



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

>>> The Netherlands

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 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.

>>> The Netherlands, as a Party to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), has made specific reservations concerning certain populations listed in Table 1 of Annex 3 of the AEWA Action Plan. These reservations pertain to populations categorized under Column A, Category 3, marked with an asterisk (*), which may only be hunted within the framework of an international species action plan implementing adaptive harvest management principles.

Specifically, the Netherlands has entered reservations regarding the following populations:

Iceland/United Kingdom & Ireland population of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Finland and Northwest Russia/Sweden, Denmark, and Germany population of the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*)

These reservations were entered upon the deposition of the Netherlands' instrument of accession to AEWA, reflecting national positions on the sustainable use of these populations.

Regarding the European Union (EU) and its member states, the European Commission has entered reservations on behalf of the EU concerning certain amendments to Annex 3, Table 1, as adopted during the 8th Meeting of the Parties in October 2021. These amendments involve changes in the categorization of populations, such as the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), and Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*). The EU's reservations are based on the need to align AEWA provisions with existing EU legislation, particularly the Birds Directive.

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

[European Council Decision \(2021\) establishing the position to be taken on the Union's behalf at the 8th MoP of AEWA in connection with the envisaged adoption of certain amendments to its Annex 3.](#) - The amendments to Annex 3 to the Agreement submitted by the United Kingdom and set out in the draft Resolution 8.xx of the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement concerning the following four species: the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), the Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), the Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*) and the Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus longipes*), will be approved at the eighth Meeting of the Parties on behalf of the European Union.

[AEWA Parties with reservations, declarations and objections \(European Union\)](#)

[DRAFT GUIDANCE ON IMPLEMENTING ADAPTIVE HARVEST MANAGEMENT THROUGH DOMESTIC LEGAL REGULATIONS \(2018\)](#)

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

>>> Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

Name and title of the head of institution

>>> Minister Femke Wiersma

Mailing address - Street and number

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Postal code

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Country

>>> The Netherlands

Website

>>> <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-agriculture-fisheries-food-security-and-nature>

Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

>>> Nick Warmelink - Senior Policy Advisor

Affiliation (institution, department)

>>> Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LVVN), department of Nature and Fisheries

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E-mail

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Website

>>> <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-landbouw-natuur-en-voedselkwaliteit>

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

Name and title of the TC NFP

>>> Marc van Roomen

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>>> 6503 GA

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

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

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

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2021 - 2024

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

>>> Wageningen Environmental Research: René Henkens

Ministry of LVVN: Nick Warmelink

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> A review of national legislation was deemed unnecessary following MOP8. The Nature Conservation Act (in force since 1 January 2017) already fully complies with AEWA provisions by prohibiting the hunting and trade of all AEWA-listed birds, except for Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), which may be hunted during a fixed period. In the Netherlands, only the NW European population of the Mallard occurs. A review of the latest amendments adopted at MOP8 confirmed that no legislative changes were required.

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

See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> A review of national legislation was deemed unnecessary following Resolution 6.7. The Nature Conservation Act (in force since 1 January 2017) already ensures compliance by prohibiting the hunting and trade of all AEWA-listed birds, except for the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), which may be hunted during a fixed period. Since only the NW European population of the Mallard occurs in the Netherlands, no differentiation between populations is needed under national law.

3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of each population listed in the Excel file linked below. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Netherlands_Q3_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopCoIA.xlsx](#)

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

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

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Netherlands Q4 AEWA NR 2021-2024 PopCoIA-Cat2_3_4.xlsx](#)

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

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Netherlands Q5 AEWA NR 2021-2024 PopCoIB.xlsx](#)

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

One or more modes of taking have been prohibited

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

Snares

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Limes

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Hooks

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Explosives

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Nets

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Traps

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Poison

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

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

>>> This prohibition is enforced under the Nature Conservation Act and the EU Birds Directive.

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

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

>>> All non-selective modes of taking are prohibited under the Nature Conservation Act, which applies nationwide in the Netherlands. However, exemptions from the provisions of the EU Birds Directive may be allowed for specific reasons, such as for population control, scientific research, or safety concerns, provided there is no other satisfactory solution.

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.

>>> The Nature Conservation Act and related regulations are regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure compliance with AEWA obligations. This review process includes updates to conservation measures, enforcement practices, and ensuring that legislation is in line with AEWA's Strategic Plan 2019-2027.

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

>>> The Netherlands Enterprise Agency has an enforcement team dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Nature Conservation Act. This team operates based on a risk-based and target group-oriented enforcement program. Species and nature conservation organizations, as well as local residents, can report potential violations of the law. The team utilizes various enforcement tools, including informational outreach, enforcement communication, site visits, administrative checks, and corrective interviews. In cases of violation, the team may impose administrative sanctions, such as penalty orders or administrative coercion orders. When necessary, the team collaborates with the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority's competent control officers.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The Netherlands has integrated these guidelines into its domestic legislation, notably through the Nature Conservation Act (Wet natuurbescherming) and its implementation of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). These legal frameworks ensure that migratory waterbird species and their habitats are protected in accordance with AEWA's objectives, aligning national legislation with the guidelines to support the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

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

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Greylag Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (non-breeding) Greylag Goose is target species for 29 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.

Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

Full implementation – all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

Pink-footed Goose / *Anser brachyrhynchus* National Plan for Pink-footed Goose / *Anser brachyrhynchus*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Pink-footed Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (non-breeding) Pink-footed Goose is target species for four Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

Full implementation – all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Bean Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000 sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000 sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (non-breeding) Bean Goose is target species for two Natura 2000 sites, which requires species specific management actions.- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Ferruginous Duck is a rare (mainly) non-breeding species in The Netherlands. Its conservation status is assessed as favourable but that is an assessment for the last 30 years where the species was all the time very rare. On a longer time scale it decreased most likely substantially. Numbers nowadays are too low to justify a NP. The species may benefit from the National Nature Network including many (large) wetlands.

Barnacle Goose / *Branta leucopsis*

National Plan for Barnacle Goose / *Branta leucopsis*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding, wintering) Barnacle Goose is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000 sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000 sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (non-breeding) Barnacle goose is target species for 26 Natura 2000 sites, which requires species specific management actions.- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

Tundra Swan / *Cygnus columbianus*

National Plan for Tundra Swan / *Cygnus columbianus*

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Tundra Swan is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000 sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000 sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (non-breeding) Tundra Swan is target species for 26 Natura 2000 sites, which requires species specific management actions.- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

Full implementation – all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Great Snipe is a vagrant species in The Netherlands. Numbers are too low to justify a NP. The species may benefit from the National Nature Network.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The Black-tailed Godwit is the national bird of the Netherlands. Its breeding numbers have declined significantly in recent decades, prompting the development of various conservation plans. The most recent, the Aanvalsplan Grutto (Black-tailed Godwit Action Plan), launched in November 2020, was developed by Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch Organization for the Protection of Birds) and aims to conserve breeding meadow birds, with a specific focus on the Black-tailed Godwit. The plan is supported by the provincial government and local stakeholders from all six 'meadow bird provinces'. The Black-tailed Godwit, a non-breeding species listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive, benefits from Natura 2000 site designations and active management actions. These Natura 2000 sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), which forms the backbone of nature conservation in the Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date, the (non-breeding) Black-tailed Godwit is a target species for 20 Natura 2000 sites, which require species-specific management actions. Monitoring is conducted by SOVON, the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology. In November 2020, a plan titled Aanvalsplan Grutto was drafted by Vogelbescherming Nederland (Dutch Organization for the Protection of Birds), focusing on the conservation of breeding meadow birds, with a particular emphasis on the Black-tailed Godwit. The plan is supported by the provincial government and local stakeholders from all six 'meadow bird provinces'. Its primary goal is to designate key conservation areas for breeding meadow birds, ensuring the protection and management of their habitats.

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

[Aanvalsplan Grutto \(summary\)](#) - The Aanvalsplan Grutto is an action plan developed by Vogelbescherming Nederland for the conservation of breeding meadow birds, including the Black-tailed Godwit, rather than a formal national policy plan. It is supported by provincial governments and local stakeholders, aiming to guide the protection of key conservation areas for these species.

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 implementation of species specific management actions for non-breeding Black-tailed Godwits is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive. However, a policy plan for breeding meadow birds, among which the Black-tailed Godwit, still needs to be approved and implemented.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (non-breeding) Curlew is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites

are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (non-breeding) Curlew is target species for 14 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

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

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

>>> The implementation of species-specific management actions for the Curlew is part of the obligations under the EU Birds Directive. The species partially breeds on meadows, and the implementation of plans for the conservation of breeding meadow birds (as outlined for the Black-tailed Godwit) will also contribute to the conservation efforts for the Curlew.

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

No NP and no action implemented

Please explain the reasons

>>> The White-headed Duck has always been a vagrant species in The Netherlands. Numbers are too low to justify a NP. The species may benefit from the National Nature Network, including many (large) wetlands.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> The (breeding and non-breeding) Eurasian Spoonbill is an Annex I listed species of the Birds Directive, for which Natura 2000-sites are designated and management actions are implemented. Natura 2000-sites are part of the National Nature Network (NNN), the backbone of nature conservation in The Netherlands.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> To date the (breeding and non-breeding) Eurasian Spoonbill is target species for 25 Natura 2000-sites, which requires species specific management actions.- Monitoring by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

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

Full implementation - all actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Please provide details and reasons for the full implementation.

>>> The implementation of species specific management actions is part of the obligations under the EU Bird Directive.

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

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Although there is no specific national action plan solely for the Common Eider, its protection is incorporated into existing coastal and marine bird conservation strategies in line with AEWA commitments. Seven Natura2000 sites have been designated for the species.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Most important action concerns the designation and management of seven Natura2000 sites for the Common Eider. This includes all of its breeding and foraging habitat in The Netherlands.

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.

>>> All Natura2000 sites are designated and its management is being implemented.

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> Specifically, the Netherlands contributes to AEWA's work by:

Financial Contributions: The Dutch government has supported AEWA financially, amongst others by supporting the Species Officer position, enabling the continued work of international species working groups, expert groups, and the implementation of various action plans for migratory bird species.

Collaboration with Experts: The Netherlands has been involved in supporting the creation and functioning of these working groups, which focus on species conservation efforts, monitoring, research, and the development of management plans across the African-Eurasian flyways.

Hosting and Participation in Meetings and Workshops: Dutch experts have frequently contributed to AEWA meetings, workshops, and conferences, enhancing international collaboration in species conservation efforts. This involvement includes supporting the development of action plans for threatened species, monitoring their populations, and applying management strategies to safeguard their habitats.

Alignment with AEWA Strategic Goals: The Netherlands' assistance aligns with AEWA's Strategic Plan 2019-2027, contributing to target 1.1, which involves the implementation of international species action plans and the monitoring of species populations.

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> Vogelbescherming Nederland (The Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds) continues to be a key compiler of the International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe (2018–2028). Additionally, the Netherlands participated in the AEWA Eurasian Curlew International Working Group meeting in 2021 for the establishment of an adaptive harvest management process for the nominal subspecies. The Netherlands also organized an online workshop in 2021 for the Eastern Flyway of the Black-tailed Godwit, with funding reserved for subsequent in-person meetings planned for 2022 and beyond.

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

Yes

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

>>> Vogelbescherming Nederland has continued its work on the International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats in Europe (2018–2028), supporting collaborative efforts across Europe to improve habitat management and species conservation for breeding waders.

Additionally, the Netherlands participated in the implementation of the Eastern Flyway of the Black-tailed Godwit project, which is part of broader efforts to protect migratory species across the flyway, with workshops and monitoring activities carried out during this period. These efforts are part of the Netherlands' commitment to AEWA's Strategic Plan 2019-2027.

This updated response is specific to the period 2021-2024 and highlights the Netherlands' involvement in flyway-scale projects.

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Netherlands participates in flyway-scale projects to fulfill its commitments under the AEWA and contribute to the conservation of migratory species.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> No, however, these issues are addressed within broader conservation efforts, including the implementation of Natura 2000 management plans, which align with international conservation objectives. Additionally, the Aanvalsplan Grutto (Black-tailed Godwit Action Plan) is aligned with the International Multi-Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Breeding Waders in Wet Grassland Habitats. Resources for the Aanvalsplan Grutto are allocated with an annual investment of 40 million euros, alongside a one-off investment of 35 million euros spread over multiple years to support its implementation.

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

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

[Turtle Dove \(Streptopelia turtur\)](#) - The action plan is coordinated by Vogelbescherming Nederland and is part of the European Turtle Dove Conservation Programme.

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

Netherlands

Whooper Swan / Cygnus cygnus

Please provide details

>>> The Netherlands does not have a policy for developing National Single Species Action Plans (NSSAPs). However, many conservation actions are carried out, as Natura 2000 sites have been designated for most of the species listed.

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.

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> The Netherlands does not have formal National Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP, ISSMP) or International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP). Instead, the country focuses on implementing and managing the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, the National Nature Network, and Natura 2000 sites. Additionally, with the adoption of the EU Nature Restoration Law, efforts are increasingly directed toward the restoration of degraded ecosystems, including wetlands and other key habitats for migratory waterbirds.

