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
››› Germany

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party
››› 01.11.1999

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.
››› Reservations of the European Union (10.11.2022)
"Following the amendments to the Agreement adopted at the last Meeting of the Parties (MOP8, 26-30 September 2022):
• the Iceland/UK & Ireland population of Greylag Goose Anser anser anser is now listed in Category 3e* of Column A of Table 1,
• the North-east Europe/North-west Europe population of Taiga Bean Goose Anser fabalis fabalis is now split into three populations:
-Scandinavia/Denmark and UK population listed in Category 1c of Column A of Table 1,
-Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population listed in Category 3c* of Column A of Table 1,
-West Siberia/Poland and Germany population listed in Category 2 of Column A of Table 1,
• the Black Sea & East Mediterranean population of Red-crested Pochard Netta rufina is now listed in Category 3e of Column A of Table 1,
• the C & E Siberia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa population of Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola squatarola is now listed in Category 3c of Column A of Table 1 and,
• the SE Eur & W Asia/SW & S Asia & NE Africa population of Eurasian Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus longipes is now listed in Category 3c of Column A of Table 1.
These populations of species now form part of the Action Plan contained in Annex 3 to the Agreement.
The European Union cannot accept the above-mentioned amendments without a prior change in EU law. The European Union would therefore like to hereby enter a reservation with respect to the five above mentioned amendments.
This reservation by the European Union is also valid for those Member States of the European Union which are Parties to AEWA as, when a regional economic integration organization, such as the European Union, and its Member States are both parties to a treaty, they are not entitled to exercise rights under the treaty concurrently. This principle is reflected, with regard to voting in the Meeting of the Parties, in Article VI(5) of AEWA and also applies to the notification of reservations under Article X(6) of AEWA. With regard to the reservation in question, it is for the European Union to act since the protection of the bird species in question is covered by existing Union legislation.
The Iceland/UK & Ireland population of Greylag Goose and the Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population of the Taiga Bean Goose are now respectively listed in Categories 3e and 3c of Column A of Table 1 of Annex 3 of the Agreement with an asterisk (*). According to Annex 3, the species listed in Category 3 with an asterisk may only be hunted within the framework of an international species action plan, through which Parties will endeavor to implement the principles of adaptive harvest management. Therefore, the European Union could consider lifting the reservation regarding these populations once an adaptive harvest management mechanism under an international body, consistent with the requirements of Article 7 of the Birds Directive, is in place.
Despite the reservation, the European Commission has and will continue to encourage EU Member States to ensure the sustainability of hunting and has developed an approach for bird species listed in Annex 2 of the Birds Directive which are not in a secure status which aims at supporting their recovery."

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
››› Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

Name and title of the head of institution
››› Federal Minister Carsten Schneider

Mailing address - Street and number
››› BMUKN / Referat N I 4 (International Species Protection), Robert-Schuman-Platz 3

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP
››› Berit Gewert

Affiliation (institution, department)
››› Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), Referat N I 4 (International Species Protection)

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

Name and title of the TC NFP
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Affiliation (institution, department)
››› Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), Referat N I 4 (International Species Protection)

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Designated National Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA NFP) matters

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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.
››› Federal Agency of Nature Conservation; Federation of German Avifaunists (DDA)

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

Field for additional information (optional)
››› Federal hunting legislation is still not fully in line with the agreement text and its annexes.

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

Field for additional information (optional)
››› Although the Federal Hunting Act was last amended on 25.10.2024, the discrepancies with requirements from the AEWA already mentioned in the last report were not addressed.

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.

Germany_Q3_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColA.xlsx

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

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

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.
(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)
2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.
☑ I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Germany_Q4_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColA-Cat2_3_4.xlsx

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

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.
(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)
2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;
3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.
☑ I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Germany_Q5_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColB.xlsx

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

☑ One or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act ("Bundesjagdgesetz"), § 19 (1) Nr. 8

Limes
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act ("Bundesjagdgesetz"), § 19 (1) Nr. 5b

Hooks
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act ("Bundesjagdgesetz"), § 19 (1) Nr. 5b

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act ("Bundesjagdgesetz"), § 19 (1) Nr. 5b

Tape recorders and other electronic devices
☑ Yes, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in

place
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5a. (Only referring to tape recorders, not other electronic devices)

Electrocuting devices
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5a

Artificial light sources
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5a

Mirrors and other dazzling devices
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5a

Devices for illuminating targets
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5a

Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5a

Explosives
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Explosives Act (“Sprengstoffgesetz”)

Nets
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5b

Traps
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 5b

Poison
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 15

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits
☑ Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 15

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
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 2c

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, partially

Please clarify whether the partial prohibition is temporal or spatial or both and indicate to which time periods and/or areas of your country it applies; provide further details, including the relevant legislation in place
››› Federal Hunting Act (“Bundesjagdgesetz”), § 19 (1) Nr. 11. The prohibition does not include the killing of game from motor vehicles by physically disabled persons with the permission of the competent authority. Prohibition applies for any engine-driven watercraft.

Other non-selective modes of taking
☑ Yes, fully

Please specify which other non-selective modes of taking have been prohibited
››› Other non-selective types of taking are not explicitly named in the list of prohibitions in the Federal Hunting Act. But as hunting is only permitted for certain species, non-selective modes of taking are not permitted, as the possibility of other species being affected cannot be ruled out. A non-selective way of taking could violate the regulations of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (§44) and the Animal Welfare Act (§4).

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details.
››› The Federal Nature Conservation legislation and Hunting legislation of the federal Government and/or the federal states take into account the requirements of the AEWA and its guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats.

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

Greylag Goose / Anser anser
National Plan for Greylag Goose / Anser anser

☑ No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons
››› Germany stated during the IWG4, that it is not implementing the management plan of the Greyleg Goose (Please see the meeting report of Agenda item 9 of the IWG4)

Bean Goose / Anser fabalis
National Plan for Bean Goose / Anser fabalis

☑ No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place
››› The Bean Goose - as species - is quite abundant in Germany. However, as an action hunting bans were imposed in the federal states with wintering sites of Taiga Bean Goose (Anser fabalis fabalis).

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

☑ No NP and no action implemented

Barnacle Goose / Branta leucopsis
National Plan for Barnacle Goose / Branta leucopsis

☑ No NP, but actions implemented

Please provide a description of the actions implemented
››› As part of the Adaptive Flyway Management Program (“AFMP”) of the European Goose Management Platform (“EGMP”), exceptions to the current hunting ban for the Barnacle Goose must not only comply with the EU Birds Directive, but must also be coordinated with other countries along the flyway.
In the most important stopover sites of the species in Lower Saxony, farmers can conclude so-called goose protection contracts with the Federal State if the land is located in selected Natura 2000 sites.

Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis
National Plan for Long-tailed Duck / Clangula hyemalis

☑ No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place
››› In the Schleswig-Holstein Baltic Sea a "Voluntary Agreement for the Protection of Harbour Porpoises and Diving Sea Ducks" by State Fisheries Associations and the State Fisheries Ministry (MELUR) is in place since 2013 to reduce the bycatch with gillnets.

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

☑ NP in development

Field for additional information (optional)
››› The Michael Otto Institute at NABU together with the Federation of German Avifaunists (DDA) regional organization and national Bewick’s Swan experts is developing a National Action Plan as part of the project “Bewick's swan: conservation concept for an endangered migratory bird species in Germany” funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Program.

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

☑ No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons
››› The species occurs only in very low numbers in Germany.

Black-winged Pratincole / Glareola nordmanni
National Plan for Black-winged Pratincole / Glareola nordmanni

☑ No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons
››› The species is considered vagrant in Germany (< 5 records per year since 1980).

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
››› On subnational level there is a Species Action Plan Black-tailed Godwit in Hesse and Lower Saxony.

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

https://www.nlwkn.niedersachsen.de/download/25868
https://www.hlnug.de/themen/naturschutz/tiere-und-pflanzen/artenhilfskonzepte

Please provide a description of the actions implemented
››› A conservation project develops and secures the core areas of Lower Saxony's meadow bird sanctuaries specifically for native meadow birds by 2025. LIFE+ Natur Projekt „Wiesenvögel“ (LIFE10/NAT/DE011; 2011-2025). One of the target species is Black-tailed Godwit (https://www.wiesenvoegel-life.de).
Since October 2020 and until December 2027, the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection in North-Rhine Westphalia (LANUV) is carrying out the LIFE project "Wiesenvögel NRW - Breeding and migratory low wetland meadow birds in North-Rhine - Westphalia" together with its eleven partners. One of the target species is Black-tailed Godwit (https://www.life-wiesenvoegel.nrw.de/).
In Schleswig-Holstein another conservation project funded by the European Union (LIFE+ Limosa; 2012-2023) improved the habitat for the black-tailed godwit in eight bird sanctuaries through various measures.

Velvet Scoter / Melanitta fusca
National Plan for Velvet Scoter / Melanitta fusca

☑ No NP, but actions implemented

Please provide a description of the actions implemented
››› In the Schleswig-Holstein Baltic Sea a "Voluntary Agreement for the Protection of Harbour Porpoises and Diving Sea Ducks" by State Fisheries Associations and the State Fisheries Ministry (MELUR) is in place since 2013 to reduce the bycatch with gillnets.

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

☑ No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place
››› There are a lot of initiatives on state level. On national level a research project was carried out in 2020 and 2021 to investigate the flyways, the resting- and wintering grounds of eurasian curlews breeding in north western Germany.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented
››› A compendium of conservation measures, financed by the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation was published in 2025 (Thomsen, K.-M., B. Bleyhl, K. Wulfert, R. Schulte & P. Hunke 2025: Species action plan – Catalogue of measures to ensure the conservation status of wind turbine-sensitive bird species. BfN-Schriften 724, Bonn).
A conservation project develops and secures the core areas of Lower Saxony's meadow bird sanctuaries specifically for native meadow birds by 2025. LIFE+ Natur Projekt „Wiesenvögel“ (LIFE10/NAT/DE011; 2011-

2025). One of the target species is the Eurasian Curlew (https://www.wiesenvoegel-life.de).
Since October 2020 and until December 2027, the State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection in North-Rhine Westphalia (LANUV) is carrying out the LIFE project "Wiesenvögel NRW - Breeding and migratory low wetland meadow birds in North-Rhine - Westphalia" together with its eleven partners. One of the target species is the Eurasian Curlew (https://www.life-wiesenvoegel.nrw.de/).

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

☑ No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place
››› The species is vagrant in Germany. It is considered only recorded as a probable wild bird before 1950, later records are probably all concerning escaped birds.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented
››› Germany participates actively in the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) under the Bern Convention, so implementing indirect action for the White-headed Duck (cf. https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/-/expert-meeting-ruddy-duck).

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

☑ No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons
››› The species started breeding in Germany in 1995 with an increasing population since with now >1000 breeding pairs.

Common Eider / Somateria mollissima
National Plan for Common Eider / Somateria mollissima

☑ No NP and no action implemented

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

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated
››› We provided 8.250 € in 2021 for a Sea duck Meeting.

