



Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2021-2024 was approved by the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8, 26-30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary) through Resolution 8.3 and modified by the Standing Committee at its 23rd and 24th meetings (June 2023 and July 2024, respectively) as mandated by the MOP. This format has been compiled following the AEWA Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and resolutions of the MOP.

In accordance with article V(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, each Party shall prepare to each ordinary session of the MOP a National Report on its implementation of the Agreement and submit that report to the Agreement Secretariat. Through Resolution 8.3 the deadline for submission of national reports to the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) was set at 180 days before the opening of the meeting. MOP9 is scheduled to take place on 10-14 November 2025; therefore, the deadline for submission of National Reports is **13 May 2025**.

As per Resolution 7.1 of the MOP, Chapter 3 of the National Report Format on the numbers and trends of native and non-native species of waterbirds was developed as a stand-alone online reporting module, which is due for submission to every second MOP session. The next submission of this module is scheduled for delivery to MOP10 and will take place in 2026-2027 through a stand-alone reporting process. Therefore, the current Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024 does not contain Chapter 3.

As per the decision of the 23rd meeting of the Standing Committee (26-27 June 2023), reporting of waterbird harvest data for the period 2019-2023 was undertaken as a stand-alone module of the national report and administered through a separate reporting process in the course of 2024.

The AEWA National Reports 2021-2024 were compiled and submitted through the AEWA Online National Reporting System, which is part of the broader CMS Family Online Reporting System. The CMS Family Online Reporting System was developed by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 1ST JUNE 2023

2. Institutional Information

Please update information on the National AEWA Administrative Authority, the National Focal Points, the Designated National Respondent and the other contributors to this report.

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Mr Stavros Papastavrou-Minister

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> 119, Mesogeion str

Postal code

>>> 11526

City

>>> Athens

Country

>>> Greece

Telephone

>>> +302131513870

E-mail

>>> secmin@ypen.gr

Website

>>> <https://ypen.gov.gr/>

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Mrs Anastasia Stergiou (Deputy National Focal Point: Mr Nikolaos Nellas)

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Secretariat General for Forests/Directorate General for Forests and Forest Environment/Directorate for Forest Management/Section for Wildlife & Game Management (Deputy: Secretariat General of Natural Environment and Water/General Directorate of Environment Policy/Directorate of Natural Environmental Management & Biodiversity/Department of Biodiversity)

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> End of Alkmanos str (Deputy: 147 Patission str)

Postal code

>>> 115 28 (Deputy: 112 51)

City

>>> Athens

Country

>>> Greece

Telephone

>>> +302105240194 (Deputy: +302108645125)

E-mail

>>> a.stergiou@prv.ypeka.gr (Deputy: n.nellas@prv.ypeka.gr)

Website

>>> <https://ypen.gov.gr/>

Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2021-2024

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

The National Focal Point (NFP) has been designated as the National Respondent

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2021 - 2024

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report. For Contracting Parties in which nature conservation is not an exclusive competence of national/federal government, Designated National Respondents are encouraged to seek input from other relevant levels of government.

>>> -Services of Ministry of Environment and Energy

-Services of Ministry of Rural Development and Food

-Natural Environmental Climate Change Agency (NECCA) supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy

-Hellenic Hunters Confederation, association supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy

-Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS)/Birdlife Greece

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

1. Following MOP8, was a review undertaken in your country of the relevant domestic legislation against the provisions of the latest version of the Agreement text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP8? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1 (a), 1.1 (b), 2.2(a) and 2.2(b))

Yes

Please indicate the outcome of this review

Relevant national legislation was fully in line with the Agreement text and its annexes

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Ratification of the latest version of the AEWA Agreement (text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III) into national legislation with the Law 5012/2023 (Official Gazette A/10/2023) taking into account all amendments (Agreement text and its annexes) adopted by MOP8

2. Was your country's national legislation reviewed following the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade (Resolution 6.7)?

See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl** button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Did this require adjusting your national legislation?

No

Please describe how your current national legislation is compatible with the advice provided in the Guidance

>>> Greece's national framework is compatible with the advice provided in the Guidance through: Compliance with EU Directives: The Greek legislation adheres to the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) under Joint Ministerial Decision No. Η.Π. 37338/1807/E103/2010 (Official Gazette B/4195/2010), as amended and in force by the Joint Ministerial Decision No. Η.Π. 8353/276/E103/2012 (Official Gazette B'/415/2012).

Article 6 of Joint of Ministerial Decision No 37338/1807/E103/2010 (Official Gazette 1495/B/2010), any deliberate disturbance is strictly prohibited. This includes activities such as photographing, filming, and videorecording particularly during the breeding and rearing period of the nestlings, unless permitted by the responsible authorities under granted purposes.

Article 258 of Law Decree 86/1969, ("Forestry Code,") and Article 6 of Joint Ministerial Decision No. 37338/1807/E.103/2010 (Official Gazette 1495/B/2010) where the taking of birds is strictly forbidden. Furthermore, the removal and total or partial destruction of their nests and eggs, the collection of their eggs from the wild and their possession of even empty eggs is prohibited.

It is allowed the regulated hunting for species listed in Annex II of the EU Birds Directive. The hunting practices are compliant with European conservation laws. Greek legislation adapts the EU's legal reservation (Late Reservation of 22.03.2019-attached).

The annual hunting decision which outlines the terms of hunting, the certain huntable species, the permitted hunting period (start and end dates), the bag limit per huntable species, as well as general and specific restrictions for areas with special protection status and certain huntable species. The issuance of the decision takes into account the yearly updated study titled "The Impact of Hunting on Populations of Huntable and Non-Huntable Species, the Ability to Control Poaching and the Duration of Hunting Periods, conducting by the School of Forestry and Natural Environment at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki before the start of the hunting season. The study includes the chapters: A. Research – Study of the impact of the hunting season on the game and protected species, as well as its effects on the populations of each of the game species in Greece; B. Possibility of controlling poaching; C. Collection of scientific and technical data that determines, in each specific case, the potential impact of the staggered conclusion of hunting on the protection of bird species populations that may be affected by this staggering.

The trade of birds is entirely prohibited under Joint Ministerial Decision No. Η.Π. 37338/1807/E103/2010 (Official Gazette B'/4195/2010), as amended and in force by the Joint Ministerial Decision No. Η.Π. 8353/276/E103/2012 (Official Gazette B'/415/2012)

Overall, Greece's national legislation demonstrates a proactive approach in aligning with the Guidance, focusing on scientific rigor, sustainable management and compliance with international standards.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[LATE RESERVATION EU \(9 BIRDS\).pdf](#)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Any reviews and adjustments in Greek legislation ensures international compliance and enhances the scientific basis of hunting regulation. The Greek approach reflects adaptive harvest management, supported by real-time data collection, digital tools and regular expert consultation.

3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of each population listed in the Excel file linked below. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(Notice: before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Greece_Q3 AEWA NR 2021-2024 PopColA.xlsx](#)

4. Please confirm for each population, listed in the Excel file linked below, whether there is an open hunting season (birds and/or eggs) in your country. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance: Open hunting season in the context of this inquiry means that the waterbird population is allowed to be hunted for a certain period in the year in accordance with the respective domestic legislation of the country. Some populations, even if huntable according to the legislation, in certain circumstances may be subject to a year-round closed season for management reasons.

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(Notice: before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Greece_Q4 AEWA NR 2021-2024 PopColA-Cat2-3-4.xlsx](#)

5. Please confirm for each population, listed in the Excel file linked below, whether taking is regulated in your country. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column B populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(Notice: before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Greece_Q5_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColB.xlsx

6. Please indicate which modes of taking are prohibited in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

One or more modes of taking have been prohibited

Please provide details to each mode of taking in the list below:

Snares

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Modes of taking are prohibited by:

- the Joint Ministerial Decision with No H.Π. 37338/1807/E1038/2010 (Official Gazette B/1495/6-9-2010), as it has been amended by the Joint Ministerial Decision with No H.Π. 8353/276/E103/2012 (Official Gazette B/415/2012), according to 79/409/EEC and 2009/147/EC Directives

-the Joint Ministerial Decision with No 414985/1985 (Official Gazette B/757/1985), as it has been amended, according to Directive 79/409/EEC

In addition, Law 2168/1993 (Official Gazette A/147/1993) provides that 'weapon for hunting' is the single-barrelled, double-barrelled, repeating, semi-automatic and small-caliber FLOBERT-type shouldered weapon, which has a smooth and non-ribbed barrel inside, a barrel length of at least fifty (50) centimetres and a total length of at least one (1) metre, a fixed, non-folding stock, operate with a force generated by the burning of gunpowder

Limes

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Hooks

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Explosives

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Nets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Traps

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Poison

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea)

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> as above

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

Please specify which other non-selective modes of taking have been prohibited
>>> as above

7. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

No

8. Has a review of enforcement of and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation, [in particular the legislation which caters for the obligations under paragraphs 2.1 and 4.1 of the AEWA Action Plan], been undertaken in your country after MOP8? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1(c) and 2.2(c))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Relevant legislation already existed (Joint Ministerial Decisions: H.Π. 37338/1807/E.103 (Official Gazette: B/1495/B/2010) and H.Π. 8353/276/E103/2012 (Official Gazette: B/415/2012), Law 3937/2011 (Official Gazette: A/60/2011), Law 4685/2020 (Official Gazette: A/92/2020)

9. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Greece has used the above mentioned guidelines for conducting the National Action Plan for the Anser erythropus [Joint Ministerial Decision 43235/1053/2017 (Official Gazette 3762/B/25-10-2017)]

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Question_9-Joint Ministerial Decision-National Action Plan for Anser erythropus.pdf](#)

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

10. Please report on the progress of turning the International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP and ISSMP), as well as International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP), listed below, into National Action or Management Plans. If no action or management plan is listed below, this is because your country is not considered to be a Principal Range State for any species currently covered by an AEWA plan. In such a case, please proceed to the next question. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2 (d))

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca
National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca

No NP and no action implemented

Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus
National Plan for Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus

No NP and no action implemented

Great Snipe / Gallinago media
National Plan for Great Snipe / Gallinago media

No NP and no action implemented

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa

National Plan for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa

No NP and no action implemented

White-headed Duck / Oxyura leucocephala National Plan for White-headed Duck / Oxyura leucocephala

No NP and no action implemented

Eurasian Spoonbill / Platalea leucorodia National Plan for Eurasian Spoonbill / Platalea leucorodia

No NP and no action implemented

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> No National Plans exist for any of these species.

