” that integrate communities and youth in biodiversity and migratory species conservation.
- Ongoing implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031, which emphasizes participatory governance and links directly with CMS targets

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.

>>> During the reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has taken progressive steps to reform and phase out incentives that could have unintended negative impacts on biodiversity and migratory species. Key measures include the revision of fisheries subsidies to promote sustainable practices, the restriction of unsustainable hunting activities, and the gradual elimination of incentives linked to high-emission or resource-intensive sectors.

Between 2021 and 2024, several national policy updates—such as the National Fisheries Sustainability Plan, Green Economy Framework, and Integrated Waste Management Policy—introduced economic and regulatory incentives that favor sustainable production, renewable energy adoption, and nature-positive investment. These reforms indirectly benefit migratory species by reducing habitat degradation, pollution, and overexploitation pressures.

The UAE continues to assess and align fiscal and environmental incentives with biodiversity and CMS objectives, ensuring that national development planning supports both economic diversification and ecological sustainability.

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?

Yes

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

>>> Between 2023 and 2025, the United Arab Emirates advanced several positive incentive measures that directly and indirectly benefited migratory species and their habitats. At the local level, the Fujairah Environment Authority implemented community-based incentives within Wadi Wurayah National Park, promoting volunteer-led species monitoring, school biodiversity programmes, and community eco-events that strengthened local stewardship of key habitats frequented by migratory birds.

At the national scale, large-scale community campaigns such as “Clean UAE 2024” and “Green December 2024” mobilized thousands of volunteers, schools, and civil society organizations in waste reduction and habitat protection activities, reinforcing environmental values and preventing pollution in ecosystems vital to migratory species.

In parallel, corporate and private sector engagement was significantly expanded. The UAE’s Blue Carbon Initiative introduced market-based incentives through internationally certified carbon credits linked to the restoration of mangroves and coastal ecosystems, aligning economic value with biodiversity and migratory species conservation.

Furthermore, under the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)—co-led by the UAE and Indonesia and expanded regionally in 2024—the UAE committed long-term technical and financial support for mangrove restoration across the Gulf region. These efforts incentivize habitat conservation and deliver measurable benefits for shorebirds, marine turtles, fish, and other migratory fauna.

Together, these actions illustrate the UAE’s ongoing commitment to applying positive social, economic, and community-based incentives that promote sustainable practices, enhance ecological connectivity, and strengthen national and regional cooperation in line with CMS Resolutions 12.21 (Rev.COP14) and 14.17 (Communities and Livelihoods).

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

>>> The UAE has implemented several measures to integrate sustainable production and consumption with the conservation of migratory species. These include sustainable fisheries management, with seasonal bans to protect breeding cycles, and eco-friendly tourism initiatives in protected habitats important for migratory species. Public awareness campaigns have also been launched to highlight sustainable consumption and its links to biodiversity. In Wadi Wurayah National Park, strict land-use restrictions and zoning regulations limit the impacts of recreation and resource use, while guidelines for eco-tourism operators ensure off-trail movement is minimized and activities remain sensitive to migratory wildlife patterns.

At the national level, the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Aquaculture and the National Framework for Environmental Sustainability 2023 emphasize reducing pressure on marine and freshwater ecosystems. Examples include the introduction of smart aquaculture techniques to reduce overfishing, and the expansion of artificial reef projects and mangrove restoration, which provide critical habitats for migratory birds, fish, and marine mammals.

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

>>> Evidence of progress includes reductions in vehicle access to critical roosting and breeding sites, and observational reports of increased wildlife activity in areas where human disturbance has been minimized. Community feedback indicates growing demand for low-impact ecotourism and nature-based experiences. At the national scale, indicators highlight significant ecological improvements: coral restoration projects have recorded survival rates above 90% and increases of 10-18% in live coral cover at restored sites, while mangrove reforestation using AI-guided drone planting has achieved a germination success rate of nearly 48% in highly saline conditions. Public participation has also been strong, with thousands of volunteers and youth engaged in awareness and habitat restoration initiatives, reflecting greater societal alignment with sustainable consumption values.

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	Not allowed within the country	N/A
Illegal hunting	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Other harvesting and take	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Illegal trade	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A
Deliberate poisoning	Not applicable (Prohibited by law)	N/A

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

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has made significant progress in preventing and addressing intentional taking of migratory species through enhanced legislation, enforcement, and monitoring systems.

The UAE enforces a comprehensive legal framework that fully prohibits the hunting, killing, capturing, or trading of species listed under CMS Appendix I and II, in accordance with Federal Law No. (11) of 2002 on regulating and controlling international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and its recent amendments ensuring compliance with CITES and CMS provisions.

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).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

Unintentional Taking

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Bycatch		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Other forms of unintentional taking	3	Turtles, Marine birds (Phalacrocorax nigrogularis), Sharks and Dugongs

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.