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

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated
››› On federal level, Germany participates in the AEWA International Working Groups for Eurasian Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit and the Task Force for the Recovery of Bird species of the European Union, in which all huntable species from the Birds Directive of the EU in a non-secure status are subject to the discussion of conservation measures and key actions to be implemented.We provided 5.555 € for the Eurasian Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit IWG.
Germany has further provided financial and service in-kind resources to the European goose management platform (EGMP) until September 2021. Additionally, financial and in-kind support has been provided to the platform by the Länder Lower Saxony and Schleswig Holstein. The AEWA Secretariat knows the amount.
The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation contributed to the ISSAP for the Common Eider.

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
››› On federal level, Germany participates in the AEWA International Working Groups for Eurasian Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit and the Task Force for the Recovery of Bird species of the European Union, in which all huntable species under the EU Birds Directive in an unfavorable conservation status are subject to the discussion of conservation measures and key actions to be implemented.
On national level a research project was carried out in 2020 and 2021 to investigate the flyways, the resting- and wintering grounds of Eurasian Curlews breeding in north western Germany.

14. Has a review and prioritization been undertaken in your country of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs, implement those plans and coordinate their implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(g))
☑ No

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)
☑ Yes

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

Germany
Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus
National Single Species Action Plan for Tundra Swan / Cygnus columbianus
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› s. question 10.

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

https://www.bfn.de/projektsteckbriefe/zwergschwan-schutzkonzept-fuer-eine-bedrohte-zugvogelart-deutschland

Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca
National Single Species Action Plan for Ferruginous Duck / Aythya nyroca
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› In preparation by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Corncrake / Crex crex
National Single Species Action Plan for Corncrake / Crex crex
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› In preparation by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Common Moorhen / Gallinula chloropus
National Single Species Action Plan for Common Moorhen / Gallinula chloropus
☑ NSSAP in development

Northern Gannet / Morus bassanus
National Single Species Action Plan for Northern Gannet / Morus bassanus
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› Project “Species Action Plan Gannet” of the funding program “National Species Recovery Programme” of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (duration 01.03.2024 - 28.02.2026).

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

https://www.bfn.de/projektsteckbriefe/artenhilfsprogramm-basstoelpel

Common Ringed Plover / Charadrius hiaticula
National Single Species Action Plan for Common Ringed Plover / Charadrius hiaticula
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› Project “Species Action Plan Beach Breeders” of the funding program “National Species Recovery Programme” of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (duration 01.03.2024 - 28.02.2027).

Kentish Plover / Charadrius alexandrinus

National Single Species Action Plan for Kentish Plover / Charadrius alexandrinus
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› Project “Species Action Plan Beach Breeders” of the funding program “National Species Recovery Programme” of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (duration 01.03.2024 - 28.02.2027).

Little Tern / Sternula albifrons

National Single Species Action Plan for Little Tern / Sternula albifrons
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› Project “Species Action Plan Beach Breeders” of the funding program “National Species Recovery Programme” of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (duration 01.03.2024 - 28.02.2027).

Sandwich Tern / Thalasseus sandvicensis

National Single Species Action Plan for Sandwich Tern / Thalasseus sandvicensis
☑ NSSAP in development

Please provide details
››› Feasibility study “Species Action Plan Sandwich Tern” of the funding program “National Species Recovery Programme” of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) (duration 15.03.2023 - 31.12.2025).

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

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, earthquacke, 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 occured in the country over the past triennium.
☑ Emergency situation has occurred

Please provide information on each emergency situation which occured

Infectious disease

Field for additional information (optionally, you can provide additional information on the emergency case)
››› The spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been ongoing in the recent years. Populations of many wild waterbird species are likely impacted however the consequences for the conservation statuses are unknown.
Waterbirds of particular conservation concern in Germany which are likely to be strongly affected by HPAI are the Sandwich Tern (Talasseus sandvicenis), the Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) or the Gannet (Morus bassanus). Germany has started projects in which the influence of the HPAI on the Sandwich Tern and the Gannet (also considering other cliff-nesting seabirds on Helgoland) is investigated as well as which measures are feasible to minimize the spreading and consequences of the HPAI and to strengthen the populations.
Monitoring of HPAI in Germany is done by the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI). Specific cases and outbreaks are reported on their website: https://www.fli.de/de/aktuelles/tierseuchengeschehen/aviaere-influenza-ai-gefluegelpest/.

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› The procedure of Germany is consistent with the AEWA Guideline to identify and tackle emergency situations for migratory waterbirds. The Federal Republic of Germany is obligated by several Agreements to cooperate in emergency measures responding to threatening incidents for flora and fauna in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and in trans-boundary rivers. These emergency measures also apply to situations that threaten populations of AEWA species (pursuant to 2.3 of the AEWA Action Plan).

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
››› The number of such re-establishment projects is so low, that a national register is not considered necessary. The re-establishment of the Ferruginous Duck (Aythya nyroca) at the “Steinhuder Meer” was initiated by Lower Saxony. Between 2012 and 2019 798 birds were released. A re-establishment project of the Bald Ibis (Geronticus eremita) at Burghausen (Bavaria; with a second location at Kuchl/Austria) is financed by the European Union as part of the LIFE+ programme. In 2022, a second, seven-year LIFE project began, which is being carried out by ten partners from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland under the leadership of Schönbrunn Zoo.

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

https://www.waldrapp.eu/

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

Please provide details
››› The re-establishment of species is defined in §40 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act.

23. Has your country considered, developed or implemented re-establishment projects for any species/population listed on AEWA Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)
☑ No

24. Has your country used the AEWA conservation Guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes**?**
Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.
☑ Yes

Please explain
››› The translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes is regulated by the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) § 40 ff. The articles of the BNatSchG were implemented prior to the draft of the AEWA guidelines and comply fully with their 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.
››› According to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (§40a ff) the introduction and spread of invasive alien species has to be prevented and measures are defined.

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.
››› Federal Nature Conservation Act (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz – BNatSchG), § 42 Zoos and § 43 Animal Enclosures. Adopted in 1976, latest revision 2009, adopted by the German Federal Government, enforced by local authorities, applies consistent to the entire country.

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

Ruddy Duck / Oxyura jamaicensis
For Ruddy Duck / Oxyura jamaicensis
☑ Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

Egyptian Goose / Alopochen aegyptiaca
For Egyptian Goose / Alopochen aegyptiaca
☑ Control or eradication programme being developed

African Sacred Ibis / Threskiornis aethiopicus
For African Sacred Ibis / Threskiornis aethiopicus
☑ Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

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

Please list the non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken
››› Germany has implemented a variety of programs and initiatives to control or manage non-native species including aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators, to mitigate their negative impacts on migratory waterbirds and the broader environment. These efforts are part of a wider European approach to invasive species management. Germany is part of the European Union's Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation (EU 1143/2014), which aims to prevent and manage the introduction and spread of invasive alien species across Europe. This regulation focuses on species that threaten biodiversity, ecosystem services, and other aspects of environmental health. Germany has aligned its national strategies with this regulation. The competent authorities (federal states) establish a system for monitoring invasive alien species of Union-wide importance or integrate this in an existing system that collects and records data on the occurrence of invasive alien species in the environment through surveys, monitoring or other processes in order to prevent the spread of these species into or within the EU.
The list of invasive alien species of Union-wide importance (Union list) currently includes 88 species. There are currently several invasive species on the Union list that can potentially influence the ecological conditions of wetlands: e.g. Floating Pennywort (Hydrocotyle ranunculoides), African Oxygen Weed (Lagarosiphon major), Nutalls' Waterweed (Elodea nutallii), Watermilfoil (Myriophyllum aquaticum), Water-primroses (Ludwigia grandiflora and L. peploides), Spinycheek Crayfish (Orconectes limosus), Bullfrog (Lithobates catesbeianus), Pond Slider (Trachemys scripta), Egyptian Goose (Alopochen aegyptiacus), Raccoon (Procyon lotor) and Raccoon Dog (Nyctereutes procyonoides).
Fanwort (Cabomba caroliniana), Watermilfoil (Myriophyllum heterophyllum), Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes), Alligator Weed (Alternathera philoxeroides), Coati (Nasua nasua), Sacred Ibis (Threskiornis

aethiopicus), Senegal Tea (Gymnocoronis spilanthoides), Water Cabbage (Pistia stratiotes) and Giant Salvinia (Salvinia molesta) are invasive alien species in the early detection category.
There is an obligation to eradicate invasive species listed on the Union IAS list that are new to a member state and subject of early detection. For invasive species on this list that are already widespread, there is an obligation to design and implement measures to prevent further spread of these species.
Monitoring the population development and spread of introduced alien species forms the basis for any timely control or eradication measures (Federal Nature Conservation Act §6 Para. 3 No. 4). It can be carried out by the nature conservation authorities, e.g. as part of ongoing or special monitoring programs, for which, however, only a certain financial framework is available.
In order to improve the efficiency in the early detection of newly emerging invasive species, the current IAS monitoring efforts could be complemented with an early warning system involving scientists, experts and experienced laypersons from the fields of floristics, faunistics, nature conservation, animal and plant protection and, at least in the case of selected, easily recognizable species, the general public.
Internet technologies offer suitable and financially favorable conditions for this. If new invasive species on the Union list appear, the Federal Nature Conservation Act (§40a para. 1) stipulates that immediate measures must be taken to eliminate them or prevent their further spread. Early action in the case of newly emerging invasive species is intended to prevent possible subsequent extensive damage to the naturally occurring flora and fauna.

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 approach of Germany to avoid the introduction of non-native waterbird species corresponds to the AEWA-Guidelines.

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)
☑ No

Please explain the reasons.
››› The extent of bird bycatch is unknown due to the lack of bycatch monitoring (HELCOM indicator “Number of drowned birds...”). Germany fulfills its monitoring obligations under the CFP, but this concerns the fleet and not the national territory.
In the last status assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS 3), bycatch was assessed solely on the basis of evidence, not on the basis of data (https://indicators.helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Bycatch-indicator_Final_September_2023.pdf). In the German North Sea, bycatch could not be assessed at all (https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/quality-status-reports/qsr-2023/indicator-assessments/marine-bird-bycatch-pilot/).
There are plans to monitor bycatch of sensitive species (prioritizing harbor porpoise and sturgeon) in the Baltic Sea (BMEL 2024: EU Action Plan: Protection and restoration of marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries - Germany's roadmap).
According to the final report of the Zukunftskommission Fischerei (ZKF, 2025) it is planned to establish a reference fleet to monitor fishing effort and bycatch of ETC species including seabirds.

31. Have you assessed the impact of by-catch by artisanal fisheries to AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)
☑ No

Please explain the reasons.
››› Cf. answer to the previous question.

32. Have you assessed the impact of artisanal/recreational fisheries on seabirds’ prey? (Resolution 7.6)
☑ No

Please explain the reasons.
››› No detailed assessment appeared necessary in this reporting period in Germany. European fishery policy is under the auspices of the European Commission including bycatch issues. European studies concerning certain seabird prey species might perhaps be useful on a European scale.

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
››› Research projects on technical mitigation measures / alternative gears to reduce/avoid bycatch of marine mammals and marine birds in gillnet fisheries have been carried out.
European fishery policy is under the auspices of the European Commission, including bycatch issues. Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing is not considered to be an important issue in German waters.

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

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.
››› An overview was published by Brochet et al. 2017 (Illegal killing and taking of birds in Europe outside the Mediterranean: assessing the scope and scale of a complex issue. Bird Cons. Int. 2017, 1-31.)