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

>>> As previously reported, the Netherlands do not develop any national single species action plans anymore. The impact of these plans was assessed as too low. The strategy is now focused on a more holistic approach of a combination of species in threatened habitats and/or the Natura 2000-sites.

4.3 Emergency Measures

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

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

Emergency situation has occurred

Please provide information on each emergency situation which occurred

Extreme weather

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> Drought and Habitat Degradation: Prolonged periods of drought, particularly in the summers of 2022 and 2023, caused water level reductions in wetlands and Natura 2000 sites. This affected feeding and breeding conditions for species such as the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and other waders dependent on shallow wetlands.

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

>>> National scale.

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

>>> All wetlands were somehow effected by extreme drought due to climate change

Infectious disease

Indicate when the emergency situation took place

>>> Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreaks: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continued to impact waterbird populations, particularly in 2021-2023. Mass mortality events were recorded among species such as Sandwich tern and Blackheaded gulls. In 2022, a massive die-off occurred in key breeding colonies of Sandwich tern, particularly in the Wadden Sea and Delta region. Thousands of dead Sandwich Terns were found in colonies such as Texel (De Petten), Waterdunen (Zeeuws-Vlaanderen) and Griend (Wadden Sea). The colony in De Petten (Texel), one of the largest in Western Europe, was nearly wiped out, with more than 75% mortality reported. In 2023, new cases were detected, but the impact was less severe than in 2022. However, the population has not yet fully recovered.

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

[Resurgent mortality among Black-headed Gulls and Common Terns due to avian influenza \(in Dutch\).](#)

[Increased mortality among Black-headed Gulls due to avian influenza \(in Dutch\).](#)

[Serious concerns due to mass mortality among Sandwich terns caused by avian influenza \(in Dutch\).](#)

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

>>> National scale.

Have emergency response measures been implemented?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks, the Netherlands implemented several emergency measures to protect waterbirds. These included increased surveillance, access restrictions in affected breeding colonies (e.g., Texel's De Petten), and strict biosecurity protocols to prevent further spread. Large-scale carcass removal was conducted to reduce transmission risks, while the public was advised not to touch dead birds and report findings. Researchers intensified long-term monitoring to assess population recovery and understand disease dynamics. These actions were coordinated by conservation organizations, research institutes, and government agencies.

19. Are there any other emergency response measures, different from the ones applied in response to the emergency situations reported above, that were developed and are in place in your country so that they can be used in future in emergency cases?

No

20. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds?

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In the Netherlands, guidelines are in place for responding to emergency situations that pose threats to waterbirds, aligning with the AEWA Guidelines. Rijkswaterstaat, part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, oversees the North Sea and Dutch inland waterways. It is responsible for oil spill prevention, as well as the containment and cleanup of oil and chemical spills. Contingency plans are in place to mitigate oil spill risks, and for the Wadden Sea, an ecological timetable has been developed specifically for oil pollution response.

Rijkswaterstaat continuously monitors water quality, including the presence and growth conditions of cyanobacteria. Beached bird surveys, conducted by volunteers from the Dutch Seabird Group (NZG/NSO) on behalf of Rijkswaterstaat, provide insights into the proportion of oiled birds among all birds washing ashore in the Netherlands. The Dutch Wildlife Health Centre (DWHC), in collaboration with other institutions, monitors and investigates major wildlife diseases. Additionally, a specialized incident response plan is in place for emergencies on the North Sea.

4.4 Re-establishments

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

Yes

Please provide details on the register

>>> The Netherlands does not maintain a dedicated national register of re-establishment projects. However, historical information on re-establishment projects (1908–2008) is publicly available (see, for example, [relevant web link]). This source provides facts and figures on the environment, nature, and land use in the Netherlands and is published by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), and Wageningen University and Research Centre (Wageningen UR). The most recent AEWA-related re-establishment was the reintroduction of the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) in 1969. There have been no known re-establishment projects for AEWA-listed species in recent years.

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

[Reintroduction of species in the Netherlands.](#)

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

>>> As of January 1, 2024, the Nature Conservation Act (Wet natuurbescherming) has been integrated into the Environmental Act (Omgevingswet). This integration maintains the principle of 'duty of care' (zorgplicht), ensuring that plants and animals are not harmed. Under the Environmental Act, the release of animals into the wild remains prohibited to protect native species. However, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food security and Nature (LNVN) may grant exemptions for the release, breeding, capture, and translocation of protected species.

Reintroductions are conducted in accordance with IUCN guidelines, as outlined in the Beleidslijn Herintroducties (Policy Guideline on Reintroductions, Parliamentary Document 31 200 XIV, no. 215). This framework ensures that species reintroductions align with ecological, ethical, and scientific standards.

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

No

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

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> Translocation of waterbirds is not an issue in the Netherlands.

4.5 Introductions

25. Does your country have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.1)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of legislation, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> The Netherlands has established a comprehensive legislative framework to prevent the introduction of non-native species that could harm migratory waterbirds. This framework integrates both European Union (EU) regulations and national laws to address invasive alien species (IAS).

EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation

In January 2015, the EU implemented the Invasive Alien Species Regulation (IAS Regulation), aiming for a coordinated approach among Member States to tackle IAS. Central to this regulation is a list of invasive alien species of Union concern, targeting species that pose significant threats to native biodiversity. The regulation imposes restrictions on the keeping, importing, selling, breeding, and growing of these listed species. Member States are mandated to implement measures for early detection, rapid eradication, and management of widely spread IAS populations. Prevention remains a priority, as established populations can be costly and challenging to manage or eradicate. The Union list is updated regularly based on new information and

evidence.

National Implementation in the Netherlands

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food security and Nature (LVVN) has tasked the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) with advising on the national approach for each species listed in the Union list. This guidance is detailed in the document "Substantiation Strategy Union List Species" (Onderbouwing strategie Unielijstsoorten; September 2016). The NVWA also provides recommendations on species that might be added to the Union list, including those affecting wetlands. The list is accessible on the NVWA website.

The IAS Regulation is implemented in the Netherlands through the Nature Conservation Act 2017 (Wet natuurbescherming), which applies nationwide. Responsibility for enforcing the IAS Regulation is shared between the national government (LVVN) and provincial authorities.

This integrated legislative framework ensures that the Netherlands effectively addresses the introduction of non-native species, thereby safeguarding migratory waterbirds and other native biodiversity.

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

[Unionlist of invasive alien species \(IAS\) in the Netherlands](#) - List of potential IAS in the Netherlands available at the website of The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).

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.

>>> See description under question 25.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The policy document Onderbouwing strategie Unielijstsoorten (September 2016) outlines management actions for each species on the Union list observed in the Netherlands. The Union list is dynamic, with new species added based on EU criteria following risk assessments. Consequently, not all harmful exotic species are included.

For instance, the Netherlands' field guide on invasive aquatic plants describes 20 species with management recommendations, while only 13 of these are listed on the Union list.

Some Union list species present in the Netherlands are not currently managed due to climatic conditions preventing their reproduction. Examples include the Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and freshwater turtles such as the Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), Yellow-bellied Slider (*T. scripta scripta*), and Cumberland Slider (*T. scripta troostii*).

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

Yes

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

Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*

For Ruddy Duck / *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

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

[Factsheet Ruddy Duck in the Netherlands](#) - Last update 12-3-2025

Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

For Egyptian Goose / *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Control or eradication programme being developed

Please provide starting date and expected finalisation date

>>> The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) is developing elimination and management plans for species listed on the Union list, including the Egyptian Goose, in collaboration with provincial authorities, water and site managers, and other experts. These plans focus on controlling populations of these species that are currently present in the wild or have the potential to establish in the future. The development of these action plans is being carried out in phases, starting with the species that

pose the most significant risks to the Netherlands. Once the final plans are completed, they will be made available for public download.

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

[Factsheet Egyptian Goose in The Netherlands](#) - Last update 04-04-2023

African Sacred Ibis / *Threskiornis aethiopicus* **For African Sacred Ibis / *Threskiornis aethiopicus***

Control or eradication programme developed and being implemented

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

[Factsheet African Sacred Ibis in the Netherlands](#) - Last update 25-10-2023

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> To manage this species, the Netherlands has taken a cautious approach, focusing on monitoring its population and preventing further spread. Measures include tracking the species' distribution and breeding success, with occasional targeted actions to control numbers in areas where it could threaten native wildlife or cause ecological disruption.

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

Yes

Please list the non-native species for which relevant action has been undertaken

>>> Since August 2nd, 2017, several aquatic and terrestrial non-native species in the Netherlands, particularly those on the Union list, are actively controlled through management actions to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds. These efforts include early detection, elimination, and damage control measures for various species, as outlined below:

Freshwater Plants:

Floating primrose-willow (*Ludwigia peploides*): Early signaling and elimination.

American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*): Early signaling and elimination.

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*): Damage control, early signaling, and elimination.

Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*): Damage control, early signaling, and elimination.

Curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*): Early signaling and elimination or effective management.

Nuttalls waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*): Early signaling and elimination or effective management.

Water-primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*): Elimination of small populations; research on biological pest control.

Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*): Damage control, early signaling, and elimination.

Broadleaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*): Damage control, early signaling, and elimination.

Mammals:

Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*): Elimination, including influx control from Germany and isolated specimens.

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*): Damage control, through the elimination of individual specimens; management costs approximately €35 million per year.

Amphibians:

American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*): Early signaling and elimination.

Fish:

Amur sleeper (*Percottus glenii*): Elimination in isolated waters.

Stone moroko (*Pseudorasbora parva*): Elimination in isolated waters.

Freshwater Invertebrates:

Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*): Elimination not possible; managed through commercial fisheries.

Spiny-cheek crayfish (*Orconectus limosus*): Elimination not possible; managed through commercial fisheries.

Virile crayfish (*O. virilis*): Elimination not possible; managed through commercial fisheries.

Signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*): Elimination not possible; managed through commercial fisheries.

Red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*): Elimination not possible; managed through commercial fisheries.

Marbled crayfish (*Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*): Elimination not possible; managed through commercial fisheries.

These management actions are aimed at controlling or eradicating non-native species to prevent their negative impacts on ecosystems and migratory waterbirds.

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

[Substantiation Strategy Union List Species \(Onderbouwing strategie Unieliijstsoorten\)](#)

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

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

No

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

>>> The AEWA Guidelines on the avoidance of introductions of non-native waterbird species were not used specifically, but national legislation and guidelines on the prevention of introductions of non-native waterbird species align with the AEWA Guidelines. These national frameworks ensure that the introduction of non-native species is carefully regulated and managed to prevent negative impacts on native waterbird populations and ecosystems.

4.6 Seabirds

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

Yes

30. Does your country have comprehensive data on seabird by-catch? (Resolution 7.6)

Yes

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

>>> The Netherlands collects data on seabird by-catch as part of its broader efforts to assess the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems. This includes information on by-catches such as undersized fish, birds, marine mammals, and benthos, particularly from marine fisheries where such by-catches are not landed. The European Data Collection Framework (DCF) mandates Member States to gather these data and make them available to relevant stakeholders. This information is crucial for evaluating the effects of fishing activities on the marine environment and, specifically, on seabird populations and fish stocks.

NL is also lead in the international CIBBRiNA Project, funded by the EU Life Program, which aims at minimizing bycatch of multiple species groups, amongst which birds. See <https://cibbrina.eu/about/>

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

[Monitoring by-catches](#)

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

Yes

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

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically conducted a separate assessment of by-catch by artisanal fisheries in relation to AEWA-listed seabirds. However, as part of broader efforts to monitor and mitigate the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity, including seabirds, the country collects by-catch data through the European Data Collection Framework (DCF). This includes data on by-catches in various types of fisheries, which can encompass artisanal fisheries.

While the focus has generally been on larger-scale commercial fisheries, by-catch data is collected for all relevant fisheries, including artisanal ones, to assess the broader impact on marine ecosystems and species, including AEWA-listed seabirds. These data help inform management measures and contribute to the protection of seabirds and other marine life.

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

Yes

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

[Recreational fisheries research](#)

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

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically assessed the impact of artisanal or recreational fisheries on seabirds' prey. However, under the European Data Collection Regulation (Data Collection Framework, DCF), Member States, including the Netherlands, are required to collect data on the extent of recreational fisheries for species such as eel, cod, sea bass, salmon, sharks, and rays in the North Sea, as well as eel and salmon in inland waterways. Recreational fishing in the Netherlands mainly occurs with fishing rods from the shore or from boats. While the data collected focuses on fishing effort and catch levels, it does not explicitly assess the impact of these fisheries on seabirds' prey. Nonetheless, these data contribute to broader understanding of fishing pressures on marine ecosystems, which indirectly informs the potential effects on seabird food

sources.

