



THE SECOND NATIONAL REPORT

OF HUNGARY

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY
WATERBIRDS (The Hague, 1995)**

Implementation from 2005 to 2008.

Contracting Party: HUNGARY

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 Summary of progress to date

In Hungary there is a tradition of both the hunting and protection of waterfowl. Waterbirds were protected during the breeding phase already in the 19th century. Until the 1990-s nearly all important waterbird habitats became protected and also nearly all waterbird species. At present there are only seven waterbird game species in Hungary. Hungary is a party to all relevant international conventions (CMS, CITES, Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention, CBD). Numerous management plans for protected areas have already been adopted, others are under preparation. Hungary makes an effort to implement country specific provisions laid down in International Single Species Action Plans. Hungary on the day of acquisition had already fulfilled most of the provisions of the Action Plan.

An important step was Hungary's accession to the European Union in May 2004, and thus the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive becoming into force in the country. Implementation began in October 2004 when the Special Protection Areas were designated by the Government and the proposed Sites of Conservation Interest were submitted to the EU Commission. Hungary has successfully used European Union funding for e.g. large-scale wetland restorations and the establishment of education and visitor centres.

Other points important to mention in EU-relation include implementation of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union in order to create the national database for wetlands over 50 ha, to reach good ecological status of wetlands by 2015 and to elaborate river basin management plans by 2015. Wetland restoration projects and nature education work are continued with substantial EU funding

It is definitely due to the AEWA Action Plan, that in June, 2005 Ministerial Decree No. 56/2005 (VI.25.), amending the implementation decree of the Act on hunting, was adopted. In compliance with the regulation the use of leadshot is forbidden by force of the law on wetlands from 15th August, 2005. The regulation lists 33 such wetland areas, among them all Ramsar areas, being important bird habitats. Moreover the competent regional hunting authority has to prohibit the use of leadshot in a case- by-case resolution on certain fishponds or wetlands being continuously under water where waterbirds occur regularly.

5 new Ramsar sites and 2 extensions have been declared in 2006 and 2008, with a total area of over 53,000 ha; an already existing Ramsar site was declared a transboundary site with Slovakia (Ipel/Ipoly).

Major wetland restorations have taken place, for example the large-scale, landscape level restoration projects in the Hortobágy National Park. There are some establishment of new education and visitor centres that support raising awareness for wetland conservation issues (Sarród, Hortobágy, Biharugra).

The garganey and common pochard became protected species in June 2008, by Ministerial Decree No. 18/2008. (VI. 19.) KvVM.

1.2 Outline of planned actions for national implementation over the next three years

The most important tasks of the upcoming 3 years are:

- improving the implementation, including more efficient protection of the Natura 2000 network,

- the implementation of already existing management plans, and the preparation of management plans for those protected areas, where this tool still does not exist,
- the implementation of the regulation on leadshot hunting, and raising awareness to this issue,
- the systematic implementation of the Single Species Action Plan.

1.3 Outline of priorities for international co-operation over the next three years

Hungary is a party to all relevant international conventions (CMS, CITES, Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention, CBD). Hungary undertakes the international obligations and participates actively in all conventions.

2. Species conservation

Legal measures

2.1 Has a national policy/strategy or legislation to protect and conserve species covered by the Agreement (Table 1: column A; column B) and their supporting important areas been developed? If so:

- a. What are the main features of the policy/legislation?
- b. Which organisations are responsible for implementation?
- c. How does it relate to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?

Nature Conservation Act No. 53 of 1996, Article 43 orders the following concerning protected species:

Regarding protected bird species and species that are listed as „a species of nature conservation significance of European Community” the authorisation of the competent Inspectorate for Environmental, Nature and Water Management, regarding strictly protected species the National Chief Inspectorate for Environmental, Nature and Water Management shall be required for:

- any population control
- the collection, capture, killing, possession and training of any individual
- the breeding in captivity of any individual
- the taxidermal preparation and preservation or the possession of such preparations of any individual
- the keeping of any individual in live animal collections
- the supplementing of any population with individuals from foreign populations
- the artificial exchange of genetic matter between populations
- the exchange or sale and purchase of any individual
- the exportation from, importation to or transportation through the Republic of Hungary of any individual
- the reintroduction or introduction of any individual
- the application of alarming methods in order to prevent any damage caused by them
- the transfer of the nest of any individual
- the domestication of any individual

Protected and strictly protected species - according to *Government Decree No. 348/2006 (XII. 23.) about the Detailed Rules on Protection, Keeping, Display and Utilisation of Protected Species-*, are allowed to be kept, displayed or utilised only for nature conservation or other public interest purposes.

For conservation and legal status of all waterbird species that occur in Hungary and to which the AEWa applies, see in Appendix 8. All other waterbird species, that occur in Hungary, but are not listed in Annex 2. of this Agreement (great skua – *Catharacta skua*, jaegers – *Stercorarius* spp., kittiwake – *Rissa tridactyla* and the North American vagrants) are also protected in Hungary. The purple sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) and Iceland gull

(*Larus glaucooides*) are also protected in Hungary, but are no longer on the official national checklist.

Furthermore some species that have not occurred yet in Hungary, but have occurred in other EU Member States, are also listed as „species of community importance”. (*Gavia adamsii*, *Ardea melanocephala*, *Ixobrychus sturmii*, *Leptoptilus crumeniferus*, *Geronticus eremita*, *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*, *Fulica cristata*, *Porphyrio alleni*, *Pluvianus aegyptius*, *Charadrius asiaticus*, *Charadrius mongolus*, *Calidris tenuirostris*, *Gallinago stenura*, *Larus audouinii*, *Larus leucophthalmus*, *Larus cirrocephalus*, *Sterna bengalensis*, *Sterna maxima*, *Sterna bergii*, *Sterna dougallii*)

2.2 What legal measures or practices has your country developed to prohibit or regulate for the following (refer also to section 4 on hunting):

- a. Taking of, and trade in birds listed in Column A and B of Table 1 (where utilization or trade contravenes the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1 (a) and 2.1.2 of the Action Plan)?
- b. Methods of taking?
- c. Setting of taking limits and monitoring these limits?
- d. Sustainable hunting of species listed in Categories 2 and 3 (and marked by an asterisk) in Column A only?
- e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?

In Hungary seven waterbird species are huntable. These are as follows:

- bean goose (*Anser fabalis*) – Column B 1 (ssp. *fabalis*), Column C (1) (ssp. *rossicus*),
- greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) – Column A 3a*,
- mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Column B 2c,
- teal (*Anas crecca*) – Column C 1,
- goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) – Column C 1,
- coot (*Fulica atra*) – Column C 1,
- and woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) – Column C 1.

Hungary's hunting legislation establishes the following open seasons:

- bean goose and greater white-fronted goose: from 1st of October to 31st of January, in Region of Tiszántúl (east of River Tisza) from 1st of December to 31st of January.
- mallard, teal and coot: from 1st of September to 31st of January.
- goldeneye: from 1st of October to 31st of January.
- woodcock: from 1st of March to 10th of April.

The captive bred and released mallards are huntable all year around.

Only roding woodcocks can be hunted. In the case of woodcock, the legislation will be changed in the near future. The spring hunting season will not be in effect after 2009, in line with the provisions of the Birds Directive.

The garganey and common pochard became protected species in June 2008, by Ministerial Decree No. 18/2008. (VI. 19.) KvVM.

Accordingly, in June, 2005 Ministerial Decree No. 56/2005 (VI.25.), amending the implementation decree of the Hunting Act, all trade with shot specimens of bean goose, greater whitefronted goose, teal, goldeneye, coot and woodcock, and any parts and

derivates of them, is prohibited.

For the prohibited taking methods see Section 4.1.

There is a daily bag limit for all waterbird species. Only four woodcocks, altogether four geese (bean and/or greater whitefronted aggregate), and eight ducks and/or coots (mallards, teals, goldeneyes and coots aggregate) can be shot per day per hunter. This regulation does not apply to captive bred and released mallards.

Only one species from Column A, the greater white-fronted goose is huntable species in Hungary. For legal measures for sustainable hunting, see above.

No exemptions have been made to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3. A number of licenses have been issued by nature conservation authorities to shoot great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*) and yellow-legged gull (*Larus michachellis*) mainly at artificial fishponds to prevent serious damage to fishstocks, and occasionally to collect eggs of mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) in order to protect some endangered species (e.g. ferruginous duck).

In accordance with the provisions of the Birds Directive regarding derogations, the great cormorant will be shot, based on the provisions of Ministerial Decree No. 18/2008. (VI. 19.), from 1st of September to 31st of January outside national protected areas and SPA's. The prohibited taking methods will be the same as for wildfowl.

Single Species Action Plans

2.3 Of the species covered by the Agreement (species listed in Table 1: column A), which spend part or all of their life history in your country, which have formal international (Category 1, species marked with an asterisk) or national (column A) Single Species Action Plans:

- a. Proposed?*
- b. In preparation?*
- c. Being implemented?*

Please append a list of species and their action plan status. (For international plans indicate which other countries are involved in plan development/implementation.)

For the following species, the International Action Plan is being implemented in Hungary:

- Pygmy cormorant – *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*,
- Lesser whitefronted goose – *Anser erythropus*,
- Red-breasted goose – *Branta ruficollis*,
- Ferruginous duck – *Aythya nyroca*,
- Corncrake – *Crex crex*,
- Black-winged pratincole - *Glareola nordmanni*,
- Slender-billed curlew – *Numenius tenuirostris*,
- Great snipe – *Gallinago media*.

(The dalmatian pelican – *Pelecanus crispus*, the white-headed duck – *Oxyura leucocephala*, the marbled teal – *Marmaronetta angustirostris* and the sociable plover – *Vanellus gregarius* are only vagrants in Hungary.)

For the conservation of species the Ministry of Environment and Water has started to elaborate species action plans. Although action plans have been elaborated for numerous species taking into consideration various national and international legislation and conventions – with special respect to the 92/43/EEC Habitats Directive of the EU, they include only one waterbird, i.e. one of the most threatened Hungarian waterbird species, the kentish plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Financial background for the action plans is ensured by the Ministry of Environment and Water. Hungary has also participated in the preparation of the AEWA international action plan for the Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), on the basis of which a national action plan is also planned (by Csaba Pigniczki).

In 2003, BirdLife Hungary published national action plans for conservation of 14 bird species. The list of birds includes the following waterbirds.

- Black stork – *Ciconia nigra*,
- White stork – *Ciconia ciconia*,
- Ferruginous duck – *Aythya nyroca*,
- Corncrake – *Crex crex*,
- Kentish plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*.

These action plans, however, have not been adopted formally by the Ministry of Environment and Water but implemented, at least partly.

A LIFE-Nature project is going on called 'Conservation of *Anser erythropus* on European migration route'. The project stretches from breeding grounds, via the staging areas, to the wintering grounds. In Hungary the goal is to ensure secure staging grounds by maintaining and creating adequate feeding and resting sites and by decreasing potential threat possibly caused by hunting of the population during migration. The project runs until 31st March, 2009.

Emergency measures

2.4 Describe any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action that your country has undertaken to develop and implement emergency measures to conserve species in response to unfavourable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.

Hungary is a party of all relevant international conventions. (Ramsar convention, CITES, CMS, Bern Convention, CBD.)

Related legislation (hunting and wildlife conservation) was harmonised to the obligations of these conventions already before joining.

On the territory of each national park directorate there are protected natural areas and areas planned to be protected, some of which are adjacent to the natural areas of neighbouring countries, therefore Hungary, in the framework of bi- and multilateral nature

conservation cooperation, works on the harmonization of nature conservation management. The most important field of cooperation are the transboundary national parks and landscape protection areas, the establishment of common ecological systems etc. At the Fertő-Hanság National Park successful transboundary cooperation exists between Hungary and Austria and a joint committee supervises the activities of the park. Hungary and Slovakia have established transboundary Ramsar sites (Upper Tisza Region, river Ipoly/Ipel) and there is ongoing cooperation concerning Natura 2000 sites and hunting issues; cooperation exists with Ukraine concerning the designation of the border-crossing of highway M3 so that it has minimum adverse effect on biodiversity; cooperation with Romania used to focus mainly on the protected border areas and areas planned for protection but now it expands to the transfer of experience about the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, cooperation with Serbia is currently formulating at the ministerial level. A trilateral biosphere reserve is also planned by Hungary, Croatia and Serbia.