36. Have you identified those seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species? (Resolution 7.6)
☑ No

Please explain the reasons.
››› So far the AEWA focal point has not received information about any seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species - despite a good monitoring of the German North Sea / Wadden sea coast and the German Baltic Sea.

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)
☑ Yes

Please provide details, including reference or attach a file, if available.
››› Large parts of German marine waters are considered as particular sensitive areas or as Important Bird areas. The respective German authorities are aware of the risks of oil spills and the need of their prevention and are prepared for urgency measures in case of unforeseen accidents.

Are AEWA seabirds and seabird sites adequately represented within existing oil spill response plans?
☑ Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.
››› The priority aim in Germany is to avoid oil spills, this includes prevention of effects on nature in general including seabirds. In case of accidents immediate action is needed for affected sites and not only or preferably sea bird areas. The Natura 2000 sites (including sites for seabirds) are known to the responsible authorities.

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)
☑ Yes

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.
››› As a first step the project “Effects of offshore wind energy utilisation on the occurrence and population of selected seabird species” (“Auswirkungen der Offshore-Windkraftnutzung auf Vorkommen und Bestand und Bestand ausgewählter Seevogelarten”) started in 2024. The aim is to investigate the effects of offshore wind farms on seabirds in the North and Baltic Seas. It is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the National Species Recovery Programme (nAHP) and carried out by the DDA.

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)

☑ Partially

Please provide details, including references or attach a file, if available.
››› The German SPA Areas in the North and Baltic Seas were based on the IBA study and most of the areas were included. 81 % of the IBA areas designated for German marine and coastal waters have been notified by Germany to the EU Commission as Special Protected Areas. Based on current data the German SPA selection in 2004 have been proved as sufficient (Garthe et al, 2012). It is not possible to interpolate marine and coastal sites, the marine sites in the German EEZ are sufficient, except for Common Guillemots.
This process started already more than 30 years ago, based on IBA studies, when the SPA network under the EU Birds Directive was created. This network was assessed by the European Commission since nearly two decades as sufficient (concerning seabirds).

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)

☑ Yes

Please provide full reference, e.g. title, year, authors, etc. or a web link

››› Sudfeldt, C., D. Doer, H. Hotker, C. Mayr, C. Unselt, A. v. Lindeiner & H.-G. Bauer (2002): Important Bird Areas (Bedeutende Vogelschutzgebiete) in Deutschland – überarbeitete und aktualisierte Gesamtliste (Stand 01.07.2002). Berichte zum Vogelschutz 38: 17–109.
Sudfeldt, C., D. Doer & J. Wahl (2002): Important Bird Areas und potenzielle Ramsar-Gebiete in Deutschland. Berichte zum Vogelschutz 39: 119–132.
At the national level the above mentioned are the most recent inventories including all species. Yet, several federal states have identified sites of international and national importance at the state level (e.g. Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt).
For the identification of wetlands of international importance for waterbirds there are two publications:
1) Wahl, J., S. Garthe, T. Heinicke, W. Knief, B. Petersen, C. Sudfeldt & P. Sudbeck (2007): Anwendung des internationalen 1 %-Kriteriums für wandernde Wasservogelarten in Deutschland. Ber. Vogelschutz 44: 83–105.
2) Güpner, F., V. Dierschke, M. Hauswirth, N. Markones & J. Wahl (2020): Schwellenwerte zur Anwendung des Internationalen 1%-Kriteriums für wandernde Wasservogelarten in Deutschland – Stand 2020 mit Hinweisen zur Anwendung bei Seevögeln. Vogelwelt 140: 61–81.
Since Oct. 2024 the project „Development of a nationwide data basis on bird resting areas for the National Species Recovery Programme and the planning practice (“Erarbeitung einer bundesweiten Datengrundlage zu Vogelrastgebieten für das nationale Artenhilfsprogramm und die Planungspraxis”) is carried out by the DDA. It is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the National Species Recovery Programme (nAHP). The goal is not to establish a national inventory of (inter)nationally important sites. But the analyses conducted during the project will form a solid basis to update the list of (inter)nationally important sitesfor waterbirds. As part of the project also the 1 % thresholds for wetlands of national importance will be updated.

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.

☑ Yes

Please provide details

››› The identification of Important Bird Areas was part of the process of designation and protection of Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive and within the in the Natura 2000 - process. However, this process is in line with the later published AEWA guidelines.

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

☑ NO, but the review of the inventory is being undertaken

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

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).

››› cf. next answer.

For the national protected area network
☑ Yes

Please give details as to where relevant information about these assessments have been published (either as publications or web-link).
››› Already in 2008 the Federal Cabinet adopted the "German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change" and recently the German Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2024 has been published. It contains objectives, indicators and measures/instruments in the field of action "Biological Diversity".
The National Strategy on Biological Diversity (NBS) has been the central nature conservation strategy of the federal government since 2007. Of great importance for the protection of biodiversity in Germany is the further development for the period up to 2030, the NBS 2030, with which the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) is to be implemented, as well as a contribution to the implementation of the EU Restoration Regulation and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is intended to include targets, indicators and measures of the NBS 2030 that have synergies with climate adaptation as part of the next update of the adaptation strategy. For the update, sub-targets are planned for the areas of biotope network, protected areas, nature-based solutions, alien species, structural and landscape elements, organic farming, biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, cities and restoration.
An overall assessment of “Protected areas of Germany in the context of climate change - risks and options for action” was conducted as part of a Research and Development Project funded by the German government (published in 2013 in Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt volume 129).
The influence of climate change on migratory waterbirds in the Wadden Sea was highlighted in a publication “Migratory Waterbirds in the Wadden Sea 1987- 2008 – Trend, Phenology, Distribution and Climate Aspects” (Wadden Sea Ecosystem No.30).
At regular intervals, the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Group issues assessment reports of the Wadden Sea. The latest assessment report, the so-called Quality Status Report (including a specific report on “Migratory birds”), was issued in 2022 at the online platform qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org. This includes assessments of breeding as well as migratory species including the influence of climate change on both species groups (e.g. as cause of poor breeding success in recent years), but also in the Wadden Sea overall.

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
☑ Reporting on establishing buffer zones around waterbird sites (as an approach for maintaining or increasing resilience of ecological networks, including resilience to climate change)

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
››› 1320

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation
☑ High

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of effectiveness.
››› The European Habitats- and Birds Directive are efficient instruments for the protection of species and habitats -as an evaluation by the EU member states has shown. The nationally protected important sites for AEWA birds are under this area setting and protection regime.

Has your country identified around which nationally or internationally important sites the establishment of buffer zones is needed to maintain or increase resilience?
☑ No

Please explain the reasons
››› Designation, protection and management planning (including any necessary buffer zones) are the responsibility of the federal states.

Field for additional information (optional)
››› In Germany there are a total of 743 SPAs, 35 Ramsar sites and 542 IBAs (partially overlapping). The

proportion of which have been designated for the protection of migratory waterbird species or populations has not been determined.
The total area of SPAs is 5.997.500 ha, of Ramsar sites 869.265 ha and IBAs 5.650.900 ha (partially overlapping). The proportion of which have been designated for the protection of migratory waterbird species or populations has not been determined.

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)
››› The waterbird and wetland site of the most outstanding importance in Germany is the trilateral Dutch-Danish-German Wadden Sea. Since the 1980s the Waddensea countries cooperate on the basis of a Trilateral Ministerial Declaration and are therefore certainly an outstanding example of cooperation for an important waterbird site and it is meanwhile a UNESCO World Heritage site, too.

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING
☑ No

Please explain the reasons
››› Germany had indeed considerable gaps years ago. However, meanwhile Germany has designated the appropriate sites as SPAs under the EU Birds Directive following the strategy to use existing IBA publications as a basis. The German notification of bird protection areas has been completed since 2009. However, there are IBAs that are not or only partially designated as SPAs and still there are SPAs without adequate management plans.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING
☑ Being developed

Field for additional information (optional)
››› Management planning is the responsibility of the federal states. Almost all federal states have comprehensive instructions for the preparation of management plans. Nevertheless, there are significant differences in the preparation and implementation of management plans in the various federal states. Ackermann, W. & Runge, S. (2020): Analyse der Wirksamkeit von Natura 2000 für den Schutz der Biodiversität und zum Erreichen der 2020-Ziele. Abschlussbericht des gleichnamigen F+E-Vorhabens (FKZ 3515 82 0300). Königs Wusterhausen, München (unpubl.). [Publication as BfN script in preparation]

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, fully

Please provide details
››› The internationally important sites for migratory birds in Germany are protected pursuant to the EU Birds Directive as Special Protected Areas. They are therefore part of the EU Network Natura 2000. In so far, they are not only integrated in the respective national policies and protection regimes but also subject to EU protection.

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› Management planning already existed for many key sites before the publication 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.
☑ Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool
››› This great tool is used in multiple ways, e.g. to look up boundaries of waterbird populations (also via Waterbirds Populations Portal) or check for important sites overall or for specific species. But certainly there

could be more up-to-date data available for Germany which would increase the use of the portal at the national level.

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

☑ No

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

››› Hunting in Germany is regulated by the Federal Hunting Act and the federal state regulations issued under it. § 2 of the Federal Hunting Act lists all species which are huntable in Germany. To secure the sustainability of taking a.o. waterbirds, closed seasons are established in the Hunting Season Ordinance that take into account sensitive life phases as e.g. times of prenuptial migration, nesting and breeding and rearing periods. Additionally, § 1 (1) of the Federal Hunting Act links the right to hunt to the duty of care. The aim of gamekeeping is to maintain a species-rich and healthy game population that is adapted to the conditions of the landscape and land culture and to maintain and secure its livelihood (§ 1 (2) BJagdG). Hunting is only allowed in hunting districts (§ 6 BJagdG), even if exemptions may be granted. The prohibitions of § 19 BJagdG are supposed to ensure that no unsustainable hunting or trapping methods are used.

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?