However, conservation and management plans are generally developed through the Special Environmental Studies for Protected Areas (Natura 2000)

11. Has your country provided assistance for the coordination and implementation of International Species Action or Management Plans through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups? (Resolution 7.5)

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> The Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece (HOS) has been a project partner for a LIFE programme on the conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), implementing actions described in the International Single Species Action Plan for the species. Additionally, the HOS is a project partner in a LIFE programme on the conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) that implements actions described both in the ISSAP as well as the NAP for the species*.

(*data available from the HOS)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://wwf.fi/en/lesser-white-fronted-geese-life-project/>

<http://life-pelicans.com/>

12. Has your country provided financial or in-kind assistance for the development of new International Species Action or Management Plans? (Resolution 7.5)

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> The Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece coordinated the preparation of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) in 2016*.

(*data available from the HOS)

13. Has your country been involved in the development and/or implementation of any flyway-scale projects to implement Single or Multi-Species Action Plans? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(f))

Yes

Please provide details on each of the respective projects and the target Species Action Plan

>>> The Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece (HOS) has been a project partner for a LIFE programme on the conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), implementing actions described in the International Single Species Action Plan for the species. Additionally, the HOS is a project partner in a LIFE programme on the conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) that implements actions described both in the ISSAP as well as the NAP for the species (Source: HOS)

14. Has a review and prioritization been undertaken in your country of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs, implement those plans and coordinate their implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(g))

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No, but there is the intention of developing and implementing National Action plans after the Special Environmental Studies are completed.

15. Does your country have in place or is your country developing a National Single Species Action Plan for any species/population for which an AEWA ISSAP has not been developed? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2.2)

No

16. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing **the Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) ISSAP was used to create and adopt the relevant National Action Plan [Joint Ministerial Decision 43235/1053/17-10-2017 (Official Gazette 3762/B/2017)]

4.3 Emergency Measures

18. Please report on any emergency situation that has occurred in your country over the past triennium and has threatened waterbirds. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.3)

Please indicate whether an emergency situation threatening waterbirds, such as botulism, chemical pollution, earthquake, extreme weather, fire, harmful algal bloom, infectious disease, introduction of alien species, lead poisoning, nuclear accident, oil spill, predation, volcanic activity, war or other emergency (please specify), has occurred in the country over the past triennium.

Emergency situation has occurred

Please provide information on each emergency situation which occurred

Fire

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> In August 2023

Indicate where the emergency situation took place (including geographical coordinates)

>>> Dadia, Evros

Indicate which species were affected by the emergency situation and the estimated magnitude of the impact

Indicate which species were affected by the emergency situation and the estimated magnitude of the impact:

For each affected species:

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

10 - 50%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

10 - 50%

If a waterbird site has been affected, indicate area of habitat impacted (in hectares)

>>> 24530 ha

What proportion of the site has been affected?

Please fill in the percentage (%) in the box below.

>>> 57.74%

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Priority was given to the installation of 15 artificial nests for the black vulture next to burned natural nests [*all the above mentioned data are available from the Natural Environmental Climate Change Agency (NECCA)]

Infectious disease

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> HPAI (H5N1) cases in 2022

Indicate where the emergency situation took place (including geographical coordinates)

>>> see attachment with confirmed cases (data available from the Veterinary Service of Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

vulnerability of Dalmatian Pelicans especially in the colony of Lake Mikri Prespa in NW Greece (data available from the NECCA)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Question_18-HRAIH5N1.xlsx](#)

Indicate which species were affected by the emergency situation and the estimated magnitude of the impact

Indicate which species were affected by the emergency situation and the estimated magnitude of the impact:

For each affected species:

Number of individuals affected (all individuals exposed to the emergency situation)

>>> see attached file (data available from the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Question_18-HRAIH5N1.xlsx](#)

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

10 - 50%

What proportion of the national (breeding, passage, wintering/nonbreeding, whichever is applicable) population does this number represent?

10 - 50%

Field for additional information (optionally, you can provide additional information on the emergency case)

>>> {The Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food confirms the detection of HPAI (H5N1) cases in *Pelecanus crispus* in 2022 (see above attached excel file). There were also findings in other species, but without a total picture of mass mortality in the field. No laboratory testing for all dead birds in the same lake took place. The reported number of dead pelicans in the national park area was significantly higher. All deaths are attributed to HPAI H5N1.

Entire bodies of the dead wild birds or parts thereof were disposed of or processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

(Available data from the Veterinary Service of Ministry of Rural Development and Food)}

{The percentages of populations available from NECCA}

Relevant information on avian influenza emergency situation can be found in the attached report of the Society for the Protection of Prespa (Source: https://spp.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/%CE%95%CE%A0%CE%A0_%CE%93%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%A0%CE%97-%CE%A0%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%9D%CE%A9%CE%9D-2022_%CE%A3%CE%A5%CE%9C%CE%92%CE%91%CE%9D%CE%A4%CE%91-%CE%95%CE%9D%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%93%CE%95%CE%99%CE%95%CE%A3-%CE%94%CE%99%CE%94%CE%91%CE%93%CE%9C%CE%91%CE%A4%CE%91.pdf)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

https://spp.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/%CE%95%CE%A0%CE%A0_%CE%93%CE%A1%CE%99%CE%A0%CE%97-%CE%A0%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%9D%CE%A9%CE%9D-2022_%CE%A3%CE%A5%CE%9C%CE%92%CE%91%CE%9D%CE%A4%CE%91-%CE%95%CE%9D%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%93%CE%95%CE%99%CE%95%CE%A3-%CE%94%CE%99%CE%94%CE%91%CE%93%CE%9C%CE%91%CE%A4%CE%91.pdf

19. Are there any other emergency response measures, different from the ones applied in response to the emergency situations reported above, that were developed and are in place in your country so that they can be used in future in emergency cases?

No

20. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

4.4 Re-establishments

21. Is your country maintaining a national register of re-establishment projects occurring or planned to occur wholly or partly within your country? (Resolution 4.4)

No

22. Is there a regulatory framework for re-establishments of species, including waterbirds, in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)?

No

23. Has your country considered, developed or implemented re-establishment projects for any species/population listed on AEWA Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)

No

24. Has your country used the AEWA conservation Guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Not applicable

4.5 Introductions

25. Does your country have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.1)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of legislation, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (Ministry for the Environment & Energy and Ministry for Rural Development & Food)

The Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΔΕΔ/115162/3055/2021 – (Official Gazette: 5697/B/2021) is under review. The approval of the Action plan of non-native species of animals and plants 2023-2029 is pending

(<https://ypen.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/%CE%A3%CE%A7%CE%95%CE%94%CE%99%CE%9F-%CE%94%CE%A1%CE%91%CE%A3%CE%97%CE%A3-%CE%94%CE%B9%CE%B1%CE%B4%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%AD%CF%82-%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%83%CE%B1%CE%B3%CF%89%CE%B3%CE%AE%CF%82-%CE%BE%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8E%CE%BD.pdf>) and the Public Consultation on the National List of Invasive Alien Species is completed (<https://ypen.gov.gr/dimosia-diavoulefsi-epi-tou-ethnikou-katalogou-chorokataktitikon-xenikon-eidon-chxe/>).

Paragraph 6, article 6 of the Joint Ministerial Decision Η.Π. 37338/1807/Ε.103 (Official Gazette: Β/1495/Β/2020)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://ypen.gov.gr/dimosia-diavoulefsi-epi-tou-ethnikou-katalogou-chorokataktitikon-xenikon-eidon-chxe/>

<https://ypen.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/%CE%A3%CE%A7%CE%95%CE%94%CE%99%CE%9F-%CE%94%CE%A1%CE%91%CE%A3%CE%97%CE%A3-%CE%94%CE%B9%CE%B1%CE%B4%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%AD%CF%82-%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%83%CE%B1%CE%B3%CF%89%CE%B3%CE%AE%CF%82-%CE%BE%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%8E%CE%BD.pdf>

26. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of the document, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation

Companion animals legislation [Law 4830/2021 (Official Gazette: A/169/18-9-2021), as it is in force]

Ministerial Decision No 86789/1375/2007 (Official Gazette: B/396/2007) and Presidential Decree No 98/2004 (Official Gazette: A/69/2004) concerning legislative requirements on zoos.

27. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

No

28. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 2.5.3 and 4.3.10 and Resolution 5.15)

Yes

Please list the non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken

>>> • American mink (*Neovison vison*)

- Black rat (*Rattus rattus*)
- Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)
- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
- *Xanthium strumarium*

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

>>> Greece has developed and participated in projects—many co-financed by the EU LIFE Programme—focusing on prevention, control, and eradication.

