

Inventory

Implementation of Articles III.4 and III.5 of the Convention

Croatia		
Party since 1 October 2000		
National Reports submitted: COP12 (2017), COP11 (2014), COP10 (2011), COP9 (2008)		
Relevant Legislation		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Ratification of the Bonn Convention (OG – International Treaties, No 6/2000). • Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13). • Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG Nos. 144/13 and 73/16). • Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG No. 143/08). • Regulation on the Proclamation of the Ecological Network (OG Nos.124/13 and 105/15). • Ordinance on Conservation Objectives and Main Measures for Bird Conservation in the Area of the Ecological Network (OG No. 15/14). • Ordinance on the Assessment of Acceptability for the Ecological Network (OG 146/14). 	
Article III.5		
	Laws that Implement the Take Prohibition	
	Aquatic Mammals	Taking of all Appendix I aquatic mammals is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Terrestrial Mammals	Unknown
	Birds	Taking of all Appendix I birds is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Reptiles	Taking of all Appendix I reptiles is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Fish	Taking of all Appendix I fish is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Exceptions to the Take Prohibition	
	Aquatic Mammals	None granted. A specific law allowing exceptions was not identified but an explanation of permissible exceptions was.*

* Exceptions may be granted in the case of overriding public interest and provided the exception will not be harmful for the survival of a particular population and is for activities to protect plants, fungi and animals in the following circumstances: to prevent severe damage to crops, livestock, forests, fishponds, water and other forms of property; to protect public health and safety, air safety or other overriding public interests; research and education; for repopulation; or for reintroduction and necessary reproduction. On a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking, holding and other reasonable use of certain strictly protected wild taxa in small quantities under strict control in order to maintain the favourable status of the species can be authorised.

	Terrestrial Mammals	Unknown
	Birds	None granted. A specific law allowing exceptions was not identified but an explanation of permissible exceptions was.*
	Reptiles	None granted. A specific law allowing exceptions was not identified but an explanation of permissible exceptions was.*
	Fish	None granted. A specific law allowing exceptions was not identified but an explanation of permissible exceptions was.*
Article III.4		
Laws to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore habitats of CMS Appendix I species		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on Ecological Network (OG Nos. 124/13 and 105/15) establishes a system of interconnected or spatially close ecologically important areas that significantly contribute to the preservation of nature balance and biodiversity with their biogeographic balance, and they consist of ecologically important areas of the Republic of Croatia, and also includes ecologically important sites of the EU Natura 2000. Ordinance on the appropriate assessment for the ecological network (OG No. 146/14) for plans, programs and projects which individually or in combination with other plans, programs and projects may have significant effect on conservation objectives and integrity of ecological network. Ordinance on the list of habitat types, habitat map and endangered and rare habitat types (OG No. 88/14) brings the national habitat classification and lists rare and endangered habitat types, both on the European and national level, that are subject to different conservation measures. Croatia has designated protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, which cover 36.73% of land territory and 15.42% of internal waters and territorial sea, as well as sites protected pursuant to the Ordinance on conservation objectives and conservation measures for birds in Special Protection Areas (OG No. 15/14). However, insufficient information is provided to identify the content of any obligations in the different designations. • Corridor/bottleneck for bird migration (provides birds migratory route across the Adriatic S sea turtles are designated as ecologically significant areas. However, insufficient information is provided to identify the content of any obligations. 	
Laws that 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		
	Windmills (birds and bats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan, program or project that independently or together with other plans, programs or projects, might have a significant impact on conservation objectives and on the coherence of the territory of the ecological network, Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) is performed. For plan, program or project (wind turbines) for which environmental impact assessment (EIA) is obligatory, the ENIA is performed as a constituent part.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Regulation on EIA (OG Nos. 61/14 and 3/17), the EIA is obligatory for the installation of wind turbines of 20 MW or more, while screening procedure is prescribed for all other wind turbines installation. After the installation of wind turbines the monitoring is prescribed and new mitigation measures can be prescribed if negative impacts occurs. • Potential wind farm sites are identified in the spatial plans.
	Cell towers (birds and bats)	Unknown
	Dams (fish)	Unknown
	Road construction (mammals)	Unknown
	Train tracks (mammals)	Unknown
	Fishing gear/bycatch (marine mammals, sea turtles, fish)	Unknown
	Shipping (marine mammals)	Unknown
Laws that prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger the species, including strictly controlling the introduction of or controlling or eliminating, already introduced species.		
		<p>In the Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG 143/08), Action Plans address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AP 6.10.1.2 Continue to incorporate nature protection requirements and measures, and ecological network conservation guidelines when planning locations of power supply/distribution facilities in spatial plans; - AP 6.10.1.3 Strengthen the principles of conservation of biological and landscape diversity in the course of development of the environmental impact study in relation to the potential impact of construction of power plants and other energy supply/distribution facilities on overall biological and landscape diversity, particularly in the ecological network area; - AP 6.10.1.9 Apply technical solutions in the course of construction of overhead power transmission lines and replacement of worn-out electricity poles and lines within the existing network in order to minimise bird mortality (collisions, electrocution); - AP 6.10.1.4 When designating sites for wind farms, avoid ornithological reserves, flight corridors and areas important as gathering places of a large number of birds during migration - AP 6.10.1.6 When planning and building wind farms, and in the course of their operation, implement bird and bat protection measures; - AP 6.10.1.7 Define the protocol for monitoring the impact of wind farms on species and habitats through co-operation between the energy and nature protection sectors;

