



## Report on the implementation of AEW A for the period 2021-2024

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEW A) 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 AEW A Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEW A 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 AEW A 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 AEW A National Reports 2021-2024 were compiled and submitted through the AEW A 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/AEW A Secretariat.

# 1. General Information

## **Name of reporting Contracting Party**

>>> South Africa

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

>>> 01/04/2002

**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.**

>>> None

## 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

>>> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the Republic of South Africa

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Director-General: Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala

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

Name and title of the NFP

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Affiliation (institution, department)

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> JESSICA WILMONT

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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 for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters 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.

- >>> 1. Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), two branches, namely: Oceans and Coast Branch and Biodiversity and Conservation branch  
2. South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)  
3. Gauteng Department: Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE) 4. Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)  
5. University of Cape Town, Animal Demography Unit (ADU) & FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology  
6. BirdLife South Africa (BirdLife SA)  
7. Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal (EKZN) Wildlife  
8. South African National Parks (SANParks)  
9. Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
10. Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs  
11. KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs  
12. Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism  
13. Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs  
14. North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation & Tourism (DEDECT)

# 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

>>> An AEWA specific process has not been established, and South Africa's national-level lists of threatened or protected species are not currently well-aligned with Table 1 of AEWA (with the partial exception of AEWA listed seabirds. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations. In addition, South Africa has developed a national AEWA implementation plan, and South Africa's implementing legislation has been considered as part of this multi-stakeholder endeavour.

**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

>>> An AEWA specific process has not been established, and South Africa's national-level lists of threatened or protected species are not currently well-aligned with Table 1 of AEWA (with the partial exception of AEWA listed seabirds. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations. In addition, South Africa has developed a national AEWA implementation plan, and South Africa's implementing legislation has been considered as part of this multi-stakeholder endeavour.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> In South Africa, the use of snares to harvest waterbirds varies at a provincial level

Limes

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

>>> At a National level use of limes is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). At a provincial level regulation to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of limes is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Furthermore, the use of limes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Hooks

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

>>> At a National level use of hooks is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). However, at a provincial level regulation on the use of hooks to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of hooks is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West, and KwaZulu-Natal Province. Furthermore, the use of limes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Animals Protection Amendment Act (Act 7 of 1972)

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

>>> At a National level the use of tape recorders and other electronic devices is regulated through National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). However, at a provincial level regulation on the use of tape recorders and other electronic devices to harvest waterbirds varies in South Africa. i.e the use of tape recorders and other electronic devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Furthermore, the use of limes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Electrocuting 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

>>> Regulation of the use of electrocuting devices to harvest waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of electrocuting devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using electrocuting devices to harvest waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of electrocuting devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Artificial light sources

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

>>> Regulation of the use of artificial light sources in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of artificial light sources is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. In practice, permits for using artificial light sources in the harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of artificial light sources is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Mirrors and other dazzling 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

>>> Regulation of the use of mirrors and other dazzling devices in the harvest waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using such devices in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape. There is no restriction on the use of such devices in the Free State.

Devices for illuminating targets

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

>>> Regulation of the use of devices for illuminating targets in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using such devices in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western

Cape.

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

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

>>> Regulation of the use of sighting devices for night shooting in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such devices is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using such devices in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such devices is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Explosives

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

>>> At a National level, the National Explosives Act (no. 15 of 2003) and NEMBA regulate the use of explosive to harvest waterbirds. However at the provincial level, regulation on the use of explosives in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such explosives is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. In practice, permits for using explosives in harvesting waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of explosives is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Nets

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

>>> Regulation of the use of nets in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of nets is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. Use of nets is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo and the Western Cape.

Traps

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

>>> Regulation of the use of traps in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of traps is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State and North West Province. In practice, permits for using traps for consumptive harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng though capture for research/ringing is permitted. Use of traps is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo, the Western Cape and for certain waterbird species in KwaZulu-Natal.

Poison

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

>>> At a National level, the use of poison in the harvest of waterbirds is regulated through the the Public Health Act (Act. 36 of 1919) and Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947. However, at the provincial level, regulation of the use of poison in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of poison is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. Use of poison is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

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

>>> At a National level, the use of poison in the harvest of waterbirds is regulated through the the Public Health Act (Act. 36 of 1919) and Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947 However, at the provincial level, regulation of the use of poisoned or anaesthetic baits in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such baits is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the North West Province. In practice, permits for using such baits in harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such baits is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Free State, Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

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

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

>>> Regulation of the use of semi-automatic/automatic weapons in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. Use of such weapons is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State and North West Province. In practice, permits for using such weapons in harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of such weapons is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

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

>>> Regulation of the use of aircraft, motor vehicles and boats in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. Use of aircraft, but not motor vehicles or boats, is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng and the Free State. In practice, permits for using aircraft in harvesting of waterbirds are not issued in Gauteng. Use of all three vehicle types is regulated through a permit system in the North West Province. Use of such vehicles is prohibited by provincial legislation in Limpopo, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, partially

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

>>> Regulation of the use of other non-selective taking modes in the harvest of waterbirds varies amongst provinces. i.e the use of such modes is regulated through a permit system in Gauteng, the Free State, North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal. Use of non-selective modes is prohibited by provincial legislation in the Western Cape. By and large, modes of taking are regulated at provincial level, and there are differences in the restrictions imposed by different provincial legislation.

**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

>>> There has been no review of any legislation in relation to the AEWA implementation.

Was a review undertaken before MOP8?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> An AEWA specific process has not been established, and South Africa's national-level lists of threatened or protected species are not currently well-aligned with Table 1 of AEWA (with the partial exception of AEWA listed seabirds. However, a broader process is underway to amend South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, and this offers the potential to better align the Act with South Africa's international obligations. In addition, South Africa has developed a national AEWA implementation plan, and South Africa's implementing legislation has been considered as part of this multi-stakeholder endeavour.

### **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?

>>> The review process is at the Bill level and will allow for the minister to publish notices in the gazette South Africa has gazetted the following legislation: 1. National Oil Spill Contingency Plan was approved in 2021 - which includes the National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response Contingency Plan. 2. The African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan which was first published in 2013, has been reviewed and updated.

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

>>> Explosives and poisons have been used in the past for the control of the Red-billed Quelea, which is not a waterbird species but few (if any) AEWA species are likely to have been affected. The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (10 of 2004), provides for restricted activities of threatened or protected species (which requires a permit) and stipulates that "hunting, catching, capturing or killing any living specimen of a listed threatened or protected species by any means, method or device whatsoever... with the intent to hunt, catch, capture or kill such specimen.