- American mink (*Neovison vison*):

LIFE ATIAS (Eradication of American mink in Western Macedonia and Epirus):

This LIFE project targets the removal of *Neovison vison*, a highly invasive predator threatening rare wetland species, including the Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) and other ground- or water-nesting birds (<https://lifeatias.gr/description/?lang=el>).

- Black rat (*Rattus rattus*):

LIFE Andros Park: Implemented on the island of Andros for the eradication of *Rattus rattus*, which posed a serious threat to nesting colonies of migratory seabirds such as the Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) (http://www.androslife.gr/en/?page_id=28)

- Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*):

Monitoring and control of invasive species in the wetlands of the Evros Delta and Axios River. Key actions involve mapping and raising awareness of species such as *Trachemys scripta elegans* (red-eared slider).

- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*):

Greece has measures in place to control aquatic weeds, such as the hydroflora (*Eichhornia crassipes*), affecting aquatic ecosystems and birds. Measures include removing plants and restoring habitats. However, the implementation of these measures is limited and requires further strengthening (Source: Fishery Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food).

- Rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*):

A joint initiative is currently taking place at the Kerkini National Park by HOS and ELGO-Dimitra (Forest Research Institute) to eradicate the Rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*) aquatic weed that has been spreading across the Lesser White-fronted Goose's feeding grounds, displacing the birds to more remote locations and severely impacting their access to food sources (Source: HOS)

29. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with the issue?

>>> The Greek law doesn't permit the ownership and trade of waterbird species of AEWA.

The Joint Ministerial Decision ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΔΕΔ/115162/3055/2021 (Official Gazette: B/697/7-12-2021) was in force before the ratification of AEWA's Agreement in Greece.

4.6 Seabirds

The country has maritime territories and the AEWA seabird conservation priorities are relevant for the country:

Yes

30. Does your country have comprehensive data on seabird by-catch? (Resolution 7.6)

Partial Data

Please provide details (for example, but not limited to, the scale of by-catch and species affected), including references or attach a file, if available

>>> Information data arises from research/work [INCA programme jointly run by WWF, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki between 2020-2022/ LIFE PanPuffinus! project/ The 2009-2012 LIFE project on "Concrete conservation actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's Gull in Greece, including the inventory of relevant marine IBAs" implementing by the Hellenic Ornithological Society in collaboration with the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal (MOM), the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), the Technological Institution (TEI) of Ionian Islands and the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA)]-(Source: HOS)

When and how do you plan to fill remaining data gaps?

>>> Proper training on seabird identification of DCF field researchers/workers.

Improvement on reporting practices of by-catch through the use of e-logbooks and fishermen training.

31. Have you assessed the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

Please provide details, including reference or attach a file, if available.

>>> Greece has taken action to assess and reduce the incidental catch of seabirds from artisanal fisheries (research in Zakynthos showed that longline fishing, mostly, results in the incidental catch of seabirds, e.g. cormorants). Also all the information provided in the previous answer arises from research/work with small-scale fisheries*

*(Sources: Fishery Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, HOS)

33. Has your country undertaken steps towards the adoption/application of measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the Agreement Area? (Resolution 3.8)

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

>>> WWF HELLAS in collaboration with the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and the Aristotle University implemented the INCA project in Greece to record the incidental catch of marine megafauna, including seabirds. The results showed low rates of incidental catch of seabirds.

Nevertheless, Greece has taken action and incorporated seabird protection measures to combat IUU fishing, in accordance with its commitments to implement the AEWA Agreement. (Source: information available from the Fishery Service of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food)

Also, HOS coordinated and ran mitigation measure such as trials on trammel nets using high contrast panels in Lesvos island's Kalloni Gulf, using the scary bird in demersal long-lines in Rafina, Attica and in Porto Koufo, Halkidiki etc. (Source: data available from HOS)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://ornithologiki.gr/en/public-awareness-education/information/our-news/1695-reducing-bycatch-with-the-help-of-fishermen>

34. Does your country have data on illegal killing and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

No

36. Have you identified those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> - Islands and islets in Greece face rat infestations. HOS has been involved in eradication initiatives of rats in more than 50+ islets since 2005 primarily to reduce mortality-related impacts as well as egg and chick predation. In 2023, HOS was commissioned by NECCA to implement an assessment and prioritisation exercise (Relevant report reference: Christidi D., Portolou D., 2023. 'Methodology for the creation of a national list of priority areas for the eradication of the invasive alien predator Rattus rattus from seabird breeding islands of Greece'. Hellenic Ornithological Society / BirdLife Greece, Athens, Greece.).

(Source: data available from HOS)

-Colony of Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*)/Gyaros island:

A colony of Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) was identified and documented on Gyaros Island, Cyclades, which is under direct threat from the presence and activity of free-ranging feral pigs (an alien and invasive species). Gyaros is an isolated island, with limited natural resources and high environmental value (a protected Natura 2000 area). The introduction of free-ranging pigs had a multiplicative negative ecological impact, making the response an immediate priority.

The presence of pigs:

- caused nest destruction and disturbance to the seabirds' ecological cycle
- exerted pressure on natural breeding refuges
- impacted the entire island ecosystem due to overgrazing, erosion, and digging

Have you prioritised them for action?

Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.

>>> Colony of Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*)/Gyaros island:

The Yelkouan Shearwater colony on Gyaros was prioritized as critical, and immediate operational interventions were activated by:

- the 4th Hunting Federation of Central Greece
- the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (Gyaros Marine Park supervisor)
- the Ministry of Environment and Energy

The intervention included:

- pig removal operations in 4 phases [pig population in 2023: ~494, 380 pigs were removed, current estimated population: ~153 pigs (February 2025)]
- complete scientific documentation and assessment of success
- provision for 2 additional targeted operations within 2025

Gyaros was officially designated as a priority colony due to:

- its ecological uniqueness
- the absence of natural predators of pigs
- the presence of threatened migratory species

The goal is the complete eradication of the alien predator and the long-term conservation of the Yelkouan Shearwater colony on Gyaros.

(Source: Hellenic Hunters Confederation)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Question_36-Gyaros-Ministerial_Decision-85494_2954_2024.pdf](#)

[Gyaros-licence.pdf](#)

37. Have you identified the key coastal and at-sea areas where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required in relation to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

No

38. (Applicable only to countries bordering the North or Baltic Sea) Has your country undertaken a program of data-collection to validate models of population level impacts of offshore windfarms in the North and Baltic Seas on AEWA seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Mediterranean region

39. Have you identified priority sites by filling gaps in the Critical Site Network for seabirds (breeding, non-breeding, pelagic and coastal areas)? (Resolution 7.6)

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The outcome of the pending Special Environmental Studies and the national monitoring / surveillance program / survey for species and habitats for species will be considered and used for the gap filling and the expansion of the Natura 2000 network.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.6 Seabirds

>>> Greece implements the obligations arising from the recommendations of international organisations such as ICCAT and GFCM concerning incidental catches of seabirds:

1. ICCAT Recommendation 11-09 recording data on by-catches of seabirds/by species/by year through scientific observers.

2. Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/13 according to which it completes annually, through the Fisheries Data Collection Programme (DCRF), information on incidental percentages of seabirds.

Also, Greece applies the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) (Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) and Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures

Additionally, Ministry of Rural Development and Food has issued the document No 2579/35990/17-03-2014 on the interaction of fisheries with seabirds (attached).

(Source: Fishery Service of Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Ministry of Rural Development and Food-Interactions-Seabirds.pdf](#)

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

40. Has your country identified the network of all sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.1.2)

Partially

Please describe the progress

>>> "Small Insular Wetlands of Greece" (Official Gazette: 229/ΑΠΠ/19.06.2012) and Wetlands Ramsar [Law 1950/1991 (Official Gazette: 84/A/31-05-1991)], Natura 2000 network (<https://mapsportal.yopen.gr/maps/826>)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://mapsportal.yopen.gr/maps/826>

41. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, were the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds used?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

>>> The outcome of the pending Special Environmental Studies and monitoring / surveillance program / survey for species and habitats for species ("Εποπτεία") will be considered and used for the gap filling and the expansion of the N2K network.

42. Has your country reviewed and confirmed to the AEWA Secretariat its inventory of the known nationally and internationally important sites through the process developed by the Technical Committee and launched by the Secretariat in August 2020? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.1(a))

NO

Please explain the reasons

>>> Under clarification with the AEWA Secretariat

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

43. Has your country assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (i.e. resilience of sites to climate change)? (Resolution 5.13)

For one or more single sites

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The outcome of the pending Special Environmental Studies will be considered and used

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The outcome of the pending Special Environmental Studies will be considered and used

44. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.3)

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

All sites of international importance

(sites recognized as having international importance for migratory waterbirds following criteria of, for instance, the AEWA Critical Site Network, the Ramsar Convention, the EU Birds Directive (SPAs), the Bern Convention Emerald Network, the BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas)

Total number

>>> 187 (SPA)*

Total area (ha)

>>> 3.498.046 (SPA)

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Low

Please provide details and reasons for the low level of effectiveness.

>>> Even though there are a lot of protected areas, none of them have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> *187 are the sites of N2K network where AEWA species included on table 3.2 of the Standard Data Form of each Site. The number of sites where species of AEWA had been characterized as "Species of interest" (Species that an area is characterized as N2K site because of its importance) due to JMD HP 8353/276/E103, are 87.

Moreover, are 71 IBA areas

All (10) Ramsar Sites are within SPA or SCI/SPA N2K network

There are no management plans, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change yet.

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> There is not a national strategy / action plan for filling gaps but a national monitoring / surveillance program / survey for species and the habitats for species, the pending Special Environmental Studies and national conservation objectives (targets).