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has made substantial progress in addressing bycatch and the impacts of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) through strengthened regulation, technological innovation, and collaborative management.

Key advances include:

Implementation of the National Fisheries Sustainability Plan, which introduced stricter controls on fishing gear use, vessel registration, and licensing to minimize bycatch of protected and migratory species, including marine turtles, sharks, and cetaceans (CMS Appendix I and II species).

Phasing out of harmful gear types such as drift nets and non-biodegradable traps, in alignment with Federal Decree-Law No. (23) of 1999 and its amendments.

Nationwide “Fishing Gear Recovery Programme”, coordinated by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) and local authorities, enabling fishers and coastal communities to report and retrieve ghost nets and lost gear.

Deployment of biodegradable and GPS-tracked fishing gear in pilot projects across the Northern Emirates to prevent ALDFG accumulation and facilitate recovery operations.

Capacity-building workshops with fishers and cooperatives, emphasizing safe release practices and gear management to reduce incidental capture of migratory marine fauna.

Collaboration with UNEP’s Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and ROPME to enhance regional coordination, data exchange, and best practices on marine debris and bycatch reduction.

These measures have collectively reduced the occurrence of bycatch and ALDFG incidents, improved data collection and reporting, and strengthened the UAE’s national framework for sustainable and responsible fisheries, in line with CMS Resolutions 12.22 (Bycatch) and 13.11 (Marine Debris).

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).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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	None	N/A
Other collisions	None	N/A

Electrocution	Not Applicable	N/A
Vessel strikes		

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

>>> Since the previous report, the UAE has strengthened its governance and technical frameworks to reduce collision and electrocution risks. National power infrastructure guidelines have been updated to integrate CMS provisions on minimizing bird electrocution from overhead lines, in line with Res. 10.11. Renewable energy projects, including wind and solar developments, are now subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that specifically consider ecological connectivity and migratory corridors, consistent with Res. 11.27 and Decision 14.207. Vessel strike risks have been addressed through stricter monitoring of marine traffic in Abu Dhabi and Fujairah waters, with awareness campaigns targeting maritime operators to reduce impacts on dugongs, turtles, and cetaceans. These measures demonstrate stronger integration of collision-related risks into national planning and sectoral policies.

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.

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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)	N/A	No record
Unexplained stranding events	3	Occasional pest control measures on some offshore islands may indirectly impact some of the migratory birds
Accidental/indirect poisoning	3	Seasonal stranding events in the Arabian Gulf for sea turtles (neonates) , seabirds and sea snakes.
Disease	3	Red foxes are effecting the nesting areas of turtles and various birds

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

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has advanced several measures to address non-intentional mortality of migratory species, including strandings, predation, and disease risks, through strengthened coordination, monitoring, and response mechanisms.

Key achievements include:

National Stranding Response Framework: The UAE strengthened its national network for recording and responding to marine mammal, turtle, and seabird strandings, coordinated by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) with local authorities such as the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Fujairah Environment Authority. Standardized protocols for data collection, necropsy, and sample analysis have improved understanding of causes and trends in strandings.

Enhanced surveillance for wildlife disease and HPAI: Continuous monitoring of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and other zoonotic diseases is carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and municipal veterinary departments, with no significant outbreaks recorded during the reporting period.

Predator management and nesting protection: Targeted management of invasive predators such as red foxes has been implemented in selected turtle nesting and seabird breeding areas, using humane, ecosystem-based approaches to safeguard breeding success.

Habitat protection on offshore islands: Access management and pest control guidelines were refined to minimize disturbance or accidental poisoning of nesting migratory birds on offshore islands and coastal sites.

Capacity building and rapid response: Training workshops and technical guidelines have enhanced capacity for field teams to respond to mortality events, assess causes, and implement mitigation measures. These actions have collectively improved national coordination, data availability, and preventive measures related to other causes of mortality, contributing to reduced incidental losses of migratory species and aligning with CMS Resolutions 12.22 (Bycatch), 13.4 (Marine Turtles), and 13.5 (Avian Influenza and Wildlife Health).

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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	Some breeding seabird species on island may be vulnerable to the spread of House Crow	3

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

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has made significant progress in addressing the threats posed by alien and invasive species (IAS) through the adoption of national strategies, enhanced coordination, and targeted control measures.

Key advances include:

Adoption of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2026): This comprehensive framework establishes prevention, early detection, rapid response, and long-term management mechanisms for terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems. It promotes inter-agency coordination among environmental, agricultural, and customs authorities.

Targeted control of invasive birds: Management programmes were initiated to limit the spread of House Crow (*Corvus splendens*), which threatens seabird colonies on offshore islands and urban areas. Efforts include population monitoring, habitat management, and awareness campaigns to prevent artificial food provisioning.

