

Inventory

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

United Kingdom		
Party since 1 November 1992		
National Reports submitted: COP12 (2017), COP10 (2011), COP9 (2008)		
Relevant Legislation		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This Act is supplemented, inter alia, by provision in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (in England and Wales), the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (in Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (in Scotland). • Powers on environmental regulation are among the policy areas devolved to England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as to UK overseas territories and crown dependencies. The numerous laws applicable in each of these jurisdictions are omitted. 	
Article III.5		
Laws that Implement the Take Prohibition		
	Aquatic Mammals	Taking of all Appendix I aquatic mammals is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Terrestrial Mammals	Taking of all Appendix I aquatic mammals is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Birds	Taking of all Appendix I birds is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
	Reptiles	Metropolitan UK: Three different laws prohibit the taking of marine turtles, although it does not appear that “harassing” or “attempting” to take marine turtles is prohibited. Overseas territories: Some of the UK Overseas Territories prohibit taking, although not all taking.
	Fish	Taking of all Appendix I birds is prohibited, but relevant law is not identified.
Exceptions to the Take Prohibition		
	Aquatic Mammals	None granted, but no law is identified to determine the scope of permissible exceptions.
	Terrestrial Mammals	None granted, but no law is identified to determine the scope of permissible exceptions.
	Birds	None granted, but no law is identified to determine the scope of permissible exceptions.

	Reptiles	Exceptions may have been made by some Overseas Territories on a case by case basis. The permissible scope of exceptions is not identified.
	Fish	None granted, but no law is identified to determine the scope of permissible exceptions.
Article III.4		
	Laws to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore habitats of CMS Appendix I species	
	<p>The United Kingdom and its crown dependencies and overseas territories have designated various protected areas, including biosphere reserves, national parks, marine protected areas and Ramsar sites. Some include Appendix I species. However, insufficient information is provided to determine whether any Appendix I species inhabit other areas, and insufficient information is provided to identify the content of any obligations arising from these designations.</p> <p><u>British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BIOT Administration is working closely with national and international NGOs, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to protect BIOT's avifauna and prevent disruption to migrating behaviour. Habitat restoration, including the replacement of invasive flora (especially coconut palms) with native hardwoods, is underway in a number of sites. A pilot rat eradication programme was launched on Île Vache Marine. • A "no take" Marine Protected Area was designated in 2010. Areas of particular environmental value or vulnerability are subject to further protections (e.g. as Strict Nature Reserves). • Turtle habitats and species are protected under a variety of Ordinances and, in places, through designation under the Ramsar Convention or as Strict Nature Reserves. <p><u>Gibraltar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gibraltar designated the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation (SPA/SAC) and established seven Marine Conservation Zones throughout British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in addition to two areas where recreational fishing from the cliffs/intertidal zone is strictly prohibited and a marine no-take zone. • Gibraltar designated the Rock of Gibraltar SPA/SAC for the lesser kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>). <p><u>Bermuda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cahow (<i>Pterodroma cahow</i>) nesting islands are limited-access nature reserves under the Bermuda National Parks Act 1986. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to address the loss of sea grass foraging habitat are ongoing, although the content of these actions is not identified. • In August 2015, a green turtle nest was found on a beach at the east end of Bermuda; the beach was closed to the public and nearby street lighting was turned off. <p><u>St. Helena</u> St Helena's 200nm maritime zone was designated a Category VI Marine Protected Area in September 2016. A Marine Management Plan is in place.</p> <p><u>South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands</u></p> <p>In February 2012 the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands announced the creation of a large, sustainably managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) that encompasses the SGSSI Maritime Zone north of 60 degrees. This initial designation enshrined in law much of the existing protection and created a 1.07 million km² MPA. Extensive no-take zones (IUCN Category I) were created around South Georgia, Clerke Rocks, Shag and Black Rocks and the South Sandwich Islands, totaling 20,431 km² to safeguard marine ecosystems including avoidance of competition between fisheries and marine mammals. Following the initial designation a scientific workshop was convened to determine if further protection was necessary and a range of additional temporal and spatial protections were implemented to further safeguard marine ecosystems.</p> <p><u>Ascension Island</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three major turtle nesting beaches now protected under the National Protected Areas Ordinance 2014 	
Laws that prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species		
	Windmills (birds and bats)	All offshore and onshore wind turbine proposals are subject to full environmental impact assessment (EIA) in a variety of forms. In some cases, proposals have been turned down where issues were not able to be adequately mitigated.
	Cell towers (birds and bats)	Unknown
	Dams (fish)	Unknown
	Road construction (mammals)	Unknown
	Train tracks (mammals)	Unknown

