



## 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**

>>> Albania

## **Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party**

>>> 01/09/2001

**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.**

>>> No reservations made by the Contracting Party.

## 2. Institutional Information

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

### Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Directorate of Programs for the Development of Environment

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Mr. Blendi Klosi, Minister of Tourism and Environment

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Blvd. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Nr. 1

P.O.Box

>>> 1001

Postal code

>>> 1001

City

>>> Tirana

Country

>>> Albania

Telephone

>>> + 355 4 2270630

Fax

>>> + 355 4 2270625/7

Website

>>> [www.turizmi.gov.al](http://www.turizmi.gov.al)

### Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Mr. Ermal Halimi, Expert at the Directorate of Programs for the Development of Environment

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Blvd. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Nr. 1

P.O.Box

>>> 1001

Postal code

>>> 1001

City

>>> Tirana

Country

>>> Albania

Telephone

>>> (+355 4) 227 06 24 / 27

Fax

>>> (+355 4) 227 06 23

E-mail

>>> [ermal.halimi@turizmi.gov.al](mailto:ermal.halimi@turizmi.gov.al) / [ermalhalimi@yahoo.com](mailto:ermalhalimi@yahoo.com)

Website

>>> [www.turizmi.gov.al](http://www.turizmi.gov.al)

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

<http://www.turizmi.gov.al>

**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.

Another person has been designated as the National Respondent

Name and title of the DNR

>>> Taulant Bino PhD

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Albanian Ornithological Society

Mailing address - Street and number

>>> Rr. Ymer Kurti, Olympia Center, 2nd Floor, No. 24.

P.O.Box

>>> 1001

Postal code

>>> 1001

City

>>> Tirana

Country

>>> Albania

Telephone

>>> +355692060817

E-mail

>>> [taulant.bino@aos-alb.org](mailto:taulant.bino@aos-alb.org)

Website

>>> [www.aos-alb.org](http://www.aos-alb.org)

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

<http://www.aos-alb.org>

**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.

>>> Ermal Halimi, AEWA NFP, Expert at the Directorate of Programs for the Development of Environment, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania.

# Pressures and Responses

## 4. Species Conservation

### 4.1 Legal Measures

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Ministry of Tourism and Environment plans to undertake this review in 2021-2022 period.

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

**See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3**

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Ministry of Tourism and Environment plans to undertake this review in 2021-2022 period.

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

One or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Tap recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

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

>>> 1. The protection and adaptation of wild and migratory birds in the territory of the Albanian Republic, is being helped ensuring a favorable ecological, scientific and cultural conservation status. In accordance with that it is forbidden: a. Intentional killing and capturing with any sort of method. Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Ministry of Tourism and Environment plans to undertake this review in 2021-2022 period.

Was a review undertaken before MOP8?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Ministry of Tourism and Environment plans to undertake this review in 2021-2022 period.

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

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

No

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

>>> Lack of technical capacities in the country. So far AEWA guidelines are not well known.

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.1. Legal Measures**

>>> The existing hunting ban, in force since 2014, has also somehow hampered the efforts for the

implementation of the guidelines.

## 4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

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

**Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP**

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place  
>>> Lack of institutional capacities

Please provide a description of the actions implemented  
>>> Taking is forbidden and the majority of wintering and breeding habitats designated as Protected Area.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place  
>>> Lack of institutional capacities.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented  
>>> Taking is forbidden by legal framework

### **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  
>>> Lack of institutional capacities.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented  
>>> Taking is forbidden and the majority of wintering and breeding habitats designated as Protected Area.

### **Dalmatian Pelican / *Pelecanus crispus* National Plan for Dalmatian Pelican / *Pelecanus crispus***

NP in place and being implemented

When was the plan approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details for any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.  
>>> Action plan approved and published in 2017.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Advanced implementation - most of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the plan

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of implementation.

>>> Monitoring and protection measures of the breeding colony are in place.

**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

>>> Albanian authorities and national NGOs have helped in preparing the International Species Action Plan.

**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

>>> Albanian authorities and national NGOs have helped in preparing the International Species Action Plan.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of institutional capacities.

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

No

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the preparation of NSSAPs?

>>> Lack of institutional capacities.

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.2. Single Species Action Plans**

>>> Action plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) Action Plan for the Conservation of Pygmy Cormorant (*Microcarbo pygmeus*)

### 4.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

Emergency situation has occurred

**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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Not applicable as no emergency situation has occurred so far

#### 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

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

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

No

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

>>> No translocation has ever occurred in Albania.