There are some transboundary wetlands designated as Ramsar sites by Hungary:

- Lake Fertő/Neusiedl (good co-operation between the Hungarian and the Austrian national parks for Lake Neusiedl), both sides of the border are Ramsar sites
- Béda-Karapanca (good co-operation established with the Croatian Kopacki Rit Nature Park, under a 2003-2005 project supported by the Netherlands and organised by ECNC, to harmonise management and establish the joint ecological network) both sides of the border are Ramsar sites
- Biharugra and Begécs Fishponds (good contacts with the Romanian partners)
- Valley of Ipel/Ipoly (jointly designated by Hungary and Slovakia as a Ramsar site)
- Upper Tisza (jointly designated by Hungary and Slovakia as announced by the Ramsar Secretariat in November 2004). The Ukraine and Romania have been invited several times, for the last time during the 6th European Regional Meeting in May 2008, to designate the Upper Tisza within their territories. The Ukraine delegation expressed their country's determination to designate this territory as a Ramsar site.

The Visegrád Group is the cooperation among four countries in the Central European region (Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland) in a number of fields of common interest, including environment. Several joint projects have been carried out in the field of environment protection and nature conservation.

Border-region water management committees have been set up with all neighbouring countries and they identified all transboundary wetland systems (Bilateral agreements with Hungary's neighbours – year in brackets: signature, entry into force:

- ✓ Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Austria on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1956, 1959)
- ✓ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in the Field of Water (1994, 1996)
- ✓ Agreement of Co-operation in the field of protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania (2003, 2004)
 - preceding: Agreement of 1987
- ✓ Serbia: Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of water management(1955, 1956)

- ✓ Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1976)
- ✓ The new agreement with Slovakia has already been elaborated and is awaiting authorization for signature on Slovakian side
- ✓ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of Water Management (1994, 2001)
- ✓ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Ukraine in the field of transboundary water management (1997, 1999))

All these activities can be used to active protection of migratory waterbird species.

Re-establishments

2.5 Has a policy on species re-establishments been developed in your country? If yes, please outline the main features of the policy and give details of any re-establishment programmes for species covered by the Agreement.

No waterbird species re-establishment initiative exists in the reported period in Hungary.

Introductions

2.6 Has your country developed and implemented legal measures to prohibit the introduction of nonnative species? Please provide details, particularly describing measures to control the release or introduction of non-native species (please indicate which species and their status).

At the moment, non-native waterbird species occur in Hungary only as vagrants. There are some accepted records of Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) and ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*).

There is no exotic animal species significantly endangering native waterbird populations in Hungary. However, the effect of the introduction of grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) on the dabbling ducks, especially on the Ferruginous duck population needs further investigation.

But some invasive plant species, e. g. *Acer negundo*, *Solidago canadensis*, *Solidago gigantea* pose a serious threat to wetlands ecosystems and waterbird populations.

Control of invasive alien species is incorporated into Act No. 53 of 1996 on nature conservation, into the National Nature Conservation Master Plan (chapter 5.4.1.2.5) and also into the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and into legislation and programmes of certain sectoral activities such as common health, plant protection, animal husbandry. It is to be noted that Hungary established a rather strict system on controlling invasive alien species in the 20th century, including obligatory control of certain aliens,

border control and quarantine.

The system mentioned above has been considerably changed by joining the European Community. Therefore, Hungary has started to develop its national strategy based on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and on Decision VI/23 of the CBD.

Within the European Community the trade of certain invasive species is not regulated and the import of these species may have considerable negative effect on the native flora (e.g.: ornamental use of *Solidago gigantea*).

The national strategy on invasive species, which is under development, should be built into the national legislation in order to be effective.

The development of management plans for the major invasive plant species started in 2002. At present management plans for 30 major species are complete and some of them are officially published by the Ministry of Environment and Water. Furthermore, management plans for seven invasive mammal species and eight fish species have been drafted. The preliminary review of all non-native vertebrates also was compiled by MEW in 2007. A leaflet on invasive fish species was also prepared by MEW in 2008.

A 408-page publication "Invasive Plants in Hungary" was published by the Ministry of Environment and Water in 2004, and a 20 page English booklet came out in 2003 on the subject (the latter is also available on the internet, titled "Invasive Alien Species in Hungary"). It is followed by a 412-page publication "Invasive Plants in Hungary 2" in 2006.

The book "Invasive Plants in Hungary" contains chapters on the impacts and eradication methods of several species that have an impact on wetlands, such as *Acer negundo*, *Amorpha fruticosa* and *Solidago* species.

The book "Invasive Plants in Hungary 2." contains same chapters of *Azolla mexicana*, *Azolla filiculoides*, *Cabomba caroliniana*, *Echinocystis lobata*, *Elodea canadensis*, *Elodea nuttallii*.

Eradication projects have also been undertaken, and of course, had been preceded by risk assessments for the concrete sites.

Act No. 53 of 1996 on Nature Conservation contains the definition of invasive alien species and promotes native tree species to be planted in afforestations, but it contains no detailed regulations on how to fight invasive species.

Actions to control invasive species are included in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (as a result of a coordinated action of focal points of different conventions).

The Hungarian translation of *European strategy on invasive alien species* (Nature and Environment, No. 137. Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, 2004.) was published in January, 2008.

A new regulation of the Animal Welfare Act is currently being made, which will regulate the keeping of pet animals and keeping and selling animals in pet shops. The Ministry of Environment and Water proposed a prohibition of the keeping of certain invasive species, including ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) that may pose a threat to the indigenous fauna and flora of the country.

3. Habitat conservation

Habitat inventories

3.1 Has your country developed and published inventories of important habitats for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, please provide details, including any provisions to maintain or update these inventories.

Firstly, European Important Bird Areas in Hungary is a 70-page book published by MME (BirdLife Hungary) in 1992, based on the extensive data on bird populations, trend and conservation status of the Important Bird Areas In Europe of International Council for Bird Preservation Technical Publication. In 1998 the MME published the second book titled Important Bird Areas in Hungary, which analyses the situation of wild birds in Hungary and focuses on the major conservation issues affecting birds and their habitats. New research carried out by BirdLife Hungary and its Partners suggest 43 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for conserving a wide range of biodiversity.

The Proposed Special Protection Areas of Birds and their Habitats in Hungary, published by MME in 2002, demonstrates the special conservation measures for the most threatened species and for migratory birds, also through the establishment of national network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) where birds and their habitats have to be maintained in a good conservation status. SPAs were designated by the Government in October 2004.

Implementation of the Water Framework Directive of the European Union, in order to create the national database for wetlands over 50 ha, to reach good ecological status of wetlands by 2015 and to elaborate river basin management plans by 2015. Continuation of on-going activities, such as wetland restoration projects and nature education work. The National Wetland Inventory database was established in 2004 and data cover approximately 70 % of the country. The process of data collection has stalled but it is planned to be resumed.

The Nature Conservation Information System operated by the Ministry of Environment and Water summarises information on the ecological character of protected wetlands, including important sites for waterbirds and collects data from the National Biodiversity Monitoring System, including data on wetland species and habitats; a national database is also operated by the Tiszántúli Regional Inspectorate for Environment Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management based in Debrecen, but this database only covers certain ecological parameters.

As far as the above-mentioned databases allow us to estimate on a national scale, the overall general character of Hungary's wetlands did not change significantly.

3.2 Has your country undertaken a strategic review of sites to develop a national network of important sites or areas for species covered by the Agreement? Please append a list of identified sites of international importance.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Water has not yet been endorsed by the Government. The Water Framework Directive can be considered the wetland policy of the European Union, as river basin management plans are to be elaborated by 2015 for all river basins. Therefore, these plans will include the management policy for Hungary's wetlands. The Water Framework Directive has been

incorporated into Hungary's legislation by three government decrees: 219/2004 (VII. 21.) on the protection of groundwaters, 220/2004 (VII. 21.) on the protection of surface water quality and 221/2004 (VII. 21.) on the rules of water catchment management.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has a chapter on wetland management policy containing the aspects of wise use. The National Sustainable Development Strategy was approved in 2007, in line with the renewed sustainable development strategy of the European Union approved on 16 June 2006. The National Climate Strategy was endorsed by the Government in February 2008. Both strategies have incorporated wetland issues. The strategic environmental assessment directive of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2001/42/EC) is implemented by Government Decree 2/2005.

The necessary quantity and quality of water have been assessed in wetlands where an environmental impact assessment became necessary due to developments (for example in Kis-Balaton) or where a wetland restoration took place (for example, Nyirkai-Hany, Montágpuszta).

For the list of identified sites of international importance, as waterbird habitats, see Appendix 2. This list includes all Ramsar sites, except for one subterranean site.

In Hungary, it is the national park directorates that work on wetland conservation (they manage wetlands for nature conservation, operate wetland exhibitions at their visitor centres, etc.). It is the directorates that twin with other similar organisations.

During the preparation of the SPAs for the Natura 2000 network, the national park directorates and the Ministry of Environment and Water evaluated the proposed list of SPAs by BirdLife Hungary and amended it (mostly by extension). This work naturally included the evaluation of wetlands as for their importance for waterbirds.

Conservation of areas

3.3 Describe the legal frameworks and other measures through which sites (including transfrontier sites) including of international importance gain practical protection. (Please append a list of internationally important protected sites.)

Today, 9.5 per cent of Hungary's territory is protected natural area (with national or local importance). The number and extension of protected natural areas have continuously increased. Unfortunately, the proportion of areas under strict protection is relatively small (15 per cent of territory of the protected areas).

Protected natural areas of national importance cover 9.1% of Hungary's territory (844,702 ha) and 175,000 ha (1.8% of Hungary's territory) natural areas are planned for protection.

Protected natural areas are designated by individual legal regulations. Protection by force of the Act on nature conservation, justified by the protection of highly endangered habitats, like mires and alkaline lakes, is a legal solution.

So, all mires have been declared protected by force of the Act No. 53 of 1996 on nature conservation and these natural areas are qualified as protected areas of national importance. The real protection procedure was very hard because of the lack of definition for mires. In 2003, the definition of mires was built into this Act, so the protection before the court became more effective. The protection of mires (rehabilitation, reconstruction) was also built in the National Environment Programme compiled this year, which contains the

main required activities on nature conservation for the next 6 years.

Most mires were considered for designation under the Habitats Directive of the European Union, and many were in fact designated as pSCIs in 2004.

For 18 of the most valuable mires a management plan was prepared by the national park directorates, including plans for improving conditions for CEPA (study trails) and ecotourism.

All alkaline lakes (alkaline lakes are seasonal, shallow pools) also have been declared protected by force of the Act on Nature Conservation in 1996. These natural areas are also qualified as protected areas of national importance. The real protection procedure was very hard because of the lack of definition for alkaline lakes. In 2003, the definition of alkaline lakes was built into this Act, so the protection before the court became more effective. The protection of alkaline lakes (rehabilitation, reconstruction) was also built in the National Environment Programme compiled in the same year, which contains the main required activities on nature conservation for the next 6 years. Practically all alkaline wetlands have been included in the National ecological Network and most were designated as pSCIs in 2004 under the Habitats Directive of the European Union.

For many alkaline lakes management plans have been prepared, or nearly finalized by the national park directorates, including plans for improving conditions for CEPA (study trails, e.g. at Apaj, Kelemenszék, etc.) and ecotourism.

The Government approved the second National Environmental Programme for 2003-2008 in a Parliament resolution No. 132/2003. (XII. 11.). This programme introduces thematic action programmes, one of which is titled 'Action Programme of Biodiversity Conservation and Landscape Protection'. This thematic action programme is realized in the National Nature Conservation Master Plan.