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> There is not a national strategy / action plan for filling gaps but a national monitoring / surveillance program for species and the habitats for species, the pending Special Environmental Studies and national conservation objectives (targets)

46. Is the network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds integrated into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.4)

Yes, partially

Please provide details and reasons for partial integration

>>> The network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds is taken into consideration in Special Environmental Studies, the existing Management Plans for water (according to the requirements of Directive 2000/60 / EC, pursuant to Law 3199/2003 and Presidential Decree 51/2007), the Flood Risk Management Plans etc.

47. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What guidance has been used instead?

>>> Protected areas had been designed before Greece became Party of the agreement (Management plans are not yet developed).

48. Has the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the AEWA area been accessed and used in your country? (Resolution 7.9)

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

49. Has your country identified priority measures required to maintain or increase the extent and quality of waterbird habitats in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.3(a))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The outcome of the pending Special Environmental Studies and from the national / surveillance program / survey for species and habitats for species ("Εποπτεία") will be considered and used for the N2K network expansion. Priority measures could be identified also from the SES.

50. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))

Yes

Please provide details on each partnership arrangement your country has been involved in (add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials)

>>> The currently running Lesser White-fronted Goose LIFE (LIFE19 NAT/LT/000898) project includes such actions (Source: available data from HOS)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://wwf.fi/en/lesser-white-fronted-geese-life-project/>

Please indicate which other countries have been involved in each of the partnership arrangements

>>> Norway, Finland, Lithuania, Hungary, Estonia (Source: HOS)

Have a specific project or projects been established under the partnership arrangement(s) for the implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration in the wider environment?

Yes

Please provide description and details on each project

For each project separately, please provide an account of what surface (in hectares) of what habitat type has been (1) placed under improved management, (2) restored and/or (3) created.

>>> 40-50 Ha in the Evros Delta (Source: HOS)

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

51. Does the legislation of your country implement the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds, as envisaged in the AEWA Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Yes

Please provide details on how this is achieved and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> Ratification of the AEWA Agreement (text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III) into national legislation with the Law 5012/2023 (Official Gazette A/10/2023), taking into account all amendments (Agreement text and its annexes) adopted by MOP8

52. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(d))

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> In Greece, the ban has been in force since 2013.

What legislation is in place?

>>> In all areas and for all species subject to special hunting restrictions according to Joint Ministerial Decision No. 414985/1985 (Official Gazette B/757), as amended by Joint Ministerial Decision No. Η.Π. 37338/1807/Ε.103/2010 (Official Gazette B/1495) and further amended and supplemented by Joint Ministerial Decision No. Η.Π. 8353/276/Ε103/2012 (Official Gazette B/415), "Three (3) years after the entry into force of this decision, the use of lead shot for hunting birds in all types of wetland ecosystems is prohibited." Also, according to the hunting regulations 2023-2024 (Official Gazette B/5076/2023) and specifically paragraph 1.7, there is an adjustment to Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/57, which states: "the following actions are prohibited in or within 100 meters of wetlands is prohibited: (a) discharging gunshot containing a concentration of lead (expressed as metal) equal to or greater than 1 % by weight; (b) carrying any such gunshot where this occurs while out wetland shooting or as part of going wetland shooting. According to Regulation EU 2021/57: (a) "within 100 meters of wetlands" means within 100 meters outward from any outer boundary point of a wetland; (b) "wetland shooting" means shooting in or within 100 meters of wetlands; (c) if a person is found carrying gunshot in or within 100 meters of wetlands while out shooting or as part of going shooting, the shooting concerned shall be presumed to be wetland shooting unless that person can demonstrate that it was some other type of shooting."

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The inspection system (law enforcement): Police, Coast guard, Forestry Officials, Public Game Wardens, Gamekeepers (seasonal and permanent employees of the Hunting Associations, the Hunting Federations) and the Guard Body of the Protected Area Management Units.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain what the compliance with legislation was found to be:

Good (almost full compliance)

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of compliance.

>>> The Greek Public Forest Service supervises the hunting activity across the country with more than 1000 Wardens. The Hunting Organizations auxiliary supervise the hunting activity with more than 300 Gamekeepers (seasonal and permanent employees of the Hunting Associations and the Hunting Federations). The Guard Body of the Protected Area Management Units also contributes to the control system. Nevertheless, additional actions always might be considered to foster better compliance, such as identification of the areas which may need improvement (i.e. cooperation between the involved authorities and services, increase of available resources etc).

Please indicate any known reasons for good compliance or any barriers to compliance. Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> The enforcement control system with more than 1,000 Wardens (Forest rangers) from the Forestry Service, with more than 300 gamekeepers (seasonal and permanent employees of the Hunting Associations and the Hunting Federations) and the Guard Body of Protected Area Management Units.

Nevertheless, additional actions always might be considered to foster better compliance, such as identification of the areas which may need improvement (i.e. cooperation between the involved authorities and services, increase of available resources etc).

Has measurement of impact of the legislation been undertaken i.e. where there was a problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds, has this been reduced?

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> A 2023 report published in the course of a national programme entitled "Estimation of hunting activity in the Evros Delta during the 2022-2023 open season through passive recording devices", by the ELGO-Dimitra Forest Research Institute, shows the use of lead shot in this area. (Source: HOS)

53. Are there measures in your country to reduce/eliminate illegal taking? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.6; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(e))

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Greece is fully harmonized with the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). According to Joint Ministerial Decision No. 414985/1985 (Official Gazette B/757), as amended by Joint Ministerial Decision No. H.Π. 37338/1807/E.103/2010 (Official Gazette B/1495) and further amended and supplemented by Joint Ministerial Decision No. H.Π. 8353/276/E103/2012 (Official Gazette B/415), a series of measures and conditions are in place and focus on protecting migratory birds and align with international commitments to prevent illegal harvesting.

Also, 1,000 Wardens (Forest rangers) from the Forestry Service, 300 gamekeepers (seasonal and permanent employees of the Hunting Associations and the Hunting Federations) and the Guard Body of Protected Area Management Units contribute to the enforcement control system.

Additional actions always might be considered to foster better compliance, such as identification of the areas which may need improvement (i.e. cooperation between the involved authorities and services, increase of available resources etc).

54. Is legally binding proficiency testing for hunters, including amongst other things bird identification, in place in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.8; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> The Ministerial Decision No. 12594/346 (Official Gazette 224/B/2013) outlines the "Procedure and Supporting Documents for the Issuance of Hunting Licenses," including the examination process for hunters. Additionally, the publication "Hunting Guide" from the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (ISBN: 978-960-7284-29-7) offers valuable information on various topics related to hunting.

55. Are best practice codes and standards for hunting in place in your country in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.7; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.3)

Yes

What do these cover?

Emergency closure of hunting in cases of exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> According to the provisions of Article 258, paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Law Decree 86/69 'On the Forest Code,' as amended by Article 7 of Law 177/1975, and the Joint Ministerial Decision 87578/703/2007 (Official Gazette: B/581) the competent Forestry Services may issue prohibition regulations in cases of exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions

Please rate the degree of application of these best practice codes and standards:

High (almost always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application

>>> The proper implementation of existing legislation and the effective enforcement control system with more

than 1,000 Wardens (Forest rangers) from the Forestry Service, 300 gamekeepers (seasonal and permanent employees of the Hunting Associations and the Hunting Federations) and the Guard Body of Protected Area Management Units.

Improvement actions always may be applied to foster better compliance.

Please rate the effectiveness of these best practice codes and standards in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations:

High (very effective in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness

>>> The enforcement control system with more than 1,000 Wardens (Forest rangers) from the Forestry Service, 300 gamekeepers (Game guard Body, seasonal and permanent employees of the Hunting Associations and the Hunting Federations) and the Guard Body of Protected Area Management Units.

Additional actions always might be considered to foster better compliance, such as identification of the areas which may need improvement (i.e. cooperation between the involved authorities and services, increase of available resources etc).

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> From the establishment of the Game Guard Body in 2000 until the end of 2022, a significant number of checks have been conducted in the Greek countryside. Specifically, there have been 2,359,326 inspections, during which 38,758 violations of the Hunting Law and the Forest Code were identified. Legal procedures, including prosecutions and the confiscation of illegal means, have been pursued in accordance with the law. In 2022, there were 1,274 recorded violations, and only 1.07% of the hunters checked were found to have committed a violation. In contrast, during the first year of operation of the Game Guard Body in 2000, 3.12% of the checked hunters had committed a violation. These figures consistently demonstrate the importance of the Game Guard Body work in preventing and combating poaching (Source: Hellenic Hunters Confederation)

56. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory birds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Greece has adopted the Key Concepts of 2009/147/EC (Huntable bird species under the Birds Directive - scientific overview of the periods of return to their rearing grounds and of reproduction in the Member States»), so as to ensure that hunting does not take place during the most vulnerable periods of the annual cycle of bird species. Furthermore, Greece has also adopted the Guidance Document on "Hunting under the Birds Directive".

Optionally, you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting

>>> Hunting is permitted from August 20th until February 28th of the following year. During the remaining months it is prohibited. The hunting period is different for each species and is determined by the Annual Ministerial Decision which is issued by the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

Hunting is allowed to take place between half an hour (30 minutes) before sunrise and half an hour (30 minutes) after sunset, because ambient lighting conditions prevail, and species are protected better. During the remaining hours it is prohibited.

- Hunting is prohibited inside wildlife refuges and where prohibitions from Greek Public Forest Service are in place which increases even more the percentage of restricted to hunting areas.

