



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.23

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Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020  
Agenda Item 20.1 – 20.2

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS**

**ASIA**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Summary:

This document provides an analysis of the National Reports for the region of Asia. Results are summarized in this document and visually presented in Annex I.

This regional analysis has been prepared by the Secretariat to inform Parties and as a basis for further discussions at the regional preparatory meetings for COP13 to be held in November 2019 in Bonn.

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS

### ASIA

#### Background

National reporting is the principal means for understanding the state of implementation of CMS, and to guide future action. This analysis report summarizes the information provided by Parties from the region of Asia for the period between COP12 (October 2017) and the deadline for reporting to COP13 (September 2019).

This regional analysis has been prepared in-house by the Secretariat to inform Parties and as a basis for discussions at the regional preparatory meetings for COP13 to be held in November 2019 in Bonn. Reports included in this analysis were received from 71 per cent of the Parties from the region (12 of the 17 Parties), including a number submitted past deadline, compared with a submission rate of 59 per cent at COP12.

Annex I presents percentages from single response questions, while whole numbers demonstrate the response from questions which allow multiple selections. Only questions with a reasonable response rate are presented. The global analysis of all National Reports submitted by parties before the deadline can be found in document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.20.1.

#### Main findings

Parties reported an increase in awareness programmes for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems and their prioritization in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for conservation and management. Parties also indicated that collaboration between focal points occurs, with room for improvement, and that arrangements and agreements have improved conditions for migratory species and migration systems. Enhancement and improvement of policy frameworks and legislation as well as the integration of themes of migratory species into other strategies and planning processes were reported by many Parties. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in awareness programmes as well as direct conservation efforts in the region. Many Parties also noted that the private sector made notable contributions through compliance, funding, and partnerships with NGOs.

Improvements in development and implementation of sustainable production and use were reported. However, the distinction between migratory species and general conservation is not always clearly defined. Most Parties have also made efforts to foster consideration of indigenous/local knowledge, innovations and practices as they relate to conservation and sustainable use to some extent. In the majority, Parties implement conservation measures and dedicate finance and threats and pressures in the region with notable adverse impacts have high response rates, especially habitat destruction, direct killing and taking. Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation and management were also identified as notable threats and pressures for the region. Parties have reported that regional populations of CMS species have seen an increase in numbers to some extent. However, threats and pressures have had a direct detrimental influence on conservation as presented by Parties.

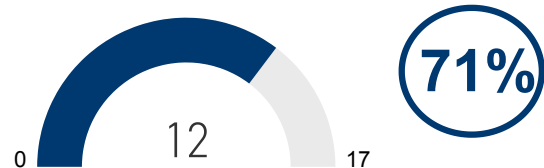
Limitations in the region primarily relate to technical assistance, research and innovation, exchange of information. Further limited capacity and ability to conduct assessments addressing ecosystem services and the needs of relevant CMS species, their habitats and migration systems prevent action. Strategies to minimize the genetic erosion of biodiversity are conducted by half of the Parties reporting in the region, therefore leaving opportunity for improvement in this regard.

The main challenge in the analysis is due to a number of questions for which no responses were given and supporting documentation and evidence required for some questions was not provided. An example of this is question XIX.1 “During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?” to which more than half of Parties answered affirmatively, however, of those Parties, little more than half responded to the follow-up question “to which particular targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species has this made a contribution”. Some responses provided by Parties contradict earlier responses in the questionnaire. For example, the majority of Parties explicitly addressed conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats, or migratory systems in NBSAPs (Q XVI.1). However, some Parties did not specifically elaborate on the “migratory species” aspects, with most suggesting impact under a broader “conservation” umbrella.

**Next steps**

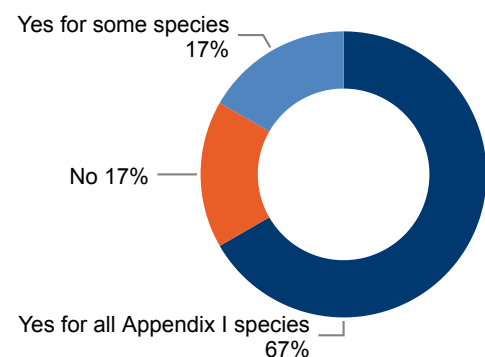
Following the presentation and distribution of this analysis, the Secretariat will endeavour to receive feedback from Parties on the reporting process and current template with a view to making improvements towards the next reporting period that will be reflected in the COP Document COP13/Doc.20.2