33. Has your country undertaken steps towards the adoption/application of measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing practices in the Agreement Area? (Resolution 3.8)

Yes

Please provide short description of all actions

>>> The incidental catch of seabirds is relatively uncommon in the Netherlands, as large-scale longline fishing is not practiced in its waters. However, the Netherlands has taken steps to mitigate incidental seabird by-catch and combat Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing within its jurisdiction. All fishing activities, including those that may affect seabirds, are regulated under the Dutch Fisheries Act, which includes provisions to prevent illegal and unregulated fishing practices. This regulatory framework ensures that fishing operations comply with established rules, and monitoring mechanisms are in place to enforce sustainable practices and combat IUU fishing in the Agreement Area.

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

Partial Data

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

>>> Hunting and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed seabirds are illegal in the Netherlands, except when an exemption is granted. Data on illegal hunting and egg harvesting are collected by over 300 wildlife management units across the country. However, information on illegal hunting is harder to obtain, as such activities are often less visible or reported. BirdLife International maintains a database that tracks incidents of illegal killing and egg harvesting, which may provide additional insight into these issues, including for AEWA-listed seabirds.

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

>>> This will be done by improving data collection through wildlife management units, enhancing reporting systems, and using databases like BirdLife International. Additionally, the Netherlands is strengthening monitoring programs under national and EU regulations, and may expand surveillance efforts and data-sharing platforms in the future. Specific timelines and methods are still being developed as part of ongoing conservation efforts.

35. Have you assessed the extent and impact of hunting, egg harvesting, and any illegal taking (of birds and/or eggs) on AEWA-listed seabirds? (Resolution 7.6)

- Extent of hunting
- Extent of egg harvesting
- Extent of illegal taking of birds
- Extent of illegal taking of eggs
- Impact of hunting
- Impact of egg harvesting
- Impact of illegal taking of birds
- Impact of illegal taking of eggs

Extent of hunting:

Yes

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

>>> Hunting and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed seabirds are illegal in the Netherlands, with derogations granted only under strict conditions for specific purposes like research or conservation management. These exemptions must comply with national and international laws, including the Birds Directive and AEWA. While such derogations are carefully monitored, there is limited data on their extent and impact on seabird populations. Further assessments may be needed to fully understand the effects of these exemptions.

Extent of egg harvesting:

Yes

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

>>> Hunting and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed seabirds are illegal in the Netherlands, with derogations granted only under strict conditions for specific purposes like research or conservation management. These exemptions must comply with national and international laws, including the Birds Directive and AEWA. While such derogations are carefully monitored, there is limited data on their extent and impact on seabird populations. Further assessments may be needed to fully understand the effects of these exemptions.

Extent of illegal taking of birds:

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically assessed the full extent of illegal taking (hunting or egg harvesting) of AEWA-listed seabirds. While such activities are illegal, and there are legal frameworks and monitoring systems in place, a comprehensive assessment of the scope of illegal taking is not explicitly detailed in current reports. Data on illegal activities are gathered by wildlife management units and through international databases like BirdLife International, but a full assessment of the extent of these illegal activities targeting AEWA-listed seabirds has not been conducted.

Extent of illegal taking of eggs:

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically assessed the full extent of illegal taking (hunting or egg harvesting) of AEWA-listed seabirds. While such activities are illegal, and there are legal frameworks and monitoring systems in place, a comprehensive assessment of the scope of illegal taking is not explicitly detailed in current reports. Data on illegal activities are gathered by wildlife management units and through international databases like BirdLife International, but a full assessment of the extent of these illegal activities targeting AEWA-listed seabirds has not been conducted.

Impact of hunting:

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Hunting and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed seabirds are illegal in the Netherlands, with derogations granted only under strict conditions for specific purposes like research or conservation management. These exemptions must comply with national and international laws, including the Birds Directive and AEWA. While such derogations are carefully monitored, there is limited data on their extent and impact on seabird populations. Further assessments may be needed to fully understand the effects of these exemptions.

Impact of egg harvesting:

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Hunting and egg harvesting of AEWA-listed seabirds are illegal in the Netherlands, with derogations granted only under strict conditions for specific purposes like research or conservation management. These exemptions must comply with national and international laws, including the Birds Directive and AEWA. While such derogations are carefully monitored, there is limited data on their extent and impact on seabird populations. Further assessments may be needed to fully understand the effects of these exemptions.

Impact of illegal taking of birds:

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically assessed the impact of illegal taking (hunting or egg harvesting) of AEWA-listed seabirds. While illegal taking is prohibited and monitored through various mechanisms, there is no comprehensive evaluation of how these activities affect the populations of AEWA-listed seabirds. Data on illegal activities are collected by wildlife management units and international databases like BirdLife International, but a detailed assessment of the ecological impact of illegal taking on seabird populations has not been carried out.

Impact of illegal taking of eggs:

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically assessed the impact of illegal taking (hunting or egg harvesting) of AEWA-listed seabirds. While illegal taking is prohibited and monitored through various mechanisms, there is no comprehensive evaluation of how these activities affect the populations of AEWA-listed seabirds. Data on illegal activities are collected by wildlife management units and international databases like BirdLife International, but a detailed assessment of the ecological impact of illegal taking on seabird populations has not been carried out.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically identified all seabird colonies at risk from invasive non-native species. However, invasive species are recognized as a significant threat to native biodiversity, including seabird colonies. Efforts to monitor and manage the impacts of invasive species are part of broader conservation strategies. The Dutch authorities, in cooperation with environmental organizations and researchers, are working to identify and address risks posed by invasive species to seabird colonies, but a comprehensive assessment of all affected colonies is not explicitly reported.

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

Yes

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

>>> The Netherlands has identified key coastal and at-sea areas, including Natura 2000 sites, where responses to oil spills would be most urgently required due to the presence of AEWA-listed seabirds. These designated sites, both at sea and along the coast, are critical for protecting seabird species and their habitats, particularly during sensitive periods such as breeding and migration. The Dutch authorities have developed oil spill contingency plans focusing on these areas to minimize the impact on vulnerable seabird populations. For more information, the map of Natura 2000 sites can be accessed at www.natura2000.nl.

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

[Map of Natura 2000-sites in the Netherlands](#) - Map that shows the terrestrial and marine Natura 2000-sites, some of which have been designated to conserve its breeding, foraging and resting functions for (AEWA-listed) seabirds.

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

Yes

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

>>> Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management) is responsible in the event of an oil spill at sea. Oiled birds can wash up on the coast. For the shelter and care of these birds, Rijkswaterstaat has made the SBV (Collaboration scheme for handling infected birds) with agreements between the bird shelters and volunteers along the coast, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food security and Nature (LVVN), the coastal municipalities, research institutes and international aid organizations. When sheltering many birds, Rijkswaterstaat provides a TOV (Temporary Rescue Centers for Birds) with specially equipped tents and equipment for cleaning and caring for the birds. After rehabilitation, the birds are released back into nature. In the summer of 2018, the TOV was deployed in a major oil spill in the port of Rotterdam, in which hundreds of Mute swans were smeared with fuel oil.

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

[Oil spill control at sea](#)

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

Yes

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

>>> The Netherlands has undertaken several programs to assess the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on seabird populations, including AEWA-listed species in the North Sea. However, while efforts are being made to gather data on the effects of these wind farms, a comprehensive program specifically aimed at validating models of population-level impacts on AEWA seabirds is still evolving.

Ongoing monitoring programs collect data on seabird populations, distribution, and behavior in areas affected by offshore wind development. These efforts include studying the collision risk, displacement effects, and changes in habitat use due to the presence of wind farms. Research results are used to improve environmental impact assessments and to inform mitigation strategies. Additionally, the Netherlands collaborates with other countries in the region to better understand the collective impact of offshore wind farms on seabird populations in the North Sea.

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

[Offshore wind energy](#) - Wageningen Marine Research

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

Yes

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

>>> The Netherlands has designated key areas for seabird conservation, particularly within the Natura 2000 network, which includes sites critical for breeding and migration. These efforts aim to ensure that important seabird habitats, both within the national territory and in the wider North Sea region, are adequately protected.

In addition, the Netherlands continues to monitor seabird populations and habitats, and it collaborates with neighboring countries to enhance the protection of migratory seabirds by identifying and addressing gaps in the Critical Site Network.

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

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

Partially

Please describe the progress

>>> The Netherlands has partially identified the network of all sites of international and national importance for migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1 (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.1.2). All sites of international importance for migratory waterbird species/populations in the Netherlands have been identified. Most of these sites are part of the National Nature Network and have been designated as Natura 2000 sites. A selection of them have also been designated as Ramsar sites. However, the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites do not cover most of the foraging and breeding areas for waterbirds on farmland, such as those for Bewick's and Whooper Swan, several species of Geese, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Oystercatcher, Curlew, and Corncrake. The Agri-Environmental Scheme has an approach with focus areas for breeding meadow birds. Sites of national importance are not formally identified in the Netherlands other than Natura 2000.

41. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, were the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds used?

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

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not used specifically, but the national guidelines on the identification of the network of sites of international and national importance in the Netherlands are based on the Birds Directive and are therefore in accordance with the AEWA Guidelines.

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

NO, but the review of the inventory is being undertaken

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

43. Has your country assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (i.e. resilience of sites to climate change)? (Resolution 5.13)

For one or more single sites

Yes

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

>>> The expected impacts of climate change are integrated into the management plans of the relevant sites. In addition, climate mitigation and adaptation are key priorities within the Programmatic Approach for Main Waters. All of these main waters are crucial for waterbirds and have therefore been designated as Natura 2000 sites, with most also designated as Ramsar sites.

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

[Risks and opportunities of climate change for Dutch nature](#) - The impact of temperature rise, extreme drought or wetness, sea level rise, and salinization on the objectives for the Habitats and Birds Directives (VHR), the Water Framework Directive (KRW), ecosystem services, and overall biodiversity.

[Programmatic Approach Main Waters](#) - Programmatische Aanpak Grote Wateren

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).

>>> All main water bodies concerned in the Programmatic Approach Main Waters are part of the national protected area network.

44. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.3)

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

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

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

All sites of international importance

(sites recognized as having international importance for migratory waterbirds following criteria of, for instance, the AEWA Critical Site Network, the Ramsar Convention, the EU Birds Directive (SPAs), the Bern Convention Emerald Network, the BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas)

Total number

>>> 150

Total area (ha)

>>> 935749

Number of internationally important sites under national protection designation

>>> 77

Area of international importance under national protection designation (ha)

>>> 935749

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

High

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

>>> The Netherlands has designated 162 Natura 2000 sites, 78 of which are Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive to protect 102 bird species. This includes both breeding and non-breeding (primarily migratory) waterbird species.

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

Number of sites

>>> 77

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> The national reports of the Bird and Habitat Directives generally reflect a situation where the state of nature in the Netherlands remains concerning, with many species and habitats still at risk despite ongoing conservation efforts. More action is required to meet the targets set by the Birds and Habitats Directives and to reverse the negative trends in biodiversity.

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Moderate

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

>>> The national reports of the Bird and Habitat Directives generally reflect a situation where the state of nature in the Netherlands remains concerning, with many species and habitats still at risk (also from climate change) despite ongoing conservation efforts. More action is required to meet the targets set by the Birds and Habitats Directives and to reverse the negative trends in biodiversity.

Field for additional information (optional)

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

[Climate Adaptation Platform Netherlands](#) - the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Portal of the Netherlands. The Knowledge Portal is the primary source of information for everyone engaged in climate adaptation. It features practical information, useful tools, inspiring examples, and the latest news.

All sites of national importance

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

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

>>> The NNN on the map has not yet been fully realized. According to the eighth Nature Progress Report, a total of approximately 703,000 hectares were under management and thus realized by 2021. The minimum expected area of nature within the NNN by January 1, 2028, is approximately 738,000 hectares. Therefore, not all of the currently designated NNN area on the map will become a nature reserve; a small portion of the area is still designated as a search area for new nature, and a small part will be developed with agricultural nature management or other forms of nature-inclusive agriculture. Areas with agricultural nature management and nature-inclusive agriculture are not considered protected nature areas.

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

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

>>> The situation for nationally protected areas is similar to that of internationally protected sites, with the same pressures and threats affecting both.

Please rate the effectiveness of the climate resilience measures

Moderate

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

>>> The Netherlands is still in the process to become climate-change-proof. The Delta Programme for Spatial Adaptation (DPRA) aims to mitigate waterlogging, drought, heat stress, and flood impacts, with the goal of making the Netherlands climate-proof and water-resilient by 2050. The National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS), first published in 2016 (NAS'16), provides the framework for this adaptation process, and a revised version, NAS'26, will be released in 2026.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Roughly 50 - 75% of the designated Birds Directive sites (around 50 sites) in the Netherlands may require buffer zones to protect the ecological integrity of the areas. While all designated Birds Directive sites have some form of undesignated buffer zones to mitigate the potential ecological impacts of nearby projects and activities, not all of these zones are officially designated as 'buffer zones.' Some sites, however, do have official buffer zones, such as the Naardermeer and Groote Peel, which are essential for conserving the hydrological conditions crucial for the preservation of these peat swamp ecosystems.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The Netherlands has many internationally and nationally protected sites. Many overlap. Most important categories are the international Natura 2000 and KRM-sites and the national NNN and agricultural nature management sites. Nearly all Natura2000 and NNN-sites have a nature management plan.