››› In Germany the federal states have already phased out lead shot in their legislation. An exception is the city state Hamburg, where hunting is not an important issue.
However, in the EU REACH instrument a restriction on the use of lead shot in wetlands across the EU was agreed. It applies from 15th February 2023 onwards in all EU member states. Germany already started in 2020 to adapt the hunting legislation respectively. A proposal to amend Annex XVII of REACH concerning a general ban of lead in ammunition and fishing by the European Commission is currently under discussion.
Overview of current Federal State regulations restricting the use of lead shot for waterbird hunting (as of April 2025):
Baden-Wurttemberg: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting at and above water bodies (§31 Jagd- und Wildtiermanagementgesetz (JWMG); 25.11.2014, last modified 2024).
Bavaria: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies (§11 Verordnung zur Ausführung des Bayerischen Jagdgesetzes (AVBayJG), 1983, last modified 2024).
Berlin: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies (§1 Verordnung über die Verwendung von Bleischrot bei der Jagdausubung, 2003).
Brandenburg: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting waterbirds at and above water bodies (§4 Verordnung zur Durchführung des Jagdgesetzes für das Land Brandenburg, 2019, last modified 2024)
Bremen: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting waterbirds in wetlands and to use ammunition containing lead for hunting hoofed mammals in general. (Article 20 Bremisches Landesjagdgesetz (LJagdG), 05.11.1981, last modified 2022).
Hamburg: No restrictions.
Hesse: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting waterbirds above water bodies (§23 Hessisches Jadgesetz, 2001, last modified 2024).
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania: It is prohibited to use lead shot hunting waterbirds at water bodies and up to a distance of 400 m from their banks (§22 Jagdgesetz des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern LJagdG, 22.03.2000, last modified 2024).
Lower Saxony: It is prohibited to use lead shot for waterbird hunting at and above water bodies (§24 Niedersächsisches Jagdgesetz, NJagdG, 2001, last modified 2023).
North Rhine- Westphalia: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting at and above water bodies (§19 Landesjagdgesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen LJG-NRW, 07.12.1994, last modified 2025).
Rhineland-Palatinate: It is prohibited to use lead shot for waterbird hunting at and above water bodies (§23 Landesjagdgesetz Rheinland-Pfalz LJG, 09.07.2010, last modified 2012).
Saarland: It is prohibited to use lead shot for waterbird hunting at wetlands. (§32 Saarländisches Jagdgesetz SJG, 27.05.1998, last modified 2021).
Saxony: the use of lead shot for hunting is prohibited (§18 Sächsisches Jagdgesetz SächsJagdG, 08.06.2012, last modified 2018).
Saxony-Anhalt: It is prohibited to use lead shot hunting waterbirds at and above water (§23 Landesjagdgesetz für Sachsen-Anhalt LJagdG, 23.07.1991, last modified 2019).
Schleswig-Holstein: It is prohibited to use lead shot for waterbird hunting and any rifle ammunition containing

lead (exept lead shot) in general (§29 Jagdgesetz des Landes Schleswig-Holstein LJagdG, 13.10.1999, last modified 2024).
Thuringia: It is prohibited to use lead shot for hunting (§29 Thüringer Jagdgesetz ThJG, 28.06.2006, last modified 2019).

What legislation is in place?
››› Respective Hunting Legislation of the German federal states.

Who enforces this legislation?
››› The competent authorities of the German federal states.

What proportion of the country's territory (or wetlands) is covered by the ban?
››› 99,8 % of Germany’s total area is covered by the ban on lead shot in wetlands. Only Hamburg has yet to revise its hunting law.

Has your country introduced self-imposed and published timetable for banning fully the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands?
☑ No

Please explain the reasons
››› Nearly all Almost all Federal States of Germany have prohibited already the use of lead shot in and around waterbodies for waterbird hunting. Due to an EU prohibition the ban of lead shot in wetlands is already guaranteed within the EU.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?
☑ No

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?
☑ Yes

Please explain how this was done. Please attach any published or unpublished references
››› The result of a governmental assessment already in the last reporting period was that German Federal Legislation was not sufficient and a legislation process was initiated. However, given that meanwhile under the European Chemicals Regulation REACH a prohibition of lead shot in wetlands was reached, the risk of lead poisoning is already considerably reduced for waterbirds.

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?
☑ High

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of effectiveness.
››› Poaching is strictly prosecuted as an ex-officio offense in Germany, which means that the police can investigate even without criminal charges. The WWF operates a poaching hotline to collect information and raise public awareness where witnesses can report incidents.
As a transnational EU LIFE project, wildLIFEcrime (2023 – 2028) actively promotes the protection of wild animals in Germany.
Poaching and illegal taking is punishable by a prison sentence of up to three years or a fine (§ 292 Criminal Code).

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

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation
››› The Federal Hunting Act (§15) states, the first issue of a hunting license is dependent on the applicant having passed a hunting examination, which should consist of a written and an oral-practical part and a shooting test. In the hunting examination, he must show a sufficient knowledge of the species and their biology.

55. Are best practice codes and standards for hunting in place in your country in support of

enforcement of hunting laws and regulations? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.7; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.3)
☑ Yes

What do these cover?
☑ Other (please specify)

››› In most of the federal states a specific training course is obligatory for acquiring a hunting license.

Please rate the degree of application of these best practice codes and standards:
☑ High (almost always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application
››› c.f. answer above.

Please rate the effectiveness of these best practice codes and standards in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations:
☑ High (very effective in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness
››› cf. answer above.

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 harvest of migratory birds is regulated by the Federal Hunting Act which already existed before the guidelines were stablished under AEWA. In principle, German legislation is in line with the AEWA guidelines. In case of discrepancies between AEWA-Guidelines and EU regulations, efforts are made to adapt the national legislation accordingly.

6.2. Ecotourism

57. Is wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism integrated into your country's national tourism development strategies or other relevant national strategies? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.5(c))
☑ No

Please explain the reasons
››› Although the German tourism strategy (BMWK 2022) aims to act sustainable and to achieve climate neutrality in principle, specific projects such as "Blue Ribbon Germany" with the aim of restoring floodplains are also supported and promoted.

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 is a huge variety of ecotourism initiatives with focus on migratory waterbirds and their habitats e.g. wetlands. There are e.g. Brent Goose Days (Ringelganstage) and West Coast Bird Watch (Westküsten Vogel-Kiek) with excursions, guided walks and boat trips in Schleswig-Holstein. In the National Park "Lower Oder Valley" in January the Whooper Swan Days are celebrated. In Hamburg Wadden Sea Nationalpark there are Geese Weeks (Gänsewochen) and in the Wadden Sea Nationalpark of Lower Saxony the Migratory Bird Days (Zugvogeltage; www.zugvogeltage.de) are celebrated with anually over 250 events. Especially at some Ramsar-sites there are annual events focused on wetlands and their protection (e.g. World Wetlands Day).

Were any of the initiatives described above launched after 2018?
☑ No

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

☑ High

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

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

Please clarify which initiative(s) and why do you consider them as strong model(s)/example(s)
››› The examples cited above have been established for years and combine awareness-raising with local tourism benefits.

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.
››› An EU regulation concerning a ban of lead in ammunition and fishing tackle by amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is coordination process.

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
››› The respective EU SEA / EIA legislation is implemented through the German Environmental Impact Assessment Act. Furthermore, the EU Habitats Directive requires in Art. 6 a specific assessment procedure in case of plans or projects concerning Natura 2000 sites, which include Special Protected Areas for Birds.

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

Please provide details
››› Assets to be considered as part of an EIA include animals, plants and biodiversity. Waterbirds and their habitats are adequately considered. Waterbirds are in particular important within the framework of SPAs under the EU Birds Directive, which are part of Natura 2000 network and the respective Art. 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include cumulative impact assessment?
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› Cumulative effects are considered during SEA / EIA (§10ff Environmental Impact Assessment Act).

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› §18 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act regulates public participation.

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
››› The avoidance, mitigation or compensation of impacts or other respective protection needs are regulated primarily in the Federal Nature Conservation Act, which implements respective regulations of the EU Birds- and Habitats Directives and their specific requirements for SPAs and other Natura 2000 sites. Compensation of impacts is regulated by the Federal Compensation Ordinance.
In particular the SPAs – as part of the network Natura 2000 – enjoy a European protection, which includes issues of avoidance, mitigation and compensation of impacts in such sites.
Furthermore, some of the most important sites in Germany for migratory birds are Ramsar sites too. If development activities could endanger such sites, the Ramsar Secretariat has the possibility to put the site on the Montreux record. This is the principal tool of the Ramsar Convention for highlighting those Ramsar Sites, where an adverse change in ecological character has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur, and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention. The country concerned could request a Ramsar Advisory Mission.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:
☑ High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness
››› The legal regulations are strict and judicial review of cases occurs regularly.

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

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

Please describe the measures put in place
››› Projects of the energy sector with a SEA/EIA that predicts significant negative impacts, that cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated and especially such projects in protected areas are not permitted.

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.
››› In Germany at federal level no need for such a record was assumed: usually such cases are dealt with by the German Federal States which care for avoiding, compensating or mitigating such impacts.

Estimated number of sites
››› Such data is not available on national level.

Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.
››› Such data is not available on national level.

Estimated number of sites avoided
››› Such data is not available on national level.

Estimated number of sites mitigated
››› Such data is not available on national level.

Estimated number of sites compensated
››› Such data is not available on national level.

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
››› This is regulated by the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and the Nature Conservation Act as well as the EU Habitats Directive in Germany. These laws were implemented prior to the draft of the AEWA-Guidelines and comply with their criteria.

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
››› The online portal www.natur-und-erneuerbare.de presenting news, resources and information on projects under the topic "Nature Conservation and Renewable Energies".

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?
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› It is common practice to assess potential environmental impacts in the process of planning a power line project according to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Umweltvertraglichkeitsprüfung; UVP). These assessments are project related but also include the extensive knowledge about migration patterns as well as resting and breeding sites of waterbirds in Germany to mitigate or avoid negative impacts like electrocution or collision.
To ensure that sensitive species are considered in the planning as early as possible a Strategic Environmental Assessment (Strategische Umweltprüfung; SUP) of the planned power grid extension until 2030 in Germany has been carried out. The aim of such a SUP is to incorporate environmental aspects into the process of planning even long before an authorization has been given. The results of the SUP are published in the environmental report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment ("Umweltbericht der Strategischen Umweltprüfung" (see link below). The SUP is based on the second draft of the Development Plan Electricity 2017–2030 (Netzentwicklungsplan Strom) and the Offshore Development Plan Electricity 2017–2030 (Offshore-Netzentwicklungsplan). The report highlights measures to avoid or mitigate detrimental environmental impacts as well as compensatory measures. The implementation of these measures during the process of the electricity network development will ensure that the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) will be adhered. Environmental report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment incl. maps and annexes: https://data.netzausbau.de/2030/2017-2030_NEP-UB_gesamt.zip
Development Plan Electricity 2017–2030:
https://www.netzausbau.de/bedarfsermittlung/2030_2017/nep-ub/de.html
A BfN-publication by Bernotat & Dierschke (2021) "Übergeordnete Kriterien zur Bewertung der Mortalitat wildlebender Tiere im Rahmen von Projekten und Eingriffen" (https://www.bfn.de/besonderer-artenschutz-bei-eingriffen) evaluates, among others, the mortality risk of varying bird species caused by different project types such as electricity power lines and thus provides an important manual for the Impact Assessments. Additionally, methods to integrate baseline knowledge on waterbird distribution, population sizes and movements are developed to ensure the recognition of important flyways and habitats for birds already at an early stage of the authorization procedure. See also publication about planning approaches for the assessment of powerlines: Bernotat D., Rogahn, S., Rickert, C., Follner, K. & Schönhofer, C. (2018): BfN-Arbeitshilfe zur arten- und gebietsschutzrechtlichen Prüfung bei Freileitungsvorhaben. Bundesamt für Naturschutz (Hrsg.). BfN-Skripten 512, 200 S.

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

Please provide details.
››› Due to respective legal obligations.

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 Environmental Impact Assessment (UVP) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment consider the Natura 2000 network, Important Bird Areas and Wetlands of International importance (“Ramsar-Sites”) as important criteria. Thus, areas with high numbers of staging waterbirds are considered as potentially high-risk areas for electrocution and collision and should hence be avoided.

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.
››› Projects of the energy sector with a UVP/SUP that predicts significant negative impacts, that cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated and especially such projects in protected areas are not permitted. Unfortunately, not in all cases reasonable alternatives to avoid habitats of conservation importance are possible, especially if older power lines already exist. However, in those cases mitigation measures such as the replacement of old and smaller power lines with modern ones with simplified structural design and minimized visual impact as well as bird protection markers are used to mitigate detrimental effects, especially the collision risk, as much as possible.

