



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

>>> Italy

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.09.2006

List any reservations that the Contracting Party has made (if any) in respect of any population(s) listed in Table 1 of Annex 3 or any specific provision of the AEWA Action Plan - either upon deposition of its instruments of accession (per AEWA, Article XV) or subsequent to any amendment of Table 1 or the AEWA Action Plan, as adopted by a session of the Agreement's Meeting of the Parties (per AEWA, Article X.6).

EU member states should list also all reservations entered by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union.

>>> The European Union made reservations for the following listed species by AEWA and that are part of Bird Directive in the category Hutable species: Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Blacktailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) and Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

In Italy only Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) are hutable.

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 the environment and energy security - General Directorate for biodiversity and sea protection

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> General Director Mr. Francesco Tomas

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Via Cristoforo Colombo 44, Rome, Italy

Postal code

>>> 00147

City

>>> Roma

Country

>>> Italy

E-mail

>>> tbm-udg@mase.gov.it

Website

>>> <https://www.mase.gov.it/>

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Silvia Giardina

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of the environment and energy security - General Directorate for biodiversity and sea protection

Mailing address - Street and number

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Designated National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Jacopo Cecere

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

Mailing address - Street and number

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>>> 40064

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>>> Italy

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E-mail

>>> iacopo.cecere@isprambiente.it

Website

>>> <http://www.isprambiente.gov.it>

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

<http://www.isprambiente.gov.it>

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.

>>> The report has been drafted by several contributors under the coordination of the National Focal Point (NFP) and the National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters. In particular, most of the contributions were provided by the National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and the relevant offices of the Ministry of the environment and energy security.

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))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> In Italy, the Common Pochard and the Lapwing are still listed as huntable species under national law 157/1992, art. 18. The Management Plan for the Common Pochard was approved on May 10, 2023, while the one for the Lapwing has been finalized and is currently awaiting approval.

In any case, the Italian Ministry for the Environment (MASE) has formally requested Regional Administrations to ensure the protection of both species when issuing their annual hunting regulations.

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.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> In Italy, there is no need to apply different measures for different populations of the same species.

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.

[Italy_Q3_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColA.xlsx](#) - Italy_Q3_AEWA NR 2021-2024_PopCola

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.

[Italy_Q4_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColA-Cat2_3_4.xlsx](#) - Italy_Q4_AEWA NR 2021-2024_PopColA-Cat2,3,4

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.

[Italy_Q5_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColB.xlsx](#) - Italy_Q5_AEWA NR 2021-2024_PopColB

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

Artificial light sources

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not explicitly mentioned in existing law

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not explicitly mentioned in existing law

Devices for illuminating targets

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not explicitly mentioned in existing law

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Night shooting is prohibited. The hunting day begins one hour before sunrise and ends at sunset.

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 13

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

>>> Law 157/1992, art. 21

Other non-selective modes of taking

No

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

Was a review undertaken before MOP8?

No

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.

No

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

>>> Italian Legislation is in accordance with the European Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds

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***

NP in place, but not being implemented properly or at all

Please explain the reasons for the lack of implementation. When was the plan approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available.

>>> The plan was published in 2007. The plan was only partially implemented because it is not legally binding.

Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

National Plan for Great Snipe / Gallinago media

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not relevant in Italy

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa National Plan for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Tiny breeding population is granted with protection and local management measures

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Small incentives for actions aimed at improving the species' breeding and feeding sites are sporadically implemented at the local level in Piedmont region.

Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata National Plan for Eurasian Curlew / Numenius arquata

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The wintering population of Eurasian curlew in Italy is very small

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> Species is considered extinct; some reintroduction projects failed for the time being

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Nesting colonies are surveilled and surveyed, with a good percentage in Protected areas

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of fundings

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of fundings

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 Italian government has funded the Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas, whose results significantly contribute to closing knowledge gaps on the migratory behavior of many AEWA species, and are therefore valuable for the development and implementation of Single and Multi-Species Action Plans.
In addition, the Ministry of the Environment has supported ISPRA in studying the movements of various AEWA species through GPS tracking. The results of these studies are disseminated through scientific publications.

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))

Yes

When was this review and prioritization completed?

>>> The Ministry of the Environment (MASE) has recently tasked ISPRA with developing action plans for the AEWA huntable species that do not yet have one. The species concerned include Gadwall, Pintail, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Common Snipe, Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Quail, and Ruff.

Has a corresponding national resource mobilization plan been established?

Yes

When was this resource mobilization plan completed?

>>> The decision by the Ministry of Environment (2023) to task ISPRA with drafting the new action plans was made in 2023.

Please attach the resource mobilization plan or provide a weblink to it. If not available, please summarise the main points.

>>> The management plans will be developed by ISPRA personnel as part of the institution's official activities, without a specific budget.