## Submissions



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

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



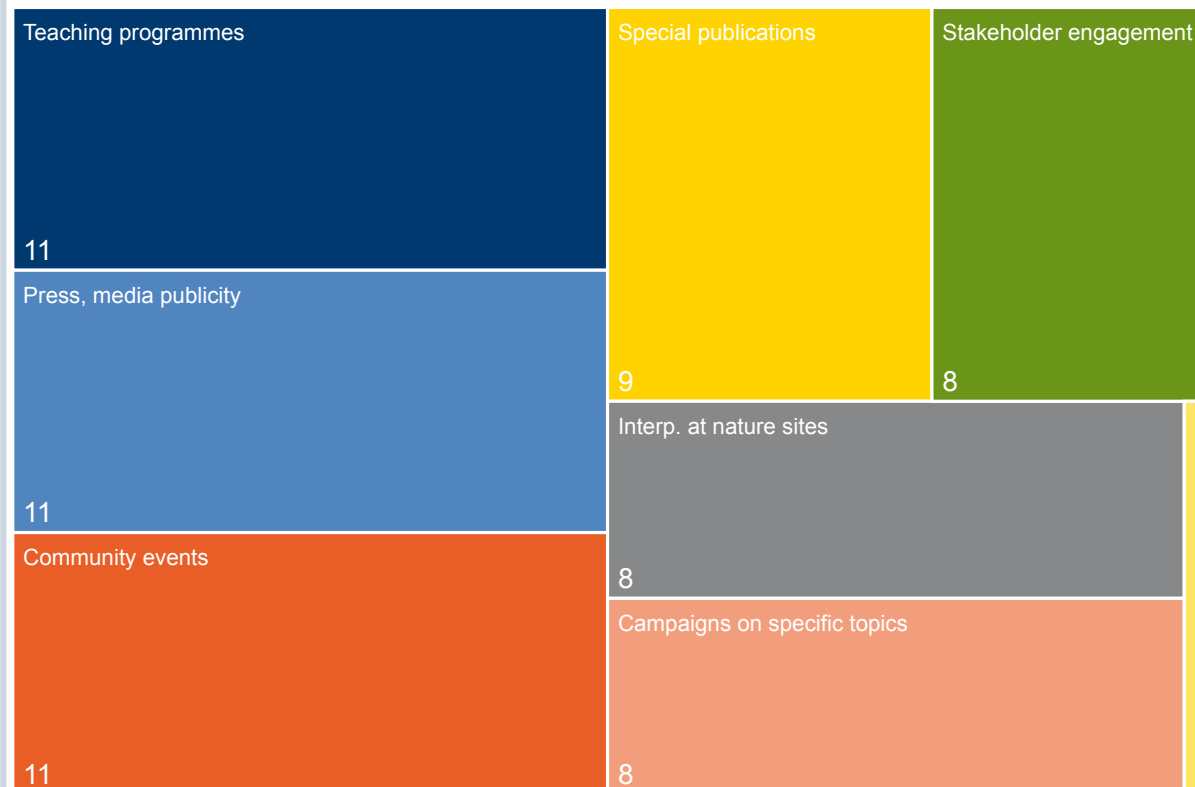
**67%** have not granted exceptions, where the taking of all Appendix I species is prohibited by national legislation (IV.2).

**67%** confirmed no flagged vessels engaged outside of national jurisdiction in intentional taking of Appendix I species (IV.4).

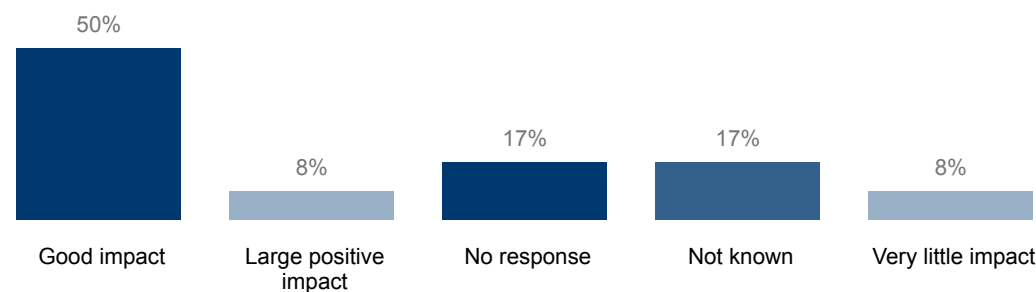


### V. Awareness

(V.1) Actions that have increased people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems.



