



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

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

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

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

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

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

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Switzerland

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.11.1999

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

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

>>> Aythya ferina / Common Pochard (MOP7, 4-8 December 2018)

2. Institutional Information

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

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Katrin Schneeberger, Director General

Postal code

>>> CH-3003

City

>>> Bern

Country

>>> Switzerland

Telephone

>>> +41 58 462 93 22

Fax

>>> +41 58 462 99 81

E-mail

>>> patricia.burri@bafu.admin.ch (assistant)

Website

>>> <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home.html>

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Sabine Herzog, Senior Policy Advisor

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Biodiversity and Landscape Division

Postal code

>>> CH-3003

City

>>> Bern

Country

>>> Switzerland

Telephone

>>> +41 58 46 303 40

Fax

>>> +41 58 463 89 74

E-mail

>>> Sabine.Herzog@bafu.admin.ch

Website

>>> <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home.html>

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Sabine Herzog, Senior Policy Advisor

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Biodiversity and Landscape Division

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

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

>>> Sabine Herzog, Senior Policy Advisor

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Federal Office for the Environment FOEN; Wildlife and forest biodiversity Section

Postal code

>>> CH-3003

City

>>> Bern

Country

>>> Switzerland

Telephone

>>> +41 58 46 303 40

Fax

>>> +41 58 463 89 74

E-mail

>>> Sabine.Herzog@bafu.admin.ch

Website

>>> www.bafu.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en

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

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

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

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2021 - 2024

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

>>> Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Swiss Ornithological Institute, CH-6204 Sempach, Switzerland, <http://www.vogelwarte.ch>

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

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

See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3

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

Yes

Did this require adjusting your national legislation?

No

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

>>> Article 7, paragraph 4 of the Federal act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds stipulates that the cantonal authorities provide adequate protection of wild mammals and birds from disturbance. Further, the act includes a penal provision in its article 18, paragraph 1(e): A fine of up to 20,000 Swiss francs is imposed on anyone who intentionally and without authorization disregards measures to protect animals from disturbance.

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

One or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(b)

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(b)

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(b)

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(d)

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(e)

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(e)

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(e)

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(e)

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(e)

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(f)

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(f)

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(b)

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(a)

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(f)

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Article 2.1(f)

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Articles 2.1(h) and 2.1(i)

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

Yes, fully

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

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (SR 922.01), Articles 2.1(j) and 2.1(k)

Other non-selective modes of taking

No

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

No

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

Yes

When was the review completed? Please attach a copy or provide a weblink, if available.

>>> Reviews are published on an annual basis.

In Switzerland, the tasks of the hunting police are regulated by the cantonal authorities, are carried out by the cantonal game departments and enforced by locally organised gamekeepers. The cantonal game departments report on enforcement and compliance in annual reports.

What is the assessed level of enforcement and compliance?

Very high (full compliance - 100%)

Please provide details and reasons for the high level of compliance

>>> No conviction or fine related to the hunting of waterbirds registered.

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.

Not Applicable

Please explain.

>>> Switzerland's national legislation was established prior the publication of the guidelines. The national legislation is in line with the conservation guideline.

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

>>> The federal hunting law prohibits the taking of birds listed in Column A of Table 1.

Seven bird species listed in Column B of Table 1 are hunted in Switzerland (i.e. *Anas penelope*, *A. acuta*, *A. clypeata*, *A. querquedula*, *A. strepera*, *Melanitta fusca* and *M. nigra*). However, the taking of these bird species is regulated according to paragraph 2.1.2 of the Action Plan by the Swiss hunting legislation.

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

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

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The Ferruginous Duck is a regular, rare migrant and winter visitor, extremely rare breeder. The species does not qualify for a national plan but is protected throughout the entire country.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> The species is protected at the national level, major habitats are protected by national legislation.

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.

>>> Species protected at the national level;

Major sites protected by national legislation;

Species is being part of the monitoring programmes implemented by the Swiss Ornithological Institute;

Number of observations is increasing.

(see Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2015-2017)

Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

National Plan for Great Snipe / *Gallinago media*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The Great Snipe is an irregular visitor to Switzerland with less than 10 records per year. Therefore, the species does not qualify for a national plan but is protected throughout the entire country.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Species protected by national legislation, major roosting places protected.

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

White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala*

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The White-headed Duck is classified as "vagrant" with the last record dating from the winter 2011/2012. Therefore, the species does not qualify for a national plan but is protected throughout the entire country. The implementation of the Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis* control/eradication programme contributes to the conservation of the White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala*.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Species protected by national legislation, major roosting places protected.

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

Moderate implementation – some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

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

>>> The White-headed Duck is classified as "vagrant" with very low numbers of records.

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

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

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

Switzerland

White Stork / Ciconia ciconia

National Single Species Action Plan for White Stork / Ciconia ciconia

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> See answer and documentation provided in question 10 of Switzerland's national report 2015-2017.

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

>>> Wiedmer E. (2002): Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites; Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL, working paper - no binding force)

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.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Wiedmer E. (2002): Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites; Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL, working paper - no binding force).