## **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**

### **Grey Crowned Crane / *Balearica regulorum* National Plan for Grey Crowned Crane / *Balearica regulorum***

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> There is no NP, however the activities of the implementation plan developed by the AEWA GCC IWG are been implemented in the Country.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Grey Crowned Crane Single Species Action Plan Activities under Objective 1: Reduce adult and juvenile mortality and loss of birds Through the EWT/Eskom Partnership, we aim to reduce the risk of Grey Crowned Crane collisions with overhead powerlines through the following approaches. 1. We are actively involved in EIA's related to energy infrastructure development in order to guide appropriate mitigation such as line placement/routing, line marking and line design. 2. Grey Crowned Cranes are included in the collision risk modelling completed by the EWT for Eskom in order to identify high collision risk areas within Eskom's management units, in order to guide proactive line marking and/or the placement and mitigation of any new power lines not subject to the EIA process (132 kV or less). 3. We investigate any and all reports of Grey Crowned Crane mortality as a result of colliding with overhead power lines and propose appropriate mitigation to prevent reoccurrence. During 2020, we investigated four separate powerline incidents involving Grey Crowned Crane mortalities. These investigations resulted in subsequent mitigation, significantly reducing the

risk of further collisions along the respective sections of line. Activities under Objective 2: Increase breeding success and reproductive rates and 3: Significantly reduce further loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitat. These activities specifically refer to the protection of Grey Crowned Crane breeding sites (wetlands). The ICF/EWT partnership, several NGO's, as well as provincial conservation agencies, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW), Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), have facilitated the declaration of several protected areas under the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme that support Grey Crowned Crane breeding pairs. Activities under Objective 4: Filling knowledge gaps We have completed the 28th annual aerial survey for cranes in KwaZulu-Natal. The area covered by the survey accounts for approximately 65-70% of the national population size of Grey Crowned Cranes. Over the past 10 years the Grey Crowned Crane population in their stronghold of KZN has remained stable.

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 ISSAP

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

>>> EWT is involved in the implementation of the ISSAP and focuses mainly on the Wattled Crane, rather than specifically Grey Crowned Crane. However, the plan is to include all the other crane species.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The work of the African Crane Conservation Programme of the EWT-ICF partnership is ongoing. Funding for activities is directed at all 3 crane species occurring in South Africa. Ongoing funding exists for annual aerial surveys, biodiversity stewardship with farmers, powerline mitigation etc. Three field officers are employed, and their work focuses partly on Grey Crowned Cranes, but also on Wattled and Blue Cranes. Research is underway using drones for monitoring and measuring degradation of wetland habitats.

## **Benguela Coastal Seabirds IMSAP National Plan for Benguela Coastal Seabirds IMSAP**

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.

>>> There is not currently a specific national plan in place for implementing the Benguela species IMSAP. However, an implementation plan - including actions specific to South Africa - will be developed by the IMSAP's International Working Group. For the African Penguin specifically, there is a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). Several of the actions in this plan will also benefit the other species covered by the IMSAP. The following activities and/or achievements over the past triennium are: 1. The Benguela Current Forage Fish Workshop was initiated by RSA and held in 2020; 2. South Africa declared 20 new Marine Protected Areas in 2019; 3. Seal Workshop to prevent seal recolonisation on seabird colonies was held in 2019; 4. Control of seal and kelp gull protocol was developed and implemented; 5. National Oil spill contingency plan was drafted and approved - this includes the National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness, Response and Contingency Plan - the two plans were trialed in 2019, comprising both government and private sector; 6. The International Panel Review was held and focused on the impact of island closure for seabirds and fisheries and the implementation of ecosystem approach to fisheries; 7. Research initiated on the effect on the impact of seismic activities on some seabirds; 8. Threatened or Protected Marine Species Regulation 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.

>>> There has been the effective implementation of some actions of the International Multi-species Action Plan for the Conservation of Benguela Upwelling System Coastal Seabirds.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Action Plan is being implemented through the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan; Seabird Technical Team; Small Pelagic Working Groups; and Top Predator Scientific Working Group and the Benguela Current Convention Marine Predators Programme.

## **Slaty Egret / Egretta vinaceigula National Plan for Slaty Egret / Egretta vinaceigula**

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The species is not yet prioritized for NP

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information.

**Maccoa Duck / Oxyura maccoa**  
**National Plan for Maccoa Duck / Oxyura maccoa**

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The NP was developed in 2008 and require a review to consider emerging information.

**Lesser Flamingo / Phoeniconaias minor**  
**National Plan for Lesser Flamingo / Phoeniconaias minor**

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) has taken on the role of coordinator of the Lesser Flamingo International Working Group and is collaborating with the AEWA Secretariat to resuscitate this forum. Discussions are also underway regarding the potential for a coordinated census for this species (possibly for early 2026). The 2022 Pan-African Ornithological Congress provided an opportunity to discuss both of these topics with participants involved in Lesser Flamingo conservation in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> • Following the initial establishment of a Local Conservation Group for Kamfers Dam, it has been decided to expand this group into a South African Flamingo Research and Conservation Group, Terms of Reference for which are in the process of being finalized. It is envisioned that this group's activities will include, inter alia, monitoring population numbers and distribution, assessment of threats and developing strategies to mitigate these, implementing conservation action and safeguarding important sites. The group's founding members are representatives from Ekapa (the BirdLife Species Guardian for the Lesser Flamingo), BLSA, and Sol Plaatje University. Given the recent deterioration in water quality at Kamfers Dam and the absence of breeding flamingoes in recent years, there is a need for further stakeholder engagement to identify and monitor other sites important for breeding flamingos, including Lake Natron in Kenya where there are threats from soda ash mining

• Given that it is a priority to obtain accurate population data for the Lesser Flamingo throughout its range and that ground surveys are not practical for all sites, BLSA has been working to develop a method of deriving population estimates from drone and satellite imagery. This product is currently being refined and, once complete, would provide a rapid, reliable, and scalable method of estimating the state and trend of this species. A hurdle, however, is the cost of satellite imagery at the resolution needed (spatial resolution of ca.50cm).

• Using a combination of field data, water tests/analysis and satellite imagery, BLSA has additionally developed, and aims to refine, a habitat tool that can map the presence and state of suitable foraging habitat for Lesser Flamingos (namely, water bodies with appropriate food sources - i.e., cyanobacteria). A collaborative effort between the environmental specialist at Ekapa Minerals and BLSA has begun to analyse historical and contemporary flamingo populations at several sites, including Kamfers Dam, in conjunction with

water quality and other ecological covariates.

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

Insufficient implementation – few of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the insufficient implementation.

>>> implementation is at initial stage.

### **White-winged Flufftail / Sarothrura ayresi National Plan for White-winged Flufftail / Sarothrura ayresi**

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The country is implementing the plan which was developed in 2015 and reviewed in 2019.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> 1. South Africa, through the national Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) established the National White-winged Flufftail Working Group in 2017. The main objectives of this Working Group are to, coordinate actions for the conservation of the White-winged Flufftail through the implementation of the ISSAP. 2. South Africa, through DFFE, hosted and funded, the 3rd Meeting of the AEWA White-winged Flufftail International Working Group held from 5-7 November 2019 in Dullstroom, Mpumalanga Province. The main objectives of the meeting were to receive comprehensive country reports (South Africa and Ethiopia) on the progress of implementation of priority measures for the White-winged Flufftail on the basis of the detailed Implementation Plan agreed in 2015, receive a report on the latest research findings, revising the Implementation Plan for the next period 2020-2022, identified fundraising opportunities, election of a new chair country amongst others.

The 4th meeting of the IWG is scheduled to be hosted by Ethiopia however, there are challenges of funds, thus no meeting has been scheduled as yet and both countries have been implementing the plan as reviewed in 2019.

