



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL REPORTS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary

This document provides a thematically-based analysis of the 89 Contracting Party national reports to COP12 which were received in time to be included. It is not comprehensive, but instead focuses on a selection of the issues covered in the reports, matching (for the purposes of comparison) the same topics that were analyzed in the equivalent document for COP11.

This analysis gives an expanded treatment of the information provided to the COP in a summarized form in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.19.1. The reports themselves are published on the CMS website, including those which arrived too late to be included in the analysis.

A series of recommendations has been derived from the analysis, concerning (i) Convention implementation, (ii) reporting and (iii) the format for future reports. Those in the latter category have been taken forward into the proposals concerning the future format for national reports that are contained in documents UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.19.2 and UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.27.

Analysis of National Reports to CMS COP12

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Summary

- S.1 Under Article VI.3 of CMS, Parties to the Convention provide regular reports to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on their national implementation activities. This builds a crucial evidence base for tracking progress, learning lessons from experience to guide future action, and forming the necessary international view about both the status of the Convention and the status of migratory species. When related to agreed objectives, this allows a necessary cycle of feedback and adaptive management.
- S.2 The present report provides a global synthesis of patterns, trends and general intelligence on the implementation of Convention requirements and of COP decisions, including notable successes and challenges that need to be addressed. The resulting picture helps to inform new decisions being taken by the COP, while also feeding into wider processes of international environmental governance.
- S.3 The national reports are extensive and they add up to a large body of material. This synthesis is therefore able to focus only on a selection of the issues covered, organized under seven main headings (which correspond to those used in the previous analysis for COP11, to aid comparisons). In many cases the data have also allowed differences to be assessed between regions of the world and between the main taxonomic groupings used by CMS.
- S.4 This is, however, not the only way in which value should be extracted from the rich underlying data. The individual reports can be directly consulted on the CMS website, and they act as an invaluable resource for all stakeholders who play a part in implementation of the Convention at all levels.
- S.5 A record number of Parties (some 72 per cent of the total) provided their reports to COP12 in time to be included in this analysis, and some others submitted after the deadline. Most used the on-line submission system (ORS), the availability of which has probably helped to improve the reporting rate. The completeness of the individual reports however varies considerably, and this could be further improved.
- S.6 Several of the sections in the national reports potentially offer to shed light on progress towards the achievement of the targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, and these links are highlighted in the present synthesis where applicable. The correspondence is limited, however, partly because most of the targets are compounds of several elements (and full assessment of progress would need to address each element), and partly because most of the national report information reflects activities rather than conservation status outcomes.
- S.7 Information provided on Appendix I species includes the threats and pressures facing these species, among which habitat loss and degradation were the most frequently cited, with direct killing/taking and bycatch also being prominent, and in some cases institutional factors (e.g. knowledge, cooperation, regulation) being significant. A useful inventory has also emerged of the types of action that are typically being pursued by Parties in response to these identified threats.
- S.8 Parties reported on species which they regard as qualifying for inclusion in the Appendices of the Convention but which are not yet listed. There appears to have been some confusion about the species status information being used for this, as well as a considerable mismatch being evident between the listing intentions stated in national reports and the actual proposals for listing submitted to COP.
- S.9 The reports demonstrate continuing interest among Parties in developing new Agreements/MOUs, Action Plans or other cooperation arrangements under CMS, and they mention *inter alia* activity during the triennium in respect of African-Eurasian

migratory land birds, the Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* and the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*; and possibilities for the future in respect of the Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*, the Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor* and marine turtles in the Pacific Island Region. Here again, however, there appeared to be some confusion about the questions being asked. In a different part of the reports, Concerted Action activity was reported in respect of a further 22 species or groups of species.

- S.10 A majority of Parties indicated that migratory species were covered in some way by provisions relating to protected areas in their country; although only a few made specific reference to migratory species or migration-related factors having played a part in the selection, establishment or management of such areas, in these cases citing for example the targeting of corridors or bottleneck sites, and areas being protected for a particular CMS priority species. Progress was also reported in extending coverage of area protection and in some cases an (unquantified) improvement in species status, as well as some improved public awareness.
- S.11 A majority of Parties indicated having had involvement in satellite (or other) telemetry projects for tracking animal movements, although a number of them indicated that these activities were constrained by the availability of funding. Many gave specific details, demonstrating *inter alia* the wide range of taxa that have been the focus of these projects. The most frequent type of result reported was in the category of improving knowledge about migration behaviours, routes and distributions.
- S.12 The report format contains six questions concerning resource mobilization. Most Parties indicated that they had made financial resources available for conservation activities designed to have direct benefits for migratory species within their country. Some responses made reference to funding from NGOs as well as from government sources, and some mentioned activities undertaken on a multi-country basis. A few gave figures for the size of funding involved, but not enough to admit any analysis. Some indicated that they had made financial contributions and/or provided technical support to support conservation activities for migratory species in other countries, and several developing countries were among those providing technical assistance.
- S.13 Half of the Parties reporting indicated that they had received financial assistance from sources other than the CMS Secretariat for migratory species activity, representing a considerable increase compared with the equivalent number in the previous triennium. Given general global funding trends, this might be an encouraging signal about the availability and/or willingness of external sources to support migratory species conservation efforts.
- S.14 The section in the reports that covers implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations can give particularly valuable insights into the implementation of the Convention in relation to priority issues elaborated by the COP. It offers a basis for information-sharing and dialogue about past progress and future planning on this at the level of each individual Contracting Party, as well as contributing to the global overview. The synthesis provides a condensed summary of the information reported under 42 different headings in this section, but a more extensive global analysis of some of the individual Resolutions/Recommendations could be useful separately in future.
- S.15 A few of the listed topics in this section cover similar ground to that covered in other sections in the report format (for example the Resolutions relating to financial matters, ecological networks and development of new CMS Agreements). If a Party has not said much about these issues in one of the places in the format where it has been asked to do so, it may have said more in the other.

- S.16 Each reporting cycle generates additional experience of operating the reporting process, and possibilities for improvements are identified from time to time. In addition, occasional significant structural advances in the Convention (such as the development of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species) have implications for reporting. While consistency in the reporting format from one cycle to the next is important for comparability of analyses and for reducing the inconvenience of changes in practice, on the other hand improved targeting and streamlining may sometimes provide a greater benefit that outweighs this.
- S.17 A final section of this synthesis report provides some conclusions and recommendations arising from the present analysis, addressing in turn Convention implementation, the reporting process and the format for reports.
- S.18 Distinguishing information for “terrestrial”, “marine” and “aquatic” interests has proved less practical for the habitat and area-based questions than for the species-based parts of the reports. It appears also that Parties often find it difficult to isolate and account specifically for the migratory species component of wider conservation programmes.
- S.19 “Pre-filling” of certain report sections by the Secretariat prior to issuing the format to Parties probably helped national compilers to avoid a certain amount of re-originating of information they had provided on previous occasions. It appears, however, that many did not replace outdated information with updates, or did so in some sections and not in others, resulting in internal contradictions within the individual reports. Analysis was made problematic by an inability to distinguish pre-filled data from newly entered data. A recommendation on this is made at the end of this report, and in general it would help also for Parties to provide more specificity throughout their reports as to the period to which a given response relates, making a particular effort to focus on the most recent triennium.
- S.20 The increased reporting rate achieved for the COP12 cycle is a positive achievement, and the richness of information that has resulted is a testament to the improvements made by Contracting Parties over recent years in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of CMS implementation. The present synthesis report is just a brief taste of the potential that exists for this evidence base to feed back in many different ways into achieving (and demonstrating) yet more effective implementation of the Convention in future.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Monitoring and reporting on activities to implement the Convention (and on the outcomes of those activities) is essential for tracking progress, learning lessons from experience to guide future action, and forming the necessary international view about both the status of the Convention and the status of migratory species. When related to the obligations, goals and targets agreed by the Contracting Parties, this allows a cycle of feedback and adaptive management, at both national and international levels. National reports also provide an official reference source for the contact details of Contracting Party governments and other administrative information.
- 1.2 Article VI.3 of the Convention requires Parties that are Range States of migratory species listed in Appendices I and II to inform the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, of the measures they are taking to implement the provisions of the Convention for those species.
- 1.3 National reports carry significant status as the official implementation record compiled by Party governments. They are subject to scrutiny by the COP as a whole, and are provided as public documents on the CMS website (for the reports to COP12 see <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/twelfth-meeting-conference-parties-cms>).
- 1.4 A standard format was first adopted at COP4 in 1994 (Resolution 4.1), and it has subsequently been revised on several occasions, notably at COP7 in 2002 (Resolution 7.8) and by decisions of the Standing Committee. The format ensures consistent structuring of reports, coverage of the key issues (including linkages to strategic plans and relevant COP decisions), and comparability between Parties/regions and (subject to revisions from time to time) between reporting periods, thus aiding analysis. Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions and to give, where appropriate, a summary of activities, information on factors limiting action and details of any assistance required.
- 1.5 The CMS Standing Committee at its 45th meeting agreed that the same format as used for COP11 would be used for reporting to COP12, with a few necessary adjustments to take into account relevant COP11 decisions, including amendments to the Convention Appendices.
- 1.6 Following a request in Resolution 9.4 (2008) for the Secretariats and Parties of CMS Agreements to collaborate in the implementation and harmonization of online reporting implementation, a CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) was developed and used successfully by the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for reporting to its 5th Meeting of the Parties in 2012, followed by use by CMS Parties for reports to COP11 in 2014 and again now for COP12. In addition to the extra flexibility allowed by this method of submission, Parties that submitted reports on time for COP11 were provided with the template for COP12 containing relevant parts of their data already pre-filled from that previous occasion, thus saving the need for repetition (but leading to some new interpretation problems – see individual sections of the present analysis below).
- 1.7 Article VI.3 of the Convention provides that national reports should be submitted at least six months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties. This (*inter alia*) allows time for an analysis and overview to be prepared for review by the COP. For COP12, the Online Reporting System was opened for submissions in December 2016, and the deadline for submission was 24 April 2017. Consequently, the period covered by information in this round of reports is from May 2014 (the submission deadline for COP11 reports) to April 2017, except in the case of information relating to new decisions adopted at COP11 itself (November 2014).

- 1.8 Being a publicly-available dataset, the national reports can be directly consulted as an official source reference on CMS implementation and on migratory species information for the individual countries. This is an invaluable resource for all stakeholders who play a part in implementation of the Convention at national and local levels, and it supports an integrated approach by state authorities across all sectors, together with non-governmental organizations, community groups, academia and the private sector. As well as illuminating the results of efforts to date, the reports help to guide future action, research and investment priorities. The common approach taken to reporting also assists with cooperation between countries in transboundary and regional contexts.
- 1.9 The international synthesis report (in its full version, i.e. the present report, and a shorter synoptic summary in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.19.1) is also published, and this allows general patterns and trends to be seen. The international overview is a key source of intelligence on progress with implementation of COP decisions, on notable successes and on challenges needing to be addressed. This includes a reflection on progress towards the achievement of goals and targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, which in turn relates to progress in delivering aspects of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals). The picture emerging from the national reports analysis therefore helps to inform new decisions being taken by the COP, while also feeding into wider processes of international environmental governance.
- 1.10 Each reporting cycle generates additional experience of operating the reporting process, and possibilities for improvements are identified from time to time. In addition, occasional significant structural advances in the Convention (such as the development of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species) have implications for reporting. While consistency in the reporting format from one cycle to the next is important for comparability of analyses and for reducing the inconvenience of changes in practice, on the other hand improved targeting and streamlining may sometimes provide a greater benefit that outweighs this.
- 1.11 In the context of a specific request in Resolution 11.2, consideration has been given to this by the Standing Committee and the Strategic Plan Working Group during the past triennium, and also in the course of the present analysis. Recommendations for future cycles arising from the present analysis are given in section 10 below, and options for a revision of the National Report Format as a whole are discussed in documents UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.19.2 and UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.27.
- 1.12 The present analysis is based on the reports provided by those Parties that had submitted them by the formal deadline, and it has also been possible to include some others that arrived shortly thereafter (see section 2 below). The main structure follows the one used for the equivalent analyses undertaken for COP11 (documents UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.3 and UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.42), and hence it concentrates on sections II, III, V, VI, IX and X of the format.

2. Reporting performance

- 2.1 At the time of the submission deadline for the COP12 round of reporting there were 124 full Parties to the CMS. Several countries are Party to one or more of the CMS Agreements and/or have signed one or more of the MOUs but are not a Party to the Convention itself, so they are not included in the present analysis.
- 2.2 Four countries became Party to the Convention part-way through the 2014-17 reporting period (Afghanistan in August 2015, Brazil in October 2015, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in May 2016 and Iraq in August 2016). Afghanistan, the UAE and Brazil all submitted reports, but the information in them does not need to be taken as reflecting implementation over a whole triennium. All four countries are included in the total of 124 referred to above.
- 2.3 Conventions rarely achieve a 100 per cent national reporting record (although it does happen), and as the number of Parties increases over the years the risk of falling short becomes greater. Nonetheless reporting is a mandatory requirement, and in principle 100 per cent is the target. (Strictly speaking in the case of CMS the maximum achievable is slightly less, because although the European Union is a Contracting Party it is not expected to submit a report, since an EU report would not be “national”, and relevant implementation in the EU area is reported anyway through the individual Member States).
- 2.4 A total of 89 reports was received in time to be included in the present analysis, and some others which could not be taken into account followed later. This is the highest number received for any CMS COP to date. As a percentage of the “eligible countries” (eligible countries are those existing as full CMS Parties at the time of the report submission deadline for the period concerned) it is also an improvement over previous triennia, standing on this occasion at 72 per cent (see Table 1).

COP	Percentage of eligible Parties reporting
COP8 (2005)	51
COP9 (2008)	50
COP10 (2011)	60
COP11 (2014)	50
COP12 (2017)	72

Table 1. CMS reporting rates over recent triennia.

(Note: The figures for COPs 8, 9 and 10 include some reports submitted up to a year or more after the deadline).

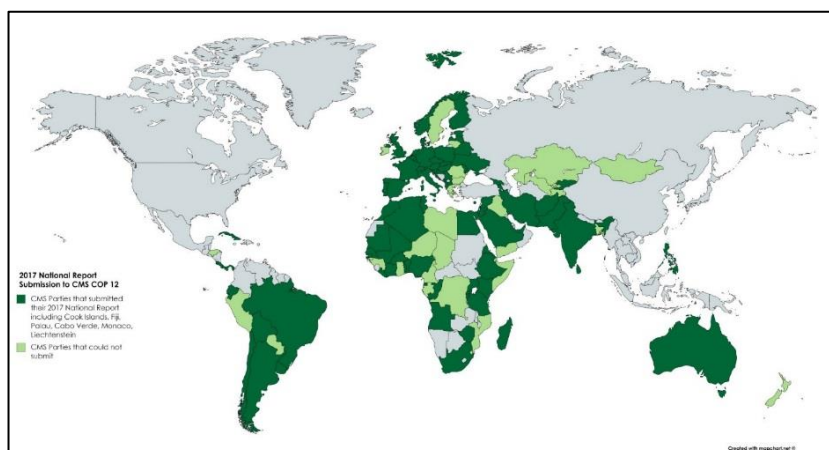


Figure 1 CMS Parties submitting (dark green) or not submitting (light green) timely national reports in 2017.

2.5 As well as improving overall, the rate of submission improved (by comparison with COP11 in 2014) for each of the Convention's five regions individually. For COP11 the European region showed the highest rate of submission (69%) and Africa the lowest (32%); while for COP12 Oceania had the highest rate (86%) and Asia the lowest (59%) (see Tables 2 and 3).

Region	Number of reports submitted to COP12	Percentage of eligible Parties reporting
Africa	28	64
Asia	10	59
C & S America & the Caribbean	9	69
Europe (excluding the EU as institution)	36	86
Oceania	6	86
Total	89	72

Table 2. Summary figures for Parties in each region reporting to COP12 within the deadline.

2.6 Most Parties used the on-line system (ORS) for submitting their reports. A small number did not do so, meaning that their off-line data had to be manually entered by the Secretariat. Although the improvement in overall reporting rates is encouraging, the figures do not necessarily represent fully completed reports in every case. The extent to which the format was followed was quite variable, with questions (even when relevant) sometimes being left unanswered, and in three cases (all in Africa) the majority of the report sections were left blank. The total number of Parties answering therefore varies between the different sections of the format.

Africa (44)		Europe (43)		Oceania (7)	
Algeria	✓	Albania	✓	Australia	✓
Angola	✓	Armenia	✓	Cook Islands	✓
Benin	✓	Austria	✓	Fiji	✓
Burkina Faso	✓	Belarus	✓	New Zealand	✗
Burundi	✓	Belgium	✓	Palau	✓
Cabo Verde	✓	Bulgaria	✗	Philippines	✓
Cameroon	✗	Croatia	✓	Samoa	✓
Chad	✗	Cyprus	✓		
Congo (Brazzaville)	✓	Czech Republic	✓	Asia (17)	
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	Denmark	✓	Afghanistan	✓
Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa)	✗	Estonia	✓	Bangladesh	✗
Djibouti	✗	European Union	N/A	India	✓
Egypt	✓	Finland	✓	Iran	✓
Equatorial Guinea	✓	France	✓	Iraq	✗
Eritrea	✓	Georgia	✓	Jordan	✓
Ethiopia	✓	Germany	✓	Kazakhstan	✗
Gabon	✗	Greece	✗	Kyrgyzstan	✓
Gambia	✓	Hungary	✓	Mongolia	✗
Ghana	✗	Ireland	✗	Pakistan	✓
Guinea	✗	Israel	✓	Saudi Arabia	✓
				Sri Lanka	✓

Guinea-Bissau	✗
Kenya	✓
Liberia	✓
Libya	✗
Madagascar	✓
Mali	✓
Mauritania	✓
Mauritius	✗
Morocco	✓
Mozambique	✗
Niger	✗
Nigeria	✓
Rwanda	✓
São Tomé and Príncipe	✗
Senegal	✓
Seychelles	✗
Somalia	✗
South Africa	✓
Swaziland	✗
Togo	✓
Tunisia	✓
Uganda	
United Republic of Tanzania	✓
Zimbabwe	✓
Italy	✓
Latvia	✓
Liechtenstein	✓
Lithuania	✗
Luxembourg	✓
Malta	✓
Monaco	✓
Montenegro	✓
Netherlands	✓
Norway	✓
Poland	✓
Portugal	✓
Republic of Moldova	✓
Romania	✗
Serbia	✓
Slovakia	✓
Slovenia	✓
Spain	✓
Sweden	✗
Switzerland	✓
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	✓
Ukraine	✓
United Kingdom	✓
Syria	✓
Tajikistan	✗
United Arab Emirates	✓
Uzbekistan	✗
Yemen	✗
C & S America & the Caribbean (13)	
Antigua and Barbuda	✗
Argentina	✓
Bolivia	✓
Brazil	✓
Chile	✓
Costa Rica	✓
Cuba	✓
Ecuador	✓
Honduras	✗
Panama	✓
Paraguay	✗
Peru	✗
Uruguay	✓

Table 3. Full list of CMS Parties reporting or not reporting to COP12 in time for inclusion in this analysis, by region. (Figures in brackets are the numbers of eligible Parties in each region).