4.4 Re-establishments

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No re-establishment project for waterbird is occurring or is planned in Switzerland.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Legal prerequisite: Federal authorities may, with the approval of the cantons concerned, approve the reestablishment of protected species or species once native in Switzerland (art. 8 of the Ordinance on Hunting and the Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds). The Swiss Species Conservation Plan, however, specifies that re-establishments and resettlement should only be considered as an exception. Rules based on the relevant IUCN guidelines are established for this purpose.

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

White Stork / Ciconia ciconia

Projects for White Stork / Ciconia ciconia

Re-establishment plan developed and being implemented

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

>>> See answer and documentation provided in question 17 of Switzerland's national report 2015-2017.

Has your country informed the AEWA Secretariat in advance of this re-establishment project? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Programme implemented prior to the adoption of the AEWA.

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

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

No

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

>>> No translocation project implemented or planned.

Optionally you can provide additional information on section 4.4. Re-establishments

>>> No re-establishment project for waterbird is occurring or is planned in Switzerland.

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.

>>> A general duty of care is specified by the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (1983, RS 814.01; USG Art. 1 and 29a) and also by the Release Ordinance (2008, RS 814.911 FrSV Art. 1). Releases of alien animal and plant species are regulated by the Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act (1966, RS

451). Article 23 states: "The establishment of animals and plants of species, subspecies and breeds not native to the country or site is subject to approval by the Federal Council." The management of - among others - non-native bird species is regulated by the Hunting Ordinance (1988, SR 922.01, JSV). Art. 8bis prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals.

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.

>>> A general duty of care is specified by the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (1983, RS 814.01, USG Art. 1 and 29a) and also by the Release Ordinance (2008, RS 814.911, FrSV Art. 1).

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

Yes

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

**White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala*
For White-headed Duck / *Oxyura leucocephala***

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

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

Yes

Please provide further information for each relevant programme

>>> The development of programmes is part of the process established by the NAPIS.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> See NAPIS

4.6 Seabirds

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

No

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

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

Yes

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

>>> To date, 10 reserves for waterbirds and migrants of international importance and 25 reserves of national importance have been designated and are protected by virtue of the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32). Revision of the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance: Federal Council enacted, as of 15 July 2015, the revised Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32). The revised ordinance adds 560 hectares to existing protected areas for waterbirds and migratory birds and strengthens the legal safeguards on 1000 hectares in existing sites. This is an important step forward in the creation of an ecological infrastructure, the second objective of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy. These sites are based on the national inventories of sites of international importance (Marti & Schifferli 1986) and national importance (Schifferli and Kestenholz 1995). Not all of these sites are protected through the ordinance. Marti, C. & L. Schifferli (1987): Inventar der Schweizer Wasservogelgebiete von internationaler Bedeutung Erste Revision 1986. Ornithol.Beob. 84: 11-47. Schifferli, L. & M. Kestenholz (1995): Inventar der Schweizer Wasservogelgebiete von nationaler Bedeutung als Brut-, Rast- und Überwinterungsgebiete - Revision 1995. Ornithol.Beob. 92: 413-433.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Further information on the sites protected by national legislation are available from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS).

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).

>>> This is currently being implemented as part of the "Climate Change Adaptation in Switzerland: Action Plan 2020-2025".

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

[Adaptation aux changements climatiques en Suisse: Plan d'action 2020-2025](#) - Avec sa stratégie d'adaptation aux changements climatiques en Suisse de 2012, le Conseil fédéral a créé les conditions nécessaires à une adaptation coordonnée. Cette stratégie présente les objectifs d'adaptation, décrit les défis majeurs et fixe des champs d'action prioritaires pour l'adaptation au niveau fédéral. Le présent plan d'action règle la mise en oeuvre pour la période de 2020 à 2025. Le plan d'action de 2020 à 2025 comprend 75 mesures à l'échelon fédéral, et 63 de ces mesures concernent les secteurs suivants : gestion des eaux, gestion des dangers naturels, protection des sols, agriculture, gestion des forêts, énergie, logement, tourisme, gestion de la biodiversité, santé (être humain et animaux) et développement territorial. Au total, 12 mesures sont de type transversal. Celles-ci visent à améliorer le socle de connaissances, le transfert de connaissances, la coordination ainsi que la promotion de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie d'adaptation.

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 implications of climate change for protected areas are currently dealt with in the framework of establishing a national ecological infrastructure and is an integral part of the "Climate Change Adaptation in Switzerland: Action Plan 2020-2025".

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)

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

>>> 10

Total area (ha)

>>> 10082

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 10

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 10082

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

Number of sites

>>> 10

Area (in ha)

>>> 10082

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

High

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

>>> 10

Area (in ha)

>>> 10082

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

High

All sites of national importance

Total number

>>> 25

Total area (ha)

>>> 12688

Number of nationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 25

Area of national importance under national protection area designation

>>> 25

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

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

Number of sites

>>> 10

Area (in ha)

>>> 12688

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> 25

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Moderate

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> By 2040, Switzerland must have a functioning ecological infrastructure in both rural and urban areas, on the Plateau, in the Jura and in the Alps. The Swiss Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan describes some of the measures and timetable needed to this end, firstly to fill certain gaps in the system of protected areas and to enhance their value. On the other hand, networking areas must be completed and made permanent throughout the territory.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> As part of the process leading a functional ecological infrastructure by 2040 (see above).