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
››› A reduction of electrocution is legally consolidated in Germany. Even existing medium voltage power lines needed to be modified by the end of 2012. The VDE-Application Rule ”VDE-AR-N 4210-11” provides details for the technical implementation of bird-safe medium-voltage power lines according to the Federal Nature Conservation Act. Measures to mitigate the risk of collision on high voltage power lines are not regulated by law yet, but there is a technical note of the FNN (Forum Netztechnik/Netzbetrieb im VDE) describing technical requirements for bird protection markings on high voltage powerlines (FNN-Hinweis “Vogelschutzmarkierung an Hoch- und Hochstspannungsfreileitungen”).
The results of the SUP are published in the environmental report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (see 65.2). Measures to protect birds from collision are explained in this report. Depending on the local conditions, bird-safe mast construction such as single-level power lines (conducting wires are arranged on one level) and bird-protection markings should be used. Research on the development of new mast constructions is being conducted. The German government has funded a Research and Development Project “Effectiveness of different bird protection markers on power lines („Wirksamkeitsanalyse unterschiedlicher Vogelschutzmarker“ 12/2016–11/2018).

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

https://www.nul-online.de/themen/artenschutz-und-biotopverbund/article-6548857-201984/wirksamkeit-von-vogelschutzmarkern-.html

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?
☑ Partially

Please provide details.
››› There is currently no systematic and comprehensive search for highly problematic power lines in Germany. However, there are several individual assessments that have identified areas with a high collision risk. As a result, some of these power lines have been modified. Due to the implementation of the Federal Nature Conservation Act § 41 for medium-voltage powerlines only a very small number of birds are nowadays killed in the mast cap area. Losses of birds are only recorded where unsuitable systems have been used to make mast caps bird-save. For existing high-voltage powerlines there is currently no uniform procedure to mark these in sensitive areas.
However, some network operators have made great efforts to minimize the risk of collision of birds. For example, Amprion has systematically assessed its entire high-voltage power line network (> 10,000 kilometers in length) and has subsequently secured the critical sections. Many sections dangerous for waterbirds in Western Germany could be secured in this way.

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.
››› There are many examples where power lines have been marked at migration hotspots in several federal states or by operators to avoid electrocution and collisions with power lines. But there is still a lot to be done. Commonly, whenever changes to existing powerlines are made such as raising masts to fulfill clearance specifications etc., in critical areas such as flyways and habitats of conservation importance, bird protection markers are subsequently installed.

65.9. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale?
☑ No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?
››› Germany's electrical grid comprises approximately 19,000 kilometers of extra-high voltage overhead lines (380 kV and 220 kV), about 47,000 kilometers of high voltage overhead lines (110 kV), and roughly 130,000 kilometers of medium voltage overhead lines. Given this large-scale transmission network, implementing comprehensive monitoring - such as regular searches for wildlife casualties - is not feasible.

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?
☑ No

Please explain the reasons. What are the constraints preventing implementation of this activity?
››› There is no regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures at the national scale (see 65.9).

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?
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› All measures contained in resolution 5.11 are already implemented in the German National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and in relevant legislation (such as Federal Nature Conservation Act) and Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance), which are rigorously implemented.

66. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region?
Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› The implementation of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (UVPG) during the planning process of electricity power lines leads to the avoidance or mitigation of the negative impact of power lines on migratory birds in Germany and comply with the AEWA Guidelines.

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
››› Research on sensitivity of seabirds to offshore wind farms in the German North Sea resulted in a sensitivity map for 20 species of seabird (https://www.dda-web.de/monitoring/seevogelmonitoring/sensitivitaet-seevoegel-offshore-windparks).
V. Dierschke et al. (2024): Sensitivität von Seevögeln gegenüber Offshore-Windparks in der deutschen Nordsee. Die Vogelwelt 142, 59-74.

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.
››› National laws comply with international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria for impact assessment of renewable energy developments.
Methodological standards for nature and environmental assessments for federal sectoral planning. - Standardization proposals for federal sectoral planning in relation to overhead lines have been published by the Nature Conservation Agency in 2024 (BfN Script 689).

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

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

Are mitigation measures being implemented?
☑ Yes

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

Please provide details
››› There is a compensation rule (Eingriffs-Ausgleich-Regelung) in Germany. According to the Federal Nature Conservation Act (§13ff), damage to nature and landscape should be avoided as a matter of priority.
For unavoidable damage there is a legal obligation for compensation measures. The damage needs to be compensated through nature and landscape conservation measures. The procedure is defined by law (§ 17 BNatSchG).

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

Please provide details
››› Short-term shutdowns are one of the measures to avoid significant mortality in birds as defined in the Federal Nature Conservation Act. Lighting in windfarms (which may attract or distract birds) has to be demand controlled from 2025.

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

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation funds a Research Project “Use of innovative avoidance measures to protect birds at offshore wind turbines” (12/2023–11/2025)”. The aim of the project is to design a system for recording and predicting bird migration that can be used to implement needs-based turbine shutdowns in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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?
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› With the revision of the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) in December 2018, the framework conditions for the use of bioenergy at EU level for the period from 2021 to 2030 have been established. The use of biofuels from food and feed crops is to be limited to the current level. In RED II, the member states are given the opportunity to introduce additional sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids. This can be

done, for example, for bioenergy plants that use solid and gaseous biomass fuels. The implementation of RED II in Germany should be designed in such a way that the additional demand for biomass and land-based residues is kept to a minimum. No incentives should be provided that could increase demand beyond the existing or possible mandatory quotas.

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
››› All measures contained in resolution 5.16 are regulated by or included in the German National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as well as the Federal Nature Conservation Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, which are consequently implemented.
It is important to notice, that based on the amendment of the European Renewable Energy Directive in 2023 (following the Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 of 22 December 2022 laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy) it is foreseeable that European member states, including Germany (ongoing process), will soon change their national laws regarding the requirements of e.g. EIA or SEA and the consideration of species protection within the planning process and the approval of renewable energy installations and its infrastructure (storage, electricity transmission), especially within so called renewables acceleration areas (outside of SPAs and other Natura 2000 sites).

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

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

Please provide details
››› The requirements of the resolution 6.11 as well as the recommendations of the guidelines are fully enforced in Germany in the Federal Nature Conservation Act, in particular in the context of the implementation of the European Directives on species and habitat protection, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung) and via the Strategic Environmental Assessment (Strategische Umweltprüfung; SUP).

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-catchis dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

☑ Yes

Please provide details (incl. the scale of by-catch and species affected)
››› The final report of a funded research and development project (F+E Vorhaben) “Analysis and assessment of by-catch of seabirds by passive marine fishing in the Baltic Sea” published in 2011, illustrates the situation in Germany. A total of 526 by-caught birds were recorded in this study. Sea ducks and diving ducks feeding on benthic invertebrates accounted for more than 50 % of by-caught birds in all types of gear and during catches of all target species. Diving ducks (e.g. Greater Scaup, Tufted Duck, Pochard) formed 65 % of by-catches in coastal lagoons, while seaducks (e.g. Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter) were dominating the by-catch in waters of the outer coast and the EEZ (47 %). A similar species composition of by-caught birds was found in gillnets off Usedom and can be assessed as representative for bird by-catches in Mecklenburg Western Pomerania during 2006-2009. By-catch of seabirds occurred in all types of fishing gear and in the fishery of all target species studied. Bycatch rates in gillnet and longline fisheries depended on target species, season and fishing area. The highest average by-catch rate recorded was 0.61 birds/1000 NMD (birds per 1000 meters of net length per day = birds/1000 NMD) in the gillnet fishery targeting pike perch, pike and perch. The lowest by-catch rate occurred in the turbot gill net fishery with 0.01 birds / 1000 NMD. The average by-catch rate in the longline fishery targeting eel was 0.031 birds / 1000 hooks day. Seasonally, the highest by-catch rates for bottom-set gillnets targeting cod, flounder, salmon, pike perch, pike and perch were recorded during winter, from December to April. In the pelagic gillnet fisheries, targeting herring and garfish, high by-catch rates occurred between January and May. The results of the study showed that highest by-catch rates occurred in coastal lagoons and the 3 – nautical mile zone. In the German EEZ east of Rugen including the SPA “Pomeranian Bay”, sampling of gillnet and longline fisheries, which are active mainly between May and September, was confined to German fishermen. The average by-catch-rates in this area were comparatively low (0.006 birds / 1000 NMD). In the flyway populations of Long-tailed Duck and Scaup, mortality from by-catch and other human activities reach a level which may not be sustainable, and this may contribute to the currently observed decrease in the two species. Therefore, management measures to reduce

seabird by-catch mortality in the Baltic gillnet fisheries including those in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, are imperative. Possible mitigation measures include seasonal and spatial closures in areas with concentrations of sea-birds as well as replacement of gillnets by alternative gear such as baited pots and in some cases bottom set longlines.

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)

☑ No

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))
››› Breeding waterbirds are covered in Germany by several monitoring schemes, which cover most of the AEWA species. The commonest species, such as Mallard, are covered by the Common Breeding Bird Survey (CBBS). Field work is mainly conducted by skilled volunteers. The rare(r) species, incl. all colonial breeding species (which may be quite abundant), are covered by the various protocols under the umbrella of the Rare Breeding Bird Survey. The RBBS is being reorganized since 2019 as a site-based monitoring scheme and also mainly conducted by volunteers under the auspices of the DDA, supported by the governments.
In the Wadden Sea breeding waterbirds are being monitored as part of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program since 1991 with annual full surveys of 27 rare and colonial species, and for 8 common species full surveys every 5-6 years with annual surveys in a subset of sites (see https://qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/reports/breeding-birds). On the Baltic coast of Mecklenburg-Western Pommerania colonial waterbird species as well as rare breeding waterbird species are surveyed annually. Also, in many federal states mainly rare and colonial waterbird species are traditionally being surveyed since decades. These data all feed into the RBBS at the national level.
Compared to the last report, almost all AEWA species are now covered by the various breeding bird programs. So the situation has improved due to several Research and Development Projects supported by the German government:
1. Speeding up data flow in bird monitoring part I (“Beschleunigung des Datenflusses im Vogelmonitoring: Konzeptentwicklung“): The main aim of the project from 2017 to 2019 was to lay the conceptual basis for an improved monitoring of rare and colonial species and improve the data flow both in the RBBS and the CBBS.
2. Speeding up data flow in bird monitoring part II (“Beschleunigung des Datenflusses im Vogelmonitoring: Umsetzung“): The main aim of the project from 2019 to 2021 was to transfer the conceptual basis into practice, e.g. introducing mobile data recording with the app NaturaList as well as web-based data entry via the portal ornitho.de. These two projects made participation in bird monitoring more attractive and lead to an increase in volunteers especially in the rare breeding birds programme and thus improved coverage.
3. Bird monitoring in Special Protection Areas („Vogelmonitoring in EU-Vogelschutzgebieten“): The two projects from 2016-2019 and 2020–2023, respectively, focused on establishing and harmonising monitoring standards in EU-SPA esp. targeting trigger species which are mostly semi-rare to rare breeding bird species. Among these are also waterbirds.
4. Evaluation and consolidation of the new monitoring programme for rare breeding birds (“Evaluierung und Konsolidierung des neuen Monitorings seltener Brutvögel”): This project, running from 2022-2025, focuses on consolidating and improving the protocols and digital approaches established in projects 1.) and 2.) among which are those for breeding waterbirds.
The main focus on the aforementioned protocols is to derive robust trend estimates. Population estimates can only be made on an annual basis for some of the waterbird species, mainly rare and some colonial species. Every 6 years part of the Article 12 Reporting for the EU Birds Directive population size is estimated for all breeding bird species, based on data from bird monitoring protocols, SPA total counts, and the latest national breeding bird atlas. This covers the period 2005-2009 and updated population sizes of all breeding bird species. Gedeon, K., C. Gruneberg, A. Mitschke, C. Sudfeldt, W. Eikhorst, S. Fischer, M. Flade, S. Frick, I. Geiersberger, B. Koop, M. Kramer, T. Kruger, N. Roth, T. Ryslavy, S. Stubing, S. R. Sudmann, R. Steffens, F. Vokler & K. Witt (2014): Atlas Deutscher Brutvogelarten. Atlas of German Breeding Birds. Stiftung Vogelmonitoring Deutschland und Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten, Münster.
In 2025 a new breeding bird atlas project was started with field work planned until 2029. The first phase (2024-2026) of the atlas is supported by the National Monitoring Centre on Biodiversity with funds from the environment ministry.
The monitoring of breeding bird species is coordinated at the national level by the Federation of German Avifaunists (DDA) in close cooperation with its member organisations, the federal state agencies and expert groups. Quite a substantial part of the breeding bird monitoring is done by volunteers. At the national level the coordination by the DDA is financed via the Administrative Agreement on bird monitoring in Germany (“Verwaltungsvereinbarung Vogelmonitoring”; cf. question 77).
Moulting sites are monitored in several federal states, such as Schleswig-Holstein where a state-wide scheme is in place covering all waterbird species conducting simultaneous wing moult, and in Bavaria where the internationally important moulting site for several waterbird species, „Ismaninger Speichersee mit Fischteichen“ near Munich. Also at Lake Constance summer counts also targeting moulting birds was

