



**Report of the Syrian Arab Republic on the implementation
of the Agreement in the period 2006-2007**

Agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian MIGRATORY WATER-BIRDS

(The Hague, 1995)

Implementation during the period 2006 - 2007

Contracting Party: Syrian Arab Republic

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1. Overview of Action Plan implementation

1.1 Summary of progress to date:

This National Report covers the main activities and initiatives implemented during the period 2006-2007 and some important step which achieved before 2006, in relation to the conservation of migratory species specially the water-birds and their wetland habitats.

The information mentioned drawn from a wide range of organisations. The report is based on the achievements implemented by the Governmental Institutions, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MLAE) (General Commission for Environmental Affairs (GCEA), Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR), General Commission for Development of the Badia (Steppe), national NGOs as Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW), International Non-Governmental Organisations (BirdLife Meddle East office, RSPB and OSME) and some individual initiatives.

Some new interested NGO's were established during the period of the report working in the Environmental field.

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

1 - Working on the Preparation and implementation of the Seabirds Action Plan.

2- Establishing of 3 ringing stations in three different sites of Syria (in process).

3- Issuing a Guide (in Arabic) for the Birds recorded in Syria (in process) expected date of issuing is Sep. 2009.

4- Issuing of the new Hunting law.

5- Monitoring of the colony of the Sociable Plover (in process).

6- Raising training and education programs. There is a significant and may be unique concentration of sites with International importance (Al Jaboul lake, Euphrate River, AlKhatonia Lake).

7- Train key national people from different sectors (Government and NGO's) and develop their capacity in order to spread the knowledge to other sectors (students, general public and interested people in this field).

8- Establish a chain of bird hides all around the country in order to promote ecotourism within country which eventually will help in the protection and awareness work of birds.

9- Preparation and implementation of new project related to Bald Ibis protection.

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

Action 1:

Soaring Birds Project:

The project is being executed by Bird-Life International in partnership with national NGO partners and government agencies in Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The project is currently in a development phase that is funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank.

The overall objectives of the project is that "Globally threatened and significant populations of migrating soaring birds are effectively protected at a network of key bottleneck IBAs along the eastern sector of the Africa-Eurasia flyway (Rift Valley and Red Sea Flyway), thereby ensuring their safe passage between breeding and non - breeding grounds." Project components will address policy, planning and legislation; awareness and constituency building; sustainable management and socio-economic development; co-ordination, co-operation and communication; and capacity development.

Action 2:

Update the Important Birds Areas of Syria (IBA's).

Action 3:

Conduct a comprehensive Birds survey including (species, habitats, conservation status and statistics).

Action 4:

Develop the capacity building of NGO's staffs.

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?

All bird species listed in table 1 (column A; column B) which are object of hunting are strictly protected by the Hunting Law.

The Syrian legislation ensures prohibition of taking bird and their eggs and disturbance of those birds. The possession and trade has been prohibited for all species including the species listed in the (Table 1: column A; column B).

b. Which organizations are responsible for implementation?

Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Ministry of Internal Issues and Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform.

c. How does it related to other national initiatives (e.g. national Biodiversity Action Plans)?

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)?

Additional to the implementation of (CITES), there are a new Ministerial Decisions (By the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment) was issued, the decisions banned the trade in all wild birds species (live, mummified,) without the permission of CITES National Authority.

The Syrian legislation ensures prohibition of taking bird and their eggs and disturbance of those birds. The possession and trade has been prohibited for all species.

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?

Syria participated in " BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE HUNTING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN MEDITERRANEAN THIRD COUNTRIES(NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST)" project aimed "to strengthen the management of bird hunting in selected North African and Middle Eastern countries of the Mediterranean region to reduce excessive, indiscriminate and illegal hunting of migratory birds, promote more sustainable hunting practices and enhance the compliance of international and regional agreements on the conservation of migratory birds".

e. Exemptions to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3?

Hunting Sector:

***Generally, by Decision of Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform all bird hunting activities are banned from 1994 until Oct.2006, Lastly, extended the date of banned till 2011.**

The updating process of the hunting law finished and submitted to Council of Ministers for discussions.

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:

There's no specific action plan for any species in Syria. But Syria try to take a specific care to protect the species which has a special Action Plan issued by AEWA and Syria is one of the range state of these species. And enforcing the existing legislation tools and proper protection and management of the wetland nature reserves and artificial lake behind the Dams and reservoirs.

- 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.)

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 unfavorable or endangering conditions occurring in the Agreement area.

NO

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.

As a general one of the main goals and aims of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity is the re-habilitation of endangered species.

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).

*** One of the main goals of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity is preparing a national legislation dealing with invasive and alien species.**

*** The articles of the new hunting law concerning execution of the all hunting activities will deal also the owning and the introduction of invasive and alien species. It is expectation to be ready during the next three months.**

*** The implementation of CITES will help Syria to control the process of introduction of invasive species.**

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.