Enhanced biosecurity and risk assessment: Risk screening for invasive species is now integrated into EIA procedures and port inspection protocols, reducing accidental introductions through trade, shipping, and ballast water.

Capacity building and citizen engagement: Training workshops for inspectors and field officers, alongside public awareness campaigns, have strengthened national capacity to identify and manage IAS.

These coordinated efforts have enhanced the UAE’s ability to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species, particularly in sensitive habitats supporting migratory birds and marine species. The approach aligns with CMS Resolutions 11.28 (Invasive Alien Species) and 13.4 (Marine Turtles), contributing to improved ecological resilience and the protection of migratory species and their habitats.

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).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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	Marine turtles and birds	3

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

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has strengthened its measures to minimize disturbance and disruption to migratory species—particularly marine turtles and migratory birds—through enhanced protection, regulation, and awareness initiatives.

Key advances include:

Expansion and stricter management of protected areas: Several key marine and coastal protected areas—including Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve, and Al Qurm Nature Reserve—implemented updated management plans emphasizing visitor regulation, zoning, and buffer zones to reduce human disturbance during breeding, nesting, and migratory seasons.

Visitor management and eco-tourism guidelines: The UAE has integrated biodiversity protection requirements into its Eco-tourism Policy Framework and National Guideline for Smart Construction, ensuring that tourism development and recreational activities avoid disturbance to migratory species and critical habitats.

Awareness and community involvement: Campaigns such as “Keep It Safe” and World Migratory Bird Day events have increased public understanding of the need to avoid noise, light, and physical disturbance to wildlife. Local NGOs and schools have also been engaged in education programmes promoting responsible behaviour in natural areas.

Marine spatial planning and EIA integration: Disturbance mitigation measures are now embedded in Environmental Impact Assessments and marine spatial plans, requiring developers to consider migratory corridors, nesting periods, and habitat sensitivity in project design.

Together, these actions have strengthened the UAE’s capacity to manage disturbance pressures and safeguard migratory species, in alignment with CMS Resolutions 11.27 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), 12.21 (Climate Change and Migratory Species), and 13.5 (Marine Turtles).

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **12.16** (Rev.COP14) (Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), Res. **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and measures to mitigate threats to Important Shark and Ray Ares under Decision **14.61**.

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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)	Oil spills (Marine turtles)	3
Light pollution	Unknown (Data Deficient)	3
Underwater noise	Marine turtles and birds	3
Other pollution	Marine turtles, Marine mammals and seabirds	2
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)		

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

>>> The UAE has taken major strides in addressing pollution through a combination of strong regulatory frameworks, innovative infrastructure projects, and community-based initiatives. The Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 established clear standards for air, water, waste, and hazardous industries, with sensitive sites such as Ramsar wetlands placed under strict monitoring. Key advances include the ban on single-use plastic bags, large-scale community coastal clean-up campaigns such as Clean UAE, and preventive restrictions on pesticide use near fragile ecosystems. Landmark projects such as Abu Dhabi’s STEP tunnel (41 km, one of the world’s longest gravity-driven sewer tunnels) and Dubai’s Al Qarn Wastewater Project (USD 3+ billion investment) have significantly improved wastewater management, reduced emissions, and relieved pressure on urban systems. Under the Water Security Strategy 2036, treated wastewater reuse has already reached 90% in Dubai and is targeted at 95% nationwide, reducing reliance on scarce groundwater. Meanwhile, the Clean Rivers initiative has mobilized over USD 20 million for smart waste interception systems, partnered with UNDP and Project STOP, and strengthened circular economy solutions through active community participation.

Collectively, these actions have improved compliance in industrial and agricultural sectors and reduced pollution pressures in wetlands and turtle nesting zones, safeguarding biodiversity.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), Res. **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **14.223** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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	Not Applicable	
Habitat degradation	Not Applicable	
Mineral exploration/extraction	Not Applicable	
Unsustainable land/resource use	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2
Urbanization	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	3
Mineral exploration/extraction, incl. deep-seabed mineral exploitation	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2
Fire	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2
Physical barriers	Mammals/ birds/ reptiles	2

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

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has made substantial progress in addressing habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation through strengthened policy frameworks, large-scale restoration programmes, and enhanced ecological planning.

Key advances include:

Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2031 (NBSAP 2031): The updated strategy integrates habitat restoration, ecological connectivity, and landscape resilience into national and emirate-level development planning, ensuring alignment with CMS and CBD objectives.

National Habitat Mapping and Ecosystem Accounting: The UAE completed national mapping of key habitats—including mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and wetlands—to guide sustainable land-use planning and monitor habitat change. These datasets underpin ecosystem services valuation and support decision-making to prevent degradation.