Natura 2000 Areas:

Natura 2000 is a European network of protected nature areas. In the Netherlands, there are 162 Natura 2000 areas (76 are among others designated as SPA under the EU Bird Directive), covering over 2 million hectares (all Ramsar sites in the Netherlands fully overlap with the Natura 2000-sites). Most of this (86%) is open water, including coastal waters like the Bruine Bank and Doggersbank. On land, approximately 309,000 hectares are designated as Natura 2000, and with inland waters (rivers, lakes, including the IJsselmeer) added, the total is 570,000 hectares. Almost all of the land area overlaps with the Natuurnetwerk Nederland (NNN).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (KRM):

The KRM aims to achieve a good environmental status of European seas. There are three KRM areas in the North Sea: Centrale Oestergronden, Borkumse Stenen, and Friese Front, covering almost 480,000 hectares, a third of which is also Natura 2000.

Natuurnetwerk Nederland (NNN):

The NNN, formerly the Ecological Main Structure (EHS), was introduced in 1990 to stop biodiversity decline and restore nature through a connected network of nature areas. It is primarily managed by the provinces. The NNN on the map covers about 774,000 hectares, though by 2021, approximately 703,000 hectares were realized. By 2028, the minimum expected area is around 738,000 hectares. Some areas in the NNN will not be fully realized as nature areas and will instead be managed for agricultural nature or other forms of nature-inclusive agriculture, which are not counted as protected areas.

Agricultural Nature Management:

To preserve the nature and landscape values in agricultural areas, the government has been providing subsidies for agricultural nature management since 1981. As of January 1, 2024, the area of agricultural land under nature management was approximately 117 thousand hectares. This is about 6% of the total agricultural land area. The majority of this is grassland management aimed at protecting meadow birds in the provinces of Friesland, North Holland, and South Holland.

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

[Agricultural nature management, 1981-2024.](#) - To preserve the natural and landscape values in agricultural areas, the government has been providing subsidies for agricultural nature management since 1981. As of January 1, 2024, the area of cultivated land under agricultural nature management was approximately 117 thousand hectares, accounting for about 6% of the total cultivated land. The majority of this area is grassland management aimed at protecting meadow birds in the provinces of Friesland, North Holland, and South Holland.

[Share of protected nature areas in the Netherlands, 2022.](#) - The protected nature area on land covers 20% of the land surface in the Netherlands. This area is almost entirely part of the Nature Network. Nearly half of it (9%) is legally protected as a Natura 2000 site. Of the total land and inland waters, 26% is designated as protected nature area, while for coastal and marine waters, this percentage is 31%.

Examples of best practice (optional)

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

>>> A notable wetland restoration project is the development of the 10,000 ha archipelago of the Marker Wadden in the Markermeer Ramsar site. The first created islands have already provided a significant boost to the site's biodiversity, particularly for bird species. The Wadden Sea, a key site for AEWA-listed waterbirds, has been the focus of the "Program towards a Rich Wadden Sea" (Naar een rijke Waddenzee), which started in 2010. This initiative involves collaboration among residents, users, non-governmental organizations, and governments to improve nature, create a resilient ecosystem, and ensure sustainable economic use of the Wadden Sea. The third phase of the program began on 1 March 2019, with notable outcomes such as the return of seagrass beds and the expansion of mussel beds, both of which are biodiversity hotspots within the Wadden Sea ecosystem.

Additionally, the Council of Europe has awarded European Diplomas for Protected Areas to four sites in the Netherlands, which are all crucial for AEWA-listed species. These sites include:

Boschplaat (Terschelling) (since 1970)

National Park Weerribben-Wieden (since 1996)

Naardermeer (since 2005)

Oostvaardersplassen (since 1999).

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

[Nature restoration on the Marker Wadden.](#)

[Towards a Rich Wadden Sea](#)

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

Yes

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

>>> The National Nature Network (NNN) includes nearly all (inter)nationally important sites and is expected to be completed by 2027. The NNN focuses on enlarging, connecting, and improving protected areas through nature development and effective management. The Programmatic Approach for Main Waters specifically targets the nature development of large water bodies, addressing the impacts of climate change and balancing other functions like water recreation. This is particularly relevant for AEWA-listed species.

However, a key gap in the NNN remains the agricultural land, as the intensification of agriculture in recent decades has led to a dramatic loss of biodiversity. One of the primary nature policy challenges is the development and conservation of sustainable breeding populations of meadow bird species, which are highly dependent on these agricultural landscapes.

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

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

>>> See the website attached.

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

Agricultural nature management, 1981-2024. - To preserve the nature and landscape values in agricultural areas, the government has been providing subsidies for agricultural nature management since 1981. As of 01-01-2024, the area of agricultural land under agricultural nature management was approximately 117 thousand hectares, which is about 6% of the total agricultural land area. The majority of this is grassland management for the protection of meadow birds in the provinces of Friesland, North Holland, and South Holland.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Being developed

Please provide starting date and expected date of finalisation

>>> The newly acquired nature areas will be designed (if necessary) and managed by one of the site management organizations.

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

Yes, partially

Please provide details and reasons for partial integration

>>> Some sites are farmland with a primarily agricultural function.

If available, please provide best practice examples of integration of the flyway site network into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes

>>> The flyway site network is reflected in the National Nature Network and the Natura 2000-network on land and water.

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

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

No

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

>>> The AEWA Guidelines were not applied specifically, but the national guidelines for managing key sites for migratory birds are based on the Birds Directive, and as such, align with the AEWA guidelines.

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

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> ChatGPT said:

Information from critical sites in the AEWA area is primarily derived from up-to-date data provided by SOVON Bird Research Netherlands (SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland). The CSN tool for sites in the Netherlands is based on SOVON data, though it is likely to be less accurate.

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

Yes

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

>>> These include agri-environmental schemes promoting sustainable farming, programs like Natura 2000 and PAGW that focus on habitat protection and restoration, efforts to improve habitat connectivity, and wetland restoration projects such as the Marker Wadden. These measures aim to enhance habitat quality, support biodiversity, and increase resilience to climate change, in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027.

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

Programmatic Approach to Large Waters (PAGW) - The government is working through the Programmatic Approach to Large Waters (PAGW) to create resilient large water bodies where high-quality nature coexists with a strong economy. In the video below, we explain more about the mission of PAGW.

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))

Yes

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

The international Meuse Commission - The International Meuse Commission (IMC) was established in 2002 with the signing of the International Meuse Agreement (Ghent Agreement). The objective of the Agreement is to achieve sustainable and integrated management of the water of the Meuse River Basin District. The Agreement was signed by the Walloon Region, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the Flemish Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium and Luxembourg and came into force on 1 December 2006.

ICPR - International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine - For the benefit of the Rhine and of all waters running into the Rhine, the members of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) - Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the European Commission successfully co-operate with Austria, Liechtenstein and the Belgian region of Wallonia as well as Italy. Nine states and regions in the Rhine watershed closely co-operate in order to harmonize the many interests of use and protection in the Rhine area. Focal points of work are sustainable development of the Rhine, its alluvial areas and the good state of all waters in the watershed.

A transboundary depoldered area for flood protection and nature: Hedwige and Prosper Polders - The Hedwige-Prosper polders project is part of the Belgian Sigma Plan: this integrated plan is reinforcing dikes and quay walls and opening flood areas to protect land along the Scheldt Estuary and the upstream basin against floods. In this specific project, the outer defences of the Hertogin-Hedwige (hereinafter referred to as Hedwige) and the Prosper polders - low lying areas of reclaimed land are being removed, reopening these areas to the tides. This process (which can be called 'depoldering') involves moving dike protection inland. Doing so will provide room for water during tidal surges, thereby reducing the risk of floods, and re-establishing an estuarine natural area. While nearly all Sigma Plan projects take place on Belgian territory, this is an exception as the Hedwige polder lies on Dutch territory.

Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation - Since 1978, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands have been cooperating to protect the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity.

Please provide details on each partnership arrangement your country has been involved in (add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials)

>>> These partnerships include collaboration between national and international organizations, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Cross-border projects in the Wadden Sea and Westerschelde estuary demonstrate the Netherlands' active role in promoting habitat restoration and management through multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Please indicate which other countries have been involved in each of the partnership arrangements

>>> Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation: Germany, Denmark

Westerschelde transboundary area: Belgium

ICPR: Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the European Commission, Austria, Liechtenstein, Belgium (Wallonia), Italy

IMC: Walloon Region, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the Flemish Region, the Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium and Luxembourg

Have a specific project or projects been established under the partnership arrangement(s) for the implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration in the wider environment?

Yes

Please provide description and details on each project

For each project separately, please provide an account of what surface (in hectares) of what habitat type has been (1) placed under improved management, (2) restored and/or (3) created.

>>> Please see the examples of the Wadden Sea, Westerschelde Estuary, Rhine and Meuse as explained above.

Placed under improved management

>>> The extent is unclear.

Restored

>>> The extent is unclear.

Created

>>> The extent is unclear.

Please indicate which AEWA-listed species have benefitted from each project and in which way, e.g. increased breeding population, increased breeding success. Please provide metrics for each kind of recorded impact (add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials)
>>> AEWA species have undoubtedly benefited, but the extent to which this can be attributed to the specific projects remains uncertain..

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

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

Yes

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

>>> The Environment and Planning Act (Omgevingswet) regulates the hunting and management of wildlife, including waterbirds, ensuring conservation across their geographical range. Hunting is only allowed for five species under strict regulations, while population management of protected waterbirds requires specific exemptions. More than 300 Fauna Management Units at the provincial level develop Fauna Management Plans, ensuring compliance with national and international conservation obligations.

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?

>>> By the end of 2020, the European Union implemented a ban on lead gunshot in wetlands across all Member States under REACH, the EU's chemical regulations framework. However, the use of lead shot had already been prohibited in the Netherlands since February 1st, 1993. Possession of lead shot in the field is also illegal, although occasional illegal use has been reported. The police are responsible for enforcing this ban, and a hunter's certificate may be suspended if an offense occurs. The hunting community largely supports the ban, as effective alternatives are available at similar costs.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Hunting in the Netherlands is regulated by the Nature Conservation Act (2017). Hunters are required to hold a hunting certificate, while falconers (using hawks or peregrine falcons) must possess a falconer certificate. Falconers must also be members of a Fauna Management Unit (Faunabeheereenheid), which is a local hunters' association. The hunting season for Mallard is permitted from August 15th to January 31st. All species listed under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) can only be hunted under specific derogations, which are granted if no alternatives exist for damage control or population management.

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The enforcement of the Nature Conservation Act, including hunting legislation, is the responsibility of the provincial authorities. Each province is tasked with overseeing compliance with the regulations and ensuring proper enforcement of hunting laws.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

Yes

Please explain how this was assessed.

>>> Fauna Management Units develop a Fauna Management Plan based on an assessment of species populations. These plans are publicly available for review and can be subject to objections. Additionally, all hunted game is registered by the Fauna Management Unit and submitted to the relevant provincial authorities for monitoring and oversight.

Please explain what the compliance with legislation was found to be:

Good (almost full compliance)

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

>>> The system works quite well, though this does not prevent illegal actions. The hunting or falconer certificate can be withdrawn in case of illegal actions.

Please indicate any known reasons for good compliance or any barriers to compliance. Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> The limited number of species and the specific hunting seasons help regulate hunting activities and promote compliance. The system is generally considered effective, though illegal actions still occur from time to time. Exemptions are carefully registered, and all hunted game is documented by the Fauna Management

Units and submitted to the provincial authorities. Factors contributing to good compliance include clear regulations, effective oversight by provinces, and the involvement of local hunters' associations in managing populations. However, barriers to compliance include occasional illegal hunting activities, insufficient enforcement in remote areas, and challenges in monitoring all hunters consistently.

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.

>>> Lead poisoning is no longer a concern in the Netherlands, as the use of lead was banned 25 years ago, in February 1993.

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

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

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

>>> Hunting is strictly regulated under the Nature Conservation Act and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition, with enforcement by the Ministry of Justice and Security. If a legal weapon owner is caught poaching, their weapon and hunting certificate are confiscated. Poaching can be detected by various individuals, including hunters, tourists, birdwatchers, farmers, and foresters, who report violations to the police or wardens. These authorities then investigate and issue fines or warrants as necessary.

The Nature Conservation Act is enforced by wardens (BOA's), special investigators, and the police. Wardens are primarily employed by land managers (TBOs), municipalities, provinces, and also by anglers and hunters. While BOAs focus on detecting poaching, they are also responsible for addressing all violations of the Nature Conservation Act. By the end of 2018, the number of Green Special Investigating Officers ('green BOAs') totaled approximately 460. A survey conducted among Green BOAs in late 2019 revealed a high demand for additional personnel due to an increase in incidents and growing levels of aggression.

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

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> The Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation (Stichting Jachtopleidingen Nederland - SJN) designs and administers courses and examinations on nature, hunting, and wildlife management.