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

Yes, fully

Please provide details

>>> They are reflected in sectoral strategies and planning instruments, including spatial development plans.

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

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

Yes

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

>>> Information source for species ranges and population boundaries

50. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative,

international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))

No

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

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

Yes

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

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> Lead shot use in wetlands was banned in 1998 by the Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Art. 2.1(h)). The 2012 revision of the ordinance bans lead shot for hunting of waterbirds in general.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Ordinance on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (Art. 2.1(h))

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> Cantonal authorities

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> Not a priority in this triennium

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

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> Not a priority in this triennium

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

High

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

>>> Hunters undergo a formal education and examination. Gamekeepers are regularly trained. Hunters undergo a formal education and examination. Illegal taking of waterbirds is not a major problem in Switzerland.

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

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> Cantonal authorities regulate the proficiency testing and the further training for hunters (Art. 14.2, Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds).

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

Yes

What do these cover?

- Club Affiliation
- Emergency closure of hunting in cases of exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions
- Other (please specify)

>>> Further training

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

- High (almost always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application

>>> No fines or conviction related to hunting of waterbirds registered.

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

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

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness

>>> No fines or conviction related to hunting of waterbirds registered.

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

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

- Yes

Please provide details

>>> Wiedmer E. (2002): Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites; Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL)

6.2. Ecotourism

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

- No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism is not a major business in Switzerland. The Confederation's tourism strategy acknowledges natural and landscape values as central resources for tourism and defines sustainability as main principle for action. However, the strategy does not address wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism specifically.

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)

>>> The Swiss Network of Nature Centres enables close cooperation between more than 20 nature centres in Switzerland. The Swiss Network of Nature Centres aim to make as many people as possible aware of nature. With a variety of observation possibilities, information and excursions, the nature centres show the fascinating world of biodiversity - with many centres being located in wetlands. Most of the nature centres in our country are run by private nature conservation associations and local institutions. The Confederation and the cantons, which are responsible for informing the population about nature conservation, support part of the centres.

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

- High

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

- High

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.

>>> Not a priority in this triennium

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Switzerland has an effective EIA legislation, however, no provisions on SEA.

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

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> The sites are reflected in various sectoral policies, including spatial planning.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

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))

Yes

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

>>> The assessment is done at the level of the biotopes of national importance (see below).

Number of sites avoided

>>> The assessment is done at the level of the biotopes of national importance (see below).

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

>>> The assessment is done at the level of the biotopes of national importance (see below).

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Monitoring the Effectiveness of Habitat Conservation in Switzerland The habitats of national importance, including fens, raised bogs, dry grasslands, riparian areas, flood plains, and amphibian breeding sites, are a crucial element of the network of protected sites in Switzerland. In 2011, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL launched the joint project "Monitoring the effectiveness of habitat conservation in Switzerland (WBS)" to observe whether these habitats are developing in line with their conservation targets and whether the area and quality of habitat is being maintained. The WBS is using remote sensing approaches as well as extensive floristic and faunistic field surveys to calculate various indicators, which evaluate the state and the development of the sites of national importance. First results show mainly negative trends: in the last 20 years raised bogs have become drier and richer in nutrients. Fens also became drier, cover by shrubs increased and the proportion of typical fen species decreased. Active drainage systems in raised bogs and fens, as well as land-use abandonment in fens appear to be the most important drivers. In dry grasslands woody cover increased, particularly in the southern Alps. Furthermore, the vegetation now indicates more nutrient-rich, moist, dense and darker conditions compared to previous observations. The national amphibian breeding sites have lost on average at least one amphibian species per site. Populations of the common toad and the midwife toad continued to decline sharply. Although developments were predominantly negative, positive changes were observed in particular regions or at least in individual sites. For example, in the raised bogs of the Swiss lowlands woody cover decreased and losses of frequent amphibian species (common toad, alpine newt, grass frog) in amphibian breeding sites have been mitigated or were even reversed by new discoveries. In addition, rare amphibian species showed a partial stabilization of their populations. These positive developments can be attributed to restoration and

conservation measures by the cantons and other stakeholders, as well as to the appropriate management of the sites. This shows that these measures are effective and should be continued or even intensified in order to preserve the biodiversity of the habitats of national importance in the long term. The continuously collected data within the framework of the WBS will provide information on the development of the habitats of national importance and will therefore allow to evaluate the success of the conservation measures in the future.

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

[Monitoring the Effectiveness of Habitat Conservation in Switzerland](#) - To protect precious habitats and the biodiversity, Switzerland designated about 7000 sites of national importance. These sites are legally protected and include mires (fens and raised bogs), dry grasslands, and flood plain habitats as well as amphibian breeding sites. In 2011, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the WSL Swiss Federal Research Institute launched the joint project "Monitoring the effectiveness of habitat conservation in Switzerland WBS" to observe developments and changes in these sites.