(V.3) Overall, how successful have these awareness actions been in achieving their objectives?



### VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in other Sectors and Processes

**Non-governmental organizations** have a positive and constructive role in the region. In India, Iran, Pakistan and others, NGOs contribute in capacities including general conservation, species monitoring, awareness and capacity building. In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, NGOs contribute considerably to the conservation of the saiga antelope through project implementation and international coordination utilizing the capacities previously mentioned.

**Private sector** collaborates with NGOs and government institutions in conservation of migratory species. This is primarily demonstrated through compliance with regulatory requirements and the funding of conservation projects. Broader examples include saiga collaring for satellite monitoring in partnership with the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in Kazakhstan, and identification and protection of high quality habitat for threatened species and replanting mangrove seedlings by Saudi Aramco.

(VI.1) Does the conservation of migratory species feature in strategies and/or planning processes relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?



(VI.2) Do the values of migratory species and their habitats feature in other national reporting processes?

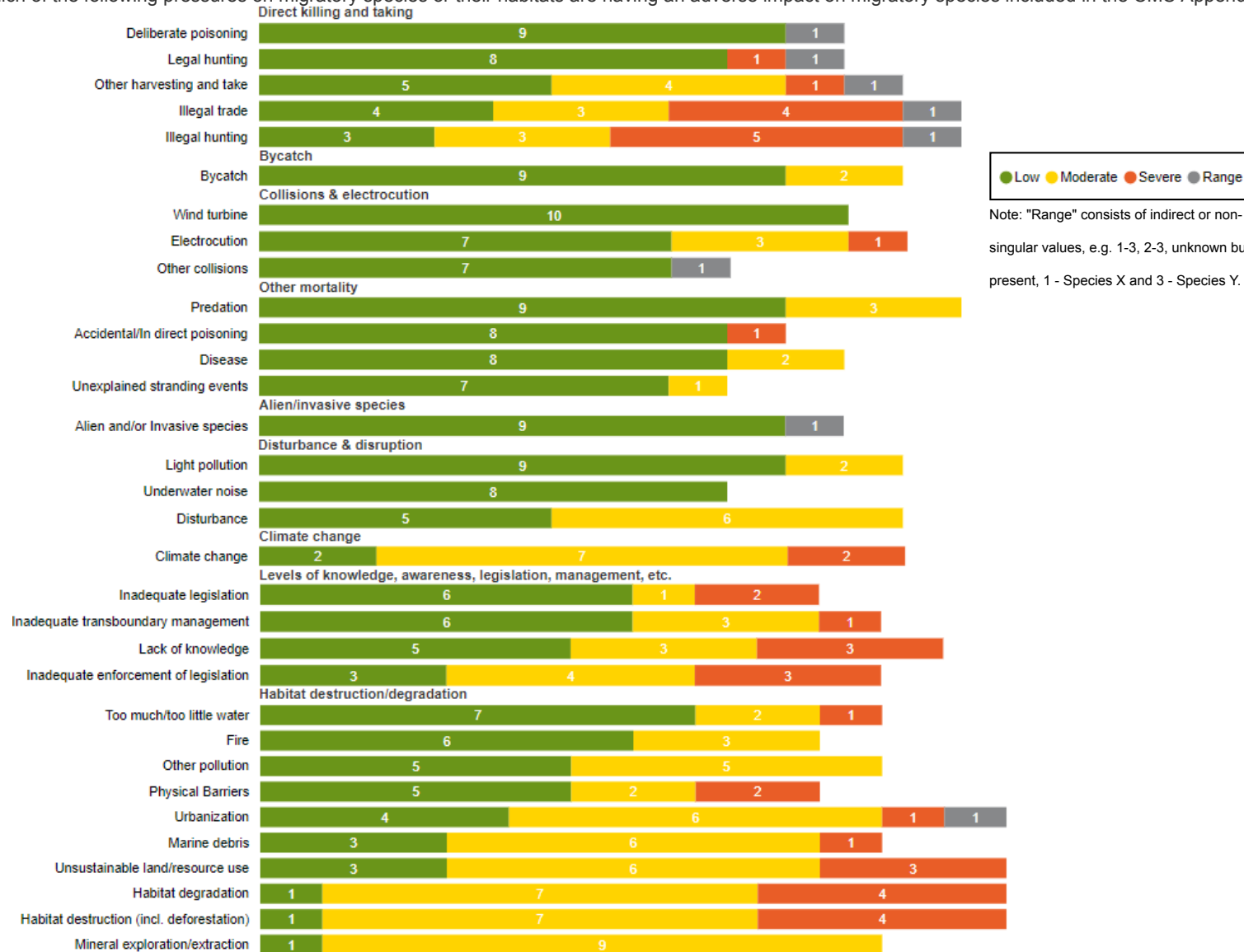


Note: Results represent only those parties which submitted national reports. Percentages are indicative of questions with singular choice, whole numbers indicate that parties may select more than one option.

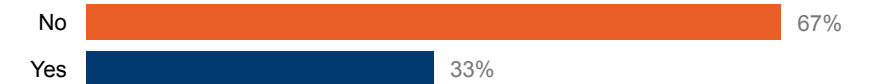


## X. Threats and Pressures Affecting Migratory Species; Including Obstacles to Migration

(X.1) Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?



(X.4) Has new legislation or other domestic measures been adopted in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4)(b)?