Mangrove and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration: Through the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) and national blue carbon initiatives, the UAE has restored and protected over 50 million mangroves, enhancing nursery grounds and migratory bird habitats, while mitigating coastal erosion.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reforms: Strengthened EIA regulations require assessment of ecological connectivity, migratory corridors, and critical habitats, ensuring infrastructure and urban development avoid or mitigate adverse effects on biodiversity.

Community Engagement and Protected Area Expansion: New protected areas and ecological corridors have been designated across several emirates, with community and NGO participation in habitat rehabilitation and wildlife monitoring.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.6** (Deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities and migratory species) **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.12 (Rev.COP14)**(Action Plans for Birds), Res. **12.13** (Important Marine Mammal Areas), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.24**(Promoting Marine Protected Areas Networks in the ASEAN Regions), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Habitats for Migratory species), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.18 (Rev.COP14)** (Saker Falcon Global Action Plan), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), and Decisions **14.148-14.150** (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures).
 >>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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	N/A	Data Deficient (no adverse impact of climate change on migratory species have been recorded in the UAE)

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

>>> The UAE has advanced its climate agenda by adopting an integrated approach that combines mitigation and adaptation, anchored in the National Climate Change Strategy 2017–2050 and the Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, making it the first country in the region to commit to carbon neutrality. Nature-based solutions have been mainstreamed into urban, water, and agricultural planning, while advanced monitoring systems track sea temperature, salinity, and extreme events to guide adaptive responses. The transition to clean energy continues, with the goal of reaching 50% clean energy in the national mix by 2050, reducing indirect climate pressures on ecosystems. Internationally, the UAE has reinforced its leadership by hosting COP28 and preparing to host the UN Water Conference 2026, highlighting its role in linking biodiversity, climate, and water agendas.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Decision **14.211** (Climate change and Migratory Species).
 >>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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	N/A	Not Applicable
Inadequate legislation	N/A	Not Applicable
Lack of knowledge	N/A	Not Applicable
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	N/A	Not Applicable

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

- >>> • Launch of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031, embedding CMS priorities into policy and spatial planning.
- Implementation of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy 2022–2026, with monitoring, eradication,

and public engagement programmes.

- Nine Key Biodiversity Areas identified with IUCN and integrated into the national protected area network (now covering 98.13% of KBA extent).
- Major investment in coral reef rehabilitation (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Fujairah) and the 100 Million Mangroves Initiative, strengthening climate resilience and habitat connectivity.
- Integration of biodiversity into climate, coastal resilience, and urban planning frameworks (e.g., Abu Dhabi Maritime Plan, Wasit Wetland rehabilitation).

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

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A

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

>>> Since the previous reporting period, the United Arab Emirates has advanced a range of measures to address emerging and cross-cutting pressures affecting migratory species and their habitats. These include actions related to climate change adaptation, human disturbance management, and sustainable development planning.

Key advances include:

Integration of migratory species in climate and energy policy: Under the UAE Net Zero by 2050 Strategy and National Climate Change Plan 2050, biodiversity and migratory species considerations are now embedded in adaptation and mitigation measures, ensuring that renewable energy expansion, blue carbon projects, and coastal resilience initiatives contribute to habitat protection rather than degradation.

Enhanced governance and inter-agency coordination: The establishment of the Emirates Council for Municipal and Environmental affairs and multi-stakeholder biodiversity committees has improved coherence between environmental, agricultural, and infrastructure sectors, reducing policy overlap and cumulative pressures on migratory species.

Public awareness and behavioural change: National campaigns such as “Clean UAE”, and “Keep It Safe” have mobilized volunteers, schools, and private entities to reduce waste, limit disturbance in natural habitats, and promote responsible recreation.

Research and monitoring innovations: The deployment of AI-driven environmental monitoring, remote sensing, and citizen science platforms has improved the early detection of threats, including pollution, invasive species spread, and climate-induced habitat shifts.

Sustainable land-use and coastal management: Updated EIA regulations, marine spatial planning, and habitat zoning approaches now explicitly consider cumulative and indirect pressures, including noise, light, and pollution impacts, across migratory corridors.

These measures collectively demonstrate the UAE’s transition toward a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to managing indirect pressures, strengthening resilience of migratory species and ecosystems in line with CMS Resolutions 12.21 (Rev.COP14) and 14.17 (Communities and Livelihoods).