3. Appendix I species overview

- 3.1 The report format asks several questions about the **status of Appendix I species** in each country for each of five taxonomic groups in turn, including the **pressures facing these species and the obstacles impeding their migration**. In practice, aspects of these latter two fields are commonly mixed together, so the distinction has not proved meaningful and for this analysis they have been merged (as a single field addressing “threats”). In response to these questions, within the 89 reports there were 1,231 identifications of threats affecting Appendix I species. The questions suggested some possible types of threats (as well as allowing other types to be explained in a narrative) but in a way which differed between the different taxonomic sections. To standardize this therefore for the purposes of the present analysis, the reported threats have been classified into the following nine main categories and 32 sub-categories:

Direct killing & taking

- Poaching
- Illegal hunting
- Hunting (legal/illegal unspecified)
- Other harvesting & take
- Illegal trade
- Poisoning

Bycatch

- Bycatch

Collisions & electrocution

- Electrocution
- Wind turbines
- Other collisions

Other mortality

- Predation
- Disease
- Unexplained stranding events

Alien and/or invasive species

- Alien and/or invasive species

Disturbance & disruption

- Disturbance
- Light pollution
- Underwater noise

Habitat destruction/degradation

- Habitat loss/destruction
- Habitat degradation
- Mineral exploration/extraction
- Deforestation
- Unsustainable land/resource use
- Urbanization
- Pollution
- Garbage
- Too much/too little water
- Fire
- Physical barriers

Climate change

- Climate change

Knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

- Lack of knowledge
- Inadequate legislation/enforcement
- Inadequate transboundary management

3.2 The distribution of the threat identifications across the nine main categories and the five taxonomic groups is shown in percentage terms in Table 4 below. (The base unit for this is the number of “identifications” rather than the number of Parties, because each Party had two questions to answer on this subject. For each threat type within each taxonomic group therefore an individual Party could score 0, 1 or 2, and the theoretical maximum per Party is 320). Table 5 breaks these figures down regionally, for each taxonomic group.

	Birds	Aquatic mammals	Terrestrial mammals	Reptiles	Fish
Direct killing & taking	24	9	20	20	20
Bycatch	9	30	2	24	29
Collisions & electrocution	16	14	4	4	6
Other mortality	0	2	0	9	0
Alien and/or invasive species	1	0	0	1	1
Disturbance & disruption	1	8	2	3	0
Habitat destruction/degradation	48	32	36	36	25
Climate change	1	2	6	2	2
Knowledge, regulation etc.	0	2	30	1	18

Table 4. Relative frequency of main types of threats cited as affecting Appendix I species.

Note: The figures are percentages of the total threat identifications made in relation to each taxonomic group. In some cases, they add up to 99 or 101 because of rounding in the underlying data.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	C & S America & Caribbean
BIRDS					
Direct killing & taking	25	39	24	0	30
Bycatch	10	8	7	10	11
Collisions & electrocution	14	15	27	10	13
Other mortality	0	0	0	0	0
Alien and/or invasive species	1	0	2	0	2
Disturbance & disruption	1	0	4	0	2
Habitat destruction/degradation	47	37	35	80	39
Climate change	2	2	1	0	2
Knowledge, regulation etc.	1	0	1	0	0
AQUATIC MAMMALS					
Direct killing & taking	16	5	0	12	11
Bycatch	30	35	31	20	34
Collisions & electrocution	14	15	12	8	20
Other mortality	2	0	2	8	0
Alien and/or invasive species	0	0	0	0	0
Disturbance & disruption	3	0	22	16	0
Habitat destruction/degradation	31	40	28	32	29
Climate change	0	5	0	4	3
Knowledge, regulation etc.	3	0	5	0	3
TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS					
Direct killing & taking	29	29	7	0	16
Bycatch	3	0	0	0	3
Collisions & electrocution	0	5	7	0	5
Other mortality	0	0	0	0	0
Alien and/or invasive species	0	0	0	0	0
Disturbance & disruption	0	0	7	0	0

Habitat destruction/degradation	32	26	50	0	37
Climate change	9	7	0	0	8
Knowledge, regulation etc.	27	33	29	0	32
REPTILES					
Direct killing & taking	23	13	12	30	21
Bycatch	33	20	25	17	23
Collisions & electrocution	0	7	6	0	6
Other mortality	10	13	5	7	11
Alien and/or invasive species	0	0	2	0	2
Disturbance & disruption	3	0	8	3	0
Habitat destruction/degradation	28	40	39	40	34
Climate change	1	3	3	3	2
Knowledge, regulation etc.	1	3	0	0	0
FISH					
Direct killing & taking	25	27	17	33	0
Bycatch	10	36	26	33	38
Collisions & electrocution	0	0	3	0	25
Other mortality	0	0	0	0	0
Alien and/or invasive species	0	0	3	0	0
Disturbance & disruption	0	0	0	0	0
Habitat destruction/degradation	30	27	34	33	0
Climate change	10	0	0	0	0
Knowledge, regulation etc.	25	9	17	0	38

Table 5. Relative frequency of main types of threats cited as affecting Appendix I species, per region.

Note: The figures are percentages of the total threat identifications made in relation to each taxonomic group. In some cases, these add up to 99 or 101 because of rounding in the underlying data.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	C & S America & Caribbean
Birds	Habitat	Killing taking & Habitat	Habitat	Habitat	Habitat
Aquatic mammals	Habitat Bycatch	Habitat	Bycatch	Habitat	Bycatch
Terrestrial mammals	Habitat	Knowledge/ regulation	Habitat	(No responses)	Habitat
Reptiles	Bycatch	Habitat	Habitat	Habitat	Habitat
Fish	Habitat Knowledge/ regulation	Bycatch	Habitat	Bycatch Habitat	Bycatch Knowledge/ regulation

Table 6. Highest-scoring threat categories for each taxonomic group in each region.

- 3.3. As shown in Table 6, habitat loss/deterioration was the most frequently cited issue for most taxonomic groups in most regions; but bycatch was more important for reptiles in Africa, for aquatic mammals in two regions (Europe, Central & South America & the Caribbean) and for fish in three regions (Asia, Oceania, Central & South America & the Caribbean); while direct killing/taking was more important for birds in Asia; and knowledge/regulation was more important for terrestrial mammals in Africa.

- 3.4 All these threat data should be treated with caution however, since the tendencies appear to have been led to some extent by the way that priorities were suggested in the questions, and (as mentioned above) the questions were not asked/prompts were not given in the same way for each taxonomic group (for example the extra question on management issues in the terrestrial mammals section may have contributed to the higher score on this issue for that group).
- 3.5. Other questions in this section of the format asked about **actions being taken to address the threats**, and about the **progress and success** of those actions. Responses to this were reported in a variety of ways, and there is no valid basis for quantifying or otherwise evaluating the priorities and significances among the actions described. Progress or success was sometimes mentioned, but more often the mention of an activity could not be distinguished from any comment about the progress achieved (“protection of habitat” or “raising awareness” for example could refer either to an activity or a result, or both). Apart from a few references to e.g. “breeding success improved” and one or two specific project results in particular areas, the “progress/success” answers have generally not provided any evaluation of conservation status outcomes.
- 3.6. They do however provide a useful inventory of the types of action typically being pursued by Parties in response to the identified threats facing the Appendix I species for which they are Range States, and some examples of the progress they note as being achieved. In aggregate, this includes the following:

Activities

- New/strengthened legislation or policy, increased penalties
- Strategies, action plans, recovery plans, management plans, local agreements/community plans, emergency response plans
- Regulation (incl. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)), enforcement
- Spatial planning measures
- Establishment/expansion of protected areas, land use agreements
- Livestock management regimes
- Habitat management/restoration, beach & sea cleaning, removal/adaptation of structures/obstacles, construction of fish-passes
- Waste management/pollution control
- Protection and guarding of nest sites (against humans and predators)
- Provisioning of food
- Predator control
- Rescue and rehabilitation of individual animals
- Captive breeding, reintroduction and relocation schemes
- Artificial breeding sites (e.g. bat boxes, turtle nest sites)
- Mitigation measures for electrocution, collisions, bycatch
- Incentives, compensation (for damage by wildlife), benefit sharing schemes, establishment of alternative markets (product substitution)
- Good practice guidelines/codes of conduct
- Research, survey, assessment, monitoring (incl. of threats)
- Training, capacity-building, education, awareness, outreach, engagement
- Transboundary cooperation

Progress

- New/expanded protected areas
- Stronger enforcement, improved reporting of infringements
- Reduced poaching and other forms of offending; improved compliance
- Reduction in bycatch/other mortality
- Improved monitoring and reporting
- Greater knowledge, including of true extent of threats
- Greater awareness, engagement and support, including by NGOs, communities, other sectors
- More enlightened attitudes e.g. on land-use practices

- Habitat quality improvements, reduced pollution
- Improved species populations or distributions, declines stabilized, improved breeding success
- Improved stakeholder attitudes/behaviour
- Improved coordination between agencies.

4. Potential new species listings

- 4.1 At the end of the section of the report format addressing Appendix I species is a series of final questions, the first of which asks Parties to indicate whether they are a Range State for any other **migratory species which are classified as endangered but which are not currently listed in Appendix I**. In the English version of the format there is an error in this question, where the word “not” has been inadvertently omitted before the words “currently listed”. In theory, this could allow a Party to interpret the question as meaning that they should indicate species which are on Appendix I and for which they are a Range State but on which they have not provided details in the preceding (taxonomic) parts of the report section. In principle however, details should have been provided in those preceding parts on all relevant species, so the working assumption for the purposes of this analysis is that all Parties have done so, and that they have read the question in the sense that it was intended, rather than the way it was written. In the French and Spanish versions, the text is correct.
- 4.2 A relatively high proportion of Parties failed to answer this question (29% of all those submitting reports). Of those who did answer (after adjusting for “yes” answers deemed to be “no” and vice versa, based on other information provided by the Party – see notes under Table 7 for details), 16 (25%) indicated that they were Range States for qualifying species that are not yet on the Appendix (for a regional breakdown of this see the table). This is an increase on the 12 (adjusted total 9) answering yes in the previous triennium.
- 4.3 Most of these responses indicated the species concerned, and these are listed below, comprising 36 species (11 fish, 21 birds and 4 mammals), which represents an increase on the 16 reported in the previous triennium. Some responses gave more general descriptions, e.g. “various bird species”, which therefore cannot be shown in the list below and are additional to it (assuming they are not currently on Appendix I). Twenty-two species were mentioned which *are* already on Appendix I, and these have been excluded from the list below since they are not relevant to the question (they comprised one fish, one reptile, 17 birds and three mammals). Almost one third of the species mentioned in answer to this question were therefore ineligible for consideration on that basis: this indicates either that there is some confusion about what the question is asking; or that Parties are relying on out of date versions of Appendix I, or both. The references that are valid in this respect are listed below. Note however that on the basis of their threat status (shown alongside each species name below), a further 25 (nearly three quarters) would further be rendered invalid if the eligibility guidelines in the Annex to Resolution 11.33 were followed (leaving only the 10 marked “CE” or “EN”, and allowing for the possible inclusion of the *C. canutus* subspecies).

Fish

- Angel Shark *Squatina squatina* CE
(Identified by Monaco)
- Striped Marlin *Kajikia audax* NT
(Identified by Ecuador)
- Atlantic Blue Marlin *Makaira nigricans* VU
(Identified by Ecuador)
- Beluga *Huso huso* CE
(Identified by Iran)
- Ship Sturgeon *Acipenser nudiventris* CE
(Identified by Iran)
- Russian Sturgeon *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii* CE
(Identified by Iran)
- Persian Sturgeon *Acipenser persicus* CE
(Identified by Iran)
- Stellate Sturgeon *Acipenser stellatus* CE
(Identified by Iran)

- Gilded Catfish *Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii* LC
(Identified by Bolivia)
- Common Mola *Mola mola* VU
(Identified by Ecuador)
- Southern Ocean Sunfish *Mola ramsayi* (not assessed)
(Identified by Ecuador)

Birds

- Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* CE
(Identified by South Africa)
- Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* EN
(Identified by Cuba)
- African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* LC
(Identified by Kenya)
- European Pochard *Aythya ferina* VU
(Identified by Hungary)
- Red-Billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* LC
(Identified by Kenya)
- Yellow-Billed Duck *Anas undulata* LC
(Identified by Kenya)
- African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* NT
(Identified by Kenya)
- Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* CE
(Identified by Philippines)
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* LC
(Identified by Cuba)
- Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* LC
(Identified by Panama)
- Red Knot *Calidris canutus** NT*
(Identified by Georgia and Panama)
- Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* NT
(Identified by Cuba)
- Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* LC
(Identified by Cuba)
- American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* LC
(Identified by Panama)
- American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* LC
(Identified by Panama)
- African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* LC
(Identified by Kenya)
- European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* VU
(Identified by Hungary)
- White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala* NT
(Identified by Cuba)
- Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli* VU
(Identified by Cuba)
- Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* VU
(Identified by Philippines)
- Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* NT
(Identified by Cuba)

Mammals

- African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* VU
(Identified by Benin)
- African Wild Ass *Equus africanus* CE
(Identified by Eritrea and - indirectly - by Ethiopia)
- Jaguar *Panthera onca* NT
(Identified by Bolivia)
- Tomes's Sword-nosed Bat *Lonchorhina aurita* LC

(Identified by Bolivia)

* The subspecies *C canutus rufa* is already listed on Appendix I; but the two reports mentioning this species are from countries in the range of other subspecies, namely *roselaari* and *canutus*, so the inclusion here is valid in that respect. The Red List assessment category here is that for the species as a whole, and separate assessments for the individual subspecies are not available.

- 4.4 The next question in the format asks whether the Parties that have indicated that they are a Range State for endangered migratory species not on Appendix I are taking any **steps to propose listing** for any of these species. Ten Parties answered “yes” to this question, but after adjusting for interpretation of contradictory answers (see notes under Table 7) the true total is deemed to be eight. Generally, few details were given to expand on this. Responses to the supplementary question about **assistance required to initiate listing** cited a need for support from other Parties for proposals, financial and technical assistance, including for developing proposals and action plans, and assistance in addressing knowledge gaps, including through scientific studies and monitoring.
- 4.5 There is a considerable mismatch between the answers given to these questions about unlisted species and intentions to propose listing on the one hand, and the actual formal listing proposals submitted to COP12 on the other. In the latter, 20 different species have been the subject of Appendix I addition proposals duly submitted by the relevant deadline. Surprisingly, only three of these were mentioned in the national reports (Angel Shark *Squatina squatina*, Christmas Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* and African Wild Ass *Equus africanus*). The reports themselves do not illuminate any reasons why there is not greater alignment between these two processes, and this would be a subject worth further investigation.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total	Adjusted total
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89	89
No of Parties answering the question	14	6	31	4	7	62	63 ¹
No. of Parties answering yes	4 (29%) ²	1 (17%)	5 (16%)	2 (50%)	5 (71%)	18 (29%)	16 ³ (25%)
No. of Parties taking steps to propose listing ⁴	4	0	2	1	3	10	8 ⁵

Table 7. Parties identifying themselves as Range States for endangered migratory species which are not listed in Appendix I.

Notes:

1. This includes the addition of one European Party which did not answer but then went on to give details, so is deemed to have answered “yes”.
2. These percentages show the number of Parties answering “yes” as a proportion of those answering the question, in the region concerned.
3. This includes the addition of one African Party which answered “no” but then gave details of a specific listing proposal, so is deemed to have answered “yes”. The figure also includes the subtraction of three Parties (two in Europe and one in Oceania) who answered “yes” but then named only species that are already on Appendix I, so their true answers are deemed to have been “no”. (In one such case the Party was using this answer to request that they be added to the CMS Range State list for the Appendix I species concerned).
4. The figures here represent the numbers of Parties signalling proposals: this should not be read as a number of proposals, since some proposals are developed by several countries working jointly on the same species.
5. This includes the subtraction of one African Party who answered “yes” but who had answered “no” to the first question (i.e. no species of relevance) and gave details only as “it [unspecified] is planned”

rather than any steps being taken; so is deemed to have answered “no”. It also includes the subtraction of one European Party whose reference to “steps being taken” do not relate to an addition to Appendix I (the species concerned is already on the Appendix) but instead to adding the country to the CMS Range State list for the species. The details given with one response from a Party in the South & Central America & Caribbean region given cast some doubt on whether the steps they were referring to related to Appendix listing or instead to some other conservation measures at national level, but the wording was ambiguous, so no adjustment has been made in that case.

- 4.6 Parties were then asked whether they are a Range State for any **migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status which is not currently listed in Appendix II but could benefit from the conclusion of an Agreement** for its conservation. An appreciable proportion of those Parties reporting (19%) gave no answer to this question. Of those who answered and said “yes” (18 Parties, an increase on the 11 in the previous triennium), three gave no details. One referred only to proposals made in a previous triennium which were duly adopted (at COP11), so in their case the species concerned is now on Appendix II, and their true answer has been deemed to be “no”. The details provided with another response indicated that research was required to identify relevant species, so it is also questionable whether this qualifies as a “yes” answer. Two Parties did not name the species concerned but cited simply the (bird) families concerned (*Laniidae*, *Alaudidae*, *Acrocephalini*, *Emberizidae*, *Parulidae* and *Cardinalidae*), while another referred only to “songbirds, raptors, larger forest birds and steppe species”. The regional breakdown of responses is shown in Table 8 below.
- 4.7 The suite of species cited by one Party was identified from a systematic review of certain bird families, so in terms of the report format question, the country concerned is not necessarily regarding itself as a Range State for all of the species named. The approach they have taken is helpful nonetheless, despite not being strictly accommodated by the wording of the question, so this may be a point to consider in reviewing the format for future reporting cycles. Some detailed comments were also offered on the wider issue of reviewing the current Appendix II listing for the bird family *Muscicapidae*, and within it the sub-family *Sylviinae*, to replace the listing of the whole family/sub-family with a listing of the individual species within it that are migratory; and also to clarify the taxonomic position of the genus *Acrocephalus* in relation to this family.
- 4.8 Most of the “yes” responses named the individual species concerned, and these are listed below, comprising 32 species (8 fish, 18 birds and 6 mammals), which represents a doubling of the 16 reported in the previous triennium. Five species were mentioned which are already on Appendix II (in four of these cases by being covered at the family level), and these have been excluded from the list below since they are not relevant to the question (all of them are birds). The valid references were as follows:

Fish

- Angel Shark *Squatina squatina*
- Common Guitarfish *Rhinobatos rhinobatos*
- Gilded Catfish *Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*
- Pacific Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus orientalis*
- Caspian Brown Trout *Salmo trutta caspius*
- (Amazon) Brycon *Brycon amazonicus*
- Streaked Prochilod *Prochilodus lineatus*
- Tambaqui *Colossoma macropomum*

Birds*

- Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (provisional)**
- Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus*
- Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus*
- Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

- Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
- Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
- Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurioides*
- Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*
- Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
- Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*
- Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*
- Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*
- Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*
- Chinese Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*
- Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*
- Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
- Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*
- Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus****

Mammals

- African Wild Ass *Equus africanus*
- Urial *Ovis orientalis vignei* / *Ovis aries vignei*
- Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor*
- Puma *Puma concolor*
- Jaguar *Panthera onca*
- Tomes's Sword-nosed Bat *Lonchorhina aurita*

* Plus one reference to *Calidris canutus rufa* that was included alongside a “no” answer, and which seems probably to have been entered into the wrong section of the format.

** *G. nilotica nilotica* is listed in Appendix II for its West Eurasian and African populations, but the identification here is by a Party in the South & Central America & Caribbean region, so its inclusion in this list is valid. Its identification is described (in this analysis) as “provisional”, since the Party points out that it is based on NGO information which is yet to be confirmed by the government.