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

>>> In Italy, two Single Species Action Plans (SSAPs) were drafted prior to the adoption of the AEWA Guidelines—specifically for *Larus audouinii* and *Numenius tenuirostris*—and four more were developed afterward, for *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Aythya ferina*, and *Vanellus vanellus*. In preparing these more recent SSAPs, we followed the criteria outlined in the AEWA Guidelines to: 1) identify species of greatest concern, 2) produce a status report as a background document for each species, and 3) define the necessary conservation actions. However, we did not adopt the proposed format in order to maintain consistency with the editorial style of the previously developed SSAPs.

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

Botulism

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> Following a severe botulism outbreak that caused a mass die-off of waterbirds at Valle Mandriole (Emilia-Romagna) in 2019, local authorities implemented a plan aimed at addressing the main and determining causes of the recurrence of such events (e.g., rapid removal of the first carcasses, drainage of basins, water circulation). This has led to a steadily decreasing number of botulism-related deaths, with only a few cases reported in recent years.

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

>>> Valle Mandriole - Po Delta Park (lon 12.225 - lat 44.536)

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%

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

< 10%

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

>>> negligible in the reporting period

What proportion of the site has been affected?

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

>>> 0

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> rapid removal of the first carcasses, drainage of basins, water circulation

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

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

>>> In Italy some task forces are involved in facing emergency situations not only for birds. Many NGOs, stakeholders, Regional Administrations, along with ISPRA and Ministry of Environment cooperate in order to identify and tackle emergency situations for different animal species, including migratory waterbirds.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> No formal register is maintained.

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

Partial

Please provide details

>>> Any project for the re-establishment of species listed in the Annex IV of the Habitats Directive must be authorised by Regional Administrations (Decree no 357/97, Art. 12). Authorization are not requested for the re-establishment of birds (Decree no 102/2019).

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)

Yes

Please provide information on each species for which relevant action has been undertaken

Marbled Teal / Marmaronetta angustirostris

Projects for Marbled Teal / Marmaronetta angustirostris

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

Please provide information on the time frame and the objectives of the project. Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details of any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

>>> In recent years, the first recorded nesting of the Marbled Duck in western Sicily occurred in 2000. Since then, the species has bred regularly, though with a very small number of pairs—typically 1-2 in Sardinia and 1-3 in Sicily in recent years. A national Action Plan was published in 2007.

A reinforcement/re-establishment project was launched in 2019 within the framework of the LIFE project Marbled Duck PSSO. The project, which is still ongoing, aims to accelerate the natural colonization process of the Marbled Duck in Sicily through the release of captive-bred individuals sourced from Valencia, Spain. The first release took place in spring 2021.

The project appears to be yielding positive results, with several pairs now nesting in the project areas. The LIFE project has also included land acquisition, habitat enhancement, fencing, and awareness-raising activities.

The project is coordinated by the German foundation STIFTUNG PRO ARTENVIELFALT (Foundation Pro Biodiversity).

Contact person: Carlo Cappuzzello – carlo.cappuzzello@spa-it.org

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

[LIFE PSSO](#)

Has your country informed the AEWA Secretariat in advance of this re-establishment project? (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.

No

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

>>> In Italy the translocations of birds must follow national guidelines based on IUCN criteria.

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.

>>> Five decrees have been approved on this issue, two of which in the last triennium (in 2022):

1_ Title of legislation: Decree no. 230/2017 - Adeguamento della normativa nazionale alle disposizioni del regolamento (UE) n. 1143/2014 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio del 22 ottobre 2014, recante disposizioni volte a prevenire e gestire l'introduzione e la diffusione delle specie esotiche invasive. year of adoption: February 2018. Institution that adopted it: Italian Government. Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment and Ministry of the Interior. The Decree is applied to the entire country, although penalties and prohibitions apply to exotic species of EU concern only.

2_ Title of legislation: Decree no. 102/2019 Regolamento recante ulteriori modifiche dell'articolo 12 del decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 8 settembre 1997, n. 357, concernente attuazione della direttiva 92/43/CEE relativa alla conservazione degli habitat naturali e seminaturali, nonché della flora e della fauna selvatiche. (19G00108). year of adoption: July 2019. Institution that adopted it: President of the Republic. Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment and Regional Administrations. The Decree regulates the release of species into the wild. The introduction of exotic species is prohibited, without prejudice to specified derogations.

3_ Title of legislation: Decree no. 2 aprile 2020. Criteri per la reintroduzione e il ripopolamento delle specie autoctone di cui all'allegato D del Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 8 settembre 1997, n. 357 e per l'immissione di specie e di popolazioni non autoctone. Year of adoption: April 2020. Institution that adopted it: Ministry of the Environment. Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment; Regional Administrations, Parks, ISPRA. The Decree provides guidelines for the release of species into the wild.