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

>>> There are no significant negative trends since last report

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)
	was previously nationally identified as vulnerable but now it is least concern	Time period 1996 to 2020. As the National Red Listing was done for the first time in 2020, no change in status could be reported until another assessment is carried out before the next reporting period.	MoCCaE: National Red List project	Gazella gazelle (App II)

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Was previously nationally identified as vulnerable but now it is Near Threatened	Time period 1996 to 2020. As the National Red Listing was done for the first time in 2020, no change in status could be reported until another assessment is carried out before the next reporting period	MoCCaE: National Red List project	Dugong dugon (App II)

Birds

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

	Time period 1996 to 2020	This species has a moderate and increasing breeding population size within UAE, and it is assessed as Vulnerable under Criterion D. However, with an increasing population in the wider Arabian Peninsula and immigration possible (especially given its rapid increase after its first recorded breeding in the country), it warrants a regional adjustment of two categories to Least Concern.	MoCCE: national Redlist Project	Himantopus himantopus (App II)
	Time period 1996 to 2020	This species has a very small non-breeding population in the UAE, which qualifies it for listing as Endangered. However, the species is increasing throughout the Arabian Peninsula; therefore, any breeding population outside of the region will likely have a large rescue effect. Therefore, the species is retained as Near Threatened at the national level.	MoCCE: national Redlist Project	Plegadis falcinellus (App II)
	Time period 1996 to 2020	This species is thought to have historically gone extinct as a breeding species in the UAE. However, thanks to a reintroduction programme the species is breeding again in the country. Therefore, the breeding population is given a status of Critically Endangered	MoCCE: national Redlist Project	Chlamydotis macqueenii (App II)
	Time period 1996 to 2020	Listed as Endangered. between 2007 and 2018, the species has been recorded 13 times in total. There is a small breeding population in the UAE; the first breeding was observed in 1995	MoCCE: national Redlist Project	Rallus aquaticus (App II)
	Time period 1996 to 2020	Status improved with its national status being Vulnerable, population size have increased since 1996	MoCCE: national Redlist Project	Phoenicopterus roseus (App II)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Birds.docx](#)

Reptiles

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Is nationally identified as Vulnerable as compared to the globally status of endangered		MoCCaE: National Red List project	Chelonia mydas (App I,II)
	Is nationally identified as Vulnerable as compared to the globally status of critical endangered		MoCCaE: National Red List project	Eretmochelys imbricata (App I,II)

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:

Bahrain

Kuwait

Oman

Qatar

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)

>>> During the reporting period, the United Arab Emirates participated in the implementation of CMS Concerted Actions relevant to marine migratory species occurring within its territorial waters and the ROPME Sea Area, in alignment with Resolution 12.28 (Rev.COP14).

Key contributions include:

Concerted Action 12.4 (Rev.COP14) – Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) of the Arabian Sea:

The UAE continued to contribute to regional monitoring and strandings response in coordination with the CMS Secretariat, ROPME, and partner range states. The National Marine Mammal Database was updated to include strandings and sighting data, improving understanding of species distribution and threats such as ship strikes and underwater noise.

Concerted Action 13.9 (Rev.COP14) – Common Guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*) and Bottlenose Wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*):

The UAE advanced data collection and regulatory measures, which includes the protection of all Rhinobatidae species from targeted catch and trade. Research and monitoring are conducted in partnership with local universities and regional networks to assess population trends and bycatch reduction measures.

These actions have contributed to improved species data availability, regional coordination, and policy coherence for marine migratory species of concern. The UAE continues to cooperate with the CMS Secretariat, ROPME, and relevant range states to strengthen research, monitoring, and conservation of these species within the Arabian Gulf and adjacent waters.

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).

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> The UAE, through the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, has actively engaged in various initiatives and collaborations to support the conservation of migratory species in alignment with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) Target 9. Here are some of the measures taken:

- International Cooperation: The UAE has since 2009, hosted CMS Office in Abu Dhabi and continues to host and support the CMS Office and implementation of the action plans for the MoU's on Migratory Birds of Prey and Dugong, respectively. With 61 signatories under the Raptors MoU and 29 signatories under the Dugongs MoU, the country directly and indirectly works to protect nearly 154 raptor species, dugongs and its habitat

across their range states. The UAE has been actively cooperating with international bodies and neighboring countries to ensure the conservation of migratory species. This includes engagement with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Indian Ocean - South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU). The Emirates Nature in association with the World Wide Fund for Nature (EN-WWF) keeps track of green turtles and hawksbill turtles across the Arabian Gulf and monitors behavior and movement patterns using satellite tags. Furthermore, The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund aims to preserve the wildlife and biodiversity and raise the level of importance of species conservation through different projects. Some projects provide financial support for field actions that make a difference on the ground and contribute to the survival of species. Other projects aim to raise the level of awareness of conservation of living organisms and stimulate interest among young people in the field of natural sciences. The endowment fund can support projects on all living things around the world without prejudice or discrimination. It is currently working to provide financial support to projects aiming to maintain endangered plants, animals and fungi, according to the approval of an independent commission. The fund covers all the continents of the world and has supported projects in different continents.