*** (Subject to clarifying taxonomic status vis-à-vis the *Muscicapidae* family which is already included in Appendix II).

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total	Adjusted total
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89	89
No of Parties answering the question	19	9	32	4	8	72	72
No. of Parties answering yes	5 (26%) ¹	2 (22%)	6 (19%)	1 (25%)	4 (50%)	18 (25%)	17 ² (19%)
No. of Parties taking steps to propose listing	4	2	4	0	1	11	9 ³

Table 8. Parties identifying themselves as Range States for species meriting addition to Appendix II.

Notes:

1. These percentages show the number of Parties answering “yes” as a proportion of those answering the question, in the region concerned.
2. This includes the subtraction of one African Party which answered “yes” but whose answer related to proposals in a previous triennium which were duly adopted, meaning that the species concerned is now on Appendix II, so their true answer has been deemed to be “no”.
3. This includes the subtraction of two African Parties which answered “yes” but whose answers appear to relate to previous proposals for species that are now already listed on Appendix II, so they are deemed to have answered “no”. A third African response has not been subtracted because it indicated that discussions have been underway during the reporting period; but all of the species cited are already on Appendix II, so although the Party’s response is counted as “yes” in terms of steps being taken, those steps may turn out to be redundant.

- 4.9 The next question in the format asks whether the Parties who have indicated that they are a Range State for migratory species not currently on Appendix II but which could benefit from an Agreement are taking any **steps to propose listing** for any of these species. Eleven Parties answered “yes” to this question, but after adjusting for interpretation of contradictory answers (see notes under Table 8) the true total is deemed to be nine. Five Parties indicated that listing proposals would be submitted for consideration at COP12, and in four of these cases (relating to the Angel Shark *Squatina squatina*, Common Guitarfish *Rhinobatos rhinobatos*, Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* and Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*) this has indeed occurred. In the fifth case (Caspian Brown Trout *Salmo trutta caspius*) it was indicated that a proposal would be submitted in June 2017, but this is after the formal deadline of 25 May. Other “yes” respondents did not provide details.
- 4.10 Responses to the supplementary question about **assistance required to initiate listing** cited financial and technical assistance, often in a non-specific way, and in several cases where no actual listing proposal intention had been mentioned. A few more specific comments referred to support for research, training, proposal development and convening a meeting; as well as referring to attention from the CMS Scientific Council to the taxonomic issues which the Parties concerned had raised.
- 4.11 As with Appendix I, there is a notable difference between the national report answers concerning intentions to propose Appendix II listings on the one hand, and the actual formal listing proposals submitted to COP12 on the other. In the latter, 16 species and one genus have been the subject of proposals duly submitted by the relevant deadline, yet only five of these were mentioned in the national reports (see details above).
- 4.12 Listing of species on Convention Appendices is an administrative step, which does not of itself constitute a conservation outcome. Nonetheless, it is a central component of the international cooperation and governance mechanisms provided by the CMS as a means towards necessary actions. In this sense, the progress reported in this part of the Parties’ national reports reflects contributions being made towards the achievement of aspects of Target 3 in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, which concerns *inter alia* the significant improvement of “international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems”; and Target 15 which concerns *inter alia* the effective application of scientific information. Ultimately it is supposed that actions stimulated by Appendix listings will contribute to an improvement in the conservation status of the species concerned, which is the aim expressed in Target 8 (which in turn constitutes a contribution to the analogous Target 12 in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity).

5. Development of new Agreements

- 5.1 In this section of their reports, Parties were asked to indicate, for each of six taxonomic groups in turn, whether they had been involved in initiating or participating in the development of any new CMS Agreements (including Memoranda of Understanding) during the relevant reporting period. They were also asked about any future plans in this regard, and about any particular needs for assistance. The results are summarized below for each of the taxonomic groups.
- 5.2 This is a somewhat problematic area of report information. It was apparent from details (where they were entered) that the majority of Parties providing “yes” answers were not in fact answering the questions put. This may be because the questions were being misread, or it may be that Parties were simply taking the opportunity to provide other kinds of information they wished to provide about Agreements (i.e. those already in existence, rather than new ones in prospect or in development). Some answers were also entered in the wrong taxonomic section.
- 5.3 There is a possible ambiguity in the formulation of the question that asks about participation in the development of new Agreements, since it could be that some respondents (who for example answered “yes” but then referred to hosting a Meeting of Signatories of an existing MOU) are interpreting “development” as including the development of implementation actions, and interpreting “new Agreements” as including “recently concluded” ones. Issues such as these may be worth examining in any future revision of the format.
- 5.4 A relatively high proportion of the Parties that submitted reports gave no answer to questions in this section (16% on average across the various questions). The true non-response rate may actually be considerably higher than this, since it is likely to be masked by the pre-filling of the format by the Secretariat with Parties’ answers from the previous reporting period, as described earlier (see the Introduction above). This is suggested by the fact that a significant proportion of answers related to events in earlier years, well before “the current reporting period” that is referred to in the questions - if these answers are there only because of pre-filling, then they cannot be read as necessarily representing updated or reconfirmed information.
- 5.5 The main apparently more substantive indications (further details given below) included the following possibilities referred to in the section on Agreements in development (albeit including action plans etc. as well as Agreements *per se*):
- a Single Species Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*;
 - the Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds;
 - (possibly) arrangements concerning the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*;
- and the following in relation to possible future plans:
- an MOU for the Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*;
 - an MOU for marine turtles in the Pacific Island Region;
 - (subject to listing on Appendix II) an MOU for the Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor*;
 - transboundary cooperation arrangements for five species of Asian terrestrial mammals;
 - (unspecified) arrangements for six taxa of African terrestrial mammals.
- 5.6 As with Appendix listings (described in section 4 above), progress reported in this part of the Parties’ national reports reflects contributions being made towards the achievement of aspects of Target 3 in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, which concerns *inter alia* the significant improvement of “international governance

arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems". In particular also the conclusion of Agreements (including MOUs) under the CMS supports SPMS Target 9, which concerns countries sharing responsibility, through international cooperation, for the conservation of those migratory species for which they are Range States. Ultimately it is supposed that actions facilitated by Agreements will contribute to an improvement in the conservation status of the species concerned, which is the aim expressed in Target 8 (which in turn constitutes a contribution to the analogous Target 12 in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity).

Birds

- 5.7 In response to the question about whether they had **initiated the development of any new Agreements** on birds in the current reporting period, five Parties answered yes. In the case of four of these however their true answer should be deemed to be no, since the further details given revealed that they were referring variously to a non-CMS agreement well before the reporting period, CMS Agreements already in existence, a review of the CMS Appendices, and improving national implementation of the Convention; none of which are relevant to the question. Thirteen Parties gave no answer.
- 5.8 The one substantive "yes" answer, although this too did not strictly relate to a CMS Agreement/MOU, was that from Australia, which referred to the development of a Single Species Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* in association with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership; and the intention to present this Action Plan to COP12 for endorsement.
- 5.9 In response to the question about whether they had **participated in the development of any new Agreements** on birds in the current reporting period, eight Parties answered yes. In the case of six of these, however, the further details they gave indicate that their true answer should be deemed to be no. Three referred to CMS MOUs that were already in existence, and another simply gave the name of a raptor species which is already covered by the Raptors MOU (the country concerned is a Range State and it signed the MOU during the reporting period). One referred to involvement in the Saker Falcon Action Plan, but this too is under the MOU that was already in existence. One referred to signing a sub-regional transboundary collaboration treaty which was already in existence rather than being developed, and is not a CMS instrument. Twelve Parties gave no answer.
- 5.10 More substantively, Slovakia indicated involvement in consultations relating to the preparation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, and Mauritania referred to a "partnership protocol" concerning flamingos, although it is not clear whether this is something that is destined to be a CMS instrument, and no other details were given about it.
- 5.11 Ten Parties responded to the question about **assistance required** for on-going development of new Agreements. They referred to capacity-building, understanding the benefits of Agreements, support for monitoring and coordination, or more generally just to technical and financial support – but most of these were from Parties that are not developing new Agreements, so their responses did not relate to the question. Mauritania (see above) indicated a need for better understanding of CMS processes, and Uruguay (although not participating in the development of an Agreement) referred to a need for policy and management measures to support the implementation of the existing MOU on Southern South American Grassland Birds, including (it was implied) by development of an international action plan.
- 5.12 In response to the question about whether the development of any CMS Agreements on birds was being **planned** for the foreseeable future, eleven Parties answered yes.

In the case of eight of these however their true answer should be deemed to be no, since the further details given revealed that they were referring either to CMS Agreements already in existence, or in one case to a non-CMS agreement. One gave no further details except to refer to cooperation with neighbouring countries (as the same Party did in relation all the other taxonomic groups below, and as they did in the same way in the previous triennium). Thirteen Parties gave no answer. Macedonia cited the creation of an MOU for endangered Pelican species *Pelecanidae* in the Mediterranean region; but these species are already covered by the AEWA Agreement, so it is not clear whether the reference is to a case being made for some more specific subsidiary instrument under AEWA. More substantively, Bolivia cited a case for developing an MOU for the Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*.

Marine mammals

- 5.13 In response to the question about whether they had **initiated the development of any new Agreements** on marine mammals in the current reporting period, only one Party answered yes, but gave no details other than the name of an existing MOU, so its true answer is deemed to have been no. Fifteen Parties gave no answer. (The set of questions on marine mammals is probably of less inherent interest to landlocked countries).
- 5.14 In response to the question about whether they had **participated in the development of any new Agreements** on marine mammals in the current reporting period, only one Party answered yes, but its true answer is deemed to have been no, since it simply referred to a meeting under an existing MOU which took place well before the reporting period. Seventeen Parties gave no answer.
- 5.15 Concerning **assistance required** for on-going development of new Agreements, three references were made to general technical/financial or unspecified support for implementation of existing MOUs (in one case the Sharks MOU, so belonging in a different taxonomic section of the report); and two references were made to understanding the CMS and the benefits etc. of Agreements. None of these answers, however, related to the subject of the question (i.e. none concerned cases of initiation or participation in the development of new Agreements).
- 5.16 In response to the question about whether the development of any CMS Agreements on marine mammals was being **planned** for the foreseeable future, two Parties answered yes; but one gave no further details except to refer to cooperation with neighbouring countries, and the other simply noted that details were not available. Twenty-one Parties gave no answer to this question.

Marine turtles

- 5.17 In response to the question about whether they had **initiated the development of any new Agreements** on marine turtles in the current reporting period, four Parties answered yes, all from the African region. In most if not all of these cases, however, their true answer should be deemed to be no, since two of them referred only to an existing MOU which they had signed in a previous reporting period, and two gave no details but their "yes" was seemingly contradicted by other answers to questions in the same section. Nineteen Parties gave no answer. (The set of questions on marine turtles are probably of less inherent interest to landlocked countries).
- 5.18 In response to the question about whether they had **participated in the development of any new Agreements** on marine turtles in the current reporting period, three Parties answered yes. In one case, however, the details given were seemingly commenting only on turtle conservation implementation in general rather than anything to do with

developing a CMS Agreement, and in the other two cases no details were given, so it is not clear what was being referred to. Twenty-one Parties gave no answer.

- 5.19 Concerning **assistance required** for on-going development of new Agreements, a few general references were made to financial and technical support and capacity-building, but these comments were all made by Parties who were not involved in developing Agreements, except for one which gave no answer to any of the other questions. South Africa made a specific request for Secretariat support to create a formal link between CMS and the sub-regional Benguela Current Commission, but again this is seemingly not connected with the development of a CMS Agreement, and it repeats the same answer they gave in the previous triennium.
- 5.20 In response to the question about whether the development of any CMS Agreements was being **planned** for the foreseeable future, three Parties answered yes, but none of them gave any further details, except in one case referring simply to cooperation with neighbouring countries. Twenty-one Parties gave no answer. Samoa, although it answered “no”, commented that it wished to propose the development of an MOU for marine turtles in the Pacific Island Region, repeating the same comment it made on this in the previous two triennia.

Terrestrial mammals (other than bats)

- 5.21 In response to the question about whether they had **initiated the development of any new Agreements** on terrestrial mammals (other than bats) in the current reporting period, four Parties answered yes. Their true answers, however, should be deemed to be no. One referred to a previous Appendix listing (at COP11) rather than an Agreement; one referred to existing MOUs concluded in earlier reporting periods (including on birds and aquatic mammals); and one referred to implementing the existing Central Asian Mammals Initiative. Germany mentioned having initiated activities for an action plan for the African Wild Ass *Equus africanus*, but also stated that Appendix II activities appear not to be appropriate for the species, so this seemingly does not relate to the development of an Agreement either. Fourteen Parties gave no answer.
- 5.22 In response to the question about whether they had **participated in the development of any new Agreements** on terrestrial mammals (other than bats) in the current reporting period, four Parties answered yes. Again, however, their true answers should be deemed to be no. One referred to existing MOUs concluded in earlier reporting periods (including on marine mammals); one referred to a previous Appendix listing (at COP11) rather than an Agreement; and the third referred to implementing the existing Central Asian Mammals Initiative. Fifteen Parties gave no answer. Concerning **assistance required** for on-going development of new Agreements, a few general references were made to financial and technical support, but these comments were all made by Parties who were not involved in developing Agreements.
- 5.23 In response to the question about whether the development of any CMS Agreements was being **planned** for the foreseeable future, five Parties answered yes. One of these gave no further details, while another simply mentioned cooperation with neighbouring countries without saying on what. Seventeen Parties gave no answer. More substantively, Iran indicated that if the proposed listing of Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus saxicolor* on Appendix II is successful at COP12, it would participate in the development of an MOU for this species. India indicated that transboundary Agreements with neighbouring countries are required for the following five species (those marked with an asterisk are included in the existing CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative):
- Indian Elephant *Elephas maximus indicus* (n.b. not listed in CMS Appendices)

- Kiang *Equus kiang**
- Tibetan Antelope *Pantholops hodgsonii**
- Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia**
- Tiger *Panthera tigris* (n.b. not listed in CMS Appendices).

5.24 Algeria, without further elaboration, listed the following six taxa (those marked with an asterisk are included in the existing CMS Action Plan for Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna – in the case of the gazelles, three species are covered by the Action Plan):

- Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*
- Barbary Sheep *Ammotragus lervia*
- Striped Hyena *Hyaena hyaena*
- Scimitar-horned Oryx *Oryx dammah**
- Addax *Addax nasomaculatus**
- Gazelles *Gazella spp.**

Bats

5.25 In response to the question about whether they had **initiated the development of any new Agreements** on bats in the current reporting period, two Parties answered yes; but their true answer should be deemed to be no, because they referred simply to signing or implementing the existing CMS EUROBATS Agreement. Thirteen Parties gave no answer. In response to the question about whether they had **participated in the development of any new Agreements** on bats in the current reporting period, no Parties answered yes, and 14 gave no answer. Concerning **assistance required** for on-going development of new Agreements, there were two general references to technical, financial and capacity assistance, but both were made by Parties that were not involved in developing Agreements, so their responses did not relate to the question.

5.26 In response to the question about whether the development of any CMS Agreements was being **planned** for the foreseeable future, four Parties answered yes, but at least two of these should be deemed to have answered no, since they referred only to signing or implementing the existing EUROBATS Agreement. (“Yes” answers to this question should not be expected in respect of the European territory of any European Contracting Parties, since all European bat species are already covered by EUROBATS). The third respondent gave no details, while the fourth gave no details except to refer to cooperation with neighbouring countries. Fourteen Parties gave no answer. South Africa, which in the previous reporting cycle had indicated the possibility of developing an Agreement for migratory African bat species, on this occasion made no mention of this.

Fish

5.27 In response to the question about whether they had **initiated the development of any new Agreements** on fish in the current reporting period, just one Party answered yes; but its true answer should be deemed to be no, because it referred only to signing the existing CMS Sharks MOU in an earlier reporting cycle. Eighteen Parties gave no answer.

5.28 In response to the question about whether they had **participated in the development of any new Agreements** on fish in the current reporting period, nine Parties answered yes. Of these at least five should be deemed to have answered “no”, since they referred to development or signing of the existing Sharks MOU in an earlier reporting period, or (in one case) to participation in other existing frameworks outside the CMS (including on marine mammals). One gave no details, and another simply gave the single word “workshops” without further explanation. Nineteen Parties gave no

answer. Germany made reference to moves to add new species to Appendix II, including the Angel Shark *Squatina squatina* (see section 4 above), with a view to eventual incorporation in the Sharks MOU. The Netherlands cited the participation of independent Dutch experts in a Range States workshop on the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* in October 2016.

- 5.29 Concerning **assistance required** for on-going development of new Agreements, one general reference was made to capacity, but by a Party that was not involved in developing any Agreement. Another Party included an outdated reference to the need for a Meeting of Signatories to the Sharks MOU, which was presumably carried forward accidentally from an earlier report cycle (the first MOS took place in 2012). In the context of their reference to eels (see above) the Netherlands mentioned a need to consider ways of giving special protection to the Sargasso Sea and other spawning grounds.
- 5.30 In response to the question about whether the development of any CMS Agreements was being **planned** for the foreseeable future, three Parties answered yes: one gave no details, another gave no details except to refer to cooperation with neighbouring countries, and the third did not address the question but referred to Appendix listings in an earlier reporting cycle. Twenty-two Parties gave no response.

6. Protected areas

- 6.1 The questions in this section of the format ask Parties about attention given to migratory species in the protected areas of their country (requesting particulars separately for terrestrial, aquatic and marine areas), the lead body responsible for this and the positive outcomes achieved.
- 6.2 The first question asks **whether migratory species are taken into account** in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas in the country. Eighty-six out of the 89 COP12 reports included an answer to this question, and of these, 81 (94%) answered “yes”. This is similar to the figure of 95 per cent recorded for the COP11 reports. The meaning of “taken into account” is not specified, and it appears to have been interpreted in different ways in different places. Some reports mention merely that migratory species occur in protected areas, while some go further and refer to systems that mention migratory species as a possible ingredient in site selection criteria (this applies to European Union Member States for example in the selection of Special Protection Areas under the Wild Birds Directive). In a few cases (around 12 reports, depending on how the issue is interpreted, representing 14 per cent of those responding to the question) Parties were more explicit about migration-related factors playing a part (making reference for example to targeting corridors or bottleneck sites), or they cited areas being protected specifically for a particular CMS priority species. More focused interpretations of this kind were also apparent among a few of the reports which answered “no” to this question, since they nevertheless mentioned that protected areas in the country were important for migratory species.
- 6.3 A second part of the question asks Parties to “identify the **most important national sites** for migratory species and their protection status”. The responses to this were highly variable, with some answering it and some not; some highlighting specifically relevant sites (useful indeed to have on file for reference) and others reproducing a more general national inventory. Isolating migratory species interests from the generality of a national protected areas (or important areas) system is often a challenging prospect.
- 6.4 The format then goes on to ask about protected area **coverage of terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats** in turn, requesting numbers, extent and other details for each of these three categories. Most but not all reports included at least a “yes”/“no” answer to whether relevant protected areas covered each of the three types (see Table 9 below). Of those answering the question (and excluding land-locked countries from the calculation for marine), the answer was “yes” in 98 per cent of cases for terrestrial habitats, 96 per cent for aquatic habitats and 91 per cent for marine habitats.

	Terrestrial	Aquatic	Marine
No. of Parties answering the question	85	79	83
No of Parties answering and for whom the question is relevant ¹	85	79	63
No. of Parties answering “yes”	83	76 ²	57
“Yes” answers as a % of those answering and for whom the question is relevant	98%	96%	91%

Table 9. Existence of protected areas (assumed to be those of relevance to migratory species) covering terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats.