Significant advances in the region have been noted in the case of planning and legislation, and direct conservation efforts. Many parties noted advances in developments, including implementation of the Central Asian Flyway in India, ratification of the Raptor MOU in Jordan, and national planning for conservation of turtles and sharks in the United Arab Emirates. Kazakhstan demonstrated improved saiga monitoring, established a wildlife relocation center and noted population increase for key migratory species, while Uzbekistan established and manages a reserve for saiga and is preparing an anti-poaching group. Pakistan mentioned improved enforcement of legislation (X.2).

Groups frequently identified as under notable influence from these pressures are **argali, snow leopard, saiga antelope, raptors, turtles and sharks.**

## XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

| Taxonomic Group                      | No. of Parties  |                     | No. of Taxa     |                     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|                                      | Status Improved | Status Deteriorated | Status Improved | Status Deteriorated |
| Terrestrial Mammals (excluding bats) | 4               | 1                   | 4               | 1                   |
| Aquatic Mammals                      | 1               | 0                   | 1               | 0                   |
| Bats                                 | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 0                   |
| Birds                                | 0               | 2                   | 0               | 2                   |
| Reptiles                             | 1               | 0                   | 2               | 0                   |
| Fish                                 | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 0                   |
| Insects                              | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 0                   |

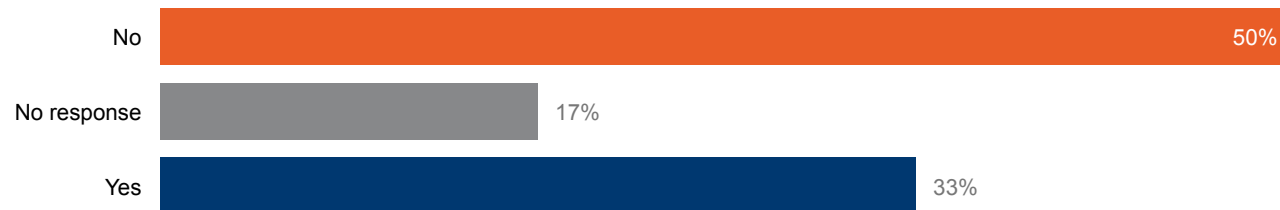
Note: Table represents change in conservation status and in population.

## XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

**50%**

Have implemented concerted actions under CMS to address the needs of relevant migratory species (XII.3).