One objective of the second National Environmental Programme is to increase by 2008 the extension and proportion of natural areas to 11 per cent compared to the total territory of the country and protected by individual law.

A high proportion of natural areas planned for protection is in private property. The owners would agree with declaring their area protected only if they were compensated for the nature conservation restrictions or they got financial support for their activities supporting the conservation and nature-friendly management of the area.

According to the Act No. 53 of 1996 "it shall be prohibited to alter the conditions (substance) or the character of protected natural areas contrary to the purposes of nature conservation. During the use and development of natural areas, it shall also be ensured, taking account of traditional nature-friendly land use techniques, that the character of the landscape, its aesthetic value and natural assets as well as its characteristic natural systems and unique features are conserved."

With Hungary's accession to the European Union Natura 2000 sites had to be designated for 46 habitat types, 36 plant species, 91 bird species and 105 other animal species listed in the Birds and Habitats Directives. Most of these species were protected in Hungary before the accession to the EU. The lists of Natura 2000 sites contain 55 Special Protection Areas (SPA) and 467 proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCI). It means that almost 20.6% of Hungary (1.91 million hectares) is part of the Natura 2000 network. The overlap of SPA and pSCI is 41%. 38.5% of the proposed Natura 2000 sites are protected natural areas at the national level.

For the list of SPAs that are particularly important for waterbirds, see Appendix 2.

In Hungary Natura 2000 sites were announced by the Government Decree No. 275/2004. (X.8.) in October 2004. The Decree contains the rules regarding Natura 2000 sites and the annexes of the Decree contain the lists of habitats and species of community importance that were the basis for the designation of sites, and the list and maps of the sites.

In Hungary significant part of protected natural areas or Natura 2000 sites are in private property and in case of restrictions compensation has to be paid for landowners.

According to the governmental decree on Natura 2000 sites, a separate decree has to be announced describing the detailed rules of land use on Natura 2000 sites. The Office for Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Environment and Water started to elaborate the concept of this Decree. A working group was established with the participation of local experts and the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The rules of land use will be introduced from 2008 and then the compensation and subsidy for farmers will be paid within the frame of the National Rural Development Plan that will be elaborated according to the European Union's legislation. (in the case of grasslands from 2008, in the case of reedbeds from 2009.)

Under the Natura 2000, Hungary has designated most of the natural and near-natural wetlands (for example, the Natura 2000 network covers most Ramsar sites). From 2007 onwards, land users will be subsidised for managing Natura 2000 areas in harmony with nature conservation.

On the other hand, national park directorates have purchased important wetlands to ensure that management is fully harmonious with nature conservation interests. It is planned that all wetlands owned by state water management will be taken over by state nature conservation (except for those parcels that are functionally used for water management).

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) have been defined and designated by each national park directorate (on their own area of competency) in three categories – highly important, important, and planned ESA. In the country's territory there are in total 30 highly important, 20 important and 11 planned ESAs designated on land under extensive cultivation, where the preservation and maintenance of nature-friendly cultivation methods serve the protection of habitats and species, including some waterbird species, such as geese and cranes. Now there is subsidy for 15 ESAs (400,000 ha). Some pilot areas of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme are in flood plains and thus affect wetlands.

Hungary has designated its National Ecological Network but has not announced it by legislation. The National Ecological Network covers 30% of Hungary. The establishment of the network is the national implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and the Hungarian Ecological Network is part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, and is related to the Green Belt international ecological network programme of IUCN.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands came into force for Hungary on 11 August 1979. Hungary presently has 28 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with a surface area of about 232,800 hectares.

The 5 new Ramsar sites and 2 extensions have been declared in the reported period (in 2006 and 2008), with a total area of over 53.000 ha.

Within the frame of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme, 5 Biosphere Reserves have been designated in Hungary, including three important waterbird habitats, the wetlands of Hortobágy, the wetlands of Kiskunság and the Lake Fertő.

Both Lake Fertő and the Hortobágy have been inscribed on the World Heritage list as

cultural landscapes. Lake Öreg at Tata, lying in a beautiful medieval setting of the old town of Tata, is another Ramsar site that has been declared protected by the local government.

In many cases the various types of protected areas are overlapping. All in all, every Hungarian wetland of international importance for waterbirds is protected and/or is a Natura 2000 site. Only a few wetlands of local importance still await designation.

3.4 Has your country developed a management planning process for protected sites? If yes, please outline the types of management plans and organisations responsible for development and implementation.

In general, under the current legislation an area can be declared protected only if its nature conservation management plan is completed. Considering that management plans for already protected areas need to be prepared as well, the preparation and harmonization of all management plans require considerable time and capacity.

Decree No. 30/2001 (XII.28.) of the Minister of Environment on nature conservation management plans integrates the main guidelines of the Ramsar Convention as well as other (e.g. IUCN) international guidelines for management plans. However, the decree made the management planning process much too complex and presently hardly any protected areas in Hungary have a management plan accepted under this legislation.

3.5 How many protected sites have formal management plans (please append a list of sites and their management planning status):

- a. Proposed?*
- b. In preparation?*
- c. Being implemented?*

Management plans (even if not officially approved ones) exist for several sites. Most international important waterbird habitats are fully under national protection, and thus, the management plan (if exists) covers these. But some, like the Upper Tisza Ramsar site is only partly covered by the Szatmár-Bereg Landscape Protection Area and its management plan. For the status of management plans of the international important wetlands, see Appendix 3.

Cultural aspects, where they are significant, have been included in management planning. Best examples are Lake Fertő (part of the World Cultural Heritage since 2002), the Hortobágy (part of the World Cultural Heritage since 2000), and Lakes by Tata with the old town of Tata. In other areas, traditional land use is encouraged and prescribed by the management plans (for example grazing with native, traditional breeds, traditional flood plain management, etc.).

3.6 What measures does your country have in place to ensure the wise use of wetland habitats and to prevent habitat degradation e.g. pollution control and managing water resources? Please provide examples of best practice initiatives particularly involving cross-sectoral co-operation or public participation.

Activities carried out for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and AEWA all help to

implement the objectives of the programme of work on inland water biological diversity. Habitat restorations represent a good example for this. Recent wetland restorations in Hungary include: water retention in bog meadows, bog meadow habitat restoration, bog meadow vegetation control, water retention dam and water supply, flood plain restoration, ponds maintenance, wetland restoration by re-flooding to restore formerly flooded marshes. Another example is the implementation of projects, like for example the sustainable use and management rehabilitation of flood plain in the Middle Tisza District started in 2004 or the joint control of invasive species in wet meadows of the Hungarian Aggtelek National Park and the Slovak Karst National Park.

Water quality and quantity available to and required by wetlands are assessed by the water management directorates, in collaboration with the national park directorates on the basis of Article 18 (2) of the Act No. 53 of 1996 on Nature Conservation. If necessary, the national park directorate can also initiate this assessment. On the basis of Article 18 (1), the amount of water ecologically required by wetlands cannot be artificially withdrawn from natural and near-natural wetlands. Since the Act came into force, this assessment has been general practice.

The ecosystem benefits of Kis-Balaton Ramsar site have been assessed, as regards water quality of Kis-Balaton and Lake Balaton.

Ecosystem benefits are also assessed in fishponds (several fishpond systems in Hungary are important wetlands and comprise several Ramsar sites). These assessments refer to fish production benefits from extensive production systems. Unpublished manuscripts can be found for example at the Hortobágyi Halgazdaság Rt.

The implementation of the Vásárhelyi Plan (see later), aiming at flood control, flood plain wetland restorations and poverty eradication along the river Tisza (the second river in Hungary) through support to sustainable, extensive land use in flood plains, has begun. WWF Hungary has also operated a project on wise use of flood plains at Nagykörű (middle section of river Tisza). Extensively managed fishponds also support rich wildlife and at the same time alleviate poverty in poor regions. The cultural values of wetlands are taken into consideration in planning for protected areas.

Rehabilitation and restoration

3.7 Does your country have a policy for the identification, rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands important for species covered by the Agreement? Please provide examples of rehabilitation and restoration projects and initiatives undertaken.

Numerous wetland restoration projects have taken place in recent years. At the Biharugra Ramsar site, the Sző meadow and Ugrai meadow, an ecological water regulation project has been carried out (248 ha). Water retention to create wetland habitats has taken place at the Kivágási pasture (southeast Hungary). A major wetland restoration (re-flooding) took place at the Nyirkai Hany to restore a part of the formerly flooded Hanság marshes.

Sites in the Béda-Karapanca area of the Danube-Dráva National Park are restored in a transboundary project with Croatia, supported by the Dutch government and coordinated by ECNC.

Landscape level marsh restoration in the Egyek-Pusztakócs Marshes within the Hortobágy Ramsar site in 2006, affecting 3 000 ha, and in the Kunmadarasi-puszta (steppe) and

Ecsezug area within the same Ramsar site, affecting 2500 ha; Wetland restoration in the Kardoskút Ramsar site affecting 560 ha in 2006; Flood plain and bog meadow restoration in the Alpár-bokrosi area (near river Tisza) and in the Mártély Ramsar site, affecting 2000 ha in 2006.

Several LIFE projects have been launched for habitat restorations, especially wetland habitats, which also support numerous migratory species. For the list of these LIFE projects, see Appendix 7.

In 2003 the Government approved of the conceptual plan (Vásárhelyi Plan) of enhancing flood safety in the Tisza Valley. The Vásárhelyi Plan aims at the creation of a higher level of flood safety, the improvement of the living standards of the rural- and urban population in the region, the formulation and introduction of new types of agro-ecological land use in the area of the emergency flood retention reservoirs and the modernisation of the infrastructure in the settlements along the River Tisza. Many new waterbird habitats will be created once this plan is implemented.

4. Management of human activities

Hunting

4.1 Outline the main features of legislation or legal measures in your country to control hunting of the species covered by the Agreement (e.g. use of lead shot and poisoned baits, and to eliminate illegal taking).

For huntable species and hunting season, see Section 2.2.

Additionally, the prohibited taking methods of waterbirds are listed by the Act No. 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting, in accordance with the EU Birds Directive and the Bern Convention. These are as follows:

- Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition,
- Nets,
- Traps,
- Artificial light sources, mirrors, device for illuminating targets,
- Sighting devices for night shooting,
- Snares, limes, hooks,
- Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys,
- Tape recorders,
- Electrocuting devices,
- Cross bow, poisoned or explosion arrows,
- Aircraft, motor vehicles,
- Boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 kilometres per hour.

The use of poisoned or anaesthetic baits are also strictly prohibited in Hungary, although poisoned baits have never been used for waterbird taking in Hungary.

Hungary, when adopting AEWA undertook to ban hunting with leadshot on wetland habitats until 15th August, 2005 - at latest. Accordingly, in June, 2005 Ministerial Decree No. 56/2005 (VI.25.) FVM, amending the implementation decree of the Act on game protection, game management and hunting, has been adopted. In compliance with the regulation the use of leadshot is forbidden by force of law on wetlands from 15th August, 2005. The regulation lists 33 such wetland areas, among them all Ramsar areas, being important bird habitats. Moreover the competent regional hunting authority has to prohibit the use of leadshot in a case- by-case resolution, in consultation with the regional environmental, nature conservation and water management authorities, on the certain fishpond or wetland being continuously under water where waterbirds occur regularly. Around all areas, if reasoned, 100 m buffer zone can be designated as a maximum. The hunting with leadshot on the border of such areas can be pursued only in a way that the lead drops do not fall on the area in question.