Notes:

1. i.e. excluding land-locked countries for the marine column.
2. This figure includes one Party which did not answer the question but for which the answer was obvious based on its answers to other questions.

- 6.5 Clearly most countries' protected area systems address all three habitat categories, and the slight differences between them may reflect no more than the normal relative preponderance of the three categories in the landscape. The two Parties answering "no" in respect of terrestrial habitats are both small island countries, so their responses are plausible in that light. The five Parties answering "no" in respect of aquatic habitats again include two small island States, and others with extensive arid interiors. The figures for "yes" to aquatic habitats include one response which said "minimal", and also one where the response given was "no" but where answers to other questions in the protected areas section referred to wetland protected areas, therefore suggesting it should have been "yes". Of the six countries that are not land-locked but which answered "no" in relation to marine habitats, two of them referred elsewhere in the same section of the report to relevant interests (seals and marine/coastal areas), suggesting that their answer should perhaps have been yes; but they have not been added to the relevant total in the figures presented here.
- 6.6 The apparent precision of these figures is a little spurious, because it is not always possible to split protected areas along these three-category lines: many areas will in particular have a mix of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Interpretations of "marine" varied, with for example some reports answering "yes" to marine where the country's protected areas extend seaward only as far as intertidal estuarine areas, and others answering "no" even though some near-shore marine waters are included in their coastal protected areas. One or two answering "yes" to marine cited in this connection only protected areas consisting of offshore islands, and it is not clear in these cases whether marine habitat as such is really included or not.
- 6.7 Some countries provided area coverage figures and some did not, and among those who did, some quoted figures for protected areas in total rather than those that are relevant to migratory species. Again, it appeared that many Parties found it difficult to quantify terrestrial, aquatic and marine areas separately, so where figures were provided they often combined these together. While the information is useful in the individual cases where it has been provided, overall it is not complete or systematic enough for any numerical synthesis to be meaningful.
- 6.8 Concerning the question about the **lead agency**, department or organization responsible for protected areas matters, 80 Parties out of the 89 reporting gave some response to this. Some listed all relevant actors (including NGOs) rather than identifying the lead one, but usually when a central government department is named this can be assumed to be the lead authority, or otherwise it is likely to be the first body named. Typically, the responsibility lies with a Ministry of Environment, which often has a title that refers specifically also to fields such as water, forests or agriculture, and sometimes to other issues such as tourism, energy, climate change, etc. In a number of cases relevant responsibilities are devolved to regional administrations or to the governing bodies of overseas territories; and some reports identified a specific authority with responsibility for managing national parks, nature reserves or equivalent areas.
- 6.9 Perhaps the most useful part of this section of the format is the final question which asks Parties (under a heading of "results") to "describe the **positive outcomes** of any actions taken". The question does not specify that the results concerned should relate to the triennium being reported on, and reports vary considerably in the approach taken to this, with some seemingly referring back over the entire history of the country's protected area system, others citing information from previous triennia, some implying that the information provided relates to the period since the last COP, but most giving no indication one way or the other as to the time period covered. Some of course will also be cases where information from a previous cycle was automatically pre-filled, which further complicates any temporal analysis.

6.10 Of the 89 reports submitted, 67 included an answer to this question. Some of these were minimal, saying only e.g. “positive results achieved” without specifying what those results were. One EU Member State answered “none”, which seems somewhat unlikely, and at the other extreme one African Party reported that “all actions taken have had positive results”, without giving further details. One or two responses referred to negative results (e.g. habitat deterioration, insufficient coverage) as well as positive ones. Of the reports which referred more substantively to positive results, a rough categorization of the most prominent types of outcome is given in Table 10 below.

Type of outcome reported	Frequency
Increased coverage of protected areas	12
Species population improvement (not quantified)	11
Management planning & related initiatives	8
Awareness and capacity	6
Improved habitat quality/habitat management	5
Cross-sectoral and/or transboundary coordination	5
Reduced threats & pressures	3
Ecotourism	3
Sustainable development projects	2

Table 10. Principal positive outcomes reported in relation to protected areas.

Note: The “frequency” figures cannot be totalled as a number of Parties, because sometimes multiple outcomes are mentioned in the same report.

6.11 Implementation of measures for protected areas may contribute towards the achievement of Target 10 in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), which in turn supports Target 11 in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. These two targets contain multiple components, such that adequate indicators of progress would need to address some 14 different elements of area-based conservation outcomes in order to give a conclusion about success. The partial, mixed and mostly qualitative information on outcomes in the protected areas section of the CMS national reports does not allow any systematic measurement of this, and moreover the question only asks about positive outcomes, so the relative balance between positive and negative results cannot be seen.

6.12 Nonetheless, the reports have very valuably flagged particular issues which, in each individual country context (for those countries providing responses), can be tracked from one reporting period to another, and should help with planning/prioritizing future action. At global level, although it cannot be quantified and it only touches on a limited sample of the aspects addressed by the global targets, the information does at least demonstrate that there is evidence of significant moves being made in the desired direction. In a similar way, it can be deduced that CMS implementation is making a contribution to the achievement of Goals 14 and 15 in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Satellite telemetry

- 7.1 In this section of the format, Parties were asked to report on recent/existing or planned “conservation/research projects that use satellite telemetry”, and to comment where applicable on the positive outcomes of these and on any impediments to intended future work. Of the 89 Parties that submitted reports for COP12, 82 (92%) answered at least part of this section.
- 7.2 The first question in this section asks “In the current reporting period, has your country **undertaken conservation/research projects that use satellite telemetry**”? Overall, 62 Parties answered “yes”, representing 76 per cent of those who answered the question, or 70 per cent of the Parties who submitted national reports. This is a higher number of Parties answering “yes” than in the COP11 reporting round (when the figure was 43, itself an increase on the COP10 figure), but is a lower proportion of the (then smaller) number of Parties who submitted reports. The regional breakdown of these figures is shown in Table 11 below.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & the Caribbean	TOTAL
Answered	22	10	36	5	9	82
Answered yes	13 (59% ¹)	9 (90%)	29 ² (81%)	3 (60%)	8 ³ (89%)	62 (76%)

Table 11. Parties undertaking satellite telemetry projects during the reporting period.

Notes:

1. These percentages show the number of Parties answering “yes” as a proportion of those answering the question, in the region concerned.
2. Includes three answering “no” but then giving details of projects, so true answer deemed to be yes.
3. Includes one leaving the question unanswered but then giving details of a project, so true answer deemed to be yes.

- 7.3 Parties answering “yes” were also invited to say whether the projects concerned were **completed, or still ongoing, or were “in preparation”**. This last option may cause some confusion, as it seems rather unrelated to the question about projects that have been “undertaken”, and is more relevant to the separate question about future projects (see below). Two Parties ticked this option, but other parts of their answers showed that they had projects that were in fact ongoing, in one case from as long ago as 2008.
- 7.4 Of the 62 Parties that gave (or were deemed to have given – see table 10 above) a “yes” answer to the first question, 59 answered this supplementary part, and the majority of these (45) indicated that their projects were “ongoing”, with 12 saying “completed”. There may be some confusion concerning this aspect of the question too. For example, one Party answering “completed” nevertheless showed from other parts of their answers that a project was in fact still ongoing. Another Party ticked the box for “completed” but had also in the first question said that no projects took place during the reporting period. In this case they may have been interpreting “completed” as applicable to a project which took place prior to the reporting period – the question is ambiguous in this respect and it is not possible to know from the reports which interpretation any given Party may have followed. A different explanation must apply to the two Parties that indicated that no projects had been undertaken during the reporting period but then in apparent contradiction ticked the box for “ongoing”. A possible explanation might be that the first question asks whether the *country* has undertaken projects, and the responses might be drawing a distinction between this and projects undertaken by another entity, such as an NGO – this is speculation and

- there is no evidence in the reports either way; but it identifies another potential ambiguity in the wording of the question.
- 7.5 These interpretations are further complicated by the automatic pre-filling of the report format in many cases with data from previous cycles, so some of the apparent mismatches in timeframes are likely to be a result of this earlier information persisting unchanged alongside partially-completed new information which then contradicts it.
- 7.6 Parties who have undertaken projects are invited to provide **details**. Although many of them have specified satellite telemetry in their responses, others have not, and there is some suggestion that the animal tracking or telemetry projects being reported may not always have a satellite-related component. For example, two reports described projects using only data-loggers, ship-based radio receivers and GSM cellular networks. In these cases, there happened also to be reference to other projects that did use satellite-based technology; so the “yes” answer they have given to the first question therefore remains valid, but the taxonomic groups mentioned (see below) are partly relevant and partly not. In a third case, the projects were described as use of GIS for landscape mapping (not animal tracking) and aerial surveys of animals. The phrase “projects that use satellite telemetry” in the format question does not explicitly specify animal-based projects as opposed to habitat/landscape-based projects, but this perhaps points to another ambiguity, if some Parties have assumed the narrower scope (i.e. they have only reported projects addressing migratory species, as it seems nearly all have done) and others have assumed a broader scope (i.e. considering it relevant to report any kind of “conservation/research projects that use satellite telemetry”, in the words of the question).
- 7.7 The diversity of **taxa addressed** by the satellite telemetry projects undertaken during the reporting period cannot be exactly quantified, because some reports did not give this information and others referred in general terms to e.g. “marine turtles” or “albatrosses”. Nonetheless a wide range of taxa is reflected in the more specific details provided by many Parties, as shown in Table 12 below. (Not all of these are necessarily migratory in the contexts cited: the list simply reflects the information provided by Parties in answer to the question in the report format).

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & the Caribbean
Fish	(None specified)	Whale Shark <i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> Giant Manta Ray <i>Manta birostris</i> Basking Shark <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Whale Shark <i>Rhincodon typus</i> Hammerhead Shark sp <i>Sphyrna sp</i>	Whale Shark <i>Rhincodon typus</i> Blacktip Shark <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i> Scalloped Hammerhead <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> Giant Manta Ray <i>Manta birostris</i> Southern Ocean Sunfish <i>Mola ramsayi</i>
Reptiles	(None specified)	Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> Olive Ridley Turtle <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> Leatherback Turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> Loggerhead Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>	Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> Flatback Turtle <i>Natator depressus</i> Loggerhead Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>	Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
Birds	Macaroni Penguin <i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i> Emperor Penguin <i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i> African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i> Northern Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus eremita</i> Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i> Marabou Stork <i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> Black-necked Crane <i>Grus nigricollis</i> Bar-headed Goose <i>Anser indicus</i> Houbara Bustard <i>Chlamydotis undulata</i> Great Indian Bustard <i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i> Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i> Amur Falcon <i>Falco amurensis</i>	Arctic Loon <i>Gavia arctica</i> Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i> White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i> Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> Eurasian Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Trindade Petrel <i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i> Far Eastern Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> Latham's Snipe	Andean Flamingo <i>Phoenicoparrus andinus</i>

	<p>Arabian Bustard <i>Ardeotis arabs</i> Cape Gannet <i>Morus capensis</i> Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross <i>Thalassarche carteri</i> Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross <i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i> Black-browed Albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> Shy Albatross <i>Thalassarche cauta</i> Sooty Albatross <i>Phoebastria fusca</i> Light-mantled Albatross <i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i> Northern Giant Petrel <i>Macronectes halli</i> Southern Giant Petrel <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> Sooty Falcon <i>Falco concolor</i></p>		<p>Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> Mediterranean Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i> Bermuda Petrel <i>Pterodroma cahow</i> Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris borealis</i> Scopoli's Shearwater <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> Northern Gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i> Bean Goose <i>Anser fabilis</i> Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i> Greenland White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> Bearded Vulture <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i> Eurasian Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i></p>	<p><i>Gallinago hardwickii</i></p>	
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			<p>Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga pomarina</i> Eastern Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i> Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i> Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i> Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i> Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i> Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i> Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i> Red-footed Falcon <i>Falco vespertinus</i> Saker Falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i></p>	
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			<p>Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i></p> <p>Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i></p> <p>Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i></p> <p>Amur Falcon <i>Falco amurensis</i></p> <p>Eurasian Eagle-owl <i>Bubo bubo</i></p> <p>Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i></p> <p>Western Capercaillie <i>Tetrao urogallus</i></p> <p>Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i></p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i></p> <p>Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris pygmaea</i></p> <p>Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i></p> <p>Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i></p> <p>Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i></p> <p>Eurasian Thick-knee <i>Burhinus oediconemus</i></p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></p> <p>Audouin's Gull <i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i></p> <p>Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i></p> <p>Mediterranean Gull <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i></p> <p>Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i></p> <p>European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i></p>		
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			Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i> Common cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i> Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i> Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i> Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		
Mammals	Humpback Whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes</i> spp Giant Sable Antelope <i>Hippotragus niger variani</i> Dama Gazelle <i>Nanger dama</i>	Snow Leopard <i>Uncia uncia</i> Tiger <i>Panthera tigris</i> Asian Elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> Persian Wild Ass <i>Equus hemionus onager</i>	Humpback Whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> Cuvier's Beaked Whale <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> Fin Whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> Harbour Porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> Red Deer <i>Cervus elaphus</i> Grey Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> Eurasian Lynx <i>Lynx lynx</i> Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo</i> Eurasian Brown Bear <i>Ursus arctos arctos</i> Polar Bear <i>Ursus maritimus</i>	(None specified)	West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i> Vicuna <i>Vicugna vicugna</i> Jaguar <i>Panthera onca</i>

Table 12. Taxa addressed in satellite telemetry projects.

Note: The regions here refer to the regions in which the Parties submitting the relevant reports are located – they do not necessarily represent the regions in which the species/ projects concerned are located, since some projects relate to Overseas Territories of the Parties concerned, or they may be multinational projects led by a Party from a different region.

- 7.8 As the table shows, projects reported by Parties in the European region (including the projects they reported that took place in other regions, for example in their Overseas Territories) covered the greatest variety of taxa, and birds were the most preponderant target species in all regions except for Central & South America & the Caribbean. Although more implicit than explicit and not systematically identified, it is clear that a number of projects are multi-national in nature, in some cases involving resourcing or technical support being provided from one place to another, and in other cases involving transboundary collaboration defined by species distributions; or both of these.
- 7.9 Fifty Parties provided some response to the question that asked “please describe the **positive outcomes** of any actions taken”. Where a Party indicated that a project was “ongoing” and gave no response to the question about outcomes, it might reasonably be assumed that this is because it is too early for the project concerned to be showing any results; although it is not necessarily certain that this is the reason, and in such cases, it would be preferable for the Party to indicate explicitly “N/A” (as many did for example in the situation where no projects had been undertaken).
- 7.10 One Party indicated “N/A” for “results” where they had nevertheless also indicated that a project had been *completed*, which seems illogical (unless perhaps “N/A” in this case simply meant “not available”). Another described some results, yet had indicated that no projects had been undertaken (and none were planned), so this also seems illogical. The interpretation in this case is probably that what was being described was a *desire* or *aspiration* for results that could be possible *if* a project was to be undertaken – if so, this could in theory also be the case for some of the other responses in this section, but it would not necessarily be clear that the results in such cases were “intended/hoped for” rather than actual.
- 7.11 Of the reports which referred substantively to positive results, a rough categorization of the most prominent types of reported outcome is given in Table 13 below. Some of the assigning of outcomes to these categories is based on deductive judgement in cases where fairly minimal information was provided; in other cases, the reports were more explicit. By far the most frequent type of result reported was in the category of improving knowledge about migration behaviours, routes and distributions. This mirrors the findings of the COP11 reports analysis. Support for monitoring and management, and contributing to other ecological knowledge, were also relatively frequently cited, while other types of result included awareness raising, methodological development and international cooperation.

Type of outcome reported	Frequency
Knowledge about migration behaviours/routes/distributions	37
Support for/improvement of monitoring & management	20
Other ecological knowledge	14
Coordinated research/monitoring	6
Public awareness/engagement	5
Application to address threats	4
Rescue/rehabilitation of individual animals	2
Development of tracking technology	1

Table 13. Principal positive outcomes reported in relation to satellite telemetry projects.

Note: The “frequency” figures cannot be totalled as a number of Parties or projects, because sometimes multiple outcomes are mentioned for the same project/in the same report.

- 7.12 The next part of this section of the report format then asks whether any conservation/research projects using satellite telemetry are **planned for the future**. Of the 75 Parties who answered this question, 46 answered “yes”. This figure includes two cases where a “no” answer was given but then details of planned projects were given in the box for “further details”. By contrast to the first question, here there is no reference specifically to projects carried out by the *country*, so the potential for explaining the contradiction by e.g. discounting of NGO projects (as mentioned earlier above) should not exist. In the case of the two contradictory “no” answers therefore the true answer was *deemed* to be “yes”, and was added to the total.
- 7.13 Some respondents indicated in answer to this question simply that existing projects would continue. In principle, if all Parties interpreted the question in the same way then this kind of answer should always match up with an “ongoing” response in the first part of the section. In practice, this is not the case, and hence another ambiguity in the question is apparent, whereby some respondents appear to interpret “planned projects” only as new projects that have not yet started, and others interpret it to include the planned continuation of existing projects. (In fact, further mixing of past and future between answers to these two questions occurs in other ways too, with some Parties simply using one of the questions as the place in which to answer both of them; so the data on this need to be read with some caution).
- 7.14 Most of those reports indicating that future projects were planned gave a few brief details, usually mentioning the intended target species concerned. Many of these species are addressed also by previous/ongoing projects, and hence those are listed already in Table 11 above; but a number of additional species were also mentioned, including the following:

Fish

- Yellowfin Tuna *Thunnus albacares*

Birds

- Shoe-billed Stork *Balaeniceps rex*
- Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*
- Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae*
- Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea*
- Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*
- Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
- Rufous-chested Plover *Charadrius modestus*
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
- Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
- Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*
- Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
- Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
- Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
- Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Mammals

- Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus*
- Southern Right Whale *Eubalaena australis*
- Humpback Dolphin *Sousa* sp
- Galapagos Sea Lion *Zalophus wollebaeki*
- Savi's Pipistrelle *Hypsugo savii*

- 7.15 A number of Parties commented on the constraints affecting the development or implementation of planned satellite telemetry projects for the future. The principal

factors mentioned are listed in Table 14 below, with lack of financial resources being the most common. This is consistent with the picture reported on the same question to COP11.

Type of constraint reported	Frequency
Cost of equipment; lack of funding	15
Shortage of skilled human resources/technical capacity	5
Need to develop appropriate techniques	4
Lack of equipment	3
Need to work out priorities	2

Table 14. Principal constraints reported to be affecting plans for future satellite telemetry projects.

Note: The “frequency” figures cannot be totalled as a number of Parties or projects, because sometimes multiple constraints are mentioned in the same answer.

- 7.16 Implementation of conservation/research projects using satellite telemetry makes an important contribution to the achievement of Target 15 in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS), which in turn supports Target 19 in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. These targets concern the improvement of science, technology and knowledge-sharing in support of conservation goals; and the CMS national reports show evidence (albeit qualitative) of positive progress in this direction, with the specifically relevant contribution that satellite telemetry makes to understanding and management of migratory species in particular.

8. Mobilization of resources

- 8.1 This section of the report format contains six questions about resource mobilization. None of these questions specifies the timespan to which the answers should relate, so while some Parties may have limited themselves to answering in respect of the immediate past triennium, the information provided by others may relate to a more general picture over a longer period, and/or may repeat the answers given in reports to COP11.
- 8.2 In the first question, Parties were asked whether they had **made financial resources available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species within their country**. Five of the Parties who submitted reports did not answer this question, but of those who did, 73 answered “yes”, representing 83% of the Parties submitting reports (an increase on the 78 per cent recorded in the COP11 of reports). All of those in the South & Central America & Caribbean region gave a positive answer, with Europe being the region with the next highest proportion and Oceania with the lowest (see Table 15).