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

[Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation \(Stichting Jachtopleidingen Nederland\)](#)

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

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> Hunters in the Netherlands are organized into local wildlife management units (WBEs), which function as regional hunting associations. There are 285 game management units across the country, with 278 (98%) affiliated with the Royal Dutch Hunting Association. Together, these WBEs create a nationwide network for wildlife management. Hunting is prohibited for species with an unfavorable conservation status, such as the Partridge.

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

Very high (always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application

>>> The Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation (SjN) develops and administers courses and examinations on nature, hunting, and wildlife management. Established by the Royal Dutch Hunting Association, SjN has over 40 years of experience in delivering professional training in these fields.

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

>>> Hunters in the Netherlands are organized into 285 wildlife management units (WBEs), which together form a nationwide network. Of these, 98% are affiliated with the Royal Dutch Hunting Association. To support education and training in the field, the association founded the Netherlands Hunting Training Foundation (Stichting Jachtopleidingen Nederland – SjN). With over 40 years of experience, SjN develops and administers courses and examinations on nature, hunting, and wildlife management.

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

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

No

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

>>> The Netherlands has 285 Wildlife Management Units (WBEs) that develop Fauna Management Plans, coordinated by the Fauna Management Units at the provincial level. While the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory birds have not been specifically used in this process, the Fauna Management Plans are aligned with AEWA's obligations and principles regarding the sustainable management of migratory bird populations.

Optionally, you can provide additional information on section 6.1. Hunting

>>> Hunting of breeding waterbirds is strictly regulated in the Netherlands. The Mallard is the only species that may be hunted, and only during a limited period outside the breeding season (August 15 – January 31). The shooting of other species, such as Wigeon and geese, is only permitted under exemption for reasons such as crop protection or air safety.

For geese and Wigeon, specific management measures are in place, including shooting, gasification, disturbance, and egg collection. More details can be found at www.faunabeheereenheid.nl.

The traditional collection of Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) eggs in the province of Fryslân/Friesland, which was previously allowed from March 1 to April 1, was permitted during the past triennium. However, in January 2015, the Council of State banned the practice due to the species' declining population.

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

[Fauna management units Netherlands \(Faunabeheereenheden Nederland\)](#)

6.2. Ecotourism

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

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> Wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism is integrated into the Netherlands' national tourism development strategies through initiatives such as the Programmatic Approach for Main Waters and the Code of Conduct for the IJsselmeer area or Wadden sea. Additionally, recreation and tourism are incorporated into the Natura 2000 management plans for each site, ensuring that nature conservation and sustainable tourism practices go hand in hand to support waterbird habitats and biodiversity.

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

[Code of Honour for Wadden Enthusiasts \(Erecode voor wadliefhebbers\)](#)

[Programmatic Approach Main Waters](#)

[Code of Conduct IJsselmeergebied](#) - Code of conduct for water recreation at the IJsselmeergebied, which is the main fresh water lake area of The Netherlands. (area)

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 exact number of ecotourism initiatives focused on migratory waterbirds is unknown. However, many nature management organizations in the Netherlands actively promote birdwatching and ecotourism. They offer guided excursions to the public and have established bird hides at key birdwatching hotspots to facilitate observation while minimizing disturbance to wildlife.

Were any of the initiatives described above launched after 2018?

Yes

Please indicate which are those initiatives

>>> These include newly developed birdwatching routes, upgraded visitor centers, and expanded guided excursions by organizations such as Natuurmonumenten, Staatsbosbeheer, and local birdwatching groups. Additionally, new bird hides and observation points have been constructed in key wetland areas like the Wadden Sea, Oostvaardersplassen, and Lauwersmeer to enhance public engagement while ensuring minimal disturbance to waterbirds.

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

High

Please provide details

>>> Newly developed birdwatching routes

Degree: High

These routes are likely designed to promote both conservation and community engagement by offering public access to natural areas while minimizing disturbance to wildlife. They foster awareness and appreciation for the environment, which can lead to better conservation efforts, and they also serve as a recreational resource for the community.

Upgraded visitor centers

Degree: Medium

While visitor centers can play a significant role in educating the public about conservation efforts and fostering a deeper connection to nature, the focus is often more on education and less on direct conservation action. However, they do provide essential support for community engagement and can serve as hubs for conservation-related activities.

Expanded guided excursions by organizations (e.g., Natuurmonumenten, Staatsbosbeheer, and local birdwatching groups)

Degree: High

Guided excursions promote both conservation and community engagement by providing expert knowledge on local ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation issues. They encourage responsible wildlife observation, reduce human impact on sensitive areas, and create a direct connection between people and nature.

New bird hides and observation points in key wetland areas (e.g., Wadden Sea, Oostvaardersplassen, Lauwersmeer)

Degree: High

These facilities are designed to enhance public engagement with the environment while minimizing disturbance to wildlife. They provide opportunities for birdwatching and public education while allowing the protection of sensitive habitats, balancing conservation and community benefits effectively.

In summary, the initiatives with direct engagement, such as the birdwatching routes, guided excursions, and observation points, have a high degree of contributing to both conservation and community benefits, while visitor centers are important but somewhat more focused on education, giving them a medium ranking.

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

High

Please provide details and the reasons for successful delivery

>>> See previous explanation.

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

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The initiatives are not new or innovative. The degree to which these initiatives deliver both conservation and community benefits varies:

High – Initiatives that actively combine conservation efforts with local community engagement, education, and economic benefits:

Wadden Sea World Heritage tourism projects – Promote sustainable tourism while supporting local businesses

and conservation.

Oostvaardersplassen visitor programs – Guided tours educate the public and generate funds for nature management.

Medium – Initiatives that contribute to conservation but have limited direct community benefits:

New bird hides and observation points (e.g., Lauwersmeer, Biesbosch) – Improve visitor experience and reduce disturbance but offer fewer local economic benefits.

Birdwatching routes developed by nature organizations – Support ecotourism but may not directly involve local communities.

Low – Initiatives mainly focused on conservation with minimal community involvement:

Wetland restoration projects that include birdwatching infrastructure – Primarily aimed at habitat improvement, with some visitor access.

Not at all – No known initiatives fall into this category, as most ecotourism projects involve at least some level of public engagement.

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.

Yes

Please describe what restrictions are in place, when they were introduced and whether they are considered to have worked (i.e. reduced the impact of lead poisoning). Please attach any published or unpublished references.

>>> Since 2002, the use of small lead fishing weights (under 50g) has been banned due to the risk of lead poisoning in waterbirds. Larger lead weights have been restricted since 1993.

In recent years, efforts to phase out lead entirely have intensified. Under the Green Deal on Lead Fishing Weights (2018), the government and angling organizations, including Sportvisserij Nederland, set a target to reduce lead use by 30% within three years. Additionally, subsidies have supported research into non-toxic alternatives such as tungsten, bismuth, and steel.

While a full legal ban on lead fishing weights has not yet been implemented, voluntary measures and awareness campaigns continue to promote the transition to safer alternatives.

60. Does your country have legislation in place, which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes and being implemented

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

Entire country

Please provide details

>>> Beyond designated Natura 2000 areas, an EIA is also mandatory for larger projects expected to have significant environmental effects. In the Netherlands, the EIA process is embedded in Environmental Law, implementing EU Directive 97/11/EC. Similarly, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required under EU Directive 2001/42/EC to evaluate broader policies and plans.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The EU Birds Directive is the primary legal framework for protecting waterbird habitats in the Netherlands and plays a key role in implementing the objectives of AEWA within the EU. Under this directive, important habitats for species listed in Annex I and other migratory birds are designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the Natura 2000 network.

The directive requires that any plan or project undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to evaluate its potential effects on designated sites. Approval is granted only if it is confirmed that the project will not negatively impact the ecological integrity of the site. However, in exceptional cases, a project may proceed despite a negative assessment if:

No viable alternatives exist, and

The project is of overriding public interest.

In such cases, the EU Member State must implement compensatory measures to maintain the coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

Beyond Natura 2000 sites, an EIA is also required for larger projects expected to have significant

environmental effects. In the Netherlands, the EIA process is part of Environmental Law, which implements EU Directive 2011/92/EU, the updated version of Directive 97/11/EC. Additionally, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), governed by EU Directive 2001/42/EC, applies to broader policies and plans with potential environmental impacts.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include cumulative impact assessment?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> both SEA and EIA processes in the EU, including the Netherlands, require cumulative impact assessments (CIA).

EIA (Directive 2011/92/EU, amended by 2014/52/EU) assesses cumulative effects of a project alongside existing or planned developments.

SEA (Directive 2001/42/EC) evaluates long-term, large-scale cumulative impacts in policies and programs, offering a broader framework for managing environmental pressures.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The draft EIA report is published for public consultation, typically allowing a six-week period for responses. The national EIA commission considers the feedback received during this process when providing its final advice.

Public participation is also a key component of the SEA process. While EIA applies to specific projects, SEA applies to broader plans and programs.

When a final decision is made, the competent authority must explain how citizens and civil society organizations were involved in the planning process and how their input was considered.

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

>>> In addition to EIA and SEA, the duty of care (Zorgplicht) is a key principle under the Nature Conservation Act in the Netherlands. This obligation applies to both habitat and species protection, ensuring that Natura 2000 sites, wildlife, plants, and their immediate environment are safeguarded.

The duty of care extends beyond species protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, covering all wild animals and plants. This means that individuals and organizations must take reasonable measures to prevent harm to biodiversity, even when no specific conservation measures are legally required.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> Development activities must be evaluated under the Nature Conservation Act to determine if a permit is required. If a permit is granted, it typically includes a set of mitigating and/or compensatory measures. The effectiveness of these measures depends on long-term monitoring, which may identify the need for adjustments or improvements to enhance their ecological effectiveness.

62. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1, Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(b))

Yes, all proposed projects

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[kec-4-0-cumulative-effects-birds-collisions \(1\).zip](#) - Cumulative impact assessment of collisions with existing and planned offshore wind turbines in the southern North Sea

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

[Interactions between birds and offshore wind farms](#) - Open Technology Programme project, NWO Domain Applied and Engineering Science

Project start/stop

Please provide information on the outstanding cases

>>> Over the past three years, the Netherlands has utilized Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for various projects, including those in the energy sector such as renewable energy developments and power line installations. These assessments evaluate the potential impacts of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species and their habitats.

Key Initiatives and Assessments:

Offshore Wind Energy Developments: The Netherlands has significantly expanded offshore wind energy capacity. The North Sea Programme 2022-2027 outlines spatial planning for the North Sea, considering environmental impacts, including those on migratory species.

Additionally, cumulative impact assessments have been conducted to evaluate the effects of offshore wind farms on bird populations.

Project Start/Stop: This initiative identifies critical periods during bird migration seasons and implements measures to minimize potential disturbances from offshore wind farms during these times.

Bird Interaction Studies: Long-term studies have been conducted to monitor and analyze interactions between birds and offshore wind farms, providing data to inform EIAs and SEAs for future developments.

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

Yes

Please describe the measures put in place

>>> When SEA or EIA identifies a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, steps are taken to avoid these impacts, including avoiding protected areas and other critical habitats for these species.

Some of the key actions include:

Avoidance of Protected Areas:

If potential significant impacts on migratory waterbirds are identified, especially within Natura 2000 sites or other protected areas, the first step is to avoid locating development projects within these areas. This is in line with the legal requirements under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, which prioritize the protection of designated sites critical for species conservation.

Impact Mitigation and Compensation:

In cases where avoidance is not feasible, the project developers are required to implement mitigation measures. These measures aim to reduce negative impacts to a minimum. If residual impacts remain, compensatory actions are taken to offset the damage. These could include habitat restoration or the creation of alternative habitats for affected species.

Strategic Environmental Planning:

For larger-scale projects like offshore wind farms or infrastructure development, SEA is applied at the planning level to assess cumulative impacts on migratory waterbirds. This allows for a broader assessment of potential impacts across multiple sites and helps in making strategic decisions to avoid areas of high importance to these species.

Adaptive Management and Monitoring:

Continuous monitoring and adaptive management strategies are incorporated into the project design. These strategies ensure that if new impacts are observed during project implementation, adjustments can be made to reduce harm to migratory species over time.

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

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Key monitoring initiatives include:

Wadden Sea Monitoring: Ongoing assessments of migratory bird populations in the Wadden Sea, with data shared through the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.

National Bird Population Assessments: Conducted by organizations like Sovon and Statistics Netherlands, tracking population trends and threats.

Research Publications: Studies analyzing impacts on waterbird populations, including habitat changes.

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

[Bird Atlas Netherlands](#) - Numbers and distribution of breeding and wintering birds in the Netherlands.

Estimated number of sites

>>> See explanation above.

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

>>> See explanation above.

Estimated number of sites avoided

>>> See explanation above.

Estimated number of sites mitigated

>>> See explanation above.

Estimated number of sites compensated

>>> See explanation above.

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

>>> See explanation above.

Estimated number of sites

>>> See explanation above.

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

>>> See explanation above.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> See explanation above.

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 AEWA Guidelines were not specifically applied; however, national legislation and EU guidelines on avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating the impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbances affecting waterbirds align with the principles 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?