The 33 areas where the use of leadshot is prohibited are:

- Sárvíz völgye [Valley of Sárvíz],
- certain wetland habitats in the Kiskunság National Park,
- Péter-tavi Madárrezervátum [Bird Sanctuary of Lake Péter],
- Baláta-tó [Lake Baláta],

- Montaj-tó [Lake Montaj],
- Kecskeri-puszta [Kecsker Plain] including the Dudás-fertő [Marsh of Dudás],
- Szabadkígyósi-puszták [Szabadkígyós Plains], Pitvarosi-puszták [Pitvaros Plains] and Cserebökényi-puszták [Cserebökény Plains],
- Nagyberek Fehér-víz [Lake Fehér at Nagyberek],
- Sárrét,
- Tiszavasvári Fehér szik [Alkaline Lake of Tiszavasvár] and its 100 m buffer zone,
- Dabasi Turjános [Sedge Marsh at Dabas],
- the Northern Balaton wetland habitats of the Balaton-Felvidéki National Park,
- Csaba-rét [Csaba meadow and its 100 m buffer zone],
- Kiskunsági szikes tavak [Alkaline Lakes of Kiskunság] and the Izsáki Kolon-tó [Lake Kolon at Izsák],
- Fertő-tó [Lake Fertő],
- Tatai Öreg-tó [Lake Öreg at Tata],
- Velence-tó, Dinnyési fertő [Lake Velence and Marsh of Dinnyés],
- Kis-Balaton,
- Balaton [Lake Balaton],
- Gemenc, and Béda-Karapanca,
- Ócsa Landscape Protection Area,
- Szegedi Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Szeged], Tisza labodári és saséri területe [Flood Plain of Tisza at Labodár and Sasér], Csaj-tó [Lake Csaj], Baksi nagylegelő [Pasture of Baks] and Búdösszék-tó [Lake Búdösszék] at Pusztaszer,
- Kardoskúti Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Kardoskút], Biharugrai halastavak [Biharugra Fishponds] and Begécsi halastavak [Begécs Fishponds], Ugrai-rét [Ugra Meadow], Csillaglaposi legelő [Pasture of Csillaglapos] and Sző-rét [Sző Meadow] with their 100 m buffer zone,
- Csongrád-Bokrosi Sós-tó [Lake Sós at Csongrádbokros],
- Szaporcai Ó-Dráva meder [Old Riverbed of Dráva at szaporca],
- Mártély,
- Rétszilasi-halastavak [Rétszilás Fishponds],
- Ipoly völgye [Valley of Ipoly],
- Felső-Tisza [Upper Tisza],
- the Ramsar areas of the Hortobágyi National with their 100 m buffer zone,
- Bodrozug,
- Böddi-szék and Sóséri-puszta [Sósér Plain] with their 100 m buffer zone.

Concerning illegal bird shooting: on the basis of Act No. 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting, in the case of small game hunting (including wildfowl) the hunting organisations are obliged to inform the regional nature conservation authority in advance about the time and location of the hunting in order to secure the nature conservation inspectors to check the legality of the hunting. Preliminary reporting is also required in the case of commercial hunting or group hunting in protected areas. We compiled and published an information booklet in five languages in cooperation with the hunting authorities about the nature conservation and hunting rules in Hungary and every Italian hunter gets it in Italian language before hunting. The second edition of booklet was published in 2006 in cooperation with Hungarian Hunters' National Chamber and the two responsible ministries.

WWF Hungary has a special program for elimination of illegal bird crime.

4.2 Does your country monitor hunting levels? If so, how is this information collated and reported?

Act No. 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting contained the obligation to establish the national game management database. This has been fulfilled and the Szent István University is responsible for maintaining the database. All hunters have the obligation to yearly report the number of individuals /game species hunted on their hunting territory. In Hungary the annual bag of waterfowl has to be reported broken down into species from the year 1993.

Annual bag data of the last three years:

	2004	2005	2006
bean goose	2756	2681	2412
greater whitefront	2117	1908	2920
teal	2177	2204	3253
mallard	49009	44864	52958
garganey	189	121	0
pochard	450	339	434
goldeneye	59	35	86
coot	2101	2985	3326
woodcock	7219	8986	8133

Futhermore 121,276 captive-bred and released mallards were shot in 2004, 107,898 in 2005, and 95,451 in 2006.

4.3 Describe action undertaken by hunting clubs and organisations to manage hunting activity e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licences and proficiency testing of individual members.

Most Hungarian hunters are members of the Hungarian Hunters' National Chamber. The Chamber regularly compiles, publishes and sends information booklets and annuals for members. These also include changes in the hunting regulation, consequently members get the newest informations.

Eco-tourism

4.4 What is the status of eco-tourism programmes or initiatives in your country? Please provide examples of projects with an indication of the significant outcomes.

National parks and other natural areas have lots of experience in awareness raising. Smaller visitor centres have operated long in the territory of each national park directorate. Their utilization level is quite good, not only in the 'high season' of the school year but they provide programmes of high standard throughout the whole year. The number of visitors of national park directorates is higher year by year, thanks to the increasing standard of nature conservation training and the improving efficiency of information providing.

Eco-tourism facilitating training and environmental education has accelerated in state-level nature conservation and the activities of NGOs. Nature trails can be found in large numbers in the territories of national park directorates. Some are managed by the directorates (about 70), and others are operated by the national directorates jointly with other organisations, but there are also ones maintained by external organisations. Their condition is unfortunately not sufficient in every case, which calls for their renewal and the creation of new trails.

The foundation stone of an ecocentre (visitor/training centre with ecotourism facilities) was laid in 2004 in Poroszló, by Lake Tisza.

Recently established education centers in Hungary that promote wetland and waterbird conservation: Forest School buildings at Drávatamási and Drávaszentes along the river Dráva; Mekszikó-Pusztaközpont at Lake Fertő Ramsar site (completed in 2006); Hortobágy Education and Visitor Centre at Hortobágy Ramsar site (completed in 2007); Körösvölgyi Visitor Centre and Exhibition by the river Körös; Kontyvirág Forest School at Tőserdő, by an oxbow of the river Tisza completed in 2006); Csipaksemlyék Forest School by a marsh at Mórahalom (completed in 2007).

4.5 What social and economic benefits accrue to the local communities from the conservation of important waterbird sites?

Two Ramsar sites are also parts of the World Heritage in the cultural landscape category: Lake Fertő and the wetlands of the Hortobágy. Major developments for tourism have taken place since, promoting the recognition of social and cultural heritage of wetlands.

The Lake Fertő Ramsar site received World Heritage status in the cultural landscape category in 2002. The cultural monuments of the site are widely used to raise awareness for the natural heritage, as well, and visitors (ecotourists) appreciate both natural and cultural values. Whole communities depend mostly on eco-tourism in this area.

Another good example is Lake Öreg at Tata, lying in a beautiful medieval setting of the old town of Tata: the regular festivals contain information on both the cultural and the natural heritage. Visitors of cultural festivals can learn about wild geese and the other aspects of the Ramsar site, while visitors of the Wild Goose Festival also hear presentations about the cultural heritage of the town.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the Wild Goose Festival (Tatai Vadlúd Sokadalom) was organised at Lakes by Tata Ramsar site for the 5th, 6th and 7th times, and the occasion had by now grown into a national event. In 2007, the number of participants reached 6,000 and people came from all over the country to celebrate the arrival and migration of wild geese and to learn about the Ramsar site, its wise use in the heart of a city, as well as the cultural and natural heritage of the city in general. The Festival will be held in 2008, too.

Traditional fishing practices have long been documented in Hungary. At Rétszilás Fish Ponds Ramsar site, the private manager of the site has established, with government support, the Museum of Hungarian Fishermen and Fishing, introducing visitors to the history and instruments of traditional fishing. Application of such knowledge (including traditional fishing, pollarding and wickerwork, etc.) is encouraged particularly in protected areas. Cultural values of wetlands are taken into account during habitat restoration as well as maintenance.

On other hand, on approximately 40 per cent of protected areas some kind of agricultural production may take place because the natural assets of these areas may be maintained through extensive agriculture. The products produced as a result thereof have to be indicated and supplied with trademarks; consumers' attention this way may be called that they buy healthy products. The products produced on protected natural areas fully take into consideration the aspects of conservation and sustainable use and they maximally comply with food safety regulations.

The Hortobágy National Park Directorate will publish a book dealing partly with traditional cultures in the Hortobágy area in 2008. Part of this compilation has already been published in the 'Daru' booklets.

Andrásfalvy Bertalan (2007): *A Duna mente népének ártéri gazdálkodása* (flood plain management by Danubian people). Ekvilibrium Kft., 440 p. is an other major work on the subject published in the reporting period.

Major projects supporting the maintenance of traditional knowledge on wetland management include a GEF project along the river Tisza and a WWF Hungary project carried out at Nagykörű (middle section of river Tisza); the use of traditional knowledge is encouraged in particular in craftsmanship, such as the use of reed for thatching, and reedmace (*Typha* sp.) for hand-made utilities. Traditional flood plain management methods are encouraged in certain projects, especially along the river Tisza and the Gemenc.

Other human activities

4.6 Does your country carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting protected sites or areas important for species covered by the Agreement? If yes, briefly describe the main features of your EIA policy and procedures.

Wetland conservation and wise use issues have been integrated into major projects as they are obliged by Environmental Impact Assessments. The key elements of Hungarian EIA policy:

a) In Hungary the overall regulation of environmental protection is ensured by the Act No. 53 of 1995, which declares that the preservation and protection of natural heritage and environmental assets as well as the improvement of their quality are prerequisites for the human health and quality of life and neglecting them threatens the health of present generations, the existence of future generations and the survival of many species. The Law introduced new instruments such as environmental impact assessment (EIA) and preliminary environmental state assessment (the Governmental Decree No. 20/2001. (II. 14.) on environmental impact assessment enlists the activities that must be subject to prior EIA). There are also other pieces of legislation that significantly contribute to achieving the

objectives of the Convention. One of them being of key importance is the law on nature conservation, which progressively extends nature conservation concerns on the areas and landscapes not being under protection by ensuring protection by force of the law on certain natural territories (e.g. saline lakes, mires, caves, springs).

Governmental Decree No. 20/2001. (II. 14.) lays down the detailed rules on Environmental Impact Assessment in Hungary. The aim of the impact assessment is to determine, describe and evaluate the effects of various activities and development specified in the Annexes. Mainly those effects are considered that may influence humans, animals, plants, soil, water, atmosphere, climate and landscape. It is therefore a tool for applying the precautionary principle. The EIA report has to contain overall information on the impacts of any activity on the environment. In Hungary, the system of environmental impact assessment consists of two parts: a preliminary and a detailed one. There are 137 sorts of activities listed in the annexes that require EIAs.

Certain activities (which may negatively affect migratory waterbirds as well) are subject to obligatory detailed EIA, like the construction of motorways, highways, railways, public roads longer than 10 km, 220 kV power lines longer than 15 km. Other activities, like redistribution of land property (in case of protected areas, ecological corridors or lands larger than 300 hectares), alteration of intensive agricultural land-use, amelioration, establishment of animal husbandry facilities in certain cases, construction of 120 kV power lines and 2 MW windturbines (200 kW in protected areas) may be subject to EIA – upon the decision of environmental authority.

The activities on protected natural areas and its buffer zones, on natural areas or on environmentally sensitive areas that require EIA are listed in the appendix of the decree.

b) Furthermore, according to Act No. 53 of 1996 on Nature Conservation if the commencement of any activity specified in statutory law is bound to environmental impact assessment, an inventory of nature shall be carried out as a part of the assessment. The inventory of nature includes:

- a survey of the natural assets and their conditions in the area concerned;
- presentation of the activities that significantly influence, endanger or damage the natural assets, including the protected natural assets;
- the measures to reduce the effects of the changes resulting from the implementation of the planned activity (management), as well as the measures for the conservation of the natural assets and for the reduction of the unavoidable damage.

c) The second National Environmental Programme for the period 2003-2008 aims cooperation with relevant sectors to establish an appropriate regulatory system to avoid environmental damage. It states that the incorporation of environmental aspects into economic policy is the substantial precondition of the horizontal integration of environmental aspects. During the implementation of the NEP a set of instruments intended to promote the activities of the priority sectors should be elaborated with attention to the following substantive aspects:

- assessment of the environmental load caused by the sector;
- assessment of the related sectoral programmes; suggestion on how to reinforce their environmental aspects;
- elaboration of sectoral, environment focused policies, guidelines and planning aids;
- elaboration of subsectoral environment development strategies (e.g.: pharmaceutical industry, animal husbandry, public transport) with the involvement of the business sector, trade and non-governmental organizations concerned.

d) In 1997, Hungary ratified the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). The Espoo (EIA) Convention stipulates the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries.