4_ Modalità di ripartizione del Fondo per il controllo delle specie esotiche invasive. (22A04371) (GU Serie Generale n.182 del 05-08-2022). Year of adoption: April 2022. Institution that adopted it: Ministry of Ecological Transition

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2022/08/05/22A04371/sg>

5_ Adozione del Piano d'azione per ridurre l'introduzione in natura di specie aliene invasive di animali da compagnia e piante di interesse acquaristico e terraristico. (22A04370) (GU Serie Generale n.182 del 05-08-2022). Year of adoption: April 2022. Institution that adopted it: Ministry of Ecological Transition.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2022/08/05/22A04370/sg>

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.

>>> Title of legislation: Decree no. 230/2017 - Adeguamento della normativa nazionale alle disposizioni del regolamento (UE) n. 1143/2014 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio del 22 ottobre 2014, recante disposizioni volte a prevenire e gestire l'introduzione e la diffusione delle specie esotiche invasive. Page 25 of 50 Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2018-2020 [Contracting Party: Italy] year of adoption: February 2018 Institution that adopted it: Italian Government Institution that enforces it: Ministry of Environment and Ministry of the Interior The Decree is applied to the entire country, although penalties and prohibitions apply to exotic species of EU concern only.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Italy implements Zoo Directive, and in this respect all specimens should be kept trying to avoid any accidental escape.

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)

Yes

Please provide information on each non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken

African Sacred Ibis / Threskiornis aethiopicus

For African Sacred Ibis / Threskiornis aethiopicus

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

When was the programme approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details of any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

>>> The decree approving the Management Plan was published in May 2023.

https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/biodiversita/dm_148_03-05-2023.pdf

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The plan is currently being implemented in several regions of Italy.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Yes at local level. Life project Sos Tuscan Wetland aims to control IAS in Tuscany's wetlands, in order to restore threatened habitats.

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The AEWA guidelines have not been formally adopted, but the principles are taken into account when evaluating translocation programs. Furthermore, national guidelines on introduced vertebrates (including birds) have been produced by the Ministry for the Environment (MASE). The guidelines include management priorities for all known introduced species.

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

>>> The collection of data on seabird bycatch is partially included among the actions of the Marine Strategy and is currently under development.

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

>>> Mainly by means of specific project (e.g. LIFE) in the coming years

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Trainee sessions for the fishery industry have been planned in a document edited by the Ministry of Environment, Unioncamere, and ISPRA in 2017. These trainee sessions provide information to fishermen on how to identify and record data on seabird by-catch.

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> The process is still ongoing.

32. Have you assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey? (Resolution 7.6)

No

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> We are currently in the information-gathering phase regarding the incidence of seabird bycatch in Italy. No studies have yet been conducted on the species and fishing gear most involved in seabird bycatch.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No harvest is taking place for sea birds

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.

>>> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320710001643>

<http://www.infs-acquatici.it/PDF/ratti/2016%20Capizzi%20Spos%20Hammamet.pdf>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301266906_Fifteen_Years_of_Rat_Eradication_on_Italian_Islands

https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2018/eventi/evento-conclusivo-progetto-life-u-savereds/CAPIZZI_PerugiaUSavereds2018.pdf

<http://www.infs-acquatici.it/PDF/Ratti%20e%20Uccelli%20marini/ratti%20e%20conservazione.pdf>

Have you prioritised them for action?

Yes

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

>>> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320710001643>

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.

>>> Italy is not a country bordering the North or Baltic Sea

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

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

>>> Italy has identified a network of important wintering sites for those species/populations listed in Table 1 of the AEWA Action Plan.

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 sites have been identified through other processes (e.g., Ramsar, SPA), which, however, share several principles and rules with AEWA.

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))

YES, but it is still being clarified with the Secretariat/Technical Committee and is not concluded

Please indicate when it was submitted and when it is expected to be concluded

>>> The inventory has been sent to AEWA Secretariat on 8 February 2021

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

Yes

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

[Change We Care Project](#)

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Being a cross-cutting issue this matter is assessed on a global approach

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

>>> 584

Total area (ha)

>>> 510843

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 584

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 510843

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> The values refer to the total number of SPAs (Special Protection Areas, Natura 2000 network: sites type A and C) whose standard data forms include at least one AEWA species (584 sites out of 842 Italian SPAs). The computation was carried out on the basis of the SPAs standard data forms updated as of December 2024.

The Ramsar sites and the Bern Convention Emerald Network sites fall within SPAs.

The protection of SPAs is recognized at the international level.

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> Not all SPAs have an update management plan

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Moderate

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

>>> Not all SPAs have an update management plan

Examples of best practice (optional)

If any site, in your opinion, represents an outstanding process of management planning or implementation, please highlight it as an example of best practice (alternatively provide a web link or attach a file)

>>> see link below

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

[LIFE Lagoon Refresh](#)

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Such a plan is not considered necessary since the conservation of important sites takes place in the context of the SPAs designated under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) whose network is considered complete in the European context, except for some additions in the marine area which are currently being implemented.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

No

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

>>> See above answer to question n. 45

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?