established in 2014. But there is not yet a national scheme covering the moulting period.
Hence, a lot of monitoring protocols and other activities such as the new atlas are in place during and around the breeding season. But coverage is not yet full and not all parameters can be estimated in a statistically robust way. Therefore “partially” was selected.

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

Please provide details
››› There is no national monitoring on drivers of population trends, but in several ways information is being collected. In the Wadden Sea as part of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme breeding success is being collected annually in sample sites for 10 waterbird species representative for the Wadden Sea since 2009. Furthermore for 2 representative species egg contamination in eggs is collected annually in sample sites since 1998. Also in the protocols for colonial waterbirds as part of the RBBS information on breeding success can be provided.
As part of the Article 12 reporting every 6 years pressures and threats for “trigger species” are being compiled giving hints on drivers and their importance behind observed population changes.

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

☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› There is no systematic data collection on demographic data at the national level during the breeding period. Nevertheless information on demographic data is being collected regionally and locally.
In North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony summer goose counts are conducted in July since 2011 and 2018, respectively, aiming at collecting information on juvenile ratios in the local breeding population after the breeding season. In the Wadden Sea as part of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme breeding success is being collected annually in sample sites for 10 waterbird species representative for the Wadden Sea since 2009.
Furthermore demographic data is collected in an indirect way via the breeding bird surveys, for waterbirds esp. in the RBBS, where information on sex and partially age is recorded.
At the internationally important moulting site for several waterbird species, „Ismaninger Speichersee mit Fischteichen“ near Munich also sex ratio is collected.
Through various ringing projects also information on mortality can be derived for some waterbird species.

Covering the passage period
☑ Partially

Please provide details. (incl. list the species covered OR not covered (whichever list is shorter))
››› The Monitoring of Migratory and Wintering Waterbirds (MMWW) is the umbrella across all monitoring programmes for waterbirds in Germany. Basically it comprises all programmes and monitoring activities mentioned below. The several protocols allow for the differences in behaviour and the ecology of the species being taken into account. The main programme of the MMWW, the waterbird census, covers all waterbird species and runs at most sites from September to April, at more and more sites year round. Nevertheless not all internationally and nationally important sites are fully covered during passage migration. The best coverage is achieved during the International Waterbird Census in January. The waterbird census is accompanied by specific protocols filling gaps for several species. The most important ones are a) swan and goose counts, b) roost counts of crane (run by Kranichschutz Deutschland), c) roost counts of cormorant in some federal states. These programmes are mainly conducted by volunteers and coordinated by the DDA at the national level. The MMWW is also covered by the Administrative Agreement on bird monitoring in Germany (“Verwaltungsvereinbarung Vogelmonitoring”; cf. question 77).
To improve the monitoring of geese at the national level a Research and Development Project “Development of a national goose monitoring” (“Entwicklung eines bundesweiten Gänsemonitorings”) was initiated and financially supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and carried out by the DDA between 2019 and 2021.
The monitoring of migratory and wintering waterbird species as part of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Wadden Sea (TMAP) also contributes in an indispensable way to the MMWW. It is run by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat and the responsible federal state agencies in the three National Parks of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Lower Saxony. It runs year-round on a bi-monthly basis at a subset of sites. Almost full coverage is being achieved in January and in one additional month. For some species special efforts are made to reach full coverage, e.g. for Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis) in March and May, Sanderling (Calidris alba) and Brent Goose (Branta bernicla) in May, Common Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) during wing moult in July (aerial survey).

Every 6 years internationally coordinated censuses take place in October for Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) and recently also Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus), coordinated by the International Wader Study Group. In the past every 5 and now every 6 years Bewick's Swan (Cygnus bewickii) and Whooper Swan (Cygnus Cygnus), and in Germany also Mute Swan (Cygnus olor), are counted in January as part of the International Swan Census coordinated by the Wetlands International Swan Specialist Group. It is aimed to achieve full coverage during these censuses. Since the wintering season 2022/23 between November and March complete censuses of Bewick's Swans are conducted. These are part of the project "Bewick's swan: conservation concept for an endangered migratory bird species in Germany" ("Zwergschwan: Schutzkonzept für eine bedrohte Zugvogelart in Deutschland"), funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme. It is led by the Michael Otto-Institut of NABU. Germany harbours up to 80 % of the NW European Bewick's Swan population (which is listed in AEWA Table 1, Column A) during spring migration.
The Seabirds at Sea programme, since 2021 run by the DDA (previously by the Research and Technology Centre, Kiel University), covers the German offshore areas including the Exclusive Economic Zone. This programme is to a large part funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the Marine Biodiversity Monitoring of BfN/FTZ covering German offshore areas during passage and wintering and also the moulting period of some species (Common Scoter, Velvet Scoter). This programme contributes in an indispensable way to the monitoring of waterbird species in Germany and provides statistically robust estimates of population size and trend estimates for seaducks, divers, alcids and other mainly offshore staging and wintering species. Furthermore areas off the Wadden Sea in Schleswig-Holstein are covered by a special seabird monitoring financed by the National Park Administration Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and conducted since 2004 by the Seabirds at Sea team.
Especially for rare migratory and wintering waterbird species also the online portal ornitho.de, run by the DDA and its member orgainsations, has become an important data source to estimates trends and population sizes.
In Germany, nowadays about 150 species are covered by the various programmes for monitoring migratory and wintering waterbirds, and for a substantial number of these species trends and population estimates can being taken into account. Nevertheless not all internationally and nationally important sites are fully covered during passage migration, hence "Partially" was chosen.

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

Please provide details
››› There is no national monitoring on drivers of population trends, but in several ways information is being collected. For demographic data see next question.
As part of the Article 12 reporting every 6 years pressures and threats for "trigger species" are being compiled giving hints on drivers and their importance behind observed population changes.

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

Please provide details
››› During the waterbird counts, data on age and sex is collected on a voluntary basis by the observers which could provide insights in to drivers behind observed population changes. For Bewick's Swan since 2012 Germany participates at a larger scale in the international age count in December. For Brent Goose, Barnacle Goose and Greater White-fronted Goose data is contributed to the age count scheme coordinated by Sovon, The Netherlands. To encourage volunteers to collect juvenile ratios a fact sheet "Breeding success monitoring for geese and swans" with instructions and optimal periods for distinguishing juvenile from adult birds was published. Furthermore an identification guide "Breeding success monitoring in geese and swans: Identification of adults and young birds" was compiled showing the most important differences between adults and young birds in the field. Both guides are outcomes of the Research and Development Project "Development of a national goose monitoring" ("Entwicklung eines bundesweiten Gänsemonitorings") initiated and financially supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and carried out by the DDA between 2019 and 2021.
Through various ringing projects also information on mortality can be derived for some waterbird species.

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.
››› During the International Waterbird Census in January each year a comprehensive annual count of all waterbird species is conducted, probably covering most of the internationally and nationally important non-

breeding/wintering sites. Hence, here “Fully” was selected. For details see section on “Passage”.

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

☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› See section on “Passage”.

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

Please provide details
››› See section on “Passage”.

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
››› Germany has a well-developed bird monitoring system, covering many breeding and migrating waterbirds. By several research projects gaps and needs for improvements have been identified to better fulfill the obligations of reporting under art. 12 of the EU Birds Directive (e.g. for rare breeding birds) and under AEWA (e.g. for geese). Implementation of these identified improvements will support the bird monitoring under AEWA in the future.

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

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

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› In many cases the monitoring protocols were developed before the AEWA Guidelines were adopted by the MOP in 2002. The protocols for bird monitoring in Germany were revised and optimized during a Research and Development project from 2003 to 2007. During this process the AEWA Conservation Guidelines No. 9 were consulted. Protocols fully comply with the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol. A publication summarizing breeding as well as non-breeding monitoring protocols in Germany has been published: Sudfeldt, C., R. Dröschmeister, J. Wahl, K. Berlin, T. Gottschalk, C. Grüneberg, A. Mitschke & S. Trautmann (2012): Vogelmonitoring in Deutschland – Programme und Anwendungen. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt, 119, Landwirtschaftsverlag, Münster.

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
››› Both the monitoring of breeding as well as of migratory and wintering waterbirds, of which the IWC is part of, is supported by the Administrative Agreement on bird monitoring in Germany (“Verwaltungsvereinbarung Vogelmonitoring”) since 2008. The agreement is financed 50:50 by the federal government and the federal states. It provides funding at the national level for the DDA to coordinate the volunteer-based bird monitoring in Germany.

Internationally
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› Germany supports the IWC with its membership in Wetlands International.

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
››› Due to the structure and regulations in Germany, we only have the possibility to fund concrete projects, where the purpose is clearly stated. Thus, we cannot make institutional payments into trust funds.

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)
››› For Germany this task is seen as not needed anymore within the EU: Within REACH the EU intends to phase out the use of lead fishing weights. On 21/02/2025 the EU Commission presented the draft to amend Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning REACH as regards lead in ammunition and fishing tackle.
In the past, the impact of lead used by anglers on fresh water ecosystems has been regarded as marginal.