#### 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 newly enacted law on Wild Fauna Protection (October, 2008), approved by the Albanian Parliament, the introduction of non-native species species that may have a detrimental effect on wild fauna is prohibited. The law is enforced by the General Inspectorate of Environment and Forests (Ministry of Environment)

**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)**

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date of the process

>>> This process not being finalized yet.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There are no cases of non-native waterbird species for eradication in Albania.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Non such non-native species present in Albania.

**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

>>> This provision of AEWA Guidelines is fully included in the newly in acted law on Wild Fauna Protection (October, 2008).

#### **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.

>>> Lack of sufficient funding.

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

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of sufficient funding.

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of sufficient funding.

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

**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

>>> Lack of expertise.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of expertise and sufficient funding.

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

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of funding.

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of funding.

When and how do you plan to do that?

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

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

Not Applicable

Please explain the reasons.

>>> N/A

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of sufficient funding.

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

>>> There is no plan in place for the short-term.

# 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

>>> • Inventory of Albanian Wetlands was published in 2004 by ECAT Tirana in collaboration with a EKBY (Greek Biotope/Wetland Center). • Bino T., Jorgo G., 2001. Identification of Conservation status and Threats over wetlands considered as IBAs in Albania. ASPBM and Birdlife International. • Casale, F. & Bino, T. 2000. Albania. Pp. 67-76. in M. F. Heath and M. I. Evans, eds. Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority sites for conservation. 2: Southern Europe. Cambridge, UK : BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). • Moitorig of wintering and breeding waterbirds is in place since 1995.

#### **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

>>> IBA identification and inventories on migratory waterbirds in Albania have been conducted based on AEWA guidelines.

### 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).

>>> Future implications assessed in National Communication Reports of Albania for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

##### **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).

>>> Future implications assessed in National Communication Reports of Albania for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

#### **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 designation and management of nationally important sites. (Sites of national importance excludes the sites already reported above as internationally important)

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

>>> 15

Total area (ha)

>>> 90000

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 12

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 70000

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

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

>>> Some protected areas are better managed than others.

Internationally important protected sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented

Number of sites

>>> 5

Area (in ha)

>>> 70000

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> Only some of the authorities tend to correctly implement the management plans. Internationally important sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented and includes management objectives related to maintaining or increasing the resilience of existing ecological networks, including resilience to climate change

Internationally important sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented and includes management objectives related to maintaining or increasing the resilience of existing ecological networks, including resilience to climate change

Number of sites

>>> 5

Area (in ha)

>>> 70000

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Low

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

>>> A few management plans have foreseen objectives dealing with climate change resilience. Their implementation is still at a preliminary phase.

## All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 15

Total area (ha)

>>> 90000

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 15

Area of national importance under national protection area designation  
>>> 90000

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation  
 Moderate

Please provide details and reasons for the lower level of effectiveness.  
>>> Some protected areas are better managed than others.

Nationally important protected sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented  
Number of sites  
>>> 7

Area (in ha)  
>>> 75000

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures  
 Moderate

Please provide details and reasons for the lower level of effectiveness.  
>>> Only some of the authorities tend to correctly implement the management plans.

Nationally important sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented and includes management objectives related to maintaining or increasing the resilience of existing ecological networks, including resilience to climate change  
Number of sites  
>>> 2

Area (in ha)  
>>> 30000

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures  
 Low

Please provide details and reasons for the low level of effectiveness.  
>>> A few management plans have foreseen objectives dealing with climate change resilience. Their implementation is still at a preliminary phase.

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  
>>> Lack of available expertise.

### **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)  
>>> Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, Prespa National Park

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING  
 Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan  
>>> Strategic Policy Document for the protection of Biodiversity. 2016. Approved by the Albanian Council of Ministers through the Decision of Council of Ministers No. 31 dated 20.01.2016. A revision of the network of Protected Areas took place in 2019-2020. The document is not yet finalized and publicly available.

Has it been implemented?  
 No

Please explain the reasons  
>>> Lack of resources.

## MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan

>>> Strategic Policy Document for the protection of Biodiversity. 2016. Approved by the Albanian Council of Ministers through the Decision of Council of Ministers No. 31 dated 20.01.2016. A revision of the network of Protected Areas took place in 2019-2020. The document is not yet finalized and publicly available.

Has it been implemented?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of resources.

### **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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> It is being developed but not yet implemented.

### **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

>>> All the wetland sites designated as IBAs are designated as Protected Areas and ASCI (Areas of Special Conservation Interest).

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of human resources

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of human resources.

# Pressures and Responses

## 6. Management of Human Activities

### 6.1. Hunting

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

Yes

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

>>> Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of fauna" as amended. Law No. 61/2016 "On the proclamation of hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania". Law 81/2017 "On protected areas".