*** Until 2008 Syrian Arab Republic declared 24 protected areas from different ecosystem.**

In 1995 Birdlife International and Syrian experts has also identified 21 important bird areas (IBA's) that has a big value for the protection of birds specially during their migration and in protecting habitats important for the breeding of important bird species, of course included some of the sites which has importance for the Water – Birds Species.

1- Abu Zad.

2- Baath – Lake.

3- Jabal al-Bishri.

4- Buhayrat al-Khatuniyah.

5- Jabal Sis.

6 -Tual al-'Abba.

7-Wadi al-Qarn—Burqush.

8- Jabal Abdul Aziz.

9-Buhayrat al-Assad.

10- Sabkhat al-Jabbul.

11- Jabal al-Shuah.

12- Tadmur and Sabkhat Muh.

13 - Wadi al-Azib.

14- Yarmuk valley.

15- Buhayrat al-Laha.

16- Wadi al-Radd.

17- Umm al-Toyour.

18- Jabal Slenfeh.

19- Ras al-Ayn.

20- Euphrates valley.

21- Bahrat Homs.

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.

There are attempt to have a financial and technical support to update the Syrian IBA's and to join it with the species covered by the Agreement.

Conservation of areas

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

1- Declared of some more Nature Protected Areas.

2- Banned of the Hunting.

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

A three new three managements for three declared protected areas are being under the process of getting established through a new project funded by the GEF-

UNDP (2005-2012), the project will also address the important bird areas that are located in these three different sites in Syria. These three new reserves aren't wetlands, but located on the main route for birds' migration.

The MLAE and MAAR and Ministry of irrigation (MoI) are responsible for the development and implementation of the management plans in the nature protected areas.

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?

Sabkhat al- Jabboul (Jabbul Salt- Lake) RAMSAR Site.

3 Sites: 1- Jabal Abd Alaziz 2- Al-Fronlok Forest 3- Abo Kobais.

c. Being implemented?

Two sites:

1- Cedar – Fir Protected Area

2- Om Al - Toyour (Coastal and Marine protected Areas).

The national strategy and action plan for Biodiversity aims to prepare management plan for all declared protected areas.

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.

The Al-Jaboul site is an important wetland for wintering, migrating and breeding water-birds.

*** In 1997 Ministry of Irrigation declared Sabkhat AlJAboul as a protected area,**

*** RAMSAR Convention declared the site as an international importance station for migratory species of birds.**

On 29-09-2005 presidential law (No. 90) issued for the establishment of General Commission for Water Resources conservation

Some Examples:

1- During June – July 2005 Ministry of Local Administration and Environment invited the IUCN to support a Technical Mission to help identify a pilot project and other actions to advance ecosystem approaches in Syria for the combined protection

of water and biodiversity resources, focusing on wetlands. This activity implement in cooperation with the Ministry of Irrigation.

- 2- "Development of the protection of Al- Jaboul Lake (Sabkhat) site" through different projects funded by the Ministry of Irrigation and other national and international institutions.**
- 3- "Soaring Birds" The project sets out to achieve improved conservation status of a number of key sites, which are of global biodiversity significance because of the presence of high numbers of globally threatened soaring birds and other biodiversity. Ongoing**
- 4- "Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened birds at Jabul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices" Ongoing.**
- 5- " Biodiversity Conservation through Eco-Tourism" Al Jaboul Site" implement by SSCW, Ongoing**

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.

In general the goals of National Environmental Strategy's and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan aims to conserve and protect the national water resources including wetlands which are important for all birds species including which are covered by the Agreement.

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).

*** The Hunting Law No. 152 Dated 23/07/1970 is the main reference for wildlife hunting in the country. The main articles in this law that deal with the migratory, resident birds and wildlife species in general. This Law is under the updating process.**

* The articles of the new hunting law will deal all activities concerning execution of the hunting sport (Licenses, hunting clubs and the training and awareness for hunters...etc). It is expectation to be ready during the next three months.

* Recently one of the main governmental and non governmental directions is to close decoration and wildlife trade shops.

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

- On going

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

The updating process of the Hunting Law will push the action related to hunting clubs and organizations to manage hunting activities e.g. cooperative action, issuing of licenses and proficiency testing of individual members and give the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment the responsibility for these issues.

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.

* Some of national tourism agencies have started to work on bird-watching programmes.

* Bird-watching is an activity that is starting to bloom in the tourism sector.

* MLAE and SSCW provide training on Ecotourism in general and in specific through training packages.