Hungary has also joined the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River and announced it in Government Decree No. 74/2000 (V. 31.).

e) Certain emergency surveillance systems work, e.g. mass dying (more than 10 specimens) of wild animal species, radioactive emission, pollution of waters.

4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimising disturbance of species populations or limit the impact of species populations on crops or fisheries). Please summarize any land-use conflicts especially emphasising successful solutions to problems encountered in promoting the wise-use of waterbirds and their habitats.

The main examples of practical implementation:

a) Comprehensive studies were published in 2002 on the subject in a compilation by the Ministry of Environment, with the following titles:

- “The interactions of the natural and social environments in the example of oxbow management”
- “Fish farming and nature conservation”,
- “The interactions of the natural and social environments from the ecological point of view”.

Unfortunately, the studies only exist in Hungarian and there is presently no capacity for translation.

b) The agri-environmental measures of the National Rural Development Plan (NRDP) are developed to promote agricultural practices which are based on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources, and also to sustain the livelihood of local people and to create a liveable countryside. The programme for Environmentally Sensitive Areas within the agri-environmental measures particularly promotes positive impacts on biodiversity (farming with prescriptions for habitat development). For further information on ESA's, see Section 3.3.

c) There are also several activities that minimise or eliminate barriers or obstacles to bird migration (minimize the risk of electrocution and to take the interests of migratory birds into consideration in the planning process of windturbines)

In Hungary a length of 50 000 kms of medium-voltage power lines exist, which means 650 000 towers – according to the data given by the power suppliers. Five surveys were carried out on the mortality caused by electrocution: 4 regional and one covering the country. The latter was conducted in 2004, when 4 067 towers meaning 325 km-s of power lines were surveyed. 581 dead specimens were found from 33 bird species – from which 322

specimens were protected or strictly protected. The results show that the average is one dead bird/every 7th tower, and one raptor/every 18th tower (Demeter, Iván et al., 2004). Most frequently found waterbird species is the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), but rare species are also found occasionally.

BirdLife Hungary has been carrying out an insulation program since 1987 aiming to minimize the risk of electrocution by installing insulating coating on the towers. Since then – after the development and the manufacturing of the prototypes – several tens of thousands of such insulating coating have been installed.

BirdLife Hungary has carried out another program to provide raised platforms for white storks. In the last four decades the nesting of white storks has changed and 80% of the white storks nest on electricity poles. BirdLife Hungary, co-operating with the power suppliers, developed a special stork nest platform, and ~6000 such platforms have been installed. In 2001 and in 2002 BirdLife Hungary surveyed the types and quality of the poles, and monitored the nests and consequently investigated the possible risk posed. They found that 32-33% of the nests are endangered. According to mortality data of the years 1994-1999, 95% of known mortality of anthropogenic origin is caused by electrocution.

Activities aiming to reduce the risk of electrocution are financed and carried out in co-operation among constructors, conservation organizations, the competent nature conservation authority and power suppliers. One of the five power suppliers in Hungary itself finances production of 'insulation slippers' and also developed new pole types in 2003. The Ministry of Environment and Water, BirdLife Hungary and the Hungarian power supplier companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding titled "Accessible Sky" on 26 February 2008, setting out deadlines to gradually eliminate bird kills by power lines. The aim is to make all medium voltage power lines bird safe by 2020.

In 2003 the Ministry of Environment and Water compiled and adopted the conception on the conditions for wind farm establishment in Hungary - taking the aspects of nature and landscape protection into account. The study determines areas not recommended for wind farm establishment from nature conservation aspects as followings:

- Any part of the ecological network: protected natural areas and their buffer zones, natural areas (areas protected by power of the Act on nature conservation, protected natural monuments and the surface area of protected subterranean natural monuments /caves/) as well as the ecological (green) corridors;
- The breeding, feeding, resting sites and migration routes of wild animals (with special regard to protected species);
- Habitats of protected plant species and plant communities;
- Areas designated under international convention and directives (Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 network, Biosphere Reserves);
- Landscape protection zones, areas around individual landscape features.

The study determines the impacts of wind farms on wildlife to be assessed in case of installation. These are loss of, or damage to, habitat resulting from wind turbines and associated infrastructure; collision mortality and disturbance leading to displacement or exclusion, including barriers to movement.

According to relevant regulations in Hungary the following permits are needed:

- Environmental permit over 2 MW total capacity, in protected natural areas over 200 kW total capacity;
- Building permit;
- Power station establishing permit (over 50 MW);
- Utilisation permit;

- Permit for connection to the mains electricity supply;
- Nature conservation permit in protected natural areas.

The nature conservation authority acts as a co-authority (gives or refuses consent to a permit issued by another authority) in the environmental, building and connection to mains permission procedures. The nature conservation permit is the competence of the nature conservation authority.

In Hungary, the state is obliged to buy electricity generated by renewable energy sources, at a higher price than in the case of other energy sources.

d) On the basis of Act 55 of 1996 on game protection, game management and hunting the following areas of important waterbirds' habitats have been designated, where hunting and nature conservation authorities may further restrict waterbird hunting (in many cases this means the total ban on hunting):

- Baláta-tó [Lake Baláta]
- Balaton [Lake Balaton]
- Biharugai-halastavak [Biharugra Fishponds],
- Böddi-szék
- Boronka-mellék
- Borsodi-Mezőség
- Csíkvarsai-rét [Csíkvarsa Meadow]
- Csongrád-Bokrosi Sós-tó [Lake Sós at Csongrád-Bokros]
- Felső-Tisza [Upper Tisza]
- Fertő-tó [Lake Fertő]
- Gátéri Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Gátér]
- Gemenc and Béda-Karapanca
- Hevesi Füves Puszták [Plains of Heves]
- Hortobágyi Nemzeti Park [Hortobágy National Park]
- Ipoly-völgy [Valley of Ipoly]
- Izsáki Kolon-tó [Lake Kolon at Izsák]
- Kardoskúti Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Kardoskút]
- Kecskeri-puszta [Kecsker Plain]
- Kesznyéten
- Kis-Balaton
- Kiskunsági szikes tavak [Alkaline Lakes of Kiskunság]
- Körös-Maros National Park including
 - Begécsi-halastavak [Begécs Fishponds],
 - Sző-rét [Sző Meadow],
 - Cserebökényi-puszták [Cserebökény Plains],
 - Pitvarosi-puszták [Pitvaros Plains],
- Közép-tiszai [Middle Tisza]
- Mártély
- Nagybereki Fehér-víz [Lake Fehér at Nagyberek]
- Ócsa
- Orgoványi rétek [Meadows of Orgovány]
- Pacsmagi-tavak [Pacsmag Fishponds]
- Pellérdi-halastavak [Pellérd Fishponds]
- Péter-tavi Madárrezervátum [Bird Sanctuary of Lake Péter]
- Pusztaszer including
 - Szegedi Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Szeged],
 - Tisza labodári és saséri területe [Flood Plain of Tisza at Labodár and

- Sasér],
 - Csaj-tó [Lake Csaj],
 - Baksi nagylegelő [Pasture of Baks],
 - Büdösszék-tó [Pasture of Büdösszék]
- Rácalmástól az országhatárig valamennyi Duna-zátony területe [all Danube shoals from Rácalmás till the border-line]
- Rétszilás [Rétszilás Fishponds]
- Sárosfői-halastavak [Sárosfő Fishponds]
- Sárrét
- Sárvíz völgye [Valley of Sárrét]
- Sumonyi-halastavak [Sumony Fishponds]
- Szabadkígyósi-puszták [Szabadkígyós Plains]
- Szaporcai Ó-Dráva meder [Old Riverbed of Dráva at Szaporca]
- Szatmár-Bereg
- Szigetköz
- Tatai Öreg-tó [Lake Öreg at Tata]
- Tisza Alpár-Bokrosi ártéri öblözete [Flood Plain of Tisza at Alpár-Bokros]
- Tiszadorogmai Göbe-erdő [Göbe Gallery Forest of Tiszadorogma]
- Tiszatelek-Tiszaberceli Ártér [Flood Plain of Tiszatelek and Tiszabercel]
- Tiszavasvári Fehér-szik [Alkaline Lake of Tiszavasvár]
- Tokaj-Bodrogzug
- Velencei-tó és a Dinnyési Fertő [Lake Velence and Marsh of Dinnyés]

5. Research and monitoring

Status of research and monitoring programmes for species

5.1 How are priorities for research identified in your country? Please briefly describe your country's research programmes, including any bilateral or multilateral co-operative action, for wetland habitats and for species covered by the Agreement (e.g. studies into species population, ecology and migratory patterns). Please append a list of research activities initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.

In general, several research activities have been completed in relation to the national registration of biological diversity and its conservation and sustainable use as well as natural areas and assets already protected or planned for protection, their evaluative analysis, and ongoing detection of the phenomena and processes endangering these assets.

Hungarian scientists also regularly cooperate with researchers of developing countries to promote assessment and conservation of biodiversity in these countries.

The Hungarian Biodiversity Platform (HBP) is the national platform of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy. The main objective of the HBP is to promote important research projects and decisions that contribute to the conservation, restoration, sustainable use of components of biological diversity, and to reduce biodiversity loss. HBP bridges the gap between science and policy. More information: <http://www.biodivplatform.hu>.

Regular meetings also take place for hydrobiologists of national park directorates to inform each other on activities, especially in order to implement the Water Framework Directive in Hungary.

5.2 What monitoring activities does your country undertake, including any bilateral or multilateral cooperative action, of wetland areas and species covered by the Agreement (e.g. national monitoring schemes, International Waterfowl Census)? Please append a list of monitoring activities or programmes initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years

The Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System (HBMS) is a national programme for observing biological diversity in Hungary, launched in 1996 and supervised by the Authority for Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Environment and Water. The monitoring takes place at the population, community and habitat level. More information is available here: <http://www.kvvm.hu/szakmai/biodiver/old/html/angol/index.htm>. For example, the Kis-Balaton monitoring has been implemented under this programme since 2000. Its main topics are the monitoring of zooplankton, periphyton, algae, macrozoobenton, invasive plant species, molluscs, Diptera, Northern Vole, colonial breeding birds and reed-dwelling birds.

Assessments of changes of wetland status are compiled and summarised by the Ministry of Environment and Water and its background institute, the National Directorate for Environment, Nature and Water; data are collected through standardised wetland monitoring exercises (Kis-Balaton, Drava River and Szigetköz area) as well as smaller scale surveys of wetland statuses carried out by national park directorates. Under the Water Framework Directive, Hungary plans to start monitoring the ecological character of 258 wetlands that form part of the Natura 2000 network.

The main monitoring programs of migratory waterbird species co-ordinated by Ministry of Environment and Water are the endangered species monitoring, the strictly protected and colonial bird species monitoring, the national waterfowl monitoring, etc. For the list of these monitoring programs, see Appendix 4.

The BirdLife Hungary (MME) also co-ordinates some Waterbird Monitoring Programs, for example: migratory waterbird monitoring, breeding population survey, rare and colonial nesting bird monitoring. For the list of these monitoring programs and for recent research projects, see also Appendix 4.

6. Education and information

Training and development programmes

6.1 Describe the status of training and development programmes which support waterbird conservation and implement the AEWA Action Plan.

Actions in this respect have taken place at Lake Öreg at Tata. CEPA activity initiated by an IUCN project, including the annual Wild Goose Festival (since 2001), as well as the establishment of a visitor centre by the local government of Tata to highlight cultural and natural values of the lake and the town.