Partially

Please provide details.

>>> Monitoring is typically a mandatory requirement in derogations for powerline construction. However, this remains a priority issue in the Netherlands, given the anticipated scaling up of the energy transition and its potential impacts on nature

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

[Vulnerable species for energy infrastructure in the Netherlands \(2018\)](#) - Overview of the effects of renewable energy infrastructure and high-voltage lines on the vulnerable species of birds, bats, marine mammals and fish, and possible solutions for a nature-inclusive energy transition

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

>>> The planning of any new powerline project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to evaluate its potential effects on the designated site, including waterbird populations. This assessment incorporates all available knowledge and data, including waterbird monitoring records (see also the response to question 62). If existing data are insufficient for a thorough impact assessment, additional surveys and research are

conducted. Baseline studies on waterbird distribution are carried out monthly at key sites by the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON). These data are stored in databases and serve as a resource for EIAs, which are mandatory for infrastructural developments such as powerline construction.

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.

>>> Yes by searching for alternative sites or by implementing compensation and or mitigation measures.

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 EU Birds Directive mandates that any plan or project, including new power lines, must undergo an appropriate assessment to evaluate its potential impact on the designated site. Approval is granted only if it is confirmed that the project will not adversely affect the site's integrity or significantly impact the bird species for which the Natura 2000 area is designated (all Ramsar sites are also classified as Natura 2000 sites). This assessment incorporates all available data on bird distribution, key waterbird habitats, and migration routes. If existing knowledge is insufficient, additional field research is conducted to ensure a comprehensive evaluation.

65.5. Has, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance* been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds?

* such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> See answer above under 64.4.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> All low- and medium-voltage distribution lines have been placed underground, eliminating the risk of electrocution. TenneT, the national electricity transmission system operator, collaborates closely with stakeholders to balance environmental considerations with a secure and stable energy supply. Over the coming years, TenneT plans to install an additional 10 km of underground 380 kV cables, further reducing ecological and landscape impacts.

For overhead lines, the Wintrack pylon design is used to minimize risks to birds. This design consolidates two overhead lines into a single structure, reducing obstacles in the landscape and lowering collision risks. In designated bird habitats, bird flight diverters are installed to enhance visibility and prevent collisions. Research is also ongoing into the effectiveness of 'bird flaps,' a measure aimed at further reducing bird strikes with power lines.

Additionally, for offshore wind farm connections in the Dutch section of the North Sea, TenneT has partnered with the NGO 'Natuur & Milieu' to jointly develop strategies that minimize environmental impacts.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Sections of existing power lines with relatively high levels of waterbird collisions have been identified. TenneT has installed bird markers at locations where collisions are more frequent to reduce bird mortality. Additionally, all low- and medium-voltage distribution lines have been placed underground in the Netherlands, eliminating the risk of electrocution. Research and monitoring continue to identify high-risk areas and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

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

Environmentally friendly and cost-effective first in Wageningen for bird protection

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

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> TenneT installs bird flight diverters in high-risk areas to enhance visibility and reduce collisions. Additionally, since all low- and medium-voltage distribution lines have been placed underground, electrocution is no longer an issue. Ongoing monitoring and research help identify new high-risk locations, ensuring that mitigation measures remain effective and up to date.

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

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> Monitoring (on a local scale) is generally an obligatory condition in a derogation. Occasionally the impacts on a national scale are evaluated (See the weblink to the scientific report under question 65.1).

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

Partial

Please provide details.

>>> If part of the conditions in a derogation.

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

>>> While the Netherlands has not explicitly incorporated these measures into its National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) or specific legislation, existing national laws and EU directives align with AEWA's guidelines.

The Netherlands follows EU regulations on environmental assessments for infrastructure projects, ensuring that power line developments consider potential impacts on waterbirds. Additionally, bird flight diverters and underground cabling are used as mitigation measures to reduce collision risks.

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

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Best practices include placing low- and medium-voltage distribution lines underground, installing bird flight diverters in high-risk areas, and utilizing Wintrack pylons to reduce collision risks.

Furthermore, ongoing research on bird-safe infrastructure, such as the effectiveness of 'bird flaps,' contributes to evidence-based conservation efforts. Collaboration between TenneT, nature organizations, and research institutions ensures that mitigation measures are continuously improved. While the AEWA guidelines are not explicitly referenced in national legislation, these actions align with their recommendations to protect migratory birds from power line hazards.

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

>>> Updated wind turbine risk maps for birds were released in early 2021 by SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, providing crucial data for spatial planning and minimizing risks to bird populations. These maps

are regularly used to assess the potential impact of wind energy developments on migratory and breeding birds.

The Dutch government's Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap integrates ecological considerations, designating areas that reduce conflicts with important bird habitats. Additionally, ongoing research and monitoring efforts help refine risk assessments and improve mitigation strategies.

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

[Additional Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap 2030](#)

[Background paper wind energy sensitivity map birds \(Netherlands\)](#)

67.2. Have any international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria been followed in your country for impact assessment of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources?

Yes

Please describe which guidelines, recommendations and criteria have been followed.

>>> The Netherlands adheres to key EU directives, including the EU Birds Directive and the EU Habitats Directive, which align with international agreements such as AEWA and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). These frameworks mandate comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to evaluate the effects of renewable energy projects on biodiversity, with a strong focus on migratory birds. In addition to these legal requirements, the Netherlands integrates international best practices and guidelines to ensure that renewable energy developments minimize their impact on wildlife. Continuous monitoring, research, and adaptive management practices help refine mitigation strategies, incorporating the latest scientific data.

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

Yes

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

>>> In general this is part of the obligatory conditions of a derogation.

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

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

Yes

Please provide details on the measures implemented.

>>> Several mitigation measures are in place to minimize the impact of renewable energy projects on birds. For wind energy developments, updated wind turbine risk maps, developed by SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, guide spatial planning to avoid high-risk areas for migratory birds. The Dutch government's Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap incorporates ecological considerations, designating areas with minimal environmental impact and implementing measures such as temporary shutdowns during peak migration periods.

On land, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are required for all renewable energy projects to assess potential risks to biodiversity and wildlife. Mitigation measures include installing bird flight diverters on overhead power lines, undergrounding low- and medium-voltage distribution lines, and using bird-safe pylons like Wintrack designs. Continuous monitoring and research ensure that these mitigation strategies are refined based on the latest scientific data and conservation insights.

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

>>> TenneT, the Dutch power network operator, has funded multiple research initiatives to reduce bird collisions with high-voltage power lines. In 2009, a 150kV power line near Hazerswoude-Rijndijk was fitted with 'bird flaps' ('vogelflappen') to test their effectiveness in preventing bird strikes. Bureau Waardenburg conducted research comparing marked and unmarked sections of the line, revealing that the 'bird flaps' led to a 67% reduction in bird collisions during daylight hours.

Notably, duck collisions—previously a significant issue—were reduced by approximately 80%, despite many ducks crossing the lines at night. This suggests that the 'bird flaps' improve visibility even in low-light conditions. The success of this mitigation measure highlights the importance of site-specific research and adaptive management in minimizing the impact of power infrastructure on bird populations.

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

[Research on the effects of high-voltage power lines \(in Dutch: Onderzoek naar effecten van hoogspanningslijnen\)](#)

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

Not applicable

Please explain

>>> In general it can be said that the policy is to change the project to avoid or mitigate damage to biodiversity. So compensation is usually not applicable in these cases.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Appropriate Assessment (Passende Beoordeling) for wind farms in the Netherlands indicates that significant negative impacts on nature are not expected for offshore wind farms located up to 10 nautical miles from the coast, provided that mitigating measures are implemented. These measures include limits on noise levels during the construction phase, restrictions on the number of turbines, specifications for the minimum size of turbines, and agreements for temporarily adjusting the rotation speed of turbines under very specific weather conditions. These precautions aim to minimize potential disturbances to marine life and bird populations.

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

[Wind farm shuts down turbines to protect birds and bats](#)

[Offshore wind turbines halted to help migrating birds](#)

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

Not applicable

Please explain the reasons

>>> If monitoring data show that a wind farm causes significant adverse effects on a species' population status, and if other mitigation measures (such as curtailment, turbine shutdowns during high-risk periods, or adjusted placement of turbines) prove insufficient, stricter measures could be considered. While removal of turbines is not a commonly applied measure, authorities may impose restrictions or modifications if legally required to prevent unacceptable biodiversity impacts.

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

>>> These issues are part of (strategic) environmental impact assessments.

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

[Background document wind energy sensitivity map for birds](#)

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?

>>> while the Netherlands adheres to comprehensive sustainability criteria designed to mitigate environmental impacts of biofuel production, targeted measures specifically addressing the effects on migratory waterbirds have not been established.

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

No

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

>>> While the NBSAP emphasizes the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into various sectors, including energy, it does not explicitly reference AEW Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds. Nonetheless, the Netherlands addresses the resolution's objectives through existing environmental policies and assessments.

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

[NBSAP Netherlands 2025-2030](#)

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?

>>> Not explicitly, but the Netherlands aligns with AEWA Resolution 6.11 by integrating biodiversity considerations into renewable energy policies.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Appropriate Assessments (Passende Beoordelingen) are mandatory for renewable projects to evaluate their effects on migratory waterbirds. The country implements mitigation measures such as careful site selection, construction timing adjustments, and bird-friendly technologies. Research and monitoring programs support adaptive management strategies to minimize negative impacts.

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)

>>> Waterbirds are occasionally caught as bycatch in gillnet fisheries, with the IJsselmeer lake being a notable site where this issue has been observed. Various assessments have been conducted to evaluate the extent and significance of the problem, yielding mixed results, with some studies indicating a large impact on bird populations, while others suggest a relatively smaller effect. To address this issue, mitigation measures have been implemented to reduce the risk of bycatch.

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

[Bycatch of birds in the fresh water lakes IJsselmeer and Markermeer \(2012/2013\)](#)

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

Yes

Please provide details for each project / initiative

>>> the Eendenkooi (traditional duck decoy) in the Netherlands is indeed an example of a provisioning ecosystem service, as it integrates both cultural practices and the sustainable use of natural resources. Historically, the Eendenkooi was used to catch wild ducks, which were a source of food and income. The system involved a carefully designed network of ponds, channels, and nets, which allowed hunters to trap migrating waterfowl, particularly ducks, in a way that didn't overexploit local populations. This method of sustainable use is an example of a provisioning ecosystem service because it provided a direct resource—ducks—for food, but also engaged the local environment in a managed and renewable way. While the traditional practice of hunting in Eendenkooien has largely declined in favor of conservation efforts, these areas still contribute to ecosystem services by supporting biodiversity, and they play a cultural role by preserving historical landscapes. Additionally, they offer opportunities for ecotourism and birdwatching, which indirectly tie into the broader economic benefits associated with cultural and provisioning services. In modern conservation frameworks, such sites are often integrated into protected areas like Natura 2000 networks, where they continue to provide ecological and cultural services.

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

Yes

Please provide details for each of them

>>> See answer above.

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

[The Dutch Duck Decoys: Everything About the Past, Present, and Future of the 'Eendenkooi' \(in Dutch\).](#)

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

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

Yes

Covering the breeding period

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

Partially

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

>>> Breeding waterbirds in the Netherlands are monitored as part of the national breeding bird monitoring scheme. This scheme consists of multiple sub-programs that are integrated during the analysis phase. Data are collected in a standardized manner within sample areas and statistically weighted using parameters based on land use. Advanced statistical imputation techniques are applied to generate population estimates for the entire country, ensuring robust and representative results.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Breeding Bird Monitoring Scheme (BMP) by Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology is a long-term program that tracks breeding bird populations across the Netherlands. It relies on standardized field surveys conducted by volunteers and professionals in designated sample areas. The collected data are analyzed to monitor population trends and assess the impact of environmental factors such as land-use changes, climate effects, and habitat management. The results contribute to national conservation policies, ecological research, and international reporting obligations, including those under AEWA and the EU Birds Directive.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Midwinter Waterbird Census records age ratios for some species, while ring-marking and resightings provide insights into survival rates and population structure.

Covering the passage period

Partially

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

>>> All species observed during the migration period are recorded by volunteers using the privately managed Trektellen.org platform. However, the Netherlands does not have a formal nationwide monitoring scheme specifically for birds during migration.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Limited information on the drivers of population trends is collected specifically during the passage period. While migration counts (e.g., via Trektellen.org) provide valuable data on passage numbers, these do not systematically include environmental or demographic factors influencing trends.

However, some research initiatives do assess migration dynamics in relation to weather conditions, climate change, habitat availability, and food resources. Studies based on ringing data (Vogeltrekstation) and radar-based migration tracking (e.g., FlySafe, BirdScan) offer insights into how these factors affect migratory populations.

Overall, while breeding and wintering population drivers are well studied, efforts to systematically monitor passage period drivers remain fragmented and largely dependent on individual research projects rather than an integrated national program.

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

AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Demographic data (age and sex classes) during the passage period are collected on a limited basis. While there is no formal nationwide program, some data are obtained through:

Bird ringing programs (Vogeltrekstation) – Capturing and marking migratory birds provides demographic insights, particularly for species with well-established ringing efforts.