	Fishing gear/bycatch (marine mammals, sea turtles, fish)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of pingers has been restricted to the offshore gillnet fleet operating in ICES Subarea 7 from the South West UK and to the Spanish owned UK registered fleet when they operate in Subareas 4 and 7 where pingers are required. This monitoring is designed to help assess the longer-term effects of pingers on cetacean bycatch rates and other potentially associated effects (such as seal depredation levels) in these fisheries. All UK vessels identified as needing pingers in line with Reg. 812/2004 are now doing so and an enforcement strategy is in place. All sharks captured are now required to be landed with their fins naturally attached.
	Shipping (marine mammals)	Unknown
Laws that prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger the species, including strictly controlling the introduction of or controlling or eliminating, already introduced species.		
	<p><u>Metropolitan U:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of land management schemes and policies such as agri-environment programmes have been developed; control of pollution through legislation and EIA practices are helping to maintain and where possible to enhance the habitats of a wide range of migratory species. The United Kingdom is working to eradicate the ruddy duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>). The United Kingdom is reintroducing the Great bustard (<i>Otis tarda</i>) of white-tailed eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>). The conservation of the Aquatic Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>) is undertaken within the framework of two key Action Plans, one focusing on the wider international population and one on the birds and their habitats when in the UK. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has developed guidelines aimed at minimising the risk of acoustic disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys, which were updated in 2010; guidelines for use for explosives and piling were published in 2010. <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> is included in the grouped Species Action Plan for toothed whales within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan with implementation now devolved to individual countries (see below). All cetaceans 	

		<p>are strictly protected as species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive which has been transposed into UK national law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 are implemented to ensure that certain (mainly public sector) plans and programmes are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This aims to provide a high level of protection for the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations (including effects on migratory species as a component of our biodiversity) into the preparation of plans and programmes, thereby promoting sustainable development. <p><u>Jersey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jersey has made habitat improvements and engaged with the agricultural community to assist with climate change adaptation. <p><u>Ascension Island</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension Island closed half of its 200nm EFZ to commercial fishing in early 2016 and is currently carrying out the necessary research prior to any formal marine protected area designation. The other 50% of the zone is open to commercial fishing – however with new stricter licensing criteria which includes observer coverage to collect data on the above. • Invasive vegetation is prevented from encroaching on nesting beaches of marine turtles. <p><u>Bermuda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bermuda has undertaken mitigation measures for the cahow (<i>Pterodroma cahow</i>) to stop nest-site competition with the white-tailed tropicbird (<i>Phaethon lepturus catsbyii</i>) by fitting baffles with specially sized holes at nest entrances which exclude tropicbirds but allow entry by the petrels. A baiting program is carried out annually to combat the risk of recolonization of the nesting islands by rats. • Bermuda has engaged in several awareness raising campaigns, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bermuda Humpback Whale Project visited schools on the island to give presentations on humpbacks. A documentary film was created, won international awards and continues to be shown locally. • Turtle alert signs and public awareness campaigns have been used to make boat operators aware that they should move slowly in turtle habitats. A public awareness campaign was undertaken in 2015 and
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		<p>2016 to advise the public what turtle tracks and turtle nests look like – as Bermuda has no regularly breeding turtles, the public is not familiar with turtle tracks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A management plan for Bermuda’s resident green and hawksbill sea turtles was published by the Bermuda Government in September 2014. <p><u>Cayman Islands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness programs for marine turtles. <p><u>Cyprus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captive breeding and release programme for the lesser kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>). <p><u>Falkland Islands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Falkland Islands has implemented awareness raising programmes. • Falklands Conservation Habitat Restoration Project engages in rat eradication programme on larger islands with suitable habitat for the ruddy-headed goose (<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>). <p><u>St Helena</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year the Marine Section of the Environmental Management Division hosts a marine awareness week that includes presentations and marine-themed events and activities for the local population. The marine sightings scheme is promoted monthly. <p><u>South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal protection under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 includes as a specific offence the use of a vehicle, vessel or aircraft in a way that disturbs any marine mammal of the order Cetacea. <p><u>Gibraltar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (Mediterranean population). Marine Protection Regulations 2014 enacted and allowed for the creation of Marine Conservation Zones, no fishing and no anchoring-take zones as well as a Cetacean Protocol for British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. <p><u>Montserrat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For marine turtles, Montserrat established an ex-situ hatchery.
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Reservations, territorial inclusions, and territorial exclusions		
	Reservations	None
	Territorial Scope	<p>In its instrument of ratification, the United Kingdom confirmed ratification on behalf of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies: Bailiwick of Jersey; Bailiwick of Guernsey; Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs); Falkland Islands and Falkland Island Dependencies; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands; St. Helena and St. Helena Dependencies; Turks and Caicos Islands.</p> <p>In its national reports, the United Kingdom also includes Isle of Man, Ascension Island (previously included as Saint Helena Dependencies, together with Saint Helena and Tristan da Cunha), South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (previously included as Falkland Island Dependencies).</p> <p>In its national reports, the United Kingdom reports that Anguilla and British Antarctic Territory are excluded.</p>