- **Research and Monitoring:** In collaboration with international research organizations, the UAE has been part of several research projects aimed at understanding the migration patterns of key species such as the Houbara Bustard, Spotted Eagles, Sooty Falcons, Greater Flamingos and many other terrestrial and marine species. International Fund for Houbara Conservation, which aims to continue to implement the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to restore sustainable numbers of Houbara birds in the United Arab Emirates. The Fund has expanded the application of this vision to play a leading role in maintaining the Houbara throughout their range in different countries and regions.
- **Protected Areas:** The UAE has designated 49 protected areas that serve as critical habitats for migratory species. The management of these areas takes into account the needs of these species, ensuring their protection during critical periods of their life cycle.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** The UAE has undertaken various public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of migratory species and the need for their conservation.
- **Implementation of Resolutions:** The UAE has taken measures to implement CMS resolutions such as Resolution 12.11 on flyways, by contributing to the conservation of migratory bird species, and Resolution 12.17 on South Atlantic whales, through enforcement of marine protection laws and regulations.

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:

>>> The United Arab Emirates has actively mobilized resources and undertaken multiple initiatives to enhance and promote ecological connectivity at the national, regional, and global levels, consistent with CMS Decision 14.194, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

Key initiatives include:

National Habitat Mapping and Connectivity Planning: The UAE completed comprehensive habitat and ecosystem mapping across terrestrial, marine, and coastal areas, establishing a scientific baseline for identifying ecological corridors and assessing landscape connectivity between protected areas and migratory routes.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2031 (NBSAP 2031): The updated strategy explicitly integrates ecological connectivity as a cross-cutting objective across conservation, urban planning, and infrastructure development. It promotes nature-based solutions and the maintenance of functional ecological networks linking wetlands, mountains, deserts, and marine ecosystems.

Restoration and Blue Carbon Initiatives: Through the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) and Blue Carbon Projects, the UAE has restored and protected over 50 million mangroves, enhancing coastal connectivity and migratory pathways for marine and avian species. These efforts directly contribute to the objectives of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Regional and International Cooperation: The UAE collaborates through platforms such as ROPME, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), and the Global Ocean Decade to align restoration and connectivity efforts across the Arabian Gulf and wider region.

Research and Innovation: National programmes, including the UAE Natural Capital Accounting Project and AI-based environmental monitoring, support the assessment of ecological connectivity and ecosystem functionality by linking biodiversity data with spatial planning and climate resilience indicators.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the UAE's commitment to maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity as a foundation for biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable development, contributing to the delivery of Targets 1, 2, and 3 of the GBF and the goals of the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

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?

>>> Wadi Wurayah National Park has been mapped as a critical area for multiple CMS species, including migratory birds (e.g., raptors, warblers), Arabian tahr, and freshwater species. Ongoing species inventory and habitat mapping efforts cover terrestrial, freshwater, and partially marine zones within the Fujairah coastline. Nationally, nine sites in the UAE have been designated as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in cooperation with IUCN, and the proportion of these areas under protection has risen to 98.13% (98.08% terrestrial and 98.17% marine). These include Ramsar wetlands and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that provide essential habitats for migratory birds, marine turtles, dugongs, and sharks. Despite these advances, gaps remain in coastal and marine habitat surveys for migratory fish, sea turtles, and cetaceans. Priorities include connectivity mapping between mountain and coastal ecosystems, and the integration of citizen science data into national inventories to strengthen coverage of critical habitats.

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) 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).

>>> Nine sites in the UAE have been designated as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in cooperation with IUCN, and the proportion of these areas under protection has risen to 98.13% (98.08% terrestrial and 98.17% marine). These areas include Ramsar sites and Important Bird Areas, which provide habitats for migratory birds, marine turtles, and other CMS-listed species, demonstrating a strong contribution to migratory species conservation. Assessments confirm that protected areas such as Ramsar-listed wetlands (e.g., Wasit Wetland Reserve) and marine protected areas are managed under frameworks that align with CMS resolutions, ensuring habitat integrity and connectivity for migratory birds and marine fauna. The UAE’s network of 49 protected areas now covers 18.4% of terrestrial and 12% of marine ecosystems, demonstrating significant contribution to CMS objectives. These sites safeguard flyways, roosting and breeding habitats, and marine corridors, while also contributing to sustainable development through eco-tourism and traditional fisheries.

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”)?

Yes

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

>>> No new legislation was introduced during the reporting period specifically under Article III(4)(a). However,

existing measures remain in force, including Ministerial Decree No. (43) of 2019, which establishes a permanent ban on fishing shark species listed under CITES, CMS, and Federal Law No. 23 of 1999. In addition, broader frameworks such as the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031 and the National Plan for CITES 2023–2030 reinforce habitat protection obligations for migratory species.

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:

>>> Assessments of management effectiveness have been undertaken for protected areas in the UAE that are important for migratory species.

- Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT): The UAE uses the METT, developed by the World Bank and WWF, to assess the management effectiveness of its protected areas, including those crucial for migratory species. The METT assesses various aspects, such as management planning, boundary demarcation, law enforcement, and species management.

- IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas: Some of the UAE's protected areas have achieved the IUCN Green List status, which requires an assessment of the effectiveness of the area's management and governance, as well as the conservation outcomes.

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:

>>> There are a number of private protected areas and parks that also work towards the conservation of species. There are also planted forests that many migratory species visit and nest in during breeding and migratory seasons.

XIV. Ecosystem Services

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

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

Partly / in progress

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> The United Arab Emirates is currently undertaking a national-scale ecosystem services assessment that includes habitats and species assemblages supporting migratory species. This work is part of the UAE Natural Capital Accounting Project, implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) in partnership with UNEP, UNSD, and the IDEEA Group, in alignment with the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) framework.

Fifteen ecosystem service accounts are under development, covering coastal protection, fish provisioning, carbon sequestration, water purification, recreation, and biodiversity support—all of which are directly influenced by mangroves, seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and wetlands that provide critical habitats for migratory birds, marine turtles, dugongs, and cetaceans (CMS Appendix I and II species).

Preliminary findings indicate significant contributions of these ecosystems to national well-being. These services also underpin ecological connectivity and climate resilience across the Arabian Gulf region.

The assessment results will inform policy integration under the UAE’s National Biodiversity Strategy 2031, blue carbon initiatives, and marine spatial planning frameworks, ensuring that the values of migratory species and their habitats are incorporated into economic and development decision-making.

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

XV.1. Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity in your country?

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

Yes

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

- Captive breeding
- Captive breeding and release
- Gene typing research
- Reproductive material archives/repositories
- Other

>>> The United Arab Emirates has developed and implemented several strategies relevant to migratory species aimed at safeguarding genetic diversity and minimizing genetic erosion of wild populations. These initiatives combine advanced science, habitat management, and international collaboration to ensure long-term species viability.

Please describe the Captive breeding strategy:

>>> The UAE operates world-leading captive breeding programmes for key migratory and threatened species, ensuring healthy population maintenance and genetic diversity. Notable examples include the Arabian Oryx Conservation Programme, falcon breeding centres, and specialized facilities such as the Sheikh Khalifa Houbara Breeding Centre and Mohammed bin Zayed Falconry and Desert Physiognomy School.

Please describe the captive breeding & release strategy:

>>> Complementing breeding initiatives, the UAE implements large-scale release programmes to restore wild populations and enhance genetic exchange. The International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC) and associated centres have released thousands of houbara bustards across their migratory range, supporting population recovery in line with CMS conservation objectives.

Please describe the gene typing research strategy:

>>> The UAE has invested in genetic and genomic research for conservation planning. Projects by the Emirates Falconers' Club, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), and universities focus on gene typing, population genetics, and parentage analysis for species such as houbara bustards, Arabian oryx, and marine turtles. These efforts strengthen monitoring and breeding management through the use of advanced molecular tools.

Please describe the reproductive material archives/repositories strategy:

>>> The UAE maintains genetic resource repositories that preserve reproductive material (sperm, ova, and embryos) for threatened and migratory species, serving as a genetic safeguard and supporting potential future reintroduction programmes.

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://moccae.gov.ae/assets/3d756cb1/uae231581.pdf.aspx>

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.

>>> Ecological connectivity & spatial planning: Integration of connectivity into land/sea-use planning, protected-area zoning, and EIA/SEA requirements to maintain flyways, coastal corridors, and marine migration routes.

Coastal & marine habitat targets: Strategic protection/restoration for mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, wetlands and islands critical to marine turtles, dugongs, cetaceans, shorebirds (CMS App. I/II).

Blue carbon & restoration: National mangrove and seagrass programmes that deliver climate resilience and habitat benefits (consistent with CMS Res. 12.21 and Decision 14.194).

Species action & MEAs alignment: Implementation aligned with Ramsar, CBD/GBF, UNCCD, and CMS instruments (e.g., IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU, Dugong MoU), plus shark/ray management under the national plan of action.

Threat reduction: Invasive alien species strategy, bycatch/ALDFG controls, marine debris reduction, underwater noise and light-pollution guidance embedded in EIA practice.

Knowledge & participation: Monitoring frameworks, natural capital accounting, citizen science, and education programmes supporting CMS awareness and compliance.

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

>>> Progress: Expansion/management of marine & coastal PAs; scaled mangrove restoration; strengthened EIA/SEA practice for migratory corridors; National IAS Strategy (2022–2026) rollout; national habitat mapping and ecosystem-services/NCA work; enhanced enforcement (e-CITES) and site-based monitoring (turtles, birds, dugongs).