**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))**

No

Please explain the reasons and barriers to introduction of legislation

>>> A two year hunting moratorium has been imposed in March 2014 - March 2016, and other five year hunting moratorium has been imposed in 2016 - 2021. According to MoTE the existence of hunting ban makes irrelevant the discussions on phasing out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands.

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

>>> The same comment as per above.

**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?

Low

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

>>> The environmental inspectorate has been reformed and as such the control of poaching is shared among several institutions with some of them without experience in controlling poaching and managing hunting activity. Good effectiveness in some coastal protected area while limited effectiveness in the rest of the country.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Implementation of measures remains limited due to lack of sufficient human infrastructure and appropriate logistics.

**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)**

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Due to the hunting ban there is no proficiency testing for hunters in place.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> A few publications such a Hunter's Manual might serve as Best Practice codes for hunting. Nevertheless,

there are no official standards for hunting apart the specific legislation.

**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?

>>> Limited experience on working with AEWA guidelines. Instead nationally developed guidance has been used in that case.

## 6.2. Ecotourism

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

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> Wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism is mentioned in several strategic documents. Some protected areas have developed facilities for ecotourists.

**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)

>>> Wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism is mentioned in several strategic documents. Some protected areas have developed facilities for ecotourists.

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

Medium

Please provide details

>>> Despite the positive developments the ecotourism infrastructure is still limited.

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for successful delivery and barriers to fuller delivery

>>> The development of ecotourism infrastructure should be complemented with the development of local capacities guiding and hosting the ecotourists.

## 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.

>>> No restrictions in place.

**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, but not being implemented properly or at all

Please explain the reasons

>>> Some developments planned at the coastal are unsustainable and SEA/EIA legislation is not properly implemented.

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

Entire country

Please provide details

>>> SEA/EIA legislation is national and it is applied all over the country.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> By law, both SEA/EIA should consider all the habitats and species.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Public participation is mandatory for SEA and full EIA.

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

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> SEA/EIA legislation foresees for avoidance, mitigation and compensation for adverse impacts of development activities.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

Medium

**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.

>>> There is no official register for recording the cases of adverse impacts of development activities.

Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.

>>> Vjose-Narta Landscape Protected Areas Divjaka-Karavasta National Park Butrint National Park Buna-Velipoja Landscape Protected Area

Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and the impacts that have been addressed.

>>> Divjaka-Karavasta National Park - A large development plan has been rejected in 2019 by the governmental authorities.

Please list those sites with their names, central geographic coordinates and observed impacts.

>>> Vjose-Narta Landscape Protected Areas Divjaka-Karavasta National Park Butrint National Park Buna-Velipoja Landscape Protected Area

**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.

No

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

>>> Limited experience with AEWA guidelines. National guidelines have been used instead of AEWA guidelines.

**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?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Procedures of public consultation and participation in decision-making for new power lines foreseen in SEA/EIA legal framework. Nevertheless, their implementation needs strengthening as not all the relevant actors are consulted and no joint monitoring is happening. Furthermore the impact of the existing power lines are not monitored.

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?

No

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

>>> Appropriate SEA/EIA process is still missing and implementation remains a matter of concern.

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?

No

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

>>> Appropriate SEA/EIA process is still missing and implementation remains a matter of concern.

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

No

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

>>> Appropriate SEA/EIA process is still missing and implementation remains a matter of concern. Sometimes SEA/EIA process is considered as a formality and therefore not properly implemented.

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.

No

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

>>> Appropriate SEA/EIA process is still missing and implementation remains a matter of concern. Sometimes SEA/EIA process is considered as a formality and therefore not properly implemented.

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?

No

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

>>> Appropriate SEA/EIA process is still missing and implementation remains a matter of concern. Sometimes SEA/EIA process is considered as a formality and therefore not properly implemented. In addition, relevant institutions responsible for energy infrastructure are not very much aware about the risks that electrocution and collision poses for waterbirds.

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

No

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

>>> There is no national estimation about the levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision.

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?

No

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

>>> Appropriate SEA/EIA process is still missing and implementation remains a matter of concern. Sometimes SEA/EIA process is considered as a formality and therefore not properly implemented. In addition, relevant institutions responsible for energy infrastructure are not very much aware about the risks that electrocution and collision poses for waterbirds.

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

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> Some monitoring activities are undertaken by nature conservation NGOs.

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?

>>> Monitoring remains very limited and based mostly in efforts from NGOs.

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

No

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

>>> Limited experience with AEWA resolutions. The institution involved with drafting the strategy was not properly aware of AEWA resolution 5.11.

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

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

No

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

>>> Limited experience with AEWA guidelines. National guidelines in accordance with the national legislation have been followed instead.