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89
No. of Parties answering yes	22 (79%)	8 (80%)	31 ¹ (86%)	3 (50%)	9 (100%)	73 (82%)

Table 15. Parties providing funding for activities with in-country benefits for migratory species

Note:

1. Includes one Party which did not respond but whose answer was *deemed* to be yes, since they then went on to provide details.

- 8.3 Some responses made reference to funding from NGOs as well as from government sources, and some mentioned activities undertaken on a multi-country basis. A few gave figures for the size of funding involved in individual projects (either specifically directed at migratory species or with wider conservation aims), but not enough to admit any analysis of this aspect. The types of activity involved were not always specified, but where they were, they included the following:
- species survey and population census;
 - species monitoring;
 - species reintroduction;
 - disease monitoring and control;
 - other threat mitigation measures;
 - individual animal rescue/rehabilitation (e.g. strandings, collisions);
 - habitat survey;
 - protected area establishment (including purchase), management and monitoring;
 - habitat creation/restoration;
 - development of conservation plans;
 - law enforcement;
 - public awareness, education and training;
 - ecotourism;
 - convening meetings and workshops;
 - establishment of institutions or networks.

- 8.4 The format asks respondents to indicate the taxa that have benefited from the activities concerned. Some did so and some did not, and those doing so often gave a generic indication such as “turtles” without being more specific. A wide variety of examples was cited, however, including fish, turtles, waterbirds, landbirds, aquatic mammals, terrestrial mammals and bats. It appears that in most if not all cases the phrase “have benefited” is interpreted as “having been the target of activities”, rather than any attempt having been made to reflect an assessment of the actual conservation outcomes that resulted.
- 8.5 Six Parties (one more than in the previous triennium) reported that they had made **voluntary contributions to the CMS Trust Fund** to support requests from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (Burkina Faso, Finland, Germany, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates). In Burkina Faso’s case, it seems possible that their answer was intended to refer to the Party’s assessed contributions to the Convention rather than support for developing country requests. One other Party (Norway), although answering “no”, indicated that it regularly supports sponsored delegates for CMS Family meetings and for CMS COPs, meaning perhaps that it arranges this bilaterally with the countries concerned rather than through the Trust Fund. Specific purposes for the Trust Fund contributions were mentioned in a few cases, including delegate support, meeting costs, office hosting, and initiatives such as those for African waterbirds, Central Asian mammals and infrastructure guidelines (again some of these answers may go wider than the specific scope of the question).
- 8.6 Nineteen Parties (21% of those submitting reports) indicated that they had made **financial contributions to support conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in other countries** (see Table 16 below); representing an increase over the 12 who did so in the previous triennium. In three of these cases, however, the details reported related only to in-country activities and/or to externally funded activities, and in a fourth case the answer related to hosting the COP; so the true figure should more correctly be read as 15 (17%).

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total	Adjusted total ¹
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89	89
No. of Parties answering yes	3 (11%)	4 (40%)	10 (28%)	1 (17%)	1 (11%)	19 (21%)	15 (17%)

Table 16. Parties providing funding for activities in other countries

Note:

1. The adjustment reduces the reported total to subtract responses that described only activities that do not relate to the question.

- 8.7 Among the Parties answering “yes” and that genuinely had funded activities in other countries, the approach taken to provision of supporting details varied considerably. Some referred to funding multilateral bodies such as GEF or CMS Agreements rather than specific conservation activities. Only a few responded to the request to indicate the species that have benefited, some of these only in a general sense (e.g. “bird conservation projects”) and probably all in terms only of the species targeted rather than benefits actually evidenced. Taxa mentioned included turtles, waterbirds, landbirds, aquatic mammals, terrestrial mammals and bats. Where more concrete activities were specified these included the following:

- species survey/biodiversity assessment;
- monitoring;
- animal translocation;
- captive breeding & release;
- habitat restoration;
- development of action plans;
- research, including on threats;
- capacity-building.

8.8 The fourth question asks Parties whether they have provided **technical and/or scientific assistance to developing countries** to facilitate initiatives for the benefit of migratory species. Several developing countries themselves (as well as developed ones) gave positive answers to this. Both categories together totalled 24 Parties, or 27% of those who had submitted reports (see Table 17). This represents an increase over the 16 Parties doing so in the previous triennium.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89
No. of Parties answering yes	9 (32%)	4 (40%)	8 (22%)	0 (0%)	3 (33%)	24 (27%)
Parties providing technical/scientific assistance	Algeria Angola Benin Burkina Faso Egypt Kenya Morocco Senegal South Africa	India Jordan Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates	France Germany Israel Netherlands Norway Spain Switzerland United Kingdom		Costa Rica Cuba Ecuador	

Table 17. Parties providing technical and/or scientific assistance to developing countries

8.9 Examples of the types of assistance provided included the following:

- convening meetings/workshops;
- support for/coordination of international species initiatives under CMS and its Agreements;
- exchange of experience through joint participation in international projects;
- capacity-building/training and institutional development;
- support of moves towards MOU signing;
- development of action plans;
- development of Appendix listing proposals;
- field research & survey;
- satellite telemetry;
- captive breeding and release;
- forensic science (DNA) to support anti-poaching enforcement;
- data access and sharing.

8.10 Nine Parties (10% of those reporting) reported having received **financial assistance from the CMS Trust Fund** via the CMS Secretariat for national conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in their country (see Table 18). This is one

fewer than in the previous triennium. One of the nine, despite having answered yes, at the same time indicated “not applicable” in the box for more details, yet also gave the title of a proposed project – so it is unclear whether this is in fact a yes or a no answer. The few very brief details provided by other respondents identified uses for the assistance including the following:

- marine turtles (unspecified);
- bird migration (unspecified);
- waterbird census;
- whales and dolphins (unspecified);
- awareness raising for sharks, dugongs, and turtles;
- survey of dugong bycatch.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89
No. of Parties answering yes	3 (11%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	3 (50%)	2 (22%)	9 (10%)
Parties receiving assistance	Angola Cabo Verde South Africa	India		Palau Philippines Samoa	Argentina Costa Rica	

Table 18. Parties receiving financial assistance from the CMS Trust Fund.

8.11 In answer to the final question in this section, a total of 45 Parties appeared to have received **financial assistance from sources other than the CMS Secretariat** for conservation activities having direct benefit for migratory species in their country (see Table 19 below). This includes three who answered “no” but then gave details of support received, so for this analysis their answers have been deemed to be “yes”. This adjusted total represents 51 per cent of the Parties submitting reports, and is a considerable increase on the total of 28 who answered yes to the same question in their reports for the previous triennium. Given general global funding trends, this may be an encouraging signal about the availability and/or willingness of external sources to support migratory species conservation efforts, particularly given the (at best) static picture shown above concerning the ability of the CMS itself to be such a source.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total	Adjusted total ¹
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89	89
No. of Parties answering yes	16 (57%)	5 (50%)	14 (39%)	3 (50%)	7 (78%)	43 (48%)	45 (51%)
Parties receiving external financial assistance	Benin Cabo Verde Congo Cote d'Ivoire Egypt Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Mali Morocco (Rwanda) Togo U.R of Tanzania (Uganda) Zimbabwe	Afghanistan Iran Jordan Kyrgyzstan (Syria)	Albania Belarus Belgium Estonia Finland Georgia Hungary Latvia Macedonia Malta Netherlands Poland Slovakia Ukraine	Palau Philippines Samoa	Argentina Brazil Chile Costa Rica Cuba Panama Uruguay		

Table 19. Parties receiving financial assistance for migratory species conservation activities from sources other than CMS.

Note:

1. The adjusted figure includes 3 Parties (shown in brackets in the list) who answered “no” but then gave details of support received, so their answers are deemed to have been yes

8.12 As with other questions in this section, although a variety of taxa were mentioned (including sharks, turtles, waterbirds, landbirds, aquatic mammals, terrestrial mammals and bats), they appear to be reported as the *intended beneficiaries* of the funded activities, rather than the answers strictly responding to the question in terms of whether actual benefits have resulted. The sources of funding were not always cited, but those which were included the following:

- global intergovernmental funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank;
- European Union funds including l'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement (LIFE), European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg), the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);
- the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism;
- the Council of Europe;
- CMS Agreements AEWA, Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS);
- the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- the Ramsar Convention;
- environmental and development assistance agencies of the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the USA;
- the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
- KfW;
- the Dutch Postcode Lottery;
- "local and international NGOs";
- Wetlands International;
- BirdLife International;
- World Wide Fund for Nature Netherlands (WWF Netherlands);
- "funds from the private sector raised by nature conservation NGOs";
- the Kolkheti National Park Development Fund;
- the Lush Foundation;
- the Marisla Foundation via the Global Green Grants Fund;
- BP.

8.13 Target 16 in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species seeks a "substantial increase" in the mobilization of resources from all sources to implement the other objectives in the Plan, which will in turn contribute to the achievement of Target 20 in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. (Target 20 is expressed in similar terms to SPMS target 16, but for biodiversity as a whole). The CMS national reports to COP12 indicate an apparent increase in the number of countries where relevant mobilization has occurred: this may suggest some movement in the desired direction, but reflecting on whether or not the target is actually being achieved would require a method for quantifying the overall change in flows of funds involved, and currently neither the national reports nor any other existing process in CMS can offer this.

9. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

- 9.1 This section of the national reports can give particularly valuable insights into the implementation of the Convention in relation to priority issues elaborated by the COP. It offers a basis for information-sharing and dialogue about past progress and future planning at the level of each individual Contracting Party, as well as contributing to the global overview. The present synthesis is therefore only one part of the potential use of this information; and given the total volume of what is reported under this heading, the synthesis can only represent a highly summarized sample of it. Users are therefore encouraged to examine the reports themselves for further depth; while more extensive global analysis of some of the individual Resolutions/ Recommendations could also be useful separately in future.
- 9.2 The 2014-17 report format asked about measures undertaken within the country relating to *recent* Resolutions and Recommendations, and a specific list of recent ones was provided under 42 headings (some of the headings related to individual decisions, while others clustered several related ones together), organized in the following groups:
- Strategic and institutional matters
 - Avian species and issues
 - Aquatic species and issues
 - Terrestrial species and issues
 - Cross-cutting issues
 - Other remarks.
- 9.3 The list is necessarily different from that presented in the preceding triennium's report format, since it incorporates Resolutions adopted at COP11. The sequence and grouping is also different, although the number of headings is similar (the previous format had 41 headings). The question asked specifically refers to measures undertaken *since the last report* – although some Parties did not do this, and reported instead measures from previous cycles, there was no pre-filling of this section by the Secretariat with earlier data (by contrast to some other sections – see Introduction above), so no analytical confusion has arisen from that cause at least in this part of the reports.
- 9.4 There is one small ambiguity in the format, where after the “Strategic and institutional matters” cluster there is a sub-heading “Other Resolutions/ Recommendations”, which can be read either as a sub-heading that introduces the clusters which follow, or as an information field in its own right. A few countries interpreted it in this second way, and inserted information on Resolutions/ Recommendations not discussed elsewhere (or inserted “not applicable” or “no comment”), while others used the final field “Other remarks” for such information. For the purposes of the present analysis all such information has been pooled in the “Other remarks” field. It would be desirable to remove this ambiguity from future versions of the format.
- 9.5 Nearly one-third of Parties did not provide a response to any part of this section of the format (see Table 20). Of those who did, the extent of completeness varied widely, from those who answered every relevant one of the 42 topics (some are not relevant to some countries, e.g. Resolutions on a single species for which a given country may not be a Range State), to those who answered only one or two of them. The extensiveness of a country's responses could be expected to vary slightly with the length of time for which it has been a CMS Party; although given that the question here relates specifically to activity during the past triennium, this should in principle only be significant for the few countries who joined the Convention part-way through the period (see the Introduction above for details of these). A few countries gave puzzling “not

applicable” answers in relation to Resolutions that clearly are applicable to them; and this may suggest that there are different understandings about the extent to which some strategically–expressed COP decisions have a national implementation dimension to them.

9.6 A few of the listed topics cover similar ground to that covered in other sections in the report format (for example the Resolutions relating to financial matters, ecological networks and development of new CMS Agreements). If a Party has not said much about these issues in one of the places in the format where it has been asked to do so, it may have said more in the other; so a lack of comment against one of these Resolutions in the present section may not necessarily amount to a lack of comment on the issue itself.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	S & C America & Caribbean	Total
No. of Parties reporting	28	10	36	6	9	89
No of Parties responding to this section	16 (57%)	8 (80%)	29 ¹ (81%)	3 (50%)	5 (56%)	61 (69%)

Table 20. Parties responding to the report format section on COP Resolutions and Recommendations

Note:

1. This excludes one Party which simply re-submitted the previous triennium’s data (in some cases answering questions which no longer apply, and not updating any of those which do apply), and so for the purposes of the analysis of this section it has had to be counted as a non-response.

9.7 The results below are summarized under the same headings and in the same sequence as in the 2014-17 report format (NB this structure differs from the one in the equivalent synthesis report presented to COP11).

Capacity-building Strategy (Res. 9.12 / Res. 10.6)

9.8 Twenty-five Parties reported on this topic, although two simply to indicate “not applicable” and another to indicate no activity. The more substantive responses included the following:

- Pakistan referred to use of CMS-provided material in capacity-building.
- Kenya described training for students and school-leavers, as well as a flyway Training of Trainers Workshop linked to World Migratory Bird Day.
- The Netherlands referred to citizen science training in the context of a well-established and extensive National Ecological Monitoring Network.
- Ecuador referred to training among communities and institutions.
- Madagascar referred to sea turtles featuring in community training and postgraduate degree projects.
- The UK referred to a small grants fund for projects in developing countries.
- Morocco referred to training on management and monitoring of migratory species and their habitats; the Philippines similarly in relation to waterbird monitoring and its Marine Mammal Network; and the UAE in relation to sharks, rays and Dugongs.
- France referred to its capacity-building contribution to the AEWA African Initiative, including the development of tools to support training on waterbird identification and censusing.
- India and Ukraine referred to training workshops (the latter featuring relevant legislation); and Saudi Arabia to courses on MEAs, including CMS.

- Slovakia mentioned boosting capacity-building efforts through major externally-funded projects.

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Res. 11.2)

9.9 Thirty-nine Parties reported on this topic, though two simply to note no activity. Others referred to the existence of relevant strategies for biodiversity within the country covering migratory species, or an interest/involvement in the CMS strategic planning process. The more specific/substantive responses included the following:

- Slovakia referred to an intention during 2017 to develop national sub-targets for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS). It further indicated that the elements of the SPMS have been included in other adopted national strategic documents, especially an Action Plan for implementation of the updated Biodiversity Strategy, an Action Plan for implementation of the National Wetland Policy, a National Environmental Strategy (in development), a national nature conservation policy (being updated) and a national climate change adaptation strategy (also being updated).
- Latvia made specific reference to integration of the goals and targets of the SPMS within relevant policy and planning instruments, while Luxembourg, Madagascar, India, Georgia, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan and Finland suggested the same in relation to their national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and France and Poland noted that relevant provisions had already been integrated into relevant policies and strategies.
- The UK referred to its support for SPMS indicator development, and mentioned that CMS issues were explicitly incorporated in the Biodiversity Strategy for the Isle of Man.
- Ethiopia indicated that implementation of the SPMS is well underway, although without elaborating further on this.
- Saudi Arabia cited SPMS targets 6 and 10 as having been considered in the revised Protected Area System Plan for the country.
- Monaco stated that its voluntary financial contributions to CMS, ACCOBAMS and the Sharks MOU were designed *inter alia* to contribute to the achievement of goals 2 and 3 of the SPMS.

Financial and administrative matters and Terms of Reference for the administration of the Trust Fund (Res. 11.1)

9.10 Sixteen Parties reported on this topic, though most only to indicate that their obligations had been/would be fulfilled. Three Parties (Norway, Monaco and the UAE) referred to additional voluntary contributions made by their country, and three others confirmed that they had not made such additional voluntary contributions.

Relationship between the CMS Family and civil society (Res. 11.11)

9.11 Seventeen Parties reported on this topic, although one only to record no specific activity. The more substantive responses included the following:

- Latvia noted the involvement of civil society/NGOs in CMS processes.
- India referred to stakeholder involvement in a more general sense.
- Norway recognized the important role played by civil society in promoting national compliance and activities.
- The Netherlands observed that the relationship between the CMS Family and civil society is relatively strong, citing active participation in management, monitoring and awareness-raising, while Morocco cited capacity-building, monitoring and conservation projects, and both Georgia and Saudi Arabia cited scientific research.

- France referred to the establishment in 2017 of a new National Biodiversity Committee, as a forum for dialogue between government, NGOs and civil society organizations.
- South Africa referred to NGO representation in a National Scientific Council which advises on the implementation of the CMS and CMS family instruments, and noted that NGOs had contributed to the compilation of its national report.
- Hungary referred to NGO representation in relevant bodies including a Raptor Conservation Council and the national Great Bustard Committee which implements the CMS Great Bustard MOU. Hungary also mentioned collaboration with MME/BirdLife Hungary (in the framework of a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture) on combating illegal killing, trapping and trading of birds, mutual exchange of data on bird mortality at power lines and bird ringing; as well as the participation of NGOs in several EU-funded projects concerning the conservation of species that are protected under the CMS.
- The Philippines referred to “citizen science” initiatives concerning cetacean strandings, bycatch and sightings (with NGOs managing the reporting system), and to NGO leadership of the national Red Listing process for marine mammals.

World Migratory Bird Day (Res. 11.9)

9.12 Forty-two Parties reported on this topic, although one only to cross-refer to another report section and another to report no activity. Thirteen simply confirmed that World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated each year, without giving details. Several Parties referred to media and communications activities, including press releases and website pages. Apart from a few references to e.g. “wide readership” of these materials, no information was provided on the effectiveness or impact of WMBD celebrations, and only one Party gave any quantitative information (Egypt, referring to 80 participants in a celebration event). Several Parties cited the involvement of NGOs and other groups. Other types of activity reported included the following:

- A week’s “Festival of Nature” in the context of the UN Decade on Biodiversity, with activities dedicated to experiencing nature, including activities dedicated to migratory species (Switzerland);
- Activities in conjunction with a tourism operator (Kenya);
- Integration into a National Bird Week, with activities including excursions (the Netherlands);
- Field visits to important migration sites (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- A workshop, multimedia presentations and a quiz for young people (Serbia);
- A focus on threats, including obstacles to migration, and necessary conservation measures (Morocco);
- Activities with a theme of ending poaching and illegal trade (Togo);
- Translation of the WMBD poster into the local language, for distribution (Iran);
- A special celebratory music concert event (Italy, citing its participation in an event in Germany);
- Linking with a national Day of Birds and Trees, and including birdwatching events for schools (Hungary);
- Linking with the celebration of European Days of Birds (but at a different time of year) (Poland);
- Linking with a National Bird Festival (but at a different time of year) (Philippines);
- Education activities and a mass participation birdwatching event (South Africa);
- Workshops with NGOs and universities (Angola).