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

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

No

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

>>> The EIA legislation entered into force prior to the publication of the AEWA guidelines.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Collaboration of stakeholders takes predominantly place in terms of impacts of powerlines on birds related to electrocution. This issue is of importance regarding larger birds such as the White Stork or various birds of prey. Regarding waterbirds in general, the risks and impacts from collisions with powerlines that span watercourses is higher than related to electrocution. Collaboration among stakeholders include the publication recommendations for the construction of bird-safe power lines (2007) by the Association of Swiss Electrical Companies (AES) in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Inspectorate for Heavy Current Installations ESTI, the Swiss Association for the Protection of Birds ASPO/BirdLife Switzerland, the Swiss Ornithological Station Sempach and the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment (FOEN). An updated version was published in 2009. Further, in 2016 the Federal office of transport issued a directive on "Bird protection on catenary system (railway contact and feeder lines)" (Protection des oiseaux sur les installations de la ligne de contact). There is no systematic monitoring of the impacts of powerlines on birds in place.

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

>>> Areas of particular importance for bird life are in principle listed in federal bird protection inventories (www.ecogis.admin.ch). If it is not possible to avoid such areas on a large scale, the option of cabling should be considered.

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> Art. 12 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) grants the right to appeal to non-profit organisations, active throughout Switzerland since at least ten years and concerned with nature protection, cultural heritage protection, monument preservation or related objectives. Similar provisions exist for the planning, construction or modification of installations for which an environmental impact assessment is required (art 55, USG). This right of appeal is applicable only in clearly defined areas,

and only to projects subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and to federal projects.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Electricity Transmission Lines sectoral plan is an overlying federal government planning and coordination instrument for the expansion and further development of the high-voltage (220 to 380 kV) transmission lines for general electricity supply, and the 132 kV transmission lines of Swiss Federal Railways for the operation of its network. The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) is responsible for this sectoral plan in co-operation with the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE). In future, most of the new medium- and low-voltage lines (with voltage lower than 110 kV) will be generally built as cable lines.

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

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Currently, the Ordinance on power lines is being revised. The revision of the Ordinance on power lines provides for the masts in regional and supra-regional distribution networks to be examined throughout Switzerland and, if necessary, adapted so that they no longer pose a danger to birds. According to estimates by the Federal Office for the Environment, around 25,000 masts belonging to some 400 operators are affected. The amendment to the ordinance is in the interests of the economy and society. On the one hand, it ensures greater protection for endangered bird species, and on the other hand, the remediation measures help to avoid interruptions due to electrocution. The technical measures do not require a building permit and can be implemented as part of maintenance work. The revision is intended to solve a problem that has long been known in the field of species protection: electrocution is one of the main causes of death for owls, storks and other large birds that like to rest on masts.

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

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Currently, the Ordinance on power lines is being revised. The revision of the Ordinance on power lines provides for the masts in regional and supra-regional distribution networks to be examined throughout Switzerland and, if necessary, adapted so that they no longer pose a danger to birds. According to estimates by the Federal Office for the Environment, around 25,000 masts belonging to some 400 operators are affected. The amendment to the ordinance is in the interests of the economy and society. On the one hand, it ensures greater protection for endangered bird species, and on the other hand, the remediation measures help to avoid interruptions due to electrocution. The technical measures do not require a building permit and can be implemented as part of maintenance work. The revision is intended to solve a problem that has long been known in the field of species protection: electrocution is one of the main causes of death for owls, storks and other large birds that like to rest on masts.

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

No

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

>>> There is no regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of powerlines so far. However, the projects "Avoiding the electrocution of birds throughout Switzerland" as well as "Safe medium-voltage railway poles" aim at developing an information base for the targeted remediation of medium voltage power poles and railway poles/contact lines that pose an objective risk to birds. Under the auspices of the Federal Office for the Environment, potentially hazardous medium voltage power poles/railway poles and contact lines will be

identified, and the network/railway operators will be notified about their location. In addition to the technical specifications of the lines, the criteria for the risk assessment will include their location within an area where endangered birds arise. The project resulted in new guidelines and the revision of the Ordinance on power lines as mentioned above.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> See pilot projects "Avoiding the electrocution of birds throughout Switzerland" as well as "Safe medium-voltage railway poles" included in the "Action Plan Swiss Biodiversity Strategy".

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

>>> At its meeting on 28 June 2017, the Federal Council adopted the Wind Energy Concept. This document sets out how the federal government's interests are to be taken into account in the planning of wind power installations and indicates areas that are likely to offer wind energy exploitation potential. This provides planning authorities and project promoters with decision-making and planning support. At its meeting on 25 September 2020, the Federal Council adopted an updated version of the Wind Energy Concept. The Wind Energy Concept allows an initial weighing of interests between use and protection. It identifies regions which, from the federal perspective, are suitable for the use of wind energy. This decision and planning aid for planners and project developers contains binding elements for the authorities on how the cantons should take into account federal interests. This is the case, for example, for protected areas (nature or landscape) and for military or civilian technical installations of the Confederation. The sites protected under the Ordinance on Waterbirds and Migratory Birds of International and National Importance (1991, SR 922.32) are excluded from wind energy use.

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

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

No

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Article 6 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage stipulates that the inclusion of a site of national importance in a federal inventory indicates that it particularly deserves to be preserved undiminished, or in any case to be managed with the greatest possible care, including the application of restoration or appropriate replacement measures.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This measure is currently being discussed in Switzerland.