3. Nationally, DFFE coordinates annual meetings with relevant stakeholders (National (DEFF, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE); Provincial Conservation Departments where the species occur (Mpumalanga, Free State & KwaZulu-Natal - Eastern Cape) and relevant entities – SANBI and Eskom, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Private land owners such as BirdLife South Africa, Middelpunt Wetland Trust ) to discuss the progress on the implementation Plan. The progress report has been submitted to the AEWA secretariat detailing all activities. attached for ease of reference.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Annexure 2 IWG Implementation Plan Report \(2020-2021\).pdf](#)

[Annexure 2 WwF 3IWG Implementation Plan Report 2024.pdf](#)

[Annexure 2 WwF 3IWG Implementation Plan Report 2022.pdf](#)

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 ISSAP

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

>>> The national coordination and commitment from stakeholders enabling the effective implementation.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There are no funds available to assist.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There are no funds available.

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

Yes

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

>>> The Mpumalanga Province currently hosts several registered research projects dedicated to gathering point and telemetry data to map the flyways of priority avifauna species affected by wind energy facilities (WEFs). These studies aim to enhance understanding of bird movements and inform conservation efforts in the region. Among the species under investigation are the Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradiseus*) and the Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*), both of which are of conservation concern. The research is being conducted in collaboration with key non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), which play a crucial role in ensuring that data-driven conservation strategies are implemented to mitigate the impact of WEFs on these vulnerable bird populations.

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

Yes

When was this review and prioritization completed?

>>> The model used for AEWA plan is working well and there was no need to develop the NP

Has a corresponding national resource mobilization plan been established?

Yes

When was this resource mobilization plan completed?

>>> 2024

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

>>> the National AEWA Implementation Plan

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Annexure 4 RSA AEWA Implementation Plan V1 12.12.2024.pdf](#)

**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**

**South Africa**

**African Penguin / Spheniscus demersus**

**National Single Species Action Plan for African Penguin / Spheniscus demersus**

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> The NSSAP was developed in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In developing the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for African Penguin. The national legislation was considered.

### 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.

No 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.

No

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

>>> South Africa has its own guidelines in dealing with the emergency situations Furthermore, South Africa has developed the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) which was approved in January 2021. The NOSCP has an Annexure on responding to oiled wildlife in the form of a National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness, Response and Contingency Plan (NOWPRCP). The country has established an Incident Management Organisation (IMOrg) comprising of the private sector, NGOs and the different spheres of government. The IMOrg is aimed at coordinating the different role players responding to oil under one umbrella.

### 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)

Yes

Please provide details on the register

>>> Partially. Provided for in the BMP for African penguin

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

Partial

Please provide details

>>> These are species specific and not generic to all waterbirds

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

Yes

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

##### **Jackass Penguin / Spheniscus demersus**

##### **Projects for Jackass Penguin / Spheniscus demersus**

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

##### **Cape Cormorant / Phalacrocorax capensis**

##### **Projects for Cape Cormorant / Phalacrocorax capensis**

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

##### **Hartlaub's Gull / Larus hartlaubii**

##### **Projects for Hartlaub's Gull / Larus hartlaubii**

No plan in place, but the idea of re-establishment is being considered

**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?

>>> National Conservation translocation guidelines for the African Penguin were drafted following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations A plan for the repatriation of Lesser Flamingos was drafted also using the following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations

#### **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.

>>> The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management of alien and invasive species through the control of their introduction and spread, as well as the control or eradication of those already established. [New Alien and Invasive Species Lists and Regulations will enter into force on 1 March 2021.

**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.

>>> Duty of care on persons who carry out restricted activities with alien and listed invasive species, or who own land on which listed invasive species occur has been established.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Provided for by the National Environmental Biodiversity Act and its Threatened or Protected Species Regulations or Alien Invasive Species Regulations

**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

**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

>>> Research undertaken by the Agricultural Research Council on the identification and dissemination of biological control agents, particularly for the control of aquatic plants such as water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes, water lettuce Pistia stratiotes, and water fern Azolla filiculoides.

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with the issue?  
>>> South Africa has its own Regulations which were developed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 10 of 2004).

#### 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)**

Yes

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

>>> There has been a comprehensive assessment of bycatch in most commercial fisheries in South Africa but in general these affect seabirds that are not AEWA-listed species (e.g. albatrosses and petrels). The Cape Gannet is the only AEWA-listed species to experience significant levels of bycatch in the trawl and long-line fisheries. This impact was assessed Maree et al. 2014, Rollinson et al. 2017.

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

Yes

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

Yes

**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)**

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Yes

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

>>> - M.S. de Villiers, S. Mecenero, R.B. Sherley, E. Heinze, J. Kieser, T.M. Leshoro, L. Merbold, A. Nordt, N.J. Parsons, and H-U. Peter "Introduced European Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Domestic Cats (*Felis catus*) on Robben Island: Population Trends and Management Recommendations," South African Journal of Wildlife Research 40(2), 139-148, (1 October 2010). <https://doi.org/10.3957/056.040.0205> M.S. de Villiers, S. Mecenero, R.B. Sherley, E. Heinze, J. Kieser, T.M. Leshoro, L. Merbold, A. Nordt, N.J. Parsons, and H-U. Peter "Introduced European Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Domestic Cats (*Felis catus*) on Robben Island: Population Trends and Management Recommendations," South African Journal of Wildlife Research 40(2), 139-148, (1 October 2010). <https://doi.org/10.3957/056.040.0205>

Have you prioritised them for action?

Yes

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

>>> Most of the domestic cats were removed from Robben Island; All the European rabbits were also removed from Robben Island.

**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.

>>> A mobile trailer containing emergency oiled wildlife response equipment was procured and placed at SANCCOB in the Port Elizabeth following the 2016 and 2019 oil spills. South Africa has modelled hotspot areas based on previous oil spills.

Are AEWA seabirds and seabird sites adequately represented within existing oil spill response plans?

Yes

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

>>> The National Oiled Wildlife Preparedness, Response and Contingency Plan has been drafted for species most vulnerable to oil spills. Historical oil spills in South Africa has largely affected seabirds more than other marine species.

**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.

>>> Not applicable

**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)**

Yes

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

>>> Marine Important Bird Areas for the Endangered African Penguin (8 sites), Cape Gannet (2 sites) and Cape Cormorant (4 sites) have been included in the Critical Biodiversity Area map that the South African government will use to expand South Africa's Marine Protected Area network. Research on non-breeding distributions of African Penguins and Cape Gannets is ongoing by BLSA, in collaboration with Nelson Mandela University and DFFE.