		<p>- AP 6.10.1.8 Develop an action plan for monitoring birds of prey in the Central Dalmatia area in order to establish the cumulative impact of planned wind farms on their populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (2008), Regulation on Ecological Network (OG, Nos. 124/13 i 105/15), Nature Protection Act (OG No. 80/13), Ordinance on strictly protected species (OG Nos. 144/13 and 73/16), Ordinance on conservation objectives and conservation measures of birds in the area of ecological network (OG No. 15/14): all CMS Appendix I and partly II species for which Croatia is range state are strictly protected. This protection regime prohibits any action that would disturb or interfere with the natural life cycle and growth of the animal (it is forbidden to deliberately capture, keep and kill strictly protected animals, damage or destroy their development forms, disturb them at the time of propagation and rearing young, destroy their reproduction or resting sites, hide, keep, breed, trade in or in any way acquire these animals from nature). • Croatia has established the process of Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA), designed according to the relevant mechanism of the Habitats Directive and required by the Nature Protection Act (NPA). ENIA is a procedure used to assess whether there is likelihood that plan, program or project independently or together with other plans, programs or projects, might have a significant impact on conservation objectives and on the coherence of the territory of the ecological network. • Nature protection requirements and measures are part of physical planning documents as well as the programmes on governance and management of natural resources. Ministry issues special nature protection requirements in the procedure of obtaining a location permit for construction and execution of works and projects. Spatial arrangement, method of use, planning and protection of space in a national park or nature park is regulated by the spatial plan of the area. Additionally, nature protection requirements are issued in the process of obtaining the location permits for projects set outside the building area located outside the protected area. However, insufficient information is pr to identify the content of any obligations. • According to the EIA Regulation (OG Nos. 61/14 and 3/17), for electricity transmission facilities of 220 kV or more in length of 10 km or more require preparation of an EIA, while for overground electricity transmission lines of 110 kV or more the screening procedure is required. • Since July 30 2009 national distribution company “HEP- Operator distribucijskog sustava d.o.o.” has begun collecting data about bird electrocution on distribution lines. In case of frequently transient faults on overhead lines, fieldworkers check the reason for the problems. Notes on date and place of electrocution (part of the power line) and bird species (if possible) are sent to central office. Bird electrocution monitoring is a standard inspection procedure for overhead lines in “HEP-Operator distribucijskog sustava d.o.o.”- Parts of distribution
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		<p>network with highest bird casualties and with casualties of endangered bird species are rated as priorities for retrofitting or changes for bird conservation. However, insufficient information is provided to identify the content of any obligations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2004 HEP signed an Agreement on cooperation when conducting protection measures for protected species of white stork (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>). Also, in all distribution areas of HEP birds are banded, in order to monitor their population. Bird banding is carried out by the Croatian Ornithological Society. • Croatia has implemented with regional partners the project “Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic - NETCET” to gain knowledge about the status of cetaceans and sea turtles, improve capacities for conservation, improve awareness about the importance of cetacean and sea turtle conservation and establish relevant regional cooperation. The project was completed in January 2016. • Croatia, with regional partners, participated in the implementation of the project “Sharing marine and coastal cross management experiences in the Adriatic basin – ADRIATIC+”. The main objective of this project was capitalization of five projects from IPA Adriatic CBC Programme (NETCET, SHAPE, HAZADR, the preparation of feasibility study aimed to set up the ADRIATIC+ Decision Support System (DSS) for the adoption of measures to mitigate threats to the marine and coastal biodiversity. • Croatia monitors noise in the Adriatic. However, insufficient information is provided to identify the content of any obligations. • As a member of ACCOBAMS, Croatia joined the cetacean research project called ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), aimed at improving knowledge on the distribution, abundance and population density of cetaceans as a basis for planning the activities for their conservation. • Croatia maintains a database of all the reported cases of strictly protected animals. Data gathered through the National Stranding Network include species, geographic location, condition of animal, weight, sex, age, cause of death. In addition, data on cetaceans are filled in MEDACES database on regularly basis. • Croatia maintains a tissue bank for cetaceans located in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM). It contains tissue samples of collected marine mammal carcasses found in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea.
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Reservations, territorial inclusions, and territorial exclusions		
	Reservations	None
	Territorial Scope	“Croatia”. Thus, presumed to apply to all territory, including any overseas territories and semi-autonomous zones.