>>> The EU Directives (92/43 Habitat and 09/147 Birds) and the national relevant legislation (Decree 17 October 2007) already provide enough guidance that substantially fulfils the aims of the AEWA Guidelines

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> In the past triennium we did not develop any activities that required the use of the CSN Tool.

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))

Yes

Please provide details, alternatively attach a file or a link to a resource presenting the outcomes of the prioritisation

>>> The priority measures applied in Italy are setted by the EU Directives (92/43 Habitat and 09/147 Birds) and the national relevant legislation (Decree 17 October 2007 - Criteri minimi uniformi per la definizione di misure di conservazione relative a Zone speciali di conservazione (ZSC) e a Zone di protezione speciale (ZPS)).

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))

No

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

>>> Law no. 157/92, art. 1, claims that hunting is allowed whether it will not contrast with conservation needs of wildlife.

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))

Partially

When was lead shot use in wetlands partially banned?

>>> Lead shot use has been banned in wetlands within Natura2000 sites since the 2008/09 hunting season. Since 15/02/2023, the European regulation prohibits shooting with lead shot ammunition and bans the transport of such ammunition within all EU wetlands (plus 100 m buffer zone), according to the Ramsar definition of wetlands. Although the regulation should be in effect in Italy, the national reference law (157/92) only applies to wetlands within Natura 2000 sites, parks, and Ramsar areas. At present, there is an ongoing infringement procedure on this matter between the EU and the Italian government.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Decree 17 October 2007, issued by the Ministry for the Environment.
COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/57 of 25 January 2021 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards lead in gunshot in or around wetlands

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The ban is enforced by District Police Corps and Carabinieri Forestali.

What proportion of the country's territory (or wetlands) is covered by the ban?

>>> The ban covers about 50% of the overall wetland surface (without considering marine areas).

Has your country introduced self-imposed and published timetable for banning fully the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands?

No

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

Please explain the reasons for not doing this

>>> No funds have been specifically allocated for this activity.

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

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this

>>> We do not have information on the incidence of lead poisoning before the introduction of the ban. Therefore, we cannot assess the effect of the restriction on bird populations.

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

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

>>> Italy has adopted a range of measures aimed at reducing and eliminating illegal taking. The country has long supported policies to counter poaching activities, particularly through the 2017 Action Plan on illegal killing, which was implemented over its intended duration. Italy has also provided regular reporting through the completion of the Scoreboard, a biennial and voluntary self-assessment tool shared by all countries involved in the fight against the illegal killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean region and beyond. Currently, Italy is actively engaged in the implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan, which aims to halve the scale and extent of illegal activities against wild birds by 2030, compared to the 2020 baseline. As part of this commitment, Italy is developing a dedicated document to serve as a strategic framework. This document will guide and coordinate national and regional efforts toward achieving the long-term objectives of the Rome Strategic Plan.

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

>>> Law no 157/92, art. 22, states that the hunting license is issued to the person who has passed a test which includes questions on bird identification

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)

No

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.

No

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

>>> The Italian hunting law follows the prescriptions of the EU Birds Directive (no 2009/147/CE) and the "Guide to sustainable hunting under the Birds Directive" of the European Union.

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))

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> There are 29 National and Regional Parks that have been awarded with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (ECTS) between 2021 and 2024, including the Alpes-Maritimes Natural Park, awarded as a Cross-border Sustainable Destination in 2023 (together with the French Mercantour National Park). Some of them include wetlands and therefore waterbird-related ecotourism is considered and implemented.

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

[ECST Network](#)

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)

>>> There are many initiatives in the whole territory. All parks and National reserves including wetlands carried out ecotourism initiatives to promote and increase awareness of wetlands and waterbirds.

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

High

Please provide details

>>> Local NGOs and private societies promote the sustainable use of wetlands and their importance for waterbird communities to schools and other visitors.

Please rank the degree to which these dual benefits are being delivered in practice:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for successful delivery

>>> There are both conservation and community benefits deriving from these initiatives.

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.

No

If appropriate, please provide further details.

>>> There is no legislation in place on this issue for the time being.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> In the framework of the REACH Regulation, the European Commission has developed an initiative to ban the use of lead fishing weights across the Union.

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

[ECHA restriction proposal on lead fishing weights](#)

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

Please provide details

>>> EIAs have been implemented with Law no 349/86, and Technical Standards for their issues have been introduced by DPCM 27/12/1988. During years, Italian legislation has evolved and changed accordingly to new UE Directives regarding SEA/EIA.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Decree no 152/06 ratified the Directives 85/337/EEC (on Environmental Impact Assessment), and 01/42/EC (on the Assessment of the Effects of certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment). The Decree no 357/97, as modified and integrated by Decree 120/03, defined more constraints in the EIA procedures for plans and projects significantly affecting all Natura 2000 sites.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include cumulative impact assessment?