Trektellen.org observations – Some migration sites record age and sex characteristics when possible, though this is not standardized.

Targeted research projects – Some studies focus on specific species, assessing age ratios and sex distribution during migration.

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.

>>> The national Waterbird Monitoring Scheme collects data on all AEWA species across nearly all important waterbird areas in the Netherlands. The coordination of observers is driven by the goal of counting all areas during each of the 6-7 monitoring periods. However, as the counts rely on volunteers, achieving full coverage across all areas is challenging. Despite this, the results are estimated for the entire country using advanced statistical imputation techniques, ensuring that the data are representative and robust.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> While the monitoring efforts mainly focus on counting bird numbers, additional information is gathered on potential drivers of population changes, including:

- Habitat availability (e.g., wetland areas and agricultural lands)
- Food resources (e.g., availability of wetlands and agricultural crops for waterfowl)
- Weather conditions (e.g., the effects of harsh winters or changing climate)
- Human disturbance (e.g., hunting pressures and land-use changes)

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Midwinter Waterbird Census records some age-ratio data, particularly for species like geese and ducks, but sex-specific data are less commonly gathered. Ring-marking and resighting programs provide valuable demographic insights, especially for species with extensive monitoring. Targeted research projects also collect demographic data for specific species, focusing on wintering conditions and population dynamics.

73. Have you undertaken after MOP8 a brief assessment of existing monitoring activities in your country against the priorities set out in document AEWA/MOP 8.27 in order to help identify ways in which they can best implement those recommendations? (Resolution 8.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> While a detailed post-MOP8 assessment is not readily available, ongoing efforts reflect alignment with AEWA priorities. Efforts continue through collaboration with organizations like Sovon and Vogeltrekstation to improve data collection.

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The data gathered from these monitoring efforts, including population trends, distribution patterns, and habitat use of waterbirds, are critical for informing conservation strategies and management decisions in line with AEWA's goals.

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?

>>> The support provided by the Netherlands to countries in Eastern Europe and Africa has primarily been multilateral, often through broader international initiatives and partnerships, such as workshops, joint conservation efforts, and international funding programs.

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

[AEWA waterbird monitoring priorities](#)

[Simultaneous January 2023 waterbird and wetland census along the East Atlantic Flyway: National Reports](#)

Please provide details

>>> Capacity Building Initiatives: The Netherlands has been involved in organizing training workshops and providing technical expertise to enhance the capacity of other AEWA Parties in waterbird monitoring. For example, the Dutch-supported Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative has played a significant role in organizing simultaneous waterbird and wetland censuses, fostering collaboration among countries along the East Atlantic Flyway.

Monitoring Priorities Report: In June 2021, the AEWA Standing Committee approved a report on monitoring priorities for waterbird species and populations, developed by Wetlands International, BirdLife International, and Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology. This report emphasizes the importance of the International Waterbird Census (IWC) and highlights the need for complementary monitoring schemes to improve population size estimates.

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

>>> One of the co-authors was a Dutch leading expert on (international) waterbird monitoring.

77. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring scheme at international or national level? (Resolution 6.3)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Nationally, the Netherlands maintains a comprehensive Waterbird Monitoring Scheme, coordinated by Sovon, the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology. This program involves systematic counts of waterbirds across the country, providing essential data for conservation planning and policy-making. The government supports this scheme through funding and logistical assistance, ensuring the collection of high-quality data on waterbird populations and trends within the Netherlands.

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

[SOVON, Vogelonderzoek Nederland \(Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology\)](#)

Internationally

Yes

Please provide details

>>> At the international level, the Netherlands has contributed to the IWC, a global monitoring program coordinated by Wetlands International. This support includes funding for the coordination of the census and capacity-building initiatives in other countries. For instance, the Netherlands has supported training workshops and the development of monitoring infrastructure in various African and Eastern European

countries, enhancing their ability to collect and analyze waterbird population data.

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

Waterbird Monitoring Partnership - The African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership is a coalition of 80+ organisations involved in waterbird monitoring and management. The Partnership supports the development of national monitoring systems and improvement of monitoring information available for internationally important population size and trend estimates. The data gathered by the Partnership is made accessible through various information services such as the AEWA Conservation Status Reports, the Waterbird Population Estimates and the Critical Site network Tool.

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

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

No

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)

>>> Use of lead has completely stopped in The Netherlands.

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

Yes

Please indicate which of the priority knowledge gaps have been addressed

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

Active collation on data and information on flyway network sites

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

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

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials

>>> See the attachments below.

Active collation on data and information on flyway network sites

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials

>>> See the attachments below.

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

Please add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials

>>> See the attachments below.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> See the attachments.

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

Utrecht University and NIOZ join forces in eleven more joint research projects on coastal seas and oceans - Joint Research Projects by Utrecht University and NIOZ (2021-2025): In October 2021, Utrecht University and the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) launched eleven joint research projects focusing on the functioning of coastal seas and oceans. These interdisciplinary projects, spanning four years, address scientific and societal issues related to coastal ecosystems, including studies on migratory birds and their habitats.

Adaptive Flyway Management for Barnacle and Greylag Geese (2021-2028) - Adaptive Flyway Management for Barnacle and Greylag Geese (2021-2028): Since January 2021, the Netherlands has participated in the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) to implement adaptive management strategies for migratory goose populations. This project focuses on developing population and impact models for Barnacle and Greylag geese, aiming to ensure their favorable conservation status while managing agricultural impacts. The initiative is set to continue until December 2028.

FLYWAY project (2022-2024) - Under the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI), the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark collaborated on the FLYWAY project from November 2022 to December 2024. Funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Support, this project explored new technologies for monitoring migratory waterbirds along the East Atlantic Flyway. The outcomes include recommendations for integrating modern technologies like drones and satellite imagery into traditional monitoring methods, enhancing data collection for conservation efforts.

82. In this reporting period, have results of conservation and management interventions, whether successful or unsuccessful, been published in your country so as to inform future conservation and management actions? (Article III.2(k), Resolution 8.7)

Yes

Please provide details and reference to each publication or attach a copy

>>> A clear overview is not available. One example however concerns the court case about nitrogen. See attachment.

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

Netherlands ordered by court to slash nitrogen emissions by 2030 - Dutch Court Orders Reduction in Nitrogen Emissions In January 2025, a Dutch court mandated that the government significantly reduce nitrogen emissions by 2030. The court's decision was based on the government's failure to comply with European environmental regulations aimed at preserving vulnerable nature reserves and reducing excessive nitrogen oxide and ammonia emissions, which adversely affect biodiversity and water quality. This ruling is expected to impact sectors such as agriculture, construction, and traffic, all of which contribute to nitrogen pollution. The court set a target to reduce nitrogen emissions by up to 70% by 2030 and imposed a potential fine of €10 million if the government fails to meet this goal. Reuters This legal action underscores the urgency of addressing nitrogen pollution in the Netherlands and may lead to new conservation and management strategies to protect natural habitats and biodiversity.

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

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

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

Yes, being implemented

Please describe the awareness programmes which have been developed. Please upload any relevant sample materials which have been developed and add contact details of a contact person for each programme.

>>> Many CEPA activities were implemented before 2021 and are ongoing, like the Wetlands Education Centres, EuroBirdWatch and World Migratory Bird Day. Since 2021, additional initiatives have been introduced:

- Wadden Sea World Heritage Awareness Programme: This programme, supported by Dutch authorities and international partners, strengthens public awareness of the importance of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, emphasizing its significance for migratory birds protected under AEWA. Various outreach activities, public campaigns, and community engagement efforts are included.

- Citizen Science and Public Engagement: Initiatives such as bird monitoring programs involving volunteers, smartphone-based data collection (e.g., waarneming.nl), and interactive workshops help raise awareness and directly engage the public in waterbird conservation efforts.

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

[World Migratory Bird Day](#)

[EuroBirdwatch](#)

Does the programme specifically focus on AEWA and the provisions of its Action Plan?

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> The programs focus on the natural values (among which migratory birds), wise use and conservation issues mainly.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> This position is vacant at the moment, due to limited capacity.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> While the Netherlands has not taken specific measures solely for AEWA's Education and Information provisions, various national initiatives align with AEWA's goals. Programs like Duurzaam Door, Groen Gelinkt, and Sustainable PABOs integrate environmental education into schools and public awareness efforts, supporting habitat and migratory waterbird conservation. These activities are mainly implemented under the National Ecological Network (NEN) and Natura 2000 sites, ensuring broad engagement in nature conservation.

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

[Global Environmental Education Partnership](#)

[Groen Gelinkt](#)

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

Yes

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

[Registered WMBD Events in Netherlands](#)

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

>>> Counting Bird and involving general publik into birdwatching.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Netherlands has not specifically provided dedicated funding or direct support for the AEWA Communication Strategy and CEPA priorities under the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027. However, various national and international activities—such as wetland education, conservation projects along the AEWA flyway, and international training on wetland management—align with AEWA’s CEPA objectives. These efforts are primarily implemented through the National Nature Network, Natura 2000 sites, and organizations like Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten, and the Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds.

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

[Wetland Guardians](#)

[International projects by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds \(Vogelbescherming Nederland\)](#)

Pressures and Responses

9. Implementation

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Instead, the Netherlands efforts are primarily directed towards fulfilling obligations under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. This approach inherently supports AEWA objectives, as the directives encompass measures for the conservation of wild bird species and their habitats, aligning with AEWA's goals.

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Netherlands primarily focuses its conservation efforts on implementing the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, which inherently support AEWA objectives.

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

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The Netherlands' primary focus has been on implementing the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, which align with AEWA objectives.

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

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

Yes, it is operational on a regular basis

Please provide details

>>> The AEWA AA (Director of the current Department of Nature & Biodiversity) is also responsible for CMS, Ramsar, CITES, CBD and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the species policies.

Are priority capacity gaps addressed by the coordination mechanism?

Yes

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

High

Please provide details and the reasons for the high effectiveness

>>> AEWA activities are becoming more aligned with other biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), enhancing the effectiveness of its implementation.

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

No

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

specific needs assessments.

No

93.2. Establish procedures for ensuring continuity of succession and transfer of knowledge and skills, when there are changes in personnel responsible for AEWA national implementation.

No

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

No

93.4. (For AEWA National Focal Points in the European Union (EU) only)

To cooperate with African National Focal Points, partner organisations and other stakeholders to explore opportunities for incorporating aspects of AEWA implementation capacity support in relevant existing projects and programmes in Africa, including the EU-funded NaturAfrica initiative and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial/EU-funded RESSOURCE sub-Saharan Africa project, as well as projects under the auspices of the wider CMS Family, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNEP.

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Since 2021, the Netherlands has not established any new twinning schemes for migratory waterbird sites, but cooperation continues around key sites such as the Wadden Sea (shared with Germany and Denmark) and Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania. These areas are significant for migratory waterbirds and conservation efforts, aligning with AEWA's goals. Additionally, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds (Vogelbescherming Nederland) actively supports sites in other countries along the AEWA flyway, contributing to broader conservation initiatives across the migratory routes.

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

[International projects by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds \(Vogelbescherming Nederland\)](#)
[Memorandum of Understanding Banc d'Arguin - Wadden Sea \(2014\)](#)

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

Yes

Please provide details

>>> These officers work within the Department of Nature and Biodiversity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food security and Nature.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the Netherlands, integrates a wide range of international biodiversity frameworks, including AEWA. However, specific references to the AEWA priorities is not explicitly detailed in the NBSAP.

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

[National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the Netherlands](#)

99.2 The relevant Sustainable Development Goals

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically.

99.3 The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Not specifically.

99.4 The Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> All Ramsar sites in the Netherlands are also designated as Natura 2000 sites, sharing the same names and boundaries. The conservation priorities set by AEWA are closely aligned with the objectives of Natura 2000, ensuring coordinated efforts for the protection of important wetland habitats and migratory waterbird species.

99.5 Other international strategic plans and policies

No

Sustainable Development Goals

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Not specifically, but the AEWA priorities are aligned with the implementation of the SDGs. Especially for SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). For instance: In response to meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive by 2027, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) is stepping up efforts to implement additional measures for the sustainable use of our water resources (SDGs 6, 15).

Within the Integrated River Management (IRM) programme, the national government, provinces, water authorities, and municipalities will work together over the coming decades on a future-proof Meuse and Rhine river system. The goal is a system that functions well, can be used for multiple purposes, and is managed sustainably. It aims to create an (economically) attractive river region with an optimal balance between flood safety, nature and water quality, freshwater availability, and navigability (SDGs 14, 15).

The goal of the PAGW (Programme for Agricultural and Green-blue Development) is to improve ecological water quality and strengthen nature. This is necessary because our aquatic ecosystems and water quality are under pressure. Biodiversity is declining, making our waters more vulnerable. Through our projects, we are working to make these waters resilient for the future. At the same time, we ensure that our strong economy can continue to develop (SDG 14).