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

>>> According to the precautionary principle, the focus is on defining measures that can be integrated into the authorisation procedures for wind power projects to avoid bird mortality from the start.

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

>>> During the reporting period, the Swiss Ornithological Institute for instance published the articles related to wind farms (not limited to waterbirds) referred below:

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

The impact of wind energy facilities on grouse: a systematic review - There is increasing concern about the impact of the current boom in wind energy facilities (WEF) and associated infrastructure on wildlife. However, the direct and indirect effects of these facilities on the mortality, occurrence and behaviour of rare and threatened species are poorly understood. We conducted a literature review to examine the potential impacts of WEF on grouse species. We studied whether grouse (1) collide with wind turbines, (2) show behavioural responses in relation to wind turbine developments, and (3) if there are documented effects of WEF on their population sizes or dynamics. Our review is based on 35 sources, including peer-reviewed articles as well as grey literature. Effects of wind turbine facilities on grouse have been studied for eight species. Five grouse species have been found to collide with wind turbines, in particular with the towers. Fifteen studies reported behavioural responses in relation to wind turbine facilities in grouse (seven species), including spatial avoidance, displacement of lekking or nesting sites, or the time invested in breeding vs. non-breeding behaviour. Grouse were affected at up to distances of 500 m by WEF infrastructure, with indications of effects also at bigger distances. In six cases, a local reduction in grouse abundance was reported in areas with wind turbines, which possibly affected population size. Due to the differences in study duration and design, we cannot provide general conclusions on the effects of WEF on grouse populations. We advise applying the precautionary principle by keeping grouse habitats free of wind energy developments, in particular where populations are small or locally threatened. Future studies should preferably apply a long-term before-after-control-impact design for multiple areas to allow for more general conclusions to be drawn on the effects of WEF on rare and threatened wildlife species.

Consistent effects of wind turbines on habitat selection of capercaillie across Europe - There are growing concerns about the effects of wind turbines on wildlife. Additional mortality due to collisions with wind turbines has long been recognized as a direct negative effect, but less obvious effects such as changes in behaviour or displacement of disturbance sensitive wildlife are increasingly moving into focus. We combined systematic mapping of habitat structure and species presence before and after turbine-construction at 6 study areas in Germany, Austria and Sweden to study the effects of wind turbine presence on a large forest grouse species: the capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*). We studied effects of wind turbines on the observation density (percent of sampling plots with capercaillie presence per year and study area) and habitat selection. We did not find a significant difference in overall observation densities between turbine and control areas after turbine construction. At the sampling-plot scale, however, selection of habitats affected by wind turbines was reduced, indicating a form of habitat deterioration. This was detectable up to 650 m distance to the turbines, present across all study areas and independent of the structural habitat suitability at the respective site. Our results show that a disturbance-sensitive forest bird species is affected by wind energy development, and that critical-distances should be taken into account when planning wind energy development in grouse habitats.

Bird collisions at wind turbines in a mountainous area related to bird movement intensities measured by radar - Bird collisions at wind turbines are perceived to be an important conservation issue. To determine mitigation actions such as temporary shutdown of wind turbines when bird movement intensities are high, knowledge of the relationship between the number of birds crossing an area and the number of collisions is essential. Our aim was to combine radar data on bird movement intensities with collision data from a systematic carcass search. We used a dedicated bird radar, located near a wind farm in a mountainous area, to continuously record bird movement intensities from February to mid-November 2015. In addition, we searched the ground below three wind turbines (Enercon E-82) for carcasses on 85 dates and considered three established correction factors to extrapolate the number of collisions. The extrapolated number of collisions was 20.7 birds/wind turbine (CI-95%: 14.3-29.6) for 8.5 months. Nocturnally migrating passerines, especially kinglets (*Regulus* sp.), represented 55% of the fatalities. 2.1% of the birds theoretically exposed to a collision (measured by radar at the height of the wind turbines) were effectively colliding. Collisions mainly occurred during migration and affected primarily nocturnal migrants. It was not possible to assign the fatalities doubtlessly to events with strong migration. Fresh-looking carcasses were found after nights with both strong and weak bird movement intensities, indicating fatalities are not restricted to mass movement events (onshore). Rather, it is likely that an important factor influencing collision risk is limited visibility due to weather conditions. Local and regional visibility should be considered in future studies and when fine-tuning shutdown systems for wind turbines.

Mitigating bat mortality with turbine-specific curtailment algorithms: a model based approach - Alarming high numbers of bats are being killed at wind turbines worldwide, raising concerns about the cumulative effects of bat mortality on bat populations. Mitigation measures to effectively reduce bat mortality at wind turbines while maximising energy production are of paramount importance. Operational mitigation (i.e. feathering wind turbine rotors at times of high collision risk for bats) is currently the only strategy that has been shown to substantially reduce bat mortality. This study presents a model based approach for developing curtailment algorithms that account for differences in bat activity over the year and night-time and are specific to the activity level at a certain wind turbine. The results show

that easily measurable variables (wind speed, month, time of night) can predict times of higher bat activity with a high temporal resolution. A recently published collision model that was developed based on an excessive carcass search study is then applied to predict bat collision rate based on the modelled bat activity. Using the ratio of wind energy revenue and collision rate, 10 min intervals were weighted, so that turbines are stopped when collision rate is high and loss in revenue is low. A threshold of two dead bats per year and turbine resulted in a mean loss in annual revenue of 1.4%. The presented approach of acoustic monitoring at the nacelle and turbine specific curtailment has become the standard method to mitigate collision risk of bats at wind turbines in Germany.