Outreach and communication issues (Res. 11.8)

- 9.13 Twenty-seven Parties reported on this topic, most of them indicating in general terms that communication activities had taken place on migratory species issues, on the CMS and CMS Family instruments *per se*, or on other wider biodiversity issues. In several cases this was by cross-referring to other sections of the report, such as the Resolution on World Migratory Bird Day (see above). Several Parties made reference to the role of NGOs, and a few cited specific projects (on birds, marine mammals and turtles). Congo, Saudi Arabia and Hungary included references to school children/young people.
- 9.14 Resolution 11.8 asked Parties *inter alia* to provide voluntary contributions and other support for the development and implementation of the CMS Communication, Information and Outreach Plan for 2015-2017 and towards ongoing communication activities being carried out by the Secretariat. Five Parties responded to this aspect; three of them by indicating that they had not been able to provide voluntary contributions. Norway indicated general supportiveness for the Secretariat's efforts to re-design its own outreach activities, while Slovakia referred to the nomination of national CEPA Focal Points for relevant CMS Agreements to assist in the implementation of the CMS Communication, Information and Outreach Plan.

Development of CMS Agreements (Res. 11.12)

- 9.15 Twenty-one Parties reported on this topic, of which eight simply indicated no involvement in the development of new Agreements during the reporting period. Eight others referred to signing or implementing existing Agreements (a valid inclusion here alongside information on new Agreements, since Resolution 11.12 *inter alia* urges all relevant Range States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to existing Agreements and to take an active part in their implementation) - although some of these references related to earlier reporting periods. The Resolution also includes a call for voluntary financial (and other) contributions to support the effective operation of Agreements under the Convention: four Parties responded to this by saying they had been unable to provide such support; and the instances where support was mentioned were fewer than in the previous triennium. The positive responses included the following:
- The Netherlands referred to the participation of Dutch independent experts in a workshop for the development of a CMS Agreement on the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*.
 - Switzerland referred to having supported the organization of meetings relating to the Scientific Council Working Group on Flyways, the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, the initiative on African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds and data management in the context of AEWA.
 - France referred to its voluntary financial contribution and technical support for AEWA activities in Africa.

Concerted and Cooperative Actions (Res. 11.13)

9.16 Twenty-four Parties reported on this topic, although a few referred only to international cooperation in a wider sense than intended under this heading. Some of the specific taxonomic groups cited as receiving particular attention in this context (although a number of these – marked with an asterisk below – are not strictly in the list of formally endorsed Concerted/Cooperative Actions under the Convention) included the following:

- Large migratory mammals in Central Asia (Switzerland);
- Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus* (Norway);
- African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* (Kenya);
- Migratory birds in the North Sea and East Atlantic flyway, and Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* in the Caribbean (the Netherlands);
- Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (Australia);
- Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (Finland);
- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus**, Great Bustard *Otis tarda**, Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita**, Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus** and Cuvier's Gazelle *Gazella cuvieri** (Morocco);
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, Sahelo-Saharan ungulates, Olive Ridley Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*, Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* (France);
- Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa* (Saudi Arabia);
- Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*, Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca**, Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Corncrake *Crex crex* and Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus* (Hungary);
- European Eel *Anguilla anguilla** (Monaco);
- Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*, Corncrake *Crex crex* and Common Bent-wing Bat *Miniopterus schreibersii* (Slovakia);
- White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* and Asiatic Wild Ass *Equus hemionus* (Israel).

Synergies and partnerships / cooperation with other Conventions (Res. 11.10)

9.17 Thirty-four Parties reported on this topic, several stating in general terms that synergy between MEAs is seen as an important issue in their country, and/or simply naming relevant Conventions to which the country is a Party. The more substantive responses included the following:

- Switzerland referred to support for synergy initiatives primarily in a context of the CBD, including workshops at the UN Office in Geneva, analysis of modular reporting against the Aichi targets, and funding for the "Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional level" published by UNEP in 2015.
- Pakistan, Hungary, the UAE and Saudi Arabia referred to synergy on cross-cutting issues being fostered at national level by responsibility for several of the biodiversity related Conventions resting with the same authority or Ministerial department.
- Kenya referred to the existence (since 2005) of a national office for coordination of MEAs, Saudi Arabia referred to coordination taking place through its National Committee for Biodiversity, and Slovakia mentioned similar arrangements.

- Latvia, Serbia, France, Ukraine, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Georgia, Hungary and Finland referred to collaboration between the respective National Focal Points for relevant MEAs.
- Morocco pointed out that its National Focal Point for CMS was also the National Focal Point for six other MEAs, and France did likewise in respect of two other MEAs.
- The Netherlands referred to mutually supportive objectives among different MEAs, including European Union Directives on nature conservation.
- Madagascar referred to specific cooperation between the national offices responsible for CMS and Climate Change to develop a national strategy on the adaptation of migratory species to climate change.
- Hungary referred to synergy being fostered through integration of different sectoral perspectives in strategies and programmes for sustainable development, forestry, agriculture, water, climate change, nature conservation and rural development, while noting that further progress was needed in this regard in relation to sectors such as energy, transport and economic development.
- Egypt mentioned having submitted several case studies on synergy to UNEP.
- South Africa referred to coordinated conservation activities under both CMS and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for the African Lion *Panthera leo*.

Future strategies of the CMS Family / “Future Shape” (Res. 10.9)

9.18 Fifteen Parties reported on this topic, most of them expressing support for the general direction of travel and encouraging further implementation of the Resolution. Increased synergies within the CMS Family and between CMS and other MEAs were highlighted by Norway, Ethiopia, Morocco and France, while the Netherlands and Slovakia mentioned communication and awareness, and Ukraine reported on translation and dissemination of AEWA Guidelines in Ukrainian.

Electrocution of migratory birds (Res. 7.04 / Res. 10.11)

9.19 Thirty-two Parties reported on this topic. Substantive points included the following:

- The Netherlands, Finland, Madagascar, Kyrgyzstan and Congo commented that electrocution is not a problem in those countries, although the Netherlands mentioned that collisions may be an issue in some places. Estonia and the UK also regarded the problem to be minimal, and like the Netherlands and Finland, attributed this at least partly to the effect of mitigation measures such as insulation and undergrounding. Burkina Faso considered incidents to be rare.
- Hungary mentioned that mitigation measures aimed at benefiting the Great Bustard *Otis tarda* are one component of a current EU-funded conservation project in the country; Slovakia made a similar reference to a project addressing raptors, and Cyprus did likewise in respect of waterbirds.
- Pakistan noted that CMS guidelines on avoiding electrocution are recommended for all new power transmission line projects in the country.
- Norway reported that AEWA’s guidelines are followed by both national energy sector authorities and regional government agencies in relation to threatened species in particular, and that mapping of potentially problematic sites and planning of mitigation measures for older lines is an ongoing process.
- Kenya, Latvia, the Netherlands, Morocco, India, Georgia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Norway referred to the use of EIA provisions, and Latvia mentioned good cooperation on this with the energy sector.
- Saudi Arabia reported that it had published a study on power lines and migratory birds, but indicated a need for further research on mitigation; Portugal referred to

agreement by electricity utilities to undertake risk evaluation studies, and Slovakia mentioned systematic monitoring of mortality.

- France referred to a national committee which meets four times a year to agree actions for reducing the impacts of electric power lines on birds, and which produces a newsletter.
- India reported that best practice guidelines for linear infrastructure developments had been developed.
- Moldova described the introduction of new national legislation governing relevant mitigation measures and prohibiting the siting of new power grids in state protected natural areas or key migration corridors of wild birds, and Spain also described new legislation on mitigation, while Slovakia and Germany both referred to existing legislation on mitigation.

Southern hemisphere albatross conservation (Res. 6.3)

9.20 Although its title refers to the southern hemisphere, since this Resolution was adopted, the scope of the CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) has extended to include some northern hemisphere species too; so it is reasonable to expect that Parties might wish to report here any of their recent activities for albatross conservation in either hemisphere.

9.21 Eleven Parties reported on this topic, although in the case of three of them this was simply to confirm that the Resolution is not relevant to them as they are not Range States for the species concerned. Two others simply cross-referred to ACAP. India mentioned that it monitors albatrosses through its Antarctica Programme, Brazil highlighted the existence of a National Action Plan for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and the Netherlands referred to a BirdLife International project on the Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis*. The only other substantive response was from France, which referred to its scientific monitoring of relevant species and the supply of data to ACAP, a pre-existing national action plan on *D. amsterdamensis*, implementation of a bycatch mitigation plan in the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Flora and Fauna (CCAMLR), and support for bycatch mitigation measures in the context of those Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in which France participates.

Migratory landbirds in the African Eurasian region (Res. 11.17)

9.22 Twenty-two Parties reported on this topic. A number of these referred to other agendas for action in the framework of (for example) the CBD, Natura 2000, agri-environment schemes and national research programmes (including tracking studies of relevant species) which are considered to be helpful contributions to the implementation of the CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP). Kenya, Finland and Luxembourg gave positive expressions of support for the implementation of AEMLAP, and (significantly in the context of CMS as a mainly species-based Convention) these gave special emphasis to habitat-based conservation measures. Other substantive responses included the following:

- Germany referred to a project under the auspices of its Federal Nature Protection Agency (BfN) for the support of the implementation of AEMLAP, which is due to take place from 2017 until the end of 2018 and which will include *inter alia* monitoring and habitat improvement measures in African countries such as Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Ivory Coast which host migrant birds that breed in Germany.
- Ukraine indicated that production of a national action plan based on Resolution 11.17 is planned, and Slovakia also indicated that the development of an action plan which includes migratory land birds is due to be completed by the end of 2017.

- Morocco referred to actions being undertaken to prohibit, control or monitor the poisoning, poaching, trade and illegal killing of migratory bird species covered by the AEMLAP.
- The Netherlands referred to the BirdLife International initiative known as "Champions of the Flyway" which aims to combat illegal killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean region.
- Ethiopia referred to consideration being given to AEMLAP in the context of the country's NBSAP.

Global flyway conservation (Res. 10.10 / Res. 11.14)

9.23 Twenty-four Parties reported on this topic. Several of these referred to implementation of AEWA and other CMS Agreements, and to existing supportive conservation activities such as protected area networks, bird population monitoring and single species studies. Other specifically flyway-focused activities reported included the following:

- Switzerland and the UK referred to support for the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Flyways.
- Uruguay referred to the development of an action plan for migratory birds in the Americas.
- Afghanistan referred to activity on public awareness for flyway conservation, and Germany mentioned its support for the publication of a trilingual identification booklet on waterbirds of the West African flyway.
- Norway and the UK referred to participation in the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative under the Arctic Council's CAFF programme.
- Kenya referred to its support for work towards the consideration of the Great Rift Valley as a possible multi-site World Heritage nomination based on importance for migratory birds.
- The Netherlands mentioned the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative in which the Wadden Sea countries cooperate with countries along the East-Atlantic migration route as far as South Africa, and Germany also referred to its involvement in the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.
- Estonia mentioned that the country's protected area network and green network take account of the most important stopover sites and passage corridors for birds.
- The Philippines referred to activities in the context of the East Asia-Australasian Flyway.

Saker Falcon (Res. 11.18)

9.24 Twenty-six Parties reported on this topic, although six of these only to note that they were either not a Range State for the species or only ever recorded very rare vagrant occurrences of it. Pakistan, Kenya and Saudi Arabia referred to involvement in the development of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan, and Iran referred to the development of a national Action Plan. Other responses included the following:

- Kenya, France, India, Morocco, Hungary, Georgia and Poland mentioned legal protection, with Germany in addition specifically referring to prohibiting the breeding of hybrids. Iran and Kyrgyzstan both mentioned increasing penalties for relevant offences.
- Serbia referred to a government-funded project on education for protection of falcons in the country.
- Hungary referred to two EU-funded projects concerned with the species, including a breeding site monitoring programme and research on habitat use and predator-prey relationships with a view to better targeting of conservation measures.

- Afghanistan referred to confiscation and rehabilitation of Saker Falcons, illegally trapped for falconry.
- Slovakia described links with provisions relating to power lines, and also mentioned action to increase food sources for Saker Falcons.

Illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (Res. 11.16)

9.25 Thirty-five Parties reported on this topic, although one of these only to indicate that there was nothing to report. The information provided included the following

- Pakistan, Finland, Belgium, Germany and Kenya mentioned enforcement activity, and the Netherlands in addition referred to “large scale criminal investigations”.
- The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Finland referred to awareness-raising activities, in the Netherlands’ case including a Wildlife Crime Campaign conducted by a consortium of organizations, and in Germany’s case including the work of an NGO known as the “Committee Against Bird Slaughter”.
- Hungary described an EU LIFE project undertaken by BirdLife Hungary in partnership with several national park directorates and the Ministry responsible for nature conservation, which had successfully reduced illegal bird killing in the project’s target areas, and the approach of which was now being extended under another LIFE project to the rest of the country as well as to parts of the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia and Serbia.
- The Republic of Moldova described the adoption during the reporting period of new legislation which controls taking and killing of wild birds, in line with the provisions of the EU Wild Birds Directive.
- Saudi Arabia mentioned holding a workshop on illegal hunting of migratory species.
- Portugal and Slovakia both referred to the implementation of a national Action Plan in the context of the Tunis Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, and Cyprus mentioned an Action Plan to control illegal trapping of migratory birds.
- Italy also referred to the development of a National Action Plan for the prevention of illegal taking, trapping and killing of wild birds, and mentioned the holding of a multi-stakeholder workshop as part of this.
- The UK referred to the role of its police-led multi-agency National Wildlife Crime Unit, and the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime which comprises representatives of statutory and non-government organizations working together to combat wildlife crime. Slovakia also referred to a national Multidisciplinary Integrated Group of Experts on the elimination of environmental crime.
- Serbia referred to the development of a Protocol on procedures concerning the illegal killing, poisoning, taking and trade of wild birds.
- Pakistan referred to the development of a National Plan of Action on the control of illegal wildlife trade, and also mentioned a series of capacity-building workshops arranged in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan for training wildlife law enforcement agencies in the control of illegal wildlife trafficking.
- Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary and France referred to the Bern Convention’s 2011 Recommendation on the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds and/or that Convention’s Group of Experts on killing, capture and illegal trade of wild birds.
- Uruguay mentioned the existence of national legislation on controlling capture and trade.

Migratory species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Res. 8.27 / Res. 9.8 / Res. 10.22)

- 9.26 Twenty-nine Parties reported on this topic. Four of these mentioned incidences of avian influenza occurring during the reporting period, as follows:
- The Netherlands: outbreaks of strain H5N8 in poultry farms, November 2014 and November 2016.
 - France: outbreak of strain H5N8 in 2016.
 - Iran: in November 2016, seventeen areas found to be affected by strain H5N8 and one area by strain H5N1, together involving a total of 16 species of wild birds.
 - Slovakia: outbreak of strain H5N8 in April 2017, affecting 58 wild birds.
- 9.27 Fourteen of the responses made some reference to activities for monitoring. Switzerland and the Netherlands emphasized that in their case this covered both wild and domesticated birds. The UK mentioned that in its case it was associated with risk assessment processes. India mentioned that in its case it was associated with provision of training. France indicated that in its case it included the engagement of a network of hunters' federations.
- 9.28 Norway and the Netherlands each made reference to establishing an early warning system. The UK, France and Saudi Arabia all made reference to contingency planning. The issuing of guidance (e.g. on health and safety) for hunters, bird ringers and others who may come into contact with potentially infected birds was mentioned by the UK and by France; while India mentioned guidance being issued to its State administrations. Norway referred to provision of information to the public, while Slovakia referred to setting up a special web page and a telephone hotline for reporting the finding of dead birds.
- 9.29 Concerning regulation, the Netherlands referred to common biosecurity provisions on transport of live animals in place throughout the EU, and Finland reported that national legislation was in place in its country to prevent contact between poultry and migratory wild birds during the spring migration period. Concerning coordination mechanisms, Madagascar referred to setting up an avian influenza control committee, the Philippines mentioned its national zoonosis committee and Croatia its monitoring committee. By contrast to the national reports in the previous cycle, no reports on this occasion made any reference to the existence of nominated national focal points on avian influenza.

Poisoning migratory birds (Res. 11.15)

- 9.30 Thirty-four Parties reported on this topic, a number of these giving information on wildlife crime or bird killing in general rather than poisoning specifically. Norway, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Congo commented that bird poisoning was not a significant problem in their countries. Other information included the following:
- Uruguay, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Morocco and Latvia all referred to legislative controls, South Africa and Switzerland specifically mentioned enforcement action, and Rwanda, Slovakia and Luxembourg referred to monitoring.
 - Kenya referred to awareness activities to combat the illegal use of poisons on lions which then through their carcasses in turn poison vultures, and similar awareness activities to combat (with some success) poaching of birds directly with poisons.
 - India also mentioned awareness programmes implemented in and around the habitats of migratory birds, targeting especially farmers and fish farmers to reduce the poisoning of birds. Cabo Verde also referred to awareness raising, and

Switzerland reported a campaign run by BirdLife Switzerland to raise awareness about the poisoning of raptors.

- The Netherlands reported having hosted an international conference on wildlife crime, the UK reported hosting a conference on lead poisoning, and South Africa reported hosting a sub-regional workshop (in conjunction with CMS) on prevention of poisoning of migratory birds.
- Zimbabwe reported having developed a national plan for the prevention of illegal poisoning of migratory birds.
- Italy mentioned that initiatives had been adopted in the framework of EU LIFE projects to tackle the use of poison baits, police officers had been trained and special anti-poisoning dog units had been created.
- Portugal referred to a project aimed at preventing and controlling the poisoning of wild fauna, and the creation of a national cross-sectoral group of experts to elaborate a national action plan.
- Spain referred to a working group on ecotoxicology and a national strategy for preventing the illegal use of poisoned baits in the natural environment.
- France reported that its National Federation of Hunters had established a working group which had sponsored studies on benchmarking the practices of other European countries and on evaluating alternatives to lead ammunition. France also mentioned taking action to reduce the use of certain pesticides.
- The UK mentioned that some of its government agencies have moved to the use of non-toxic ammunition for some of their operations.
- Germany referred to an investigations database, and to the voluntary support it had provided to the CMS Secretariat for work on poisoning issues.

Migratory marine species (Res. 9.9 / Res. 10.15)

9.31 Eighteen Parties reported on this topic. Several cited in general the existence of measures such as marine protected areas, legal protection for species and liaison with sectors such as fisheries, and/or simply referred to other sections of the national report. In some cases, the information provided related only to activities occurring in earlier reporting periods. More specific information for the latest reporting period included the following:

- The Netherlands referred to a marine strategy for the North Sea for 2016-2021, which includes measures for the restoration of migration routes for fish, reintroduction of the Atlantic Sturgeon, a protection plan for the Harbour Porpoise and stimulation of technical innovations for sustainable fisheries. It also referred to an integrated management plan for fisheries and marine biodiversity in its Caribbean territories, monitoring of the migration routes of marine mammals, sharks and sea turtles, and the establishment of a new marine mammal and shark sanctuary around the Caribbean islands of Saba and Bonaire.
- Poland referred to the adoption of a national programme for the protection of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise.
- Finland referred to an EU LIFE+ project on acoustic monitoring of Harbour Porpoises, involving all of the EU countries around the Baltic Sea.
- Congo referred to the launch of a major new project on sustainable management of the marine environment.
- France mentioned new measures to certify appropriate whale-watching activities, new legislation on spatial separation measures to prevent collisions between dolphins and ships, and the preparation of a new project on Mediterranean marine megafauna (covering turtles, mammals and birds) as well as implementation of an existing project of regional scientific cooperation for the conservation of marine mammals in north-eastern South America.