## **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?

No

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

>>> Limited experience with AEWA resolutions. Lack of institutional capacities especially in terms of qualified staff.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Limited experience with power grid impacts on birds.

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

No

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

>>> Such a monitoring does not include wildlife even if it is a legal obligation. Responsible institutions do not properly implement the law.

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

No

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

>>> Lack of financial resources for compensation of damages on biodiversity and the liability clauses not properly implemented.

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> So far there are no wind farms and wind turbines in Albania.

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.

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> So far there are no wind farms and wind turbines in Albania.

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.

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> So far there are no wind farms and wind turbines in Albania.

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> So far there is no biofuel production in Albania.

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

No

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

>>> Limited experience with AEWA resolutions. The institution involved with drafting the strategy was not properly aware of AEWA resolution 5.11.

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

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

No

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

>>> Limited experience with AEWA resolutions.

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

No Information

When and how do you intend to fill this information gap?

>>> Distribution of questionnaires and collection of information.

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

Yes

Please provide details for each project / initiative

>>> A few projects are developed by national nature conservation NGOs.

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

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

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all waterbird species are covered by monitoring schemes that yield statistically robust estimates of breeding population size and trend at least once in every triennium.]

Please provide details.

>>> The monitoring scheme for breeding waterbirds functional since 1996 and provides robust data on populations of breeding waterbirds.

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

Yes

#### Covering the passage period

No monitoring schemes in place

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Lack of human capacities and logistics

#### 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.

>>> Wintering sites in Albania are monitored during the International Waterbird Census (IWC) which is functional since 1993.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> An analysis of the waterbirds trend is undertaken and the potential responsible factors are discussed.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> A report on IWC is prepared every year and the data is used for the purpose of AEWA reporting.

### 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)

Yes

Which country(ies) were supported?

>>> Albania has supported the initiation of the IWC monitoring scheme in Kosovo

Please provide details

>>> Joint IWC monitoring for transboundary wetlands. Field training on bird identification and monitoring in Kosovo.

**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

>>> At least, all midwinter water birds censuses are made in accordance with AEWA Guidelines for water bird monitoring protocol.

**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

>>> Midwinter Waterbird Census, as part of IWC, has been supported by the government since 2015.

**Internationally**

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Joint IWC monitoring for trans-boundary wetland sites

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

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

No

Please explain the reason

>>> Lack of available funding.

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

No

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

No

Please provide reason(s)

>>> Lack of funds and limited human resources to be engaged with research and monitoring of waterbirds are main constraints.

# 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.

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Awareness raising activities are implemented by state agencies and NGOs. Nevertheless such efforts are not undertaken in the frame of a national program. due to the lack of funding.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not yet but it is in process.

**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

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not yet but it is in process.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of available funds

# Pressures and Responses

## 9. Implementation

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> In process.

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

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of human resources to cover such a role.

**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

>>> Ministry of Tourism and Environment is operational focal point for the implementation of the AEWA and MEAs.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of human resources.

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for the lower effectiveness

>>> Lack of human resources.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of human resources.

**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

>>> Twinning schemes considered for transboundary wetland sites with Montenegro and Macedonia

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Coordination and engagement ensured by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Coordination and engagement ensured by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Coordination and engagement ensured by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

**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

>>> AEWA priorities are incorporated in the Strategic Policy Document for the protection of Biodiversity 2016.

99.2 The relevant Sustainable Development Goals

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of available expertise

99.4 The Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of available expertise

99.5 Other international strategic plans and policies

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of available expertise

**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?**

>>> Further support and strengthening of the Biodiversity Directorate within Ministry of Environment. Improve coordination and communication mechanism among in line Ministries.

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

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of sufficient human capacities

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

>>> Lack of sufficient human capacities

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

>>> The implementation of AEWA benefits from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at national level through information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Adaptation Fund and Global Environmental Facility.

## Pressures and Responses

### 10. Climate Change

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

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Undertaken

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

>>> Research undertaken in Kune-Vain Managed Nature Reserve and Drini-Mati River Basin through the support of UNDP.

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

>>> National Communication Strategy reported nearby United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Third National Communication Strategy:

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

[Third National Communication Strategy:](#)

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

Undertaken

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

>>> National Communication Strategy reported nearby United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> In process under the draft of country's Strategy on Climate Change

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

No relevant activities

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of human capacities and available funding.

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.

No

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

>>> Lack of know how.

## **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

>>> A proper system of monitoring and alerting is not in place.

List required further guidance or information

>>> Awareness raising among public institutions and researchers working with birds. Specific training on monitoring on waterbirds so as to detect cases of Avian Influenza and on institutional steps taken in case there are potential H1N1 cases.