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

Please indicate which of the priority knowledge gaps have been addressed
☑ Active improvement of systems for monitoring, trend and conservation status assessments.
☑ Active improvement of marine conservation processes including distribution surveys; bycatch reduction and non-native predator elimination on breeding seabird islands
☑ Active collation on data and information on flyway network sites
☑ Development of strategic approaches to habitat restoration and the implementation of relevant measures
☑ Development of synthesis of waterbird tracking and movement data to improve the planning and implementation of better connectivity between key flyway sites and other protected areas

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

Number of initiatives/research programmes
››› 1. To improve the monitoring of geese at the national level a Research and Development Project “Development of a national goose monitoring” (“Entwicklung eines bundesweiten Gänsemonitorings”) was initiated and financially supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and carried out by the DDA between 2019 and 2021.
2. The project “Bewick's swan: conservation concept for an endangered migratory bird species in Germany” (“Zwergschwan: Schutzkonzept für eine bedrohte Zugvogelart in Deutschland”) is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme. It is led by the Michael Otto-Institut of NABU and started in 2020 and will finish in 2026. Among the many aims of the also monitoring shall be improved and a national species action plan shall be written including a conservation status

assessments of Bewick’s Swan in Germany.
3. The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) was established in 2012 by the three Wadden Sea states Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. In close collaboration with local, regional, and international partners, the WSFI participates in global efforts to strengthen the conservation of migratory waterbirds. With its monitoring programme and the capacity building and management programme, the WSFI aims to address 7 key objectives.

Please rate the progress of each initiative/research programme in relation to their specific deliverables and timeframes according to this scale: 1. Completed; 2. Considerable progress made; 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead; 4. Slow or delayed implementation; 5. No effective implementation.
››› 1. Project complete, results yet to be published.
2. In the project considerable progress has already been made.
3. In the project considerable progress has already been made.

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials
››› • https://flyway.waddensea-worldheritage.org/projects/map
• https://zwergschwan.de

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

Number of initiatives/research programmes
››› 1. The project “Effects of offshore wind energy utilisation on the occurrence and population of selected seabird species” (“Auswirkungen der Offshore-Windkraftnutzung auf Vorkommen und Bestand ausgewählter Seevogelarten”) started in 2024. The aim is to investigate the effects of offshore wind farms on seabirds in the North and Baltic Seas. It is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the National Species Recovery Programme (nAHP) and carried out by the DDA.

Please rate the progress of each initiative/research programme in relation to their specific deliverables and timeframes according to this scale: 1. Completed; 2. Considerable progress made; 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead; 4. Slow or delayed implementation; 5. No effective implementation.
››› 1. In the project considerable progress has already been made.

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials
››› • https://www.dda-web.de/forschung/projekte/AHP-OWP-SEEV%C3%96GEL%20II

Active collation on data and information on flyway network sites

Number of initiatives/research programmes
››› 1. The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) was established in 2012 by the three Wadden Sea states Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. In close collaboration with local, regional, and international partners, the WSFI participates in global efforts to strengthen the conservation of migratory waterbirds. With its monitoring programme and the capacity building and management programme, the WSFI aims to address 7 key objectives.
2. The project “Bewick's swan: conservation concept for an endangered migratory bird species in Germany” (“Zwergschwan: Schutzkonzept für eine bedrohte Zugvogelart in Deutschland”) is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme. It is led by the Michael Otto-Institut of NABU and started in 2020 and will finish in 2026. Among the many aims >50 birds are tagged with GPS transmitters to get to know more on site and habitat use, about connectivity of sites along the flyway and causes of mortality shall be investigated. Also a national species action plan shall be written.

Please rate the progress of each initiative/research programme in relation to their specific deliverables and timeframes according to this scale: 1. Completed; 2. Considerable progress made; 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead; 4. Slow or delayed implementation; 5. No effective implementation.
››› 1. In the project considerable progress has already been made.
2. In the project considerable progress has already been made.

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials
››› • https://flyway.waddensea-worldheritage.org/projects/map
• https://zwergschwan.de

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

Number of initiatives/research programmes

››› 1. The National Species Recovery Programme (nAHP) is intended to support projects that serve to permanently protect species and their habitats and improve their conservation status. The funding programme focuses on the protection of species that are affected by the expansion of renewable energies.
2. With the aim of conserving and protecting biodiversity in Germany, the Federal Biological Diversity Programme was launched in 2011 and has since aided implementation of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity. It promotes projects which are declared to be of national importance under the Strategy or are seen to serve the Strategy's implementation in an especially exemplary and benchmark-setting way.

Please rate the progress of each initiative/research programme in relation to their specific deliverables and timeframes according to this scale: 1. Completed; 2. Considerable progress made; 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead; 4. Slow or delayed implementation; 5. No effective implementation.
››› 1. In the programme considerable progress has already been made.
2. In the programme considerable progress has already been made.

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials
››› 1. https://www.bfn.de/en/topic/national-species-recovery-programme
2. https://www.bfn.de/en/topic/federal-biological-diversity-programme

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

Number of initiatives/research programmes
››› 1. A study on Eurasian Curlew (Numenius arquata) was funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and others to identify of the wintering and stopover areas of Curlews breeding in NW Germany in the light of the planned resumption of hunting in France.
2. The project "Bewick's swan: conservation concept for an endangered migratory bird species in Germany" ("Zwergschwan: Schutzkonzept für eine bedrohte Zugvogelart in Deutschland") is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme. It is led by the Michael Otto-Institut of NABU and started in 2020 and will finish in 2026. Among the many aims >50 birds are tagged with GPS transmitters to get to know more on site and habitat use, about connectivity of sites along the flyway and causes of mortality shall be investigated. Also a national species action plan shall be written.
3. A study in Long-tailed Duck (Clangula hyemalis) was initiated after a report revealed a rapid decline in the wintering population of 65% between 1992–1993 and 2007–2009 in the Baltic Sea. As knowledge about the European Long-tailed Duck's life cycle and movement ecology is limited, its year-round spatiotemporal distribution patterns were investigated. Specifically, it was aimed to identify the wintering grounds, timing of migration and staging of this population via light-level geolocation. The study was financially supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Please rate the progress of each initiative/research programme in relation to their specific deliverables and timeframes according to this scale: 1. Completed; 2. Considerable progress made; 3. On course, yet considerable implementation ahead; 4. Slow or delayed implementation; 5. No effective implementation.
››› 1. Study completed.
2. In the project considerable progress has already been made.
3. Study completed.

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials
››› 1. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsiae.2023.100069; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2023.e02527
2. https://zwergschwan.de/karte-senderschwaene
3. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12898-020-00299-2

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)
☑ No

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 7. Research and Monitoring
››› New or major ongoing research and monitoring activities on waterbirds and waterbird habitats in Germany:
National monitoring of migratory and wintering waterbirds was further developed. Until the end of 2024, more than 6,500 sites have been made available for digital field surveys in the context of the waterbird census, additionally, more than 2,000 sites are available for monitoring geese and swans. By this, it is possible to record digitally in the field and accelerate the generation of national trends. (https://www.dda-web.de/monitoring/mrw/programm)
In preparation of the Birds Directive art. 12 report 2025, data on population sizes and trends of waterbirds have been prepared. Publication is planned for 2025 in a special issue of the national series "Vögel in

Deutschland".

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.
☑ Yes, being implemented

Please describe the awareness programmes which have been developed. Please upload any relevant sample materials which have been developed and add contact details of a contact person for each programme.
››› Since 1998, numerous training courses leading to qualification as “certified nature and landscape guides” are offered annually by state-run environmental education centers. These trainings are based on the uniform standards of the “nationwide working group of state-run environmental education centers (banu - https://banu-akademien.de/)”.
As part of their environmental education programmes, large protected areas such as national parks and biosphere reserves, as well as large NSGs and nature parks, carry out measures to inform visitors and sensitise them to the natural environment and to promote public awareness. Germany’s national parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks additionally operate hundreds of nature and information centres, offering nature walks and tours.
Other programmes which are not part of a national programme to raise awareness and understanding are e.g. the Federation of German Avifaunists Birdrace as an example of how awareness raising and fundraising can be successfully combined. The migratory bird days in the Wadden Sea National Park of Lower Saxony (celebrated annually in autumn) are an excellent example of raising awareness for the conservation of migratory bird species.
In 2017 the issue of the annual report “Birds in Germany” focused on the monitoring of migratory and wintering waterbirds intending to get more volunteers involved in waterbird monitoring (esp. observers from ornitho.de) and raising awareness for waterbird conservation in general. Birds in Germany is distributed among volunteers participating in bird monitoring in Germany and is available as PDF from BfN’s and DDA’s websites.

Does the programme specifically focus on AEWA and the provisions of its Action Plan?
☑ No

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

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)
☑ No

86. Have World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) activities been carried out in your country during

this reporting cycle? (Resolution 5.5)
☑ Yes

Please describe the activity/activities briefly and upload any sample materials, links or photos available related to the activity/event.
››› Many organizations took World Migratory Bird Day as an opportunity to publish press releases or information to draw attention to and raise awareness of the phenomenon of bird migration and the problems for migratory birds.
https://www.kraniche.de/en/news/world-migratory-bird-day-2022.html
https://www.nlwkn.niedersachsen.de/startseite/aktuelles/presse_und_offentlichkeitsarbeit/pressemitteilungen/weltzugvogeltag-2024-in-sudwest-niedersachsen-wie-schutzen-wir-zugvogel-bei-uns-in-der-region-232004.html
https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/licht-aus-zum-weltzugvogeltag/
https://image-witten.de/n/vhs-vogelkunde-noch-plaetze-frei-beim-hellip:5597
https://www.wald-und-holz.nrw.de/aktuelle-meldungen/schutz-des-wespenbussards-im-nrw-wald
https://rieselfelder-muenster.de/weltzugvogeltag-14-15-oktober/
https://unric.org/de/weltzugvogeltag-2024-unterstreicht-die-bedeutung-von-insekten/
https://niedersachsen.nabu.de/tiere-und-pflanzen/voegel/vogelzug/35486.html

87. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy and/or towards priority CEPA activities in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Resolution 6.10)
☑ No

Pressures and Responses
9. Implementation

88. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.6.(b))
☑ No

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

☑ No

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

Report only on activities over the past triennium
☑ Yes

Please list all non-contracting parties, which were approached, and describe each case, including progress achieved
››› Germany has supported the Secretariat to approach Austria to join the Agreement.

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
››› The National Strategy on Biological Diversity and the related coordination mechanism help to implement AEWA. Furthermore the national implementation of the EU Habitats Directive and the EU Bird Directive serve AEWA too. Both directives are implemented in national legislation, legally binding and obligatory instruments of nature conservation authorities in Germany. As a coordination body between the Federal government and the German Federal States the so called LANA (Länderarbeitsgemeinschaft Naturschutz) and its working groups are an essential coordination mechanism.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?
☑ No

Please explain the reasons
››› Gap analysis is addressed in consideration of species-specific red list category and conservation status. In the respective LANA Working Group meetings sometimes gaps are addressed. However, they usually identify gaps due to limited staff, time and finances.

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

Please provide details and the reasons for the lower effectiveness
››› Due to differences of AEWA implementation of the 16 different German Federal States the situation is heterogeneous. However, in general it is supportive for species protection issues under 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

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

specific needs assessments.
☑ No

93.2. Establish procedures for ensuring continuity of succession and transfer of knowledge and skills, when there are changes in personnel responsible for AEWA national implementation.
☑ No

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

Please provide details
››› The EU has EU coordination meetings before and during every MOP. Views are shared and discussions are held on MOP agenda items.