# 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

>>> Through the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), South Africa approved for implementation the 2018 National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) which draws heavily on the original NPAES which was developed in 2008. The NPAES has a 5 years and 20 years targets. Additionally, DEFF has partnered with BirdLife SA to implement what are known as Important Birds and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). Of the 13 500 sites worldwide, 113 are found in South Africa. Of the 112 IBAs assessed by BirdLife SA in 2015, 51 (46%) were fully protected, 33 (29%) partially protected, and 28 (25%) were found to be completely unprotected. The majority of the unprotected areas are found on private and communally-owned land. Since 2015, many more protected areas have been declared in these areas through the national biodiversity stewardship initiative, increasing the number of IBAs under protection. The Department and SANBI are working to identify what is known as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). These form part of the current Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Target 11, which aims by 2020 to conserve at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water resources. It is expected that this network of OECMs will cover many more IBAs important for migratory species. By expanding and effectively managing our protected areas and OECMs more habitat for birds will be safeguarded, incorporating essential ecological services, a wealth of other species, and assist in sustainable economic development. The implementation of the country's National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy makes provisions for negotiating management plans and contracts with private landowners, before proclaiming them as nature reserves and protected environments. This is reinforced through the Stewardship programme that allows for collaboration with landowners on securing conservation areas, thus protecting species such as migratory birds. The flagship programmes in this regard include those aimed at protecting Blue Cranes and the Whitewinged Flufftail. In addition, South Africa is a Party to the Ramsar Convention which is an international convention for the protection and restoration of international importance. This is key because most migratory birds are water birds, such as the Pygmy and Woodland Kingfishers. So far South Africa has 26 Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) covering a surface area of 563,005 hectares. More than 23 of the 26 Ramsar sites in South Africa are located within the nature reserves and national parks. The Management Authorities of each of the 26 sites are required to ensure there is not degradation, or changes to the ecological character, of these areas while protecting critical species, such as migratory birds. web link:  
[https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/worldmigratory\\_birdday2020](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/worldmigratory_birdday2020)

### 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).

>>> The NPAES takes into consideration ecological sustainability and climate change adaptation. In addition, South Africa has produced a Vulnerability Assessment to capture the landscape and the impacts of climate changes on the sites. The Vulnerability Assessment is currently under review and progress to be provided in the next reporting cycle.

##### **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).

>>> The 2018 NPAES has been approved for implementation and include best information for National Freshwater Ecosystems Priority Areas as well as marine ecosystem.

#### **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

>>> 26

Total area (ha)

>>> 563005

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 24

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 559505

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

- High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is being effectively implemented.

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

Number of sites

>>> 23

Area (in ha)

>>> 557028

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

- Moderate

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

>>> Management effectiveness of RAMSAR is being developed

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

>>> 23

Area (in ha)

>>> 557028

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

- Moderate

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

>>> This is a newly developed system and the effectiveness still to be tested.

**All sites of national importance**

Total number

>>> 1645

Total area (ha)

>>> 45638887

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

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

Number of sites

>>> 1645

Area (in ha)

>>> 45638887

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

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

>>> 1645

Area (in ha)

>>> 45638887

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

Has your country identified around which nationally or internationally important sites the establishment of buffer zones is needed to maintain or increase resilience?

Yes

Number of sites that have been identified to be in need of the establishment of buffer zones around them

>>> 1645

Total area (ha) of buffer zones to be established

>>> 45638887

Number of areas with established and adequately managed buffer zones

>>> 0

Total area (ha) of established and adequately managed buffer zones

>>> 0

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

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

>>> The systems has been in place for a while and supported by Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool which is been effectively implemented.

## 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

>>> The 2018 NPAES (attached)

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide details, including when it is expected to be concluded

>>> It has got 5 years and 20 years targets.

## 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

>>> Provinces are also required to develop provincial Protected Area Strategy

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide details, including when it is expected to be concluded

>>> 5 years and 20 years targets.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> There no network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds specifically, however, waterbirds are considered in the declaration of Protected Areas and RAMSAR sites.

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

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

No

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

>>> National legislations are in place for the management of the key sites for migratory waterbirds.

## **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

>>> In process, engagement with BLSA initiated to assist in this regard.

# 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

>>> At a National Level, the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) of South African provide for the sustainable use of the indigenous biological diversity i.e waterbirds The species which may be hunted in each province are stipulated in provincial conservation legislation and the annual hunting proclamations published thereunder. Regulated bag limits and shooting seasons are informed by the distribution, population status and breeding season of each species and may differ between provinces

**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

>>> The threats posed to wildlife by the use of lead shot and other forms of lead ammunition have only begun to receive attention in South Africa relatively recently. It is recognised that addressing this matter requires broad-scale collaboration between multiple stakeholders. A National Lead Task Team which a sub-committee of the National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group has been established to make evidence-based recommendations and support the implementation of processes towards the vision that South African wildlife is not harmed by exposure to lead. The impacts of, and potential strategies for transitioning away from, lead ammunition are being considered by this, multi-stakeholder, group. Wingshooter Associations in Gauteng have voluntarily agreed not to shoot waterfowl over 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

>>> As noted above, a Lead Task Team has been established. The Task Team's Action Plan envisages the preparation of guidance on implementation of CMS resolution 11.5 and other relevant MEAs, and various interventions are being considered in order to address the threats posed to wildlife by lead. Although no steps have been taken towards the legislative prohibition of lead shot for hunting in wetlands, SA Wingshooters and the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association have both recommended that their members not shoot over wetlands with lead shot.

**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?

Other

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> South Africa through the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 4 of 2004): Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS) Regulations at a National level and Provincial legislation regulates illegal killing through a permitting system. For example the following species are listed as a threatened species in terms of Section 56 of NEMBA in terms of ToPS Regulations: The African Penguin; the Blue, Wattled and Grey crowned cranes as well as Black Stork. Subsequently, a permit is required in terms of Section 57(1) of NEMBA for the carrying out of any restricted activity involving a listed species. The Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, 2007, which are under review requires the relevant issuing authority to consider the provisions of the biodiversity management plan, when considering a permit application for any listed species if available. There is no mechanism for assessing the effectiveness of measures to eliminate wild taking.

**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)**

Partially

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> In South Africa, other province proficiency testing is a requirement i.e North West Province but other provinces does not provide for this i.e Gauteng, the Free State, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Approximately 70% of the members of the South African Wingshooters Association are dedicated hunter qualified. This is a voluntary scheme that promotes knowledge of gamebirds and tests firearms proficiency.

**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

>>> South Africa through DFFE is in a process to develop the draft Regulations for the registration of the professional hunting outfitters and trainers.

**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?

>>> There are legal mechanism in place in South Africa to regulate sustainable use of biological diversity i.e harvesting of the migratory waterbirds

## **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

>>> South Africa through the Department of Trade and Industry developed the Niche Tourism Markets Avitourism in South Africa Strategy.

**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)

>>> Several protected areas contain Ramsar sites and/or waterbird attractions. Examples include the estuaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and West Coast National Park. Notably, seabird ecotourism is a growing field (especially for African Penguins' land-based colonies). Visitors to Boulder's Beach, South Africa, increased from 580,000 in 2006 to 930,000 in 2017; and gate revenues in 2009/2010 alone were ZAR14.5 million. See further <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2989/1814232X.2012.716008>

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:

Medium

Please provide details

>>> Several protected areas contain Ramsar sites and/or waterbird attractions. Examples include the estuaries of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and West Coast National Park. Notably, seabird ecotourism is a growing field (especially for African Penguins' land-based colonies).

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

>>> There are programmes in place to ensure that communities benefit from ecotourism.

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

No

### 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.

>>> The threats posed to wildlife by lead fishing tackle and sinkers are being considered by South Africa's national Lead Task Team, which is exploring a variety of interventions in this regard. The focus of the Task Team's discussions, however, is currently on the impact of lead sinkers on crocodiles.