In general, the management planning exercise includes the incorporation of cultural values, and this refers to the management planning of wetlands, as well. An IUCN initiated a successful communication project was carried out in the area of Lake Tisza Ramsar site. The goal was to involve local governments in wetland conservation issues.

The Environmental Education and Communication Programme Office (EECPO) is an interdepartmental institution of the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Ministry of Education coordinating environmental communication and environmental education policies in Hungary. The Office regularly reviews and evaluates CEPA programs.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually. The 2005 event was a great success, held at the visitor centre in Anna-liget, by the headquarters of the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate (inaugurated in 2003). It has a high-tech exhibition on the wetlands of the national park, as well as a 2 km nature trail introducing visitors to the natural beauty of a flood plain gallery woodland.

Numerous nature trails and birdwatching towers have been established recently, e.g. a 2 km nature trail at Lake Tisza, a 500 m nature trail at Lake Kelemen, towers and hides at the Hortobagy fishponds.

Regularly updated information on the implementation of the AEWA in Hungary is published on the internet at: www.termeszetvedelem.hu. Hungary's Ramsar sites also featured on an NGO's website, too, at www.ramsar.hu during 2006-2007

In October 2007, a major publication was published after twelve years of preparation, on Hungary's Ramsar sites: Tardy J. (ed.) (2007): *A magyarországi vadvizek világa*. Alexandra Kiadó, 416 p.

Each national park directorate maintains a website on which important waterbird habitats and species also feature. For example www.dinpi.hu features the Rétság Fishponds, the Velence Bird Reserve and Dinnyés Marsh and the Ócsa.

The University of Debrecen is launching a new training course in Hungary, providing Master of Science degree in hydrobiology. The course will hopefully be attended by Hungarian and foreign students, too.

A new updated edition of 'Vadásziskola' (Hunters' School), a study book for hunters, will be

published in 2008, containing information on wildfowl. Magyar Vízivad Közlemények (Hungarian Wildfowl Bulletin) publishes wildfowl monitoring data from numerous Hungarian wetlands.

Under the 'Restoration of pannonic steppes and marshes' LIFE project, the Hortobágy National Park Directorate published their experience on the management of the Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), an Annex I species on the Birds Directive. The study was coordinated by RSPB experts (White G, Purps J and Alsbury S (2006): The bittern in Europe: a guide to species and habitat management. The RSPB, Sandy. In: Restoration of the steppe marshes at Hortobágy National Park, Hungary, 137-139.pp.

There are several visitor centres and museums operated by national park directorates and dealing, at least partly, with wetlands and their cultural issues. A documentary film series has also been produced recently on national parks and their natural and cultural heritage. A half-year course was launched in 2007 by the Tessedik Sámuel College at Szarvas on flood plain management. The training provides information on traditional management methods, too.

The Hortobágy National Park Directorate has organised training courses for boat tour guides operating in Lake Tisza (part of the Hortobágy Ramsar site) for six years now. Approximately 30 trainees participate yearly.

A poster series was published between 2001 and 2007 on all the protected mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and fish species of Hungary. It has been distributed widely among schools, for example, and was also distributed at World Wetlands Day, 2008. All of our protected and strictly protected bird species are depicted on these posters, including almost all waterbird species (11 non-protected species are excluded.)

WWF Hungary implemented a wise use project at Nagykörű (middle section of river Tisza) in collaboration with and co-financed by the local government. A LIFE Nature project along the middle section of the River Tisza also promotes flood plain wise use (see http://www.vituki-consult.hu/sumar/angol/projekt_eng.html). There are several other completed and running projects.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year throughout the country by various organisations (national park directorates, NGOs such as Nimfea and WWF). The Ministry of Environment and Water organised national celebrations in 2007 and 2008. The General Assembly of the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) was also deliberately organised to coincide with this occasion at Miskolc, Hungary, for World Wetlands Day in 2007, with the topic 'Wetlands in the Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive & Public Participation in the EU Water Framework Directive implementation'.

6.2 What bilateral or multilateral co-operative action is your country undertaking to develop training programmes and share examples of good practice?

Hungary receives also foreign participants in various educational programmes and training camps and the country joined the GLOBE international environmental and educational network in 1999, today some 25 schools participate in the programme.

Hungary established good technical and scientific cooperation and collaborative exchange of information on biodiversity related research, education, training, surveillance, etc., with several countries. The aim is to maintain and improve this cooperation according to the requirements of partners.

The river Bodrog has been surveyed in co-operation by Hungarian and Slovak researchers, and a book was published on the results jointly; twinning arrangements are in place on the Austrian and Hungarian side of Lake Fertő/Lake Neusiedl (involving the national park administrations), the Hungarian and Slovak side of the Baradla - Domica cave system (involving the national park administrations) and along the Upper Tisza/Tisa river (involving researchers), between Kopacki Rit Nature Park in Croatia and the Béda-Karapancsa of the Duna-Dráva National Park in Hungary, the conservation managers of the Biharuga Fishponds in Hungary and the Cséffai Fishponds in Romania. An Interreg project was carried out along the river Ipoly/Ipel transboundary Ramsar site from March 2006 to March 2008 to help the interpretation of wetlands along the rivers Ipoly and Danube, and to establish a transboundary Natura 2000 monitoring system. This project included knowledge sharing in publications, information boards and joint presentations for the local public. Wetlands International organised a training session to help establish the monitoring system of the Nyirkai-Hany Ramsar site.

Raising public awareness

6.3 Describe activities to raise public awareness of the objectives of the AEWA Action Plan. Please outline any particular successes generating public interest in, and securing support for, waterbird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?

Awareness-raising is a lasting activity in the country: its elements are partly in the acts on the media, on public education, on environmental protection and nature conservation, in concepts on public health, family policy and youth policy and are drafted in connection with our accession to international conventions (Aarhus Convention) on the access to information. CEPA was incorporated into some sectoral policies (e.g. National Environmental Programme, Vásárhelyi plan) aiming at raising awareness of natural values and services.

The draft National Environmental Education Programme has been elaborated but the finalization of the document is under way.

The National Core Curriculum sets environmental education as a basic requirement but biodiversity conservation and nature-oriented education is still at insufficient level in the public education.

Agreements have been made between the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Ministry of Education, which have given a new momentum to training in nature conservation. As a result of this, the “forest school network” is gradually and significantly developing and an increasing number of children have access to programmes outside educational institutions that provide nature conservation training and education. The EECPO is an interdepartmental institution of the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Ministry of Education coordinating environmental communication and environmental education policies in Hungary. The Office regularly reviews and evaluates CEPA programs. The scope of activity of environmental education covers the whole society and it affects every age group. However, one of its most significant stage is the public, vocational, adult and higher education.

Visitor centres operate in the territory of each national park directorate, many of them focus on wetland issues, and they provide programmes of high standard throughout the whole

year.

The website of the Ministry of Environment and Water and Hungary's CHM is used for public awareness purposes, and for making available information on legislation, policy, status and trends, news etc. In addition to this, there are several good 'green' websites accessible also from the Hungarian CHM.

Information on biodiversity-related issues are also accessible through various publications of the Ministry of Environment, National Park Directorates, NGOs, etc.

Although biodiversity is not an everyday and significant issue in the media, there are very good new coverages on Hungary's natural heritage: for example, a series on the country's national parks, or a public opinion poll on Hungary's seven natural wonders (the result of this campaign includes among the seven most popular natural "wonders" even a wetland, the Pusztaszer Landscape Protection Area.

No special support for biodiversity awareness raising but the theme is included into environmental education programmes and activities supported by the government and local governments and main organisers are communication centres, national parks, NGOs, schools.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan

The Hungarian Parliament has approved the resolution on the National Environmental Programme for 2003-2008. Within this frame exists the National Nature Conservation Master Plan containing the obligation of implementation of the AEWA Action Plan. Numerous provisions serve the protection of waterbird species e.g. designation of protected areas, wildlife protection, landscape protection sections.

The objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan help the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbird species and their habitats, but there is no specific strategic objective on this issue. The objectives focusing on species and habitats include migratory species as well. All sectoral chapters (mining; forestry and forest management; fisheries management, fishing, angling; agriculture; regional development and tourism; land use; hunting; water management; molecular biology methods and biodiversity) of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan help indirectly the above mentioned objective.

Hungary joined the European Union in May 2004, thus the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive apply in the country. Implementation began in October 2004 when the Special Protection Areas were designated by the Government and the proposed Sites of Conservation Interest were submitted to the EU Commission.

Beside this, naturally, Hungary implements all obligations and tasks laid down in national nature protection legislation, in management plans for protected areas and in species action plans. The ban of lead shot hunting on wetland habitats and the enforcement of this prohibition is a special, AEWA-related task for Hungary.

7.2 Observations concerning the functions and services of the various AEWA bodies

- a. The Agreement Secretariat*
- b. International organisations*
- c. AEWA NGO partners*

The co-operation, the exchange of information between the Secretariat and Hungary is smooth and useful.

7.3 How might the Action Plan be further developed as a practical aid for national and international conservation of migratory waterbirds?

The damage of nature caused by foreign hunters is a continuous, permanent problem in the Central-Eastern European region. There is a need for more effective international co-operation against illegal hunting and illegal trade with such killed specimens.

8. Progress to implement Resolutions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties

During the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties, which took place from 23-27 October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal the following Resolutions have been adopted.

Res. 3.1 – 3.3.

Not applicable to the Parties.

Res. 3.4 SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS TO MOP

See this report.

Res. 3.5 – 3.6,

Not applicable to the Parties.

Res. 3.7 IMPLEMENTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WATERBIRDS AROUND THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Conservation activities in Hungary are designed and implemented in line with the conclusions of the Waterbirds Around the World Conference

Res. 3.8 AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES TO THE AGREEMENT

No proposal will be made by Hungary for amendments to the annexes at MoP4.

Res. 3.9

Not applicable to the Parties.

Res. 3.10 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR AEWA

Communication strategy for waterbird conservation activities in Hungary are in line with this resolution.

Res. 3.11

Not applicable to the Parties.

Res. 3.12 ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLANS

See section 2.3.

Res. 3.13 – 3. 16.

Not applicable to the Parties.

Res. 3.17 CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Waterbird conservation activities in Hungary are in line with this resolution.

Res. 3.18 AVIAN INFLUENZA

Activities to prevent the spread of avian influenza in Hungary are in line with this resolution.

Res. 3.19 IMPLEMENTING THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

The sustainable use of waterbirds in Hungary is in line with this resolution.

Res. 3.20. REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

Not applicable to the Parties.

Decision 3.1 DECISION REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF AEWA

Not applicable to the Parties.

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
Bern Convention	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
ECNC	European Centre for Nature Conservation
EECPO	Environmental Education and Communication Programme Office
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
Espoo Convention	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HBMS	Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System
HBP	Hungarian Biodiversity Platform
HUF	Hungarian forint
IBA	Important Bird Area
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
KHT	Non-profit Co.
KÖTIKÖVIZIG	Middle Tisa Environmental and Water Management Authority
MME	BirdLife Hungary
NEP	National Environmental Programme
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NRDP	National Rural Development Plan
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
pSCI	Proposed Site of Community Importance (of the Habitats Directive)
Ramsar Convention	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat
SPA	Special Protection Area (of the Birds Directive)
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

References

Laws and regulations:

Law Decree No. 6/1986 on CMS

Act No. 53 of 1995 on environmental protection.

Act No. 53 of 1996 on Nature Conservation

Act No. 55 of 1996 on Game protection, Game management and Hunting

Act No. 33. of 2003 on AEWA.

Government Decree No. 348/2006 (XII. 23.) about the detailed regulation of protection, keeping, display and utilization of protected species

Government Decree No. 74/2000 (V. 31.) on Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River

Government Decree No. 20/2001. (II. 14.) on detailed rules on Environmental Impact Assessment

Ministerial Decree No. 13/2001 (V. 9.) KöM on the protected and strictly protected species of flora and fauna, determination of the range of strictly protected caves furthermore species of nature conservation significance of European Community (last amendment: 18/2008. (VI. 19.) KvVM.)