Examples: Al-Jabboul Lake eco-tourism project – Syria (this project started on 2007 and will implement by the Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife SSCW)

The project funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC). This programme, entitled ‘Biodiversity Conservation through Eco-Tourism’, is operating in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, The national executive agency is Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife(SSCW). The purpose of the programme is to encourage eco-tourism ventures in the region that directly support the conservation of biodiversity and local community development.

The Main Objective "To develop a community-centred eco-tourism facility at Al-Jabboul Lake, as a means of generating revenue to support the conservation of bird life at the Lake and to provide alternative livelihoods for local people".

In the same site there are a new project, It's title" Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened birds at Jabul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices"

The site is an important IBA declared by BirdLife International in 1994 regional inventory.

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

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.

As a general, Syria began to implement the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System on all industrial , tourism, agricultural and infrastructural projects etc....) of course in and around the natural and protected areas sites.

4.7 Please describe the main features of your planning policy and provide examples of practical implementation (e.g. activities to minimizing 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 water-birds and their habitats.

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.

*** Generally the Ministry of Higher Education among its researches program took into consideration to strengthen and support the researches concerned the Biodiversity, including the migratory species of birds.**

*** Ringing in Syria is a new research activity, It is excepted to began during 2008. Pilot ringing stations will carried out in several sites of the country, The SSCW will achieve this process.**

Some of the new activities:

1- An expedition across Syria was implemented during Feb. 2007 and the team announced that "New discovery of the largest wintering population of one of Eurasia's most endangered birds, the Sociable Lapwing.

Previous estimates placed the global population of this Critically Endangered species at between 400 and 1500 individuals. However the expedition team reported seeing over 1200 birds in one day and over 1500 in total during the trip, all within a few grassland sites in Northern Syria.

The finding gives tremendous encouragement to conservationists working to save the bird across Central Asia (where it is a summer resident) and the Middle East (where the bird winters).

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

6. Education and information

Training and development programmes

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

The MLAE and GCEA in coordination with interest national institutions and international organizations provides training on the researches watching and survey of birds.

One of the main objectives of the "Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened birds at Jabul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices" and other projects implementing in Al Jaboul Site is the preparation of the training and development programmes and achieving of the activities aim to increase the capacity building of the staffs and local community.

Iraqi biologists trained in Syria:

BirdLife's Middle East office in cooperation with General commission for Environmental Affairs and Syrian Society for Conservation and Wildlife organized between 2005-2007 a three -weeks (one week yearly) training course in Syria for Iraqi and Syrian wetland biologists (Totally around 50 Iraqi and 10 Syrian) . The focus of the training was on wetland survey methods, with special emphasis on the identification and censusing of water-birds. The major wetlands were visited during the training weeks: Bahrat Homs, a large freshwater lake near the city of Homs; Sabkhat Al-Jabbul, a Ramsar site near Aleppo and Euphrate River.

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

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, water bird and wetland conservation (e.g. campaigns, information notes or other initiatives)?

1- One of the main objectives of the "Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened birds at Jabul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices" and other projects implementing in Al Jaboul Site is the raising the public awareness.

2- A National Single Action Plan for the protection of Northern Bald Ibis is in preparation. By this way Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW) in Cooperation with General Commission of the Management & Development of al-Badia (steppe) based in Palmyra and Ministry for Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) organized on (5th & 6th June 2008) a two days consultative gathering on Bald Ibis conservation.

The meeting was funded mainly by Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS) (Germany) and technically by Bird-Life International, Middle East Secretariat, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB – BirdLife Partner in the UK).

The meeting was attended by representatives of the organizing institutions, key local stakeholders, large number of the local community representatives, and local hunters, the Bald Ibis Protected Area staff, and senior officials of Palmyra.

The 70 participants have meet for two consecutive days, with the aim of identifying the main problems affecting the Bald Ibis breeding colony, and to propose practical solutions to these problems, opportunity for an improved international understanding of the problems facing the colony conservation, develop and endorse a national Action Plan for the NBI conservation.

Governmental support has been secured through the General Commission of the Management & Development of al-Badia based in Palmyra(hosted the meeting), and initial consultations held for the development of a national Conservation Action Plan. A thorough discussions on potential re-supplementation of NBI from other colonies were conducted, and risks involved were elaborated. Participants concluded that this is an urgent needed steps provided that experts provide their technical knowledge and apply the suitable methodology. The supplementation scenarios were discussed and final decision from participants was to establish a captive breeding colony at Palmyra, to act as a ready established option for supplementation and promote ecotourism in the area. The meeting was an opportunity for an exchange of information and of views on site/species protection amongst local communities, key stakeholders and international experts. It is therefore hoped and expected that results will be agreed / endorsed actions

of this meeting will be an improved understanding of the species flagship importance, and implementation of the national Action Plan activities.