- Hunting is prohibited inside the core of National Parks.

- Hunting is prohibited in adverse weather conditions.

- Hunting is prohibited in a zone 500 meters wide along land borders and 300 meters from the coast into the sea.

- Hunting is prohibited without the consent of the owner, nominee, or tenant: a) In the vineyards from the beginning of the hunting season until the end of the vintage (harvest), b) Within unrealed meadows, c) Within cultivated areas or orchards from flowering to fruit harvesting, d) Inside continuous impenetrable and overlying human fence of at least one and half feet (1.50m). At up to two hundred and fifty (250) meters from the external fencing of camping's during the period of operation

- Hunting is prohibited within cities, towns, villages, or settlements in general and within a radius of 250 meters from their outskirts or within a radius of 150 meters from individual houses.

The enforcement mechanism of hunting in Greece according to article 289 of the Law Decree 86/1969

"Forestry Code" the competent bodies for controlling hunters are: Forestry Officials, Public Game Wardens, Gamekeepers (seasonal and permanent employees of Hunting Associations and Hunting Federations) and the Guard Body of Protected Area Management Units.

In addition to the penalties against offenders in the hunting provisions referred to in article 287 of Law Decree

86/1969, in the Joint Ministerial Decision no 37338/1807/E.103 (Official Journal 1495/B/2010), "Definition of appropriate measures and procedures to conserve wild birds and their habitats, in accordance with the provisions of Directive 79/409/ EEC...". a series of financial penalties are set out also in Article 11. The criminal and administrative penalties (sanctions) are imposed by the competent bodies for controlling hunters in accordance with the Law.

The penalties for hunting offenses can include:

- Prison sentences and detention
- Financial penalties and fines
- Ancillary penalties

Every year, an updated research study is prepared by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in collaboration with the Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences, and Design of Forest Products at the University of Thessaly, titled 'The Impact of Hunting on Populations of Game and Non-Game Species, the Control of Poaching, and the Duration of Hunting Seasons.' It includes the following sections: - (A). The impact of the hunting season on game and strictly protected species, as well as its effect on the populations of each game species in Greece. - (B). The capacity to control poaching. - (C). Collection of scientific and technical data that determine in each case the potential impact of the phased cessation of hunting on the protection of bird species that may be affected by this phasing.

6.2. Ecotourism

57. Is wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism integrated into your country's national tourism development strategies or other relevant national strategies? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.5(c))

No

58. Are there existing ecotourism initiatives in your country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.5)

Yes

Please describe how many initiatives are in place and provide details for each of them (add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials)

>>> In the framework of the LIFE19 NAT/LT/000898 project, the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) developed a comprehensive ecotourism programme in the Evros Delta using the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) as a flagship species. HOS also developed ecotourism initiatives for the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) in western Greece in the framework of the LIFE18 NAT/NL/000716 project. (Source: HOS) Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency (NECCA) has been actively participating in international exhibitions (Birdfairs) for the past three years to promote bird tourism in Greece's National Parks. Notable events include the Global Birdfair in England and the Pannonian BirdExperience in Austria. A key focus of NECCA's presence at these exhibitions is to inform visitors about the migratory waterbirds that travel through and inhabit Greece. (Source: NECCA)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://necca.gov.gr/nea-anakoinoseis-deltia-typou/symmetoxi-birdexperience/>

<https://necca.gov.gr/nea/o-ofypeka-stin-global-birdfair-2024/>

Were any of the initiatives described above launched after 2018?

Yes

Please indicate which are those initiatives

>>> Initiatives described previously were developed after 2018

Please rank the degree to which these initiatives are designed to deliver both conservation and community benefits:

High

Please provide details

>>> The aforementioned initiatives are still quite recent so their contribution in terms of conservation and community benefits will be addressed further down the line.

Do you consider that any of these initiatives can serve as a strong model or an example for developing future ecotourism initiatives that beneficial for both waterbirds and local communities?

Yes

6.3. Other human activities

59. Have restrictions on use of lead fishing weights been introduced in your country? (AEWA

Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 80 in chapter 7 - Research and monitoring.

Yes

Please describe what restrictions are in place, when they were introduced and whether they are considered to have worked (i.e. reduced the impact of lead poisoning). Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> Greece has introduced a ban on the use of lead gunshot in all wetland ecosystems [Joint Ministerial Decision 37338/187/2010 [Official Gazette: B/1495), Article 8(4)]

Although it does not explicitly refer to leaded fisheries, the ban generally concerns the release of lead into protected wetlands, which can also be interpreted as a restriction on their use in fisheries. However, additional measures might be considered, fishermen must be informed and alternative materials must be promoted (Source: Fishery Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food).

60. Does your country have legislation in place, which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes and being implemented

Does this legislation apply to the entire country or only to particular states/provinces thereof?

Entire country

Do the SEA/EIA processes consider waterbirds and habitats on which they depend?

Yes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include cumulative impact assessment?

Other

Please provide details

>>> CIA is a chapter of the Appropriate Assessment that is part of EIA. Appropriate Assessment is mandatory in case of projects and activities are located within the Natura 2000 IBA Network (end near areas that could be affected) and within IBAs.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Law 3937/2011 (Official Gazette: A/138)

61. Are there any other legal and/or administrative measures in your country to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> 1. Joint Ministerial Decisions 33318/3028/1998 (Official Gazette: 1289/B/1998) and 14849/853/E.103/2008 (Official Gazette: 645/B/2008) which have harmonised the Habitats Directive.

2. Law 4014/2011 on the "Environmental licensing of projects and activities, regulation of arbitrary projects in conjunction with the creation of an environmental trial balance, and other provisions within the competence of the Ministry of Environment " (Official Gazette: A/209/2011).

3. Joint Ministerial Decision 8353/276/E103/2012 (Official Gazette: 415/B/2012), particularly Art. 5 A-C, defining the scope, parameters, and limitations on development activities such as the installation of windfarms and drilling activities within or near SPAs.

4. Law 1751/88 and Law 1950/91 (Official Gazette: 26/A/88 and 84/A/1991) concerning Ramsar Convention.

62. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1, Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(b))

Yes, all proposed projects

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

>>> EIA and SEA procedures in Greece are in full compliance with the relevant EU Directives and the implementation of those procedures is carried out by specialized and experienced competent authorities. All major energy sector projects undergo an obligatory EIA, while all major power lines programmes, as well as the physical planning of RES, undergo SEA.

Where an SEA/EIA has identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, have steps been taken to avoid these impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> In Greece, when EIA or SEAs identifies a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, appropriate measures are imposed in the relevant permitting decision, to ensure that these impacts are avoided or effectively mitigated. These safeguards include mandatory implementation of collision-avoidance technologies on wind turbine installations, requirements for subterranean power transmission infrastructure rather than aerial lines, and additional specialized conservation interventions tailored to the ecological sensitivity of affected habitats and species.

63. Do you maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(a))

No

64. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Guidelines were used to inform the development and implementation of the Pelican Way of LIFE project on the "Conservation of the Dalmatian pelican along the Black-Sea Mediterranean Flyway".

In Greece, the project was coordinated by the Hellenic Ornithological Society with the cooperation of the Decentralized Administration of the Peloponnese, Western Greece and Ionian; the Decentralized Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia; the for the Protection of Prespa; the Ministry of Environment and Energy; AMVRAKIKOS GULF; the Fishing Assosiation of Logarou Lagoon; and the Management body of Messolonghi Lagoon.

Other guidance that was also used in this project was the 11/2021 "Electrocutions & Collisions of Birds in EU Countries: The Negative Impact & Best Practices for Mitigation" document as well as the Guidelines on How to Avoid or Mitigate Impact of Electricity Power Grids on Migratory Birds in the African-Eurasian Region (AEWA Technical series no.50).

(Source: HOS)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://life-pelicans.com/>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/en/our-work/projects/1821-pelican-way-of-life-en>

65. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.11 on Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds.

65.1. Are relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, nongovernmental organisations and the energy sector, being regularly consulted in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> SEA and EIA procedures, that precede any approval of programmes or projects of the energy sector, include a mandatory consultation phase, during which all relevant stakeholders are given the opportunity to voice their opinions. Consultation results are meticulously considered during the drafting of the final decision.

65.2. Has a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements (including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas) been established as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> When the project is located inside a Natura 2000 site, the appropriate assessment of ecological impacts requires that a baseline survey of at least one year should take place. In parallel, many Research Centers and ecological NGOs perform their own baseline surveys, enriching the relevant data inventories that assessment methods utilize.

65.3 If such studies, as described in the question above, have identified any risks, has every effort been made to ensure these are avoided?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> EIA and SEA procedures lead to the adoption of every possible measure that is necessary to avoid or mitigate risks on important bird species, and approval is granted only if impacts are effectively neutralized.

65.4. Have the location, route and direction of new power lines been designated on the basis of national zoning maps?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Zoning provisions are taken into account when new power lines are designated and approved. When necessary, sensitive areas are avoided or underground routing is adopted.

65.5. Has, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance* been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds?

* such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> As mentioned before, approval of a new power line project is granted only after only the impacts have been effectively neutralized via the environmental permitting processes.

65.6. Are bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, including measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions being used in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Overhead power lines are designed to prevent electrocution and collision of birds, adopting all recent relevant guidelines.

65.7. Have those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision been identified?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

>>> The majority of the collisions are known from birds that bear GNSS systems or in areas that are under monitoring programmes. The electricity grid is extended and there is none national monitoring system.

65.8. Where sections of existing power lines have been identified to cause relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, have they been modified as a matter of priority?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> When necessary, underground routing is adopted and hanging items are installed.