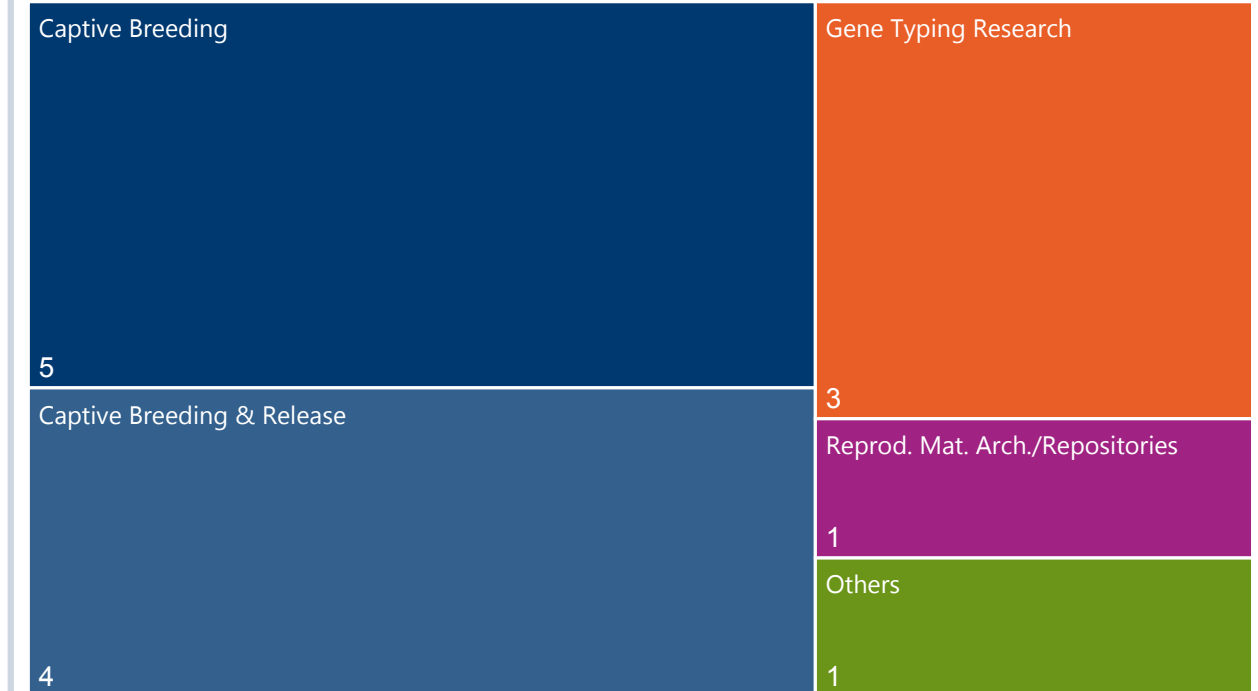
(XII.4) Have steps been taken which have contributed to achieving the results defined in Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species?



## XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

**50%** implemented, or are developing, strategies to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity (XV.1).

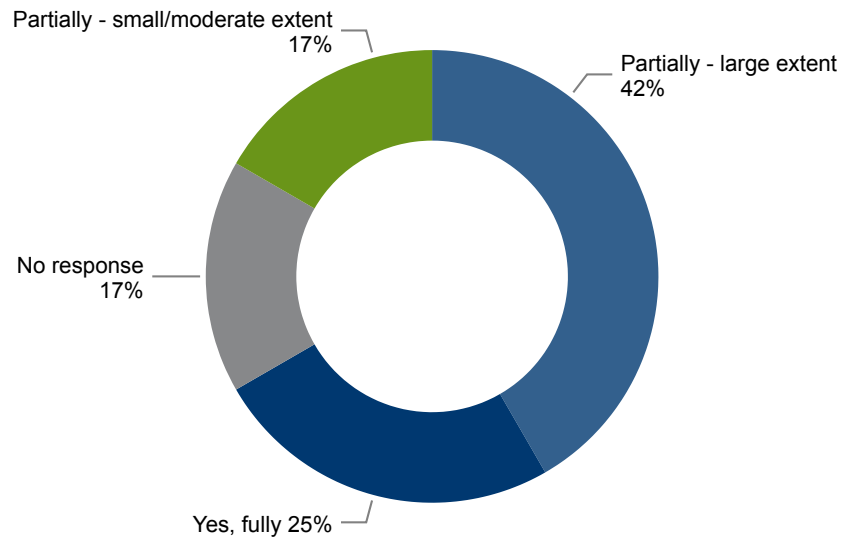
### Relevant Strategies



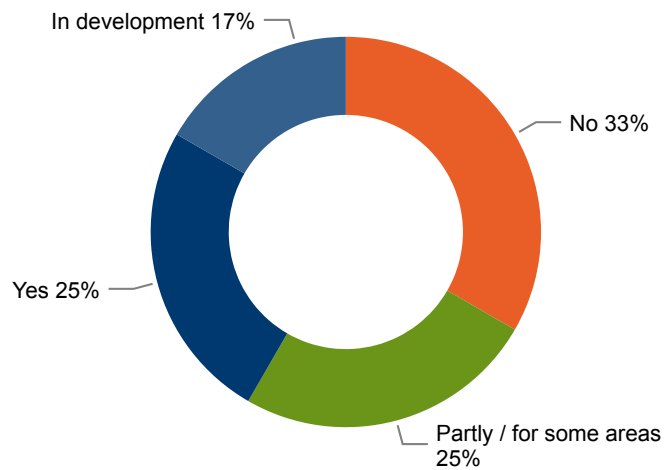
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### XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

(XIII.1) Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified?

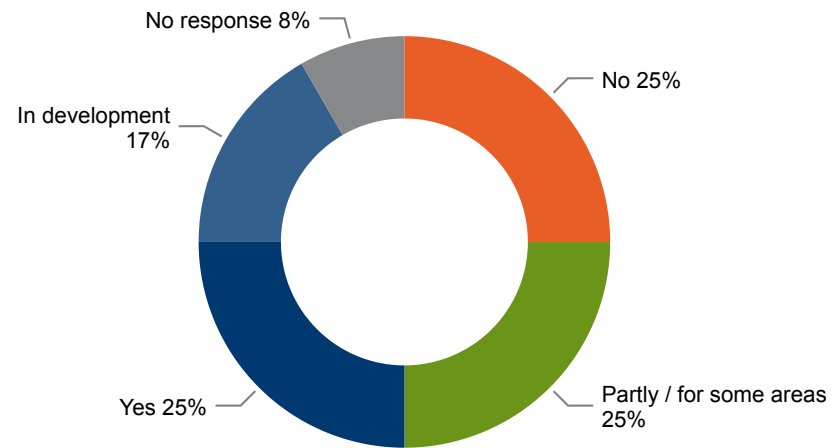


(XIII.2) Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?



**58%** adopted new legislation or other domestic measures responding to CMS Article III(a) (XIII.3).

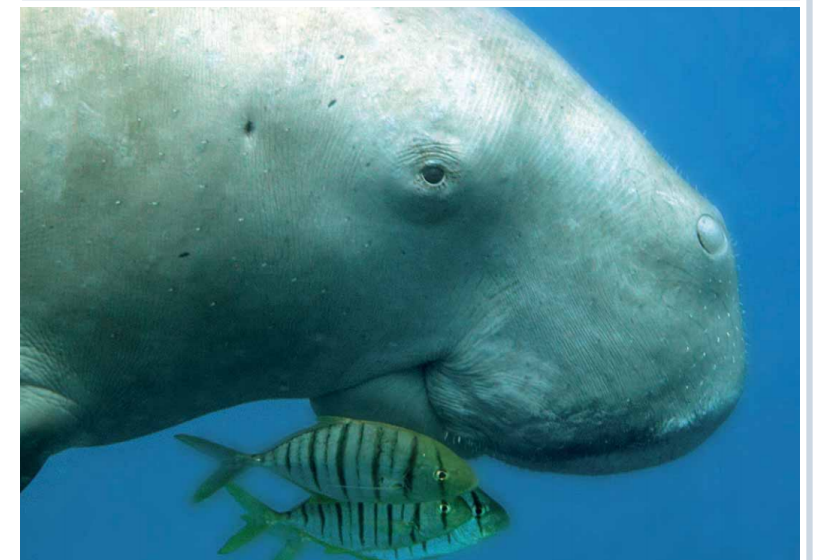
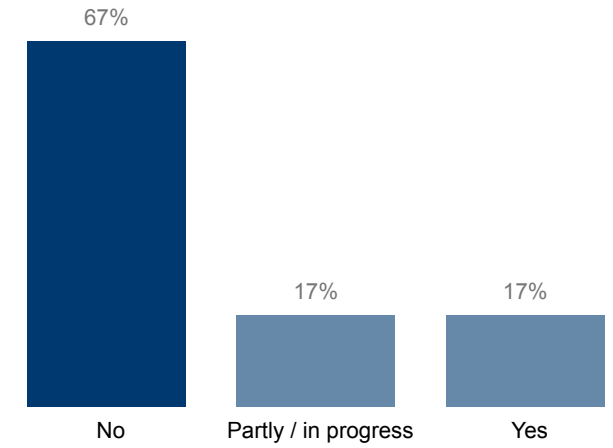
(XIII.4) In respect of protected areas that are important for migratory species, have any assessments of management effectiveness been undertaken?