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)
☑ Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement
››› In 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Waddensea states and Mauritannia was signed during a Ministerial conference which is the basis of a site twinning cooperation.

95. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated 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
››› The National Strategy on Biological Diversity (NBS) has been the central nature conservation strategy of the federal government since 2007. Of great importance for the protection of biodiversity in Germany is the further development for the period up to 2030, the NBS 2030, with which the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) is to be implemented, as well as a contribution to the implementation of the EU Restoration Regulation and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

96. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated 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
››› Germany has pledged to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in its own country and to help other countries do the same. The German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) is the basis for this.
On March 10, 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved the further development of the German sustainability strategy.
All ministries and the State Secretaries' Committee for Sustainable Development chaired by the Head of the Chancellery, sustainability stakeholders and citizens were involved in the further development.
The BMUV – responsible for AEWA implementation - is committed to fulfilling its lead responsibility for some of the SDGs and contributes significantly to its implementation through a variety of activities and programs.

97. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-ordinated 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
››› Implementation tasks are in principle under the auspices of the German Länder but there is coordination if needed via the LANA (coordination body between the Federal government and the German Federal States).

98. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation co-

ordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))
☑ No

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 provide details on which specific AEWA priorities, as per document AEWA/MOP 8.36, were integrated
››› The German NBSAP covers the interests of MEAs serving nature protection like CMS & family, however the huge variety of conventions and agreements is not specified.

99.2 The relevant Sustainable Development Goals
☑ Yes

Please provide details on which specific AEWA priorities, as per document AEWA/MOP 8.36, were integrated
››› Germany has pledged to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and to help other countries do the same. The German Sustainability Strategy (DNS) is the basis for this.
On March 10, 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved the further development of the German sustainability strategy. All ministries and the State Secretaries' Committee for Sustainable Development chaired by the Head of the Chancellery, sustainability stakeholders and citizens were involved in the further development.
The BMUV – responsible for AEWA implementation - is committed to fulfilling its lead responsibility for some of the SDGs and contributes significantly to its implementation through a variety of activities and programs.

99.3 The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032
☑ Yes

Please provide details on which specific AEWA priorities, as per document AEWA/MOP 8.36, were integrated
››› As a first step the situation of CMS Annex I species was analyzed and reported to CMS.

99.4 The Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024
☑ Yes

Please provide details on which specific AEWA priorities, as per document AEWA/MOP 8.36, were integrated
››› Many of the Priority Areas of Focus identified in the Ramsar Strategic Plan coincide with the AEWA-relevant action objectives of AEWA document 8.36, especially since the Strategic Plan has also been expanded to include references to the SGDs. In this respect, not only AEWA priorities but also Ramsar targets are included in the German National Biodiversity Strategy.

99.5 Other international strategic plans and policies
☑ No

Sustainable Development Goals
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› In the framework of IKI projects (IKI – International climate initiative) the German Ministry of Environment (BMUKN) promotes in close cooperation with the Ministry in charge of development issues (BMZ) projects of AEWA relevance in the context mentioned above.

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?
››› The UNEP Group of Executive Secretaries of the Nature Protection MEAs is already a good forum for a linking between respective MEAs under the UNEP umbrella. This group might dedicate attention to the subject too, how to involve other nature protection MEAs not falling under the UNEP umbrella to make the joint work for all concerned more efficient and effective. Germany welcomes the activities of the respective secretariats liaising services of CMS and AEWA for a mutual benefit.

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
››› Due to the structure and regulations in Germany, we only have the possibility to fund concrete projects, where the purpose is clearly stated. Thus, we cannot make institutional payments into trust funds.
But Germany is offering each year 25.600 € voluntary contribution to AEWA.

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

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated
››› We provided 3.400 € for the 18th Technical Committee Meeting in March 2023 (logistical items).
We also provided 1.805 € for three AEWA Videos for the AEWA Website.

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

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

105.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?
☑ No

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.
☑ Yes

Please describe the resources provided
››› We provided 19.000 € in total for interpretation services for MOP8 and the African Preparation Meeting for French-Speaking African Countries.
We also provided 23.150 € to fund Delegates for the 18th Technical Committee Meeting in 2023.
We also provided 4.000 € in 2023 to fund West African Delegates for the Black-tailed Godwit IWG Meeting (2024).

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?
☑ Yes

Please describe each cooperation arrangement
››› Cooperation with CAFF on waterbird issues including AEWA waterbirds and in the framework of the CWSS

cooperation reaching out to African states of the West Palaearctic Flyway.

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

Please explain the reasons
››› The government uses the variety of existing and legal financing mechanisms to support goals of the AEWA strategic Plan. There is therefore no need seen to create additional “innovative mechanisms.” However, the issue of e.g. site related species measures is in Germany an issue falling in principle in the competency of the German Lander.

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?
☑ Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and benefits acquired
››› Synergies between AEWA and IKI.

Pressures and Responses
10. Climate Change

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

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds
☑ Undertaken

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties
››› With the Natural Climate Protection Action Program (ANK), Germany is making a decisive contribution to improving the general condition of our ecosystems and strengthening their climate protection services. The ANK brings together various measures that combine climate and nature protection. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) coordinates the implementation of funding measures in cooperation with various partners such as project sponsors, development banks, federal states and other specialist institutions. Most of the funded projects are addressing the protection or restoration of wetlands and thus relevant to waterbirds.
For projects funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation within the ANK see the attached link.

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

Projects funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

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

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties
››› With the Natural Climate Protection Action Program (ANK), Germany is making a decisive contribution to improving the general condition of our ecosystems and strengthening their climate protection services. The ANK brings together various measures that combine climate and nature protection. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) coordinates the implementation of funding measures in cooperation with various partners such as project sponsors, development banks, federal states and other specialist institutions. Most of the funded projects are addressing the protection or restoration of wetlands and thus key habitats relevant to waterbirds.
For projects funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation within the ANK see the attached link to question 106a.
The results of national report under Art. 12 of the Birds Directive will be committed to the European Commission by the end of July. There are some conservation measures addressing climate change of key habitats for waterbird species and in general, therefore a link with the results can be provided later this year.
Germany provided the national pledges for the 30 % target for improving status by 2030 to the European Commission in 2023. Conservation measures are identified and described in a proposed format for habitats and species which are currently not in a favourable status. Some measures are also listed for waterbird species and will improve the general condition of key habitats for climate protection in general, e.g. for Vanellus vanellus: Improve habitat quality by creating new (wet) grassland (incl. rewetting) and structures suitable for meadow breeders (e.g. shallow water troughs).

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

https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/705

c. Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change.
☑ No relevant activities

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

Please provide references or weblinks to any such work so as to facilitate their use as potential case-studies to assist other Contracting Parties
››› The National Strategy on Biological Diversity (NBS) has been the central nature conservation strategy of the federal government since 2007. Of great importance for the protection of biodiversity in Germany is the further development for the period up to 2030, the NBS 2030, with which the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) is to be implemented, as well as a contribution to the implementation of the EU

Restoration Regulation and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It is intended to include targets, indicators and measures of the NBS 2030 that have synergies with climate adaptation as part of the next update of the adaptation strategy. For the update, sub-targets are planned for the areas of biotope network, protected areas, nature-based solutions, alien species, structural and landscape elements, organic farming, biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, cities and restoration.

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

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.
☑ Yes

Please provide details
››› All efforts which are made in order to help ecosystems and habitats of waterbird to adapt to climate change comply with the criteria of the AEWA Guidelines.

108. Has your country used the complementary Guidelines on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds?
☑ No

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
››› Controlling an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild bird colonies is extremely challenging due to the mobility and wide distribution of the affected bird species. Because direct control of an HPAI outbreak in wild bird colonies is not possible, the measures instead focus on surveillance, the definition of protection and surveillance zones and strategies to minimize contact between wild birds and poultry in order to control the spread of the virus.

List required further guidance or information
››› No further guidance or information needed.

Field for additional information (optional)
››› Monitoring of HPAI in Germany is done by the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) within the remit of the agricultural ministry, the most important institute for research and monitoring of zoonosis diseases in Germany. Specific cases and outbreaks are reported on their website (link attached).
The risk of HPAI H5 viruses entering and spreading further in waterfowl populations within Germany is still considered to be high according to Friedrich-Loffler-Institute.

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

https://www.fli.de/de/aktuelles/tierseuchengeschehen/aviaere-influenza-ai-gefluegelpest/ngeschehen/aviaere-influenza-ai-gefluegelpest/

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
››› The “Ordinance on the Implementation of Monitoring for Avian Influenza Virus in Wild Birds (Wild Bird Avian Influenza Monitoring Ordinance - WvGeflpestMonV)” contains specifications on how active HPAI monitoring is to be carried out. It also regulates the reporting of the results of the corresponding investigations. The ordinance provides the federal states with a sample key developed by the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (FLI) for testing samples from wild birds. The monitoring is carried out by the Federal States. An active monitoring involves systematically testing clinically healthy wild birds, such as shot game birds, for the presence of influenza A viruses. This method enables the early identification of virus carriers before outbreaks occur. In passive monitoring, dead or sick wild birds that are found are tested for the virus. This helps to detect unexpected outbreaks and take appropriate measures.

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

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
››› In Germany, national emergency plans are in place to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The national pandemic plan outlines strategies for responding to a pandemic, including close monitoring and appropriate protective measures.
The control of highly pathogenic avian influenza is regulated under EU law in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulation (EU) 2020/687. Avian influenza is a category A disease requiring control in accordance with Art. 5 para. 1 iv) in conjunction with Art. 9 para. 1 a) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and with Art. 1 No. 1 and Art. 2 in conjunction with the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2018/1882. The prescribed disease control measures therefore apply.

The basis for the control of avian influenza in Germany is the Avian Influenza Ordinance in the version published on October 2018. The control measures follow the general principles of animal disease control. Art. 71 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 gives Member States the option of laying down national measures in addition to the disease control measures under European law, provided that the national measures comply with European law and are necessary and proportionate to combat the spread of the disease. The national Avian Influenza Ordinance (GeflPestSchV) therefore continues to apply in all parts, provided that it does not set lower requirements than European law or contradicts it and the measures are necessary and proportionate.
Additional measures have been developed at federal state level, for example in North Rhine-Westphalia. There, a special animal disease notification program (TSN) can be used to designate restricted areas around possible suspected outbreaks within a very short time. If a suspected case is confirmed, the affected site is closed and a special task force supports the districts in combating bird flu.

Is the plan being implemented?
☑ Yes (please provide details)

››› s. above

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

››› The spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been ongoing in the recent years. Populations of many wild waterbird species are likely impacted however the consequences for the conservation statuses are unknown. Waterbirds of particular conservation concern in Germany which are likely to be strongly affected by HPAI are the Sandwich Tern (Talasseus sandvicenis), the Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) or the Gannet (Morus bassanus). Germany has started projects in which the influence of the HPAI on the Sandwich Tern and the Gannet (also considering other cliff-nesting seabirds on Helgoland) is investigated as well as which measures are feasible to minimize the spreading and consequences of the HPAI and to strengthen the populations.

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

››› 22.05.205