Ministerial Decree No. 30/2001 (XII.28.) KöM on nature conservation management plans

Ministerial Decree No. 56/2005 (VI.25.) FVM, amending the implementation decree of the Act on Game protection, Game management and Hunting

The Second National Environmental Programme for 2003-2008 in a Parliament resolution No. 132/2003. (XII. 11.), including National Nature Conservation Master Plan (2003-2008) – promulgated

National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan – yet adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Water and planning to be adopted by the Government

National Rural Development Plan, 2004.

National Environmental Education Programme (in preparation)

(all in Hungarian)

National Reports for other Conventions.

National Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – 2005

National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat - 2008

3rd National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity - 2005

Bilateral agreements with Hungary's neighbours (years in brackets: signature, entry into force)

Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Austria on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1956, 1959)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in the Field of Water (1994, 1996)

Agreement of Co-operation in the field of protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Romania (2003, 2004)

– preceding: Agreement of 1987

Serbia: Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of water management(1955, 1956)

Agreement between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on the regulation of water management issues in the border area (1976)

The new agreement with Slovakia has already been elaborated and is awaiting authorization for signature on Slovakian side

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of Water Management (1994, 2001)

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Ukraine in the field of transboundary water management (1997, 1999)

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Nagy, S & Crockford, N (2004) *Implementation in the European Union of species action plans for 23 of Europe's most threatened birds*. BirdLife International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Nagy, Sz. (1998): *Fontos madárelőhelyek Magyarországon* [Important Bird Areas in Hungary], MME Publication No.15., Budapest (in Hungarian)

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DÉVAI, GY. – DEVAI, I. – DELAUNE, R.D. – NAGY, S.A. 2006: Phosphine production and its importance in wetland area Kis-Balaton (Hungary). – Verh. internat. Verein. theor. angew. Limnol. 29/5: 2330–2333.;

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System. In: Acta Biologica Debrecine, Supplementum Oecologica Hungarica Vol. 19, 2008. Institute of Biology and Ecology, University of Debrecen and Hungarian Ecological Society

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MME Nomenclator Bizottság (2008): Nomenclator avium Hungariae. An annotated list of the birds of Hungary. Magyar Madártani és Természetvédelmi Egyesület, Budapest. 278 p.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

For the following species, the International Action Plan is being implemented:

- Pygmy cormorant – *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*,
- Lesser whitefronted goose – *Anser erythropus*,
- Red-breasted goose – *Branta ruficollis*,
- Ferruginous duck – *Aythya nyroca*,
- Corncrace – *Crex crex*,
- Black-winged pratincole - *Glareola nordmanni*,
- Slender-billed curlew – *Numenius tenuirostris*,
- Great snipe – *Gfallinago media*.

For the following species, National Action Plans have been prepared by BirdLife Hungary, not endorsed by Ministry of Environment and Water, but implemented:

- Black stork – *Ciconia nigra*,
- White stork – *Ciconia ciconia*,
- Ferruginous duck – *Aythya nyroca*,
- Corncrake – *Crex crex*,
- Kentish plover – *Charadrius alexandrinus*.

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

The following sites are of particular interest for waterbirds from the list of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (the list includes all Ramsar sites, except for one subterranean Ramsar site):

Alsó-Tiszavölgy [Lower Tisza Valley]
Balaton [Lake Balaton]
Balatoni berkek [Swamp Area of Lake Balaton]
Béda-Karapanca
Belső-Somogy [Inner Somogy]
Bodrogzug – Kopasz-hegy – Taktaköz
Csongrád-Bokrosi Sós-tó [Lake Sós of Csongrád-Bokros]
Felső-Kiskunsági szikes puszták és turjánvidék [Alkaline Plains and Sedge Marsh of Upper Kiskunság]
Felső-Tisza [Upper Tisza]
Fertő-tó [Lake Fertő]
Gátéri Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Gátér]
Gemenc
Hortobágy
Ipoly völgye [Valley of Ipoly]
Izsáki Kolon-tó [Lake Kolon at Izsák]
Kesznyéten
Kígyósi-puszta [Kígyós Plain]
Kis-Balaton
Kiskunsági szikes tavak és az őrjegi turjánvidék [Alkaline Lakes of Kiskunság and Sedge Marsh of Órjeg]
Kis-Sárrét
Közép-Tisza [Middle Tisza]
Mórichelyi-halastavak [Mórichely Fishponds]
Nyugat-Dráva [West Dráva]
Pacsmagi-tavak [Pacsmag Fishponds]
Sárvíz völgye [Valley of Sárvíz]
Szaporcai Ó-Dráva meder [Old Riverbed of Dráva at Szaporca]
Szigetköz
Tatai Öreg-tó [Lake Öreg at Tata]
Tisza Alpár-Bokrosi ártéri öblözete [Flood Plain of Tisza at Alpár-Bokros]
Vásárhelyi- és Csanádi puszták [Plains at Vásárhely and Csanád]
Velencei-tó és Dinnyési Fertő [Lake Velence and Marsh of Dinnyés]

Appendix 3: Status of management plans for sites of international importance

Alsó-Tiszavölgy [Lower Tisza Valley]: there is no management plan
Balaton [Lake Balaton]: end of revision in 2009 (BfNP)
Balatoni berkek [Swamp Area of Lake Balaton] (Kis-Balaton): end of revision in 2009 (BfNP)
Béda-Karapancsa: management plan is being prepared; 2008 (DDNP)
Belső-Somogy [Inner Somogy]: there is no management plan
Bodrogzug – Kopasz-hegy – Taktaköz: there is no management plan
Csongrád-Bokrosi Sós-tó [Lake Sós of Csongrád-Bokros]: it is not a protected area at national level, there is no management plan
Felső-Kiskunsági szikes puszták és turjánvidék [Alkaline Plains and Sedge Marsh of Upper Kiskunság]: management plan is under revision (KNP)
Felső-Tisza [Upper Tisza]: end of revision in 2010 (Szatmár-Beregi tájvédelmi Körzet) Note: small overlapping area
Fertő-tó [Lake Fertő]: end of revision in 2008 (FHNP)
Gátéri Fehér-tó [Lake Fehér at Gátér]: end of revision in 2008 (KMNP)
Gemenc: management plan is beenig prepared; 2008 (DDNP)
Hortobágy: management plan is beenig prepared; 2009 (HNP)
Ipoly völgye [Valley of Ipoly]: management plan is beenig prepared; 2015 (DINP)
Izsáki Kolon-tó [Lake Kolon at Izsák]: management plan is under revision (KNP)
Kesznyéten: management plan is beenig prepared; 2008 (Kesznyéteni TK)
Kígyósi-puszta [Kígyós Plain]: end of revision in 2008 (KMNP)
Kis-Balaton: end of revision in 2009 (BfNP)
Kiskunsági szikes tavak és az őrjegi turjánvidék [Alkaline Lakes of Kiskunság and Sedge Marsh of Órjeg]: management plan is under revision (KNP)
Kis-Sárrét: end of revision in 2008 (KMNP)
Közép-Tisza [Middle Tisza]: end of revision in 2009 (Közép-Tiszai TK)
Mórichelyi-halastavak [Mórichely Fishponds]: there is no management plan
Nyugat-Dráva [West Dráva]: management plan is beenig prepared; 2008 (DDNP)
Pacsmagi-tavak [Pacsmag Fishponds]: management plan is under revision; 2008 (Pacsmagi-tavak TT)
Sárvíz völgye [Valley of Sárvíz]: there is no management plan
Szaporcai Ó-Dráva meder [Old Riverbed of Dráva at Szaporca]: management plan is being prepared; 2008 (DDNP)
Szigetköz: end of revision in 2008 (Szigetközi TK)
Tatai Öreg-tó [Lake Öreg at Tata]: it is not a protected area at national level, there is no management plan
Tisza Alpár-Bokrosi ártéri öblözete [Flood Plain of Tisza at Alpár-Bokros]: end of revision in 2009 (Közép-Tiszai TK)
Vásárhelyi- és Csanádi puszták [Plains at Vásárhely and Csanád]: end of revision in 2008 (KMNP)
Velencei-tó és Dinnyési Fertő [Lake Velence and Marsh of Dinnyés]: Dinnyés: revision is beeing in process

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

The main monitoring programs of migratory waterbird species, are co-ordinated by Ministry of Environment and Water:

- endangered species monitoring (including species still abundant, but threatened, like White Stork – *Ciconia ciconia*, Corncrake – *Crex crex*),
- strictly protected and colonial bird species monitoring (running from 2002 aiming to create a scientific basis to the species protection programs and to trace population trends. The results of these surveys give the basis for international reporting obligation of Hungary),
- national waterfowl monitoring (carried out 8 months a year aiming to detect the dynamics of breeding birds and migratory birds and carrying out synchronic censuses on Ramsar and important migratory sites. Since 1997/1998, waterbirds (a total of 51 species) have been monitored monthly between August and April at 49 major wetland units throughout the country),
- monitoring of the effectiveness of nature conservation programs,
- monitoring nature conservation activities,
- monitoring utilized species.

Waterbird Monitoring Programs of BirdLife Hungary (MME):

- Migratory Waterbird Monitoring: Monthly birdcounts of main wetland sites. The census happen more than 50 sites, which are Ramsar sites, IBA's, or Natura 2000 sites. All participants count all the waterbirds species in every month at same time. Lots of volunteers participate in this program.
- Breeding population survey: BirdLife Hungary organizing this program to estimate the breeding population of all waterbirds primarily ducks, shorebirds etc.
- Rare and Colonial Nesting Bird Monitoring: The primary aim to estimate the rare and colonial nesting bird populations and its change in long-term period for example: cormorants and herons.
- Common Bird Monitoring. This survey aims to detect the changes in the common birds populations. Hundreds of volunteers participate in this succesful action.

Recent research publications (all in Hungarian):

Szabó Balázs (ed., 2000): A cigányréce (*Aythya nyroca*) hazai elterjedése és az állomány változása 1995-1999. között. MME. [The distribution and population changes of the Ferruginous Duck in Hungary between 1995-1999].

Sterbetz István: Délkelet-magyarországi adatok a cigányréce (*Aythya nyroca* Gùldenstàdt, 1770) egykori elterjedésérõl . - In: Magyar vízivad közlemények, ISSN 1416-1389 , 2000. 6. sz., 33-46. p.

Tar János - Ecsedi Zoltán: A kis lilik (*Anser erythropus*) előfordulása és terepi határozása Magyarországon . - In: Túzok, ISSN 1416-020X , 2001. (6. évf.), 1. sz., 1-7. p.

Horváth Jenõ (2001): A Balaton és Kis-Balaton bütykös hattyú költõ állománya és annak

természetvédelmi jelentősége. [The breeding population of Mute Swans in Lake Balaton and in the Kis-Balaton, as well as their conservation aspects.]

Kiss János: A haris (*Crex crex*) állományvizsgálata Baranya megyében . - In: Aquila, ISSN 0374-5708 , 2004. 111. évf., 59-74. p.

Wettstein, W. - Szép Tibor: Status of the Corncrace (*Crex crex*) as an indicator of biodiversity in eastern Hungary . - In: Ornis Hungarica, ISSN 1215-1610 , 2003. (12/13. vol.), 1-2. sz., 143-149. p.

Boldogh Sándor - Szentgyörgyi Péter: A haris (*Crex crex* L. 1758) állományának vizsgálata az Aggteleki Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság illetékességi területén 1997-2002 között . - In: ANP füzetek, ISSN 1417-0442 , 2003. 2. sz., 77-96. p.

Wettstein, W. - Szép Tibor - Kéry M.: Habitat selection of Corncrakes (*Crex crex* L.) in Szatmár-Bereg (Hungary) and implications for further monitoring = A haris élőhelyválasztása a Szatmár-Beregi síkon, és javaslatok a további monitorozásra . - In: Ornis Hungarica, ISSN 1215-1610 , 2001. (11. vol.), 1-2. sz., 9-18. p.