65.9. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

>>> There is none national monitoring system.

However, the approval decision for the installation of Windfarms sets conditions for the impact of the operation of wind turbines on wildlife and provides appropriate measures to be taken.

65.10. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The AEWA guidelines will be taken into consideration in the next (under review) country's National Biodiversity Strategie and Action Plan.

65.11. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

No

66. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Overhead power lines are designed to prevent electrocution and collision of birds, adopting all recent relevant guidelines. Generally, good practises and guidelines for the mitigation of impacts of electricity power grids on migratory birds are proposed during the environmental licensing procedure (environmental terms) by authorities

67. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

67.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Zoning provisions are taken into account when new power lines are designated and approved. When necessary, sensitive areas are avoided or underground routing is adopted.

67.2. Have any international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria been followed in your country for impact assessment of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources?

Yes

Please describe which guidelines, recommendations and criteria have been followed.

>>> EU and Birdlife International guidelines for the mitigation of impact of renewable energy on birds are taken into account so as RESOLUTION 5.16 (RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS)

67.3. Is post-construction monitoring being undertaken of the renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure in your country?

Yes

Please share information and lessons learnt from the post-construction monitoring (attach files or add weblinks, if available)

>>> Post-construction monitoring takes place mostly in projects implemented within NATURA 2000 sites and in areas that could be affected. Pre and post-construction monitoring took place also in case of huge projects outside N2K network.

Has adverse effect on migratory waterbirds and their habitats been identified?

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

Yes

Please provide details on the measures implemented.

>>> Use of hanging items on the power lines and insulators on poles for the new power lines within SPAs, undergrounding powerlines when crossing sensitive areas or sensitive areas avoidance use of automated collision avoidance systems on wind turbines.

67.4. Where damage cannot be avoided or mitigated, has compensation for damages to biodiversity been provided?

No

Operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing shortterm shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In most cases mitigation measures, such as shortterm shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting, are enforced in the Approved Environmental Terms for the operation of a wind farm. During the environmental licensing procedure, especially for the projects within N2K network and IBAs areas, appropriate assessment is mandatory. In this study, scholars during the field survey (20-60 days depending on the project category), have to identify, if possible, migration corridors but aren't always effective. More and reliable data can be collected from GNSS systems that are placed on birds.

67.6. Have any specific measures been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Not applicable

67.7. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.16. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?

>>> The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans is under review and the contractor has already been informed to take into consideration the AEWA Resolution 5.16

68. Has your country used the following AEWA Conservation Guidelines - Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment (Resolution 6.11)?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The content of the Resolution 6.11 is included in the national legislation (Law 4014/201, Joint Ministerial Decision 170225/2014 (Official Gazette: B/135)

69. Is by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear taking place in your country? (Resolution 3.8) (Please respond to this question only with respect to species, which are NOT considered seabirds. Seabird by-catch is dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

No Information

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Greece does not have recorded data on the incidental capture of aquatic birds other than seabirds (Source: Fishery Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

72. Does your country have in place waterbird monitoring schemes for the AEWA species? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.4(a) and 1.4(b))

Yes

Covering the breeding period

Guidance: Including pre- and post-breeding sites of concentration, such as moulting sites close to breeding areas

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> -National surveillance program/survey for species and habitats for species which supports actions such as:

- Monitoring of breeding, wintering, and migratory bird populations.
- Population assessments
- Spatial analysis of trends and threats
- Reporting obligations

Covering the passage period

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> -National surveillance program/survey for species and habitats for species

-Waterbird Migration Phenology Programme by the Hunting Federation of Greece

This program collects data on timing of migration for key waterbird species, contributing to:

- Improved knowledge on climate and migration patterns.
- Adaptive management of game species.
- Complementing IWC data during migratory seasons.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))

>>> -National surveillance program/survey for species and habitats for species

- Waterbird Monitoring Programme (International Waterbird Census in Greece):

- Implementation of the International Waterbird Census (IWC)
- Monitoring and assessing waterbird populations
- Conducting annually at wetlands across the country
- Reporting obligations

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> HOS collects data for selected waterbird species (Source: HOS)

Collected data are used to improve knowledge on migration patterns, to update the monitoring design and evaluation of the conservation status of the species, to support reporting obligations etc.

73. Have you undertaken after MOP8 a brief assessment of existing monitoring activities in your country against the priorities set out in document AEWA/MOP 8.27 in order to help identify ways in which they can best implement those recommendations? (Resolution 8.5)

No

74. Are data collected through the International Waterbird Census or other relevant monitoring schemes being actively used in your country to inform national-level implementation of AEWA? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.5(a))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Question 72

77. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring scheme at international or national level? (Resolution 6.3)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Programs that have been conducted by NECCA*:

1. Monitoring Program of Movements and Other Biological Parameters of Avifauna (Passerines and Wading Birds) in Large Wetlands of Greece.
2. Monitoring of the Wintering Population of White-headed Ducks (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and their Feeding ecology in Lake Vistonida.
3. Measures to Improve the Conservation Status of Mixed Heron Colonies in Porto Lagos and Keramoti. Within the framework of this action, the colony trees were mapped and the nests were counted per species. The fencing in the Porto Lagos colony was repaired, and informational signs were installed.
4. Actions for the Protection of the Breeding Population of the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). As part of the project, artificial stork platforms and network insulation materials were purchased and installed by the relevant Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator units at selected locations. The nests were counted and marked, chicks were ringed, and transmitters were installed.
5. "Investigation of the Impact of Biodiversity in Flooded Rice Fields on the Populations of Herons and Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*) during the Breeding Season" - Axios Delta. The main objective of the project was to record the animal biodiversity in the rice fields of the protected area and to investigate its impact on breeding herons and black-headed gulls, which are energetically dependent on these habitats.
6. Reedbed Management Program in the Eastern Evros Delta and Prespa National Park.
7. Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) counts in the Evros Delta National Park Area as part of the International Census (2022-2024).
8. Habitat Management in the Floodplain of the Evros River. In the Eastern Evros Delta, almost the entire floodplain of the Evros River has been overgrown with tamarisk, which has expanded over large areas. Through this project, 10 clearings were created to establish wet meadows. These open spaces are expected to positively benefit many species of aquatic birds.
9. "Protection and Management of the European Shag (*Gulosus aristotelis*) and Other Seabirds in the Echinades Islands Archipelago Through Visitor Management"
 - A. Recording, monitoring, and mapping of breeding populations of European Shags and potentially other seabird species in the Echinades Islands Archipelago
 - B. Visitor management plan involving private vessels and signage(*data available from NECCA)

78. Has your country donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium (Resolution 6.3, 7.7 and 8.5)?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

80. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 59 in chapter 6. Management of human activities.

Yes

Is there evidence of negative impact on waterbirds from lead fishing weights in your country?

Yes

Please describe the significance of the impact. Please attach any published or unpublished references

>>> In 2021, in the area of Agios Mamas, Chalkidiki, there were recorded deaths of flamingos from lead poisoning, possibly due to ingestion of fishing weights or shot. (Source: Phys.org - Lead poisoning of flamingos in Greece)*

*(data available from the Fishery Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

81. Has your country established partnerships and initiated joint research programmes at any level, with clear timeframes for delivery, to fill priority knowledge gaps as identified in document AEWA/MOP 8.30? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.1(a)).

Yes

Please indicate which of the priority knowledge gaps have been addressed

- Active improvement of systems for monitoring, trend and conservation status assessments.
- Active improvement of marine conservation processes including distribution surveys; bycatch reduction and non-native predator elimination on breeding seabird islands
- Active collation on data and information on flyway network sites

- ☑ Development of strategic approaches to habitat restoration and the implementation of relevant measures
- ☑ Development of synthesis of waterbird tracking and movement data to improve the planning and implementation of better connectivity between key flyway sites and other protected areas

Active improvement of systems for monitoring, trend and conservation status assessments.

Number of initiatives/research programmes

>>> -National surveillance program/survey for species and habitats for species is currently being conducted in Greece. A general objective is the assessment of the species conservation status, namely the degree of conservation and population trends, both at the level of Natura 2000 network sites and at the national level.

More specific objectives include:

- The assessment of the factors affecting each surveillance subject, which influence the distribution and population size of the species, and ultimately their conservation.
- The evaluation of the conservation status of species of Community interest within the Natura 2000 network areas and across the entire country, including the assessment of their populations and trends, as well as the identification of the causes affecting their condition.
- The optimal adaptation of field methodological approaches, analyses, and protocols to the requirements of Directive 2009/147/EC, in accordance with current scientific developments in the fields of surveillance and conservation.
- The updating of the monitoring design for the species.