Coordination: Whole-of-government platforms (e.g., Emirates Council for Climate Change & Environment) and national biodiversity committees ensure alignment across CMS, Ramsar, CBD/GBF.

Ongoing needs: Continued species-specific data in non-PA areas, practitioner capacity building, and sustained regional data sharing.

XVI.2. Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

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

>>> Marine turtles (IOSEA MoU): National nesting-site protection, standardized monitoring, strandings response, and public awareness.

Dugongs (CMS Dugong MoU): Seagrass assessment/restoration supporting dugong foraging corridors; integration with national blue-carbon efforts.

Energy & infrastructure interfaces: Application of CMS Energy Task Force guidance through EIA (risk screening for birds/bats/turtles; power-line collision/electrocution mitigation; noise/light management).

Ecological connectivity (Decision 14.194): National habitat/connectivity mapping and restoration (mangroves, wetlands) to maintain functional corridors.

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

>>> Monitoring frameworks & KPIs:

Species: Nest counts (turtles), colony counts (seabirds), dugong/seagrass assessments, shark/bycatch records, strandings database.

Habitats: Mangrove/seagrass/coral/wetland extent and condition via remote sensing and field surveys.

Threats: Ghost-gear retrieval metrics, marine debris indices, power-line incident reporting, noise/light mitigation compliance in EIAs.

Evidence & reporting loops: Results feed into national summaries and are cross-reported under Ramsar site management reports, CBD/GBF national updates, ROPME technical exchanges, and CITES (for trade-related species), ensuring coherence across MEAs.

Effectiveness: Reduced disturbance at key nesting/roosting sites, increased restoration area for mangroves/seagrass, improved compliance in project approvals (EIA conditions), and more complete species/habitat datasets informing adaptive management.

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)
- 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).

>>> The UAE has linked traditional resource-use practices such as palm cultivation, desert farming, and sustainable fishing with modern conservation strategies, ensuring that heritage-based knowledge continues to inform national biodiversity initiatives. Actions include partnerships with NGOs such as Emirates Environmental Group, which integrate local and traditional practices into wetland, mangrove, and marine conservation programs. These efforts also align with the National Biodiversity Strategy 2031, which emphasizes safeguarding genetic resources and traditional knowledge systems

In addition, initiatives like the Connect with Nature program, the expansion of eco-tourism in restored wetlands such as Wasit, and mangrove restoration campaigns all actively involve local communities and volunteers in stewardship of habitats critical for migratory species.

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).

>>> Local communities are considered as a main stakeholder in developing and implementing national policies. Progress is evident in the scaling up of community engagement initiatives across the Emirates, including programmes such as Connect with Nature and volunteer-driven awareness campaigns. Traditional agricultural and coastal management knowledge (such as palm cultivation, desert farming, and sustainable fishing) has been increasingly integrated into food security, climate-smart farming, and biodiversity conservation strategies. In parallel, the establishment of genetic resource banks has safeguarded native plant diversity while documenting traditional uses. These measures not only enhance ecological connectivity but also strengthen the role of local communities in protecting migratory species and their habitats.

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

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

>>> Through initiatives such as the “Ard Al Emarat” Programme (2025), jointly launched by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, students engaged in interactive classroom and field-based learning to deepen their understanding of biodiversity, ecological identity, and the conservation of migratory species. This programme complements the Sustainable Schools Initiative and the Environmental Guide Programme, helping to foster environmental awareness and stewardship among youth.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> Community-wide initiatives such as Clean UAE 2024, Green December 2024, and Can Collection Day 2025 mobilized thousands of volunteers, families, and schools across the Emirates. These campaigns raised public understanding of biodiversity conservation, promoted responsible consumption, and reduced pollution in ecosystems critical to migratory species, such as wetlands, beaches, and coastal habitats.

Capacity building

>>> National and international events significantly strengthened institutional and technical capacity. Notably, the UAE hosted the World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), which gathered more than 3,000 experts and participants from over 70 countries, advancing global dialogue and skills in environmental education, policy development, and biodiversity management. Domestically, targeted training workshops enhanced expertise in EIA processes, species monitoring, bycatch management, and invasive species control, supporting improved application of CMS Resolutions.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Enhanced cooperation between government entities, NGOs, and academic institutions has improved the collection, management, and sharing of biodiversity data. Citizen-science contributions and field observations are increasingly integrated into national biodiversity inventories, strengthening the science-policy interface. Data-sharing partnerships under the UAE Natural Capital Accounting Project and marine biodiversity monitoring frameworks ensure that conservation decisions are evidence-based and regionally harmonized.

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)

- Exchange of information & know-how
- Research & innovation

XIX. Resource Mobilization

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

GUIDANCE TIP:

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

- Yes, made available for activities within the country
- 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:

- The same

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.

>>> N/A