Yes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Decree no 152/06, by which Italy ratified the Directives 85/337/EEC (on Environmental Impact Assessment), and 01/42/EC (on the Assessment of the Effects of certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment), contemplates the public participation. It provides for the involvement of public administrations and large public in collecting and assessing data useful to issue the SEA/EIA.

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

>>> When a developmental activity may be detrimental for sites included in the Natura2000 network, an assessment of the implication for the sites (VINCA procedure) must be issued, pursuing the DPR 357/1997 and following integrations, such as art. 6 of DPR 12/03/2003, n. 120.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> Overall, current legislation regarding SEA/EIA/VINCA is effective in controlling for adverse impacts of developmental activities on sites important for waterbirds.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Initiatives are carried out to improve the effectiveness of procedures, e.g., increasing the training of personnel in local administrations, improving risks evaluation and monitoring systems, raising awareness of the link between human health and environment.

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

>>> see link below

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

Projects requiring EIA

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?

Partially

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> SEA/EIA recommend to avoid, if possible, protected areas and other sites of importance in any project.

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

Please explain the reasons.

>>> It is not necessary because any adverse impact of developmental activities on important sites for waterbirds are considered during the various steps that lead to the issue of SEA/EIA

Estimated number of sites

>>> Not relevant

Estimated number of sites avoided

>>> In all cases where a development activity may have adverse impacts on important sites for waterbirds, measures have been taken to avoid, mitigate or compensate such adverse effects.

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

>>> See link below.

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

[Legislation SEA/EIA used in Italy](#)

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

>>> In 2011, ISPRA published guidelines for the development of linear infrastructures, addressing the fragmentation of landscapes caused by these infrastructures and providing best practices for preventing and reducing their impacts. Since then, several joint initiatives have been launched to monitor the effects of power lines on birds and implement mitigation measures. Terna, Italy's leading transmission and dispatching operator responsible for maintaining high-voltage power lines, supported a monitoring program to assess the impact of a new power connector on migratory birds passing through the Strait of Messina. This monitoring activity was conducted over three years (2015-2018) by 12 ornithologists from Ornithologica, a non-profit organization, using visual observations and two radar devices.

More recently, E-distribuzione, Italy's main company managing medium-voltage power lines, published specific guidelines aimed at mitigating the risk of electrocution for birds within the framework of the LIFE Egyptian Vulture Project. In this same project, E-distribuzione has been securing power lines in southwestern Sicily (Mazara del Vallo), where a significant number of white storks have died from electrocution.

Currently, ISPRA is implementing several projects (ElectroRevolution and Life Abilas) focused on retrofitting power lines in critical areas for Bonelli's eagle and Golden eagle at regional scale (Sardinia). In 2024, a multispecies sensitivity map was created for the Sardinia region, designed to guide the planning of renewable energy infrastructures in line with relevant national legislation.

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

[Terna monitoring results](#)

[E-distribuzione guidelines to mitigate the risk of electrocution](#)

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.

>>> SEA/EIA procedures normally require an ante-operam monitoring, as to acquire information on waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements

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?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Normally, mitigation measures are foreseen.

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

>>> The guidelines published by ISPRA on the development of linear infrastructures take into account this issue.

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.

>>> The guidelines published by ISPRA recommend to build new power lines as far as possible from wetlands.

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

>>> The guidelines published by ISPRA recommend the use of high voltage isolators designed to reduce the risk of electrocution. These isolators can be used in the new power infrastructures, but there is not a legal constraint. However, all new medium-voltage power lines erected by E-distribution are now bird-safe designed (elcord cables). Among the mitigation measures to prevent collisions, are used dissuaders, that due to their size and the noise generated when touched by wind, render the power lines more easily perceived by birds in flight.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Those sections of power lines causing high risk of injury/mortality of waterbirds have been identified by different LIFE and Regional projects.

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.

>>> Lack of resources.

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

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> The monitoring is at local scale and carried out within LIFE or Regional projects.

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?

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> The monitoring is at local scale and carried out within LIFE or Regional projects.

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

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

>>> The main measures contained in Resolution 5.11 were already implemented by the relevant Italian legislation.

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.

No

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

>>> The national guidelines have been published in 2008

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

>>> The Decree of October 17, 2007, by the Ministry of the Environment states that the construction of new wind farms is prohibited within the Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

In 2021, ISPRA, at the request of the Ministry of the Environment (MASE), prepared a report containing the Bird Sensitivity Maps for offshore wind energy projects. However, similar studies for onshore wind energy do not exist.

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.

>>> The Bird Sensitivity Maps for offshore wind energy projects were developed based on the most recent available literature, primarily scientific papers.

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 is included in the Environmental impact assessment process

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

No

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In Italy, SEA/EIA procedures normally require ante-operam monitoring for prevention, and includes attempts to mitigate possible impacts, but where this is not possible, compensation will be provided.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> These provisions are not included in national legislation, but can be taken into account for specific Environmental impact assessment

Dismantling of wind turbines in existing installations, should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population status of a species and other mitigation measures have proved insufficient.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> These provisions are not included in national legislation, but can be taken into account for specific Environmental impact assessment

Focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> These provisions are not included in national legislation, but can be taken into account for specific Environmental impact assessment

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?