**75%** implement area-based conservation measures that benefit migratory species beyond just Protected Areas (XIII.5).

### XIV. Ecosystem Services

(XIV.1) Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with species been undertaken since the adoption of the SPMS in 2014?



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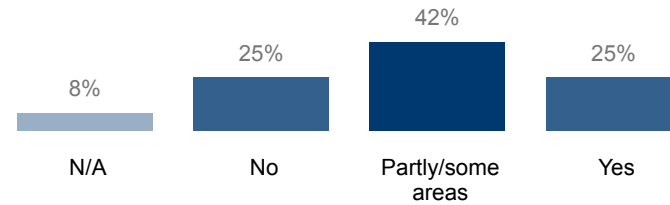
## XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans

Priorities for conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats, or migratory systems is explicitly addressed by **75%** of Parties in the national biodiversity strategy or action plans (XVI.1).

India, through the National Biodiversity Act, Environmental Protection Act and National Wildlife Action Plan specifically support migratory species and their habitats. Jordan also prioritises these efforts specifically for migratory species through implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Parties identified implementation of these plans as critical to success.

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

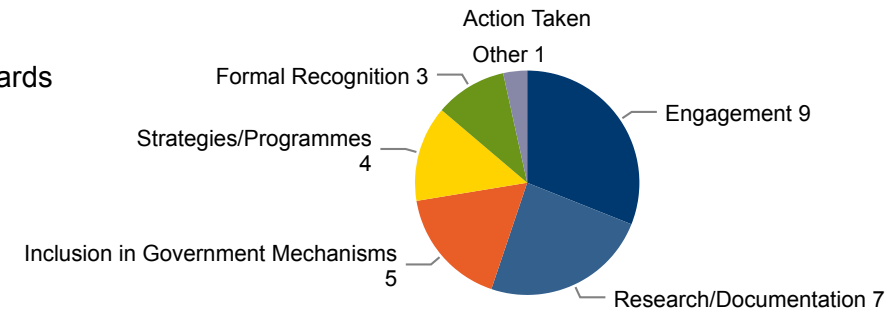
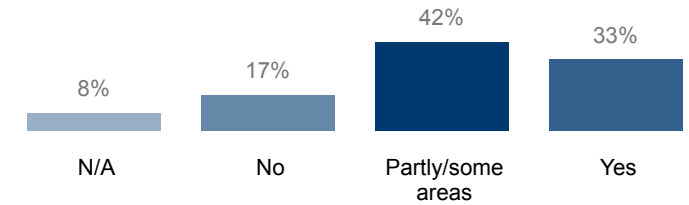
(XVII.1) Have actions been taken to foster consideration for the indigenous/local knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to conservation/sustainable-use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?



**50%**

Indicated some progress towards achieving Target 14 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, but more work is needed (XVII.3).

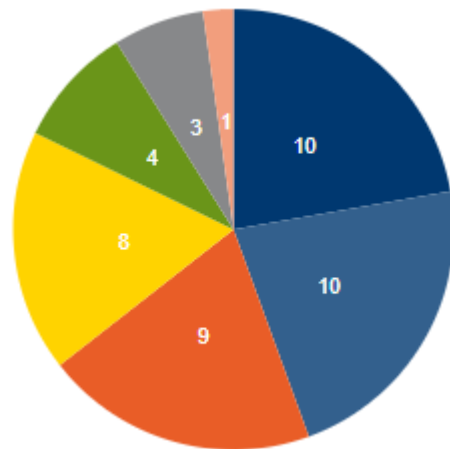
(XVII.2) Have actions been taken to foster effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems?



## XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

(XVIII.1) Steps taken contributing to achieving Target 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Capacity building
- Policy level agreements on research priorities
- Capacity assessment/gap analyses
- Other



(XVIII.3) What assistance is required to build capacity to implement CMS obligations and Resolutions?