Other

Yes

Please specify below and provide details.

>>> The research conducted by the Swiss Ornithological Institute resulted in the publication of a set of recommendations: Birds and wind power: Investigation and assessment of wind power projects subject to EIA. The recommendations are available in French (see link below).

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

[Birds and wind power: Investigation and assessment of wind power projects subject to EIA. Recommendations of the Swiss Ornithological Institute](#) - Summary: The main risks to birds from the use of wind power are habitat damage and the risk of collision with the and the risk of collision with the rotors and masts of wind turbines. According to our current knowledge, 46 breeding bird species and 2 other visiting bird species in Switzerland are classified as sensitive to wind power, while all migratory species must be considered at risk of collision. must be considered at risk of collision. A sound methodology within the framework of environmental impact assessments (EIA) is the basis for a professional assessment of the possible impacts of a planned wind farm on birds. In this guide, the Swiss Ornithological Institute recommends such assessment methods. For this purpose, minimum standards are defined which, in addition to the study perimeter, also suggest the species to be assessed. In principle, all Red List species and all national priority species should be considered in an EIA. all national priority species. We also recommend the survey and assessment of other wind-sensitive bird species that are not covered by these two lists. As part of the field surveys are necessary as part of the EIA process to assess the potential impact of a planned wind farm project on birds. wind farm project on birds. For professionally sound surveys of breeding and visiting birds, the relevant times and survey methods are recommended for the respective species. With regard to migratory birds, survey methods for the occurrence of migrating thermals (birds of prey and storks) are presented and the procedure for assessing the migration of small birds is outlined. is outlined. This guide also provides an overview of potential avoidance, mitigation and replacement measures and their effectiveness. Based on scientific findings, the most effective measures are measures are appropriate siting and the maintenance of minimum distances from important breeding and important breeding and activity areas of wind-sensitive birds. Based on current data on the distribution of breeding birds, criteria are proposed that can help to protect more widespread wind-sensitive birds. sensitive breeding bird species (e.g. red kite) in the event of an expansion of wind energy. enable the expansion of wind energy. Technical measures for conflict mitigation are discussed. In order to check the effects of implemented measures or to determine the impact of wind turbines on birds, various research methods are presented. birds, various research methods are presented.

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

No

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

>>> The Biomass Strategy that was elaborated by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE and the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN reflects the principle of sustainable development. The Biomass Strategy recognises the importance of biomass as a fundamental resource sustaining livelihood in terms of food, feed, raw material and energy. Amongst others, the strategy stipulates that domestic biomass production contributes to securing a high degree of supply, that the surfaces of arable land necessary for biomass production - especially in terms of food and feed - shall not diminish, and that the production of biomass should contribute to the long-term conservation of biodiversity.

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

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

No

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

>>> Swiss process established prior to adoption of Res 6.11

69. Is by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear taking place in your country? (Resolution 3.8)

(Please respond to this question only with respect to species, which are NOT considered seabirds. Seabird by-catch is dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

Yes

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

>>> By-catch may occur, however, the extent of the issue/impacts is unknown.

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

>>> On 6 September 2017, the Federal Council adopted the 'National 'Action Plan for Risk Reduction and Sustainable Use of Plant-Protection Products' (AP PPP). Risks are to be halved and alternatives to chemical plant protection are to be promoted. The Federal Council has set clear objectives in this action plan. To achieve these, existing measures are to be expanded and new ones introduced. The action plan positions Swiss agriculture in the sustainable production of foodstuffs.

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

[Action plan for risk reduction and sustainable use of plant protection products](#) - The Action Plan defines eight objectives and 12 concrete intermediate objectives. To achieve these objectives, it defines just over 50 measures, divided into three distinct areas: implementation (green), specific risks (orange), and accompanying instruments (blue).

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

>>> Strict limits to strengthen water protection - Pesticides and other micropollutants can contaminate drinking water and harm aquatic organisms. In order to improve water protection, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) has amended the Water Protection Ordinance (WPO). As in the past, pesticides may not exceed 0.1 micrograms per litre in lakes, streams and rivers used for drinking water supply. New, stricter limit values are introduced into the Water Ordinance for twelve pesticides that are particularly problematic for aquatic organisms. In addition, three medicines will now also be subject to limit values. The revised Water Protection Ordinance entered into force on 1 April 2020. PPP Risk Maps - Maps of the whole of Switzerland are being created which show the small catchment areas (approx. 22,000 catchment areas of around 2 km² each) where an increased input of plant-protection products (PPPs) into the surface waters can be expected. The maps show the potential input risk for runoff/erosion, tile drainage, and point sources from farms (farmyard runoff) as well as a synthesis map. These national survey maps allow a rough estimate of the potential PPP input risk and the identification of potentially problematic catchment areas. They also provide GIS-based principles for other more-advanced tools enabling the evaluation of the potential ecotoxicological risk of PPPs at catchment-area level.