**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 National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) provides for the listing of activities that may not commence without environmental authorisation. Three 'listing notices' are currently applicable, which specify activities that require environmental authorisations based either on a 'basic assessment' or on scoping and a full EIA. The process governing these authorisations is prescribed primarily by the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> SEA/EIA processes consider the environment comprising the natural, physical and socio-economic aspects. Biodiversity including all species is one of the chapters to be included in a Strategic Environmental Assessment and is normally captured along with the flora and fauna topics in the EIA process. SEA/EIA seeks to ensure that legal requirements are fulfilled while, at the same time, effectively and efficiently connecting relevant procedures, allowing the sharing and reuse of biodiversity. The habitat requirements of all species are commonly fulfilled during the planning and project design of the development which is guided by the SEA process then followed by the EIA process. That is the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact on wetlands are covered by the NEMA: EIA Regulations. As well, the majority of activities that have the potential to significantly impact upon wetlands are covered by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA Regulations. [In the course of the past triennium, South Africa's EIA process has been strengthened considerably through the introduction of the national web-based environmental screening tool and associated protocols for specialist assessments and reports. The screening tool is a geographically based, web-enabled application, which makes it possible to screen proposed development sites for environmental sensitivities, such as the likely presence of species of conservation concern. Habitat layers for threatened terrestrial bird species have been integrated into the screening tool. Since October 2019 it has been mandatory for environmental authorisation applications to include a screening tool report. To complement this system, a series of legally binding protocols have been developed, which provide a minimum set of assessment and reporting criteria for various environmental themes. When the screening tool report identifies a particular theme, the accompanying protocol must be applied. In March 2020, an Avifaunal Protocol was introduced, which focuses specifically on the impacts on avifauna by onshore wind energy. Subsequently, in October 2020, a Terrestrial Animal Species Protocol was introduced, and this has since been supplemented by a more comprehensive Species Environmental Assessment Guideline. The latter Protocol requires specialist assessments to consider not only species of conservation concern, but also "roosting and breeding or foraging

areas used by migratory species where these species show significant congregations, occurring in the vicinity"; and the Guideline explicitly defines "migratory species" to include AEWA-listed species that are native to South Africa. The Guideline is available here:  
[http://opus.sanbi.org/jspui/handle/20.500.12143/6922?fbclid=IwAR3ztnOGim4Om\\_FHHrxgS8griRQTYIqj5nTfPhzp2B3KoAN43XXevKbDAk](http://opus.sanbi.org/jspui/handle/20.500.12143/6922?fbclid=IwAR3ztnOGim4Om_FHHrxgS8griRQTYIqj5nTfPhzp2B3KoAN43XXevKbDAk)

Do the SEA/EIA processes include cumulative impact assessment?

Yes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Public involvement and consultation is a vital component of both successful EIA/SEA systems and specific EIA/SEA processes. Public Participation is included in the SEA/EIA processes as required by NEMA and the EIA regulations, as well as the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000) [PAJA]

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Additionally, Section 24(5)(bA) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no 107 of 1998) [NEMA] provides for various environmental management instruments including the SEA and the EIA, for assessing the potential consequences for or impacts on the environment of activities. The National Department of Environmental Affairs, in line with Section 24(5)(bA) of the NEMA, is in process developing Environmental Management Instrument Regulations. Once in place, these regulations will enable the utilisation of a range of instruments (including SEAs) to achieve, amongst others and where relevant, the following:- ensuring the use of other instruments that are 'fit for purpose' (appropriate for the relevant activity or development type in its relevant geographical context);- integrating environmental considerations into the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects;- informing environmental decision making at both strategic and project specific levels; and- reducing reliance on EIAs and / or environmental authorisations (EA).

**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

>>> NEMA identifies a series of environmental management principles, which are to be taken into account by all organs of state when taking actions that may significantly affect the environment. These include the principle that "the disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological diversity are avoided, or, where they cannot be altogether avoided, are minimised and remedied". The mitigation hierarchy should - in principle therefore be considered not only in the environmental authorisation process, but also by decision-makers when issuing various other forms of permits/licences. Specific tools that can be used to secure the avoidance of adverse impacts on sensitive areas include:- designation of the site as a protected area (depending on the category of protected area, various activities are restricted or prohibited - e.g. prospecting and mining activities are prohibited in most types of protected areas);- Section 24(2A) of NEMA allows for geographic areas to be identified within which the granting of environmental authorisations for specified activities is prohibited or restricted;- Section 49 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (28 of 2002) similarly allows for areas to be identified within which the granting of prospecting or mining rights/permits is prohibited or restricted

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for lower effectiveness

>>> Although South African law recognises the need for a hierarchical approach to impact mitigation, numerous challenges often prevent the aims of the mitigation hierarchy from being achieved in practice. Some of these include inadequate and inconsistent methodologies for defining significant impacts; the use of untested/speculative mitigation strategies (for both minimising and rehabilitating impacts); the viability of restoration as a mitigation strategy; identifying the most environmentally appropriate and preferable offsets; inadequate authorisation conditions; inadequate consideration of cumulative impacts; and monitoring of mitigation hierarchy compliance and implementation. In response to these challenges, BirdLife South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Enviro-Insight are currently collaborating on a project aimed at developing Best Practice Guidelines for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy in South Africa. In addition, there are national guideline on biodiversity offsets.

**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

>>> an Environmental authorization is granted with conditions to mitigate for the species.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> There is currently no record in place.

**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

>>> These guidelines are being taken into account in the current NGO-led initiative (referred to in the answers to question 60) to develop Best Practice Guidelines for Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy in South Africa.

**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

>>> South Africa through the EWT has initiated a Wildlife and Energy Programme. The role of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Energy Programme (EWT-WEP) is therefore essential in ensuring that the impacts of these infrastructure on our wildlife is kept to an absolute minimum. The EWT-WEP's largest project is the Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership.

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

>>> South African Bird Atlas Project provides distribution data of all avifauna within South Africa. Coordinated Waterbirds Counts the population sizes at important wetlands. The EIA process uses the Avifaunal Specialist to compile site specific reports on the avifauna, possible impact and mitigations measures

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?

Not applicable

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

>>> This applies usually to the transmission lines especially the larger ones. In relation to the distribution lines it is done partially and it is unclear what the power utility process is in this regard.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The power utility companies have various mitigation measures for various situations which are implemented to reduce the risk of collision and electrocution. This is often done retrospectively when larger numbers of incidences are being recorded at a specific sites or in some case the mitigation measures are implemented/fitted during the construction phase. Retrofitting in this case is facilitated by the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Yes, these lines have been identified, through a process of recording where incidents occur, as well as through a process of risk mapping by the EWT, in collaboration with ESKOM. The focus of the work is on threatened species, including but not limited to threatened waterbird species.

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?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Mitigation measures are implemented at sites where high incidences of mortality are recorded for threatened species. These are logged with the EWT, and incidents are investigated and mitigation measures are recommended to ESKOM, which then mitigates these during its scheduled powerline maintenance. Powerlines in areas that have been identified as high risk according to risk mapping models are also being proactively mitigated (i.e. before incidents are recorded).

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.

>>> Through the EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme, several monitoring projects are run. However, the monitoring is not on a national scale, but rather focused on priority species and high risk lines. A centralised database of all mortality incidents recorded nationally on powerlines is maintained by the EWT, but these are ad hoc reported incidents.

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Testing of mitigation measures occurs through projects run by the EWT-Eskom partnership.

65.11. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country's National

Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

No

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

>>> The NBSAP has been revised to include migratory species

**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?

>>> Internal documents and guidelines are in use by the EWT-ESKOM strategic partnership.