No

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

>>> It has not been done, due to the limited production of renewable energy from biofuels.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Assessment of the implication for the sites must follow prescriptions of EIA, SEA and VINCA procedure based on the DPR 357/1997 and following integrations, such as art. 6 of DPR 12/03/2003, n. 120.

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.

No

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

>>> In Italy, SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) decisions also take this issue into account.

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)

Yes

Please provide details (incl. the scale of by-catch and species affected)

>>> There are evidences that bycatch represents a threat for some waterbirds (in particular herons, cormorants and grebes), but quantitative data are not available.

71. Has any project / initiative been implemented in your country that promotes the integration of cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.6)

Yes

Please provide details for each project / initiative

>>> No initiatives of this kind are currently known at the national level. However, some relevant experiences exist at the local scale. One notable example is the GELOI Wetland project.

GELOI Wetland is a private nature reserve established in 2017 through the support of the non-profit foundation Stiftung Pro Artenvielfalt and is managed by volunteers from the local environmental education association Centro di Educazione Ambientale ODV. The project began when a group of young people from Niscemi sought the foundation's support to restore and protect the last remaining natural wetlands in the Gela Plain, Sicily.

These Mediterranean temporary ponds were severely degraded due to poaching, illegal dumping, off-road vehicle activity, overgrazing, and intensive agricultural practices. Despite this, migratory waterbirds continued to use the site, showing remarkable resilience.

Following years of ecological monitoring and strategic planning, the area was transformed into a protected site aiming to serve as a stronghold for biodiversity, a model for agro-ecological practices, and a symbol of legality in a region historically affected by environmental neglect

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

[Geloi wetland project](#)

Are there any other examples or case studies in your country of policies and/or decision making that takes into account cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds?

Yes

Please provide details for each of them

>>> Other initiatives may exist at local level, but the information is not collected in a single framework.

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))

>>> Monitored breeding populations of: *Phalacrocorax carbo* 2011-2024, *Platalea leucorodia* 1989-2024, *Larus audouinii* 1997-2024, Ardeidae (northern Italy) 1981-2024, *Charadrius alexandrinus* 2010-2024, *Haematopus ostralegus* 1990-2024, *Phoenicopterus roseus* 1994-2024, *Gelochelidon nilotica* 2019-2024, *Thalasseus sandvicensis* 1990-2024, *Chroicocephalus genei* 1990-2024.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> There are local information on this issue, mainly linked to conservation projects or in those sites where the monitoring of breeding populations occur regularly.

Are demographic data (age and sex classes) also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> This kind of data is collected only locally through specific projects.

Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> Some sites are covered with monthly counts by qualified counters, within local projects. All species identified are counted.

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?(Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> There are local information on this issue, mainly linked to conservation projects or in those sites where the counting of passage populations occurs regularly.

Are demographic data (age and sex classes) also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> no specific activity on this issue

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all internationally and nationally important non-breeding/wintering sites are covered at least by one comprehensive annual count.]

Please provide details.

>>> Mid-winter bird counts (IWC) are regularly conducted in Italian wetlands through a network of qualified observers coordinated by ISPRA. The data are stored in a national database and periodically analyzed. The most recent national report covers the period from 2009 to 2018.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353014274_INTERNATIONAL_WATERBIRD_CENSUS_REPORT_ITALY_2

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Information on this issue are collected by conservation projects aiming at increasing the presence of the wintering populations in a certain site.

Are demographic data (age and sex classes) also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> there are not specific activities aiming at collecting information about sex and age of waterbirds during the non-breeding period

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

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

>>> The IWC national database, along with other databases on breeding populations (e.g., Charadrius alexandrinus; Phoenicopterus roseus, Platalea leucorodia, Plegadis falcinellus, Laridae, Cormorants and Shags, Herons, and shearwaters), hosted and managed by ISPRA, enables the Ministry of the Environment to provide information to stakeholders and support decision-making at various levels. The IWC database was used to identify sites of international importance for waterbirds.

75. Has your country supported, technically or financially, through bilateral or multilateral initiatives, other Parties or Range States requiring assistance and support in designing appropriate monitoring schemes, developing their capacity and overall strengthening of waterbird monitoring and population data collection? (Resolutions 5.2 and 8.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

76. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring?

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?

>>> Monitoring protocols were set before the publication of the AEWA Guidelines. However the criteria that were used to establish the monitoring protocols are similar to those proposed by AEWA.

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

>>> The Ministry for the Environment (MASE) supports ISPRA, the institution in charge of the coordination of IWC counts at national level.

Internationally

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

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

Please explain the reason

>>> Lack of funding

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.

No

Are there plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in your country?

No

Please provide reason(s)

>>> Lack of resources.