-(Source: HOS): Also, LIFE MareNatura: European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) involves seabird colony assessments for key species -3. On course

Active improvement of marine conservation processes including distribution surveys; bycatch reduction and non-native predator elimination on breeding seabird islands

Number of initiatives/research programmes

>>> -See question 36 concerning the colony of Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*) on Gyros Island, Cyclades, which is under direct threat from the presence and activity of free-ranging feral pigs. The action was implemented by the 4th Hunting Federation of Central Greece (4th KOS), with the support of the Ministry of Environment and NECCA-2. Considerable progress has been made

-Also, the LIFE PanPuffinus! project involves an improvement of monitoring systems and a shift to e-logbooks for monitoring bycatch instances. - 3. On course (Source: HOS)

-There is also the rat eradication initiative HOS has been carrying out. - 3. On course (Source: HOS)

-LIFE MareNatura involves a set of actions monitoring Audouin's Gull (*Ichthyophaga audouinii*) including a tagging mission in the Aegean Sea in order to collect data from different breeding areas and identify behavioural patterns and threats to the species. - 2. Considerable progress made (Source: HOS)

Active collation on data and information on flyway network sites

Number of initiatives/research programmes

>>> -HOS coordinates and submits data from the annual Midwinter counts monitoring 225 sites across the country - 1. Completed

-Pelican Way of LIFE (LIFE18 NAT/NL/000716) - 1. Completed

-LIFE LWfG CLIMATE project (LIFE19 NAT/LT/000898)- 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead (data available from HOS)

Development of strategic approaches to habitat restoration and the implementation of relevant measures

Number of initiatives/research programmes

>>> -LIFE LWfG CLIMATE project (LIFE19 NAT/LT/000898) - 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead

-The national prioritisation list of islets for eradication programmes - 1. Completed

-Pelican Way of LIFE (LIFE18 NAT/NL/000716) - 2. Considerable progress made (data available from HOS)

Development of synthesis of waterbird tracking and movement data to improve the planning and implementation of better connectivity between key flyway sites and other protected areas

Number of initiatives/research programmes

>>> - Tracking and movement ecology of Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) using GPS/GSM transmitters (2013-2019)

- Partners: University of Crete, Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP)
- Progress: 1. Completed

- Outcomes: Mapping of migratory routes and spatial use of 31 wetland sites in Greece and the Balkans; identification of core habitats and critical flyway connectivity sites. [Georgopoulou et al., 2023]
(Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359534859_Chorothesese_pollaplon_ASPEE_entos_diadromon_meta_kineses_pelekanon_ste_Dytike_kai_Kentrike_Makedonia)
- Risk analysis of wind farms along Dalmatian Pelican migration corridors in Western and Central Macedonia (2012-2020)
- Partners: Society for the Protection of Prespa, 12 Protected Area Management Bodies
- Progress: 2. Considerable progress made
- Outcomes: Identification of 71 wind farm locations intersecting with pelican migration corridors; 1,500+ GPS fixes; collision documentation and policy recommendations for licensing and spatial planning. [SPP, 2021]
(Source: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-023-01667-1>)
- LIFE MareNatura tracking Audouin's gull (*Ichthyaetus audouinii*) and Shearwaters (sp. *Puffinus*) for identification of marine IBAs - 2 Considerable progress made (Source: HOS)
- Pelican Way of LIFE (LIFE18 NAT/NL/000716) - 2 Considerable progress made (Source: HOS)

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials

>>> -Tracking and movement ecology of Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) using GPS/GSM transmitters (2013-2019):

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359534859_Chorothesese_pollaplon_ASPEE_entos_diadromon_meta_kineses_pelekanon_ste_Dytike_kai_Kentrike_Makedonia

-Risk analysis of wind farms along Dalmatian Pelican migration corridors in Western and Central Macedonia (2012-2020): <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-023-01667-1>

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-023-01667-1>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359534859_Chorothesese_pollaplon_ASPEE_entos_diadromon_metakineses_pelekanon_ste_Dytike_kai_Kentrike_Makedonia

82. In this reporting period, have results of conservation and management interventions, whether successful or unsuccessful, been published in your country so as to inform future conservation and management actions? (Article III.2(k), Resolution 8.7)

Yes

Please provide details and reference to each publication or attach a copy

>>> Pelican Way of LIFE project (Source: HOS)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://>

<http://life-pelicans.com/>

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

83. Has your country developed and implemented programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.3 and AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 6.1-6.4, Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Guidance: Such programmes should consist of a series of established, long-term communication activities, which are guided by clearly defined goals, target audiences and communication channels. A programme does not constitute a single, one-off communication activity, product or event. In other words, an established national programme to raise awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA would ideally be a number of targeted communication activities which are guided by a communication plan and are backed by sufficient human and financial resources.

Other

Please explain reasons

>>> On World Wetlands Day, major events are organized in wetlands across Greece by NECCA, primarily aimed at students. (<https://necca.gov.gr/nea-anakoinoseis-deltia-typou/pagkosmia-imeraygrotopon-paratiritirio-poulion-neas-agathoupolis/>) (Source: NECCA)

HOS is coordinating and running a range of environmental education programmes both for adults as well as students and young children with special needs. (i.e. <https://ornithologiki.gr/el/enhmerwsh-ekpaideush/ekdiloseis/1903-mazi-sti-fysi-organomeni-eksormisi-sti-vravrona-gia-nevrodiaforetika-paidia>)

There was also the Erasmus+ “Birds Flying High” programme the aim of which was the design and implementation of an Environmental Education programme to help teachers and their students connect and coexist with the wildlife near them (<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/oi-draseis-mas/programmata/1854-erasmus-birds-flying-high>).

The NorGreck project (2016-2020) funded by BirdLife Norway through the Norwegian Environment Agency also included environmental education and awareness-raising initiatives (<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/oi-draseis-mas/programmata/1541-the-norgreck-project>). (Source: HOS)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://necca.gov.gr/nea-anakoinoseis-deltia-typou/pagkosmia-imeraygrotopon-paratiritirio-poulion-neas-agathoupolis/>

<http://>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/oi-draseis-mas/programmata/1541-the-norgreck-project>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/oi-draseis-mas/programmata/1854-erasmus-birds-flying-high>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/enhmerwsh-ekpaideush/ekdiloseis/1903-mazi-sti-fysi-organomeni-eksormisi-sti-vravrona-gia-nevrodiaforetika-paidia>

84. Has a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) been designated by your country? (Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

No

85. Have measures been taken by your country to implement the provisions related to “Education and Information” in the AEWA Action Plan over the last triennium? (AEWA Action Plan, Paragraphs 6.1-6.4)

No

86. Have World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) activities been carried out in your country during this reporting cycle? (Resolution 5.5)

Yes

Please describe the activity/activities briefly and upload any sample materials, links or photos available related to the activity/event.

>>> HOS organises and coordinates yearly events to celebrate WMBD across the country. (Data available from the HOS)

Additionally, NECCA every year participates (the main coordinator is the HOS) in the EuroBirdwatch. The main objective of the event is to inform and raise public awareness of the need to protect migratory birds, as well as their breeding areas, intermediate stations on their migration routes and their wintering grounds. In 2024, NECCA organized 26 events in almost all protected areas. (Data available from NECCA)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://necca.gov.gr/nea-anakoinoseis-deltia-typou/o-ofypeka-symmetexei-stis-ekdiloseis-gia-tin-europaiki-giorti-ton-poulion/>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/component/tags/tag/agonas-paratirisis-poulion>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/enhmerwsh-ekpaideush/enimerosi/ta-nea-mas/1475-katagrafontas-tin-anoiksiatiki-metanastefsi-apotelesmata-ton-agonon-paratirisis-poulion-2022>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/enhmerwsh-ekpaideush/enimerosi/ta-nea-mas/1621-agonas-paratirisis-poulion-2023>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/component/tags/tag/giorti-poulion>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1feml4cv7c2uoBCtObwI5-6PGEILSrFxx/edit?tab=t.0>

<https://ornithologiki.gr/el/enhmerwsh-ekpaideush/ekdiloseis/1888-anoixti-ekdilosi-sti-zakyntho-gia-tin-pagkosmia-imerametanastefikon-poulion>

87. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy and/or towards priority CEPA activities in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Resolution 6.10)

No

Pressures and Responses

9. Implementation

88. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.6.(b))

No

89. Has your country provided resources to address the resource needs as identified in document AEWA/MOP 8.43, for enabling and strengthening the international-level coordination and delivery of the Strategic Plan? (Resolution 8.3)

No

90. Has your country approached non-contracting party range states to encourage them to accede to the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.2)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

91. Does your country have in place a national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA, possibly linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? (Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3(b))

Guidance: Such mechanism can be a dedicated cross-institutional working group, involving representatives of the civil society and other relevant stakeholders, aimed at planning, coordinating and reporting the implementation of the Agreement in the country. Alternatively, the implementation of AEWA at national level can be coordinated as an extension of larger national coordination mechanisms for other MEAs, such as National Ramsar Committees or CBD NBSAPs coordination.

No

93.1. Cooperate in launching regional initiatives, particularly in Africa, to address the implementation of capacity priorities, linking to the African Initiative, including scientific collaboration as well as a “younger generations” component, and including provision for actions to be further informed through country-specific needs assessments.

No

93.2. Establish procedures for ensuring continuity of succession and transfer of knowledge and skills, when there are changes in personnel responsible for AEWA national implementation.

No

93.3. Hold regional or sub-regional preparatory meetings before each ordinary session of the MOP, in particular for African Range States, and for such meetings to include an enhanced capacity-building component targeting priority needs identified by the Parties concerned.

No

93.4. (For AEWA National Focal Points in the European Union (EU) only)

To cooperate with African National Focal Points, partner organisations and other stakeholders to explore opportunities for incorporating aspects of AEWA implementation capacity support in relevant existing projects and programmes in Africa, including the EU-funded NaturAfrica initiative and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial/EU-funded RESSOURCE sub-Saharan Africa project, as well as projects under the auspices of the wider CMS Family, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNEP.

No

94. Has your country concluded, or considered concluding, twinning schemes between sites with other countries, the sites of which share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues? (Resolution 5.20)

No

95. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Cooperation with the competent Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Energy

96. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the assessment of achieving these goals? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Cooperation with the competent Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Energy

97. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes to implementation and assess the delivery of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Cooperation with the competent Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Energy

98. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Cooperation with the competent Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Energy

99. Are the AEWA priorities integrated into your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or other similar national implementation mechanisms/processes for other international strategic plans and policies (Resolution 6.3; AEWA Strategic Plan, Targets 5.4 and 5.5)?