- Ecuador and France referred *inter alia* to public awareness activities, and Georgia to monitoring. Norway indicated that its focus had been on protection, monitoring and scientific research on environmental pollutants and other ecological aspects.
- India referred to the preparation of new Action Plans for a variety of marine fish, turtle and mammal species.

Conservation of migratory sharks and rays (Res. 11.20)

9.32 Sixteen Parties reported on this topic. The information provided included the following:

- Pakistan. India, Georgia, Cabo Verde and Norway referred to legal protection being applied to relevant species, Ecuador mentioned controls to minimize the risk of bycatch, and Finland and Morocco mentioned enforcement of CITES regulations.
- The Netherlands referred to drawing up a North Sea action plan for the recovery of vulnerable sharks and rays, a proposal for eight species of sharks and rays to be protected under the SPAW protocol of the Cartagena Convention, a campaign by WWF Netherlands on the conservation of sharks, and a “Save Our Sharks” project run by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance.
- Egypt mentioned monitoring, and Morocco referred to at-sea and on-shore monitoring of compliance with regulations for the conservation and management of fishery resources.
- India referred to research on ecology and genetics of whale sharks, and to successful incentive-based activities for rescuing and rehabilitating individuals of this species.
- Saudi Arabia referred to a planned training programme and survey of marine mammals, sharks and rays in national waters along the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf.
- Cabo Verde referred to its development of a shark management plan.

Live capture of cetaceans from the wild (Res. 11.22)

9.33 Twenty-two Parties reported on this topic. Uruguay, Pakistan, Norway, Georgia, Croatia, Finland, Morocco, France, India, Portugal and Kenya all confirmed that live capture of cetaceans is prohibited by law in their countries. Ukraine indicated that it only allows capture for scientific or conservation purposes. Hungary indicated that it prohibits keeping, display and transit of dolphins, and Slovenia indicated that it prohibits keeping of cetaceans. The Netherlands, Congo, Iran and Ecuador all reported that live capture does not occur in their territories.

Adverse anthropogenic impacts on cetaceans and other biota (Res. 9.19 / Res. 10.24)

9.34 Seventeen Parties reported on this topic, including a few giving cross-references to actions undertaken in the context of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), ACCOBAMS and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), and a few simply indicating that there were no issues to report. The more substantive responses included the following:

- India reported that the Gangetic Dolphin *Platanista gangetica* had been designated the country’s national aquatic animal, in order to create more awareness for its protection.
- The UK commented that there is still limited understanding of the distribution and population-level impacts of underwater noise in the marine environment. The new part three of the UK’s Marine Strategy includes measures to address underwater noise. During the reporting period, a new statutory consenting process for seismic survey work was brought in for the Isle of Man to match that already applying to

mainland UK. The UK also mentioned the launch of a Marine Noise Registry to record human activities that produce loud, low to medium frequency impulsive noise, supporting the definition of a baseline level for impulsive noise in UK waters. An ambient noise monitoring programme was also being developed to improve understanding of the levels and distribution of continuous noise such as that produced by shipping. The UK also reported continuing investigations of effective tools to mitigate cetacean bycatch, and the development of a project to build on existing monitoring programmes.

- Finland referred to its co-leading of an international project measuring underwater noise for the first time in the Baltic Sea; and Poland mentioned its participation in the same project.
- The Netherlands referred to research into underwater noise caused by explosive ordnance disposal and sonar, and effects on porpoises.
- Latvia and Portugal both referred to the application of Environmental Impact Assessment in relevant circumstances, with Latvia also mentioning that this includes consideration of impacts on migration routes of migratory species. Morocco also referred to EIA on noise impacts, especially those associated with oil exploration activities.
- Cabo Verde reported approving a conservation plan for cetaceans.
- Norway mentioned the revision of national guidance to relevant sectors.

Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean (Res. 11.21)

9.35 Three Parties reported on this topic. France confirmed that the Loggerhead Turtle receives statutory protection in New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Morocco confirmed that it is not a consumer of the species. Australia referred to a number of measures which had taken place in its country during the reporting period, including:

- implementation of a Dugong and Turtle Protection Plan including activities to clean up marine debris and an increase in penalties for poaching and illegal trade of turtle meat;
- implementation of a “Nest to Ocean” programme in Queensland aiming to develop collaborative partnerships across governments and communities to enhance turtle egg incubation success through active predator control and other nest protection measures;
- development of a draft Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles, including activities to address a range of threats;
- development of a Specialized Indigenous Ranger Programme, including a turtle management component;
- development of a National Strategy for Mitigating Vessel Strike of Marine Mega-fauna;
- development of an updated threat abatement plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life; and
- improved requirements for turtle excluder devices used in commercial trawl fishing.

Conservation implications of cetacean culture (Res. 11.23)

9.36 Three Parties reported on this topic, although none of them mentioned any activities relating specifically to cetacean culture. Norway indicated that all species except one (not named) are protected, while the Netherlands indicated that although it undertook research on cetaceans, cetacean culture was not a topic included in this at present. France referred to existing legislation protecting dolphins, mentioning that this included protection against intentional disturbance.

Improving the conservation status of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) (Rec. 7.6)

9.37 Twelve Parties reported on this topic. The information reported included the following:

- Saudi Arabia confirmed that the species and its habitats are protected, and Belgium also confirmed that the species is protected in Belgian North Sea waters.
- India referred to monitoring activities.
- The Netherlands referred to protection of the Leatherback Turtle in the Dutch Caribbean territories, and reported that a nesting site had been identified and monitoring had been put in place.
- Congo referred to beach patrols being undertaken by national park guards during the nesting period.
- Ecuador recorded egg-laying at a site in 2014 where daily patrols were instituted, but ultimately no hatchlings survived.
- Australia recorded one nesting track in 2016 but otherwise noted that there had been no confirmed nesting since 2011. Further work on genetic relationships is planned.
- France referred to the preparation of a project on marine megafauna in the Mediterranean which will include turtles; the development and initial implementation of an action plan for marine turtles in the French territories of the Indian Ocean; the evolution of a similar plan in the Caribbean into two local plans, one each for Guadeloupe and Martinique; and a national plan for French Guyana, elements of which include education and socioeconomic valuation.

Antarctic Minke, Bryde's and Pygmy Right Whales (Res. 7.15)

9.38 Two Parties reported on this topic. France confirmed that all of the three whale species are protected in French Overseas Departments as well as in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands. As in the previous triennium, the Netherlands advocated a greater role for the International Whaling Commission in the management of threatened whale species and in the promotion of relevant threat mitigation measures.

Migratory freshwater fish (Res. 10.12)

9.39 Fifteen Parties reported on this topic (more than twice the number reporting on the same Resolution in the previous triennium). Substantive responses included the following:

- Hungary described activities for the conservation of the Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus*, including development of a conservation plan, prohibition of take, genetic studies, captive breeding and release, tagging to track growth and migration, and proposals for further legislation.
- Luxembourg referred to removal of barriers to fish migration.
- Slovenia mentioned restoration of fish habitats and removal of obstacles to fish migration in rivers.
- France described a participatory process for the development of a national strategy for the management of migratory fish, mentioning that large species such as salmon, sturgeons and eels have been declining in the country for several decades.
- Slovakia referred to removal of barriers to fish passage, construction of fish passes, development of a proposal for a project on improving fish migration in the Danube River basin, development of a draft regional Red List of fish species in the Carpathian region, proposals for new Natura 2000 sites for fish species, measures for dealing with invasive alien species, and a monitoring programme.

- Morocco referred to a variety of measures for the conservation of the European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* including regulation of exploitation, restocking of populations and a ban on exports.
- The UK referred to management of the European Eel under EU Regulations and a national eel management plan, as well as trade restrictions under CITES; in connection with which import and export to/from the EU has been suspended until at least the end of 2017. Portugal and France also mentioned national action plans for the eel.
- Finland referred to continued implementation of measures for providing fish passes.
- The Netherlands referred to reintroduction and monitoring of the Atlantic Sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus* and to habitat restoration activities including a planned artificial fish migration river at the IJsselmeer Dam.
- India referred to research to understand the migration and habitat use of two species, the Putitor Mahseer *Tor putitora* and the Hilsa *Hilsa hilsa/Tenualosa ilisha*.
- Latvia and Luxembourg both mentioned monitoring.
- Norway reported that the conservation status of most of its freshwater species is good, and referred specifically to significant efforts being put into management of wild salmon, through protection regimes, protection of habitats and management of diseases and parasites.

Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna (Rec. 9.2)

9.40 Four Parties reported on this topic. Among the substantive responses, Morocco referred to reintroduction to the wild of a number of individuals of Dama Gazelle *Nanger dama*, in the context of a national strategy adopted in 2007 for the conservation of the seven historically indigenous ungulate species in the country; and France referred to the creation and management respectively of the Termit Tin-Toumma reserve for Sahelo-Saharan antelopes in Niger through a succession of French-supported projects. The Netherlands mentioned studies by Wageningen University on African megafauna including African Elephants *Loxodonta* spp.

Tigers and other Asian big cats (Rec. 9.3)

9.41 Five Parties reported on this topic. Kyrgyzstan referred to the adoption of a national strategy for the conservation of the Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia*. India reported having set up a task force which had identified five protected areas in which transboundary Tiger *Panthera tigris* conservation cooperation would be pursued with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh; and referred to cooperation agreements being drawn up with each of these countries (although this same information was provided in the COP11 report). The Netherlands mentioned that conservation projects on big cats were undertaken by Dutch NGOs. The UK and Morocco both mentioned the contribution they make through the implementation of relevant provisions of CITES.

Conservation of the African Lion (Res. 11.32)

9.42 Nine Parties reported on this topic. Substantive responses included the following:

- Kenya mentioned adopting strategies for conservation of the species, and Burkina Faso mentioned that it is partially protected in that country at present. Morocco confirmed that the species is extinct in the wild in that country.
- Senegal and Kenya alluded to potential consideration of further decisions on the African Lion at COP12, which probably refer to the proposal to list the species on Appendix II, mentioned also by Ethiopia. (This proposal was, however, not

mentioned by any Party in the section of the national reports that deal with Appendix listing proposals – see section 4 above).

- The UK referred to the support it provided for the first African Range States meeting on the conservation of the African lion and its habitat, led by CITES and CMS and held in Uganda in 2016. The UK also mentioned the contribution made by its own implementation of CITES controls.
- South Africa also mentioned participation in the Range States meeting referred to above, and its support for the transmission of the outcomes of the meeting to CITES COP17.
- The Netherlands referred to the existence of conservation projects by Dutch NGOs and scientific studies by Leiden University.

Marine Debris (Res. 10.4 / Res. 11.30)

9.43 Seventeen Parties reported on this topic. Information reported included the following:

- Norway reported developing a national policy and action plan on marine debris.
- Latvia mentioned the development of effective solid waste management system and related public awareness activities.
- The Netherlands referred to activity in the context of its North Sea Policy Document 2016-2021, and additional measures related to microplastics; but noted that there has been no decline in the amount of litter in the Dutch part of the North Sea. It mentioned also playing a leading role in the development of measures for the OSPAR Convention Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter and clean-up campaigns implemented by NGOs in the Dutch Caribbean territories, where there is still nevertheless significant concern about sustainable waste management.
- Estonia mentioned monitoring in the context of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Ecuador mentioned annual cleaning of the sea-bed.
- Finland referred to participating in the development and adoption in 2015 of a HELCOM Action Plan on marine litter.
- The UK reported that part 3 of its national marine strategy includes measures to address land-based and sea-based sources of macro- and micro-sized litter, measures to improve education and awareness of the issue and measures to remove litter that has reached the marine environment. It also mentioned monitoring of litter on beaches, in the water column and on the seafloor, beach clean-ups, research including on microplastics, reducing the use of previously free plastic bags by introducing mandatory bag charges, and enforcement of prohibitions on discharge of plastics into the sea.
- France referred to its National Waste Prevention Programme and to research, special measures for detecting and recovering discarded fishing nets, awareness campaigns, new legislation banning free plastic bags, restricting the provision of disposable plastic cups and plates, and planned future bans on certain other plastic products.
- Egypt mentioned having co-chaired a CBD-funded workshop on marine debris, including microplastics; and indicated a plan to begin a monitoring programme on marine debris in the Egyptian Mediterranean Sea.
- Poland referred to having enhanced its monitoring activities, to research on possible radio marking of nets to aid recovery, and to a WWF Poland project on removal of ghost nets from the Baltic Sea.
- Belgium mentioned preparing a federal action plan to combat marine litter, agreements with industry to reduce the use of microplastics, beach clean-ups, and education & public awareness activities.

- Germany indicated its intention to host an international conference on marine pollution in 2017.

Bycatch (Res. 6.2 / Rec. 7.2 / Res. 8.14 / Res. 9.18 / Res. 10.14)

9.44 Twenty-one Parties reported on this topic (five fewer than in the previous triennium). A few merely stated that action had been taken, or referred to actions prior to the reporting period. Others noted issues such as the following:

- Norway referred to threat minimization through banning of fisheries activity in certain areas in vulnerable periods of the year.
- Latvia referred to data collection on bycatch of seals and birds.
- Cabo Verde mentioned research and awareness activities.
- Belgium referred to monitoring of the prohibition on the use of trammel nets in the Belgian North Sea.
- The Netherlands referred to the role of the landing obligation and prohibition of discards in the context of the EU Common Fisheries Policy; promoting innovative methods of fishing such as pulse fishing instead of chain beams; and the continuation of a project on remote electronic monitoring of harbour porpoise bycatch in the Dutch gill-net fishery.
- Estonia referred to research by Tartu University on the use of alternative fishing gear.
- The UK noted that a number of institutions were researching the impacts of bycatch and devising mitigation methods, the latter focusing on an acoustic deterrent known as the Dolphin Dissuasive Device, which is now deployed on all vessels requiring it under EU Regulations.
- Poland reported having continued its monitoring programme for incidental catches of cetaceans, and referred to a WWF project for testing and implementing alternative fishing gear with the aim of reducing bycatch and removing nets lost in the Baltic Sea, and to a national programme for the protection of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise which was adopted in 2015 and includes measures for bycatch mitigation. It also mentioned the use of MSC sustainability certification processes as a disincentive to the use of gill-nets.
- South Africa referred to reviewing its National Plan of Action for Seabirds, including the bycatch aspects.
- Germany mentioned the completion and imminent reporting of the results of a research project on the development of alternative fishing gear designed to avoid bycatch of seabirds and marine mammals, and noted the launch of a new project in 2016 focusing on the Baltic Sea.

Wildlife crime (Res. 11.31)

9.45 Twenty-seven Parties reported on this topic, several of them referring to the role of their national implementation of CITES in combating illegal trade in wildlife. Other information reported included the following:

- Switzerland referred to the adoption of a new ordinance banning the import of seal products and restricting imported marine fishery products to those of lawful origin only (i.e. excluding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries). It also mentioned the production of an identification guide to help border control agencies with the identification of illegal bushmeat imports.
- Latvia, Hungary and Ethiopia all mentioned awareness-raising, in Ethiopia's case with specific reference to enforcement agencies.
- The Netherlands referred to hosting an international conference on wildlife crime in 2016, and to a Wildlife Crime Campaign which had been conducted by a consortium of organizations.

- Finland and France both reported that their penalties (including custodial sentences) for wildlife offences had been increased, and Bolivia referred to a proposal to do the same in its country.
- The UK listed strategic priorities as reducing demand, enhancing enforcement, building judicial capacity and achieving sustainable livelihoods, and reported a doubling of its investment in tackling illegal wildlife trade. It also mentioned the role of its Police National Wildlife Crime Unit, as well as the existence of a dedicated fund which has supported 34 projects fighting the illegal wildlife trade, production of a global wildlife crime report, support from the British military for anti-poaching training for rangers in Gabon, and other support for relevant capacity-building activities in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Mexico.
- Norway, Portugal, the United Republic of Tanzania, India, Slovakia and France also reported having respectively a separate police unit, national enforcement group, national security task force, wildlife crime bureau, cross-sectoral expert coordination body or interdepartmental working group for issues related to wildlife crime.
- Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan mentioned undertaking enforcement against poaching.
- Cabo Verde referred to a strengthening of its legislation.
- Hungary referred to the adoption of a new procedural order for improving the work of customs authorities in controlling wildlife trade, and to initiatives for capacity-building.
- Slovakia reported the updating of its national strategy for crime prevention, which includes coverage of wildlife crime issues.

Ecological networks (Res. 10.3 / Res. 11.25)

9.46 Thirty Parties reported on this topic. Several simply reported measures relating to protected areas without necessarily referring to ecological networks, and one very large country responded with “not applicable”, which is a puzzling response and difficult to interpret. Norway, Latvia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Luxembourg, Poland and Croatia referred to site designation, management, monitoring or other activities in the framework of the Emerald Network and/or Natura 2000 network and/or Ramsar Sites network as appropriate. Other responses included the following:

- Kenya referred to enhancing ecosystem/landscape conservation through connectivity of protected areas, aided *inter alia* by the mapping of wildlife corridors.
- The Netherlands referred to the expansion of its National Nature Network, and to research on the Caribbean island of St. Eustatius on connecting patches of nature so as to ensure viable and resilient populations of flora and fauna.
- Estonia reported that its “Green Network”, established many years ago as part of the planning system in the country, was still the focus of work to embed it in planning at the municipal level, and meanwhile it was making an important contribution to ensuring the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. Hungary also referred to a national ecological network, and to EU-funded projects on green infrastructure; while Moldova reported that it too was establishing a national ecological network.
- Ethiopia referred to action in response to threats detected through monitoring being guided by an aim of maintaining network integrity.
- Finland referred to conservation planning taking account of connectivity (including through the spatial distribution of habitat restoration activities and coverage of additional protected areas), and the maintenance of an ecologically functioning network of protected areas. It also referred to having conducted connectivity analyses using “Zonation” software.

- The UK stated that improving site connectivity is a key objective in the country, and mentioned that its national protected area system for nature conservation is guided by the need to maintain ecological coherence across habitat types, with similar thinking also being applied to its contribution to international protected areas in the marine environment, in contexts such as the OSPAR Convention. During the reporting period, the UK completed the first phase of an in-depth review of its Special Protection Area (SPA) network under the EU Wild Birds Directive, including an analysis of the sufficiency of the network for protecting regularly occurring migratory birds.
- Zimbabwe referred to its continued development of transboundary conservation areas, and Germany reported having published the results of a research project on options for establishing transboundary ecological networks in the region of its border with the Netherlands.
- Slovakia referred to its Territorial System of Ecological Stability which features “bio-centres” and “bio-corridors” as a statutory ecological network; and also to specific projects for enhancing ecological connectivity in the Carpathian region, in the framework of the Danube Transnational Programme.
- Slovenia indicated that national measures had been implemented to increase coherence and connectivity of protected areas, and Austria stated that activities to connect protected areas are planned.
- South Africa noted that its National Protected Area Expansion Strategy has spatial targets, and an aim *inter alia* of improving ecosystem representation within the country’s protected areas.