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)).

No

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

>>> LIFE LAGOON REFRESH

The Project involves the restoration, in the northern Venice Lagoon, SCI IT3250031, of the ecotonal environment, typical of microtidal lagoons. This environment is characterized by a marked salt gradient and large intertidal areas vegetated by reedbeds (mainly *Phragmites australis*), whose presence has been greatly reduced by historic human intervention.

http://www.lifelagoonrefresh.eu/download-1/technical-documents?set_language=en

Wetland attributes significantly affect patterns of bird species distribution in the Sardinian wetlands (Italy): An uncertain future for waterbird conservation

<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1111/1365-2664.14355>

Resurrecting seasonal dynamics in waterbirds after wetland restoration: before-after monitoring highlights the role of a single dominant species

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11273-023-09911-w>

Preserving the Mediterranean bird flyways: Assessment and prioritization of 38 main wetlands under human and climate threats in Sardinia and Sicily (Italy)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969720350853>

Interreg Euro-MED - Wetland4Change

<https://wetland4change.interreg-euro-med.eu/>

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

>>> No national campaign was promoted in order to inform the public opinion about AEWA. However, MASE published on its website informations on contents and provisions of the AEWA Agreement. Parks, local Administrations and NGOs are carrying out a vast array of educational and informative activities concerning wetlands and their birds. Initiatives have been undertaken also in the framework of the World Migratory Bird Day promoted by UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and CMS. Finally, many LIFE Projects are carrying out activities for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation.

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)

Yes

Is the National CEPA Focal Point from the government or non-governmental sector?

Government

Has the AEWA CEPA Focal Point begun coordinating national implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy?

No

Please explain reasons

>>> The nomination is ongoing and will be finalized within the end of may 2025.

How can the cooperation between the appointed AEWA CEPA Focal Point and the Ramsar CEPA Focal Points be described?

There is some cooperation

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)

Yes

Please indicate which measures have been taken:

a. National training programmes have been arranged for personnel responsible for implementing AEWA

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> It was not necessary. Personnel of Parks, local Administrations, and NGOs already have fully expertise to convey information to citizen on the importance of wetlands and their birds.

b. Training programmes and materials have been developed in cooperation with other Parties and/or the Agreement Secretariat

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No training programmes and materials have been developed in the last triennium.

c. AEWA related information and training resources have been exchanged with other Parties and/or shared with the Agreement Secretariat

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Information regarding topics included in AEWA (e.g. contrasting illegal killing of birds) have been exchanged with other Parties.

d. Specific public awareness campaigns for the conservation of populations listed in Table 1 have been conducted

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

Moderate

Please provide details

>>> The national monitoring of the Kentish plover population has been carried out, along with captures and markings with coloured rings and tracking devices. Many local NGOs have been involved in these activities and they promote awareness campaigns to inform citizen on the conservation concerns of this species.

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.

>>> The news regarding the World Migratory Bird Day was spread through the institutional websites of the Ministry of the environment and the ISPRA research institute.

<https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/archivio/notizie-e-novita-normative/notizie-ispra/2024/05/giornata-mondiale-degli-uccelli-migratori-2024>

<https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/biodiversita-il-14-ottobre-e-la-giornata-mondiale-degli-uccelli-migratori>

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of the appropriate financial resources.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not yet carried out

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> A proper strategy on this issue hasn't been developed.

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.

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

>>> A coordination is guaranteed by the Ministry of the environment and energy security, as competent national authority, responsible for the implementation of most of the MEAs.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There are no relevant gaps to be fulfilled, as the National and European legislation and current monitoring framework are effective to comply with AEWA strategic plan.

Please rank the effectiveness of the national coordination mechanism for AEWA implementation:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> The ongoing activities put in place by the national coordination mechanism are effective to implement AEWA

92. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3.(e))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> National and European legislation and current monitoring framework are effective to comply with AEWA.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> We have a system of handover and traceability of communications that ensure continuity in follow-up

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> We ensure coordination between EU Member States in the context of the EU Council's Working Groups.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> No activity planned on this regard yet.

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))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All officers dealing with MEAs take part in the process for the implementation of the KM-GBF

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))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All officers dealing with AEWA are involved in the process to implement SDGs.

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))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All officers dealing with AEWA are part of the process implementing and assessing SPMS deliveries

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))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All officers dealing with AEWA coordinates with colleagues dealing with Ramsar Convention.

99. Are the AEWA priorities integrated into your county'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 rank the progress of implementation of the integrated AEWA priorities

High (Please provide details to support your ranking)

>>> Priorities are integrated through the implementation of the Birds Directive and the activities of protected areas.

99.2 The relevant Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Please rank the progress of implementation of the integrated AEWA priorities

High (Please provide details to support your ranking)

>>> Priorities are integrated through the implementation of the Birds Directive and the activities of protected areas.