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Yes

Please provide details

>>> This NBSAP of the Netherlands includes commitments to protect and restore wetlands, directly supporting AEWA's objectives.

Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Netherlands aligns its policies with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032. The Netherlands supports migratory species conservation through:

- Implementation of AEWA (African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement)
- Alignment with EU directives (e.g., Birds and Habitats Directives)
- Participation in international initiatives like the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative
- National biodiversity strategies that support migratory species as part of broader commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Netherlands aligned its policies with the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

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?

>>> Better coordinated reporting, less duplications and more concise reports would be welcomed.

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

No

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

Yes

Please provide details, including amount of funds donated

>>> Since 2021, the Netherlands has provided in-kind support to several AEWA-related activities coordinated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat. This includes support for the modelling and monitoring work of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP), funding the coordinator of the Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group (IWG), and assisting with the development of MOP documents on monitoring. Also NL has contributed to the organisation of the MOP and delivered financial contribution for the AEWA Species Officer post

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

No and has not been prioritised

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

105.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?

No

105.2 Does your country's government have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (annual assessed contributions to the Agreement's budget as approved by each session of the Meeting of the Parties)?

No

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

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No funding made available

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

Yes

Please describe each cooperation arrangement

>>> Through the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

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

Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

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

No

105.6 Does the implementation of AEWA in your country benefit from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at national level, amongst others, through information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility?

Yes

Please describe each synergetic arrangement and benefits acquired

>>> The implementation of AEWA is supported by the EU Birds Directive, which provides the legal framework for designating protected areas and monitoring bird species. The Netherlands also follows the Bern Convention, publishing Red Lists based on national and IUCN criteria. The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation fosters joint efforts for protecting critical migratory hotspots. The Wadden Sea Flyway initiative focuses on enhancing monitoring and building capacity for tracking migratory routes along this vital region.

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

>>> A broad range of institutions and universities are involved in research on the effects of climate change on birds. (See some of these in the attached websites).

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

[Research on climate change by Wageningen University](#)

[Research on migratory birds by Groningen University](#)

[Reports on climate change by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat](#)

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

>>> See the websites provided above under a as well as the attached thematic report on climate change and the Wadden Sea.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Wadden Sea Quality Status Report - Climate change - 2024-05-28.pdf](#) - Wadden Sea Quality Status Report: Climate change

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

Undertaken

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

>>> See websites under a. and b. as well as the references to papers, websites and reports attached.

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

[Risks and opportunities of climate change for Dutch nature](#) - The effects of temperature rise, extreme drought and wetness, sea level rise and salinisation on the objectives of the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives and objectives for ecosystem services and biodiversity in general

[Risico's en kansen van klimaatverandering voor soorten en habitattypen van de Vogel- en Habitatrichtlijn](#)

[Wintering bird communities are tracking climate change faster than breeding communities](#)

[Arctic Geese Tune Migration to a Warming Climate but Still Suffer from a Phenological Mismatch](#)

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

Undertaken

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

>>> Climate Change Adaptation Measures for Waterbirds

Climate change will cause temperature rise, sea level rise, and increased rainfall peaks. Winters will be wetter, and summers will be drier. Rising sea levels, changing rain patterns, and a warmer climate will have a direct effect on migratory bird species. Climate change will lead to changes in water management in the Netherlands, which will impact conditions for nature.

Room for the River Programme: On 22 March 2018, the Minister presented the final evaluation of the 'Room for the River' programme to Parliament. The goal of this initiative was to give rivers more room for dynamic processes and to manage higher water levels. At more than 30 locations, measures were taken to provide space for controlled flooding. These measures were designed to improve the surrounding environment, and

monitoring over 20 years has shown a strong increase in natural values along the large rivers.

Programmatic Approach Main Waters: This initiative aims to establish a future-proof system of main waters in the Netherlands where high-quality nature coexists with a strong economy. These waters are critical habitats for migratory bird species. The approach strongly considers the effects of climate change and integrates natural processes to create synergies between flood protection, nature conservation, and recreation.

Building with Nature (Ecoengineering): This concept focuses on giving more space to rivers and their dynamic processes, restoring transitions between fresh and marine waters, and improving land-water connectivity. This approach enhances the resilience of natural ecosystems, benefiting migratory birds. (ecoshape.org)

These efforts collectively support AEWA's objectives and the Strategic Plan goals by promoting knowledge, appreciation, and active participation in waterbird conservation throughout the Netherlands.

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

[Building with Nature](#)

[Room for the River Program](#)

[Programmatic Approach Main Waters](#)

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).

Undertaken

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

>>> The Netherlands integrates climate adaptation for migratory waterbirds within broader biodiversity and water management frameworks. Key initiatives include the Programmatic Approach Main Waters, which enhances the resilience of key water habitats, and the Room for the River Programme, which creates space for natural flooding and habitat improvement. The Delta Programme and the National Strategy on Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity address broader climate adaptation efforts, incorporating nature-based solutions. Additionally, Natura 2000 site management plans include species-specific climate adaptation measures where needed. While there is no separate National Action Plan for waterbirds, these combined efforts contribute to their adaptation to climate change.

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

107. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change?

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

No

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

>>> While the AEWA Guidelines were not specifically applied, national legislation and Natura 2000 measures addressing climate adaptation for waterbirds align with AEWA recommendations.

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

No

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

>>> The Netherlands has not explicitly used the AEWA Guidelines on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds. However, national legislation, Natura 2000 management plans, and broader adaptation initiatives, such as the Programmatic Approach Main Waters and the Delta Programme, align with AEWA's recommendations. These measures support the resilience of wetland ecosystems and migratory bird populations in response to climate change.

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

>>> Key Challenges in Responding to HPAI in the Netherlands:

Migratory Bird Influence – High densities of wintering waterbirds bring the virus from breeding grounds in Northern Europe and Russia each year.

Wild-to-Domestic Transmission – Spillover from infected wild birds to poultry remains a persistent risk, despite biosecurity efforts.

Environmental Persistence – The virus survives in water and on surfaces, especially in cold, humid conditions, complicating containment.

Balancing Control Measures & Farming Practices – Lockdowns and culling impact animal welfare, free-range farming, and economic stability.

Surveillance Gaps – Early detection in wild birds is challenging, requiring improved monitoring.

Coordination & Public Communication – Conflicting priorities between farmers, conservationists, and policymakers complicate response efforts.

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

[Effect of 2020-21 and 2021-22 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 Epidemics on Wild Birds, the Netherlands](#) - The number of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5-related infections and deaths of wild birds in Europe was high during October 1, 2020-September 30, 2022. To quantify deaths among wild species groups with known susceptibility for HPAI H5 during those epidemics, we collected and recorded mortality data of wild birds in the Netherlands. HPAI virus infection was reported in 51 bird species. The species with the highest numbers of reported dead and infected birds varied per epidemic year; in 2020-21, they were within the Anatidae family, in particular barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*) and in 2021-22, they were within the sea bird group, particularly Sandwich terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) and northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*). Because of the difficulty of anticipating and modeling the future trends of HPAI among wild birds, we recommend monitoring live and dead wild birds as a tool for surveillance of the changing dynamics of HPAI.

[New Zoonoses Report out now: avian flu most notable outbreak in 2022](#) - News from the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

[Focus on Bird Flu](#) - News from the Netherlands Court of Audit (Nederlandse Rekenkamer)

List required further guidance or information

>>> Further Guidance or Information Needed:

Improved Early Warning Systems – Strengthening international collaboration to monitor HPAI circulation in breeding areas.

Research on Environmental Transmission – Studying how the virus persists in wetlands and agricultural landscapes.

Adaptive Management Strategies – Balancing disease control with biodiversity conservation and sustainable poultry farming.

Vaccination Strategies – Assessing the feasibility and effectiveness of poultry vaccination in high-risk areas.

110. Does your country have in place surveillance and rapid testing programmes for HPAI of dead birds so as to inform: any enhancements to monitoring of the species populations (Resolutions 8.2 and 8.7) and site-related management and biosecurity measures as needed (Resolution 8.15)?

Yes

Please provide more information

>>> 1. National Wild Bird Surveillance Program:

- Coordinated by the Dutch Wildlife Health Centre (DWHC), Royal GD (Animal Health Service), and Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR).

- Focuses on testing dead wild birds found in high-risk areas, particularly waterfowl species known to carry and spread HPAI.

- Results inform risk assessments and response measures.

2. Passive Surveillance (Public and Stakeholder Reporting):

- Members of the public, birdwatchers, and conservation organizations (e.g., Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology) report dead birds to designated authorities.

- Dead birds are collected and tested rapidly, with priority given to species susceptible to HPAI.

3. Targeted Outbreak Investigations:

- When outbreaks are suspected, rapid response teams collect and test samples to confirm the presence of

HPAI.

- This supports immediate risk assessments and guides containment measures.

4. Link to Population Monitoring (Resolution 8.2 & 8.7):

- Data from surveillance programs contribute to long-term population monitoring efforts.
- Helps identify trends in mortality and potential long-term effects on bird populations.

5. Site Management & Biosecurity Measures (Resolution 8.15):

- Findings are used to adjust site-based management strategies, such as restricting access to waterbird habitats to minimize disturbance and disease spread.
- Supports adaptive biosecurity measures for poultry farms near high-risk wetlands.

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

Yes (please clarify)

>>> For instance, in July 2021, the Netherlands submitted a self-declaration to WOAH detailing the recovery of the country's HPAI-free status, highlighting the control measures and surveillance efforts implemented. Such submissions contribute to the global effort to monitor and manage HPAI outbreaks effectively.

Regular reporting to WAHIS facilitates transparency and supports international collaboration in tracking the epidemiology of HPAI, thereby informing necessary enhancements to species population monitoring and site-related management and biosecurity measures.

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

[Self-declaration for the recovery of country freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry in the Netherlands](#) - Self-Declaration sent to the OIE on 29 July 2021 by Dr. Christianne Bruschke, OIE Delegate for the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

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

Yes

Please provide more information

>>> Enhanced Surveillance and Rapid Response: The Dutch government has implemented nationwide measures such as mandatory indoor confinement of poultry during heightened risk periods. For instance, on November 20, 2024, a national indoor confinement and screening obligation was imposed following an elevated risk assessment by the Expert Group on Animal Diseases.

Vaccination Trials: Field trials for avian influenza vaccination commenced on September 15, 2023, involving the vaccination of pullets with promising vaccines targeting the H5 segment of the virus. These trials aim to assess vaccine effectiveness under field conditions.

Development of Updated Diagnostic Tools: In September 2024, new inactivated H5N1 and H5N8 antigens were introduced for use in Haemagglutination Inhibition (HI) tests, enhancing the accuracy of antibody detection in poultry.

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

[Bird flu at poultry farms, updates 2024/2025](#) - On this page, Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR) presents an overview of highly pathogenic bird flu infections on Dutch poultry farms from October 2022 up and including September 2023. To prevent the virus from spreading, the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) has culled the animals at these farms.

[Netherlands Raises Bird Flu Risk Assessment - Orders National Indoor Confinement of Poultry](#)

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

Yes (Please provide details)

>>> The Netherlands has consistently submitted national reports to the AEWA Secretariat, detailing its efforts in monitoring and managing avian influenza among waterbird populations. The most recent submission was for MOP8 in July 2022. However, specific information regarding the reporting of data on HPAI H5N1 outbreaks and other diseases to the AEWA Secretariat or Wetlands International for the purpose of informing population assessments for MOP9 remains questionable.

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

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

Yes, nationally

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

>>> The Netherlands' national HPAI contingency plans primarily focus on zoonotic diseases in the agricultural sector, with less emphasis on waterbirds and coastal seabirds. However, site-specific measures, including enhanced surveillance and habitat protection, are implemented for sensitive areas like the Wadden Sea and Delta Wetlands. Specialized monitoring and response efforts by organizations like the Dutch Wildlife Health Centre ensure protection for these bird populations during HPAI outbreaks.

See below for more general information (more on agriculture, less on wild birds) on contingency plans:

While the Netherlands' official contingency plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) dates back to March 2000, the country has since updated its strategies to address evolving challenges. For instance, in July 2021, the Netherlands submitted a self-declaration to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), detailing measures taken to regain freedom from HPAI in poultry, including control programs and intensified surveillance.

Additionally, in July 2022, the Dutch government published the "National Action Plan for the Strengthening of the Zoonotic Disease Policy," outlining efforts to enhance policies on zoonoses over a four-year period, focusing on prevention, detection, and response.

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

[National Action Plan for the Strengthening of the Zoonotic Disease Policy \(2022\)](#)

[Self-declaration for the recovery of country freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry in the Netherlands \(2021\)](#)

[AI CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE NETHERLANDS \(2000\)](#)

Is the plan being implemented?

Yes (please provide details)

>>> site-specific measures, including enhanced surveillance and habitat protection, are implemented for sensitive areas like the Wadden Sea and Delta Wetlands. Specialized monitoring and response efforts by organizations like the Dutch Wildlife Health Centre ensure protection for these bird populations during HPAI outbreaks.

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

Date of submission

>>> 22-9-2025