Climate change impacts on migratory species (Res. 7.5 / Res. 11.26)

9.47 Twenty-five Parties reported on this topic. Switzerland, South Africa, Brazil, Estonia, Slovakia, Hungary and France referred to national strategies and action plans on climate change adaptation, the UK mentioned a national risk assessment and Egypt mentioned that its NBSAP had a section on climate; but no comments were made on anything specifically concerning migratory species in these. Poland indicated that its national climate adaptation strategy includes guidelines for mitigation of climate change impacts on migratory species, but this dates from a previous reporting period. More specific information relating to the present reporting period included the following:

- Norway indicated that its main focus in relation to migratory species was monitoring of sites and species as basis for any future mitigation.
- Finland referred to studies having been published on migratory birds and on changes in their distribution, especially within the reserve network.
- The UK referred to the identification of indicator species for providing information on the condition of sites and migratory routes used by a range of migratory species, and the development of a suite of indicators to provide early warning of likely climate change impacts on the conservation status of migratory species.
- Ethiopia referred to an assessment of conditions that help migratory species cope with climate change, and the launch of a three-year project to evaluate the reserve network in relation to climate change, including assessments of the most vulnerable species and habitats, possible management mitigation measures and possible needs for further development of the network. It also mentioned that connectivity and green infrastructure had been promoted as important means for adaptation.
- Kenya referred to enhancement of protected area connectivity for the purposes of climate change mitigation, as well as the creation of dams to collect rainwater for wildlife during droughts.
- The Netherlands referred to action to make nature more robust and resilient, including through the creation of ecological corridors, and (as mentioned in its

previous report) a “building with nature” philosophy for making use of natural processes in the sustainable management of coastal, delta and riverine regions.

- Saudi Arabia and Luxembourg both also mentioned enhancing the resilience of protected areas/habitats.

Modus Operandi for conservation emergencies (Res. 10.2)

9.48 Thirteen Parties reported on this topic, mostly in a brief and general/provisional way. The few more substantive comments included the following:

- Kenya referred to enhancement of the capacity of the national Wildlife Service to respond to emergencies, through provision of equipment and training; making special reference to the risk of fires damaging protected areas in the dry seasons.
- Norway referred to the establishment of a task force for responding to oil spills and other accidents, and similar arrangements led by the food and health sectors for responding to disease outbreaks.
- The Netherlands referred to coordination and information exchange between relevant agencies in relation to conservation emergencies, citing as examples seal and avian influenza outbreaks; and mentioned the existence of experienced centres for rescuing seals, birds and (in the Caribbean territories, turtles) suffering from contamination by oil.

Marine wildlife watching (Res. 11.29)

9.49 Seventeen Parties reported on this topic. Regulation of marine wildlife watching activity was mentioned by Uruguay, Ecuador, Germany, the Philippines, France, Portugal and the UK (in respect of two of its South Atlantic Territories). Guidelines or codes of conduct were mentioned by Kenya, the Netherlands, India, the Philippines (combined with training), France (for its overseas territories) and the UK (for marine wildlife in general in Scotland; elsewhere for Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*, associated with awareness-raising activities). Cabo Verde referred to the development of proposals for both regulation and guidance, while Norway mentioned an initiative by the private sector to develop guidance. France referred to using an ACCOBAMS certification scheme in the Mediterranean. The Netherlands mentioned that research in the Caribbean had suggested that whale watching undertaken in accordance with proper guidelines may boost local economies.

Oil pollution and migratory species (Res. 7.3)

9.50 Twenty-two Parties reported on this topic. Several of them referred to applicable international conventions, directives and protocols that relate to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by oil, with India also mentioning the role of EIA for oil-related development projects. Other information reported included the following:

- Congo, the Netherlands, Estonia, the UK, France, India, Saudi Arabia and South Africa referred to oil spill/marine pollution emergency response/contingency and coordination plans, some at national level and some at local level. France and the UK mentioned regular updating of these and France referred to associated training. Georgia reported that it had developed oil spill contingency plans but that they had not been adopted.
- Kenya, Egypt, Slovakia, Belgium and the Netherlands referred to monitoring. Belgium specifically mentioned aerial surveys, and The Netherlands mentioned monitoring of beached birds, although only at times of incidents rather than routinely.

- Estonia, Congo, the Netherlands, Belgium and South Africa referred to arrangements for rescuing and caring for oiled birds and other fauna, with South Africa also mentioning specific plans targeted at seabird colonies.
- The UK referred to the creation of a GIS-based atlas of coastal sites sensitive to oil pollution, and to work in its South Atlantic territories with fishing industry stakeholders on plans to phase out the use of heavy fuel oils and to restrict bunkering activities.

Impact Assessment and migratory species (Res. 7.2)

9.51 Thirty Parties reported on this topic. Most of these indicated that their respective EIA regulations (dating from years prior to the current reporting period) apply to developments affecting the environment, and either implying or stating that there is the opportunity to consider effects on migratory species, without this necessarily being a specific separate provision. A few (European) countries also mentioned Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Slovakia reported having updated its legislation during the reporting period. Other information reported included the following:

- The Netherlands indicated that its regulations in practice address the aspect of Resolution 7.2 that refers to consideration of effects involving impediments to migration. France mentioned that in its system, impacts on migratory species and their migration pathways in particular must be taken into account. Ethiopia mentioned that the Resolution was taken into account in developing guidelines.
- Egypt referred to having developed Guidelines for EIAs in relation to renewable energy developments and soaring birds.
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia commented that it had made efforts to encourage EIAs to consider migratory birds and bats in projects particularly affecting those species.
- Ukraine reported that it had translated the AEWA Guidelines on impacts of infrastructure developments into Ukrainian.

Invasive alien species and migratory species (Res. 11.28)

9.52 Twenty-nine Parties reported on this topic. Several of these confirmed their concerns about this issue and referred to existing policies, legislation, management and monitoring. Information reported specifically concerning the reporting period included the following:

- For EU countries, a new EU Regulation on invasive alien species came into force.
- Hungary, South Africa, Germany and Norway all reported adopting new legislation on the subject, while Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Croatia indicated that new legislation was in preparation or planned.
- The Philippines, Switzerland, and the UK all referred to adopting new or updated national strategies and/or action plans on the subject. The UK made particular reference to early warning arrangements and to improving the cost effectiveness of response measures; and also reported adopting a new plan for the Asian Hornet *Vespa velutina* on the Isle of Man. Egypt indicated that a plan was being prepared for its area of the Mediterranean Sea, and the UK indicated that marine and terrestrial/freshwater biosecurity plans were in preparation and planned respectively. South Africa referred to the development of a national alien and invasive species monitoring framework.
- Finland reported undertaking a mid-term assessment of its national strategy, and Ethiopia reported undertaking a review of IAS impacts.
- Rwanda mentioned publishing a report on invasive species and ways of rehabilitating degraded ecosystems.

- Germany mentioned that its federal nature conservation agency had created a dedicated alien species section.
- Georgia commented that it would welcome the sharing of case experiences of control measures that had been successful in other countries.

Renewable energy and migratory species (Res. 7.5 / Res. 11.27)

9.53 Twenty-five Parties reported on this topic. Kenya, Latvia, Norway, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Finland, Luxembourg, Morocco, France, the Netherlands, Serbia, Estonia, the UK and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all referred to their existing EIA or related systems for evaluating and/or applying conditions to new renewable energy developments, and in several cases also to the existence of relevant guidance. Other information reported in relation to activities during the reporting period included the following:

- The Netherlands noted that 2015 had been a record year for new wind turbine developments in the country.
- Norway referred to screening of existing installations to consider mitigation needs.
- Moldova reported having adopted new legislation which *inter alia* prohibits the siting of wind farms and power grids in state-protected natural areas and in important migratory bird corridors, and mandates mitigation measures for existing installations.
- Poland also reported the adoption of new legislation restricting the siting of new wind farms.
- Ethiopia reported the production of new guidelines specifically on migratory species and renewable energy.
- The UK reported the adoption of new offshore marine development legislation in the Isle of Man, and the undertaking of various research projects including on the potential impacts of offshore renewables on mobile marine species, avoidance behaviour by seabirds in respect of offshore wind farms, and two studies on bats and windfarms.
- Switzerland referred to the publication of results of a study on bird migration and collisions at wind farms, which concluded that collisions were most frequent during migration periods, but that the relationship between migration intensity and collision frequency was more complex than previously thought.
- Saudi Arabia mentioned that it was planning a workshop on renewable energy and migratory species.
- Germany referred to several studies having been undertaken on reducing the impacts of wind turbines on bats, and numerous projects underway on the impacts of offshore wind farms on migratory bats and birds, with reference *inter alia* to cumulative impacts.
- Germany and South Africa both referred to their support for the CMS Energy Task Force.

Other remarks

9.54 Three Parties added comments in the section entitled “Other remarks” (or under the heading “Other Resolutions/ Recommendations”, which appears not to have been a response section, as discussed earlier above, and is addressed here instead). Kenya expressed its positive general interest in implementing MEAs and in the conservation of migratory birds. Saudi Arabia mentioned a study on birds and powerlines, reference to which for the present analysis has now been added into the points summarized above under Resolutions 7.04 and 10.11 on Electrocution of migratory birds. The UK commented on three other Resolutions, as follows:

- *Sustainable Use (Res. 8.1)*: The UK remarked that sustainable use underpins its approach to the conservation and management of species, referring to relevant strategies and reports from previous triennia.
- *Restructuring of the Scientific Council (Res. 11.04)*: The UK referred to its participation in the discussions on this topic within the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council during the reporting period.
- *Guidelines for assessing listing proposals to Appendices I and II of the Convention (Res. 11.33)*: The UK referred to its input to the Scientific Council's working group on this topic.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

- 10.1 The increased reporting rate achieved for the COP12 cycle is a positive achievement (72% of eligible Parties, a higher figure than in any of the previous four triennia). The analysis undertaken here does not reveal reasons for this increase, but improvements in the process in recent years (on-line submission etc.) are likely to have played a part.
- 10.2 The resulting international overview is very helpful for Convention monitoring, and it should help to inform new decisions being taken by the COP. On this occasion, it also allows some (albeit unquantified) reflection on progress towards the achievement of goals and targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, which in turn contributes to other environmental objectives agreed by the international community.
- 10.3 Good use should also be made of the ability to consult the national reports directly as an invaluable resource for supporting coordinated efforts among all stakeholders who play a part in implementation of the Convention at national and local levels, and in transboundary and regional contexts.

Convention implementation

- 10.4 From responses given on the addition of new species to the Convention Appendices, it seems that a number of Parties may be relying on out of date versions of the Appendix lists. Even in respect of genuinely unlisted taxa, a considerable mis-match has been revealed between intentions stated in the national reports concerning listing proposals and the actual proposals submitted to COP, although the reasons for this are unclear.

Recommendation 1: *It would be worth investigating any difficulties that Parties have experienced that may be the cause of the observed lack of alignment between positions on Appendix listing revealed in national reports, compared with those revealed by formal listing proposals.*

- 10.5 The reports demonstrate continuing interest among Parties in developing new Agreements/MOUs under CMS, which is an action that supports aspects of Targets 3 and 9 in the Strategic Plan. Part of what has been reported on this however concerns other frameworks such as Action Plans or other transboundary cooperation arrangements. Individual Parties' thinking on this may also sometimes be combined with (or replaced by) thinking on options for Concerted Actions under the Convention, yet that is not addressed in the same part of the national reports (it has featured instead, in the latest format, in the separate section on Resolutions and Recommendations). In recent years, there has been some philosophical convergence and streamlining of rationales among all these processes (for example in Resolutions 11.12 and 11.13), but there may be a case for still further rationalization of the overall "menu of cooperation options" available to Parties in this context.

Recommendation 2: *Consider the possible scope for further streamlining/rationalization of the way in which options for constructing cooperation frameworks available under the Convention (Agreements, transboundary arrangements, Concerted Actions etc.) are presented to Parties, including in the structure of related reporting processes.*

- 10.6 The information on "outcomes" in the protected areas section of the national reports does not allow any systematic measurement of the contributions being made by national protected area activities towards the achievement of the relevant target (Target 10) in the Strategic Plan, but it does at least demonstrate that there is evidence of significant moves being made in the desired direction. In any event the reports have

valuably flagged particular issues that, in each individual country context (for those countries providing responses), can be tracked from one reporting period to another, and should help with planning and prioritizing future action.

- 10.7 It appears that Parties often find it difficult to isolate and account specifically for the migratory species component of wider conservation programmes (for example protected areas and ecological networks); and that they similarly find it difficult to disaggregate aquatic/terrestrial/marine situations in the way suggested by several CMS systems including the national report format. This latter categorization is more workable where species-based measures are concerned, but is less workable where habitat- or ecosystem-based measures are concerned.
- 10.8 It is clear that telemetry projects continue to make a contribution to knowledge about patterns of animal migration and the conservation requirements of migratory species, although funding is often cited as a constraint in pursuing this.
- 10.9 A majority of countries report that they are devoting financial resources to some extent towards conservation activities for migratory species, with some also providing assistance to other countries. In the case of technical assistance to other countries it is notably also not only developed countries that have provided this. National report information however does not quantify resource mobilization in a way which would shed light on progress towards achieving Strategic Plan Target 16, nor does the information go beyond “activity reporting” into the question of assessing conservation outcomes. There is however an indication of an apparent increase in the number of countries where relevant resource mobilization has occurred, and this may suggest some movement in the desired direction.
- 10.10 The COP12 reports show a significant increase in the number of Parties indicating that they have received financial assistance for migratory species activities from sources other than the CMS Secretariat, compared to the previous triennium. Given general global funding trends, this might be an encouraging signal about the availability and/or willingness of external sources to support migratory species conservation efforts, particularly given the (at best) static picture shown by the reports concerning the ability of the CMS itself to be such a source.
- 10.11 Numerous other specific points on aspects of Convention implementation are identified in relation to the 42 topics covered in the section of this analysis which addresses past COP Resolutions & Recommendations.

Reporting

- 10.12 Although improved, the reporting rate is still far from 100%, and many individual reports remain incomplete.

Recommendation 3: *Every encouragement should be given to Parties to submit their national reports for the next triennium before the deadline agreed in advance of COP13, and to endeavour to provide information in every section of the report that is relevant to them. Where advice or other support is needed to assist in making this possible, such needs should be clearly identified and discussed with the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.*

- 10.13 “Pre-filling” of certain report sections by the Secretariat prior to issuing the format to Parties probably helped national compilers to avoid a certain amount of re-originating of information they had provided on previous occasions. It appears however that many compilers did not replace outdated information with updates, or did so in some sections and not in others, resulting in internal contradictions within the individual reports.

Analysis was made problematic by an inability to distinguish pre-filled data (which may or may not still be correct) from data newly entered in the most recent reporting period.

Recommendation 4: *If “pre-filling” of data is undertaken again in future reporting cycles, some method should be found to enable such pre-filled data to be readily distinguished from new data in the final submitted reports. In general, it would help also for Parties to provide more specificity in all report sections concerning the time-period to which a given response relates, making a particular effort to focus on information about status, events and activities during the most recent triennium (since the last COP).*

10.14 Information about the development of new Agreements is a somewhat problematic area of report information. It was apparent that many Parties were in fact commenting only on existing Agreements rather than the development of new ones; and “development” itself appears to have been interpreted in divergent ways.

10.15 The section of the national reports with the current name “Resolutions & Recommendations” can give particularly valuable insights into the implementation of the Convention in relation to priority issues elaborated by the COP. It offers a basis for information-sharing and dialogue about past progress and future planning at the level of each individual Contracting Party, as well as contributing to the global overview. Nearly one-third of Parties, however, did not provide a response to any part of this section, and among those who did, the extent of completeness varied widely. There is also some suggestion of different understandings about the extent to which certain global decisions are relevant at national level. The present analysis has only allowed a very brief examination of information under this heading (although resulting in an extensive catalogue of summary points), and there would be good scope to do more.

Recommendation 5: *Parties should be encouraged to give particular attention to providing good report information on the implementation of the priority COP Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations identified in the report format, since this is a key area for sharing lessons learnt.*

Recommendation 6: *Options should be explored for undertaking some more in-depth analysis of aspects of the information provided in national reports on the implementation of individual COP Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations.*

The Report Format

10.16 The analysis of national reports to COP11 (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.3) concluded with a recommendation that future revisions of the report format should tailor questions to the objectives in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, and the COP in Resolution 11.2 requested the Secretariat to consider amendments along similar lines. Proposals arising from this wider strategic view, and including consideration of synergy with reporting processes of other MEAs, have accordingly been tabled separately in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.19.2, with further detail (for information) in document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.27.

10.17 As an additional contribution to this, a series of specific recommendations on the format is presented below, which focuses simply on the points which have emerged from the analysis of the current round of reports.

Recommendation 7: *It would be helpful for more of the questions to specify explicitly that the information to be reported should relate to the reporting period concerned, i.e. the triennium since the last COP. Any information that relates to previous triennia should be clearly distinguished as such. Ambiguities/internal*

contradictions concerning the inclusion of past/present/future status of activities (for example in the section on telemetry) should be addressed by reformulating those questions.

Recommendation 8: *There may be a case for modifying the questions that ask about “positive outcomes”, to allow Parties to report actions that were attempted but that turned out not to be successful (i.e. not only outcomes that are “positive”), since this can be an equally useful area of lesson-learning. Scope should also be allowed for Parties to comment on the relative balance between positive and negative results.*

Recommendation 9: *The wording of questions could usefully be adjusted to improve consistency/reduce ambiguity as to whether they are asking about actions undertaken “by the country” (i.e. the Party government) or “in/in relation to” the country (i.e. including actions by others, such as NGOs).*

Recommendation 10: *It would be advisable to rationalize the way in which questions are asked about threats affecting Appendix I species, in order to avoid bias in prompting the priorities expected, and to have greater consistency in these questions across the different taxonomic sections. A revised approach to this could perhaps draw on the categorization of threat types devised for the present analysis.*

Recommendation 11: *The error in the English version of the format should be corrected, where in the question which asks whether the responding Party is a Range State for migratory species “which are classified as endangered but which are currently listed in Appendix I”, the word “not” should be inserted before the words “currently listed”.*

Recommendation 12: *The question which asks about candidate species for adding to Appendix II should accommodate answers based on analyses undertaken by countries on species/species groups for which they are not necessarily a Range State, but in respect of which they may nevertheless have led the relevant international research.*

Recommendation 13: *Consideration should be given to the possibility of adding advice on the interpretation of the phrase “development of new Agreements” (or re-wording the questions on this subject), to clarify whether it includes actions to develop the application of newly-concluded Agreements, or only the development of proposals for concluding Agreements that do not yet exist.*

Recommendation 14: *Consideration should be given to the possibility of adding advice on the interpretation of the phrase “taken into account” in the questions on protected areas (or re-wording the questions on this subject), to encourage a greater focus on aspects specifically related to the needs of migratory species.*

Recommendation 15: *It would be worth re-examining the usefulness of attempting to ask for a disaggregation of information about aquatic, terrestrial and marine situations respectively, in questions relating to protected areas.*

Recommendation 16: *If a distinct section on telemetry projects is retained, it may be helpful to remove the restriction to “satellite” telemetry, so that other relevant telemetry projects (that are not satellite-based) can also be reported.*

Recommendation 17: *If a distinct section on telemetry projects is retained, it would be helpful to clarify whether the questions are intended to embrace habitat/landscape-based projects, or to be restricted only to animal-based projects.*

Recommendation 18: *In the section on COP Resolutions and Recommendations, the presentation of the sub-heading “Other Resolutions/ Recommendations” and the section for “Other remarks” should be adjusted to address the apparent confusion discussed in the main analysis above.*

Recommendation 19: *It would be useful to discuss further (and to be more transparent about) the rationale for the choice of decisions to include in the section on Resolutions and Recommendations, considering inter alia the areas of overlap between them, and the overlap with some of the other sections of the report format. The relationship between this section and possible future report format questions focused on targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species also needs to be considered.*