99.1 The new generation of NBSAPs related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022)

Yes

Please provide details on which specific AEWA priorities, as per document AEWA/MOP 8.36, were integrated
>>> Under review

102. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium? (Resolutions 7.1 and 8.3)

No

103. Has your country donated other funding or provided in-kind support to activities coordinated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat?

No

104. Has your country prioritised and allocated a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support or for any other area of work? (Resolutions 7.11, 7.12, 8.11 and 8.12)

Not Applicable: the country has no arrangement with the UN to provide JPOs

105. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilization for the implementation of AEWA.

105.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There are actions that have been implemented (or are under implementation) within the framework of the PA (Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework) 2014-2020 and PA 2021-2027, that are financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) of the European Union, and these may contribute to achieving the objectives of the Agreement.

105.2 Does your country's government have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (annual assessed contributions to the Agreement's budget as approved by each session of the Meeting of the Parties)?

No

105.3 Has your country's government provided funding to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet their obligations under AEWA, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027? Under this question please report for support provided outside of formal and established intergovernmental cooperation. For the latter, please refer to the next question 105.4.

No

105.4 Does your country's government participate in any South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation to enhance financial and technical support for the successful implementation of AEWA activities?

No

105.5 Does your country's government use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan such as a (national) Migratory Waterbirds Fund?

No

105.6 Does the implementation of AEWA in your country benefit from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at national level, amongst others, through information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> N/A

Pressures and Responses

10. Climate Change

106. Please outline relevant climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures that are relevant to migratory waterbirds and which have been undertaken or planned in your country. (Resolution 5.13)

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> Research and assessments of climate change impacts on waterbirds and their habitats and identification of affective adaptation measures have been carried out in the framework of EU funded projects such as LIFE-Prespa Waterbirds, LIFE LWfG CLIMATE and AtticaWetlands

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://ornithologiki.gr/en/our-work/projects/1639-life-lwfg-climate>

<https://www.prespawaterbirds.gr/climate-change-weq-91677.html>

<https://atticawetlands.eu/?lang=el>

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 43 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> as highlighted in section 106a,

additionally: ARSINOE – Case study 4 (This Case Study aims at improving climate resilience of environmental, economic and social sectors related to water use, having the potential of affecting human health and vulnerability of all economic sectors. (<https://arsinoe-project.eu/case-study-4/>) (data available from NECCA)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://arsinoe-project.eu/case-study-4/>

c. Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change.

Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties

>>> as stated in section 106a

107. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

108. Has your country used the complementary Guidelines on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds?

No

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 10. Climate Change

>>> The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) was formally endorsed by the Greek Parliament in August 2016 (article 45 of Law 4414/2016). The review and revision of the NAS is scheduled to start in September 2025 and concluded by September 2026.

The NAS suggests alternative adaptation options/measures for specific priority sectors, including the sectors of biodiversity & ecosystems and water resources. The NAS outlines Greece's strategic orientation and provides guidelines, but it does not analyse the required sectoral policies, nor does it assess the feasibility/ranking of individual adaptation measures at local/regional level. Such issues fall within the scope of Regional Adaptation Action Plans (RAAPs).

The 13 Regional Adaptation Action Plans have been drafted, and 9 have been officially endorsed by the respective Regional Councils by April 2025. The RAAPs include actions to preserve, protect and adapt to climate change the most important species, habitats and ecosystems in each Region, including water ecosystems. This mostly refers to climate vulnerability and risk studies to provide better insights into the impacts of climate changes and identify effective adaptation measures and solutions.

The National Climate Law 4936/2022 foresees the possibility to adopt policies and measures to increase resilience in all sectors of economy, natural environment and biodiversity (article 10.3) and mandates all central government departments to integrate adaptation into sectoral strategies and plans (article 9.2). Under the LIFE-IP AdaptInGR project, the Ministry of Environmenta and Energy has been analysing the baseline situation on adaptation mainstreaming across the sectors considered in the NAS, including the sector of “biodiversity and ecosystems”. The analysis for the sector “biodiversity & ecosystems” was completed and published in 2022. The analysis underlines the absence of targeted studies that describe and analyze the climate change impacts on specific species and ecosystems and emphasizes the need for further research. Research and assessments of climate change impacts on waterbirds and their habitats and identification of affective adaptation measures have been carried out in the framework of EU funded projects such as LIFE-Prespa Waterbirds, LIFE LWfG CLIMATE and AtticaWetlands

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

https://ypen.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Files/Klimatiki%20Allagi/Prosarmogi/20160406_ESPKA_teliko.pdf

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

109. What issues have proved challenging in responding nationally to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the last triennium and what further guidance or information would be useful in this respect?

List challenges

>>> According to NECCA' s statement, during the pelican mortality incident in Prespa, one of the major challenges was identifying which agency held responsibility for collecting the dead birds from the lake. There was no clear protocol or designated authority for handling such cases.

Eventually, due to the urgency of the situation, the Region stepped in and assigned the task to a contractor. As a result, the contractor collected the dead pelicans and transported them for incineration. This response highlighted the need of clearly defined responsibilities for the management of such wildlife mortality events and the importance of having flexible, pre-established partnerships that can be activated in emergencies.

Also, the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food indicates:

- One of the most challenging issues is collection and disposal of the wild birds' carcasses due to the breeding season and the difficulty in approaching the colonies related to the wetlands' characteristics. In the last triennium we faced such a challenge concerning the mass mortality in Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) in the region of Western Macedonia, in 2022.

- In the region of Western Macedonia there is significant mink-farm activity providing income to the local community. The presence of HPAI in wild birds heightens the need for implementing surveillance programmes concerning minks in order to protect animals, avoid the spillover of the virus and secure the regional financial status.

- As an attempt to control the spread of the disease, restriction measures applied in the above high-risk region regarding back-yard poultry, poultry and mink farms is a challenge both to plan and perform.

- Communication and coordination among all stakeholders and sectors involved in the collection, examination and testing of the wild birds' carcasses as well as prevention of human, animal and environmental infection is always a challenge as far as pandemic diseases are concerned.

List required further guidance or information

>>> - Further guidance and information are needed in order to actively involve citizens in the reporting procedure of sick or dead birds and the adaptation of more advanced tools (e.g. telephone hotlines or online platforms)

- Update the preparedness plan concerning AI in peacetime, communicate it to all sectors involved and clarify the role of each party in early warning procedures in order to ensure an integrated management for emergency response plans*.

(*information available from Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

110. Does your country have in place surveillance and rapid testing programmes for HPAI of dead birds so as to inform: any enhancements to monitoring of the species populations (Resolutions 8.2 and 8.7) and site-related management and biosecurity measures as needed (Resolution 8.15)?

Yes

Please provide more information

>>> Avian influenza (AI) surveillance programmes have been implemented by veterinary authorities in Greece for many years. They have been continuously approved and co-financed by the European Union demonstrating the country's consistency, its commitment to comply with its legal obligations and its will to ensure animal and public health.

With regard to wild birds, the surveillance programme focuses mainly on those birds found either dead or injured/sick. The surveillance applies to wild bird species, in particular migratory water birds that have shown to be at higher risk of becoming infected with, and transmitting HPAI. The list of wild bird targeted species (TS) is regularly updated in accordance with available information on the EURL website and EFSA's scientific advice. However, all suspected episodes of significant mortality in wild bird populations are investigated to exclude HPAI, even if they are not considered TS. In addition to TS, other wild bird species may be included in the surveillance scheme whenever their epidemiological relevance on Greece's territory is assessed. Cloacal and tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs are the samples of choice that are collected per wild bird in order to be subjected to official laboratory testing by virological methods.

If deemed necessary, surveillance may be complemented with sampling and testing of live and healthy wild birds*.

(*information available from Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

Has this information been submitted to international databases, e.g. the WOAAH WAHIS system <https://wahis.woah.org/#/home>, which strive to improve understanding of the epidemiology of the disease

and its impacts across borders (as called for by the CMS/FAO Co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds: see paragraph 2.3.1.6 of the 2023 statement of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds on H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza in wild birds - unprecedented conservation impacts and urgent needs (available here)?

Yes (please clarify)

>>> Greece complies with the EU and WOHAI notification requirements, and upon confirmation, the disease is immediately notified by the Central Veterinary Authority through ADIS and WAHIS respectively.*
(*information available from Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

111. Has your country adapted/changed in the last triennium monitoring and assessment of those species affected by avian influenza, particularly HPAI H5N1 outbreaks, as well as other diseases, as the basis for potentially implementing emergency measures envisaged by paragraph 2.3 of the AEWA Action Plan? (Resolutions 8.2 and 8.7)

Yes

Please provide more information

>>> It has been decided by the veterinary authorities to intensify sampling and testing of live and healthy wild bird targeted species.*

(*information available from Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> NECCA mentions that contingency plans may be conducted at local level in case of incidents.

Also, the veterinary authorities have developed a national contingency plan and instruction manuals in regard with kept animals in order to ensure a high level of disease awareness and preparedness and the ability to launch a rapid response (information available from Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food)

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 11. Avian Influenza

>>> -Coordination Plan of NECCA' s Actions in Protected Areas for the Management of Mass Incidents of Avian Influenza issued in January 2023 (attached)

-Ministerial Decision 258754 (Official Gazette: B/840/2008) concerning the emergency plan for Avian Influenza

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Avian Influenza NECCA Coordination Plan.pdf](#)

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Greece-AEWA-National_Report-Approval-Submission.pdf](#)

Date of submission

>>> 13 May 2025