**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

>>> A wind farm sensitivity map was developed by BirdLife South Africa and the EWT. This has largely been replaced by the StraTegic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Energy and the National Site Screening Tool. The latter includes spatial data on the distribution of threatened migratory waterbirds, as well as habitats important for waterbirds.

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.

>>> A National Protocol for The Assessment and Reporting of Environmental Impacts on Avifauna Species by Large Scale Onshore Wind Facilities was gazetted in 2020. This protocol provides the criteria for assessing and reporting impacts on avifauna species associated with the development of large scale onshore wind facilities that require Environmental Authorisation. The assessment requirements of this protocol are based on national (i.e. BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Best-Practice Guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of wind- energy facilities on birds in southern Africa) and international best practice for the avoidance and mitigation of impacts on avifauna species. "Renewable energy technologies and migratory species: Guidelines for sustainable deployment", adopted by the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds/AEWA) reference the BirdLife South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust Best-Practice Guidelines.

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

Yes

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

>>> Monitoring is normally condition of authorisation and is required by BirdLife and the EWT Birds and WindEnergy Best-Practice Guidelines. Monitoring reports are shared with key stakeholders (e.g. BirdLife South Africa) - this has enabled a national review of fatalities (e.g. Perold, V., Ralston-Paton, S., & Ryan, P. G. (2020). On a collision course? The large diversity of birds killed by wind turbines in South Africa. Ostrich, 91, 228-239).

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

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

Yes

Please provide details on the measures implemented.

>>> Pre and post construction monitoring being conducted and reported upon. [Perold et al. 2020 report that

waterbirds account for 11% of bird carcasses found beneath turbines (of which 3% were waterfowl). At the stage, fatality rates for waterbirds at operational wind farms are not considered significant and additional project level mitigation has not been required. For proposed projects, avoidance and mitigation takes place through the SEA and EIA process.

Please share information and lessons learnt from the mitigation measures (attach files or add weblinks, if available)

>>> Impacts can be avoided or minimised through site selection and turbine location

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Compensation for damages to biodiversity is done through Offsets processes.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This is included in impact assessments and mitigation strategies for proposed projects, but it has not been necessary to implement it yet.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This is included in impact assessments and mitigation strategies for proposed projects, but it has not been necessary to implement it yet.

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

>>> This is largely done at a project scale, i.e. within EIAs, sometimes after environmental authorisation was granted.

Other

Yes

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

Not applicable

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

No

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

>>> It will be considered in the next review process.

## **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

>>> South Africa through the Endangered Wildlife Trust was involved in the development of these guidelines

**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

Please provide details

>>> By-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear not taking place in South Africa

**70. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.12 on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa (this question is applicable only to Contracting Parties in Africa).**

70.1. Have relevant government authorities developed and implemented regulations on the trade and application of agrochemicals known to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> Animal protection, nature conservation, environmental management, land use and poison management legislation, which includes the Provincial Ordinances and the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act provide for these.

70.2. Is the use of such agrochemicals regulated around nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, particularly in wetlands, also taking into account run-offs from agriculture affecting aquatic ecosystems?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment adopted the pesticide management policy for South Africa with the following objectives: • To improve legislative framework to ensure that South Africans are better protected from health and environmental risks posed by pesticides; • To encourage the development and use of alternative products and techniques and reduce dependence on chemical plant protection products • To integrate relevant international agreements and initiatives from other government departments; • Increased transparency, access to information and improve public participation in the registration of pesticides This policy also provide for the protection of biodiversity which is another key issue for pesticides is the effect they might have on biodiversity. The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) 2004, (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA); the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant protection; and the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources. Considering how prevalent the use of pesticide is in ecosystems where endangered species are at risk, the DAFF shall give explicit protection for such species. However, the approval system will not eliminate non-target species' effect altogether, and it will be difficult to reduce environmental effects from the use of pesticides to the low level desired, owing to the fact that much of the environmental impact from approved pesticides is attributed to indirect effects - for example, affecting bird chick survival rates by reducing insect populations at critical times. These indirect effects often result from products acting as intended and could sometimes be tackled through major changes to agronomic practice - which may not be practical - or through mitigation. Examples of mitigation measures might include the requirement for the use of certain pesticides or prescribing use only at a specific time. In terms of the water quality protection of which some of the waterbirds use as their habitat the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) makes provision for the protection of water resources, including the prevention of pollution. The Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation as initiated the National Toxicity Monitoring Programme, which will monitor the levels of a number of pesticides in groundwater and surface water to ensure that water pollution from pesticides does not threaten compliance with the National Water Act. An effective approach to reducing pollution of water by pesticides would be, first, to release fewer pesticides and/or less toxic pesticides into the environment and, second, to use practices that minimize the movement of pesticides to surface water and groundwater.

70.3. Are there any steps undertaken to control or reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> South Africa has established the National Poisoning Working Group talking to Wildlife and poisoning not only the waterbirds. Through this process awareness and education is created.

70.4. Have education and training activities been implemented for relevant target groups on the proper

use of agrochemicals that may have possible adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> South Africa has established the National Poisoning Working Group talking to Wildlife and poisoning not only the waterbirds. Through this process awareness and education is created.

**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

>>> The Middelpunt Wetland has been declared a nature reserve and expanding to the Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment, based on careful mapping to identify areas that contribute the most to waterbird conservation, Strategic Water Source Areas, etc. Both sites are positioned at the top of the Oilifants and Crocodile River catchments. Therefore, there is a host of ecosystem services that are being protected and (correctly) managed for the benefit of surrounding (local) and downstream (national) users. Global community benefits are the protection of carbon sinks (peat-based wetlands) to help alleviate climate change. BirdLife South Africa has developed best practice guidelines for wetland management that focuses on peat based wetlands specifically.

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

Partially

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

>>> South Africa, through the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) at University of Cape Town (UCT) launched the Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC) project in 1992 as part of South Africa's commitment to International waterbird conservation. This is done by means of a programme of regular mid-summer and mid-winter censuses at a large number of South African wetlands. Regular six-monthly counts are regarded as a minimum standard; however, we do encourage counters to survey their wetlands on a more regular basis as this provides more accurate data. All the counts are conducted by volunteers; people and organisations with a passion for waterbird conservation. It is one of the largest and most successful citizen science programmes in Africa, providing much needed data for waterbird conservation around the world. Currently the project regularly monitors over 400 wetlands around the country, and furthermore curates waterbird data for over 600 sites. This project is now managed by the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology. Monthly waterbird counts of the Durban Bay Harbour are conducted by Dr David Allan of the Durban Natural Science Museum and have been carried out since 1999. The Western Cape Eastures Project Manager of BirdLife South Africa conducts waterbird surveys across several of the key estuaries within the region including the Berg River, Klein River and Verlorenvlei estuaries. BirdLife South Africa has a dedicated conservation project focusing on the breeding and life history of the White-winged Flufftail. South African National Biodiversity Institute - South Africa Biodiversity Data Pipeline for Wetlands and Waterbirds (BIRDIE) South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) receives a grant to develop a freshwater biodiversity data-to-decision pipeline and web application that will provide the tools and visualizations to bridge the gap between data providers and decision makers. These tools will allow South Africa through partnership between SANBI, University of Cape Town Centre for Statistics in Ecology, the Environment and Conservation, FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Seascope Belgium, Sol Plaatje University School of Natural and Applied Sciences, and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, to better predict, understand, and manage environmental pressures and respond directly to the South African government's objectives and policy needs. This project aims to improve and leverage two citizen sciencebased freshwater bird monitoring data sets which are rich in detail, one consisting of bird counts (Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)) and the other one consisting of checklist data (Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP)). The project is developing data pipelines that use state-of-the-art statistical tools (state-space models and occupancy models) to extract policy-relevant information from the data and serve this information to decision makers in an online dashboard.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> This is mainly done on seabirds birds such as African penguin, bank, Cape, Crown cormorants along the coasts of South Africa. The Durban Bay Harbour counts provide the most well known indication of long-term population trends. Some trend information can also be obtained from the CWAC counts mentioned earlier. Threatened species monitoring at the Ingula Nature Reserve takes place on a monthly basis.

#### Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> See above inputs, South Africa is at the end of the migratory flyway and as such limited passage data can be obtained.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Threats affecting seabirds has been well documented and outlined. Information within the protected area

network and biodiversity stewardship sites are being collected by ecologists and stewardship officers.

### **Covering the non-breeding/wintering period**

Partially

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

>>> See above inputs

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> see above

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Further detail information responding to the above questions will be responded after the completion of the abovementioned BIRDIE project

### **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

>>> Seabirds data and oystercatchers as well as some data on waterbirds are used to determine the distortion and abundance data on the species. The CWAC database is also used in this regard.

### **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?

>>> South Africa through the Southern African Bird Atlas Project: this is a regional programme which caters for the southern African region. SABAP covered six countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Through this programme, Thirteen Regional Atlas Committees (RACs) have been set up for SABAP2, eight in South Africa (including Lesotho), which operate on a provincial level, and one each in Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Through AEWA and Benguela Current Commission (BCC), monitoring program on seabirds has been facilitated and implemented within the national program South Africa, through BirdLife South Africa, provided assistance to Zimbabwe (through BirdLife Zimbabwe) and Botswana (through BirdLife Botswana) by delivering training in the use of citizen science programmes (SAPAB and BirdLasser) in Zimbabwe in May 2019. Additionally, training in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and the identification of KBAs, (including those important for waterbirds) was provided to interested stakeholders in Zimbabwe in 2019.

### **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

>>> SABAP and CWAC are part of the WMCM project and uses the AEWA Guidelines for a waterbird monitoring protocol. Partly AEWA guidelines for seabirds monitoring is also being implemented through national program

### **79. (Applicable to African Contracting Parties only) Were the periods of breeding and of pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species and their respective populations occurring on the territory of your country identified at national level? (Resolution 7.8)**

Yes

Please provide details; provide a reference or attach a file, if available

>>> Research and monitoring is done on all seabirds breeding and roosting in South Africa

### **80. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country?**

**(AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 59 in chapter 6. Management of human activities.**

Yes

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

Yes

**Please select from the list the AEWA species which is/are affected**

**Cape Gannet / Morus capensis**

Is Cape Gannet / Morus capensis affected?

Yes

Please list any additional non-AEWA species which is/are affected.

>>> See response in question 58 of chapter 6 - Management of human activities

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 7. Research and Monitoring**

>>> See question 38 in chapter 5 - Management of human activities.

# 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

**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?

Non-Governmental

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

No

Please explain reasons

>>> The post was vacant, BirdLife South Africa has now provided a staff to spearhead AEWA-related CEPA activities in this country.

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

There is some cooperation

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Work has started to link with the Ramsar CEPA Focal Point to align CEPA issues between Ramsar and AEWA, however there are capacity constraints within the Ramsar Focal Point. Discussions were held at the Ramsar COP15, and collaboration is ongoing.

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

Yes

**Please indicate which measures have been taken:**

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> no formal training was done whoever, orientation was provided in terms of the guidelines as well as the work that needs to be undertaken.

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

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Still developing the training material for South Africa

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

High

Please provide details

>>> Other: South Africa has an on-going education and information activities on waterbirds, waterbird habitats and the Agreement. These includes: Save our Seabirds Festival Held annually in the first week of October as part of the National Marine Week in Cape Town. This is to raise awareness and funds for seabird conservation by educating people of the threats seabirds face and to inspire people on seabirds and make a difference. The festival is centred around themes such as: • Centred around a photographic competition "Oceans of Life" where the winning photographs are displayed at the Iziko Museum • All activities (talks, lectures etc) are free to the public and all income generated by sponsorships etc goes to Seabird Conservation • The Diemersfontein Wine Estate "For the Birds!" red wine launch. Proceeds from the sale of this wine go to African Penguin conservation • Light boxes sourced for displaying the winning "Oceans of Life" photographic competition images. • Independent Newspapers broadsheet adverts, reaching an estimated 2 million people; • The photographic competition is now the biggest marine photographic competition in the world; • A small booklet was produced with details of the event, and • Freshly Ground (a popular music group) gives a FlashMob performance at the V&A Waterfront which is posted to You Tube. They also promote seabird conservation at their concerts. The SOS Festival has become an important event on the national environmental events calendar, and destined to become the biggest environmental event in South Africa. Fluff-tail Festival The objective of the Flufftail Festival is to raise awareness for the need to conserve, not only the White-winged Flufftail, but other wetland birds, their threatened habitat and our country's scarcest natural resource i.e. water. Launched in February 2013 in conjunction with Bird Life South Africa's 2013 Bird of the Year. The annual Flufftail held during the World Wetlands Day week. This is aimed at reaching thousands of business owners and residents through displays and interactive activities with the aim of creating awareness about flufftails and other birds and their important wetland habitat, and it's an opportunity to reach thousands including schools. Activities include but not limited to: • A fashion show themed around Birds. Public figures grace this event; • Orchestra/musical Event which feature a prominent figure; • Bands for Birds featuring a popular music band e.g the Parletones; • Comedy for Conservation; • Series of evening lectures with drinks and snacks; • Proximity to important wetland areas; • Breeding centre for flufftails at Johannesburg Zoo; • Photographic competition on wetlands/terrestrial birds. The winning photographs are displayed in the Square for the duration of the festival; • Finding wetland-related species. Laminated cards that are assembled to spell a word or make a sentence; • Assembling a jigsaw to 'restore a habitat'; • Eating wetland-themed foods. Use chopsticks to eat gummy fish hidden in chocolate 'mud' pudding; • Identify bird calls of five common wetland bird species; • Offering a family event by creating an activities suitable for all ages; encouraging families, groups of friends or workmates to work together to solve puzzles; inviting teams to come up with a creative team name and offering prizes for various challenges; • Learn about wetland features with a number of wetland-related activities; and • Get your feet wet. Create a 'wetland' for educational purposes. Flufftails are used as ambassadors to raise awareness for other birds living in our threatened wetland and grasslands habitat. World Migratory Bird Day The WMBD is an annual event which is celebrated during the second weekend of May. The aim of this event is to raise awareness about the need to conserve and protect migratory birds and their habitats. Activities include: • Development of a media statement on the WMBD. • Development and printing of information pamphlet/posters on the importance of migratory birds and why we need to conserve them. • Procurement of the drawstring bags branded and theme for School learners. • Distribution of information material to disadvantaged schools using a "green" bus • Full page publication of migratory birds in the Minimag and/or VukuZenzele Magazine The timing of the international WMBD celebrations is linked to the return of migratory birds to the northern hemisphere in their summer months.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> WMBD is celebrated in May and October annually. The one celebrated in October caters more closely to the Southern Hemisphere region.