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

[Revised Water Protection Ordinance \(fr\)](#) - Further information on the revised Water Protection Ordinance
[Plant-Protection Product Inputs](#) - The aim of the 'National 'Action Plan for Risk Reduction and Sustainable Use of Plant-Protection Products' (AP PPP) is to significantly reduce the environmental risks associated with PPPs. The main routes of entry of PPPs from agriculture into surface waters are erosion, surface runoff, leaching, tile-drainage runoff and farmyard runoff.

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?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> See question 69.2

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

>>> These efforts are not sufficient. Indeed, the results of the three NAWA SPEZ studies on plant protection products carried out to date revealed the existence of high concentrations and a high ecotoxicological risk in all the watercourses studied. Switzerland has a wide-ranging water quality problem. Comparing the land use in the investigated catchment areas with the conditions in Switzerland as a whole, it seems reasonable to assume that the plant protection products pollution problem affects a significant proportion of the watercourses in the Plateau. These data clearly show that major efforts are still required in many catchment areas if the objectives of the Action Plan for the reduction of risks and sustainable use of plant protection products are to be achieved. This will require the concomitant implementation of a range of strong measures.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> There is currently a broad discussion among the Swiss population about the use of pesticides in agriculture. On 13 June 2021, the population will be voting on two popular initiatives: 1. "For clean drinking water and healthy food - No subsidies for the use of pesticides and prophylactic antibiotics": The popular initiative requests that subsidies to agriculture be paid only for farming practices that do not endanger health and the environment and do not pollute drinking water. 2. "For a Switzerland without synthetic pesticides": The popular initiative calls for a ban on the use of all synthetic pesticides in i. agricultural production, ii. the processing of agricultural products, iii. land maintenance, and iv. the production or import of foodstuffs.

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

No

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

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

Yes

Covering the breeding period

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

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

Please provide details.

>>> The Swiss Ornithological Institute implements the following monitoring programmes for breeding birds:-
Monitoring common breeding birds: Since 1999, the populations of about 150 breeding bird species are surveyed in 267 1-km squares laid out as a representative grid across all of Switzerland.- Monitoring breeding birds in wetlands: The wetland breeding bird monitoring complements other monitoring projects such as the monitoring programme of common breeding birds and produces estimates of population trends for species not surveyed in a satisfactory manner in these general-purpose schemes.- Monitoring Selected Species: The programme monitors population trends and distribution in Switzerland of colony-nesting species, rare species, or species originally held in captivity.- Monitoring rare breeding and visiting birds: The Information service of the Swiss Ornithological Institute receives about 400,000 chance observations every year from volunteer birdwatchers all over Switzerland. For many species this provides reliable information on their spatial and temporal patterns of occurrence as well as on population trends.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> e.g. through various national monitoring programmes and statistics.

Covering the passage period

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all internationally and nationally important sites for passage birds are comprehensively covered at least monthly in the passage period.]

Please provide details.

>>> Observing migrating birds and researching migration has a long tradition among Swiss amateurs and for the Swiss Ornithological Institute. The institutes' aim is to document migration, identify changes and make data available to support conservation efforts. To achieve this, various sections, ringing teams and working groups are involved in projects that are often long-term. Birds that are either stopping over or that are in active migration make up about 45 % of all records made by volunteers on ornitho.ch and entered into the Institute's ID/varia database. Thanks to these efforts, migration and the occurrence of migrant visitors in Switzerland are better documented than ever before.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> e.g. through various national monitoring programmes and statistics.

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

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

Please provide details.

>>> Monitoring wintering waterbirds: Since 1967 waterbirds are counted throughout Europe and in adjacent regions. This international waterbird census is coordinated by Wetlands International. The waterbird census is an important tool to estimate population size and trends of birds and to identify important wintering sites.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> e.g. through various national monitoring programmes and statistics.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is carrying out a programme called "Biodiversity Monitoring in Switzerland" (BDM).

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

>>> Since 1967, waterbirds are systematically counted in Switzerland as part of the International Waterbird Census. The collected data is a valuable base for assessing the situation of the waterbird populations and the importance of sites in Switzerland and at the international level.

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?

>>> Switzerland supported the elaboration of the 8th report of the conservation status of migratory waterbirds which benefited all Parties and Range States.

Please provide details

>>> Switzerland supported the elaboration of the 8th report of the conservation status of migratory waterbirds which benefited all Parties and Range States.

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

>>> Wiedmer E. (2002): Analysis of the AEWA Conservation Guidelines with reference to Swiss legislation on the protection of nature, species, habitats and designated sites; Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL)

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

No

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

No

Please provide reason(s)

>>> Not a priority issue

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

Other

Please explain reasons

>>> There are no training or development programmes specific to the AEWA Action Plan. Training and awareness programmes in general nature conservation is taken care of by NGOs. NGOs regularly campaign for the conservation of wetlands and the protection of waterbirds.

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

Yes

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

Government

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In the framework of ongoing collaboration with federal and cantonal authorities, as well as the scientific community and NGOs.

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

They are the same person

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

Yes

How can the effectiveness of the measures be rated?

High

Please provide details

>>> The training programmes are targeted towards personnel engaged in protected area and wildlife management in general and address, among others, the implementation of the AEWA.