99.3 The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032

Yes

Please rank the progress of implementation of the integrated AEWA priorities

High (Please provide details to support your ranking)

>>> Priorities are integrated through the implementation of the Birds Directive and the activities of protected areas.

99.4 The Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Yes

Please rank the progress of implementation of the integrated AEWA priorities

High (Please provide details to support your ranking)

>>> Priorities are integrated through the implementation of the Birds Directive and the activities of protected areas.

Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Yes

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032

Yes

Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Yes

101. How would your country suggest promoting further links between the biodiversity MEAs to which your country is a Contracting Party, so as to make your work more efficient and effective?

>>> It is very important to have a strong connection and sharing of information at Secretariats' level in order to coordinate actions and avoid overlappings.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of appropriate financial resources.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of appropriate financial resources.

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)

No and has not been prioritised

Please explain the reasons

>>> The priorities are settled by the Ministry of foreign affairs, therefore the respondents cannot ensure the prioritization in the future.

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?

Yes

Please describe the resources provided

>>> The Italian government has funded the Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas, whose results significantly contribute to closing knowledge gaps on the migratory behavior of many AEWA species, and are therefore valuable for implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment has supported ISPRA in studying the movements of various AEWA species through GPS tracking, including species that migrate across Africa. The results of these studies are disseminated through scientific publications.

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding

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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funding

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

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

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

[Change We Care Project](#)

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)

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

d. Review of relevant national conservation policies relevant to waterbirds and climate change.

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 44 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Due to lack of adequate resources, no activity has been carried out on the effects of climate change on waterbirds.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Due to lack of adequate resources, no activity has been carried out on the effects of climate change on waterbirds.

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

>>> An early detection system is in place, coordinated by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe). It mainly relies on passive surveillance of waterfowl. There is also an active surveillance network consisting of several waterfowl trapping/ringing stations, which are regularly swabbed and subsequently analyzed to monitor the status of HPAI. The primary goal is to safeguard poultry farms, as avian flu is perceived as a threat to poultry and human health due to its zoonotic potential. Less attention is given to the possible effects on waterbirds conservation.

The potential role of hunting and hunters in the spread of HPAI strains is overlooked. However, artificial feeding in hunting estates, which increases waterfowl densities, and the movement of hunters between wetlands could elevate the risk of disease spread and contamination.

List required further guidance or information

>>> The key priority should be to define the minimum number of suspect cases that must be reported during peacetime, tailored to the size and distribution of waterfowl populations in each affected or at-risk country, similar to existing approaches used for ASF surveillance in wild boar.

A routine testing target, expressed as a specific number of ducks, should be established to guide field personnel. This target should be derived by combining expected natural mortality rates during the observation period with the likelihood of detecting carcasses.

Such data would support the estimation of the surveillance system's sensitivity, enabling more accurate predictions of the number of positive cases required to detect the virus. This, in turn, allows for a more robust evaluation of the epidemiological situation and the associated risks that HPAI poses to both poultry and wildlife conservation efforts.

Surveillance system detection probability:

Detection = $1 - (1 - \text{system sensitivity})^{\text{cases}}$

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

>>> This activity is in charge of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) and Ministry of Health.

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)

>>> This activity is in charge of the Ministry of Health.

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Avian flu is perceived as a threat to poultry and human health due to its zoonotic potential. Less attention is given to the potential impacts on wildlife conservation. There are no specific funds allocated for the monitoring and assessment of species affected by avian influenza.

112. Have you established HPAI contingency plans nationally and at sites of significant

importance to waterbirds, including coastal seabirds? (Resolution 8.15)

Yes, nationally

Please provide details and reference to the plan or attach a copy

>>> Ministero della Salute DGSAF - Prot. n. 0014865-06/06/2023-DGSAF-MDS_Influenza aviaria ad alta patogenicità H5N1 -Dispositivo recante misure di controllo e sorveglianza per prevenire l'introduzione e la diffusione dell'influenza aviaria. https://www.resolveveneto.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/94620_1.pdf
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe). Influenza aviaria: situazione epidemiologica in Italia - HPAI. <https://www.izsvenezie.it/temi/malattie-patogeni/influenza-aviaria/situazione-epidemiologica-hpai/>

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe). Mappa dei focolai di HPAI.

<https://www.izsvenezie.it/documenti/temi/influenza-aviaria/situazione-epidemiologica-HPAI/HPAI-mappe.pdf>

Regione Emilia Romagna DG Cura della Persona, Salute e Welfare. r_emiro.Giunta-Prot.

04/07/2023.0647874.U_Influenza aviaria ad alta patogenicità H5N1-sorveglianza negli uccelli selvatici e indicazioni per la prevenzione nell'uomo.

https://www.comune.pianoro.bo.it/upload/Pianoro/documentiallegati/HPAI_H5N1_13660_8190.pdf

Is the plan being implemented?

No (Please explain the reasons)

>>> The Plan is rather new and updated

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.

Date of submission

>>> 12/05/2025