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

Yes

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

>>> The WMBD has been commemorated through media statements due to financial constraints.

**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

>>> Due to financial constrains

**Optionally you can provide additional information on section 8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness**

>>> South Africa has contacted the Secretariat about the AEWA Communication Strategy for alignment when developing the national Strategy for CEPA activities.

## 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))**

Yes

Please provide details; attach the assessment or provide a weblink, if available

>>> Resource Mobilization Strategy is been developed for the sector and will include all biodiversity related issues.

Have you developed a resource mobilization plan?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Plan is still under development phases.

#### **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

>>> South Africa has approached Angola and Namibia to ratify the AEWA. This is in response to the Multispecies Action Plan for the seabirds

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Even though South Africa is developing itself, it will continue to make contacts with neighbouring countries to encourage them to ratify 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

>>> South Africa has established the National Scientific Committee which assist the government in coordinating the implementations of the CMS and its Agreement. This structure assist in compiling the national report and as well as the implementation of the objectives of the Agreement.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The National Scientific Committee comprises of experts from different organizations i.e government, NGOs, industries, Academia e.t.c

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

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for the lower effectiveness

>>> The National Scientific Committee coordination is effective in relation to the implementation mechanism and champions were identified to coordinate different sectors in responding to the reporting of the national AEWA implementation.

#### **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

>>> The process has been initiated and underway

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Twinning is a new concept and need to be understood

**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

>>> In South Africa, through the constitution, all the relevant officers i.e Biodiversity officers from the national, provincial and local government departments are mandated to response to all biodiversity related issues i.e ensuing of hunting permits through the provinces.

**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

>>> In South Africa, through the constitution, all the relevant officers i.e Biodiversity officers from the national, provincial and local government departments are mandated to response to all biodiversity related issues i.e South Africa in a process of developing the AEWA implementation plan based on AEWA strategic plan and AEWA Plan of Action for Africa and these documents links the Sustainable Development Goals

**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

>>> AEWA implementation is embedded and co-ordinated within the National scientific programs

**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  
>>> Migratory Birds, including waterbirds has been including in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) as it covers species.

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  
>>> Sustainable Development Goals are implemented at a national level as they talk to species conservation. i.e through partnerships (NGOs, industries, Academia, government) South Africa is able to implement the provisions of the Agreement. Additionally, through the implementation of AEWA on waterbirds habitat

conservation, South Africa is responding to SDG goal 6 on clean water and sanitation and thus provide in water security.

### 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  
>>> South Africa is currently in a process to develop the national implementation mechanisms based on strategic plan targets.

### **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?**

>>> South Africa support synergies between related MEA's. At a national level there is mechanism coordinated by DEFF in relation to biodiversity MEA's. Additionally, South Africa has embarked on a process to develop a national-AEWA implementation plan. It is envisaged that part of this process will involve identifying areas in which AEWA-implementation overlaps with the delivery of other international commitments, with the result that synergies can therefore be promoted. South Africa is also developing a national plan for Ramsar implementation, and there are opportunities for these two processes to feed into one another.

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

No and has not been prioritised

Please explain the reasons

>>> Limited resources

### **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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Limited funding has been a challenge

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

>>> South-South cooperation through the Transfrontier Conservation Programme, the SADC Protocols, the Benguela Current Commission project.

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

Yes

Please describe each mechanism used

>>> Species conservation issues are considered in the planning domain for conservation and management of species

105.6 Does the implementation of AEWA in your country benefit from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at national level, amongst others, through information sharing on potential funding

opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Proposal for funds submitted but still awaiting response in this regard.

## 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

No relevant activities

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

>>> The Prince Edward Islands: a window into the Southern Ocean For example, the islands provide an important breeding ground for many threatened seabirds, and place them in reach of the highly productive oceanic frontal systems that provide them with food. Recent trends in the numbers and breeding success of seabirds at Marion Island, the larger of the two islands in the group, appear to reflect oceanic changes that may have global consequences. The two eudyptes penguins (Macaroni and Rock hopper penguins) at the island have had a continuous decline by 59 and 48% respectively

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

>>> See 65 (a) above

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

Planned

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

>>> The process has not been undertaken yet.

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

# 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

>>> Managing and controlling the spread of Avian flu outbreak in South Africa. The Gauteng province in South Africa contributes to the National Avian Influenza Surveillance Program.

List required further guidance or information

>>> Protocol was developed and is continued to be implemented across all the seabird breeding colonies

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Health protocol are implemented

### 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

>>> HPAI confirmation relies on PCR testing at approved laboratories.

Has this information been submitted to international databases, e.g. the WOAAH WAHIS system <https://wahis.woah.org/#/home>, which strive to improve understanding of the epidemiology of the disease and its impacts across borders (as called for by the CMS/FAO Co-convened Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds: see paragraph 2.3.1.6 of the 2023 statement of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds on H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza in wild birds - unprecedented conservation impacts and urgent needs (available here)?

Yes (please clarify)

>>> All information is submitted accordingly.

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

Yes

Please provide more information

>>> South Africa utilizes a surveillance system for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) that includes both monitoring dead and rescued birds and collecting samples from waterbirds.

The surveillance system in South Africa focuses on:

Dead and rescued birds: collecting dead or rescued birds for testing and analysis.

Waterbird feces: Collecting fecal samples from waterbirds to detect the presence of HPAI.

Testing: PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction): PCR is the primary test used to detect the RNA of the HPAI virus.

Approved Laboratories: Testing for avian influenza is only be done in laboratories approved by the national Directorate Animal Health.

Outbreak Reporting: Outbreaks of HPAI are reported, and the South African Poultry Association (SAPA) monitors and analyzes the data.

Key Aspects of the Surveillance System:

Early Detection: The surveillance system aims to facilitate early detection and rapid response to HPAI outbreaks.

Data Collection: Data is collected on the number of outbreaks, locations, and affected bird species.

Phylogenetic Analysis: Sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of the virus are used to monitor the emergence of new strains.

Importance of Surveillance: Control and Elimination: Effective surveillance is crucial for preventing, controlling, and eliminating HPAI from the country.

Public Health: Early detection and reporting of outbreaks help protect public health.

Animal Health: Surveillance helps monitor the health of both wild and domestic birds, and can lead to more effective control measures.

Did you report these data to the AEWA Secretariat or Wetlands International to allow population assessments for MOP9 to be made on the basis of most recent information on status?

Yes (Please provide details)

>>> The country report on the population at the 20th TC AEWA meeting

**112. Have you established HPAI contingency plans nationally and at sites of significant importance to waterbirds, including coastal seabirds? (Resolution 8.15)**

Yes, at individual sites

Please provide details and reference to the plans or attach copies

>>> The Gauteng province in South Africa contributes to the National Avian Influenza Surveillance Program.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[viruses-14-02027.pdf](#)

Is the plan being implemented?

Yes (Please provide details)

>>> see attached paper

## 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

>>> 22/09/2025

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Letter\_AEWA\_Secretariat\_Submission\_of\_SA\_Report\_2025.pdf - Approval to submit the report