Simon Adrien: A kis kárókatona (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) hazai helyzete és gazdálkodási vonatkozásai. Szakdolgozat. SzIE, Gödöllő, 2007.

Appendix 5 and 6: List of national institutions involved in migratory waterbird conservation and and their Wide Web addresses

Governmental Organisations:

Department of International Treaties on Nature Conservation of the Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water	http://www.kvvm.hu http://biodiv.kvvm.hu
Office for Nature Conservation - Ministry of Environment and Water	http://www.termeszetvedelem.hu
National Directorate for Environment, Nature and Water	http://www.ovf.hu
10 National Park Directorates	http://www.anp.hu http://www.bfnpi.hu http://www.bukkinemzetipark.hu http://www.ddnp.hu http://www.dinpi.hu http://www.ferto-hansag.hu http://www.hnp.hu http://www.knp.hu http://www.kmnp.hu http://www.orseginpi.hu
National Chief Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water	http://www.orszagoszoldhatosag.gov.hu
10 Inspectorates for Environment, Nature and Water	http://www.adukofe.hu http://atiktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://ddktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://edktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://emiktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://ftvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://kvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://kdtktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://kdvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://ktvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://nydtktvf.zoldhatosag.hu http://www.tikofe.hu

NGOs:

MME / BirdLife Hungary	http://www.c3.hu/~mme/english/ http://mme.hu
Hungarian Natural History Museum	http://www.nhmus.hu
VITUKI (Scientific and Research Centre for Water Management)	http://www.vituki.hu/
The Environmental Education and Communication Programme Office (EECPO)	http://www.konkomp.hu/indexa.htm
University of West Hungary	http://www.uniwest.hu/ http://www.mtk.nyme.hu/eng/
WWF Hungary	http://www.wwf.hu/

Appendix 7: LIFE projects have been launched for wetland habitats, which support migratory waterbirds

Project title	Year of start	Applicant	EU support (euros)	Ratio of EU support (%)
Management of floodplains on the Middle Tisza (WWF Tisza LIFE project – officially submitted by WWF Austria, but running entirely in Hungary, Middle-Tisza region)	2001	WWF Implementing partner: WWF Hungary	217 663	50
Habitat management of Hortobágy eco-region for bird protection, wetland and steppe restoration at Nagy-Vókonya	2003	Hortobágy Nature Conservation Society	622 151	75
Restoration of pannonic steppes and marshes of Hortobágy National Park	2003	Hortobágy National Park Directorate	546 521	70
Integrated (Multi-level inundation) water management system solving flood-protection, nature conservation and rural employment challenges in Upper Tisza	2004	Tisza-Szamos KHT	257 358	30
Sustainable use and management rehabilitation of flood plain in the Middle Tisza District	2004	KÖTIKÖVIZIG	691 508	50
Grassland restoration and marsh protection in Egyek-Pusztakócs	2004	Hortobágy National Park Directorate	700 302	67
Complex habitat rehabilitation of the Central Bereg Plain, Northeast Hungary – Restoration and preparation for long term maintenance of active raised bogs, mires, fens, grasslands and parkland meadows	2004	Hortobágy National Park Directorate	858 325	70
Restoration and grassland management of Felső-Kongó meadows	2007	Balaton National Park Directorate	143 245	50

Appendix 8. Waterbird species that occur in Hungary and to which this Agreement applies

Scientific name	English name	Status	Legal status
GAVIIDAE			
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver	Transient and winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated Diver	Transient and winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Great Northern Diver	Vagrant.	Protected
PODICIPEDIDAE			
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	Breeder 9,000-10,000 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	Breeder 7,000-9,000 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Red-necked Grebe	Breeder 80-150 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Slavonian Grebe	Rare transient.	Protected
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe	Breeder 600-1,000 pairs. Declining.	Protected
PELECANIDAE			
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican	Vagrant. Formerly bred (until 19th century)	Strictly protected
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican	Vagrant. Formerly bred (until 19th century)	Strictly protected
PHALACROCORACIDAE			
<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant	Breeder 250-450 pairs. Strongly increasing.	Strictly protected
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	Breeder 3,000-4,000 pairs. Strongly increasing.	Listed as a „species of community

importance.”

ARDEIDAE

<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	Breeder 600-1,000 pairs. Increasing.	Strictly protected
<i>Egretta gularis</i>	Western Reef Egret	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	Breeder 2,500-3,500 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	Breeder 900-1,500 pairs. Stable.	Strictly protected
<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Great Egret	Breeder 1,800-3,000 pairs. Strongly increasing.	Strictly protected
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron	Breeder 200-400 pairs. Slightly declining.	Strictly protected
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night- Heron	Breeder 1,800-2,500 pairs. Slightly declining.	Strictly protected
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	Breeder 4,000-6,000 pairs. Stable.	Strictly protected
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Great Bittern	Breeder 700-1,000 pairs. Stable.	Strictly protected

CICONIIDAE

<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	Breeder 250-300 pairs. Increasing.	Strictly protected
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	Breeder 4,800-5,600 pairs. Stable.	Strictly protected

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis	Very rare breeder. 1-20 pairs. Fluctuating.	Strictly protected
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	Breeder 1,000-1,200 pairs. Increasing.	Strictly protected

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Greater Flamingo	Vagrant.	Protected
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ANATIDAE

<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck	Vagrant. Formerly bred. Last breeding record: 1960.	Strictly protected
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan	Breeder 260-400 pairs. Increasing.	Listed as a „species of community importance.”
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan	Rare winter visitor. First breeding record: 2005. 0-1 pair.	Protected
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Bewick's Swan	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Pink-footed Goose	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose	Transient and winter visitor.	Huntable
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose	Transient and winter visitor.	Huntable
<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Lesser White-fronted Goose	Transient and winter visitor in declining number. Endangered.	Strictly protected
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	Breeder 1,500-2,000 pairs. Increasing.	Protected
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Barnacle Goose	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brent Goose	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Red-breasted Goose	Rare transient and winter visitor.	Strictly protected
<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Egyptian Goose	Vagrant. Some accepted record in Category C.	Not protected
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck	New breeding bird. 1-7 pairs.	Protected
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon	Transient.	Protected
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	Breeder 100-200 pairs. Stable?	Protected
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common Teal	Transient. Very rare breeder. 0-1 pairs.	Huntable
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Breeder 100,000-150,000 pairs. Slightly declining.	Huntable
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	Breeder 30-50 pairs. Stable?	Protected
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	Breeder 1,200-1,500 pairs. Stable?	Protected

<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	Breeder 500-600 pairs. Stable?	Protected
<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	Marbled Teal	Vagrant.	Strictly protected
<i>Netta rufina</i>	Red-crested Pochard	Breeder 20-50 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	Breeder 5,000-10,000 pairs. Stable?	Protected
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Ferruginous Duck	Breeder 550-1,000 pairs. Stable.	Strictly protected
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	Breeder 30-70 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	Rare winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	Occasional winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	King Eider	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Steller's Eider	Vagrant.	Listed as a „species of community importance.”
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck	Very rare, but annual winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter	Very rare, but annual winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Velvet Scoter	Very rare, but annual winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye	Transient and winter visitor. One breeding record: 2003. 0-1 pair.	Huntable
<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Smew	Transient and winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	Very rare, but annual winter visitor.	Protected
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Goosander	Transient and winter visitor. One breeding record: 2004. 0-1 pair.	Protected
GRUIDAE			
<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	Vagrant. Three accepted record.	Protected
<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane	Transient. The Hortobágy has become one of the most important stop-over sites of the European population, with 100,000+	Protected

birds.
Formerly bred, until
1910's.

RALLIDAE

<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Water Rail	Breeder 10,000-20,000 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Crex crex</i>	Corncrake	Breeder 500-1,200 pairs. Fluctuating.	Strictly protected
<i>Porzana parva</i>	Little Crake	Breeder 3,000-5,000 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake	Breeder 0-7 pairs. Strongly declining.	Strictly protected
<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Spotted Crake	Breeder 500-600 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	Breeder 6,000-12,000 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common Coot	Breeder 80,000-120,000 pairs. Stable.	Huntable

HAEMATOPODIDAE

<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
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RECURVIROSTRIDAE

<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	Breeder 180-950 pairs. Fluctuating.	Strictly protected
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Pied Avocet	Breeder 400-800 pairs. Stable.	Strictly protected

GLAREOLIDAE

<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Collared Pratincole	Breeder 30-60 pairs. Declining, endangered.	Strictly protected
<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	Black-winged Pratincole	Occasional breeder. 0-2 pairs.	Strictly protected

CHARADRIIDAE

<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Eurasian Golden Plover	Transient.	Protected
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	Transient.	Protected
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	Transient.	Protected
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	Breeder 800-1,500 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover	Breeder 15-30 pairs. Strongly declining, critically endangered.	Strictly protected
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sandplover	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Eurasian Dotterel	Transient.	Protected
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	Breeder 20,000-50,000 pairs. Declining.	Protected
<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Spur-winged Plover	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Sociable Plover	Vagrant.	Strictly protected
<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	White-tailed Plover	Vagrant.	Protected

SCOLOPACIDAE

<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Eurasian Woodcock	Transient and rare breeder 10-60 pairs. Fluctuating.	Huntable
<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	Rare transient.	Strictly protected
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	Breeder 300-600 pairs. Declining.	Protected
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe	Transient.	Protected
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	Breeder 300-1,000 pairs. Strongly declining.	Strictly protected
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	Transient.	Protected
<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Curlew	Now only a very rare visitor. Last record from 2001. Critically endangered.	Strictly protected
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	Breeder 20-60 pairs. Declining.	Strictly protected
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Spotted Redshank	Transient.	Protected
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	Breeder 600-800 pairs. Declining.	Strictly protected

<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper	Rare transient. Formerly bred, last breeding record: 1958.	protected Strictly protected
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	Transient.	Protected
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper	Transient.	Protected
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	Transient.	Protected
<i>Tringa cinerea</i>	Terek Sandpiper	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Breeder 150-180 pairs. Stable?	Protected
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint	Transient.	Protected
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temminck's Stint	Transient.	Protected
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	Transient.	Protected
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Transient.	Protected
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	Transient. Formerly regularly bred, until 1940's. Last breeding record: 1992.	Protected
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	Grey Phalarope	Vagrant.	Protected
LARIDAE			
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common Gull	Winter visitor. Bred in 1990s in small numbers (1-4 pairs.)	Protected
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Glaucous Gull	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	Transient.	Protected
<i>Larus heuglini</i>	Heuglin's Gull	Vagrant.	Protected as <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>heuglini</i> .
<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Caspian Gull	Transient and winter visitor. Breed since 1990s in small numbers (1-27 pairs.)	Listed as a „species of community importance.”

<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Yellow-legged Gull	Transient and winter visitor. Bred in 1990s in small numbers (3-9 pairs)	Listed as a „species of community importance.”
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Transient.	Protected
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	Great Black-headed Gull	Rare, but annual visitor.	Protected
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Common Black-headed Gull	Breeder 7,000-15,000 pairs. Declining.	Protected
<i>Larus genei</i>	Slender-billed Gull	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Mediterranean Gull	Breeder 230-440 pairs. Increasing.	Protected
<i>Larus minutus</i>	Little Gull	Transient.	Protected
<i>Xema sabini</i>	Sabine's Gull	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	Rare, but annual visitor. Has bred occasionally.	Protected
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	Transient.	Protected
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	Breeder 700-1,200 pairs. Stable.	Protected
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	Vagrant.	Protected
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern	Very rare breeder 3-8 pairs. Fluctuating.	Strictly protected
<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Whiskered Tern	Breeder 1,600-8,500 pairs. Fluctuating.	Strictly protected
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern	Breeder 0-5,200 pairs. Fluctuating.	Strictly protected
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	Breeder 400-1,300 pairs. Declining.	Strictly protected