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Public awareness activities are primarily conducted at the level of wetland conservation or waterfowl in general.

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)

Yes

Has this funding or support been on the national or international level?

Please provide details in the corresponding box below

International Funding and Support (through the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat)

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

>>> Switzerland implements the strategic plans of biodiversity-related conventions and other processes in the framework of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs). This allows to make best use of synergies. The assessment of resources needed is conducted and regularly updated at the level of the NBSAPs.

Have you developed a resource mobilization plan?

Yes, and it is being implemented

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

>>> Resource mobilization is an integral part of the regular budgetary process.

Please rate the degree of implementation of the resource mobilisation plan:

High (most of the resources are secured)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of implementation

>>> Increased political awareness about the global biodiversity crisis.

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

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

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

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

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

>>> Consultations among focal points on a regular basis on the one hand and an Interdepartmental Biodiversity Steering Committee on the other (Interdepartementalen Begleitgruppe Biodiversität, IBB).

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No priority capacity gap identified during the last triennium.

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

>>> Capacity gaps are not an issue restricting implementation of the AEWA.

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

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

>>> Twinning schemes between sites were considered regarding Ramsar sites.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The coordination and engagement of officers responsible for AEWA implementation is not limited to processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets but also includes processes related to the delivery of CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant processes.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The coordination and engagement of officers responsible for AEWA implementation is not limited to processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets but also includes processes related to the delivery of CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant processes.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The coordination and engagement of officers responsible for AEWA implementation is not limited to processes contributing towards the Aichi Targets but also includes processes related to the delivery of CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant processes.

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
>>> Switzerland's biodiversity strategy is conceived as an overarching instrument addressing all levels of biodiversity including waterbirds.

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
>>> E.g., the authorities in charge of the AEWA secured that biodiversity is adequately considered in Switzerland's new Sustainable Development Strategy.

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
>>> The same governmental body is in charge of implementing the AEWA and the SPMS.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The same governmental body is in charge of implementing the AEWA and of updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

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

>>> The world is facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis. The maximal use of synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs are key to successfully meet this challenge. Small but concrete actions include:- The AEWA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2027, adopted through Res 7.1, includes in its logical framework table a mapping of the AEWA targets with the Aichi Targets. This mapping is very useful and supports the identification of synergistic action at all levels. It is therefore suggested to update the mapping with the action targets being developed for the post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as soon as possible and to extend it to the targets of the Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024 (Ramsar Resolution XII.2) to boost the use of synergies in implementing the both Conventions.- The Online Reporting System ORS was developed over 10 years ago, is technically no longer up-to-date and will therefore be updated by WCMC in the near future. The revision and further development of the ORS provides a perfect opportunity to secure that data and information provided by Parties to the AEWA Secretariat through national reports is also accessible for the CMS including its other instruments (i.e. the CMS family), so as to promote synergies in national reporting.- Switzerland thanks the AEWA Secretariat for the support in developing the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs DaRT. The further development of the ORS should ensure the interoperability among the ORS and DaRT. This will allow Parties to re-use information and data provided to the AEWA for other reports to biodiversity-related Conventions.

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

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

No

Pressures and Responses

10. Climate Change

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

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Undertaken

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

>>> Climate and available habitats are the most important factors determining the distribution and abundance of birds in Switzerland. We are already starting to see initial effects of climate change on various species. For example, short-distance migrants often return early from their wintering grounds in spring, and mountain dwellers are retreating to higher altitudes. For some species, forecasts predict major changes in the decades to come. Detecting changes in distribution and population size early is important in order to recognize when a species is at risk. Several of the Ornithological Institute's projects are devoted to this issue.

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

>>> In response to its "Adaptation to climate change" strategy, Switzerland has launched a pilot programme to initiate innovative and best-practice projects aimed at adapting to climate change in the cantons, regions and municipalities. The pilot projects are implemented with the financial support from the Confederation. The projects are designed to help reduce the climate risks on site, to take advantage of potential opportunities and to increase adaptability. Regarding key habitats used by waterbird species, the following projects are of relevance:- Pilot project on adaptation to climate change "Adaptation to climate change in the field of biodiversity in the canton Aargau" (with a special focus on wetlands);- Pilot Project "Emergency Plan for Water Shortages in the Emerald Region of Upper Aargau";- Pilot project "Maintaining Water Resources in Wetlands Watershed";- Pilot project "ACCLAMÉ: Biodiversity restoration in alpine ponds".

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

>>> An assessment was implemented by the Swiss Ornithological Institute (see link below). Further, the Action Plan on Climate Change adaptation foresees a "Risk assessment and management review for particularly affected (sub-)populations, species and habitats".

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

Planned

Please provide details

>>> As mentioned under c), the Action Plan on Climate Change adaptation foresees a "Risk assessment and management review for particularly affected (sub-)populations, species and habitats".

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).

Planned

Please provide details

>>> As mentioned under c), the Action Plan on Climate Change adaptation foresees a "Risk assessment and management review for particularly affected (sub-)populations, species and habitats".

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

>>> No particular challenge identified during the last triennium.

List required further guidance or information

>>> No further guidance or information required.

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

>>> 13.05.2025