The workshop eventually demonstrated the increased national and local ownership of birds conservation. This is not always the easiest thing to achieve and their keen interest to learn about where their birds go and what others countries are doing and support international cooperation.

3- A photo exhibition depicting the story of the Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* was opened on 8 February 2006 in the Old Town of Damascus, aimed at promoting conservation of this Critically Endangered bird and creating a sense of ownership of the project to the Syrian authorities.

This successful event was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform (MAAR) in conjunction with BirdLife's Middle East Division, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB, BirdLife in the UK) and the Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW). Generous support was provided by the British Embassy.

The exhibition entitled *Bald Ibis in the Syrian Desert: Natural and Cultural Heritage under Threat* was inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister.

4- Under the patronage of the First Lady, A second photo exhibition about the History and present situation of Bald Ibis organized on 2007, in coordination with Danish and Italian Embassies in Damascus in Danish House, Old Damascus. The Ministers of Agriculture and Local Administration and Environment, Danish and Italian Ambassadors attended the opening session.

7. Final comments

7.1 General comments on the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan.

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

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

Syrian Arab Republic is grateful to the AEWA Secretariat for very fruitful work.

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

1- Concentrate more on training of researchers for water-bird identification and Taxonomy skills and conducting studies leads to degrees in this field, by organizing some full time scholarships for Syrian students.

2- Declaration of more Wetland sites as a Nature Protected Areas.

3- More care about the development of local communities and their benefits from any project.

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

Please summarize progress to implement decisions of previous Meetings of the Parties.

9. OPTIONAL SECTION – Planned and future actions

Contracting Parties are invited to outline below any further information regarding the aims of the Agreement, for example, planned actions or other informative examples.

1. Species conservation
2. Habitat conservation
3. Management of human activities
4. Research and monitoring
5. Education and information

List of abbreviations and acronyms used in the report.

EIA: Environment Impact Assessment.

CBD: Convention on Biodiversity.

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna.

CMS: Convention on Migratory Species.

GCEA: General Commission for Environmental Affairs (Syria).

IBA - Important Birds Areas

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature.

MAAR: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

MAP: Mediterranean Action Plan.

MLAE: Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (Syria).

MoI: Ministry of Irrigation.

RAC/SPA: Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas(Tunisia).

RAMSAR: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

SAP-BIO: Strategic Action Program for coastal and Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

SPA Protocol: Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

SSCW: Syrian Society for Wildlife Conservation (Syria)

UNEP: United Nations Environment Program.

RSCN: Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan).
RSPB: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (England).

Appendices

Appendix 1: Status of Single Species Action Plans

- 1- The AEWA the Single Action Plan for Bald Ibis which was discussed on MoP3 of the AEWA parties, Syria started to implement this Action Plan.**
 - 2- - National Action Plan for Seabirds protection (Ongoing).**
 - 3- The AEWA the Single Action Plan for Sociable Plover, Syria will go ahead to implement this Action Plan.**
- * The other Single Species Action Plans where Syria is one of the range states will be taken into consideration in the future national activities.

Appendix 2: List of sites of international importance

The following sites have a special (Internationally) importance for migratory water-birds species

- .
- 1- Euphrate River and Banks.**
- 2- Al- Assad Lake.**
- 3- - Sabkhat al- Jabboul (Jabbul Salt- Lake) RAMSAR Site.**
- 4- - Sabkhat Al Moh.2003.**
- 5- - Al -Thwra Island 1994.**
- 6- - Abo Hardoub Island (Euphrates river) 2005.**
- 7- - Ayash – Dark Tarf (Euphrates river) 2005.**
- 8- - Al khatonia a new proposal site as wetland protected area.**

All these sites have special importance for migratory water-birds species

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

Appendix 4: List of research and monitoring programmes and projects

Appendix 5: List of national institutions involved in migratory water-bird conservation.

- 1- Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorate- General Commission for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.**
- 2- Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW).**
- 3- Ministry of Irrigation.**
- 4- Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform.**

Appendix 6: List of relevant World Wide Web addresses for national institutions involved in migratory water-bird conservation

Appendix 7: List of relevant migratory water-bird and habitat conservation projects initiated, ongoing or completed in the last three years.

- 1- "Development of the protection of Al- Jaboul Lake (Sabkhat) Site through Awareness" funded by the Ministry of Irrigation and other national and international institutions.**
- 2- "Soaring Birds" The project sets out to achieve improved conservation status of a number of key sites, which are of global biodiversity significance because of the presence of high numbers of globally threatened soaring birds and other biodiversity. (Ongoing)**
- 3- " Improving the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened birds at Jabul Ramsar Wetland through Promoting and Implementing Sustainable Hunting Practices" " implementing by SSCW (Ongoing).**
- 4- " Biodiversity Conservation through Eco-Tourism" Al Jaboul Site" implementing by SSCW (Ongoing).**